The “7 Critical Facts You MUST Know Before Investing in an Opal!”. Written by Geoff McDonald (www.BrisbaneOpalMuseum.com.au)...

Geoff McDonald and one of his sons Max

Hi, My name is Geoff McDonald and I’m the owner of the Brisbane Opal Museum and in charge of the opal jewellery in the shop. We're exclusively an opal shop (with adjoining museum). It’s all that we do, we enjoy it & we’re good at. And I’m not talking about your run-of-the-mill opal doublets/triplets, but quality 100% natural (solid) opals. What you will read from now on is based on 10 years experience in a modern opal business, what you get is not fluff, just facts...

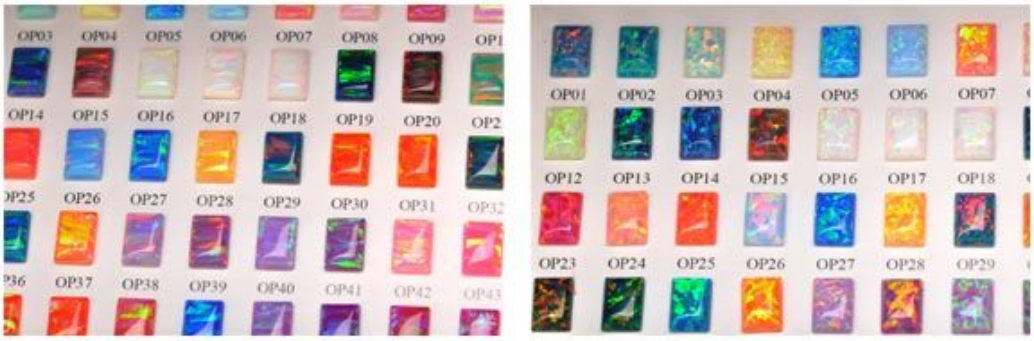
“7 Critical Facts You MUST Know Before Investing in an Opal!”

- **The most you should ever spend on a doublet,**
- **Why you should avoid a doublet ring,**
- **The EIGHT characteristics that determine the true value of a solid opal,**
- **Identify the different types of solid opals,**
- **Insist on the stone being held by the metal,**
- **The minimal opal thickness for a boulder opal ring,**
- **The importance of an opal setting,**

1) The most you should ever spend on a doublet,

A doublet is where a slice of opal is glued onto another stone, often the glue is black which makes the colour better. They have their place in our industry. However, I personally would not recommend spending any more than $500 on a doublet (loose stone) - and even less on a triplet. A triplet is basically a doublet (but the opal is thinner) with a glass dome glued on top (see image below).

A little mention here about Synthetic opal. Obviously it's not natural and therefore it's cheap (see pattern 1 & 2 below) - the good thing about it is that it is easy to identify. The pattern mostly comes in only two patterns (see below)...



Pattern 1 Pattern 2

"In our shop and on this website we only display solid 100% natural opals"

2) Why you should avoid a doublet ring,

Whatever you do, DON'T 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, which is