

Abira – Colour at your fingertips



We are pleased to announce our affiliation with Abira Gems, who offer public internet access to a vast selection of the highest quality coloured gems. Each stone is professionally photographed and the display offers the facility to rotate the gem through 360° to really appreciate its beauty.

The website is well worth visiting by anyone interested in the fascinating world of coloured gemstones.

For those contemplating the purchase of a piece of jewellery featuring a coloured stone, it offers a wide choice and the ability to shortlist gems that will be sent to us (at no charge and without obligation) for you to view.

Imagine the thrill of pre-selecting your choice of gemstones and having the opportunity to plan the creation of a unique design face to face with our qualified designer jewellers and gemmologists.

We have enjoyed a 60-year business relationship with the gemstone merchants who have established this website and can enthusiastically endorse their credentials and integrity.

We are delighted to have been selected as an accredited jeweller able to participate in this exciting new initiative.

For more details, please read the brochure enclosed with this newsletter, and take the opportunity to visit **abiragems.com** – I am sure you will enjoy the experience.

Eclipse competition

To me, just the word itself conjures up thoughts of celestial bodies, stars, comets and meteors. Any time I have been fortunate enough to witness an eclipse, be it of the moon or the sun, I am reminded of a crescent-shaped cloak passing over planets and spheres of all shapes and sizes as they rotate on their axis through space. With surface features and markings from storms or ancient rivers of unknown origin, and sometimes dramatically marked



and textured by continual collision with asteroids, each viewing brings about a new and different vista. Such memories have inspired my pair of earrings, designed to convey the thought of that cloak-like crescent passing across a continually changing surface. The black diamonds represent the dark side of the orb coming into the light.

Greg John
FGAA Dip DT

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Gemmology corner

Synthetic diamonds

The first successful attempt to grow synthetic diamonds in a laboratory was achieved by General Electric in the mid-1950s. For decades, the massive cost of the process vastly exceeded that of natural diamonds and the synthetics were confined to use in complex industrial applications.

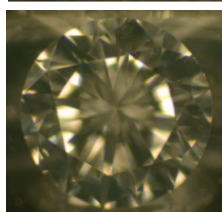
In recent times, manufacturing technology has advanced and it has now become viable to produce synthetic diamonds commercially for gemstone purposes. As jewellers and gemmologists, we are concerned with the possibility of deception and need to stay abreast of current developments. For that reason, Abrecht Bird partners Greg John and Peter Bird attended a two-day intensive seminar at the Gemmological Association of Australia's laboratory in Melbourne, organised by the National Council of Jewellery Valuers (NCJV).

Mr Branko Deljanin, perhaps the world's leading expert on the subject, was brought to Australia to inform us of the types of techniques used by man to duplicate the natural process, to show us the methods used to detect synthetics, and to explain the latest developments in enhancing diamonds. We had the opportunity to examine a large number of Branko's specimen stones using a variety of techniques.

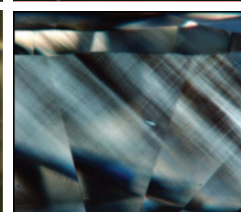
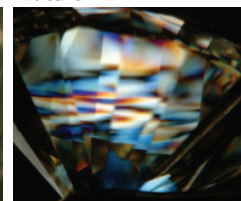
The principal aids used were microscopic examination (especially the use of cross polarising filters), spectroscopic analysis (of infra-red, visible, ultra-violet and X-ray wavelengths) and fluorescence indicators under short and long wave light.

It was a fascinating two days of study.

Synthetic



Natural



When viewed through a microscope using cross polarised filters, natural diamonds (right) exhibit a strain or 'tatami' pattern due to stress caused in their natural formation. This is lacking in laboratory grown diamonds (left).

At this point we have seen little evidence of the penetration of synthetic or colour-enhanced diamonds into the Australian market, but the prevalence of these occurring overseas underlines the need to be exceptionally vigilant. Although we have utmost faith in the integrity and thoroughness of our suppliers, we need to be on the watch, especially if we are called upon to grade or work on diamonds sourced by customers overseas. To this end, our gemstone lab is about to be upgraded with a new spectroscopic instrument that will assist in detection.

Footnote: We were warned, in particular, to be suspicious of coloured diamonds (particularly pink, yellow and green) that are prevalent on cruise ships and ports visited.

Leon Corn

FGAA Dip DT

From the workshop



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Three cheers for our ladies!

'...you deserve to feel very proud of your achievements.'

Since the publication of our last newsletter, our female staff have achieved outstanding results in their professional development.

Margaret Blood and Kylie Pels have both completed training as gemmologists and recently received their gemmology diplomas at a presentation at the Gemmological Association of Australia, in Melbourne. This follows two years of intensive study involving lectures, practical sessions and extra classes that frequently involved three to four nights each week and extra sessions on the weekend.

Kylie followed up her award for the best first-year theory paper last year with the Victorian state prize for the best second-year student overall, and also won the prestigious Jewellers Association of Australia Best Industry Student of Victoria, presented to the most outstanding student employed in the jewellery trade.

Heartfelt congratulations to you both – you deserve to feel very proud of your achievements.



Meanwhile, Eleanor Hawke was encouraged by Greg to participate in the 2013 Regional Worldskills Trade Olympics. Over an eight-hour day, jewellery apprentices are set the task of manufacturing a piece of jewellery from a set of specifications provided by the judging panel. This tests the entrant's knowledge, skill and speed in applying a number of jewellery-making techniques to a set task.

Eleanor's completed piece was judged to be the finest of all, a remarkable result in view of the fact that she was a first-year apprentice competing against others who have been training for two or three years longer.

The winner's trophy was a fitting tribute to her outstanding natural talent, dedication and enthusiasm to learn from Greg, her master jeweller and mentor.

Peter Bird
FGAA

New releases

Pictured page 2 and below, left to right:

1. 18ct White gold hand-made aquamarine and diamond pendant (Aq: 10.01ct) \$8,950
2. 18ct Yellow gold hand-made 'retro'-inspired gent's ring \$POA
3. 9ct Yellow and white gold hand-made multi-stone 'heart/star' pendant \$POA
4. 18ct White and yellow gold hand-made emerald and diamond ring (E: 5.08ct) \$POA
5. 18ct White gold hand-made diamond drop earrings \$2,120
6. 18ct White gold three-row pavé diamond ring (TDW: 1.00ct) \$2,845
7. 18ct White gold multi-diamond dress ring (TDW: 3.03ct) \$8,485
8. 18ct White gold sapphire and diamond earrings \$5,635
9. 18ct White gold diamond cluster engagement ring (TDW: 0.50ct) \$2,860
10. 18ct White gold hand-made diamond engagement ring (0.90ct centre) \$10,900



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Happy birthday

A 'wise old bird', 3rd generation David Bird drops in to celebrate his 90th birthday with our staff.

Gift ideas



- 1.** 18ct White gold diamond cluster pendant \$995 **2.** 18ct Yellow and white gold round and trilliant cut diamond ring (TDW: 0.58ct) \$5,115
3. 9ct Rose gold amethyst and diamond drop earrings \$1,485 **4.** 18ct White gold South Sea pearl and diamond drop earrings \$2,035
5. 18ct Yellow and white gold ruby and diamond ring \$2,715 **6.** 9ct Yellow gold diamond earrings \$1,040
7. 18ct Rose and white gold diamond engagement ring (0.33ct centre) \$1,815
8. 9ct Rose and white gold pear-shape morganite and diamond pendant \$955 **9.** 9ct White gold blue topaz drop earrings \$225
10. 9ct White gold multi-diamond pendant (TDW: 0.25ct) \$590 **11.** 18ct White gold black diamond wedding ring \$1,965

Pictured on page 1:

18ct White gold black and white diamond stud earrings \$1,475



FREE SERVICE Clean, Polish and Check

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

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Email: info@abrecht.com Web: www.abrecht.com

- ✓ 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.