



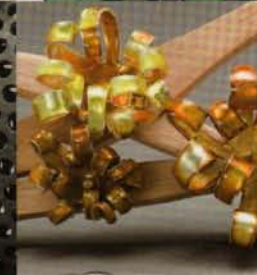
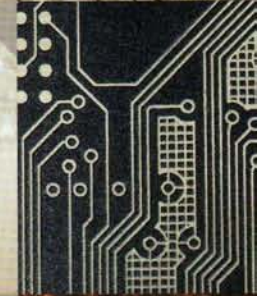
TINKER
 TAILOR
 SOLDIER
 SAILOR

100 WOMEN 100 BROOCHES 100 STORIES



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LADY DEBORAH VERNON HACKETT (1887-1965)

An inexhaustible businesswoman and charity worker, Deborah Hackett held many important positions during her life, most notably that of mining-company director. Deborah was born into a large family at Guildford, WA; she spent her childhood exploring caves, riding horses, and learning about the local Aboriginal people. An "individualist from an early age", Deborah was educated at the Guildford Grammar School for Boys. When she was 18, she married the lawyer Dr John Winthrop Hackett, who was 40 years her senior, much to her parents' disapproval. He was knighted in 1911, and Deborah was a society hostess, working tirelessly to raise money for the war effort. One of her endeavours was editing a massive book entitled *The Australian Household Guide*, which included 3500 recipes and many tips on how to rear a good household and was sold to raise funds. It was so successful that the French government honoured her efforts. Sadly, her husband died the same year the book was published.

By 1918, Deborah had met and married Frank Moulden, solicitor and later Mayor of Adelaide, and she soon established herself in Adelaide society. She re-established the South Australian National Council of Women, acted as the State Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association, and raised £100 000 for Adelaide charities between 1920-22. In 1923, she joined the shearing contractor FW Young to form a syndicate to mine tantalite at Wodgina. An intrepid traveller, Deborah would visit the desolate areas in which the tantalite was found, travelling via small single-engine planes, trucks, and on foot. Reportedly, she would travel up to 40 000 km per year in single-engine planes over outback Australia, and she had a true love for the

country. By 1931, she was the Chairman of the Directors of Tantalite Ltd, and under her direction, the company enjoyed much business from America and Britain, to which she also travelled extensively. During WW2, her tantalum was used to develop radar. Unfortunately, due to high running costs, the mines closed in 1940, but by 1943 were taken over by the Australian government for urgent war supplies.

Deborah continued to work tirelessly; in 1940, an updated *Guide* was published, and this time it raised \$10 000 for the Red Cross. Now based in Melbourne and remarried to a prominent judge (after Frank had died some years earlier), Deborah continued to use her position to raise funds for numerous hospital and welfare charities. During WW2, she ran a café for charity in Melbourne, where she personally made more than 5000 pounds of jam and chutney that was sold! A wonderful hostess with a penchant for making exotic and lavish meals, Deborah was remembered countrywide for her various charitable endeavours, fearless travels, and business ventures. It seemed that nothing was too much for this brave woman.

"As Deborah had five children, I have used five stones to surround the centre piece—a very rough piece of basalt with crystalline inclusions that reference her numerous careers and personal traits. Aquamarine beryl is used as it is one of the minerals Deborah mined; her interest in rare minerals is reflected in the use of chabazite in basalt a material not traditionally used in jewellery." **REGINE SCHWARZER**