

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 83

MOWBRAY WAR SERVICES FUND COLLECTION

Comfort Funds, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

Soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, some Mowbray residents formed a club with the object of raising funds to provide comforts for anyone enlisting from the Mowbray, Newnham and Rocherlea districts. The first meeting, held on 14 September 1939, was organised by the wife and sister of a deceased First World War soldier and the treasurer was the wife of a returned soldier. Initially called the Mowbray Comfort Fund Club, the name was changed later in 1939 to the Mowbray 2nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund. From July 1943 it was called the Mowbray War Services Fund as a result of advice from the Patriotic Funds Board, which considered the fund could be confused with the Australian Comforts Fund. The fund was approved under the National Security (Patriotic Funds) Regulations.

Parcels were sent to men who enlisted from the Mowbray, Newnham and Rocherlea districts, to maintain a personal and home district link, and to enlisted relatives and friends of subscribers to the Fund. The first batch of parcels was sent on 1 July 1940. The contents of parcels are detailed in the financial statement for 1941 and samples of invoices from A C Ferrall Pty Ltd showing goods purchased for inclusion in parcels have been retained in the collection.

Money was raised through monthly dances (discontinued from mid-June 1941), social and card evenings in private homes, raffles, an annual fair, subscriptions and donations. By 1943 rationing and shortage of supplies were restricting the activities of the ladies of the Work Circle, whose members prepared and sewed up the parcels and knitted socks, scarves, helmets and mittens for the servicemen. Many letters of appreciation were received from members of the Armed Forces who received parcels, both overseas and within Australia. Samuel Roy Robinson was the dedicated and long serving honorary secretary of the Fund.

The last record in the collection is the Fund's financial statement at 11 October 1946.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 1987.

1.Minutes of Meetings

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| 1/1 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, minute book | 1940-1943 |
| 1/2 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, minute book | 1943 |

2.Annual Reports and Financial Statements

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| 2/1 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, annual report | 1942 |
| 2/2 | Mowbray War Services Fund, annual reports | 1943-1944 |
| 2/3 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, financial statements;
Mowbray War Services Fund, financial statements | 1940-1946 |

3.Correspondence

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| 3/1 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, correspondence | 1939-1943 |
| 3/2 | Mowbray War Services Fund, correspondence | 1943-1945 |
| 3/3 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I. F. Comfort Fund, letters acknowledging receipt of parcels | 1940-1943 |
| 3/4 | Mowbray War Services Fund and Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund/Mowbray War Services Fund, letters acknowledging receipt of parcels | 1943-1945 |

4.Miscellaneous Items

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| 4/1 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, notebook with names of servicemen to whom parcels were sent | 1940-1941 |
| 4/2 | Mowbray War Services Fund, typed list of names of servicemen to whom parcels were sent | 1944 |
| 4/3 | Mowbray 2 nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund/Mowbray War Services Fund, handwritten lists of names of servicemen to whom parcels were sent, in alphabetical order | 1940-1945 |
| 4/4 | A C Ferrall Pty Ltd, invoices for goods purchased for parcels | 1940-1945 |

- 4/5 Mowbray 2nd A.I.F. Comfort Fund, subscribing member enrolment card nd
- 4/6 Mrs S R Robinson, undated newspaper cutting concerning her work for the Red Cross in Launceston nd