

Huthwaites – The Friendly Store



One business that was around for a very long time in Wagga was Huthwaites Department Store. Your parents and grandparents may remember it if they grew up in Wagga.

- Huthwaites Department Store was opened by William George Fitzroy Huthwaite in 1906 and was Wagga's leading department store until 1981. In 1952, about 120 people worked there.

- Huthwaites celebrated its 75th birthday in April 1981 - and would be turning 101 years old next month if the store was still open. It was known as 'The Friendly Store - a big business built up on big values'.
- Huthwaites was one of three grocery stores in Wagga who we know used delivery bicycles. Employee Charlie Blackburn used it from 1949 to 1957 to pick up orders from homes around Wagga, and making deliveries. Bill Mash rode the bicycle when he worked there in 1942. This makes the bike over 60 years old.
- Huthwaites only had one bicycle made. They chose red because it was an unusual colour for a bicycle in the early 1940s and would stand out. Things have changed - red is now a popular bike colour.

Did you know?

Huthwaites was sold in 1983 and became the Huthwaite Centre. It is now known as the Piazza, which is next to the Sportsman's Warehouse in the top block of Baylis Street. The old car park is still out the back.