

AUGUST 2008

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JAA AUSTRALIAN JEWELLERY FAIR

You can see our latest range of fine gems at stand H47, Sydney Exhibition Centre, Sunday September 7th to Tuesday 9th. Receive a 10% discount on gems purchased.



NEW STOCK AND TRENDS

Debi and Barbara have just returned from a successful overseas buying trip and despite the demand for fine quality gems being far greater than the supply, after 10 days of hard work they have purchased many wonderful pieces including Alexandrites the largest being a 2.71ct cushion and small sizes from 0.30ct, Burmese Rubies (including a 1.61ct E/C and a 1.45ct pear shape). There is a spectacular range of Sri Lankan gems, Star Sapphires up to 6.5ct, Star Rubies from 0.70ct to 1.50ct and Cats Eye Chrysoberyl in the 3ct range. We have also purchased Zircons in the more unusual greens, beautiful shades of yellows, golds and browns. Please contact us with any enquiries and see our latest range at the Australian Jewellery Fair.

Buying trips are always a valuable experience - not only do you get the opportunity to view and purchase beautiful gemstones, but interaction with suppliers increases one's knowledge. Of great concern from our last trip was the variety and types of gemstones available in the market place which have been treated. Many of these treatments, such as beryllium treatment, coating, irradiation and others often make similar material cheaper and inferior. Treatments, other than traditional heat treatment techniques which have gained worldwide industry acceptance and have been used for many years, are unacceptable unless fully disclosed. Please understand when dealing with gems there are significant differences.

GEM QUALITY SPINEL

Treasured by collectors and gem dealers for **brilliance**, **hardness** (8) and **durability**, Spinel is available in brilliant reds, pretty pinks as well as purples, lavender and blues. Spinel is a wonderful gem which is often overlooked. Unfortunately many people think 'synthetic' when they hear the name Spinel as the laboratory grown variety has been used profusely in birthstone rings and cheap jewellery and many have not had the pleasure of seeing the natural variety. Spinel is often found in deposits with Ruby and Sapphire and occurs in numerous colours. The brilliant red is mined in Burma (Myanmar), blue, purple, violet, pink, orange/pink are from Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and recently a vibrant new deposit in Vietnam. Spinel is not heat treated. Historically red Burmese Spinel has been confused with Ruby. A famous example is the Black Prince's Ruby, a magnificent 170-carat red Spinel. After a long history it now adorns the Imperial State Crown of England in the British Crown Jewels, Henry V even wore it on his battle helmet! In Burma, Spinel was recognized as a separate gem species as early as 1587 but in other countries the confusion with Ruby went on for hundreds of years. Good quality Spinel is rare in sizes over 3ct. The brilliant red is the most expensive, followed by pinks, then purples and blues. Look for bright gems, and be aware that brown and grey overtones will depreciate the price.



CARING FOR GEMSTONE JEWELLERY

It is disheartening when we see beautiful gems which have been neglected. Advice at the point of sale could help in this area. We suggest cleaning jewellery in warm soapy water with a soft brush and dry using a soft cloth. Avoid harsh chemicals and abrasives. Do not wear during housework, washing the dishes, sport including gym or swimming and remove before going to bed. Store carefully so items do not touch and damage each other.

NEW STAFF

Lucy joined us in March with 18 years experience in the trade. She is a gemmologist, diamond grader and registered valuer. Lucy has worked in many facets of the industry but her passion is coloured stones. She has many favourites including Tsavorite Garnet and Red Spinel.