

Profile for Peter Cartwright

After more than 25 years in the automotive industry looking after Italian Automobili, I attended the Introduction to Gemmology course at the GAA in 1999. This was to significantly change my life.

I could see that there was so much to interest me in Gemmology; I was awestruck by the beauty of the gemstones that I had never seen before. I marvelled at the ingenuity of scientists in producing convincing synthetics, of which I had never heard of before.

In 2000, Practical Diamond Grading presented somewhat of a new challenge to me, "So what!" I thought, that there was such a subtle difference in the colour of a diamond, that there was a tiny inclusion that needed to be observed only by microscopic examination, that this had such a profound effect on its price. But then, it had such a profound effect on me. The enthusiasm of Suzie Robson, Jennie King and Bill Sechos was so inspiring that they were to influence my future.

I had now entered a new world that captured my imagination, the more I wondered about this new-found interest, the more I was drawn to commit myself to the awesome challenge of devoting two years to the GAA Gemmology course, passing with a credit in 2002.

Of course, I couldn't get enough, I then went on to the even more awesome challenge of the Diploma of Diamond Technology of which I also passed with a credit in 2003, then the achievement of becoming a registered valuer in 2004.

All this meant nothing unless I could repay the efforts that my teachers and mentors had given me. The most thrilling moment came when I was asked to be a demonstrator in the Lab and given the opportunity to lecture in theory classes. I have now been a prac demonstrator since 2003, and given many theory lectures.

Also to try to repay an Association that has given me so much, I became a member of the NSW committee in 2004.

During my courses, I instantly loved the instruments and all the other "toys" that we used in the lab to identify the gemstones, I became interested in Gem testing instruments and as chance happened, I was offered the opportunity by A. Krüss Optronic, a German manufacturer of optical instruments since 1796, to promote their instruments in Australia. At about the same time, I was given the responsibility of being Curator of Instruments as part of my duties as a committee member.

Nothing has given me greater pleasure, a sense of belonging and a feeling of achievement than that of being involved in such a dynamic association that we have in the GAA.

I look forward to being a part of the growth of the GAA, and to be able to contribute to the recognition that the GAA rightly deserves within the jewellery and gemstone industry in Australia.

And I still have room to love Italiano Automobili.