



# G E M B O R E E

.....ROCKHAMPTON

MAY NEWSLETTER

## WILLUNGA

With the Willunga 2018 GEMBOREE over it is now full speed ahead to Rockhampton. The Queensland Gem Clubs Association congratulates the Willunga team on the great effort made to stage a very successful event. It was wonderful to see so many people through the door and so many traders present. The weather was perfect and things seemingly went without a hitch although one of the organisers warned, 'Always expect the unexpected!'

The five people manning the 2019 GEMBOREE information booth were all from Rockhampton, the host city. Not only did they enjoy meeting the AFLACA team, members of other clubs and traders, but they were also particularly pleased to share in the success of the Rockhampton Lapidary Club competitors and especially the Juniors whose work is shown below.



The GEMBOREE 2019 Booklet was launched at Willunga and, although we were rather pleased with its professional design, the much appreciated work of the Advance Rockhampton Team from the Rockhampton Regional Council, it took only minutes for errors to be recognised—the booklet editor apologises. The errors have been addressed and hopefully the version posted on the AFLACA Website is virtually error free. The errors noted were the RI in some of the faceting diagrams: fortunately the only error as all the angles are correct (P59—73), a prize incorrectly named (P34), errors with the GEMBOREE Venues (P97) and a spelling error (P71) - we blame Spellcheck.

## MAY NEWSLETTER



Alanah Ashcroft won the Dorothy Caladine Trophy (Junior Champion Lapidary), and Mae Robinson was the winner of the Dazlyn Gems Trophy (Junior Standard Cabochon). Their mentor and coach is Arthur Cleary, the Coordinator of the 2019 GEMBOREE. Congratulations Arthur and the Rockhampton Juniors!

The return journey from Rockhampton (6,000 km +) was well utilised by the team. Booklets and flyers were distributed to libraries and information centres on the way and Arthur Cleary, the event organiser, travelled via Melbourne to meet with potential traders and presenters.

This newsletter will address some of the questions asked at Willunga, give news updates relating to places mentioned in the booklet and introduce what are hoped to be regular features: stories from traders, advertisers and fellow lapidaries, and raffle and field trip news. Also included in this issue is a short history of the Bundaberg Gem and Mineral Society, the 2012 QGCA GEMBOREE Host.





## ANSWERS TO QUERIES

### Where are the Showgrounds?

The Rockhampton Showgrounds are on the South side of Rockhampton in the suburb of Wandal and not far from an IGA, the Lionleigh Hotel, the Malaysia Hut Restaurant, Aquatic Park with a heated pool and Victoria Park with playground, walkways and BBQs.

### Where can we stay if we are not camping?

Two motels on opposite Corners of Campbell and Albert Streets have been approached and have offered the rates below. They are in the same street as the Showgrounds and only 700 m away. To book either email or phone the motel directly. (Do not book online).

#### Archer Park Motel

Standard King room \$95  
Twin share room \$105  
Deluxe King rooms (self contained) \$120  
Family room 2+2 \$125  
Self contained 2 room unit 2+3 \$155

Room renovations should be finished by early 2019 lifting the standard to 4 star.

<http://www.archerparkmotelrockhampton.com.au/>  
07 4927 9266, [reception@archerparkmotel.com.au](mailto:reception@archerparkmotel.com.au)

#### Best Western Stirling Motel

Queen Room with breakfast (1 person) - \$149/night  
Queen Room with breakfast (2 people) - \$164/night  
Queen Twin Room with breakfast (3 people) - \$179/night

Rates include continental breakfast.

<http://thestirlinghotelgroup.com.au/>  
0491 491 188, 07 4922 6222  
[manager@thestirlinghotelgroup.com.au](mailto:manager@thestirlinghotelgroup.com.au)

For other options see:

<http://www.capricornholidays.com.au/experiences/accommodation>

or

<http://www.advancerockhampton.com.au/Visit/Stay>

### Where can we do some Gold Fossicking close to Rockhampton?

We are still working on this. Clermont is well recognised for its gold and, as mentioned in the News Updates, has two new designated fossicking areas.

## NEWS UPDATES

### 15 March: Rockhampton Riverside Development opened

The long awaited Riverside Development is now officially open. This development, set between the beautifully lit old buildings of Quay Street and the town reaches of the Fitzroy River, is sure to be a winner for visitors and locals alike. See <https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/riverside-precinct-redevelopments-grand-opening/3362143/> and <https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/FacilitiesRecreation/Riverside-Revitalisation>

### 23 March: Carbine Resources withdraws from the Mount Morgan Gold Project.

Carbine Resources came on board as a sponsor of the 2019 GEMBOREE back in 2017 when they were hopeful of re-opening the Mt Morgan Mine, treating the tailings and solving some of the environmental problems associated with the abandoned mine. Changing circumstances have led to the abandonment of this project. To read more go to <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-24/central-queensland-farmers-disgusted-mining-proposal-canned/9581976>

### 29 March: Government opens two new gold-fossicking areas near Clermont

The new fossicking areas are about 22 kilometres north-west of Clermont in the Blair Athol State Forest. <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2018/3/29/government-opens-two-new-goldfossicking-areas-near-clermont>

### 3 May: Barcaldine Globe Hotel Tourist Centre features in Italy

The national award-winning restoration of the century old Globe Hotel will be featured at 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale. The architect, Brian Hooper from the Capricorn Coast, also collaborated on the design of the 2010 Tree of Knowledge Memorial. See <https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/cq-architects-journey-from-the-outback-to-venice/3404725/#/0>





# RAFFLE UPDATE

Tickets for the 2019 Raffle are now available from [www.raffletix.com.au/Gemboree2019](http://www.raffletix.com.au/Gemboree2019)

As well as online tickets, 2000 paper tickets (1-2000) have been printed. Any club wanting paper tickets to sell should contact [GEMBOREE2019@outlook.com.au](mailto:GEMBOREE2019@outlook.com.au). They come in booklets of 10 with each ticket costing \$5. On their return the information from the sold paper tickets will be entered into the RaffleTix database. RaffleTix tickets start at 2001. This will be our major fundraiser to help cover the costs of running the GEMBOREE. GEMBOREE 2019 is most appreciative of the generosity of the donors of the prizes who all recognize the significant costs associated with running a GEMBOREE. (See GEMBOREE booklet for details)



1st Prize  
\$5,934



2nd Prize  
\$4,168



3rd Prize  
\$3,905



4th Prize \$1,185



# STORY FROM A TRADER

Wendy sent her story last year after being asked at the Lithgow GEMBOREE. While she did not make Willunga she definitely plans to be at Rockhampton. Hopefully many of the other traders will take up the challenge to tell a little about their businesses.

## Original Jewellery Cleaner

Hi All,

My name is Wendy Norris and I have been teaching jewellery cleaning at a professional level for the past

15 years. Original Jewellery Cleaning products clean tarnish from gold and silver and will clean and sparkle all gems, including, solid Opal and natural Pearls – a bold statement I know, but TRUE.

My story started in 1992, at the Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, on the Gold Coast. I was walking through the Centre with my two sisters when we were invited over to a pop-up FREE Jewellery Cleaning Stand. We were each asked to take off a ring by a lady demonstrator called June Withers. It took just a couple of minutes for June to clean my silver and topaz ring. Well, I couldn't believe my eyes, my ring looked brand new!! With such a wonderful result, I purchased a kit, took it home and began to clean all my gold and silver chains, rings, etc.! The rest you could say is history.

I started demonstrating two weeks later and although I have been involved for only fifteen years myself, Original Jewellery Cleaner has a much longer history. The products were invented in 1964 by father and son, Bob and John Withers, a Gemmologist and Jewellers by trade. Son John celebrated his 80th birthday September, 2018.

As a demonstrator I take pride in teaching people how to clean and take care of their jewellery using these unique products. The kit consists of a gold and silver polish, for removing all tarnish, as well as a gem cleaner for all the dirt, grease and grime that accumulates on all jewellery that is constantly worn. Most of my years as a demonstrator have been at local markets, although in the last three years I have concentrated on specific Gem shows, travelling with my caravan around this wonderful country of ours.

Original Jewellery Cleaning products are all Australian owned and made and safe to use on all jewellery.



**LOOK FOR MY STAND AT THE 2019 GEMBOREE!**

[wendylou54@hotmail.com](mailto:wendylou54@hotmail.com)

0438933623

## FIELD TRIP



The Gemfields Fieldtrip has been fine-tuned by organiser, Rob Fry. See story below for some of Rob's Gemfields experiences.

The cost of \$175 includes morning tea and a BBQ lunch, and a bag of wash.

Depart Rockhampton Showgrounds Saturday, 20 April, 2019 at 6am to arrive at Pat's Gems around 9.30 for morning tea and a bag of sapphire wash to be washed on site. Go on to the Miner's Heritage Walk-In Mine

for a BBQ lunch and an Underground mine tour.

Depending on the time there may be the opportunity to look at some of the unique Gemfields architecture or for more shopping. The return journey will start at 2 pm so that everyone is back in time for the Official dinner. A minimum number of 35 is needed for this trip to go ahead.

Please contact [GEMBOREE2019@outlook.com.au](mailto:GEMBOREE2019@outlook.com.au) if you are interested.

## STORY FROM A FOSSICKER

### Rob And Kathy Fry's Central Queensland Gem Fields Experience

Our love affair with the Central Qld Gem fields started in 1978 and has continued ever since, although my first experience in looking for Sapphires was in 1968 when a mate and myself stopped off at the Willows to see what it was about. That is where I found my first stone, which I still have to this day, even though it is cracked.

For many years we holidayed on our own or sometimes at Kath's parents mine but always at Tomahawk Creek. This field was usually fairly kind to us and we still have a soft spot for the creek, to the extent that if we were allowed to have claims there, that is where we would be, not at Divide, which was purchased in 1996. Even so, we love where we are and are extremely happy and comfortable with our set up here.

We now have a Stand Alone Solar Power set up and this has made our life here just a little bit spoilt when you consider that, initially, we camped in tents and cooked on an open BBQ. I sometimes think these were some of our best days on the fields.

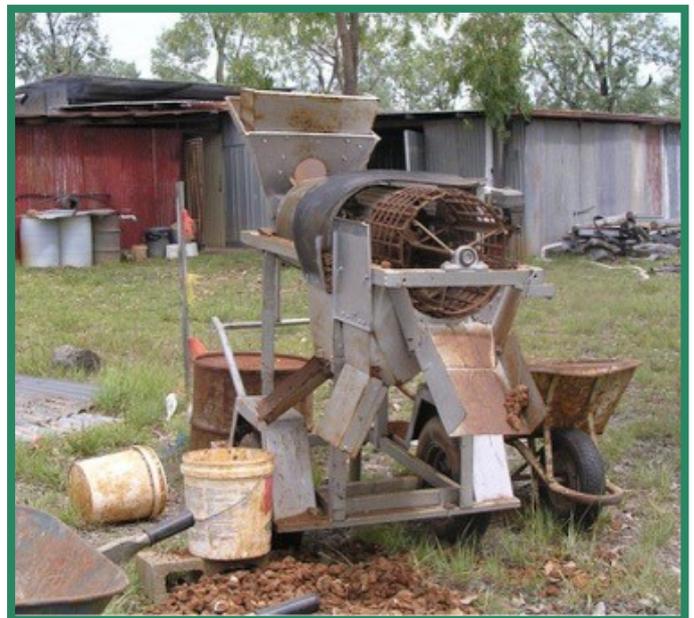
Our son, now 38 years old, was only about 8 or 9 months

old when we started. Kath and her dad sorted the stone that my mother-in-law and I dug and brought back to the camp. I might add at that time, our equipment was a hanging sieve suspended under a tripod of saplings in which we would wear out many leather gloves rubbing the stone. Thank goodness, we have progressed since then, although today, we still have to use a pick and shovel, as only some motorised machinery is allowable on our claims.

Over the years, we have dug at Tomahawk Creek, Divide, Washpool, Glenalva, Graves Hill and, to a lesser extent, most of the other fields. During that time we have met some characters that you could write a book about. One that springs to mind was an older digger who took great delight in having people dig where he had dug the previous season at Graves Hill. The law says we should leave an area just as we find it. This guy sure did that; he would dig an area then replace the wash covered by topsoil etc including any bombs that he found. Folk would think they were on a virgin area because they were getting colour. I could go on for ages with these types of stories as the Gemfields are full of characters.

For many years I have considered the Gemfields home. My biggest problem now is that I have to come back to the coast for at least part of the year but, yes, I could live there permanently.

Regards  
Rob



*Rob and Kathy's trommel, used to sieve wash. The buildings behind are typical of the infrastructure found on mining claims*





# THE BUNDABERG GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—a Short History

(1965-2018)  
by Patricia Flynn



The history of the Bundaberg Gem Club spans a period of 52 years. Our club was one of the first formed in the Wide Bay and Central Coast Regions of Queensland and remains one of the ten clubs affiliated with the QGCA.

When the Bundaberg Gem & Mineral Society was formed in October 1965 the inaugural membership was 20, all enthusiastic and hard working. The original club room was a small dirt floor pavilion at the old Bundaberg showgrounds and many changes have occurred since those early days.

After many years of raffles and various other fund-raising activities by a dedicated band of workers, 1990 saw the club relocated to its own building at the current location on Kendalls Rd, Bundaberg. Membership continued to grow and soon passed 100. In 1995 an extension to the building was added and it became the meeting room, library and kitchen area. The workshop area was now doubled, and this enabled the club to purchase more equipment to handle the increased activity at the work sessions.

Further improvements were undertaken in 2000/2001 creating a new storeroom and courtyard. In 2003/2004 the courtyard was converted into our new, larger silverwork area to cope with the increased interest in both silversmithing and silver casting. A second building was added to our premises in 2015. We have named it 'The Studio' and it houses our faceting class, enamelling group and wire work groups. The Studio is also used for functions and workshops. Our latest improvement was the addition of a 5kw solar system in January 2017. We have been fortunate to receive some grant assistance from the State Govt. and this, along with a lot of hard work, has enabled us to keep our machinery and equipment in good working order and replace things as needed.

The gem club holds an annual Gemfair in November, which attracts traders from all around the south east corner of Queensland. This gives our members an ideal opportunity to stock up on all the lapidary supplies they need. Gemfair is also a great opportunity for us to promote lapidary and recruit new members. In 2012 our club hosted the very successful 48th National GEMBOREE in Bundaberg.

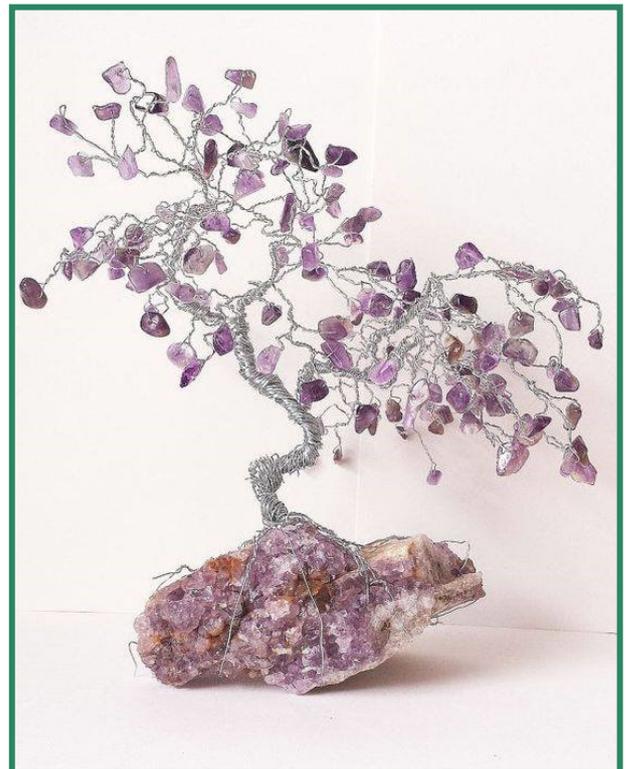
We currently have a membership of 110 seniors and 35 juniors. The club endeavours to hold a field trip each month during the cooler weather. We still have a couple of our foundation members in the club along with several members from the early years. Many of the newer members are amazed at the stories of the stark beginnings

all those years ago. If other clubs are fortunate enough to have members who are as filled with enthusiasm as ours I feel sure that lapidary and its related fields will have a long future.

For session times and more information on the club see <http://bundaberg.lapidaryclub.com.au/>



*Bundaberg Club celebrating 50 years*





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