

DECEMBER 2008

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## WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE HAPPY & PROSPEROUS FESTIVE SEASON

Hamid Bros will close at 5pm Tuesday December 23rd and re open Wednesday January 14th.

2008 has flown by and it has been an eventful year with many ups and downs. The strong Australian dollar followed by a quick drop, high metal prices and unrest in many Gem producing countries have brought challenges to the trade. Our experience tells us quality always sells and our sales of very fine higher priced items throughout 2008 has confirmed this. We have had many successful selling & buying trips, a fruitful Trade Fair in Sydney and look forward to continuing to supply the trade with special gems in the New Year



## UNCOMMON SIZES

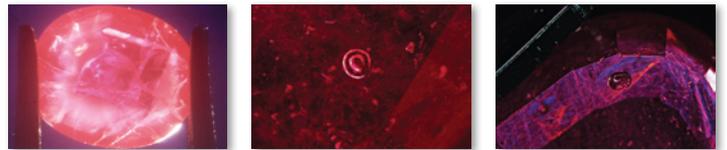
We have frequent requests for square rubies and sapphires over 5mm, be aware anything over 4mm is very difficult to find. As corundum crystals are elongated, cutting to this size and shape means a large loss of weight, so they usually prefer to cut ovals, a few cushions, maybe emerald cut, rarely larger rounds and the very occasional larger square. Radiant or Emerald cut (corners off) are more economical to cut but still quite difficult to obtain especially in square proportions. Please understand this when quoting or promising to obtain this size and shape for your clients.



## GLASS FRACTURE FILLED RUBY

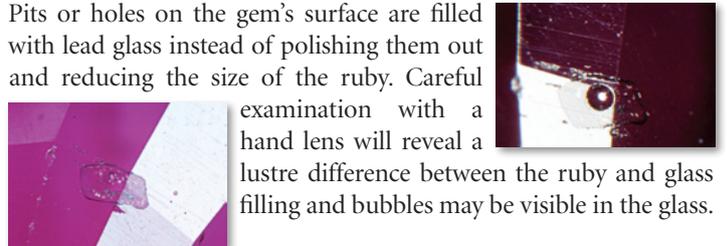
We are seeing more and more glass filled ruby whilst away buying and also coming to our office for identification. It has the appearance of included Burmese Ruby but upon closer inspection you will notice heavy twinning and growth striations with a tiny network of fractures breaking the surface of the stone. These fractures allow the glass to enter and make this myriad of fractures less visible.

Handlens or microscope examination may reveal gas bubbles trapped in the glass filling next to natural crystal inclusions in the ruby. A strong white light (eg fibre optic) will show a bluish haze in the body colour of the ruby. It is imperative that jewellers recognise these stones as any heat on the jewellery (eg resize or retip) will melt the glass and result in a "fractured" ruby. This is very poor quality ruby which has little commercial value.



## GLASS SURFACE FILLED RUBY

Pits or holes on the gem's surface are filled with lead glass instead of polishing them out and reducing the size of the ruby. Careful examination with a hand lens will reveal a lustre difference between the ruby and glass filling and bubbles may be visible in the glass.



*The Gold and Silversmiths Guild of Australia*

Congratulations to the Gold and Silversmiths Guild on their 20th Anniversary which was celebrated at the Conservatory Restaurant in Crown Towers.

## NO CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR

We have chosen to donate to some worthwhile charities, we will be contributing to The Red Cross, Care Australia and the Lost Dogs Home instead of sending Christmas cards this year.

## Christmas Gift

**10% Discount on your first gemstone purchase in 2009**

Pay for your purchase in 30 days, include this voucher with your payment or mention voucher when making a phone payment.

Valid for payments made by March 31st 2009

(This offer does not apply to gems on approval from 2008).

