



Staff News

by Peter Bird

Two hugely significant events



Firstly, our star jeweller, Eleanor Hawke, is about to bring a second new life into the world. Will this be the 5th generation of the 'House of Hawke'?

We asked if the event would coincide with the release of this newsletter, but still waiting! Looking at the photo – it's very close!



And recent visitors to our showroom no doubt heard that our delightful Stephanie was about to be married (*I'm sure I did, every day*).

At a magnificent venue, Portsea Golf Club (*my kind of place*), her dreams were realised with her marriage to Liam.

A wonderful day, full of love and happiness, as you can see from the image of the couple.



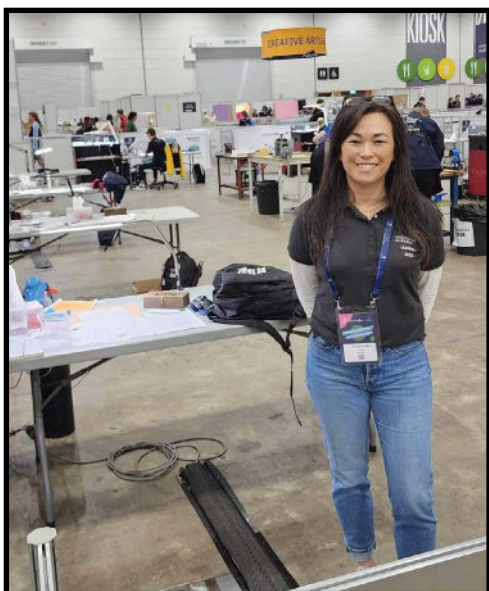


From the Workshop

by *Yuki Mathwin*
Jeweller

The best way to describe WorldSkills is that it's like the Olympic Games for trades and skills, but sadly not as widely recognised in Australia as in other parts of the world. This biennial competition brings together young people who have trained hard in their respective fields to compete against their international counterparts. It aims to promote skills and trades among Australian youth and is a competition that not only celebrates the dedication and talent of young tradespeople but also serves as a platform for engagement within the industry and community.

Unfortunately, we live in a society where trade and apprentice pathways are not as highly regarded as pursuing a professional career through university education. Trades and skilled workers are vital contributors to Australia's economy, and without them, the world as we know it would not exist. WorldSkills provides a chance for young individuals to excel in their chosen vocational fields, connect with like-minded peers and kickstart their careers. Participation in WorldSkills can be a life-changing experience, offering personal development, increased confidence and opportunities for leadership and mentorship.



"... it's like the Olympic Games for trades and skills ..."

The competition begins at the regional level, open to all apprentices, and takes place in a classroom setting. Winners at the regional level progress to the national competition. The best young tradespeople in Australia then represent their country on the international stage, with the 2024 International WorldSkills event hosted by Lyon, France. The competition described in this article focuses on the national level, which took place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in August this year.

Gift Ideas

See page 5 for details and prices



“The goal was to identify skills that met or even exceeded industry standards.”

Organising an event of this magnitude is a massive undertaking, with dedicated volunteers investing countless hours in preparation. The competition week is a culmination of hard work, featuring setup, an opening ceremony, intense competition, judging, a closing ceremony, and awards presentation. WorldSkills is not just a competition, but also a show that was open to the general public and people were welcomed to watch competitors perform at their best.

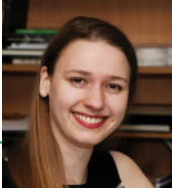
In the Jewellery division, nine young competitors from across Australia, each a regional champion, were presented with a project to complete over three days. It was divided into three modules, with the final module allowing for creativity. The competition days were gruelling and the sense of relief and satisfaction of the competitors at the end was celebrated.

As a judge in the jewellery division, the days did not end with the competition. Late nights were spent carefully assessing each piece, considering factors such as surface finish, solder joints, similarity to drawings, and measurement accuracy. The goal was to identify skills that met or even exceeded industry standards.

Sponsors play a crucial role in making this competition possible. For example, industry supplier Palloys donated over \$60,000 worth of metal, allowing competitors to work with 18ct yellow gold.

WorldSkills holds a special place in the hearts of those involved with many having a personal connection to the competition. I personally have had previous involvement with WorldSkills as a former competitor in 2015. In that year, the second of my apprenticeship, I was judged runner-up, beaten only by my fellow jeweller here at Abrecht Bird, Eleanor Hawke (then in her third apprenticeship year). Given the opportunity to return as a judge and to be part of this prestigious event is an honour, providing a memorable experience that contributed to both my professional and personal development. I met and worked with inspiring individuals, making WorldSkills one of the many highlights of my career.





Gemmology Corner

by *Stephanie Lawton* (nee Tkalcevic)
FGAA Dip DT

Coloured Diamonds

When we think of diamonds, we typically think of white or clear diamonds and the rainbow sparkle we can see. Did you know that diamonds can come in almost every colour – either naturally or with a little help from treatments?

Naturally occurring coloured diamonds are quite rare. When the Argyle mine was in full production, it was said that for every Olympic-sized swimming pool of ore that was mined, there would be approximately 1 teaspoon of gem-quality rough pink diamonds. In previous newsletters, we have mentioned pink diamonds, champagne or cognac diamonds, but did you know that you can have red, purple, yellow, green and even blue diamonds?

Fancy colours occur because of different phenomena happening to the natural diamond in the earth during formation. For example, diamonds are predominately made up of carbon, but if you add trace amounts of nitrogen to the mix, you can get yellow and orange-coloured diamonds. Or if you add a little bit of boron, you get blue!

Natural diamonds can be treated to enhance or change their initial colour whether it's heating the stone under pressure or irradiating it. For example, if you apply extreme heat and pressure to a natural brown diamond, you can turn it into a white (or colourless) diamond. Or if you irradiate a natural diamond, it can turn completely black!





Gemmology Corner

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by *Stephanie Lawton* (nee Tkalcevic)
FGAADip DT



*“... diamonds come in almost every colour
—either naturally or with a little help from treatments.”*

Earlier this year, Peter purchased four natural-coloured diamonds and challenged each of our jewellers to design and create a piece that highlights the colour. Eleanor, Yuki, Greg and Tony have all put their creative touch on each piece. These are on display in our gallery!

We have a wide selection of jewellery pieces that contain coloured diamonds on show. Visit our showroom if you would like to see a rare gem or two! If we don't have what you are after, let us know and we will do our best to source it for you! No colour is off-limits!



Page 2

- 1. 9ct yellow gold blue topaz and diamond geometric ring \$925
- 2. 18ct white gold diamond band \$1,850
- 3. 18ct white gold pink sapphire and diamond cluster ring \$4,650

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- 4. 9ct white gold blue topaz and diamond pear-shape cluster ring \$915
- 5. 9ct yellow gold belcher link bracelet \$2,595
- 6. 14ct yellow gold rainbow sapphire bracelet \$5,500
- 7. 9ct yellow gold herringbone link bracelet \$1,790

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- 8. 18ct rose and white gold cognac and white diamond stud earrings \$5,375
- 9. 18ct white and yellow gold fancy yellow and white diamond cluster ring \$16,920
- 10. 9 carat white and rose gold pink and white diamond earrings \$1,900
- 11. 18ct white and rose gold pink and white diamond art deco cluster ring \$4,450
- 12. 9ct yellow and white gold black and white diamond cluster ring \$1,750
- 13. 9ct yellow gold amethyst and diamond 3-stone ring \$865
- 14. 18ct white gold sapphire and diamond ring \$9,060
- 15. 18ct yellow gold black diamond ring \$4,655

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- 16. 18ct yellow gold emerald and diamond flower stud earrings \$3,500
- 17. 18ct yellow and white gold tsavorite garnet and diamond cluster pendant* \$3,170
- 18. 9ct white gold diamond floral cluster stud earrings \$1,955
- 19. 9ct white gold 2-diamond necklace \$1,215
- 20. 18ct yellow and white gold ruby and diamond 5-stone ring \$9,380
- 21. 9ct yellow gold ruby and diamond open filigree pendant* \$1,185
- 22. 18ct rose and white gold cognac and white diamond stud earrings \$5,375
- 23. 18ct rose and white gold cognac and white diamond cluster necklace \$7,995
- 24. 9ct white gold 4-diamond stud earrings \$655
- 25. 9ct rose and white gold pink and white diamond cluster pendant* \$820
- 26. 9ct yellow gold diamond huggie earrings \$690
- 27. 9ct yellow gold solitaire diamond pendant and chain \$1,395

* chain not included



Gift Ideas



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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.