

Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

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Every girl loves the sparkle of diamonds but what do we look for in a quality stone?

Diamond jewellery can be divided into two quite separate, but equally collectable, areas. The first and probably what a lot of you will have hidden away at home are what we refer to as “old cut” diamonds. By that we mean the engagement rings, brooches and eternity rings that our parents or grandparents may have left to us. This group of jewellery is still highly collectable but many of the items have lost their fashion shine. What I mean by this is many of the items have become unfashionable to wear today. Not many of you will wear the diamond brooch.

If diamonds have been purchased in the last thirty or forty years they are more likely to be “modern brilliant cut” stones. Within this group of stones there are four critical areas we look for, also known as the four “Cs”:

- Colour – on a scale, brilliant white is more valuable than an off colour
- Cut – the shape of the stone, ie round, baguette and the modern princess
- Clarity – we need the stones to be as clean internally as possible
- Carat – the size of the stone

If we put all four elements together, at the top end we end up with a highly valuable stone, where a 1 carat could bring \$15,000. But take away some of that colour or add inclusions to the stone, then the value drops to only a few thousand.

I am still amazed at the number of families that still have their mother's inherited jewellery hidden away (in the undies drawer) that have not been worn for years. My recommendation is to turn the unwearable, and possibly unfashionable, jewellery into something you will wear – that is an inheritance, not the items in the drawer.

Next week: Violins.

Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to valuations@byjoel.com.au I will access the item and respond.

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Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 35 different areas of collectables.

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