



GEMBOREE 2026

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Committee

Kieth Millington	Chairman
Stacey Sullivan	Treasurer
Trish Flynn	Secretary/Deputy Chair
Chris Lamond	Assistant Secretary
Lynn Renshaw	Trading & Camping Bookings
Kerrie O'Keefe	Nambour Club Pres.
Arthur Cleary, OAM	Competition Coordinator
P. Flynn / C. Lamond	Publicity
General Enquiries	Email please
CONTACT	
P.O.Box 251 Nambour Qld 4560	
	GEMBOREE2026@outlook.com.au

WELCOME

GEMBOREE is almost here and final touches are almost complete

Entry parcels are arriving and we look forward to processing all the wonderful items that you have been working on.

We have had several queries on how to make payment for your entries and have added this information to both the AFLACA website and the GEMBOREE page on the Nambour lapidary club website.

I have another facet article from Jeff Lotton this month and hope you find it informative.

There is also a list of the Ray Grace Undercover Pavilion trader.

AFLACA delegates please note the changes times for the meetings to be held at GEMBOREE 2026



The 2026 GEMBOREE now has a facebook page.

Please like and follow us at

[f Gemboree 2026 Nambour](https://www.facebook.com/Gemboree2026Nambour)

You can also find forms and information on the new Nambour club website which has a GEMBOREE page.

Nambourlapidaryclub.com.au

[Competition entry](#) forms are available on the AFLACA website under the GEMBOREE forms heading.

First time competitors please make sure that you read the schedule properly with regard to size and material required, Also check the judging manual for specific information, including the judging sheets.

NOTE: **MAILING COMPETITION ENTRIES**

Due to a prior incident that occurred and the increasing theft of mail, we encourage competitors NOT to use words in mailing addresses that mention "Competition", "Gems" or similar words.

ALL Competition Entries should be addressed to:

Arthur Cleary

P.O.Box 251 Nambour Qld 4560

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

Competition entry fees may be paid by Direct Deposit into the GEMBOREE bank account:-

WideBay Burnett Gem Clubs assoc.

GEMBOREE account

BSB 645646

Account No. 107661225

With the reference, your name plus comp fees.

eg Mary Smith comp fees

If possible, please include bank receipt in your entry package or note the date of payment on your entry form.

This will assist us in marrying your payment with your entries.

If you are in the Brisbane area and would like to hand deliver your parcels, I will be at the Nambour club room (located within the Showground) on 21st January from 9.00am – 12.00pm

THANK YOU

Faceting in Australia.

By Geoff Lotton.

During a casual conversation with a talented facetor, it became apparent to me not everyone knows some of the basic faceting history within Australia.

I would much prefer to have a lap in front of me rather than a computer however, I will attempt to gather some (hopefully) interesting items.

This information has been gathered from a number of sources that I believe in themselves were well researched. I will reference them at the end.

Hopefully, all is accurate but if you find an error, please forgive me.

Now, where to start?

In the hobby aspect of gem cutting, and also most commercial cutting in Australia, we have mainly followed the USA. The two countries share a lot in this field.

Modern gemstone faceting originated in France. However, recent discoveries have opened new thoughts.

The first type of faceting apparatus was the quadrant. Think of a very basic VJ.

I don't want to steal anyone's thunder so won't go into too much detail but the references listed at the end will give you more.

These quadrants worked well but were too slow for commercial cutting.

The French invented the jamb peg, which spread over England and Europe.

To this day, Ken Harrington in London, a commercial cutter of 67 years experience, still uses a hand cranked London (non indexed) jamb peg. What this man doesn't know about gem cutting isn't worth knowing. For ten years, Ken entered the London Goldsmiths competition and for ten years won 1st, 2nd and highly commended.

On the other side of the world, cut gemstones were arriving into the USA.

Locals wanted to replicate them. They developed their own apparatus of varying designs.

These designs eventually led to what we now know as a mast style machine.

Australia followed.

Originally, an accurate girdle outline had to be formed. This takes a lot of skill.

Tom Ricks, thought there has to be an easier way to repeatedly and accurately create a girdle outline.

Together with Robert Long, they developed the Meetpoint technique in around 1976.

This technique works in well with computer aided design instructions.

In the 1970's and 1980's there were a number of things coming together all supported by other's work such as Centrepoint angle method (CAM), developed by Robert Long earlier in 1976.

In 1981, the Australian Facetors Guild was formed. From this led the development of machines by Australian manufacturers that could cut to 0.1 degrees. Previously, they tended to eyeball it to the nearest quarter of a degree.

The AFG organised the first international faceting competition in 1986.

Originally, it was teams from Australia and the USA competing against each other. It has since grown to include a number of other countries.

References from which much of this information was taken.

The book by John Broadfoot and Peter Collins titled Cutting Gemstones, A beginners Guide to faceting. This is an Australian book and still available at many gem shows. A great beginners book and has a lot of interesting information.

Highly recommended. Justin K Prim is a gem cutting historian.

He has many videos on YouTube, Patron, Facebook. Check out his "conversations" playlist on You Tube.

Justin is also an author. His first book sold out quickly. His recently released book on historical cuts is still available (but be quick). Find him on Facebook.

Justin is also working on a book about the history of gem cutting in Europe and the USA. It will most likely cover other regions briefly.

Justin also has a museum of gem cutting related equipment.

<https://www.facetingmuseum.com/index.html>

This is accessible online and rapidly growing.

Justin is currently living in France to aid his research.



WHATS ON AT GEMBOREE 2026

The current list of on-site activities. There may be some additions closer to Easter, we will update as necessary.

EVENT ACTIVITIES

Thursday 2 nd April	5:00PM	Welcome Meet and Greet for campers	TBA
Friday 3 rd April	12:00 3.00PM	GEMBOREE 2026 Trading Commences Princess/Prince judging	Showgrounds
	4:00PM	GEMBOREE Trading Ceases	
	6.30PM	BBQ and Princess/Prince winners announced	
Saturday 4 th April	9:00AM 2.00pm	GEMBOREE 2026 Trading Commences Lecture Arthur Cleary- using GemCad and Gemcut Studio	Showgrounds Scout Hall
	4:00PM	GEMBOREE Trading Ceases	
	6:00PM	GEMBOREE Dinner Including GAA talk.	
Sunday 5 th April	8:00AM	Easter Egg Hunt for children	TBA
	9:00AM	GEMBOREE 2026 Trading Commences	
	2.00pm	Lecture Paul Sabolta – judging faceted stones	Scout Hall
	4:00PM	GEMBOREE Trading Ceases	
	6:30PM	Auction- donated goods from Traders and Local businesses 20% profit to local charity.	Upper level Main Pavilion
Monday 6 th April	9:00AM	GEMBOREE 2026 Trading Commences	
	2:00PM	GEMBOREE Trading Ceases	

AFLACA MEETINGS UPDATE

Building 79 – Scout Hall

AFLACA delegates please note new meeting times.

AFLACA
MEETING
SCHEDULE

Friday 3rd April

Friday 3rd April 11:00 Judging and Rules

Friday 3rd April 14:00 AGM

2PM

Monday 6th April 08:00 Special Committee

AFG MEETING
SCHEDULE

16:00

4PM

AFG General
Meeting

Building 79 –
Scout Hall

Friday 3rd April



GEMBOREE Committee are pleased to acknowledge the Sunshine Coast Council and thank them for their generous support



Traders Located Ray Grace Pavilion 2026

Quality Gem Rough / Golden Jewellery
Sitara Crystals
Wings of Light Alignments
TNK Jewellery Pty Ltd
Tarot Lodge
Julanosha
Imagen Pty Ltd
Colourworx Karen Baraket
Kim Crystals
Neil Townsoulful Energy
Jewellery Casting Australia
Sweet Jewellery
V & G Boutellier
Earth Delights
Soulful Stones
RH & CL Lummins
N Jewellery Pty Ltd
PL Lapidary
Odsidian Moon
V & B Rocks & Jewellery
Sally Fisher Jeweller
Mother of Earth Crystals
Authentic Stone Art Jan Lippold
Bruce Whittaker
facetor guild
Crystal Universe
Queensland Sapphires
Buttonbow
Footees Gems
True Blue Gems
Spectrum Jewellery Valuation Service
Walkabout Opals
Mineral Store Australia
Lumiere Crystals and Minerals
Juelles Gemstones Jewellery
Jewellery Tools by Karen Lillian
Fossickers Way - Changed to from outdoor
Peter & Denise Whitehead
D.d. dragon Dezigns
Loutan Beauty
