

**Christmas Collectables**  
**Weekly Times Column**  
**By Warren Joel**

Each year we spend our hard earned money on frivolous Christmas presents that last a few weeks then never see the light of day.

Over the past week I've been looking around the antique and second hand shops on the lookout for that more useful Christmas present and I have been surprised at just what I have found. The first hurdle you need to get over is the fact you will be giving somebody a second hand present. The very nature of antiques and collectables is that they have had more than one owner. For me that is part of the beauty of the item: its history or what story it could tell, who owned it or where it has been. I've grown up with and been around antiques and collectables all my life and have received some great second hand presents that I love.

Having got your head around the second hand present bit, what are you going to buy? The same simple rule of collecting applies when buying for somebody else: buy what you like, or in this case, what you hope they will like, and in good condition. I always try to get something in its original box or packaging.

A great example of the value added by original packaging is the Dinky toy cars that were Christmas presents years ago. Now as a collectors' item the car is worth say \$10 but with the original box that jumps to over \$50 depending on the model and condition. And for those of us who are increasingly concerned about the environment and our throwaway society, antiques and collectables are the ultimate in recyclable.

*Next week: Grandmother's dinner set*

**Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.**

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to [hwtvaluations@byjoel.com.au](mailto:hwtvaluations@byjoel.com.au) I will access the item and respond.

**Warren Joel**

Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

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