
Good & Useful Work: A Century of Red Cross in South Australia

GOOD + USEFUL WORK

A CENTURY OF RED CROSS
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

As part of the world's largest humanitarian movement, Red Cross has been part of Australian life since the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross was established nine days after the outbreak of the First World War.

Originally produced as part of the Red Cross centenary celebrations of 2014, this travelling exhibition *Good & Useful Work* traces the history of the South Australian division of the Red Cross through stories, images and objects printed on seven double-sided pull up banners.

Hundreds of branches have existed over the century in South Australia. Seven of these have operated continuously since 1914 - Blackwood, Burra, Gawler, Kulpara, Milang, Murray Bridge and Tea Tree Gully. Thousands of South Australians, predominantly women, of all ages and from all walks of life, joined Red Cross. In December 1915 Red Cross in South Australia, with the support of Adelaide's legal profession, established a unique Information Bureau to help families search for missing soldiers. It was one of the first branches in Australia to form Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) for specific war work. After a century and millions of hours of service given by thousands of people, in constantly changing circumstances, Red Cross in South Australia has a proud history.

The exhibition was developed in partnership with the South Australian division of Australian Red Cross and curated by consultant historians Kate Walsh and Yvonne Routledge. *Good and Useful Work* was supported by a grant from the federal government's Your Community Heritage program. It opened as a month-long exhibition, including objects from Red Cross, at the State Library of South Australia, from 8 May 2014, and then started its tour of regional and metropolitan Red Cross branches and community venues. The display continues to travel to highlight the good and useful work of the Red Cross.

The 14 panels are pictured here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/communityhistorysa/sets/72157651161583565/>

Banner 1 / 2

- Intro
- Beginnings in Europe 19th century

Banner 2/3

- Untiring Industry 1914-1918
- With 'Devotion, Mercy and Self-Sacrifice' 1914-1918

Banner 5 / 6

- With Peace, a New Purpose 1920s & 1930s
- 'The Health and Healing of Humanity' 1920s & 1930s

Banner 7 / 8

- One Hundred per cent war effort 1939-1945
- Those missing, suffering, threatened & in need 1939-1945

Banner 9 / 10

- Boom & Babies 1950s – 1970s
- Mother, Babies & 'New Australians' 1950s – 1970s

Banner 11 / 12

- Global Challenges 1980s -1990s
- Responding to Needs at Home & Overseas 1980s – 1990s

Banner 13 / 14

- Good & useful Work continues 21st century
- The Challenge of Change 21st century

