



GEMBOREE 2011

INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

June 2011 – Edition 10 – Follow-up Issue
 Bathurst Showgrounds, Bathurst – Easter – 22nd – 25th April, 2011

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello again from Bathurst after a successful GEMBOREE 2011 47th National Gem & Mineral Show at Bathurst Showgrounds and held from Friday 22nd to Monday 25th April. Our sincere thanks to everyone for their support during the lead-up and holding of the event. The weather co-operated for the whole weekend and without any rain to dampen the tailgaters and campers outdoors it made things so much easier. Congratulations are due also to the GEMBOREE 2011 Committee for their commitment, enthusiasm, knowledge and the long hours, for many over several years. WELL DONE TO ALL. This is the final email 'Information Newsletter' in a series that I hope you found helpful and informative albeit a little later than I had planned.

This is a brief report with some photos taken over Easter 2011 by Barbara and Tony Try and myself.

Alan McRae Newsletters Editor

FROM THE GEMBOREE 2011 CO-ORDINATOR

The GEMBOREE 2011 at Bathurst will be remembered by the people of Bathurst because of all the people, the wonderful display of gems, jewels, minerals, pretty rocks etc. From the organisation perspective it was very successful. For those wondering about that aspect there are three basic components of the organisation. There is the organisation of the camping and tailgating, competition and then dealer's stands. Leading up to that there is the booking of the venue and food outlets, organising publicity and sponsorship, and publication and distribution of the booklet. Registrations numbers were impressive and there were 190 campsites, 95 tailgaters, 36 dealers and around 1200 entries. I would like to thank all those persons and organisations that played a part in the very successful 47th GEMBOREE.

Ernst Holland - GEMBOREE 2011 Co-Ordinator (now retired.)

GEMBOREE 2012

The next GEMBOREE, Australia's 48th National Gem & Mineral Show will take place next year at

Easter from 6th to 9th April, 2012, at Bundaberg Showground, Burrum Street in Bundaberg in Queensland. Hours are Friday 12 noon – 5pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am to 5pm and Monday 9am – 12 noon. GEMBOREE 2012 Camping is available on site with booking enquiries to PO Box 5886, West Bundaberg 4670 Queensland or email bundygemboree@yahoo.com.au There will be plenty of lapidary traders, tailgaters and stalls as well as entertainment, food, interesting working demonstrations, magnificent displays, fascinating lectures and productive tours. Daily entry prices: Adults \$6, Children under 16 \$2 and All 4 days: Adults \$18 and Children \$5. Register now!

GEMBOREE 2011 at Bathurst

Work began in earnest on the Monday morning prior to Easter with the erection of the marquee, marking out accommodation and camp sites and organising electricity by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. It was amazing the caravans that soon began to arrive, especially on the Wednesday and Thursday, and the style some of we lapidarist travel in, we obviously like our comfort, and why not!

It soon became evident the distance that many travelled to attend and support this event, every state and territory and then there was the New Zealand contingent. Soon old acquaintances were being renewed and new friendships made.... must be that rock dust or something in the water!



The empty pavilions over the next few days would be laid out with tables, cloths and power cables which were then transformed into a sea of colour with dealer stands and impressive displays with a

colossal number of specimens of minerals, crystals and fossils, gems, jewellery, lapidary goods and supplies and the various working demonstrations on show to tempt and inform those attending.



The 'aerial' photo above gives a very good view of just part of the historic 1890s Beau Brown pavilion and some of the dealer space.

This was my second GEMBOREE at Bathurst and also the second that I have helped out with so I was generally aware of what takes place. For the uninitiated it is just an eye-opener as to what happens at an event such as this and the amount of work to make it an outstanding success.



GEMBOREE 2011 commenced properly with the Official Opening at 9.45am on Good Friday by Paul Toole, MLA, Member for Bathurst and Mayor of Bathurst (**above**) along with Councillor Monica Morse, representing Bathurst City Council, who extended a sincere welcome to all those attending the event and acknowledging the distance that many had travelled to attend.



Joan Ball, President of the Gem & Lapidary Council and Arthur Roffey, President of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc were on hand with Arthur formally opening the

main doors by removing the specially made and hand-sewn banners to let in the general public. Ernst Holland, GEMBOREE 2011 Co-Ordinator, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony. The official guests were very impressed with the whole set-up of the GEMBOREE, its size and the organisation behind it all. The Mayor's wife was even more impressed with her purchases. Teresa Holland made both the GEMBOREE banners held by Alan McRae – below.



From the outset it was obvious that the general public would support this event. Our television advertising was aimed at tempting the visiting public to come along and look. This was soon corroborated by the numbers coming through the gate when gate numbers passed the 2006 GEMBOREE numbers at about 4pm on Easter Saturday.



Competition Chairladies Barbara Try and Annette Clarke and all their helpers were extremely busy with all the aspects of the competition throughout the week. Many of us know that this was really just the tail end as a great deal of work is involved in receiving entires for much of the judging that takes place months before the GEMBOREE itself. It took a dedicated band of 'young' ladies and gents' to get all this area ready so a big thankyou goes to those concerned with this 'multifaceted job'.

Nelson Robertson, Gem & Lapidary Council's Education Officer and other dedicated demonstrators were kept very busy and some of

their photos are further on. Nelson was on hand all weekend to talk to any clubs who wanted information or to organise any courses in the various aspects of lapidary and he had a very long list of topics.

Ray Pickard's talk on 'Meteorites' attracted about 100 people and went on for well over twice the expected time due to the barrage of questions. These have been a particular interest for Ray over many years and he is not only interested in what falls from the sky but he also studies and photographs the heavens, operating the local observatory in Bathurst.



On the Sunday evening Dehne McLaughlin from Tasmania delivered the well attended Jack Taylor Memorial Lecture which was followed by the presentation of all the trophies.

Dehne's slideshow and talk was extremely well

received and was all about the Azurite suns that he mines at the Malbunka Copper Mine in central Australia. These beautiful blue rosette shaped azurite suns form between layers of kaolinite and they certainly impressed the local Western Advocate reporter who did a story on Dehne.



The very large number of tailgaters spread almost half way around the main arena at the Bathurst Showground and

made for a very impressive sight that greeted the general public, lapidarists and hobbyists alike. Some sellers went to a good deal of trouble to make a good display of their material to sell. It was certainly a place for the beginner where they could chat to the person who actually



found the specimens.

A friend of mine brought his daughter over from Blackheath for the day to have a look and now she has started to collect fossils.



I was surprised at how many times that comments were made by people who were not collectors and just came to have a look and were amazed as to the variety of rocks and minerals, their colours and all the forms they took. The variety and different colours and shapes of the crystals especially attracted their attention.



Those after jewellery had a great selection!



For many of the visitors it was like a kid in a lollie shop. One comment, "I have never seen so many fossils to choose from in the one place. The GEMBOREE was fantastic for not only my kids but the whole family. It has given our family another family interest, something to do together."



George Laking from the Mineralogical Society of New South Wales Inc with their impressive and information display.



Paul Howard from the Gold Coast passing along some of his experience and skills in the lapidary field over the four days.

Working demonstrations are important if the interest in lapidary is to be maintained however most clubs still struggle to attract the younger generation. GEMBOREE 2011 had a number of working demonstrations and the efforts of those doing these exhibitions were greatly appreciated.



The competition side was a great success and one didn't have to look in the competition area for long to realise the aptitude, flair and skills that members have in gem and lapidary clubs to produce the quality of material on display. Congratulations!



The GEMBOREE 2011 Princess Winners are seen here presenting Jimmy Lim with yet another award for this talented lapidarist. Jimmy Lim also designed the badge/logo for this years 2011 GEMBOREE.

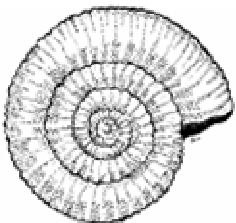
Congratulations went to Senior Princess Tamara Baker and Junior Princess Emma Ash who received the honour this year. Did you know that the Beenleigh Tiara, which is worn by the Junior Princess was designed by Norma Packett after she, Pam Phillips and Esme Poulton of the Beenleigh Club collected patterns to get ideas. The work was carried out by Norm, Esme and Keith Morrison. It features three large apricot-coloured moonstones and is made of silver.



There were plenty of activities for both the adults and children with oodles of prizes. The Ladies gumboot ‘throwing’ had to be seen to be believed. The ‘Treasure Hunt’ for the kids was a great success with plenty of ‘treasure’ to find. James and Selwyn enjoyed the hunt then went over for a giant ice-cream covered in 100s and 1000s.



It was congratulations too for long-serving Arthur Roffey who was presented with a special plaque by David Maunder, Treasurer of Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc., in recognition of all of Arthur’s work as President and member for over 30 years. Arthur is pictured with the GEMBOREE princesses when he received a trophy for one of the sections in the competition.



There were six editions of the GEMBOREE Daily newsletter produced and printed over the weekend with all sorts of information in it. Thanks go to those volunteers who collected and personally delivered them each day – some 2,000 in all.

As with any event there is the inevitable cleanup which went well and also involved the packing up of all the GEMBOREE equipment and packing it into the trailers and vehicles before, in many cases, being returned to Sydney. In some cases this meant two trips down and back to collect one’s caravan as well.



Some emailed comments – “I can’t get over that this is basically all done by volunteers”, “It is almost too amazing to believe, there was simply so much to see”, “Organisers are to be congratulated on how massive this event is, all the stuff inside and then all outside as well, it is really good for Bathurst and obviously the hobby, I cant believe there was so many people there for just rocks”, “Alan, watching the showground fill up all week as I went to and from work I could see that this was a big deal as my wallet found out”, “Good on you all, it’s the best GEMBOREE that we have attended”, “I gave the missus the bankcard not realising you could actually buy stuff on credit cards, big mistake”, “Great job again”, “I was just so impressed, this is the first time my family and I have gone to a GEMBOREE”, “My daughter now collects fossils”.



Elaine Holland with just some of the Bathurst Club who volunteered.

Again a big thankyou to all those volunteers from Bathurst as well as the many from clubs around New South Wales. For the Committee it was the culmination of several years of work by a dedicated group who are to be thanked and congratulated on bringing this national event to fruition.

Thanks to our many sponsors and especially WIN television, Bathurst Regional Council and



the Bathurst Tourist Office.



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GEMBOREE 2011
Publicity Officer and
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