

Junior Red Cross Society

1918 - 1995?

Other Names: • Red Cross Youth

Details

The Junior Red Cross Society was formally established in Australia in 1918, as part of the Australian Red Cross. It was a children's and youth division, which had regional committees. Various branches of the Junior Red Cross Society set up and ran Homes in various locations around Australia, as part of its peacetime programs. These Junior Red Cross Homes were for the temporary care of children of Australian servicemen, needing to convalesce from illness or a holiday. In the 1970s, the organisation was known as Red Cross Youth. In 1995, the Red Cross established a new Youth and Education Service (YES).

The Junior Red Cross Society was founded by Eleanor MacKinnon, and two children's Homes in New South Wales were named in her memory. According to Robinson, after it was established in 1918, the Juniors supported soldiers, but gradually began to support 'children of soldiers, children who were sick, and children in need in their own right' (Australian Women's Register, 2004).

An article from 1946 states that the establishment of hostels and convalescent homes for children was part of the Junior Red Cross' peacetime programme (Weekly Times).

The Jerilderie Herald and Urana Advertiser, 1951, reported that the Junior Red Cross Homes were maintained primarily for children of ex-servicemen, however other sick and needy children and new Australians between the ages of four and fourteen were cared for in the Homes. The average length of stay was six weeks.

Writing about the Cudgelo Junior Red Cross Home which at that time was located in Yass due to the Second World War, the Yass Tribune-Courier described the typical children who were placed in these Homes:

The children are all in need of country change and restorative care, beyond the means of their parents, and it is hoped that the same success will attend the running of the home at "Linton" as the Red Cross has achieved with its other homes, where many sons and daughters of fighting fathers have been built up to normal healthy, by timely care and treatment (23 July 1942).

Another article from August 1942 described a group of girls staying at the Home in Yass:

These little girls are all under fourteen years and, sad comment on our times, some of them are suffering from nerves. Practically all of them put on weight at the home and return to Sydney with new strength and surely a happier outlook on life ... The happiness and new health brought into the children's lives is due to the generosity of Mrs. Triggs [who donated the use of a wing at her home, "Linton"] and the splendid organization of the Red Cross Society. The members of the Yass Junior Red Cross play their part, visiting

The Junior Red Cross Society ceased to exist around 1995.

Gallery



There are kiddies from back of Bourke among this happy group of youngsters in the water at Ramsgate, where they are the guests of the Junior Red Cross

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the image shows a group of girls swimming in the sea.

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- Australian Red Cross (1914 current)
- Eleanor MacKinnon Memorial Home (1951 1997)
- Glen Mervyn Junior Red Cross Home (c. 1973 c. 1992)
- Juong Red Cross Home (1925 1945)
- Shuna Red Cross Home (1925 c. 1951)
- Kippilaw (1945 1950)
- Berida Junior Red Cross Home (c. 1950 1974)
- Cudgelo Junior Red Cross Home (1923 1951)
- Wongala Junior Red Cross Home (25 October 1947 1952)
- Eleanor MacKinnon Memorial Junior Red Cross Home (February 15 1938 1951)
- Red Cross Home, Margate (1945 1975)
- Junior Red Cross Home, Glenelg (1959 1968)
- Lady Hore-Ruthven Junior Red Cross Home (1946 1959)
- Lady Norrie Junior Red Cross Children's Home (1947 1959)
- Junior Red Cross Home, Henley Beach (1933 1946)

Resources

- For the sake of the children: the Red Cross wants to involve you in this year's appeal, Australian Women's Weekly, 1978
- Five Hundred Miles...for Health!, Australian Women's Weekly, 2 December 1933
- "Choklit Pudding for Dinner": relief of mind for an ex-RAAF, The Sunday Herald, 18 February 1951
- Red Cross gives girl holiday, The West Wyalong Advocate, 13 February 1950

Records

Records

- Records of Red Cross Children's Homes (1918? 1990s)
- Archives of the Australian Red Cross Society, New South Wales Division, 1914-2014 (1914 2014)
- Australian Red Cross Collection, University of Melbourne Archives (1914 2014)
- Records of the Australian Red Cross Society, South Australian Division (1925 1984)

