

Diamond Valley Leader

NILLUMBIK EDITION

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NEW SECTION
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Wild idea: These vibrant jungle creatures painted by Eltham Primary School students will be right at home in an Indian National Park, when this shipping container becomes a school to teach locals alternatives to tiger poaching. See how you can help protect endangered species on page 14.

Picture: ANDY DREWITT N01DV308

NEWS

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Eltham Primary students decorate a shipping container that will be sent to India to help protect endangered animals such as tigers. Tiana puts on her best scary animal face.

Picture: ANDY DREWITT N01DV308

Saving wildlife a class act

Education | William Jackson

ELTHAM Primary School students have helped paint a modern version of Noah's Ark.

The 13m-long shipping container, decorated by the students last week, will be turned into a portable classroom and sent to the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in India.

Project organiser Pauline Crosby, of Smiths Gully, said the tigers there were being pushed to extinction by poaching.

"The idea is to help educate the local people there so they can develop more sustainable enterprises instead," Ms Crosby said.

She said the Eltham students helped local artists Genevieve Brayley and Linda Harris paint the container while learning about the endangered animals at the same time.

The project is part of the *Windows of the World Exhibition* that will be held at Federation Square from August 11 to September 15 to promote environmental and

humanitarian initiatives. Ms Crosby, who founded Bumblebee Enterprises to develop such initiatives, said she was planning to fill more containers with useful items such as medical equipment and send them all over the world.

She had also founded a commercial fundraising arm, Koala Spirit Ltd, to pay for Bumblebee's projects.

She said anyone interested helping out with the exhibition or Koala Spirit can email her at koala spiritabc123@gmail.com