



### Staff achievements



Almost every newsletter brings an announcement of Eleanor Hawke's latest achievement. Eleanor's talents were recently rewarded once more when she won the gold medal in the Victorian Worldskill Olympics. Many trades, such as plumbers, builders, hairdressers, and of course jewellers, compete in their appropriate divisions by performing complex assignments in a given time limit (in Eleanor's case, nine hours).

Nevertheless we congratulate Eleanor and her master jeweller mentor, Greg John. It is worth noting also that this is the second such award for Eleanor who amazed all by winning the same competition in her first year as an apprentice.

*Peter Bird*

FGAA



*The diamond set 'spiral cluster' shown here is another example of the impressive advancement in Eleanor's skill and craftsmanship. (Sometimes the back can be as detailed as the top.)*

Usually the winner in each state goes on to compete for the national title and a chance to represent Australia in the international competition (to be held in 2017 in Abu Dhabi). However we were amazed to find that Eleanor (at the tender age of 26) was not permitted to compete, as according to the criteria dictated by the world body, she is 'too old'.



Our jewellers now have the opportunity to create interesting pieces of stock to develop their unique individual design ideas. These are a pair of earrings developed by Jarrad McErlain. More can be gleaned by visiting our facebook page.

 [www.facebook.com/AbrechtBirdJewellers/](http://www.facebook.com/AbrechtBirdJewellers/)





## Wisdom from the Bench



An interesting challenge came recently in the form of a lapel pin required to encapsulate the historical emblem of our client's family birthplace near Llanbyrnair in Wales.

Eleanor worked from a photograph of the farm gate to create a unique piece of jewellery. A highly polished yellow gold back plate with the top white gold plate featuring an intricately saw-pierced 'tree' pattern, with the added detail of the 'leaves' embossed using a custom made punch.



Uniquely designed bangles seem to be making a comeback. Following on from the 'Russian' inspired tri-gold, diamond set piece made earlier in the year (featured on our Facebook page), I was commissioned to design and create a diamond set, art deco inspired bangle to match a ring made for our clients some years ago.

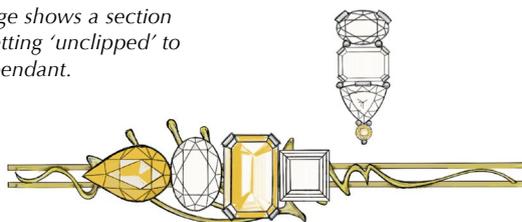
The bangle featured a spectacular radiant cut Australian Argyle champagne diamond as the centrepiece, flanked by several carved panels set with baguette and brilliant cut white diamonds. The bangle is totally handcrafted in 18ct white gold and now resides in London.



*'Uniquely designed bangles seem to be making a comeback.'*

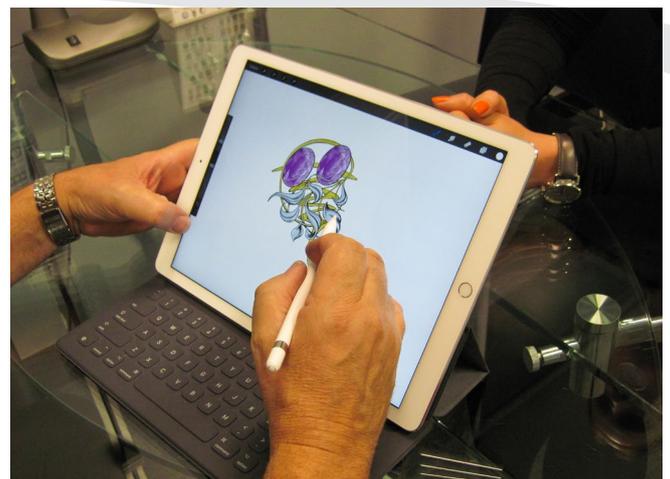
Another bangle, in the planning stage, highlights the effectiveness of a new aid that I will use for designing and drawing in consultation with clients in the showroom. An iPad Pro, with an Apple pencil using drawing software called Procreate, gives me multilayered drawing capabilities which are still being avidly explored.

*The image shows a section of the setting 'unclipped' to form a pendant.*



Watch out for the finished product in our next newsletter.

*Greg John*  
FGAA Dip DT





## Gemmology Corner

### Caveat emptor

People often believe that buying goods 'online' saves time and money and that may be true in many cases. Except when those goods are not as advertised and need to be returned, with all the hurdles that can entail. There are, of course, mechanisms for seeking redress in these cases.

But what if the goods are accompanied by 'legitimate' documentation – say for a diamond, a GIA (Gemological Institute of America) certificate? There shouldn't be a need for concern – unless the certificate is a forgery and the stone is actually synthetic.

I've long questioned the wisdom of buying diamonds on the strength of a certificate, as there are many factors in assessing the quality apart from the traditional '4Cs'. The certificate should really only be used to verify the authenticity of the diamond – once the stone has been seen with a trained eye.



Fracture-filled diamond viewed from the back – note the purple 'flash'.



Side view of a laser drilled diamond – note the laser drill holes.



Colour treated diamond using high pressure and temperature (hpht).



Irradiated diamond using cyclotron method.

Another disturbing practice is the marketing of clarity enhanced diamonds which include treatments such as laser drilling to remove black carbon inclusions and fracture filling to make small internal cracks less visible. Drilling tiny channels within a diamond weakens its structure and can be a problem not only with accidental hits or bumps, but when the article in which it is set is being repaired. The filling of fractures in the diamond can also be of concern in the repair process.

Another issue is colour enhancement, including irradiation and annealing treatments, to change poorly coloured diamonds into vibrant fancy colours.

While not fraudulent, all such stones must be disclosed, stating the exact nature of the enhancement or treatment.

*'... laboratory grown diamonds were fraudulently inscribed with report numbers from GIA diamond certificates.'*

This has been the case in recent times with synthetic diamond supplier International Trading Corporation (ITC) reportedly trading their diamonds via the Chinese-owned online retailer Alibaba accompanied by GIA natural diamond certificates. These laboratory grown diamonds were fraudulently inscribed with report numbers from GIA diamond certificates.

**'Let the buyer beware'**

*Leon Corn*  
FGAA Dip DT



# Meet our staff

Meet the newest member of our team – Hannah Loader. Hannah completed VCE at South Gippsland Secondary College last year. Her interest in the fine arts, modern dance, alongside her quirky personality, made her a shoe in for the position. She is responsible for our jewellery displays, photography, liaison with suppliers, reception duties and is quickly learning the ropes thanks to the exceptional guidance of our office manager, Kylie Pels.



Adding to the passion and the pride that go into all of our creations, you will now see new stamps appear on our bespoke pieces of jewellery. The 'kangaroo' head insignia of the Gold & Silversmiths Guild, along with a date stamp, will be proudly added to our company insignia and makers marks.



Stamps from left to right: our company logo, makers mark, metal alloy (carat value), guild and date stamp.

The top series is Greg's with the diamond-shaped guild stamp indicating he is a fellow of the guild. The middle and lower series are those of Jarrad McErlain and Eleanor Hawke. The round-framed guild stamp represents Abrecht Bird's membership of this prestigious group, limited to workshops producing the finest quality, hand crafted jewellery.

# Latest Designs



**Pictured above, left to right:**

- 1. 18ct white gold diamond pendant and chain \$3,030
- 2. 14ct white and yellow gold diamond ring \$2,245
- 3. 18ct white gold topaz and diamond drop earrings \$1,625
- 4. 18ct white gold diamond ring \$22,250
- 5. 18ct white gold diamond ring \$6,950
- 6. 18ct white gold Tahitian pearl and diamond drop earrings \$965
- 7. 18ct rose and white gold diamond bracelet \$1,900
- 8. 9ct white gold pink tourmaline and diamond pendant\* \$1,075

\*Chain not included

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It will not always be possible to complete the work while you wait, but generally pieces should be available for collection in 20 minutes.

The exception will be white gold articles that require rhodium plating (additional charge) – we will endeavour to have these pieces available at the end of the same day.