



Reference Number: **2016.0060**

Collection/Series Title: **PAPUA NEW GUINEA - DIVISION
RECORDS**

Creator	Australian Red Cross Society, National Office
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Community organisations - Charities

Creator's Historical Note

Note: University of Melbourne Archives holds records of the Australian Red Cross National Office and the Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross. Records of other state Divisions are not held by the University of Melbourne.

Red Cross began in Australia on the 13th August 1914 in response to the start of the First World War nine days earlier. Modelled on the British Red Cross Society and initially established as a branch of that Society, it formed at the instigation of Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, wife of the Governor-General. Vice-regal patronage and a predominantly female membership continued to be features of the Red Cross throughout the twentieth century. The Australian society was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a national society in its own right in 1927 and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1941.

In keeping with the international Red Cross movement of which it is a part, and the Geneva Conventions which govern and vest its wartime role, the Australian Red Cross primary objectives are to alleviate human suffering and protect life and health, especially during armed conflicts and other emergency situations. Principles of humanity, impartiality and voluntary service guide its programs, which have evolved over the years in response to international and domestic needs.

The organisations development throughout the twentieth century has been extensively documented (see references at the end of this note), however the following points may assist researchers wishing to use Red Cross records held by the University of Melbourne Archives.

The organisations initial structure, still largely in place in the early 21st century, included three tiers of administration and activity. Its National Headquarters (later known as National Office) has been based in Melbourne since 1914. Divisions were established in all states and territories, most of them within weeks of the formation of the national body, and these operated with substantial autonomy until at least the 1950s and continued to be the locus of much of the organisations emergency and social services program delivery beyond this date. A Papua New Guinea Division also operated between 1940 and 1973 and subsequently became an independent national society. The third tier of the Red Cross is the extensive network of local branches which also commenced during World War I. These have been particularly active in wartime and it is through these branches that large numbers of Australians engage with and support the work of the Red Cross.

The scope and dates of operation of some distinctive Red Cross programs are:

Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs, later known as Voluntary Aid Service Corps or VACs) were first formed in 1915 to provide nursing and domestic services in Australian military hospitals and convalescent homes. In peacetime this largely female volunteer labour force has assisted during natural disasters and other emergencies. As an organisational entity VACs were phased out by the 1970s, however volunteer service continues to be integral to the organisations delivery of many of its programs.

Services to trace the whereabouts of missing and wounded service personnel were also first established in 1915. These services operated during both World Wars and after World War II evolved into services for tracing civilians displaced from their homelands in the aftermath of war and civil unrest. By the 1960s, with the growth of Red Cross role in disaster management, registration and enquiry services were set up to respond to inquiries about people displaced by natural disaster. The units responsible for this work and have been variously known as the Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau, Tracing Bureau, and the National Registration and Inquiry System. Like many Red Cross programs, administration of tracing services has gradually been centralised from state Divisions to national management. Note that Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau records from World War I are held by the Australian War Memorial.

Blood transfusion services were first established in 1929 in the Victorian Division and soon after in other states. These continued to be primarily state based services until 1996 although during the Second World War a level of national coordination was introduced to facilitate the supply of blood to the armed forces. In 1996, largely in response to the AIDS epidemic, the divisional services were amalgamated to form the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, a separate operating division of the Australian Red Cross.

References and Further Information

Melanie Oppenheimer: *The Power of Humanity: 100 Years of Australian Red Cross 1914-2014* (Sydney, Harper Collins, 2014)

Australian Red Cross web site: www.redcross.org.au (accessed June 2015)

Australian Red Cross Blood Service web site: <http://www.donateblood.com.au/about-us> (accessed June 2015)

Australian Red Cross has donated 100 years of archives to the University of Melbourne:

<http://www.redcross.org.au/gift-to-the-nation.aspx> (accessed June 2015)

Australian War Memorial, First World War Red Cross Wounded and Missing Files:

https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/wounded_and_missing/

Australian Womens Register entry for the Australian Red Cross:

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0715b.htm> (accessed June 2015). See also Register entries for individual women prominent within the Red Cross.

Creator	Papua New Guinea Red Cross
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Creator's Activity/Occupation	Community organisations - Charities
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Creator's Historical Note	<p>The Papua and New Guinea Divisions was formed in 1939 and operated until the Japanese invasion in 1942. In 1949 the Australian Parliament passed legislation to unite the territories of Papua and New Guinea which meant Australia Red Cross was the governing body. Following Papua New Guinea's independence in 1975, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross was established by an Act of Parliament (1976). See: http://redcross.org.pg/</p>
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Date Range of Collection/Series	1940-1997
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Size/Extent	1 unit (0.17m)
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Access Conditions	Access: Open
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Scope and Content of Collection/Series	
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[Red Cross Archives series reference: NO28]

Comprises draft and copies of the Constitution establishing Papua and New Guinea Division; as well as Regulations, Annual Reports, Activity Reports, Financial Statements, Workshop Reports and papers relating to Youth Voluntary Service Overseas in the Territory of Papua New Guinea.

See also records in the following series: Correspondence Files, National Headquarters (2015.0033); Australian Red Cross Royal Charter, rules and constitution (2016.0052); Awards, honours, medals, citations (2016.0053). As well as individual item: Junior First Aid for Papua New Guinea (2016.0051.00055); Australian Red Cross Society Regulations Papua New Guinea Division Adopted (2016.0052.00028); Halpim Pikinini (Helping Children) International Project Papua New Guinea (2016.0057.00012); Helping Hands: Reach out for PNG, International Project (2016.0057.00013); Official Record of the Unveiling of the Mount Lamington Memorial Popondetta Cemetery, Papua (2016.0057.00050); Gramophone recording of Papua New Guinea Red Cross Choir (2016.0077.0004)

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UM Archives holds a number of collections which pertain to Papua New Guinea. Enquire of our Reference Services, or search our online catalogue
<http://gallery.its.unimelb.edu.au/imu/imu.php?request=search>

Researchers should note that under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 protections govern the use of the Red Cross emblem. For further information see Archives staff.

Collection Category	Community and Political, organisations
This document dated	7/04/2017

Box/Unit	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00001	Report	30 June 1940	Report by Mr E T Brennan, Chairman of the New Guinea Division, on its activities.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00002	Second Annual Report and Financial Statements	1940-1941	Typed and bound with a hand written cover, and includes black and white photos and newspaper clippings.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00003	New Guinea Division Constitution	1940-1941	Includes copy of the draft Constitution of the ARCS New Guinea Division and suggested amendments from the Secretary-General Alfred Brown. Also includes a copy of the ARCS New Guinea Division Constitution dated 1941.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00004	Annual Report	1948-1949	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00005	Annual Report	1950-1951	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00006	Regulations of the Papua and New Guinea Division	1951	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00007	Annual Report	1951-1952	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00008	Activities - Reports from the Papua and New Guinea Division	1953	Includes report on visit to Gemo Island Hospital with accompanying photos.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00009	Annual Report	1954	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00010	Papua and New Guinea Division	1954-1955	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00011	Reports on the Activities of the Papua and New Guinea Division	1955-1956	Includes reports of activities from October 1955 to June 1956.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00012	Annual Report and Financial Statements	1956- 30 June 1957	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00013	Book of Annual Reports of the Australian Red Cross, Papua and New Guinea Division	1959-1963	Annual Report and Financial Statement 1959-1960. Annual Report and Financial Statement 1961-1962 (This report with recommendations was submitted by Miss Helen M Bros who was part of a team of 6 Red Cross VAD's who went to Papua New Guinea to assist with t
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00014	Papua and New Guinea Annual Reports (bound)	1963-1972	18th (1963-1964), 19th (1964-1965), 20th (1965-1966), 21st (1966-1967), 22nd (1967-1968), 23rd (1968-1969) Annual Report and Financial Statements. 1970-1971 and 1971-1972 Annual Reports.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00015	Youth Voluntary Service Overseas in the Territory of Papua New Guinea	1965-1966	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00016	21st Annual General Meeting, Interim Report	1966-1967	
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00017	Annual report	1972-1973	Red Cross previous control number 2-20. 'This item was missing at the time of transfer of the series from Red Cross Archives to the University of Melbourne Archives (May 2016)'.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00018	Papua New Guinea Red Cross Annual Report	1973-1974	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00019	National Workshop Report	1983	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00020	Annual Report	1984	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00021	Annual Report	1985	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00022	Annual Report	1986	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00023	Annual Report	1989	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00024	Annual Report	1990	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00025	Souvenir Programme, Miss Papua New Guinea	1993	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00026	Annual Report	1996	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.
2016.0060 Unit 1	2016.0060.00027	Annual Report	1997	Red Cross previous control number 2-20.

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