

Hospital Day	...	...	...	...	136	19	0
Wounded Soldiers' Day	...	...	...	...	56	4	5
Win the War Day...	...	...	...	...	118	16	10
Navy Day ..	...	...	...	...	183	10	11
Anzac Day	...	...	...	...	142	7	4
British Red Cross	...	...	...	...	118	2	9
Italian Day	...	...	...	...	102	13	8
					£1398	5	2

XMAS BILLY FUND.—For the Xmas Billy Fund a sum of £246/10/3 was collected. Articles were purchased and Boxes filled and despatched to the trenches.

RED CROSS AND PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.—Receipts and Expenditure:

Receipts, including £105 donation from Easter							
Gala Committee, Book Collections, Sundry							
Donations, &c.	...	...	...	...	£858	18	1
Expenditure to date	...	...	...	...	620	1	11
					£238	16	2
In Bank	...	...	...	...

MEN'S SECTION.—The band of enthusiastic workers with their Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, who carry on the Footscray Men's Section are also entitled to warmest commendation and praise, not only for the quality and quantity of the useful articles they manufactured for use in hospitals, &c., but for the invaluable aid in helping in connection with patriotic appeals that necessitate much organising and executive work. In this respect they have never been known to fail to give a helping hand in a loyal and cheerful manner. A sum of £273/11/5 was collected for the special needs and requirements of this Section.

THE PATRIOTIC FAIR. — This year's work concluded with a Grand Fair at the Federal Hall, the profits of which are to be devoted to Red Cross and Patriotic work. The Federal Hall was brilliantly illuminated by the Council, and there was a fine attendance by the public. A profit of about £750 is expected to be made.

APPEALS: STATE WAR COUNCIL.—The State War Council's Regulation of Patriotic Funds has been administered in Footscray. Numerous applications for authority to make appeals were received, and after proper consideration forwarded to the State War Council with a recommendation.

AT HOME TO PATRIOTIC WORKERS.—In closing this part of the Annual Report I would state the Mayoress and I had the privilege and pleasure to receive all patriotic workers on the 16th August at an At Home, as we felt that some public acknowledgement should be made of the zeal and self-sacrificing services of all those who had done so well, and who are sure to continue in the good cause until the need for the same ceases.

PATRIOTIC AND RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

The following report has been sent me by the Honorary Secretary of the Footscray Branch of the Red Cross and Patriotic Society (Mrs. Forge):—

The Committee of the above Society consists of the Mayoress, Mrs. Shillabeer, President; Mrs. Harris, Vice-President; Mesdames Webb, Farnbach, Francis, Hales, Gent,

Drew, Wall, Simpson, Bishop, Christensen, Claffy, Pearce, Brocket, Mitchell, Ward, W. H. Cuming, Arblaster, Foster, and the Misses Lawlor, Webb, Lovett and McDonald.

A systematic monthly collection has been made by the Committee. This year several new collectors have taken up the work. The amount collected for the year was £388/18/4. A collection to swell the funds was also taken up on Steeplechase Day, Derby Day and Cup Day. In December, 1916, over £200 was collected for Xmas Cheer Fund and 2000 Xmas Boxes were despatched to the Town Hall, Melbourne.

Three large baskets have been purchased to send goods to town, which proves to be an easier way than having to beg cases and ask the factories to send them in on lorries. The railways send them to and fro free of charge.

The sewing rooms have been opened each afternoon and evening, excepting Saturdays, a large number of workers attending and working very energetically, resulting in 14,000 articles being sent to the Lady Mayoress's League and Red Cross Society. The following is a list of articles which have been despatched during the 12 months :— Flannel Pyjamas, 1011; Socks, 3459; Pillow Slips, 1414; Washers, 1468, Balaclavas, 43; Scarves 122; Mittens, 48; Flannel Shirts, 404; Sweaters, 10; Hot-Water Bottle Covers, 2000; Towels, 90; Serviettes, 23; Sheets, 197; Soap, 12; Flannel Pants, 93; Bed Shirts, 76; Dressing Gowns, 12; Bandages, 2122; Bed-pockets, 8; Quilts, 64, Mufflers, 14; Pillows, 77; Flannel Shirts, 203; Cholera Belts 3; Handkerchiefs, 100; Bed Socks, 9; Cases of Books, 7, Kneepads, 3; Slippers, 1; 3 packets cards; Cushions, 120; Waistcoats, 1.

In connection with the Xmas Cheer Fund, 1916, a performance was given in the Federal Hall by the St. John's Players, Camberwell, which resulted in £40 being added to the fund. Miss Crow and Mrs. Bryant also sent in a cheque for £36, result of a concert given.

In June Mrs. Shillabeer and Mrs. Forge gave a gift afternoon which brought £100 to help to furnish stalls for a Fair to be held in July.

A Fair was held in the Federal Hall on July 26, 27 and 28, taking the form of a Japanese Village, being decorated with Japanese lanterns and cherry blossom. A feature of the decorative scheme was the electric lighting carried out by Mr Carmody. Over the stage was a large Union Jack lit up with red, white and blue electric lights, and these colored lights were also festooned across the hall making a very pretty effect. The whole success of the fair was largely due to the lighting scheme carried out by Mr Carmody and his staff. The stage was decorated to represent a Japanese tea house and the small tables were very nicely decorated in black and white, with almond blossom, the helpers wearing Kimonos to match. The proceeds of the Fair will result in £750 nett profit.

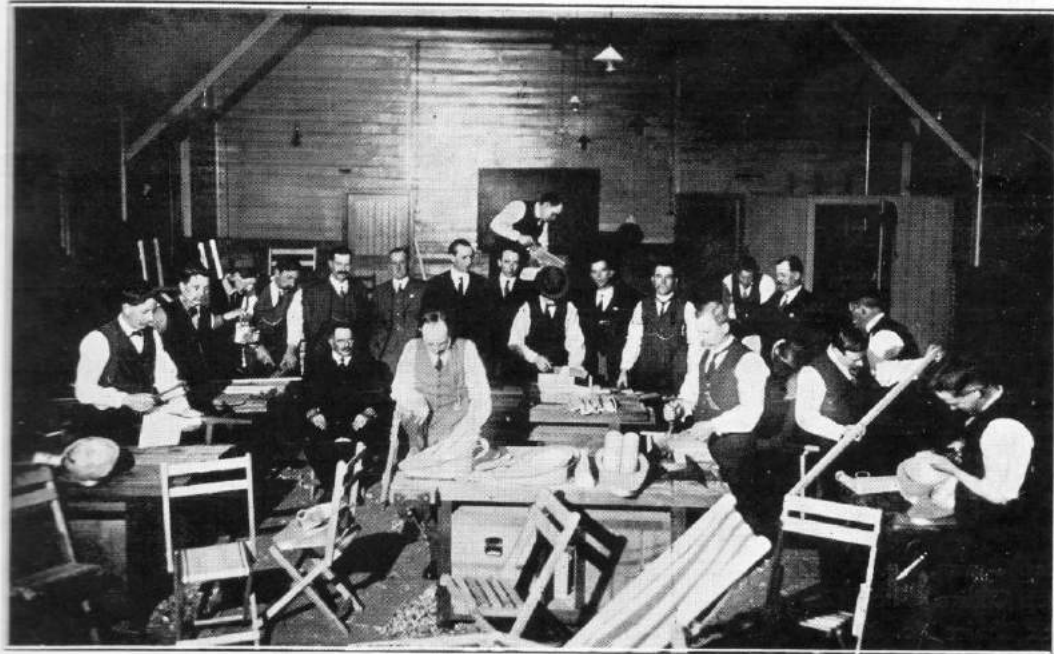
An appeal was made to the Society in August for the Prisoners of War Fund which resulted in £50 being sent to the Treasurer, Mr O. D. Williams. An appeal was also made in July by the Lady Mayoress League for socks and the following week 350 were despatched.

At the end of their term of office the Mayor and Mayoress gave an "At Home" to all Red Cross and Patriotic workers in the Federal Hall. Presentations, by them were made to the Secretary and also to Mesdames Flower and Wall who have had charge of the work rooms.

As a means of raising more money for the funds several picture nights have been held.



THE "BYRON MOORE" KIOSK, AND TERRACE, FOOTSCRAY PARK



FOOTSCRAY RED CROSS WORKERS : MEN'S SECTION.

To the frequent appeals to motorists to meet returned soldiers on their arrival in Melbourne the following citizens of Footscray have always responded :—Mrs. Shillabeer, Messrs. H. C. Bishop, N. Douglas, J. Fraser, W. Thorley, A. T. Johnson, A. Forge, H. C. Forge, C. Dobbinson, W. H. Cuming, J. S. Anderson, T. Launder, J. Felsted, G. Stewart, W. Fox and J. C. Mitchell.

FOOTSCRAY RED CROSS SOCIETY.

MEN'S SECTION. FORMED 27th SEPTEMBER, 1916.

As a result of a successful meeting held on the 27th September, 1916, all present formed themselves into a Men's Section of the Red Cross Society.

The following were appointed a Committee of Management, Mr W. H. Cuming, (chairman), and committee Messrs R. Moran, D. Brocket, C. Dobbinson, H. Bishop, R. Armitage, E. Ward, with J. C. Mitchell as honorary secretary. The Chairman and Committeemen have been at all times attentive to their duties.

The heartiest thanks of the section are due to the Footscray Technical School and Mr C. A. Hoadley, the Principal, for their invaluable assistance. The workroom, light and tools were donated to the Section by the School and this generosity was the means of giving life to the Section and success to the movement.

It is gratifying to report that about 25 workers have given themselves patriotically to this cause.

They attend the workroom two nights weekly and the result of their labor is creditably reflected in the statement which is attached hereto. The whole of the work has been carried out under the able direction of Messrs T. F. Smith, hon. director of Carpentering and J. Griffiths, hon. director of Tinsmithing.

In addition to the work of the above it should be stated that boys from the Technical School put in a fortnight making goods for which materials were found by the Section.

The material which was so used absorbed all the available money then in hand and temporarily caused a little financial difficulty. But thanks to the liberality of workers and helpers this was soon righted.

The Committee wish to thank all donors for assistance, especially Messrs Shillabeer, Hooper and Cuming, who have given us very great financial support.

The Secretary wishes to thank the Committee and the whole of workers for their great assistance during the year especially at the Red Cross Fair when everybody's one desire was to make the Fair a huge success.

J. C. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

	Sent away	School	Store	In course of Construction.
Camp Chairs, No. 7	26	60	40	
Camp Chairs Wood (24)		60	32	8
Deck Chairs No. 32	24		30	
Bed Back Rests		30	20	
Bed Foot Rests		30	6	

	Sent away	School	Store	In course of Construction.
Wooden Stools		200	20	
Crutches			25 pairs	25 pairs
Deck Chair (37) New Design				50
Hot Water Bottles	50	1000		
Urinal Bottles	20		200	
Bed Pans	30		45	
Card Holders				250
Cribbage Boards				200
Draughts (Sets)			500 Sets	
Bread Boards			50	

PREVIOUS PATRIOTIC WORK.

From a perusal of the above reports it will thus be seen that the past year has been a busy one for Patriotic Workers, but it should also be said that in each of the two preceding years, similar devoted and successful work was accomplished.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

The Municipality of Footscray has an area of 2577 acres, and it has been described as the "Birmingham" of Australia. Being situated on the Maribyrnong River, it affords unbounded facilities for the establishment and growth of a hive of industries.

Starting its business career merely as a place where excellent bluestone was available for ballast or building Footscray is now rapidly becoming par excellence a manufacturing suburb, with ambition and determination to be the "Birmingham of the Southern Hemisphere." In fact it has one advantage Birmingham has not—its splendid waterway. Birmingham has to be content with its shallow man-made canals: Footscray has a great tidal river capable of floating right up to its wharves vessels of 8000 tons.

From a business point of view Footscray is unique among the inner suburbs of the metropolis in that though its boundary is but 3 miles from the Melbourne G.P.O. the city possesses many acres of unoccupied land suitable for factory sites, and a large untouched residential area, while contiguous to its boundaries is high and well-drained residential land.

It has no slums. Its building regulations provide that every citizen shall have a faithfully built home in healthy surroundings and with generous air-space.

Industrially the city is in the position (except in times of abnormal crisis) of being always employed. Its 160 factories keep 6000 breadwinners in constant work; more factories are being started every month and there are firms now negotiating for sites for works that will employ 1400 more hands. Within a radius of 4 miles are the Newport Engineering Shops, the Sunshine Harvester Works, Brooklyn and Flemington Meat Preserving Works, all employing great numbers of men. Footscray's South Ward—Yarraville—is the home of the fertiliser, glass-making, sugar-refining and chemical trades of Victoria. These great wage-paying concerns ensure a constant flow of money in the city.

In view of these facts there are various undertakings or propositions that call for the Council's constant and watchful attention.