

# 60S SURVIVAL



at the  
archives  
Wayne Doubleday



new exhibition of archival material is now on display in the foyer of the CSU Regional Archives, entitled, *How Safe Were The Sixties?*

The curator of the exhibition is Dr Nancy Blacklow.

Through the images and material in the exhibition, Dr Blacklow poses the question: "Standards and codes in the twenty-first century surround our daily life, but how 'safe' was life fifty years ago?"

The issues of workplace safety, road safety, and the safety of children are explored through our present-day reaction to the scenes depicted in the material.

A simple example of this is the image of a small child left alone in her pram on the edge of the footpath in Baylis Street.

She has been placed next to an empty ladder that has been set up on the footpath with power cords hanging nearby from the verandah and lying on the ground.

Such a scene would send shivers up the spine of any parent (or OH&S officer) today.

But would our reaction have been quite the same if we had seen this same photograph fifty years ago?

A number of colourful posters were chosen for this exhibition from a collection of material from the Bathurst Teachers' College Alumni.

These posters (circa 1960) were issued by the Australian Road Safety Council, the Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Ltd, and the NSW Minister for Health.

They demonstrate a simpler and more positive means of drawing the public's attention to safety issues.

They are also much less confronting than many of today's health and safety campaigns, but are they any less persuasive?

The majority of images included in the exhibition have been chosen from the vast collection of photographs by Tom Lennon, most of which were taken in his capacity as photographer for *The Daily Advertiser*.

Thomas Trembath Lennon (1908-1992) was a commercial and portrait photographer, operating his studio at 64 Victoria Road, Drummoyne, during the 1930s and 1940s.

During World War II, he was a machinist with AWA and worked for some time at the *Daily Telegraph*; then in 1955, he moved to Wagga and worked as a photographer for *The Daily Advertiser* for 20 years.

Tom was a colourful character around town, seemingly always with camera in hand.

As a press photographer he was technically excellent and artistic; added to this were his skills in painting, sculpture and the occasional cartoon of sport, politics and culture in the area.

After he died, Tom left a substantial amount of money to the Home of Compassion in Ashmont, who named a wing of their nursing home after him.

His vast collection of photographs and film provide striking visual fragments of the social and cultural history of Wagga and district during the 1950s and 1960s.

The official count of surviving images stands at 80,000 negatives and 50,000 prints.

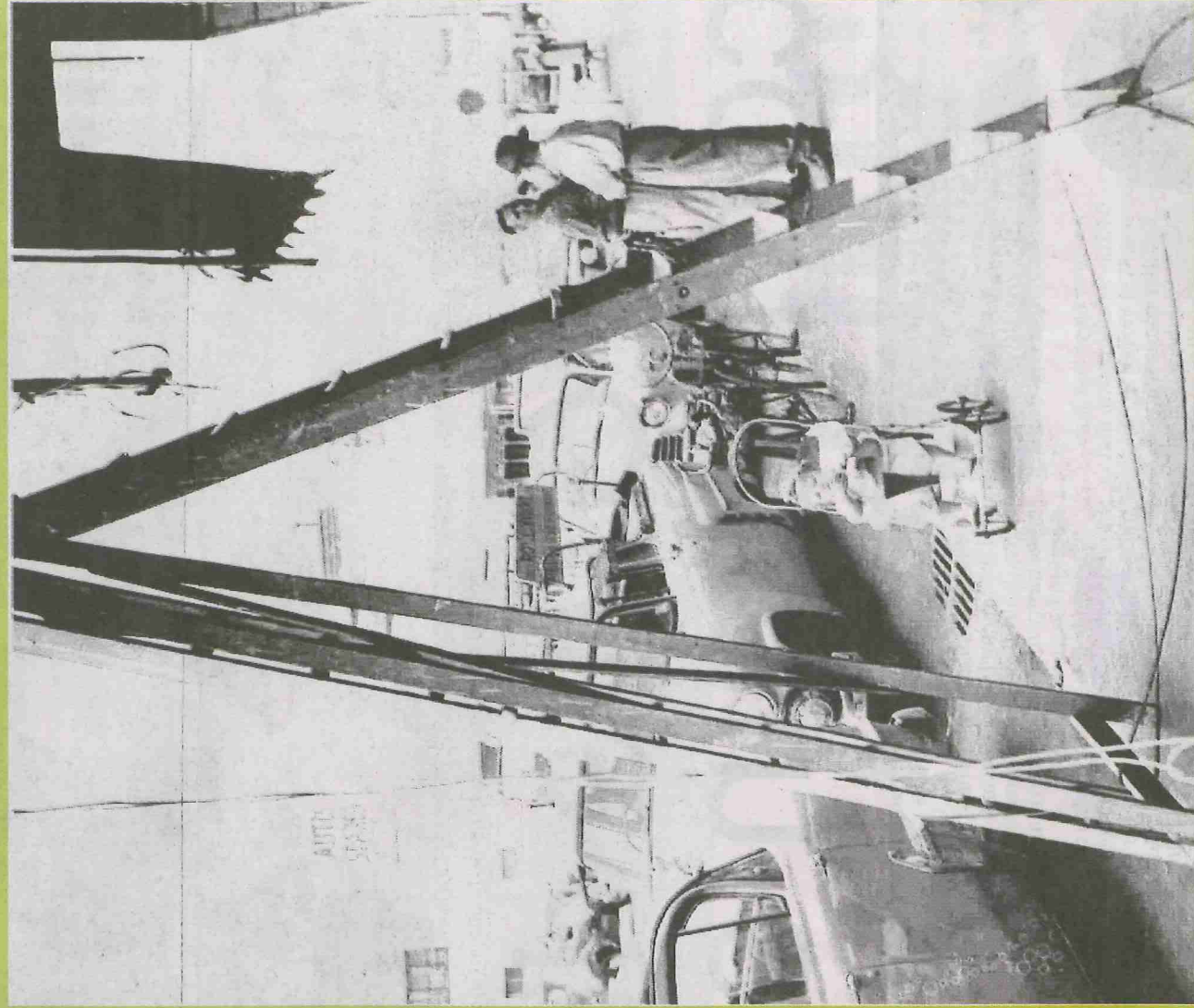
This wonderful visual record of our region's cultural history has been indexed (some by subject, others by date) and is available in the CSU Regional Archives search room.

*How Safe Were The Sixties?* will be on display to the public until late October.

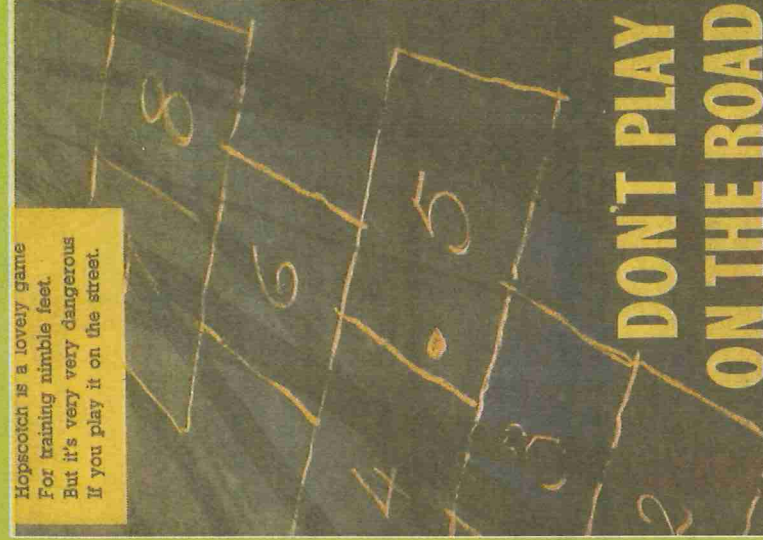
Compiled by Jillian Kohlhagen

## what you need to know

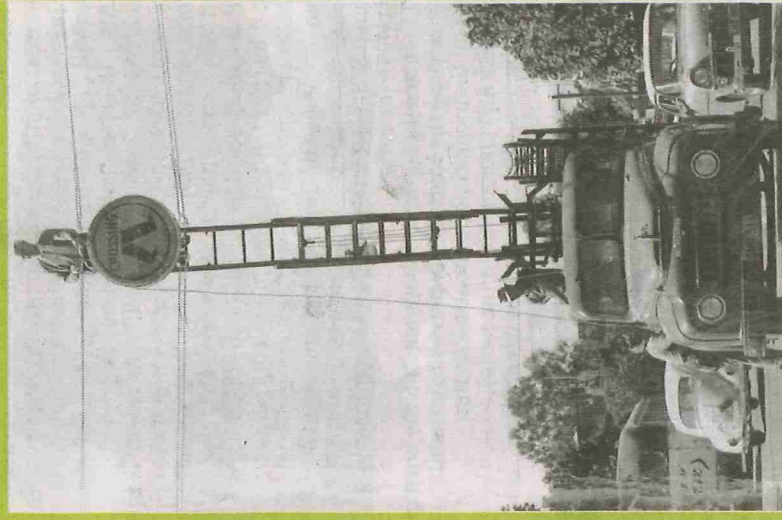
■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email [archive@csu.edu.au](mailto:archive@csu.edu.au), or visit our website at [www.csu.edu.au/research/archives](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/archives) for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



The ladder provides an artistic framework for the image of a small child but it also demonstrates how public safety standards have changed in 50 years (RW1574/118).



Hopscotch is a lovely game For training nimble feet. But it's very very dangerous If you play it on the street.



Pedestrian safety is the aim of the workmen here but the action of erecting the sign is a danger in itself (RW1574/316).

"Hopscotch is a lovely game ..." but don't play it in the street was the message sent out to children from the Australian Road Safety Council (RW2116/40).