



Welcome back – again!

This time last year, I optimistically looked forward to the year ahead. Little did I, or you, know what 2021 would bring. It turned out our doors were closed for months – again!

Thanks to the support of you, our customers, our fabulously loyal and hardworking staff, and government assistance – we remain viable and keen to continue our second century of making people happy.

Fortunately, each of our jewellers has a workshop at home – proving that they regard their craft not simply as a meal ticket, but an opportunity to express themselves creatively in their spare time. As a result, we have been able to catch up with significant orders placed in the gaps between lockdowns.

Since reopening, we have been flooded with requests for appointments – so many clients catching up with plans for engagement, wedding and anniversary gifts. I thank you all for waiting and for your loyalty. As a result, our workshop will be under pressure, so I urge you to contact us soon if you have any special requests before Christmas and beyond.

We take your health and safety seriously, so I can assure you that all members of our team are fully vaccinated and keen to welcome you.

Peter Bird

*"I thank you all for waiting
and for your loyalty."*



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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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Wisdom from the Bench

'Should I use my old diamonds?'

'Are my old gemstones worth doing anything with?'

These are questions clients often ask themselves, and then ask us.

The answer is quite simple ... Yes!

Your old jewellery may hold sentimental value; it may have been handed down from loved ones, it could be a gift from someone special, or simply hold fond memories. The value is in its being, not its cost!

The gemstones may be of a different quality to those in modern expensive jewellery – the old single cut and 'mine cut' diamonds compared with modern brilliant cut diamonds are a perfect example. As diamonds, they all have value, some more than others. The truth is that they will have more value set into a piece of jewellery that you can wear and enjoy than they will sitting in a drawer never seeing the light of day.

Looking at images of historical diamond-set jewellery, those of inspiration and fascination, it is interesting to note that the diamonds are often not matched and may even appear quite dull. This is entirely due to the evolution of diamond cutting and a better understanding through constant research of the optical properties of the gems. In reality the quality of the gems does little to alter the beauty of the design and appeal of the jewellery.

For an example of this concept, we recently had the pleasure of converting a collection of small single cut diamonds of varying size and quality (all from different pieces) into a new pair of drop earrings. The design was inspired by classic teardrop shapes and was perfectly suited to the tapering sizes of the diamonds.

So, as a thought, if you have pieces of jewellery lying around for whatever reason, set with gems of any quality, instead of waiting until you can afford to buy new jewellery with new gemstones, consider using what you have and have the piece of your dreams made into a reality.

To read about the process Greg took in making the diamond earrings, visit our blog on our website.

Greg John

FGAA, Dip DT, FGSGA,
NCJV Registered Valuer V0231
Master Jeweller



"... they will have more value set into a piece of jewellery that you can wear and enjoy ..."



Soldering on the claws of the earrings



The finished earrings

Hallmarking

The practice known as 'hallmarking' is the process of impressing or stamping a series of marks into jewellery using hardened steel punches (in the case of rings, these marks are generally found on the inside) and collectively represent and identify the manufacturer and the quality or standard of the materials used.

Pieces created in our workshops will generally also carry the craftsperson's personal mark (often referred to as the 'maker's mark') alongside the Abrecht Bird logo. These marks signify the pride, commitment and guarantee given to the creation of the piece.

Here, at Abrecht Bird Jewellers, as accredited members of the Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia, we have the privilege to also stamp the guild mark of a kangaroo head, along with a date stamp indicating the year in which the piece was made.

Shown here are examples of the marks seen on pieces from our studio workshops.

Each plate is read from the left.

- ✦ The manufacturer's mark (this being the company logo) is a symbol of the two highly respected family companies that formed the present Abrecht Bird Jewellers.
- ✦ The maker's mark – Eleanor Hawke on the image above and Greg John on the image below.
- ✦ Next to the maker's mark is the quality or standard mark indicating the precious metal used. In this instance the metal is 18 ct yellow gold, which is 75% fine gold (750 parts to the thousand). This stamp is in the shape of an infinity symbol, the internationally recognised shape for the gold standard.

"These marks signify the pride, commitment and guarantee given to the creation of the piece."



Eleanor Hawke maker's mark



Greg John maker's mark

Gift Ideas



Continued from page 3

- ✦ The Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia stamp – the circular shape or frame illustrated here indicates a manufacturer's accreditation with the Guild, whilst the oblique square frame designates the maker as a Fellow of the Guild.
- ✦ The next stamp is generally a letter and designates the year in which the piece was made. The frame shape and letter font will vary from year to year.

The GSGA gives accreditation to worthy manufacturers willing to abide by an ethical approach to producing a standard of quality in unique precious metal products. There is a register of all fellows and members enabling identification and tracing of all stamped pieces.

These marks indicate not only the pride with which the jewellery was created, they also give a guarantee to the customer of our commitment to the standard of quality to which Abrecht Bird Jewellers have become synonymous, and like the guilds in the UK and Europe, this provenance adds to the value of the piece.



As a highly respected and qualified member of our creative team, Yuki Mathwin is now having her own maker's mark made for use on her jewellery crafted in our studio/workshop.



Yuki Mathwin maker's mark design

Yuki has designed her own personal mark, which will now be converted into a specialised punch. Once the stamps have been made, Yuki's mark will be proudly embedded on her creations with Abrecht Bird.





Argyle Mine

After 38 years of operation, the Argyle Diamond Mine in Western Australia closed last November, due to costs outweighing the yield. Eight hundred and sixty-five million carats per year were mined; only about 1,900 stones a year would be pink – that's .0002%. Argyle pink diamonds account for about 90 per cent of all the pink diamonds found in the world so far.

The final sale of the mine's diamond selection has just taken place in early October, offering the last of the diamonds to the highest bidders in a silent auction. The Argyle tender auction is the most highly anticipated diamond event in the world.

With 70 diamonds up for sale, this was the most offered by Argyle, with colours ranging from vibrant reds to soft pinks.

There is no other mine in the world that produces colours like Argyle. The final tender will also include 24 carats of blue and violet diamonds, which are even rarer than pinks.

Bidding for these diamonds is always a secret affair. Industry-based jewellers and diamond dealers are permitted to make their secret, silent bids by invitation only. Bids are taken via an online portal, and once a diamond has been won, 4 days are given to finalise payments.

Pink diamonds are very much the signature gem of Australia and are on average 35 times more expensive than white diamonds.

Customers wanting to be a part of the 'Argyle club' are urged to purchase a piece of jewellery set with these remarkable gems while they are still available.

Kylie Beachley

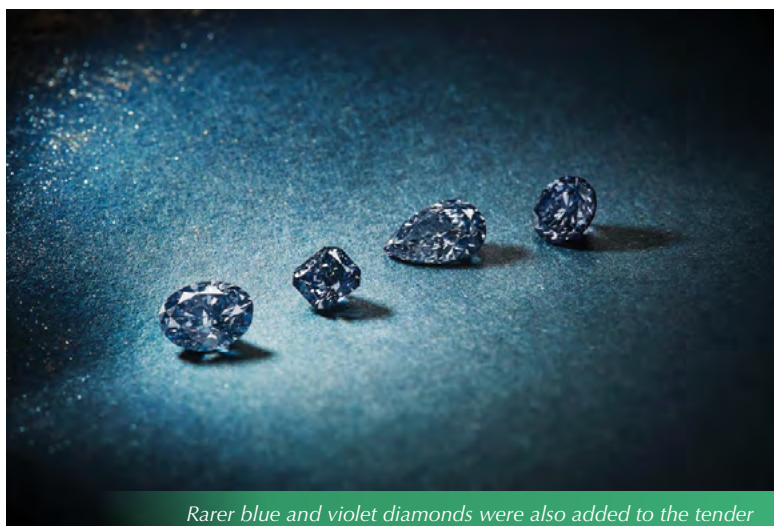
FGAA Dip DT Regt Valuer RV348
Office Manager



The five hero diamonds of the 2021 Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender

(supplied: Rio Tinto)

*"There is no other mine in the world
that produces colours like Argyle."*



Rarer blue and violet diamonds were also added to the tender

(supplied: Rio Tinto)



Gift Ideas

Front Page

1. 18 carat white and rose gold Argyle pink and white diamond ring \$25,895

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2. 9 carat white and rose gold Argyle pink and white diamond ring \$2,190
3. 18 carat white and rose gold Argyle pink and white diamond halo ring \$5,915
4. 18 carat yellow and white gold ruby and diamond ring \$5,555
5. 9 carat yellow gold ruby and diamond hoop earrings \$1,415

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6. 9 carat white gold diamond tennis bracelet \$4,415
7. 9 carat rose and white gold pear-shaped morganite and diamond earrings \$785
8. 9 carat rose and white gold pear-shaped morganite and diamond ring \$795
9. 9 carat rose and white gold morganite and diamond pendant* \$440
10. 18 carat yellow gold Australian sapphire and diamond cluster earrings \$2,725
11. 18 carat yellow gold diamond drop earrings \$1,575
12. 18 carat yellow gold diamond drop necklet \$1,490

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13. 9 carat white and rose gold Argyle pink and white diamond pendant* \$520
14. 18 carat white and rose gold diamond ring \$2,770
15. 18 carat white and rose gold Argyle diamond stud earrings \$2,765
16. 9 carat white and rose gold Argyle pink and white diamond pendant* \$815

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17. 18 carat white gold diamond crossover ring \$2,390
18. 9 carat white gold marquise-shaped amethyst and diamond ring \$915
19. 18 carat white gold diamond slider necklet \$6,645
20. 18 carat yellow gold yellow diamond star necklet \$3,140
21. 18 carat yellow gold ruby and diamond cluster pendant* \$1,575
22. 18 carat yellow and white gold ruby and diamond cluster ring \$1,875
23. 18 carat yellow and white gold ruby and diamond cluster earrings \$2,365
24. 9 carat rose gold rose quartz and diamond ring \$900
25. 18 carat yellow gold diamond slice ring \$1,950

*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.