

Historic Images Of Golden Era



written by
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Greyhound racing enthusiasts will be given a glimpse into the sport's past thanks to a magnificent collection of photos and other memorabilia planned to go on display around the state in coming months.

Greyhound Racing New South Wales, with the help of memorabilia collectors Don and Christine MacKenzie, have collaborated the series of images, taken between 1842 and 1958.

"We've been working on the collection for roughly a year now - surprisingly, it hasn't been all that difficult to collect them," GRNSW Board member John Tracy recently told *The Greyhound Recorder*.

"There are a lot of extremely good photographs in the collection. We've found the old photographers picked up everything in the image.

"Building on the collection will be a continuing process. There are no doubt other collections out there. Hopefully these photos will attract others.

"We've been able to use a non fade 100 years finish to protect the very old photos against things like fluorescent lighting.

"Dr John Brydon, of Precision Design Services, a foremost expert on forensic photography, has restored and enhanced them where necessary, because some of them are quite old.

"Greyhounds have been a part of Australia's culture since Captain Arthur Phillip arrived, since the first settlement. The people that came out for the goldmining were people who raced greyhounds."

Currently on display at GRNSW's headquarters at Homebush, the collection is likely to be taken to various greyhound racing centers around the state sometime in the next few months to give as many people as possible the opportunity to lay their

eyes on the collection.

"We'll be doing our best to travel around as much as we can with them," Tracy said.

Paul Munt's collection of images, purchased by Don and Christine MacKenzie, features heavily in the 49-photograph display at

GRNSW, as does Don E.S Marx's work. Don and Christine are believed to have the biggest collection of greyhound racing related photographs and memorabilia in Australia, with over 600 items in their possession.

Tracy himself over the years has gathered a multitude of memorabilia through scrupulous research via books, newspapers, as well as various museums and libraries.

"A lot of the images have been published in books over the years - but there are a lot that haven't been," he said.

"We've received a lot of support from the National and Mitchell Libraries who have given GRNSW permission to exhibit their images.

"The committee received advice from the curator at the Powerhouse Museum, as well as the Wagga Wagga City Council."

Complementing the impressive series of old photographs in the collection is a range of memorabilia documenting a popular sport from as early as the 1800s.

"There is a report from the *Town And Country Journal* documenting the first public greyhound coursing meeting in NSW at Bathurst in 1836," Tracy said.

"We also have a collection of Sydney Morning Herald newspaper pages printed between 1930-1962. One article tells readers how the average greyhound races once every seven and a half months.

"We also have in our possession a really good collection of cartoons and sketches from the very early days of greyhound racing.

"There are all sorts of things which we are waiting to get permission to exhibit, which will no doubt improve the collection over time."