



FEATURE STORY

War in the eyes of a child

By Chloe and Joel

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Helen Stendall was two when the war broke out. She spoke fondly of her experience growing up during the war. This is her story:

Helen's family lived where the Woolworths carpark now is. They were responsible for delivering mail from Cowra to Boorowa and fresh bread to farmers each day. She remembers one day when they had to drive through a bushfire to get the delivery done as this was such an important job. Her mother had to tuck her under the glove box in the hopes that if something were to happen she would be safe. Fortunately they made it through the fire without harm. She remembers enjoying talking to the farmers each day when they delivered the goods to them.



The Stendell's shearing shed converted from a military training camp barracks

She also spoke of the food shortage in Cowra during the war. This saw the introduction of coupons which were used to purchase food. These coupons were not simply given out to just anyone and were not easy to acquire.

The soldiers that were in Cowra at the time used to visit her family and they would go out in the trucks to Wyangala Dam every weekend. The soldiers also spent time with the family at their house where Mr. Stendall was taught by one of the soldiers to paint. This is something that he took with him after the war was over and continued to do. Their friendship that developed was a display of the ability of people to build them.

Helen Stendall's story is an intriguing recount of a child's perspective of war. Throughout this story we see that the war did impact the town, however the war did not have a huge effect on Helen's life. During her interview, Helen said multiple times that although she grew up during the war she believes that these were the best times to be a child.