

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 inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

Christmas Closure:

The CSU Regional Archives will be closed from Wednesday, December 18, 2013 and will reopen as normal in the new year on Thursday, January 2, 2014. The next Saturday opening will be on February 1, 2014 from 10am to 3pm.

The distinctive upper façade of the Plaza Theatre is still visible today though the sign has since gone. The motor car in the photograph helps to set the time in the early 1950s as does the collection of bicycles lying in the gutter outside the theatre – perhaps left by young people at a matinee at the movie theatre. Next to the theatre is Castles Heavy Hardware Store, also a prominent building during this time.

People and Place

Fitzmaurice and Baylis streets



at the archives
Wayne Doubleday



Images are part of everyday life from the colourful holiday snaps to a special family celebration and even today's ubiquitous "selfie".

At the same time, photographs provide a link to the past and a visual documentation of social history.

They may be pictures of simple daily life, events in time or streetscapes of various periods and, in an historical context, they provide information on a particular period. The photographs used in the new exhibition at the Historic Council Chambers, *People and Place: Fitzmaurice and Baylis streets* have provided a valuable research tool in dating changes in Wagga's main street.

Not all photographs come with dates on them.

Some can be fitted to a timeframe if from a particular photographer – for example, photos from the Tom Lennon Collection in the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives can be set within the period 1955 to the early 1970s – the period of his employment as a photographer for *The Daily Advertiser*.

But even within such a period, photographs provide clues to different times – makes of cars, clothing worn, window displays or rooflines. For example, price tags on goods in shops can be divided into pre- and post-1966 and the introduction of decimal currency.

Photographs speak of shops no longer there, of hotels and cafes replaced by stores or offices, and glimpses of first floor areas which were home to many business owners.

See these types of changes in the *People and Place* exhibition now open through until the end of March. You can talk about the changes and share your memories with exhibition curator, Nancy Blacklow, at a floor talk in the Historic Council Chambers today at 11am.

Compiled by Nancy Blacklow



A number of items in this photograph of Fitzmaurice Street can be used to date it in general terms. The mixture of cars from the 1940s and 1930s, plus a horse and cart, is a good starting point. Dating the photograph is also helped by examining some of the businesses visible – David Copland and Company, a major store in Fitzmaurice Street from the late 1800s to early 1950s, the White Rose Cafe, a popular spot in the 1930s and 1940s, and Bellair's Commercial Hotel – a predecessor of Romano's Hotel (named in late 1950s).

The major clue in dating this photograph of a David Jones sale is the use of pre-decimal currency price tags (19'11).

So this photograph was taken before 1966. Dating it can also be helped by the fashions of the women in the photograph, particularly the many dresses with bare arms, which might be linked to early 1960s.



A good example of using fashions of the day to date a photograph – the length of women's skirts, style of hats and the Manfold's window display point towards the late 1950s. In addition, a search of council rate books would help to identify the time span in which Manfolds were in this Baylis Street position.

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The Daily Advertiser

Wagga Wagga City Council

Charles Sturt University

Wagga and District Historical Society

