

Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: AWE0748

# Creswick, Alice Ishbel Hay

(1889 - 1973)

Born	18890921, Aberdeen Scotland
Died	19731024, 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

### **1947 - 1947**

Appointed a dame of grace of the Order of St John

### **1949 - 1949**

Appointed life vice-president of the Free Kindergarten Union

### **1958 - 1958**

Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire

### **1953 - 1953**

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

### **1939 - 1939**

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

### **1955 - 1955**

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

### **1947 - 1947**

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

### **1946 - 1949**

Junior Vice Chairman of the Australian Red Cross Society

### **1910 - 1910**

Married Henry Forbes

### **1939 - 1940**

President of the Free Kindergarten Union

### **1946 - 1949**

President of the Free Kindergarten Union

### **1928 - 1938**

President of the Lady Northcote Free Kindergarten

### **1940 - 1946**

Principal Commandant of Women Personnel for the Australian Red Cross Society

### **1954 - 1954**

Represented the Australian Red Cross at the Oslo conference

### **1948 - 1948**

Represented the Australian Red Cross at the Stockholm conference

### **1949 - 1949**

Visited pre-schools in England, France and Sweden

## 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

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