

# Fuel for Thought

## Wombat Factor

Today sees the launch in Gladstone of a fantastic initiative aimed at raising money for an organisation which is doing some wonderful work for our native wildlife.

The Wombat Factor 2 project not only supports the work of Australian Animals Care and Education (AACE) but it also provides a valuable outlet for a group of local artists.

A couple of months ago QER helped the Wombat Factor organise an artists' immersion weekend at AACE's wildlife sanctuary near Mt Larcom, where they interacted with some of the local residents including wombats, bridal nail-tailed wallabies, some gliders and a variety of reptiles.

The artists have since produced works which will be on display at the Tondoon Botanical Gardens visitor centre through to the end of June. In addition to their own art work, the artists have fashioned some balsa wood wombat models which were given a 'makeover' by visiting celebrities The Wiggles, ABC gardening guru Jerry Colby-Williams, Clean-Up Australia's Ian Kiernan and 'Ranger Tim' Moore, as well as our Mayor Gail Sellers and local MP Liz Cunningham.

There'll be an auction of some of the works at next Saturday night's Ecofest Sponsors event, but anyone wanting to lodge a bid can visit the Gardens during the week, or contact Tracey Smith on 0448 748 984.

If you're planning to go along to Ecofest next weekend make sure you stop by the QER marquee.

We'll be there to discuss our demonstration plant project, and answer any questions you may have, and we'll be promoting the Wombat Factor and the great work being undertaken by Tina and Peter at AACE.

It will be worth paying a visit to AACE at Ecofest, as they'll have some of their wombats along for the occasion, including the wonderfully named Miss Grotty, who was sent to AACE from Australia Zoo.

Apparently her friendly nature, which made her very popular with people, actually made her unpopular with the other wombats at the Zoo and so they found her a new home at AACE.

Miss Grotty's name is well-earned. When it rains she is the only one of AACE's 20 wombats to run outside and play in the mud.



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