



My name is Geoff McDonald and I'm the owner of the Brisbane Opal Museum. Last year we helped 832 people acquire an opal, either set in jewellery or as a loose stone. And I'm not talking about the cheap tacky souvenir stuff, but the beautiful natural quality stones.

We only deal in opals and we've been in business for over 10 years, it's grown from strength to strength while other opal shops have fallen by the wayside. We have achieved this by focusing on a quality product with taking the time with our customers to learn what exactly it is that they are after. Hopefully you can see this reflected in our website and opal museum. So without further adue..

**Here are my 5 things that you MUST know before buying any opal.**

1. Brightness is the number one overriding-value-determining feature. Most opals look great in the sunlight but how does it look in low light. If you invest in an opal in gold (i.e. quality opal) it should still have good brightness in low light.
2. We personally do not recommend buying an opal doublet which has been set in gold, however if you really must do it, please do not spend over \$1000 unless there really is a lot of gold in the piece. They're simply not a good investment.
3. Whatever you do NOT buy an opal doublet ring (gold or silver). Don't do it. They're too fragile. I have seen too many people show me a doublet ring which they purchased 1-2 years prior which is now chipped at the edges.
4. If you invest in a ring make sure the stone is held in securely. Don't just take the jewellers word for it. Take a close look at it. Make sure the stone is held in by metal not just glued.
5. What if you purchase an opal and within a year a crack appears? Ask the shop what their policy is if this was to happen. **We guarantee our opals against cracking for up to 5 years.**

If you buy an opal in gold inspect it closely to make sure there are no cracks or chips. I'm very pedantic when it comes to cracks especially in my more inexpensive opals. The only time I would still sell an opal that had a small natural crack in it would be if....

- We were to put it in silver.
- The crack did not detract from the beauty of the stone.
- It's the type of crack that won't get worse.
- The crack is hard to notice.