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# Media Release:

## Shining bright at Gemfest Festival of Gems

Locals and visitors flocked through the gates of Gemfest Festival of Gems 2025 recently and Yarrabee Coal Mine was proud to be a supporter of such a sparkling community event.

The Gemfest Festival of Gems was a dazzling celebration of gemstones and their artistry. The event featured a blend of cutting-edge exhibits, interactive workshops, and stunning showcases of rare and unique gems from around the world.

Everyone who came along explored the latest trends in gemstone design and many participated in live demonstrations of gem cutting and grading.

Sarah Pallentine from the Gemfest Festival of Gems Association was delighted with the event.

“Year-on-year the event grows in popularity. We aim to captivate both enthusiasts and professionals, while promoting a deeper appreciation for the beauty and craftsmanship of gemstones.

“We have around five committee members who plan and manage the event and over thirty volunteers on the day help us bring it all together and deliver a fantastic event for the people of Central Highlands, Queensland.

“We are so thankful for Yarrabee Coal’s donation of \$6,000. The financial assistance covered the costs for hiring the stage and sound equipment on the day, which was vital to entertain the crowds.

“We are already thinking about next year’s festival and how we can have more entertainment and involvement from the community.

“If you would like to be a part of next year’s event either as a volunteer, artisan, entertainer, or volunteer please contact me,” said Sarah.

Gemfest Festival of Gems started in 1988 as a way for locals to showcase the Sapphire Gemfield’s history, characters, and geology. The festival consists of a range of family-friendly entertainment, artisan demonstrations, market vendors, a selection of quality food, and several activities that visitors can participate in.

Yarrabee Coal Operations Manager Mike Priestly was happy to support the event.

“Gemfest Festival of Gems brings the community together to enjoy some live music, gemstones and jewellery exhibits and children’s entertainment.

“We aim to make a positive impact on the community, and we are proud our financial assistance could help bring this event to life,” said Mike.

The funding support is part of the Yancoal Yarrabee Community Support Program, which aims to make a difference in the community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas where it operates.

For over 20 years since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating eight producing mines across the country, employing almost 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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