



# 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  
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## 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

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The 2026 GEMBOREE now has a facebook page.

Please like and follow us at



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

[Nambourlapidaryclub.com.au](http://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**

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## 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 21<sup>st</sup> January from 9.00am – 12.00pm

THANK YOU

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Faceting in Australia.

By Geoff Lotton.

During a casual conversation with a talented faceter, 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 Centrepont angle method (CAM), developed by Robert Long earlier in 1976.

In 1981, the Australian Faceters 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, Patirion, 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

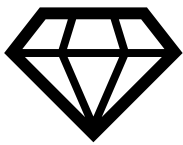
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	5:00PM	Welcome Meet and Greet for campers	TBA
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	12:00	GEMBOREE 2026 Trading Commences	Showgrounds
	3.00PM	Princess/Prince judging	
	4:00PM	GEMBOREE Trading Ceases	
	6.30PM	BBQ and Princess/Prince winners announced	
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	9:00AM	GEMBOREE 2026 Trading Commences	Showgrounds
	2.00pm	Lecture Arthur Cleary- using GemCad and Gemcut Studio	Scout Hall
	4:00PM	GEMBOREE Trading Ceases	
	6:00PM	GEMBOREE Dinner  Including GAA talk.	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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	08:00	Committee	Building 79 – Scout Hall
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  
Imagem 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  
Footes 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

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