

## Greythorn Gazette. A free public exhibition taking you on a journey back to the 1960s to the daily life of Balwyn North

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An exhibition chronicling the life and times of Greythorn in the early 1960s, is now on show until the end of the year at the Greythorn Community Hub at 2 Centre Way, Balwyn North.

Greythorn Central Traders Association was recently bequeathed 18 copies of the Greythorn Gazette published between 1960 and 1962. It appears the 8 to 12 page newspapers were owned by Peggy Walton.

Before she passed away, she asked a close friend of hers to take good care of these newspapers and to pass them onto someone who would preserve them. Peggy's friend contacted the Greythorn Traders Association and from there started the journey to mount the Greythorn Gazette 1960 to 1962 exhibition.

The 18 publications of the Greythorn Gazette are incredibly priceless. It is a living history of the early days of Greythorn and the burgeoning suburb of Balwyn North. The everyday happenings, social events and comings and goings of Greythorn.

The newspaper was published monthly from 1960 to 1962 featuring advertisements of businesses at Greythorn Central and all the news of the day of the Greythorn and Balwyn North residents.

The Greythorn Gazette exhibition is a fascinating and often hysterical insight into the retail trade of the early 60s, what people were buying and how they were living their daily lives. Visitors to the exhibition will also see a touch of the Stepford Wives in how family life is portrayed with articles such as how to take care of your husband.

And some of those advertisements certainly makes one blush when transposed into today's context.

The news pages of the Greythorn Gazette showcase the Camberwell Council road and infrastructure developments that were getting under way opening up many of the outer reaches of what is now the Boroondara City Council local government authority. The social pages are a delight reading the engagements, weddings and the belle and debutante presentations that include detailed descriptions of dresses being worn.

The exhibition has been made possible by the kind support of Trentwood at the Hub in helping facilitate this exhibition and providing the exhibition space to bring these treasured tales of 60 years ago into their gallery hanging space, for all the public to enjoy.



The vitality of the Greythorn Traders Association is also evident where 60 years on it is as strong, united and continually improving the shopping experience at Greythorn for everyone to enjoy.

The public is encouraged to come and visit the exhibition which is free to enter and enjoy in the public foyer hanging space of Trentwood at the Hub located at 2 Centre Way, Balwyn North.

### **History of the Greythorn Gazette – 1960-1962**

The first traders' newsletter The Greythorn Gazette was intended for residents. Pharmacist Donald (Don) Wood, whose statue proudly stands on the corner of Tannock Street and Doncaster Road on the footpath in front of Greythorn Cellars briefly edited The Greythorn Gazette, to which his wife Lilian also contributed. He was a founding committee member of the North Balwyn RSL and the first president of the Greythorn Traders Association,

Don Wood settled in North Balwyn in 1948 and opened his modern chemist shop at 283 Doncaster Road in 1953. The pharmacy was designed and subsequently renovated in 1963 by the legendary Australian architect, Robin Boyd. After its extensive remodelling in 1963 by Boyd, the papers of the day reported it was a showpiece of shop design, which architects from England and South Africa visited to study.

Don worked with Lilian in the pharmacy. Lilian was a trained chiropodist and cosmetician. Don had studied pharmacy by correspondence when stationed in New Guinea during World War 2. After he was demobilised in 1945, Don ran the family pharmacy in Kew, before establishing the Greythorn pharmacy.