



Family

There are many reasons I like getting up in the morning to come to work. For a start I am surrounded by a group of wonderful, dedicated and happy people. I get the chance to admire and play around with beautiful gemstones – it truly is fun seeking out the best value for our customers. And there is the thrill of participating in the design process and overseeing the creation of true works of art – each individually hand crafted by very gifted artisans.

'...they wish to create something special that will provide lasting memories – for this generation and the next.'



One of a series of bangles produced (reusing 'family gold'), hand engraved and set with birthstones to honour the memory of family members.



Hand made cufflinks produced for brothers – hand engraved with initials of a loved, departed relative.

However, over the years I have come to appreciate that the greatest satisfaction comes from sharing significant occasions with our clients.



Fred Robert Abrecht (photo top left) appears to look with approval as his great-great-granddaughter visits our showroom.

This might begin with consulting over the design of a 'perfect' engagement ring, hearing wedding plans while advising the ideal wedding bands, a diamond ring to celebrate the birth of a child, or an 18th or 21st gift for a daughter or granddaughter. Jewellery to celebrate significant anniversaries or 'special birthdays' brings us back together again.

Recently I have been moved by a series of visits involving three generations of the one family. We have been planning a special item of jewellery for each member that serves to preserve the memory of recently departed loved ones. In other cases we have restored treasured jewellery items so that they may be passed on and valued by future generations.

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'...we have restored treasured jewellery items so that they may be passed on and valued by future generations.'



Eleanor hand made this diamond ring for her aunty.

These family occasions are filled with love. The giver has come to see us because they wish to create something special that will provide lasting memories – for this generation and the next. I am the lucky one to participate in these joyful moments with families over the decades. I am pleased to share a few recent examples here.

Peter Bird
FGAA



We were given our client's grandfather's World War 2 'dog tags' to reproduce identically in rose gold.



Graduating as jewellery valuers

Kylie Pels and Margaret Blood (Margaret is sadly no longer on our staff) are rewarded for their hard work to graduate as qualified jewellery valuers.



The snap shows most of the successful candidates in 2014.





Gemmology Corner

MORGANITE

What makes a coloured gemstone suddenly become 'flavour of the month'? It has always mystified me, but the latest to capture attention is morganite, a variety of the beryl group of gemstones. More common gemstones of this group are the emerald and aquamarine. Morganite is known primarily as a pastel-coloured gem in light, soft shades of pink, purplish pink and orangey pink. Although light tones are normal for morganite, some stones display strong colour. It is often referred to as 'pink or rose beryl'.

Although this gemstone came into existence millions of years ago, it has been known by the name of morganite for less than a hundred years (previously known only as the pink variety of beryl). In 1911, at the suggestion of the New York gemmologist GF Kunz, the pink variety of beryl was ennobled to the status of a gemstone in its own right. In honour of the banker and mineral collector, John Pierpont Morgan, it was given the name under which it is known today: morganite.

'Its durability, lustre, clarity, brilliance and myriad of beautiful pink hues make morganite immensely suitable as a jewellery gemstone that is appropriate for everyday wear.'



Morganite can be found in many locations around the world. The two most significant deposits are in Brazil and Madagascar. Other notable sources for fine gem-quality morganite include Afghanistan, China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Russia, Zimbabwe and the USA (California and Maine).

There are morganites in many fine pink hues. Some are decidedly pink, whilst others tend more to lilac, light violet or a hint of orange. The gem is almost always heat-treated to improve the pink colour and the treatment is not detectable. Heat drives off the yellow or orange tinge, leaving a purer and more attractive pink. The resulting colour is stable and won't fade.

On the Moh's scale of hardness (which rates gemstones on a scale of 1-10), it is listed as a 7.5 to 8 and is typically free of inclusions. The only factor impeding the gem's popularity is its scarcity.

Its durability, lustre, clarity, brilliance and myriad of beautiful pink hues make morganite immensely suitable as a jewellery gemstone that is appropriate for everyday wear.

Leon Corn
FGAA Dip DT



Eleanor makes it two in a row!

Our young star, Eleanor Hawke, receiving her award for best Second Year Jewellery Apprentice (following on from her win last year).

Newsletter by email?

To discover whether some of our clients would prefer to receive their newsletters by email, we will shortly be conducting a survey. Fittingly, we will survey by email those whose address we know. If you would like your email address to be updated or added to our records, please advise us: info@abrecht.com

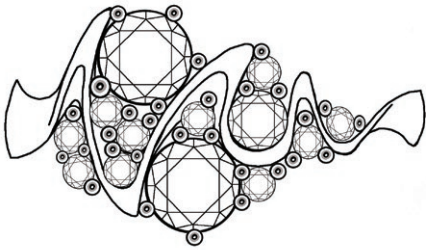


Wisdom from the Bench

Into the showroom comes Mrs B after having tracked me down from a 'past life' when I had a shop in Bentleigh. Initially wanting me to check over and maintain her rings that I had made way back then, it was soon obvious that there was another job she wanted me to take on. With rings and pendants that had been left to her, all with differing size and quality diamonds, the question was one we often hear at Abrecht Bird:

'What can I do with all these old pieces of jewellery?'

It became obvious to me that this was the perfect opportunity to create a design using asymmetrical balance as a feature.



'...this was the perfect opportunity to create a design using asymmetrical balance as a feature.'

Once all the stones were removed from their old settings they were cleaned and measured. Then a scale drawing was created to ensure that everything would fit in the right place.

Using my trademark 'flourish' as the basis for the design, I first began by crafting the individual settings for each stone.

Then the band was fabricated to follow the shape around the finger.

The detail and polish had to be applied to the band before it was assembled, meaning that any small alteration to enable the settings to fit in their respective positions had to be precise.

The finished piece had the desired result. Mrs B was elated ... and I got my 'wow' moment.

Greg John
FGAA Dip DT



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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.