

LUGs of the world: MUGs (Australia)

By HispaBrick Magazine®

We continue our tour of LUGs from around the world. This time we have made a stop in Australia.



Hispabrick Magazine: Name of your LUG.

MUGs: MUGs (Melbourne LEGO® User Group). When the group started all of the Australian groups had funny names like BUGs, PLUGs, SLUGs etc. MUGs is the only group to have retained the name.

HBM: Country.

MUGs: Australia.

HBM: When did your LUG get started?

MUGs: Our first official meeting was in the second half of 2000.

HBM: How did it get started?

MUGs: The five people who started the group met online via LUGnet. We started having meetings and now meet in person every month at two different locations.

HBM: How many members does it have?

MUGs: MUGs doesn't have a formal membership structure but we regularly have 40+ people attend our meetings and recognise a few hundred people as members of our Community.

HBM: Are there any other LUGs in your country? Do you have contact with them?

MUGs: Most states of Australia have at least one or two LUGs though not all of them are RLUGs (yet). Although the population is comparatively small, we are geographically dispersed so there are a lot of small regional LUGs that do not have enough members to become RLUGs.

A lot of us are members of the Facebook groups of other Australia LUGs and we try to keep in contact with each other. Where possible, we try to attend the major events or other LUGs.



HBM: Do you organize events or exhibitions?

MUGs: Our major event for the year is Brickvention which we hold every January. Brickvention is both a convention and a LEGO Fan display. We also arrange or provide displays for local charities, schools and community groups throughout the year.



HBM: Do you have contact with TLC (The LEGO Company)?

MUGs: Yes, we do. We have contact at the international level via the CEE Team and Jan Beyer who is our overseer. At a local level, we have regular contact with staff at LEGO Australia. As a courtesy, we invite them to our show every year and sometimes meet up with them at other events.

HBM: How is to be a LEGO fan in Australia? Do you have any advantage or lack?

MUGs: It's tremendous amounts of fun! There are so many fabulous members of our Community. There are some negative things as well – LEGO prices aren't cheap; our nearest LEGO Brand Store is in Hawaii (over 11 hours away by plane); many of the fantastic international LEGO fan events are a long way away; and many of the exclusives are not available to us.

HBM: Can you explain any interesting anecdotes related to your LUG?

MUGs: There was the infamous over supply of cows as part of LUGBULK where it took us over an hour to work out why we had so many extra cows. It turned out that the cows were supplied as a pair and not as single animals. The convention attendees at our event each received a bonus cow in their event bag that year.

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