



Jade Putter competition

For the past 16 years Abrecht Bird Jewellers have made and donated a jade putter brooch to the annual winner of a ladies match play competition at Rosanna Golf Club.

This year, Eleanor Hawke made the piece and was pleased to present it to the winner, Mel Teasdale.



Left to right: Peter Bird, Eleanor Hawke, Mel Teasdale, Geoff Waldron (donator of the perpetual Jade Putter trophy) and David Bird



A penchant for pendants



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

A Message from the Studio-Workshop

To all our extended jewellery 'family'

You are invited to become part of an exciting new chapter about to begin here at Abrecht Bird. To further enhance your jewellery experience, we are sharing our knowledge and skills with you by evolving our showroom into a gallery. By offering education and inspiration through the use of ever-changing, interactive, interesting and informative displays, we hope to share our passion for all rare, precious and beautiful jewellery.

One of the questions I am often asked is 'Where can I view your work?' One of the strengths of Abrecht Bird is the individual design experience we offer you where we are commissioned to design and create one-off pieces, be they remodels or remakes of inherited jewellery, new creations using new or existing gemstones or engagement and wedding rings of either individual or classical design.

'...we are sharing our knowledge and skills with you by evolving our showroom into a gallery.'

Along with personal access to our unique hand-crafted studio-workshop, and the creative artisans who operate here at Abrecht Bird, we will continue to highlight the processes and techniques we use for creating the unique one-off pieces for which we have become known.

At least four times a year, there will be theme-based displays of jewellery designs, as well as displays of unique and unusual gemstones. There are annual design and manufacturing competitions, internationally, nationally and locally, and as we become more involved we would like to include you, our jewellery family, to be part of that journey by following the progress of artists and their work, personally in the gallery or on social media and the web.

Our studio-workshop is a state-of-the-art facility for the fabrication of handmade jewellery and plays to the strengths of purpose of Abrecht Bird, including our philosophy of restoring rather than simply repairing jewellery. Many inherited pieces often require similar techniques to the methods with which they were originally created to restore them to their original standard.

We would also like to invite those of you with original, unique heirlooms created by us in the past to submit these pieces for viewing in the gallery as examples of our quality of design and manufacture. Those pieces to be displayed will, of course, be cleaned, checked, repolished and re-photographed, ensuring that they maintain their quality and reputation for being especially unique.

Attentive, unapologetically old-fashioned service, first-class skills in beautiful, balanced design and craftsmanship, along with an unbridled attention to detail enhance every aspect of modern life at Abrecht Bird Jewellers.

Greg John
FGAA Dip DT



*Art deco two-tone pendant design,
a fine use of our customer's diamonds*



Meet the Staff - Yuki

I grew up living in Middle Park, then in Eden NSW and finished my high school education in Mentone. When I reached adulthood, I moved to Sydney and then Currumbin, on the southern end of the Gold Coast. It's fair to say I moved around, but I am definitely a Melbournian through and through. Currently I feel I get the best of both worlds as I now live on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula and work in the city! I love the hustle and bustle of the city, it never sleeps, but I also love going home to my family every day.

Travelling has been a huge part of my life and I have always loved exploring different cultures, landscapes and especially food! Trekking to the base camp of Mount Everest and backpacking around a lot of South America have definitely been highlights. I encourage anyone to step outside their comfort zone and explore the world too.

Seven years on and I have been extremely fortunate to win some awards. I was Apprentice of the Year three years in a row, I won the apprentice category in a jewellery design competition for two consecutive years, but the one I am most proud of is winning Most Outstanding Apprentice Award at Melbourne Polytechnic in 2016.

As I embark on a new adventure at Abrecht Bird Jewellers, I still pinch myself every day. Not only do I work alongside some incredibly talented people, I have also found myself surrounded by a team of likeminded and supportive people who hold the same values: quality craftsmanship, honesty and integrity, using old-fashioned techniques in timeless design, to name a few. Each and every piece we make is made with love.

'I was 35 years old when I finally decided what I wanted to be when I grow up.'

Finding a career in jewellery has also been a huge adventure for me. When my husband proposed, not only did I fall in love with my engagement ring, my curiosity got the better of me. I just had to know how it was made. That was the beginning of my fascination with the engineering side of jewellery manufacture. I was 35 years old when I finally decided what I wanted to be when I grow up. Nothing gives me more satisfaction than to create something with my hands and my previous corporate jobs just weren't giving me the same joy. It wasn't until I picked up my first piece of metal and a saw frame that I instantly knew this was the job for me. Since that day, I have been on a huge ride.

One of my first makes at Abrecht Bird Jewellers was a ruby and diamond bracelet. This beautiful intricate piece gave me an opportunity to challenge myself and learn new techniques. I took a systematic approach and enjoyed every minute making each and every piece and putting it all together. The feedback I received was very positive; even some of my friends want one!

Life for me is one big adventure and I just LOVE to go on adventures.

Yuki Mathwin



Pearl ring – 'Saturn's Storm' 18 carat yellow, white gold and silver, forming hexagon tiles. Yuki's entry into the Cygnet Bay pearl design competition



Handmade ruby and diamond bracelet, helping a favourite couple to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary



Australian diamonds

We are delighted to announce that we have secured a source of diamonds that are guaranteed to be of Australian origin. Each stone comes with a certificate of authenticity, a GIA grading certificate and is laser inscribed.

Due to the Argyle Diamond Mine closing around late 2020, these stones won't be around for long. Call us today to make an appointment and select your own Australian diamond before they disappear.



Kylie Beachley

FGAA Dip DT Regt Valuer RV348
Office Manager



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3.



5.



4.

Pictured above, clockwise from top left:

- 1. 18 carat white gold diamond cluster pendant and chain \$2,475
- 2. 9 carat yellow gold blue topaz drop earrings \$180
- 3. 18 carat yellow and white gold cognac and white diamond ring \$3,185
- 4. 18 carat white gold pave set diamond pendant and chain \$1,485
- 5. 18 carat white gold floral-shaped diamond ring \$6,250



Gemmology Corner

Blue Gemstones

Search the internet for 'blue gemstones' and you will find a list of at least 33 stones ranging in alphabetical order from agate to zircon, but from these you might only recognise six or seven. In our June 2007 issue we featured 20 gems that had blue as the dominant colour. In this issue we will feature the most commonly recognised of these stones in order of the 'hardness' (or wearability) – in other words those most suitable for jewellery. The globally recognised system of measuring gemstone hardness is known as the

Mohs scale (named after Friedrich Mohs, a mineralogist who invented a scale of hardness based on the ability of one mineral to scratch another).

There are ten minerals in Mohs scale, from the 'softest' (1) talc, (2) gypsum, (3) calcite, (4) fluorite, (5) apatite, (6) feldspar, (7) quartz, (8) topaz, (9) corundum, to the hardest, (10) diamond.

Leon Corn
FGAA Dip DT

MOST COMMON



Australian

Sapphire (9.0)
the richest, saturated blue

Blue is by far the most popular colour for sapphires, but they can be almost any colour, including yellow, green, white, colourless, pink, orange, brown and purple.



Ceylon



Swiss Blue

Topaz (8.0)
translucent, from very light to medium blue

The two most popular treated topaz. Swiss Blue is bright blue with a light tone and light to moderate saturation. London Blue is dark blue with a moderate to dark tone and saturation.



London Blue



Aquamarine (7.5–8.0)
light translucent blue

Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family (which includes emerald) and ranges in colour from an almost colourless pale blue to blue-green. The most prized colour is a deep-blue aqua.



Zircon (7.5)
medium to dark translucent blue

Zircon is routinely heat treated. This has two effects on the gem: It alters the colour to colourless, blue or golden (the most preferred colours for zircon) and orange to red colours.



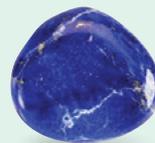
Tourmaline (7.0–7.5)
shades of light to dark blue

Found in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Kenya and in the USA. This variety of tourmaline comes in various shades, including a clear blue colour. Compared to the other varieties, the blue stone is quite rare.



Tanzanite (6.0–6.5)
dark translucent violet blue

First discovered in 1967 in Tanzania, East Africa. It is part of the zoisite mineral species and is only found in East Africa. Tanzanite is very rarely a pure blue and usually exhibits rich purple overtones.



Lapis Lazuli (5.0–5.5)
medium rich blue

Sometimes with a hint of violet. Its value decreases with the presence of white patches (calcite), while small veins of pyrite are often prized.

LESS COMMON



Spinel (8.0)
translucent medium violet blue

A favourite of gem dealers and collectors on account of its brilliance, hardness and wide range of spectacular colours. Beautiful blue tones, called cobalt spinel are very rare.



Agate (7.0)
a soft blue

Variety of chalcedony formed from layers of quartz that usually show vari-coloured bands.

Gift Ideas



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Pictured above, from left to right, top to bottom:

- 6. 18 carat yellow and white gold princess cut Ceylon sapphire and diamond ring \$4,325
- 7. 18 carat white gold angular diamond hoop earrings \$2,450
- 8. 18 carat white gold channel set sapphire and diamond ring \$2,645
- 9. 18 carat white gold oval Australian sapphire and diamond halo earrings \$2,050
- 10. 18 carat white gold freshwater pearl and diamond drop earrings \$1,245
- 11. 9 carat yellow gold blue topaz stud earrings \$175
- 12. 18 carat white gold Asscher and brilliant cut diamond ring \$8,900
- 13. 18 carat yellow gold diamond 'huggie' earrings \$1,400

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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.