

## *Little Angels of the Junior Red Cross*

**In the early years of the movement the Junior Red Cross schoolgirls wore a uniform of a white frock, shoes and stockings. The girls' white uniform was symbolic of the ministering angel imagery used in the Red Cross recruitment posters throughout the 1940s.**

- The earliest efforts by children of the Camden district to help the Red Cross occurred in 1914 at The Oaks Public School, where girls at the school raised money and sent it to the Sydney Red Cross headquarters.
- The Junior Red Cross movement was founded in NSW in 1918, and the first Junior Red Cross Circle was formed in 1918 at Camden Public School. Schoolgirls undertook the sewing of soldiers' comforts, such as jumpers and socks, and the Camden Red Cross branch gave them a spinning wheel and wool to support their work.
- By the 1940s there were 7 Junior Red Cross Circles at Bringelly, Camden, Gilbulla, Menangle, Central Burragorang, Narellan and Rossmore. After the Second World War the number of Circles declined.
- The longest-running Junior Red Cross Circle was at Camden Public School, particularly under the inspired leadership of the teacher, Miss Penny Love, from 1985 to 2008, when the NSW Red Cross decided to close the organisation.

**The Junior Red Cross provided an informal education in citizenship, stressing the values of voluntary service, hard work, self-denial and patriotism.**

*Violet Chesham, Junior Red Cross, 1918*

