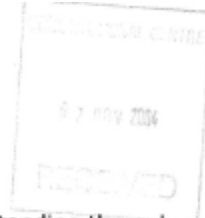


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## Mary Lyon (nee Davey)



I was a child during World War II attending the only school in the tiny fishing village of Mandurah.

My father was a returned soldier from World War I. My brother was in the RAAF and my sister in the AWAS. Consequently I was a very patriotic child and began to wonder what I could do for the war effort. Together with five or six friends from school I formed a group called the *Coloured Star Club* - each of the members wearing a different coloured tin star made by my father. Our aim was to raise money for the Camp Comforts fund which provided some home comforts to the men at war.

For many years we worked tirelessly all day Saturday, in all weathers, collecting and selling anything we could get our hands on including bottles, papers, firewood, pot plants, jams, vegetables, cakes, etc. After dragging our little wooden cart long distances to get rid of our produce, we would sit down and count our money. Every penny was entered in a book by the Hon. Secretary and when, after many weeks, we had a total of £10 two of us would go to a meeting of the Camp Comforts Committee and hand over the money.

We were a happy little band, proud and enthusiastic in our work. By the end of the war we had collected over £200.

The people of Mandurah highly commended our members and, in recognition of our efforts, we were taken to Perth for a couple of days. For most of us, who at age 14 years had never been out of Mandurah, it was marvellous to see so many wonders.

I still have my little tin coloured star.

Mary Lyon (nee Davey)