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 Castle's Heavy Hardware Store, also a prominent building during this time.

People and Place
Fitzmaurice and Baylis streets

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 1950s, plus a horse and cart, is a good starting point. Dailing 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 Gate, a popular spot in the 1930s and 1940s, and Bellair's Commercial Hotel – a predecessor of Romano's Hotel (opened 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. Dailing 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 Manifold'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 Manifolds were in this Baylis Street position.

Compiled by Nancy Blacklow

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

At the archives
Wayne Doubleday

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12 – Riverina Weekender; Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15, 2013