

# Junior Red Cross Society

1918 – 1995?

**Other Names:** • Red Cross Youth

## Details

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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 children every Friday and taking them gifts (Yass Tribune-Courier).*

The Junior Red Cross Society ceased to exist around 1995.

## Gallery

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**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.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

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

### 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

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### Records held by other organisations

- [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 \(1925 - 1984\)](#)
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