

June 4, 2012

## **Rain fails to dampen the enthusiasm for Ecofest**

The early morning rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the 7000 people who attended Gladstone Regional Council's annual environmental awareness event, Ecofest, at Tondoon Botanic Gardens on Sunday.

Coordinated by Gladstone Festivals and Events (GFE) on behalf of Council, Ecofest provided a range of activities, educational and other displays, and environmental attractions for the whole family.

GFE event coordinator Kathy Andrew said the shuttle bus service between The Observer's Home and Leisure Expo at the PCYC in Gladstone to Ecofest was popular.

As a bonus, people who completed an audience survey went into a draw for a 1.6kW solar power system supplied and installed by Ian North, of Solar Power Gladstone.

The ecstatic winner of the system was Stacey Cumner from Boyne Island.

Mrs Andrew said stallholders, sponsors, spectators and participants had provided positive feedback about the festival, which has grown to become Central Queensland's largest environmental awareness event.

"We modified the layout this year, in line with suggestions from the Gladstone Regional Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) group, which successfully enhanced the flow of spectators through the stalls," Mrs Andrew said.

She said Ecofest attendees particularly liked the Hubbub Sound Playground which included an educational component this year called Marimbas on the Move; the crocodiles; snakes; Rosemary Anderson's wombat tunnel and children's activities.

"Stallholders were kept busy and I had many comments from Ecofest-goers about the improved quality of the displays this year."

Mrs Andrew said the heavily promoted Wombat Factor auction raised \$7500 to help save the northern hairy nosed wombat from extinction, including \$270 raised from the auction of a papier mache wombat painted and decorated by Mayor Gail Sellers.

In lieu of carbon credits, Ecofest will now donate \$1000 from each Gold Sponsorship to Conservation Volunteers to continue a tree planting project started last year in Gladstone.

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Community Relations Section on 4976 6946.**