

Camden's 'War Chest' Patriotic Day 1917

A fundraiser for the War Chest Fund, one of a number of Australian Patriotic Funds, was held on Tuesday 16 October 1917 in Camden's main street. The Camden 1917 War Chest Day was organized by the Camden Red Cross. The day raised over £320, a huge amount of money at the time. The event clearly demonstrated the organizing ability of the Red Cross members in the Camden district.

For the War Chest Day, members of the Camden branch of the Red Cross organized a market day with four stalls along Argyle Street. Each stall sold a variety of goods including eggs, butter, produce, poultry, jams, fruit, vegetables, fancy work, morning and afternoon teas and lunches.



Red Cross Mayoress' Stall, Argyle Street, Camden

- **The Cutters' Stall**, at the Commercial Bank, was run by the women who did the cutting out of cloth for the Red Cross sewing workshops.
- **The Mayoress' Stall** was headed by the Mayor's wife. It was established outside Mr Watson's auction rooms, where there was a refreshment booth and an auction selling items donated for the appeal.
- **The Red Cross Executive's Stall**, located outside the Plough and Harrow, was a stall headed by the Red Cross President and other members of the executive.
- **The Red Cross Members' Stall**, outside the Whiteman building, was run by the members who made bandages at the Red Cross sewing workshops.