

## *Babies Helped Home-front Warriors' War Effort*

**During the Second World War (1939-1945) the Camden district Red Cross organisations undertook a host of fundraising activities, to support those who were risking their lives in active service. One appeal, the 1943 Red Cross Baby Competition, became the largest single fundraising effort for the district during the entire length of the war. The Camden district Red Cross raised £3324, the most money for the entire state of New South Wales.**

**The Red Cross Baby Competition was state-wide. Over 190 Red Cross branches took part and there were entries from more than 600 baby committees. There was a local elimination stage for the Camden Red Cross with five local baby committee entrants. The committee supporting the baby Alex Mulley won the local elimination competition, raising £586.**



**At the end of the local stage the five Camden Red Cross baby entrant committees had raised a total of £1863 and gained first place in New South Wales for the largest amount raised by any Red Cross branch.**

**For the final stage of the state-wide competition the five baby committees combined their efforts and made a concerted push to uphold local honour. In Camden additional fundraisers for the competition included a livestock auction and a ‘Gymkhana and Carnival’ that replaced the Camden Show, which had been cancelled for the duration of the war.**

**In the end the overall New South Wales winner, per head of population, was the village of Croppa Creek, but the Camden fundraising effort topped the state, raising £3324, a tremendous effort for such a small community.**

*Baby Alex Mulley, about 1943.*