



Colour

There is an abundance of colour in everything around us. This natural environment provides us with such an exciting array of colours, in our flora and fauna, and especially in the world of minerals. When we look at the extraordinary optical qualities of gem minerals, a mesmerising brilliance and sense of wonder begins to tantalise and excite the imagination. Even the

'colourless' gems such as diamond will emit rainbows of colour through optical properties such as dispersion and diffraction. When the brilliance of diamond is combined with the fascinating array of colours and hues of coloured gems, pure magic is created.

As a designer, I am constantly amazed by the changes in perception that can be created by blending colours of gems together and even by altering the colour of precious metals to enhance the overall effect. By changes in perception, I mean that it is often the small details that are unseen and yet will make something appear balanced, different or 'perfect to the eye'.

And, like the limitless range of colours and textures in minerals, the use of these minerals as gemstones or objects of beauty is only limited by your imagination.

Tourmalines, one of my favourite gemstones, have a wide diversity of colour – sometimes even in the one crystal known as 'watermelon' tourmalines! Here are two 'slabs' or slices cut from natural crystals, which although not clean enough for cut and polished gemstones, will make for equally beautiful and exciting objet d'art.

Picture them fitted into a simple design so that they could be mounted in a windowsill to allow sunlight to pass through and create magic.

(Objet d'art – An objet d'art is a piece of art, especially small 3 dimensional works, rather than a painting of a large sculpture).



Photograph supplied,
courtesy of O'Neils Affiliated



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From the Workshop

Over the last few extraordinary years there have been some changes in the workshop.

As we focus more on including our clients in the creation of their exciting new jewellery via the 'Workshop Experience' program, we have added new equipment and tools to our arsenal.



The rolling mills have been updated to a larger, single column unit with a smaller footprint to allow the addition of another laser welder.



Remember Baldric? It seems only a couple of years ago that we introduced you to our laser welder, Baldric (**B**rilliantly **A**marzing **L**aser **D**evice **R**equired for **I**nticate **C**onstruction).

So integral has the laser welder become in our ability to focus on quality hand-crafted jewellery manufacturing, that in the 13+ years that we have utilised its valuable contribution, Baldric, not surprisingly, has slowed down and been unable to function at full capacity.

Baldric is still with us, but we have added another member of the laser welder family to our crew.



"We have added new equipment and tools to our arsenal."

Introducing '**PAL**'

An ORION brand, amazingly **P**owerful and **A**ccurate **L**aser welder made in Italy and marketed through the US.



As well as similar attributes, such as the fine detail and accurate capabilities of BALDRIC, one of the amazing additional benefits of this machine is the onboard camera system making it perfect for instruction and demonstration of its abilities.

Next time you visit the Abrecht Bird workshop, come in and meet PAL and enquire if a demo is possible.

Eleanor Hawke
Jeweller



Gemmology Corner

GARNETS

Garnets are not as well-known as some other gemstones but are increasing in popularity. The term 'garnet' refers to a group of stones rather than a specific stone. There are in fact 6 groups of garnets with 16 different varieties.

Garnets come in all colours except blue. It's a versatile gemstone and some types of garnets can offer a cost-effective alternative to other more expensive gemstones. With a hardness of 6.5–7.5 out of 10, it's a suitable gemstone for all types of jewellery. It is also the birthstone for January and a popular choice for anniversaries.

Here are some of the varieties available in the jewellery market.

Almandine

One of the most abundant varieties on the planet and the oldest known gem variety to man. It occurs in hues of deep red, brownish red and purplish red. These garnets can be found all over the world – but mainly in Brazil, Zambia and India. There are even known occurrences in Broken Hill, New South Wales!

Spessartine

Spessartine is the bright orange, yellowish orange to bright reddish orange variety of garnet. Also known as mandarin garnet, spessartine is another variety that is highly valued. It is typically found in Bavaria, Italy, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Brazil, India and Broken Hill (NSW).

Tsavorite

Tsavorite, primarily found in Kenya in the region of Tsavaro National Park, is one of the most popular and expensive varieties of garnet. Lighter green varieties are more readily available in the jewellery market than vivid green varieties, which can rival emerald. Tsavorite's colour occurs naturally and is not enhanced or treated in any way.



*Garnets are a versatile gemstone,
suitable for all types of jewellery.*

Rhodolite

Rhodolite garnet is found in India, Sri Lanka and East Africa, typically Tanzania and Madagascar. It comes in pinkish purple to mauve colours and is one of the more popular garnets on the market due to its affordability and attractive colours.

Mali

Mali is a variety of garnet occurring exclusively in Mali, Africa. It occurs in colours of yellowish green, light green through to a brownish green.

Malaia

The discovery of malaia garnets in Tanzania was fairly recent (1980). This stone is often a pale pinkish orange through yellow orange to a darker pink/orange. Due to the irregularity of mining and its rarity, it is highly prized among gemstone collectors.

If you are interested in a garnet gemstone or piece of garnet jewellery, please call our office to enquire about the different types, cuts and sizes available, as we can source on demand.

Kylie Beachley

FGAA Dip DT Regt Valuer RV348

Gift Ideas



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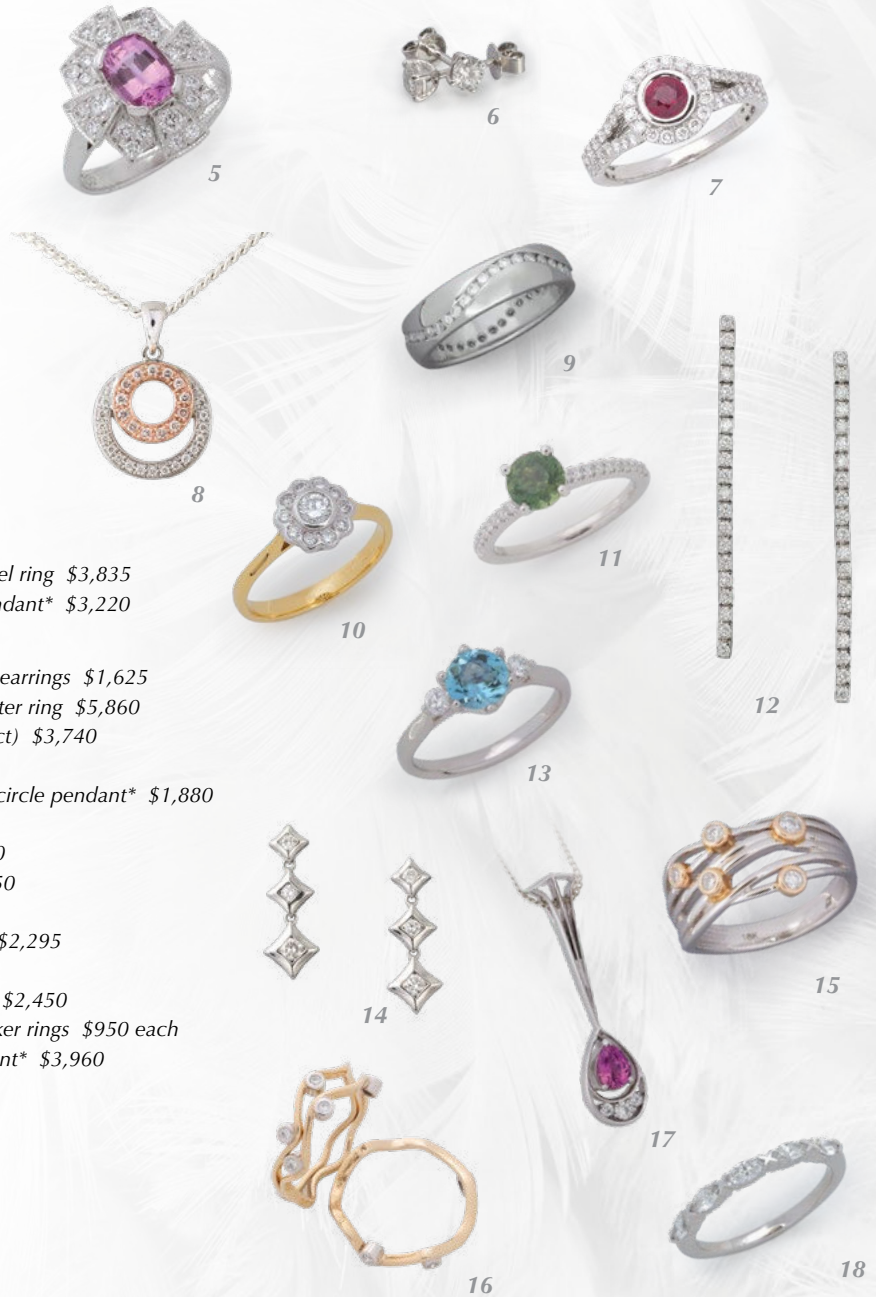
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1. 18ct white gold tsavorite garnet stretch bracelet \$5,995
2. 18ct white and yellow gold tsavorite garnet and pink spinel ring \$3,835
3. 18ct white gold rhodolite garnet and diamond cluster pendant* \$3,220

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4. 9ct yellow gold emerald and diamond pear shape cluster earrings \$1,625
5. 18ct white gold pink sapphire and diamond art deco cluster ring \$5,860
6. 18ct white gold diamond solitaire stud earrings (2 = 0.58ct) \$3,740
7. 18ct white gold ruby and diamond cluster ring \$3,785
8. 9ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond double circle pendant* \$1,880
9. 18ct white gold diamond channel set wave ring \$2,275
10. 18ct yellow and white gold diamond cluster ring \$2,750
11. 18ct white gold green sapphire and diamond ring \$5,150
12. 18ct white gold diamond snake drop earrings \$1,575
13. 18ct white gold aquamarine and diamond 3-stone ring \$2,295
14. 9ct white gold three diamond drop earrings \$935
15. 18ct white and rose gold diamond wire cross over ring \$2,450
16. 9ct and 18ct yellow and white gold diamond wave stacker rings \$950 each
17. 18ct white gold pink sapphire and diamond drop pendant* \$3,960
18. 18ct white gold marquise diamond ring \$4,350

*chain not included



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

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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.