

Refugees, Migrants and War Effort

“When we came to Ballarat – no one wanted to know us. I determined then, that if any of my efforts could prevent it, no one would ever be lonely again” (Dr Fanny Reading)

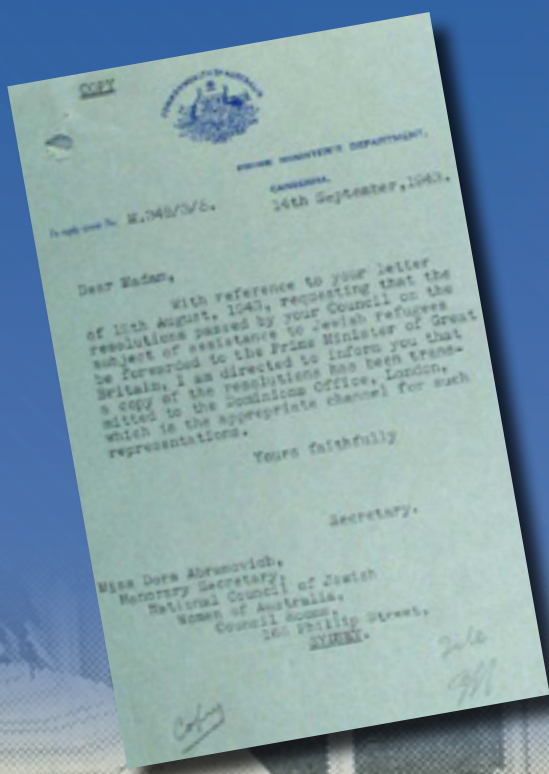
Refugees and Migrants

- Council was the first Jewish women’s organisation in Sydney to provide assistance to immigrants on their arrival **“...give Jewish immigrants a home amongst us, their own people....”** (Dr. Fanny Reading)
- In 1928 Council established the Men’s Hostel in Day St. Sydney for new immigrants.
- Throughout the 1920s, 30s and 40s, Council members met all boats with refugees from Europe at the Sydney wharves, providing them with accommodation, jobs, English language classes and other support. **“On one occasion for four days, 24 hours around the clock, a Council canteen was operating on the wharf feeding new arrivals”** (NCJW Council Bulletin, 1941).



NCJW meeting Jewish refugees at the wharves

- During the war period Dr Fanny Reading, on behalf of NCJW, lobbied the Prime Ministers of Australia and Great Britain to increase the numbers of Jewish refugees allowed into Australia and Palestine.



- From 1946 NCJW again met the new influx of post World War II refugees from Shanghai and Europe.
- NSW Division supported immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s, supplying household furniture, goods and clothing, a Russian language library and Israeli Russian newspapers at Council House.



NCJWA cooking demonstration for Russian immigrants 1990

- NCJW NSW supported the Monash Recreation Hut and Anzac Buffet at Hyde Park and the Community Chest War Shop in Her Majesty’s Arcade, with donations and volunteer workers.
- Aid in the form of **“clothes and other comforts”** (NCJW Council Bulletin, 1941) was sent to 1800 Jewish Internees in Hay.
- 14 beds donated for a ward at the Lady Wakefield Home for convalescent soldiers.

- Three Mobile Food Canteens were presented by NCJW to Sydney, London and Palestine. Each served four hundred people daily.



War Effort

- **“We were given a valuable block of land in Martin Place...for the duration of the war...and we built at our own expense, a Refreshment Kiosk”** (Sydney Jewish News 1962).
- A monthly roster of 160 Council volunteers operated the Kiosk six days a week to raise money for the war effort. The food was cooked at home and brought in to the city.

- NCJW War effort committees included the Soldier Comfort Sewing and Knitting Circles, Button Days, and Mobile Library for Convalescent Soldiers – 10,000 knitted and sewn articles contributed annually.
- Council raised £8,441 between 1940 and 1944 for the Lord Mayor’s Patriotic and War Fund.



Robert (Bob) Heffron, M.P. for Botany NSW opening NCJW Kiosk



NCJW Refreshment Kiosk in WWII

CJW - original name of organisation
NCJW - refers to National Body, now known as NCJWA
NCJW NSW & NCJWA NSW - refer to NSW Division