

Miners Express

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Get swept up in Gemfest sparkle

There aren't many events that throw out the welcome mat quite like Gemfest 'Festival of Gems'. On August 11 to 14 it showcases Australia's largest Sapphire exhibition, where visitors travel from far and wide to buy and sell treasures, view amazing and rarely seen specimens, and savor the glorious winter sunshine of the Southern Great Barrier Reef's Inland area.

It's not hard to get swept up in the Gemfest buzz with many embracing the experience every year. The four-day Gemfest Passport provides festival entrance. Those who acquire a four-day pass are entered into the Sunday Mega Draw of thousands of

dollars of gems, jewellery and vouchers provided by sponsors. Merchants and traders provide a glittering array; there is entertainment, games and prizes, demonstrations and workshops. A free coach runs between the site at Anakie through Sapphire to Rubyvale, stopping at exhibitions and attractions.

So what makes Gemfest so appealing? Perhaps it's the energy and excitement surrounding the region-defining celebration and the 'one-of-the-family' welcome that the community and event volunteers extend to old friends and fresh faces alike.

