



GEMBOREE 2026

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

Committee

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WELCOME

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To everyone from the GEMBOREE Committee.

We hope everyone has a safe Christmas and A Happy New Year.

There are a few things we can now share as we lead into the final few months of preparation, including some history of AFLACA documents discovered in old archived boxes in the Nambour storeroom. Jeff Lotton has also contributed three great articles, one will be included this month, with others to follow in the next two newsletters. I hope you find these articles interesting, and informative.

A list of GEMBOREE activities and a list of Pavilion traders will also be published this month.

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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

[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

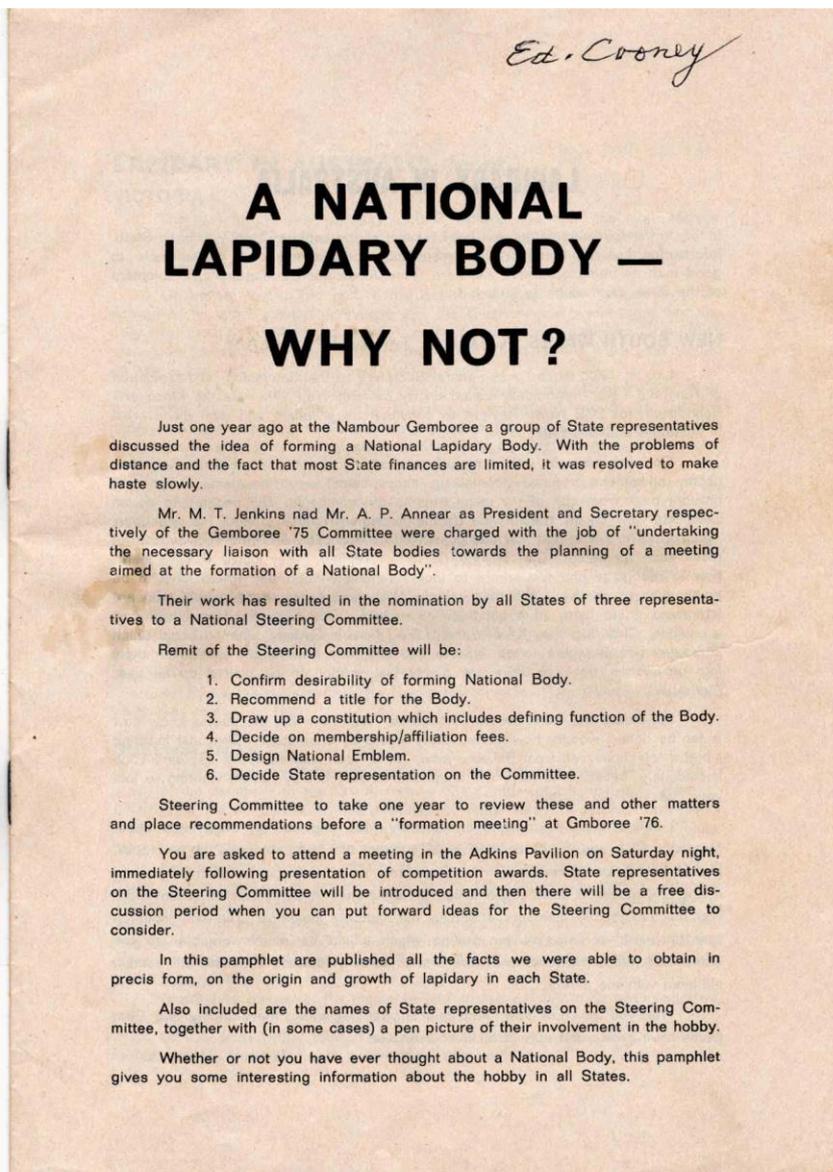
P.O.Box 251 Nambour Qld 4560

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FORMATION OF AFLACA

While a recent clean up was taking place at the Nambour club a box of early documents from the estate of the late Ed Cooney was discovered. This led to the discovery of a booklet about the organisation of a steering committee to form AFLACA, this decision was made at the only other Nambour GEMBOREE which was held in 1974. I had hoped to post the whole pamphlet but it will take up too many pages. I will try and get the rest in upcoming newsletters.

The booklet will be given to the AFLACA historian at Easter.



Bilby VS Beilby

By Geoff Lotton

1. A Bilby is an Australian mammal made out of chocolate.
 2. George Thomas Beilby was a scientist that in about 1921 investigated a mineral polishing effect. Giving rise to the Beilby layer.
- Others earlier than Beilby had made observations related to this effect. Erskine-Murray or Samuels-Rabinowicz for example.

There is a lot of online information but I suggest sticking to the scientific papers found through a Google Scholar search. Most require purchasing however they do provide an abstract for free.

The term Beilby layer has been mentioned in many lapidary clubs. Some say it is real. Some say it is a lapidary myth.

Newer lapidaries may have never heard about it.

This short article is just to wet your appetite. I do not try to answer all questions nor go into any great depth.

When polishing a mineral or a stone comprising of a number of minerals, experienced lapidaries can make use of this phenomena to their advantage. A couple of examples are obtaining a better glaze on your stone to fusing flaws in a facet.

Minerals are crystalline. That is one of the requirements defining a mineral. Some “stone” is not crystalline but amorphous. Obsidian is one for example. Pumice is another, although I don’t think I have ever seen anyone even attempt to polish pumice.

On a side note, Pumice is actually a very gaseous form of obsidian which has the same chemical composition as Rhyolite which has the same composition as Granite.

So, when the Beilby effect actually happens, an amorphous layer a few molecules thick forms on the surface. It is not known what causes the rearrangement of atoms to form this. Some say the surface is melting but this is purely an uneducated guess.

When faceting minerals flaws are sometimes made to fuse at the surface. This closes the flaw at the surface even though it is still visible within the stone. When cutting valuable stones, they can’t afford to just cut all the flaws out. Emerald or Ruby are two good examples. The actual fusing happens within a couple of seconds.



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	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 th 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 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 MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday 3 rd April	08:00	Committee	Building 79 – Scout Hall
Saturday 4 th April	08:00	Judging and Rules	
Sunday 5 th April	08:00	AGM	
Monday 6 th April	08:00	Special Committee	

AFG MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday 3 rd April	16:00	AFG General Meeting	Building 79 – Scout Hall
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The following Traders can be located in the Main Pavilion

B R Gemstones
L. A. Gems
Burfitt Tools
Rodney Kean
Fluoromins Australia
Dazlyn Gems
Rameen Minerals
John McLoughlin
Bergamin Beads
Tony D Design
Skippy's Gems
Crystal Encounters
Audesign.com.au Pty Ltd
Sea of Crystals

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

