



Records Description List

Reference Number: **2016.0058**

Collection/Series Title: **JUNIOR RED CROSS AND
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS YOUTH
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.

Date Range of Collection/Series	1950-2002
Size/Extent	2 units (0.34m)
Access Conditions	Access: Open

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

[Red Cross Archives series reference: NO21]

Comprises records arising from a range of youth activities such as conferences, national camps, training programmes, courses and other events. Records include rules of the organisation, reports on activities and operational priorities, statistics, historical notes, agenda, financial summaries, correspondence, training course material, booklets and camp ephemera.

Includes records relating to camps in Geelong, Mt Evelyn, Point Lonsdale, Perth, W.A, as well as a biennial National Gumbooya camps (Indigenous for meeting place) held throughout Australia. Also includes records relating to technical seminar for Asia Pacific region "Konnichiwa Japan 1970; an International Study Centre in Istanbul.

The Australian Junior Red Cross was founded in New South Wales in August 1914 by Mrs Eleanor MacKinnon, with the original aim of involving children in supporting the recuperation of soldiers, as well as assisting soldier's children. Subsequently the movement evolved to focus on developing the humanitarian and public service ethos amongst young people through education programs, participation and activities that encouraged active citizenship and community participation. In the 1970s the Australian Junior Red Cross changed its name to Red Cross Youth and became part of the Youth and Education Service Department (YES), focusing on people under 30 years. See: Australian Women's register: Youth and Education Services, Australian Red Cross (1914-)
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0717b.htm>

Researchers should also refer to: Victorian Division - Junior Red Cross Index Cards (2016.0072) pertaining to Junior Red Cross activities in schools. See also the National Office Poster series (2016.0076) and Junior Red Cross and Australian Red Cross Youth Publications (2016.0051), Junior Red Cross in Precis Department Notes (2016.0054.00009)

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

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00001	[Junior Red Cross] Conference	1950
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00002	Camps - National - Morongo, Geelong [Junior Red Cross]	1953
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00003	International exhibition - Arts and crafts - [Junior Red Cross]	1954
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00004	National Junior Leadership Training Centre	1955
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00005	National Youth Conference	1973
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00006	Youth - Statistics, priorities, directions	1977-1994
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00007	Gumbooya	1992
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00008	National Red Cross Youth Conference	1993
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00009	Turning Vision Into Reality - National Red Cross Youth Conference, Perth	1995
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00010	National Youth Resource Development Workshop	1996
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00011	Camps - National - [Junior Red Cross]	1951-1952
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00012	Report of National Youth Conference	1971
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00013	Australian national Junior Red Cross conference plus meeting of international Junior Red Cross representatives	1955-1956
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00014	Red Cross Youth - Gumbooya	1969-1970
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00015	Red Cross Youth - Konnichiwa	1970
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00016	Gumbooya	1976
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00017	Gumbooya	1988
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00018	Mt Evelyn - National Red Cross Youth Camp	1989
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00019	Gumbooya	1990
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00020	National Red Cross Youth Camp	1991
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00021	Gumbooya	1993-1994
2016.0058 Unit 1	2016.0058.00022	Summary of historical information about Gumbooya	1993-1995
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00023	International Study Centre, Istanbul	1954
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00024	Junior Red Cross First Aid Certificate - Examination	1954
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00025	Reports - National Secretary [of Junior Red Cross]	1954
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00026	Objects and rules [of the Junior Red Cross and Youth]	1954
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00027	Historical facts about Australian Junior Red Cross	1956
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00028	Gumbooya	1997
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00029	International Junior Red Cross Study Centre - Point Lonsdale	1955-1956
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00030	Junior Red Cross Leadership Training Centre	1956-1957
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00031	Youth Coordinator's Conference - Report	18 July 1983-19 July 1983
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00032	International Youth Year Planning Seminar	February 1984
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00033	Red Cross Youth programs in Australia	c.1989
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00034	Resource List for Junior Red Cross Circles and Red Cross Youth Groups	1989-1990
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00035	Australian Red Cross - International Youth Conference	2000
2016.0058 Unit 2	2016.0058.00036	Australian Red Cross - International Youth Conference	2002

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