

## Camden's Winning Baby Topped the State

By Julie Wrigley

In *The District Reporter* dated November 23, 2012, Dr Ian Willis wrote an article "Babies helped home-front warriors' war effort" about the activities of the Camden branch of the Red Cross in World War II, and the state-wide baby fundraising contest held in 1943. 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 local baby entrants were: Jeanette Jenkins representing Spring Creek; Wilma Powe representing the CWA; Paul Chapman supported by the Bowling Club; Douglas Fussell representing Camden Town, and Alex Mulley supported by Camden Park. The committee supporting the baby Alex Mulley won the local elimination competition. At the end of the local elimination stage the five Camden Red Cross baby entrant committees had raised a total of £1863, and the competition then continued against other towns. Cooma issued a challenge to Camden, and Camden set out to raise as much money as possible with the slogan, "Help the Red Cross and Keep Camden on Top"!



*Alex Mulley*

One of the local papers (*The Camden Advertiser*) dated July 8, 1943, told some more of the details, and gave the final results.

### **CAMDEN TOPPED STATE RED CROSS BABY CONTEST**

*With a final total of £3324 to his credit Baby Alex Mulley, of Camden Park, gained first place in New South Wales for the largest sum raised irrespective of population, in the State-wide Red Cross competition. He will receive an inscribed silver cup.*

*The Camden amount represents more than £1 per head of population, including adults and children, or nearly £4/15 per home, in the Camden Red Cross branch area. (The population was estimated at 3,220 persons in 700 homes).*

### **FINE YOUNG AUSTRALIAN**

*Although the competition was decided by the amount of money raised on a population basis in a particular Red Cross district, Baby Mulley would attract*

attention at any baby show. This young Australian is 22-months-old, splendidly proportioned, and tips the scale at 2st. 8lbs. [16 kg.]

The baby's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mulley, and grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Mulley, conduct a model dairy at Camden Park. They, together with a great-grand parent and two grandparents, were all born on the historic estate property.

During the final 14 days of the contest, Constables H. C. Haylock and A. H. Neal, of Camden, organised two carnivals which netted £759.

Other substantial amounts were credited to the baby by donations, the sale of gift livestock by the auctioneering firm of William Inglis and Son Pty. Ltd., the gross takings at a picture evening arranged by the Paramount Theatre management, a dance by the Mount Hunter-Spring Creek residents, and a donation from Cawdor P. and C. Association.

The money, forwarded to Red Cross headquarters at Sydney last week, was compiled as under:

No. 1 Carnival £535; No. 2 Carnival £224; Mount Hunter Dance £34; Livestock Sale £212; Picture Evening £40; Special Donations £413; Cawdor P. and C. £3. Total: £1461. Plus money raised by five local candidates in preliminary contest: £1863

**Camden's GRAND TOTAL    £3324**

To explain which Mulley family is concerned: Harold Charles (Jack) Mulley (1915-1975) married Thelma Mary Crick (1917-1990) in 1938, and their son Alex was born in 1941. The family lived at Cawdor and later Narellan. Both Harold and Thelma are buried at Cawdor Uniting Church Cemetery.

The members of the Historical Society have researched Alex Mulley, who was difficult to trace at first. (After a tip-off from my hairdresser in Murray Street, we found his daughter lives locally.) Alex, who is 72 years old now, and Lorna Mulley live in Brisbane. For the exhibition, which celebrates the one hundred years of the Camden branch of the Red Cross Society, they have lent the museum a photo of Alex as a baby, and the silver cup. The cup is inscribed "Red Cross Baby Competition, June 18<sup>th</sup> 1943. Highest Amount of Money Raised. Alex Mulley. Camden."



*Cup won by Alex Mulley*

The Story of the Camden Red Cross in War and Peace is supported through funding from the Australian Government's *Your Community Heritage Program*. The exhibition opened at the Museum on 13 September 2013. The Museum is open Thursday to Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.