



Letter to the Editor

For immediate release, September/October 2010

Red Cross creating history for centenary

Dear Editor

Red Cross is about to publish a book to celebrate the centenary of Red Cross in Australia in 2014 and we would like as many people as possible to share their personal stories about how Red Cross has touched their lives.

The book will be written by historian Associate Professor Melanie Oppenheimer from the School of Humanities at the University of New England. Associate Professor Oppenheimer has a number of significant books to her credit including *Australian Women and War* (2008) commissioned by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and *All Work. No Pay. Australian Civilian Volunteers in War* (2003).

The Australian Branch of Red Cross was established in 1914, by the wife of the Governor General, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson who turned the ballroom of Government House into a workshop for Red Cross relief efforts during World War I.

Almost one hundred years later, in the wake of the Victorian bushfires we saw the same spirit of volunteerism alive and well in Red Cross, as volunteers from around Australia came forward to help feed evacuees, provide emotional support, reconnect families and raise tens of millions of dollars for the Bushfire Appeal.

In addition to writing the history of Red Cross, we are also hosting the General Assembly and Council of Delegates meetings of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in November 2013. We will launch the Centenary History and our wider Centenary Year celebrations during the General Assembly.

The opportunity to host these prestigious meetings is not only significant for Red Cross in Australia but for Red Cross Societies throughout the Asia Pacific.

To find out more about the Red Cross Centenary Year or to tell your personal story about Red Cross go to the Red Cross website at redcross.org.au or send an email to centenary2014@redcross.org.au

Robert Tickner
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Red Cross

ENDS

Media Adviser, Bruce Wardley 0439 384 676