

Gallery Invitation

In our last issue we forecast the opening of our gallery – a showcase of the artistic talent and artisan skills of our workshop team. We are delighted to announce that the gallery will open on Monday 9 December. We extend a welcome to all our loyal clients to visit in the week following (with three evening opportunities) to celebrate this important milestone.

The themes of our first exhibition revolve around the colour blue and 'eclipse'.

We featured blue gemstones in our 'Gemmology Corner' article in our last newsletter – the gallery will showcase a wondrous display of very special blue gemstones.

A few years ago, we staged an 'in-house' competition to judge which staff member could design the best piece of jewellery based on the concept of an eclipse. We could never decide whose work was the best – so we resolved to manufacture each design to let others judge. Since then, Kylie and Yuki have added to the collection by contributing their own designs.

Visitors in our opening week will have the opportunity of open access to our studio workshop – a chance to see how jewellery is made by hand and to talk to our talented jewellers.

Naturally the pieces entered in the Australasian Jewellery Design Awards will be on show. Interestingly, Eleanor's entry gives a sneak preview of the next theme that will be featured at our gallery – 'Flora'.

We urge you to put aside a half hour in the week beginning Monday 9 December. Although we see your visits as an informal drop-in, if you did wish to discuss any jewellery matters during your visit, it might be wise to ring ahead to give us a little notice.

For those who find it difficult to fit their tour into normal work-day times, we intend to extend our opening hours to 7.00 pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (11–13 December).



This slider pendant is part one of a three-piece series I designed based on nature and its flora and fauna.

The simple geometric framework is paired with an organic twisting and interlocking vine that's adorned with a variety of leaves, yellow gold granules representing wattle and a scattering of diamonds representing the morning dew.



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See page 6 for descriptions and prices

You're invited to visit



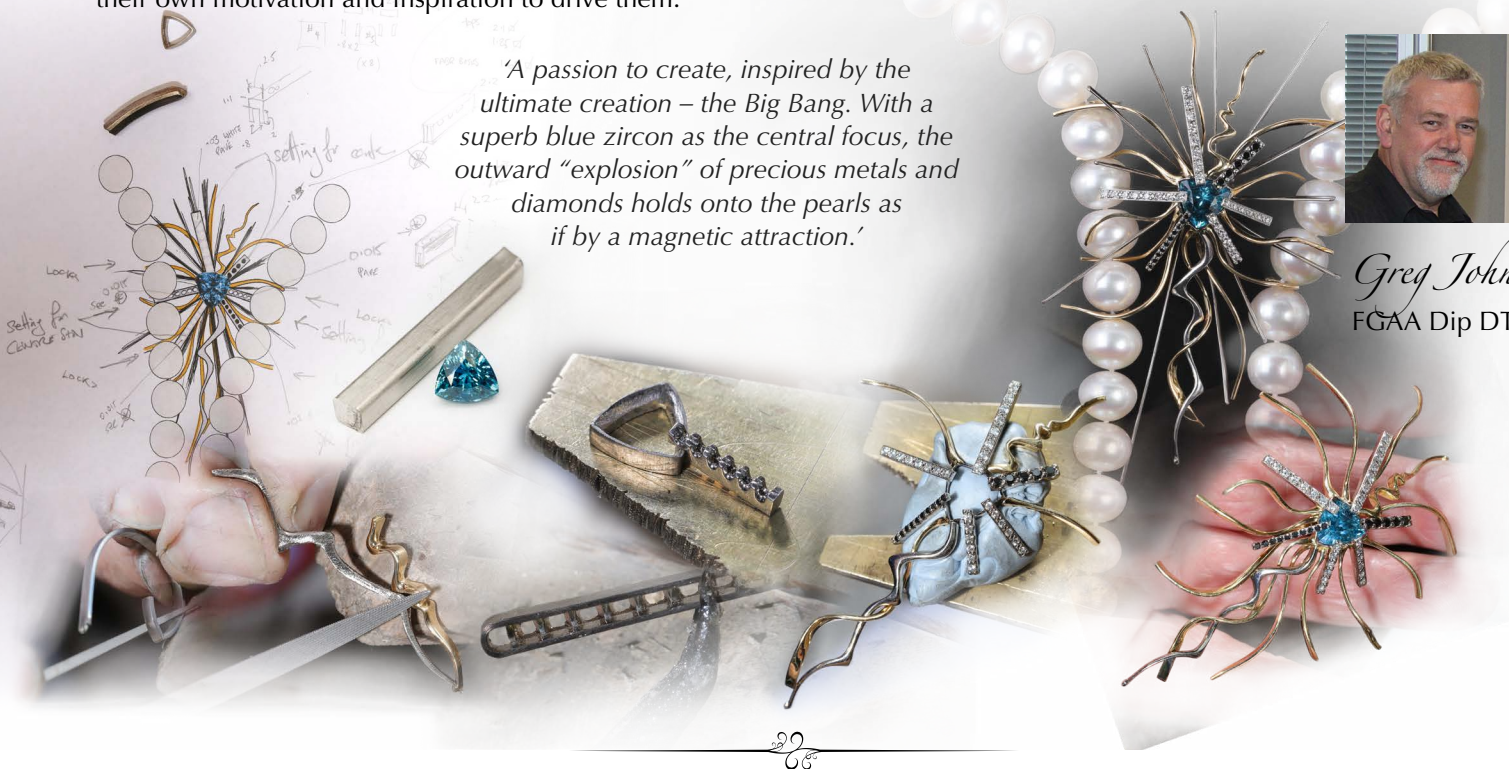
Wisdom from the Bench – JAA Competition

Every few years the Jewellers Association of Australia runs an Australasian Jewellery Design and Manufacturing competition. This year our three jewellers created unique pieces to be submitted. As there was no specific design brief, each jeweller had their own motivation and inspiration to drive them.

'A passion to create, inspired by the ultimate creation – the Big Bang. With a superb blue zircon as the central focus, the outward "explosion" of precious metals and diamonds holds onto the pearls as if by a magnetic attraction.'



Greg John
FGAA Dip DT



'After selecting a green tourmaline for my piece, a weekend trip to Mount Macedon with my husband and dog inspired me to create a nature-themed dress ring. The beautiful unique shade of green tourmaline echoed the colour of the Macedon Ranges. The tourmaline would be the hero and centre stone of my piece with yellow and white diamonds set in an asymmetrical halo. I chose to feature yellow and white diamonds, as the colour contrast worked well

with the green and they would represent the blossoms and wattle found in this region in spring. The band is made up of three different sections, two yellow gold and one white gold. The outside yellow gold sections mimic the organic lines found in nature, while the central white gold band follows the curves and flow of the landscape.

Continuing the nature theme, the shank is scattered with a variety of yellow and green gold leaves, yellow gold granules and bezel set white diamonds. All these components are brought together with intertwining white gold vines.'

Eleanor Hawke
FGAA



'A little while ago there was an in-house design competition focused around the theme of an eclipse. An eclipse is the phenomenon of one entity passing in front of another. This "in-house" theme was based on an astronomical eclipse. The black diamond represents the moon, the yellow sapphire represents the sun and the white diamonds are the rest of the stars in the night sky.'



Yoki Mathwin



Staff News

Meet the Staff – Asher

Kylie joined us in April 2013. She is passionate about gems and graduated as the number one student in both years of her gemmological diploma. More recently, she completed her Diploma in Diamond Technology and now lectures on occasions at the Gemmological Association of Australia. Not surprisingly, she is a highly valued member of our team. In March, Kylie announced that she was expecting a baby and in mid-August left us temporarily on maternity leave.

I am sure all of our clients join us in welcoming Baby Asher Beachley to the Abrecht Bird family. Born on 14 September, Kylie and Brent report that Asher is a happy and healthy bundle of joy – we are all extremely proud and delighted.

'...join us in welcoming Baby Asher Beachley to the Abrecht Bird family.'



Gift Ideas



Pictured above, clockwise from left:

1. 18ct white gold tsavorite garnet and diamond pendant & trace chain \$1,380
2. 9ct white gold open oval diamond set stud earrings \$710
3. 18ct white gold diamond set star pendant* \$640
4. 9ct white gold halo diamond stud earrings \$1,085
5. 18ct yellow and white gold diamond set pendant* \$850
6. 18ct white gold pear shape tanzanite and diamond halo stud earrings \$1,325
7. 18ct white gold South Sea pearl and diamond pendant \$2,900
8. 18ct yellow gold South Sea pearl and diamond stud earrings \$1,550

*Chain not included

Meet the Staff - Stephanie Tkalcovic

I fell in love with jewellery from a very young age. I was surrounded by fine quality jewellery and the manufacturing process since I was a little girl as my grandfather made tools for the jewellery industry.

As I got older, my love for fine quality jewellery and diamonds only grew. Throughout high school I didn't know what I wanted to do. Of all the options that were proposed, nothing appealed to me. I knew that I loved jewellery and diamonds but never realised that it was actually something that I could pursue as a career. I undertook a year of university, studying food science. After that first year, I realised that this just wasn't for me. I made the decision to quit university and to follow my heart. This wasn't an easy choice to make but I knew that it was the right one for me. I started working in a fine jewellery shop which only made my love for the industry grow.

I wanted to enhance my knowledge about diamonds, so I undertook the Diploma of Diamond Technology at the Gemmological Association of Australia in 2018. This was a 6-month course that basically taught about every aspect of diamonds: how to grade their differing colours, how the colours are created, how diamonds are constructed in the mantle of the Earth ... I could go on. Even though there were some very challenging concepts to wrap my head around, my passion for the

crystallised carbon outweighed the difficulty I faced when studying for the exams or writing my report on diamond cut grading. I felt like I poured my heart and soul into the course, and I did. I successfully completed it with a credit result and was the recipient of the Barry Barrington Award – given to the student for outstanding commitment and dedication throughout the duration of the course.

If someone asked me what my favourite thing about jewellery is, I'd say 'diamonds'. Most people love diamonds because they are sparkly and beautiful. Yes, that is true. But the reason I love diamonds is because they are so versatile, as they come in all colours and shapes, giving jewellers unlimited design possibilities.

After completing the diploma, I knew that I needed to find somewhere that I could use my newly acquired knowledge and take the next step in my career. As if the universe was listening to my heart, a position opened up here at Abrecht Bird, exactly what I was looking for. In my day-to-day work, I use the ability to form my own educated opinions on diamonds and answer questions anyone may have on diamonds.

As I take the next step in my career with Abrecht Bird, I look forward to all the new challenges I face in the jewellery industry.

*'As I got older,
my love for fine quality
jewellery and diamonds
only grew.'*



Stephanie Tkalcovic
Dip DT



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11



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12

Pictured above, from left to right:

9. 9ct yellow and white gold bar link bracelet \$1,210

10. 9ct white gold diamond circle drop earrings \$1,185

11. 9ct white and rose gold double curb and belcher bracelet \$2,340

12. 9ct rose gold 7 diamond bezel set adjustable bracelet \$625





Gemmology Corner

Argyle Diamonds – The Very Beginning

After fifty years, next year will see the end of diamond mining at the Argyle mine in the East Kimberly region of Western Australia.

Argyle is one of the largest diamond producers in the world by volume, but due to the low proportion of gem-quality diamonds, it will close in 2020.

It is the only known significant source of pink and red diamonds, producing over 90% of the world's supply. It also provides a large proportion of other naturally coloured diamonds, including champagne, cognac and rare blue diamonds.

Two decades passed before he would test Prider's theory. He formed the Kalamburu Joint Venture – a group of five companies – to begin commercial exploration for diamonds in the Kimberley on a modest budget of A\$100,000.

By early 1974, indicator minerals and diamonds had been found in samples from the north, east and west Kimberley. The Ashton Joint Venture was formed from a partnership between Northern Mining, CRA (later to become Rio Tinto Ltd) and the Western Australian government. In return for its \$1.65m investment, CRA acquired 35% ownership. One pink diamond that comes from this mine can easily sell for that amount today!

It is the only known significant source of pink and red diamonds...

The history of this mine actually began in the 1940s when Ewen Tyler, a geology student at the University of Western Australia, noted an interesting observation by Rex Prider (his professor) that lamproite minerals found in the Kimberley region of Western Australia bore a strong resemblance to those accompanying diamond discoveries in South Africa. Until then, kimberlite was the only known host rock for diamonds.

In the late seventies, a sizeable lamproite host pipe (later to be named AK1) was discovered, and after three years evaluating and confirming that it was commercially viable, open pit mining commenced in December 1985.

After close to 30 years of open pit mining, the Argyle mine went underground in April 2013.

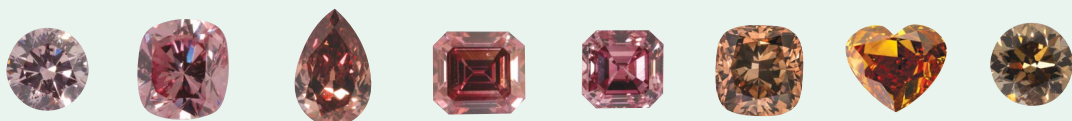
Editor's note: Get yourself a pink diamond while they last!

Leon Corn
FGAA Dip DT



Argyle Diamonds

With the Argyle mine in the Kimberly region in Western Australia definitely closing by the end of 2020, Argyle pink diamonds have never been so popular! However, diamonds that are mined from Argyle aren't always pink. There are a variety of colours, stretching from pink and red to purple and brown. Our small but stunning stock of Argyle pink, champagne and cognac diamonds will continue to grow and change until the day we have none left. Don't pass up the offer to own such a beautiful and rare gem.



Gift Ideas



Pictured above, clockwise from top left:

1. 18ct white gold bezel set diamond slider pendant and trace chain \$1,325
2. 18ct white and yellow gold diamond flower dress ring \$2,580
3. 18ct white gold emerald and diamond cluster ring \$5,445
4. 18ct white gold rhodolite garnet and diamond pendant* \$3,220
5. 9ct rose gold and zirconium gents ring \$625
6. 18ct white gold art deco style diamond set pendant & chain \$4,815
7. 18ct yellow gold ruby and diamond channel set ring \$5,125
8. 18ct white gold antique style flower cluster ring \$6,060
9. 18ct yellow and white gold crossover with pave set diamonds dress ring \$2,215

Pictured page 5 (Argyle diamonds), from left to right:

1. 18ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond flower cluster ring \$6,125
2. 18ct white and rose gold white and pink diamond floral pendant* \$3,015
3. 9ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond pear shape pendant* \$510
4. 9ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond pear shape stud earrings \$645
5. 9ct white and rose gold pink diamond open oval ring \$770
6. 18ct white and rose gold pink and white gold cluster ring \$5,125
7. 18ct white and rose gold pink diamond hoop earrings \$2,040
8. 9ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond cluster pendant* \$720
9. 9ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond cluster stud earrings \$1,125
10. 9ct white and rose gold pink diamond brushed finish pendant* \$520
11. 9ct white and rose gold pink diamond brushed finish stud earrings \$550

Pictured front page, from left to right:

1. 18ct yellow and white gold emerald and diamond cluster ring \$5,180
2. 18ct yellow and white gold yellow, white and black diamond eclipse pendant \$10,490
3. 18ct white gold antique style diamond dress ring POA
4. 18ct white gold pink sapphire and diamond ring \$5,860
5. 18ct yellow gold ruby and diamond cluster earrings \$2,705
6. 18ct yellow and white gold yellow and white diamond open flora slider pendant* \$4,695

*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.