



### Birdboys



Greg shows Rhys how to avoid cutting his finger off!



'Hit the punch, not my finger' says Greg, as Rhys forms the spoon shape.

Many of you will recall the remarkable story of how my brother Gary's second son, Aaron, met and later married Shannan Abrecht – a descendant of Fred Robert Abrecht, who founded the company in 1875. Neither was even aware of the business partnership between the Abrecht and Bird families – Abrecht Bird Jewellers!

Gary worked for a time in the business with my dad in the 1970s. He began by learning at the bench, and although he later changed his career, he has always been a passionate and skilful handyman. No doubt this trait has been inherited by his grandchildren, Bailey and Rhys, because both have been keen to visit our workshop whenever they can, particularly to meet and talk with our master jeweller Greg John.

Recently, Greg invited them back for a day to gain some direct workshop experience. The project was for each of them to make a silver dessert spoon. The pictures tell the story.

*"These spoons make the ice-cream taste better!"*



Bailey is into skating;  
Rhys likes the shape of a lightning flash.  
They look shiny before they get used.



Could either of these boys return one day to continue as the fifth generation of the two jewellery families? Only time will tell.

*Peter Bird*





## Wisdom from the Bench

*"... Life achievement jewel ... meticulously designed and hand crafted in our workshop ..."*



Many organisations and groups will have their own badges of merit, usually referred to as 'jewels'.

Recently Greg presented our client David with his hand crafted 'life achievement' jewel on his 80th birthday. It was meticulously designed and hand crafted in our workshop by Greg, showcasing his many years of experience and talent.

The background is a representation of the Victoria Police insignia, given that David was a senior police officer up until his retirement from the 'Force'.

His family and two dogs are represented at the top, signifying the importance of family in his life.

David was a keen yachtsman and a train enthusiast. These are portrayed on the sides of the jewel. Also a proud Freemason, the Masonic square and compasses are entwined through an anchor emblem specifically designed for his lodge, Hearts of Oak, a Masonic lodge.

*Editor: This is a remarkable piece of design, artistry and skill – Well done, Greg!*

*Greg John*

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

## Gift Ideas





## Gemmology Corner

### A Christmas lily for a Christmas birthday

Back in August 2021, we received a phone call from a client enquiring about making an ornament for his wife's 70th birthday using, if possible, peridot from south-west Victoria – an area with many associations for her.

As the birthday fell on Christmas Day, the ornament needed to incorporate a Christmas lily, which is a favourite flower because of its Christian links.

Our jewellery designer, Greg, set about creating various sketches, one of which included an olivine 'bomb', upon which a silver and gold Christmas lily would be mounted. Peridot is the gem variety of the mineral olivine.

Peridot bombs, also known as olivine bombs, are crystals that were flung from a volcano when it erupted. These crystals are surrounded by basalt rock and have peridot in the middle. Peridot bombs are said to boost your confidence and help you to achieve your goals. Physically, they may help relieve symptoms of sinus, migraines and nausea.

The task of sourcing such a specimen was handed to Leon; not surprisingly, none of our gemstone merchants were able to assist. Enquiries with various contacts in the lapidary field led to the obvious place to look: Mount Shadwell Quarry located 3 km north of Mortlake, owned and operated by Moyne Shire Council. This quarry provides scoria products to the construction and roadwork industries, as well as farmers, trades, and the home handy person – not normally a place you'd expect to find gemstone specimens. However, some of the best olivine specimens have been found there and gemstone fossickers regularly visit the site. Mortlake is the self-proclaimed olivine capital of the world.

The quarry manager referred Leon to one such person, Alan, who has what is regarded as one of the largest collections of olivine bombs, many with gem-quality crystals. After briefing Alan on the idea, he agreed to look through his collection and send photographs of suitable specimens.

*"Peridot bombs ... are crystals that were flung from a volcano when it erupted."*



8



9



10

Continued from page 3

Greg agreed on a specimen that would be ideal for his design and so began the process of constructing the ornament. The bomb duly arrived by post and work proceeded on the silver lily in our workshop.

The result is a beautifully designed and crafted ornament of silver and gold that will grace the mantelpiece, providing lifetime memories of the time spent in the region.

*Leon Corn*  
FGAA Dip DT



*"Each piece of jewellery is a work of art,  
made with the most incredible detail and with a  
focus on providing an exquisite item."*

Sonia W, November 2020





## Staff News

Since my last article, I have taken the next step in my education. Before COVID-19 began I had enrolled in the Diploma of Gemmology at the Gemmological Association of Australia.

It was a two-year course that made me think of gemstones in ways that I had never considered. For example: Did you know that ruby and sapphire are the same type of gemstone and the only thing that is different is their colour? Did you know that synthetic rubies can be used for lasers? Or that you can get natural gemstones that change colour depending on the type of lighting they are viewed under? I know I didn't when I started!

For this course, there were two components: theory-based knowledge (learnt in a classroom), and practical-based knowledge (learnt in a laboratory). When the lockdowns were enforced and we couldn't study at the GAA, we were, like all students, learning remotely from home. We could only continue the theory component as we weren't allowed in the laboratory to continue prac. When the last lockdown order was lifted in November, we hit the ground running with extra practical classes every week to try and make up for 6 months of missed classes.

At the end of January, our final exams were sat. Everything that I had been working so hard for over the past two years all came down to these four exams. After a nervous month of waiting, I received my letter of results in the mail congratulating me on my successful completion with a distinction!

Saturday May 21 was graduation. Not only did I receive my diploma, and my certificate for Advanced Practical Diamond Grading, but I was also surprised to be awarded the Best Overall Trade Student by the Jewellers Association of Australia!

I have learnt so much, more than I ever thought possible. I am extremely thankful to Greg, Peter and Leon who have helped me along the way with their support, knowledge and patience.

I wonder what my next venture will be ... stay tuned!

*Stephanie*  
FGAA, Dip DT



*"It was a two-year course that made me think of gemstones in ways that I had never considered"*

22



23



26

25



24

# Gift Ideas

## Page 2

1. 9 carat white gold blue topaz and diamond drop earrings \$2,285
2. 18 carat white gold multi diamond ring \$6,850
3. 18 carat white gold multi diamond ring \$3,145
4. 18 carat yellow gold crossover diamond ring \$2,340
5. 9 carat white gold sapphire & diamond cluster earrings \$2,715
6. 18 carat white gold sapphire & diamond ring \$7,375
7. 9 carat white gold sapphire and diamond cluster stud earrings \$1,475

## Page 3

8. 18 carat white gold Tahitian pearl and diamond drop earrings \$3,215
9. 18 carat white & yellow gold diamond snowflake pendant\* \$2,900
10. Sterling silver South Sea pearl and spinel necklace \$900

## Page 4

11. 18 carat yellow gold diamond cluster necklet \$2,055
12. 18 carat white & rose gold champagne diamond slider necklet \$9,375
13. 9 carat yellow gold freshwater studs with drop extension \$785
14. 18 carat white gold diamond flower cluster stud earrings \$2,675
15. Tahitian South Sea pearl strand \$2,450
16. 9 carat white gold oval sapphire and diamond pendant\* \$1,050
17. 18 carat yellow & white gold diamond cluster ring \$2,525
18. 9 carat yellow gold blue topaz & diamond ring \$1,240
19. 9 carat yellow gold South Sea pearl bracelet \$3,125
20. Platinum ruby & diamond pendant\* \$4,450
21. 9 carat yellow gold garnet and diamond pendant\* \$245

## Page 5

22. 18 carat yellow gold ruby & diamond drop earrings \$3,045
23. Sterling silver Tahitian and Akoya pearl necklace with spinel beads \$950
24. 18 carat white gold diamond tennis bracelet \$10,000
25. 18 carat white gold ruby & diamond ring \$4,875
26. 9 carat rose gold mother of pearl, ruby & diamond flower ring \$490

## Page 6

27. 18 carat white gold diamond flower necklet \$1,290
28. 9 carat white gold pear-shaped diamond necklet \$865
29. 18 carat white gold diamond slider necklet \$2,945
30. 9 carat white gold diamond bracelet \$1,725
31. 9 carat white gold onyx, pearl and diamond drop earrings \$1,740
32. 9 carat white gold onyx and diamond drop earrings \$990
33. 18 carat white & yellow gold Tahitian pearl & diamond ring \$5,510
34. 18 carat yellow & white gold cognac and white diamond ring \$3,185
35. 9 carat white & rose gold white & pink diamond drop earrings \$2,385

\*chain not included



Proofreading by Word Perfect Proofreading and Editing



**FREE SERVICE**  
Clean, Polish and Check

Level 2, 227 Collins Street, Melbourne  
(On the south-west cnr of Swanston and Collins Sts)

**Tel:** (03) 9650 3830

**Email:** info@abrecht.com.au

**Web:** www.abrecht.com.au



- ✓ Complimentary clean and polish of two rings
- ✓ A thorough check of the safety of all settings

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.