

## **Grandmothers Jewellery**

**Weekly Times Column**

**By Warren Joel**

What is it about jewellery that has us so caught up in the sentimental value that we can't sell? Many of the valuations I do for estates appear to have several generations of jewellery sitting around doing nothing. The collection has generally been passed down from one generation to the next, and now sits waiting for somebody in the family to do something with it.

This exact scenario is what I uncovered on a recent trip to the bank. I had valued all the furniture, paintings and old plated ware in the family home, and was then asked to meet the Executor at the bank. Armed with the tools of the trade I arrived at the bank, signed in and waited while the bank staff retrieved the "box" for me to value.

I had been told that the jewellery was special, but I had no idea what was waiting for me. We opened the lid and started removing the jewellery, still wrapped in what looked like 50 year old tissue paper. After several hours of work, and many oohhs and aahhs from the Executor we had hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of beautiful jewellery. I then asked what was going to happen to all the jewellery, and was told "we can't sell that, it was Grandmothers!" At this stage two things occurred to me: one was, this is not an inheritance but a liability, and secondly and more importantly, nothing was ever used or worn. I pointed all this out to the Executor to raise her understanding of the opportunity going missing.

I was then told that the jewellery is being left to the grandchildren, and my response was: "what about the boys?" I suggested that some of the more unwearable jewellery could be sold and more modern pieces purchased or some of it sold to purchase the boys a good dress watch, for example, that could be their inheritance. What a great idea, I was told and we left it at that. Now several months later, nothing has been sold and nothing is been used or worn; what a waste! I love the idea of the fine jewellery collection but please use it, don't lock it away.

Next week: "Australiana"

**Warren Joel**

Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

[www.byjoel.com.au](http://www.byjoel.com.au)