

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0134

## MacKinnon, Eleanor Vokes Irby

(1871 - 1936)

---

**Born** 8 February, 1871, Tenterfield Victoria Australia

---

**Died** 31 January, 1936

---

**Occupation** Red Cross leader

---

### Summary

Eleanor MacKinnon, a foundation honorary secretary to the New South Wales Division of the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Society in August 1914, remained a member of the state executive and finance committees and a delegate to the central council until her death in 1936. After her marriage to physician Roger MacKinnon in 1896, and the birth of their two sons at Warialda, they moved to North Sydney in 1903. Eleanor MacKinnon was involved in a range of activities, which included learning to paint and membership of a number of benevolent and political societies. Her major contribution was to the Red Cross Society and she founded the world's first Junior Red Cross division, with its motto, 'the child for the child' and remained its honorary director until 1935. In addition she created the *Red Cross Record* in 1914, editing it for twenty-one years, the *Junior Red Cross Record* in 1918 and compiled the *Red Cross Knitting* and *Cookery* books. She was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil), in 1918, for her contribution to the Red Cross Society. Subsequently she visited the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies in Paris in 1925, and from 1925-1926 worked to reconstruct the Red Cross in Australia for a peace time role. She was awarded the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935 in recognition of her contribution to hospitals and health care in Australia.

### Published resources

#### Edited Book

The War workers gazette: a record of organised civilian war effort in New South Wales: compiled for the benefit of the War Chest Fund, January 1918, Constance Sly and E MacKinnon, 1918

#### Resource Section

MacKinnon, Eleanor Vokes Irby (1871 - 1836), Abbott, Jacqueline Abbott, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100306b.htm>

#### Book

The lilies of France and other poems, MacKinnon, E. ( Eleanor ), 1917

#### Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Author Details

Rosemary Francis

**Created** 3 October 2002

**Last modified** 4 May 2009