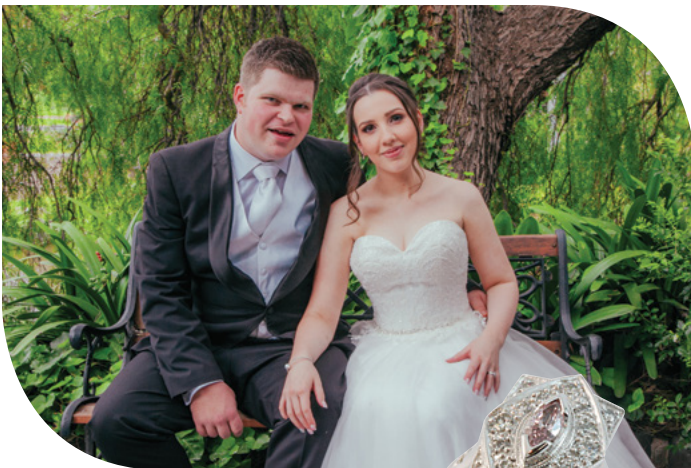


Family news

'For generations we have helped families celebrate weddings.'

For generations we have helped families celebrate weddings. Recently the Bird family enjoyed two of its own.

The youngest of Peter and Sally's 4 boys, Joshua, married Jade on the banks of the Yarra. In far more distant and contrasting localities, first-born David married, initially in Kununurra (Western Australia) and then later in his bride Krystyna's birth town of Strzelce Opolskie, in Poland.



No prizes for guessing where their engagement and wedding rings came from!



The Principles of Integrity and Honesty set down by our forebears have laid the perfect foundation on which we can continue to build and further practise the ideals of 'Quality without Compromise'

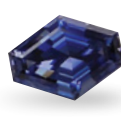
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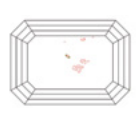
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Wisdom from the Bench

Creating an heirloom piece of jewellery often provides extra challenges to the designing process. As an example, a piece we recently created was designed around the gemstones provided by our client. This collection of Australian gemstones was of differing shapes, sizes and colours.

Welcome to **'STRAYA'**

This piece was designed and constructed using coloured golds around existing gemstones. However there is another piece being developed at the moment that is a remake using existing components. It has been redesigned based on a recurring theme within the existing pieces. Sections – which to date have been hidden away at the back of the piece – are too interesting to ignore and will be included in the new piece.



'...it is gratifying to be able to design these stories into pieces that, when made, can stimulate imaginations and memories.'

The natural Australian gemstones were solid Lightning Ridge black opal, green, yellow and Inverell blue sapphires, along with Argyle pink and yellow diamonds. All are found in dry riverbeds and were mounted in white gold 'rubbed in' style settings. The outside yellow gold edges of the bracelet represent the meandering rivers set around the 'Red Centre', which is finished to represent the textured surface of the unique red-coloured rock walls often found alongside our waterholes and rivers. The clasp has been designed to also articulate and move and represents a gold nugget.

The individual 'articulated' sections of the bracelet are all different shapes and sizes, as are all the gemstones. After all, no two rivers, territories or states, or even mobs or clans in this big, wide, wonderful country of ours are identical.

Most heirloom jewellery has a story to tell and it is gratifying to be able to design these stories into pieces that, when made, can stimulate imaginations and memories.

More images of the construction and finishing of 'STRAYA' – as well as progress shots and stories of the newer projects – will be visible over the next few weeks and months on our web page and in social media posts.

Greg John
FGAA Dip DT



New from the Workshop



1

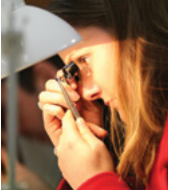
New from the workshop, two handmade artistic creations from Jarrad – a seahorse brooch crafted around a large natural gold nugget and a stunning gold and diamond set centrepiece attached to a strand of matte onyx beads.

1. 18 carat yellow and rose gold seahorse nugget brooch \$5,700

2. 18 carat yellow and white gold onyx and diamond necklace \$4,445



2



Gemmology Corner

To keep up with the changing trends and information in the gemmological industry, Jarrad and I attended a gemmology evening to showcase gemstones that even gemmologists may not be aware of. The evening was termed 'Rare Gems' and was hosted by an American gem cutter, John Bradshaw. He discussed gemstones that are not considered in the mass market but are extremely rare, often occurring in only one deposit in the world. Once the gemstones have been exhausted from these mines they will no longer be available, increasing the collectability of these stones. Some of these include:

Benitoite – Occurs in a rich blue colour to rival sapphires and comes exclusively from the Benito mine in USA. This mine has almost been exhausted. Small quantities of this gem are released yearly to an exclusive market. The available gemstones are generally small in size.



Kite-shaped benitoite

*Colour change diaspore
in daylight (green) and
incandescent light (brown)*



Diaspore – Available in colours from pinks to greens and mined from many places in the world. The much sought-after colour change variety comes exclusively from Turkey and can exhibit colour change properties in different lights. The gemstone is also sold under other names such as csarite and zultanite (quite often stones of this type are sold under these names for exorbitant prices in places such as on cruise ships, resulting in customers being overcharged for a 'branded' product).

'Once the gemstones have been exhausted from these mines they will no longer be available...'



Sphalerite in its many different hues

Sphalerite – A rich honey to orange coloured gemstone, found exclusively in Spain. Due to the expansion of a national park where the mine is located, mining of this gemstone has ceased. Now it is only available from personal collections. Not being a very tough gemstone, it should only be worn in items of jewellery such as pendants and earrings. However, with a dispersion three times that of diamond, and displaying phenomenal rainbow flashes, it is a truly remarkable treasure.

Photos courtesy of John J Bradshaw, www.rarestone.com

Kylie Beachley

FGAA Dip DT Regt Valuer RV348
Office Manager

Showcase



Pictured above, left to right:

3. 18 carat white gold diamond slider pendant on an omega style chain, set with an 0.80 carat diamond \$10,220
4. 18 carat white gold pear-shaped tanzanite and diamond pendant* \$3,660 5. 18 carat white and rose gold pink and white diamond twist ring \$3,435
6. 18 carat white gold double halo diamond ring \$4,140 7. 18 carat white and yellow gold Tahitian pearl and diamond ring \$5,510
8. 18 carat white gold oval blue topaz and diamond ring \$2,155 9. 9 carat yellow gold filigree padlock curb link bracelet \$1,315
*Chain not included



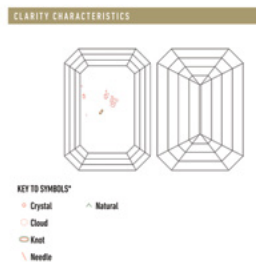
Loyalty – a personal reflection

Recent debate over rising power prices has seen politicians and consumer advocates urging us to switch from our current suppliers to get a better deal. The unfortunate reality is that your own supplier is probably offering better prices (than yours) to new customers to attract their business. By remaining loyal you are seen as a bit of a sucker.

The practice is widespread – just look at the marketing activities of phone or internet providers, banks, home and health insurance companies. Why is it that enticing new customers is seen as a higher priority than keeping existing customers happy and loyal?

GRADING RESULTS	
Carat Weight	1.32 carat
Color Grade	E
Clarity Grade	VS2

These details found on a diamond grading certificate, together with a map of actual inclusions, point to the risk of purchasing sight unseen.



This is the actual diamond with clearly 'eye visible' inclusions. It is our practice to present a choice of diamonds, allowing our customers to make an informed and confident decision.

Because it's easier?

Here, at Abrecht Bird, we operate with a completely different philosophy. We rely completely on providing the highest quality craftsmanship and service to everyone. By so doing we trust that we gain respect and loyalty so that our clients are not only happy to return, but also to recommend others.

'We rely completely on providing the highest quality craftsmanship and service to everyone'

We work with our suppliers in the same way – enjoying firm relationships that are often decades (if not generations) old. We choose those we can trust, knowing they will stand by their product and their word. We know that we will never be sold a 'conflict diamond' by our diamond suppliers or an undisclosed treated ruby by our coloured stone merchant.

I guess it's a lot different if you take your chances buying fine jewellery on the internet!

Peter Bird
FGAA



Pictured above, left to right:

10. 18 carat yellow and white gold diamond engagement ring \$4,650

11. 9 carat white and rose gold ruby and diamond pendant* \$1,395

13. 18 carat white and rose gold tanzanite and diamond ring \$4,725

12. 18 carat yellow and white gold freshwater pearl and diamond ring \$2,845

14. Freshwater opera length pearl strand \$3,800

*Chain not included

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Clean, Polish and Check

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- ✓ Complimentary clean and polish of two rings
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Available at any time in the next 12 months when you present this coupon.

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.