

MEDIA RELEASE

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Plenty of ways to get involved as Ecofest goes virtual in 2020

Central Queensland's largest environmental awareness event, Ecofest is going virtual in 2020 but there are still plenty of ways to become involved from the comfort of your home, office or school.

Usually held on a Sunday at Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Ecofest 2020 will be adapted to suit a virtual event due to the ongoing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) health emergency.

Gladstone Region Councillor Desley O'Grady said this year's Ecofest would run across multiple days with this year's theme being 'Biodiversity – one change can make a difference'.

"Whilst we can't deliver Ecofest 2020 physically, I am really proud of the innovation that has resulted due to COVID-19," Councillor O'Grady said.

"Ecofest is a free event beginning from Thursday 4 June, with fresh online content being rolled out each day via Council's Facebook page and the recently launched Virtual Neighbourhood Centre.

"Ecofest 2020 will bring virtual workshops, demonstrations, activities and entertainment to the community all at the click of a button, with the goal of educating residents on the vital role of biodiversity.

"Various local environmental groups are all sharing innovative ways to engage and connect with our community to share the Ecofest message and promote to biodiversity.

"There will be a variety of backyard activities and various local artists have found innovative ways to connect with their audiences virtually to facilitate art activities which include the use of natural parts and recycled materials.

"World Ocean Day on Monday 8 June will also be celebrated with a screening of *Blue* on the Virtual Neighbourhood Centre platform."

Cr O'Grady said small changes made a big difference when protecting our environment.

"Whether as individuals, businesses or groups, we can all make a positive difference to our natural environment, live more ecofriendly, and make small everyday changes that lead to a healthy environment and sustainable future for everyone," she said.

Please visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/ecofest for more information about the virtual events being held during Ecofest 2020.

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