

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0748

Creswick, Alice Ishbel Hay

(1889 - 1973)

Born 21 September, 1889, Aberdeen Scotland

Died 24 October, 1973, Armadale Victoria Australia

Occupation Early Childhood Educationist, Red Cross leader

Summary

Alice Creswick (née Reid) is best known for her work in the Free Kindergarten Union (FKU) although she was also an important figure in the Australian Red Cross Society (ARCS) during World War 2. A woman of considerable energy and acumen, she developed a life-long interest in the area of early childhood development. She was president of the committee of the Lady Northcote Free Kindergarten for ten years (1928-1938) and joined the executive of the Free Kindergarten Union (FKU), becoming president in 1939. In 1940, she was 'headhunted' by the Australian Red Cross Society, when they asked her to become its principal commandant. In this capacity, she travelled widely, both inspecting and establishing Red Cross services and activities. She resigned from this position in 1946 and immediately resumed her presidency of the FKU, picking up where she left off as an energetic leader who tirelessly lobbied the government for greater support for pre-school training. Ill health forced her to resign in 1949, but she maintained her interest and activism in the area of early childhood development. She died in 1973, leaving large bequests to the organisations she supported in her lifetime: the FKU, the Australian Red Cross and the Anglican Church.

Events

1940 - 1946

Principal Commandant of Women Personnel for the Australian Red Cross Society

1946 - 1949

Junior Vice Chairman of the Australian Red Cross Society

2010 - 2010

Married Henry Forbes

1928 - 1938

President of the Lady Northcote Free Kindergarten

1939 - 1940

President of the Free Kindergarten Union

1947 - 1947

Appointed a dame of grace of the Order of St John

1948 - 1948

Represented the Australian Red Cross at the Stockholm conference

1954 - 1954

Represented the Australian Red Cross at the Oslo conference

1946 - 2049

President of the Free Kindergarten Union

1947 - 1947

Gained State government help for the extension of buildings and facilities at the Kindergarten Training College, Kew

1949 - 1949

Visited pre-schools in England, France and Sweden

2049 - 2049

Appointed life vice-president of the Free Kindergarten Union

1939 - 1939

Foundation vice-president of the Australian Association of Pre-School Child Development (later Australian Pre-School Association)

1953 - 1953

Established the Colombo Plan pre-school standing committee of the Australian Pre-School Association

1955 - 1955

Founded the Alice Creswick scholarship fund (later named the Alice Creswick and Sheila Kington scholarship)

1958 - 1958

Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1950, Alexander, Joseph A, 1950

Resource Section

Creswick, Alice Ishbel Hay (1889-1973), Langmore, Diane, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130594b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia

[Biographical cuttings on Alice Creswick, noted in Australian pre-school quarterly, Feb. 1967, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Author Details

Anne Heywood

Created 16 February 2004

Last modified 14 August 2015