



Reference Number: **2016.0052**

Collection/Series Title: **AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS ROYAL
CHARTER, RULES OF THE SOCIETY**

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 organisation's 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.

Date Range of Collection/Series	1923-2005
Size/Extent	2 units (0.34m)
Access Conditions	Access: Open

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

[Red Cross Archives series reference: NO7] Comprises documents relating to the establishment of the Australian Red Cross by Royal Charter, granting the rights, powers and the terms of reference of the society. This series comprises additions and amendments to the Royal Charter (1928) and Supplemental Charter (1999), as well as correspondence regarding its history in being recognised as a separate body from the British Red Cross (2016.0052.00001).

This series also contains records relating to governance the Rules of the Australian Red Cross Society, as well as comprising regulations, by-laws, rules, objectives and management of branches within the Divisions of New South Wales, Victorian, Tasmanian, Northern Territory, Western Australian, Capital Territory, Queensland, and South Australia as well as regulations of the Papua New Guinea Division (2016.0052.0028) which was previously attached to the Queensland Division. Further records relating to Papua New Guinea - Division Records (2016.0060).

Documents have been gathered together by the Red Cross - National Office and arranged chronologically.

Published resources relating to the Royal Charter and the Rules of the Australian Red Cross Society :

http://www.redcross.org.au/files/Royal_Charter_Consolidated_and_Fourth_Supplemental_Charter.pdf

http://www.redcross.org.au/files/ARC_RULES.pdf

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

22/03/2017

**To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives
Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.**

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 1	History of Royal Charter	1939-1977	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 2	Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules - Australian Red Cross Society	1947	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 3	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules - signed copy	1962	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 4	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1962-1968	1968 issue and 1968 issue with updates.
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 5	Royal Charter and Rules Correspondence	1986	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 6	The Australian Red Cross Society (BRCS) Regulations for Lectures and Examinations	1935	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 7	Australian Red Cross Society Charters and Regulations	1949-1968	Includes index.
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 8	Australian Red Cross Society Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1941	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0000 9	Rules of the Australian Red Cross Society	1941-1985	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0001 0	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1968-1985	1968 document with amendments to 1985.
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0001 1	Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules - Australian Red Cross Society	1941-1942	1941 document with Amendments 1942.
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0001 2	Constitution of the Australian Red Cross Society	1923-1940	
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0001 3	Draft Charter of Incorporation of Rules	1941	

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Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0052 Unit 1	2016.0052.0001 4	Victorian Division, Australian Branch, British Red Cross Society - Constitution and Information for the Use of Local Branches	Oct-16	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0001 5	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1987	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0001 6	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1993	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0001 7	Royal Charter and Supplemental Charters of Incorporation and Rules	1961-1999	Royal Charter and Supplemental Charters of Incorporation (1961 & 1999) and Rules - Issued 1999.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0001 8	Australian Red Cross - Consolidated Charter including Royal Charter, Supplemental Charters and Rules	28 June 1941-1 April 2005	Australian Red Cross - Consolidated Charter including Royal Charter 28 June 1941, Supplemental Charters of 4 November 1961, 19 April 1999 and 1 April 2005 and Rules as at 1 April 2005.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0001 9	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1996	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 0	Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules	1997	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 1	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations and By-Laws and Rules of Guidance for Red Cross branches - New South Wales Division	1947	Revised 1947 Issue.

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Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 2	Royal Charter and Rules and Rules for Guidance of Red Cross Branches of the Queensland Division	1940-1949	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 3	Regulations South Australian Division of Australian Red Cross Society	1970	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 4	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations of Victorian Division	1941	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 5	Regulations for the Management of the Tasmanian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society	1943	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 6	Australian Red Cross Regulations for the Management of Branches of the Northern Territory Division - Decentralising A Division's Work	1943-Decemb er 1961	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 7	Regulations Governing, for the Management of Branches, and for the Management of Younger Sets of the Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society	1942-1964	Regulations Governing the Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society 1942; Regulations for the Management of Branches of the Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society 1945; Regulations for the Management of Younger Sets of the Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society 1964.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 8	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations Papua New Guinea Division Adopted	1951	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0002 9	Australian Red Cross Society Australian Capital Territory Division Regulations	1965	

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Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 0	Regulations for Branches and Official Representatives -Victorian Division	1958	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 1	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations of Victorian Division	1969-1982	1969 document with 1981 and 1982 amendments.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 2	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations of Victorian Division	1969-1979	1969 document with 1979 amendments.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 3	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations of Victorian Division	1969	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 4	Bound Volume - Australian Red Cross Society (Victorian Division)	1941-1942	Bound Volume - Australian Red Cross Society (Victorian Division) containing Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules 1941, Victorian Division Regulations 1942, Regulations for Management of Branches 1940 and Regulations for Management of Companies 1942.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 5	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations and By-Laws and Rules for Guidance of Red Cross Branches - New South Wales Division	1952	Revised 1952 Issue.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 6	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations of Victorian Division	1942	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 7	Australian Red Cross Society Regulations of Victorian Division	1987	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 8	Australian Red Cross Society Australian Capital Territory Division By-Laws for Branches	1992	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0003 9	Australian Red Cross Society Victorian Division Regulations for Management of Branches; Regulations for Management of Companies	1941-1942	Australian Red Cross Society Victorian Division Regulations for Management of Branches 1940; Regulations for Management of Companies 1942.

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Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0004 0	Australian Red Cross Society Royal Charter and Rules and Regulations for Guidance of Red Cross Branches of the New South Wales Division	1941	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0004 1	Rules Governing the Election of Council Members by the Divisions (All States)	1935-1945	
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0004 2	Rules for the Guidance of Red Cross Society Branch Committees issued by the NSW Division	1935-1943	Rules for the Guidance of Red Cross Society Branch Committees issued by the NSW Division (Inc.) 1935; Royal Charter of Incorporation - Regulations of the New South Wales Division 1943; Australian Red Cross Society New South Wales Division - Outline of Rules and Regulations Covering the Activities of the Red Cross Younger Sets.
2016.0052 Unit 2	2016.0052.0004 3	Australian Red Cross Society South Australian Division - Aims and Objectives, Rules and Regulations and Policy for Branches and District Executive Committees	1935-1945	Australian Red Cross Society South Australian Division - Aims and Objectives, Rules and Regulations and Policy for Branches and District Executive Committees; Regulations for Uniformed Members of Australian Red Cross Society; Regulations for Members of Emergency Services.

End of List