

GWENETH WISEWOULD



Look at the photograph. What are the first things you think about the woman in the photograph? Write down your perceptions of her in your book.

Gweneth Wisewould – Biography

- Born 1884, died 1972
- General Practitioner
- Graduated from the University of Melbourne (M.B., B.S., 1915)
- She was a resident at the Melbourne (1915–16) and Alfred (1916) hospitals, and senior resident (1917) at the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital
- In 1938, Wisewould moved to Trentham, 95km northwest of Melbourne
- She worked as the town's doctor until the day of her death at the age of 87
- Often, she did not charge for her services if patients couldn't afford to pay
- She published her book, *Outpost*, an account of her life and work in the country, in 1971
- Despite Trentham being a conservative town at the time, Wisewould regularly wore men's clothing
- She donated \$20,000 to the University of Melbourne to provide 'Truganini Scholarships' for Aboriginal students in 1968

Consider the following riddle:

A man and his son are in a terrible accident and are rushed to the hospital in critical care. The doctor looks at the boy and explains, "I can't operate on this boy, he's my son!" How could this be?

Discuss the following in your groups:

1. What are our perceptions of doctors?
2. Have these perceptions changed since Gweneth Wisewould's time?