

GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
GRADUATE PROFILES

Name: Darren Daley

What is your current job? Jeweller and valuer in regional Victoria

What did you study at the Gemmological Association of Australia? Diploma Gemmology, Diploma Diamond Technology, Practical Diamond Grading (which I now teach), Advanced Pearl, Advanced Opal, Advanced Diamond Grading, Jewellery and Gemstone Valuation.

Did you do any other study? Have done lots of study, most recently Cert IV Training and assessment, enrolled currently in Diploma of VET.

Why did you choose to study gemmology? Initially did gemmology to become a registered valuer, but found that it was the most surprising, taxing, enjoyable and life changing thing I have ever done. I got to meet some of the best people in the jewellery or any industry...many whom I count amongst my best friends.

What do you enjoy most about working in the gem or jewellery industry? On most occasions it is wonderful because people come to deal with you for happy events. I love to play with unusual gemstones and make interesting one off pieces. I just love to see my clients leave happy.

How did the GAA help you in your career? The GAA has helped me by introducing me to people I would have been most unlikely to meet, people I can turn to if I need advice, or assistance, not only with gems, but in the industry as a whole. The wealth of knowledge by the members of the GAA about all aspects of the jewellery and gemstone is probably one of the more unexpected avenues with which the GAA has helped my career. Being involved on councils, teaching, and the like has allowed me to stay current, as best I can a few hundred kilometres from Melbourne, with new gem sources, treatments and the like that would never have happened if I had not been involved with the GAA.

Career highlight? Can not really think of a standout, probably gaining friendship and respect from people that I admire...

Favourite gem? Would have to be fine quality Ruby or Red Burmese Spinel...hmmm
Best kept secret gem? Spinel and Tourmaline, the colour varieties and durability are greatly underestimated.

What do you consider the most overrated value? Clarity in Diamonds.

Favourite gadget? My I-pod

What is your most treasured possession? My dog Seymour, without question

What word or phrase do you most overuse? Ummmm...

The hardest thing you have ever done? Diamond Technology, also the most rewarding.

What is your greatest extravagance? My limited edition aviation prints and signatures of famous pilots, in addition to my collection of unmade model kits (yes I am a nerd).

If you could change one thing about yourself what would it be? My height, an extra 10-15cms would be nice...

What is your dream job? Don't really have one...maybe something to do with photography where travel is involved...but is not that big an ambition