

GEMBOREE 2015
51st GEMBOREE @ Horsham, Victoria

The 2015 GEMBOREE was hosted by the Horsham and District Lapidary Club Inc and the Victorian Gem Clubs Association Inc. The major sponsor was Horsham Rural City Council with other sponsors being the Gemmological Association of Australia and Sapphire Engineering.

GEMBOREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

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| • Keith Billing | Event Manager/Exhibition Hall Manager |
| • Des McKiernan | GEMBOREE Secretary/Entertainment & Guest Speakers & Demonstrators |
| • Peter Day | Treasurer |
| • Bill Gordon | Office Manager/Publicity/Raffles |
| • Ray & Joy Medew | Campsite Managers/Traffic & Volunteers |
| • Joan Barrows, Shirley McMahon | Tailgater Managers |
| • Elise Gordon | Kids Club |
| • Kathleen Brocket/George Faderson | Field Trips |
| • Gwen Dunstan | Gatehouse Co-ordinator |
| • Trevor Warren | Logistics & transport |
| • Toby Decker/Brian Mann | Metal Detecting Competition/Sausage Sizzle |
| • Peter Krake | Competition Manager |
| • Shirley McMahon/Jenny Gordon | First Aid Assistance |

From the list of areas for action above it can be seen that this GEMBOREE had an extensive range of activities catering for a wide range of interests.

As well as the above, National Meetings were held setting a new direction for the future. Arthur Roffey OAM stood down as President and Graham McLean from Qld was elected. Barbara Try from NSW was elected as Senior Vice President.

The major outcome from the judging and Rules Committee Meeting was the release of the new Manual No 8, this is to be in effect for at least five years. It will be first used for Level 4 Competitions in 2018.

Feedback from the GEMBOREE Survey Sheet indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the event. Some items received high praise, these were the Competition Display, Display Showcases, Field Trips, Tailgating, the Exhibition Hall, Guest Speakers and the Entertainment Evenings.

Some features of the Presentation Evening were:-

- a. The use of technology allowing people to read what the trophy was being presented for
- b. The Charity Rock Auction (MC Bill Gordon) which raised \$2,540 for Angel Flight Australia. This money was handed to the Horsham & District Lapidary Club for processing. Many thanks to the Donor Dealers for their contribution of items and to Committee and Club Members for their generosity.
- c. The re-appearance of GEMBOREE Juice after a long absence.
- d. The Sunday Trivia Night was also well received.

Some Innovations:- This is the first GEMBOREE that included an ATM 'on-site'; this, while costing the VGCA a substantial rental fee was definitely worth it in terms of money spent at the event. Benefiting Traders, Tailgaters and Food Services alike. Some \$37000 was extracted from the machine.

Eftpos at the Gate:- This received little use as most people were able to come up with correct money. Not recommended for future inclusion.

Some Areas for Improvement:-

1. A separate role is needed for volunteer co-ordination.
2. As with all GEMBOREES there are "things" which we felt we could have done better. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, however, the view from the public perspective was very positive.

3. Venue breakdowns are issues that can only be dealt with “on the spot” after they occur. I believe that these were very well handled and solved ASAP.

Finally, a big thank you to our Committee and Volunteers. Events such as this are dependent upon volunteer assistance; there were approximately 60 volunteers over the weekend in addition to our Team Leaders. We thank you one and all. We also thank Barbara Try and NSW Judges for their valuable assistance with the Competition Judging.

JUDGEMENT

A professionally presented GEMBOREE providing a range of interests and fun while showcasing Australian Lapidary and Allied Crafts.

Des McKiernan
GEMBOREE 2015 Secretary