



# Matilda

NOVEMBER, 1937.

# Evan Evans Pty. Ltd.

680-8 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE, C.1.

Official Canvas Goods House to the Girl Guides' Association.

**SPECIAL CONCESSIONS OFF LIST PRICES**

**TO ALL GIRL GUIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

Write for Particulars to Your Headquarters, or Direct to Us.

TENTS and FLYS  
GROUNDSHEETS  
CAMPING GOODS

FLAGS  
TRAVEL RUGS  
CAMP BEDS

WATERPROOFS  
SLEEPING BAGS  
MATTRESSES

## SPORTING GOODS

We have  
arranged  
to allow  
Concessions  
on all  
Sporting  
Goods.



Write to  
Us  
for Our  
List,  
Prices  
and  
Particulars.

TENNIS, GOLF, CRICKET, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL AND INDOOR  
GAMES.

**SUPPORT THE FIRM WHO SUPPORT YOU**

# ''Matilda''

An Official Treasure Bag for Guiders' Information for Victoria, Australia.  
OPEN DAILY, from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. SATURDAYS, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Price: 3/- Per Year; 4/- Posted. Single Copies, 6d. each.

Editor: MARGOT ANDERSON, Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, C.I.

VOL. XIV.

NOVEMBER, 1937.

No 5.

## EDITORIAL.

The Committee was very cheered by the unanimous decision of the Guiders at the Conference that they were very satisfied with "Matilda."

We only need financial success now to make us perfectly happy. Make sure that you have paid your subscription for this year, as there is only one month left to do so.

—o0o—

## WHAT WE ARE DOING.

This month has definitely been a month of Conferences, therefore one of interest and importance. A great number of people only think of Conferences as gatherings of "Talkers," often the same "Talkers," but of course they are not that at all. The meaning of the word "Conference" is, an appointed meeting for instruction or discussion. Instruction in these days has something active, interesting and alive about it, and discussion is quite different from listening to "Talkers." Also we have the feeling of getting together to work out problems and difficulties. It is a great incentive to further effort for all to meet together at least once a year to do this. We find we are not the only ones finding things a little difficult, or becoming perhaps a little tired of trying to carry out our ideas in our work.

The Commissioners' Conference held this year at Lorne was very successful. About 32 Commissioners attended, and a large proportion of these were country ones. It was more like a training week, as Commissioners had especially asked for this. So many Commissioners who have not been Guiders feel it is a help to actually do the things that they have only known about theoretically, so they had a very active week, and an exceptionally successful one.

The Guiders' Conference also covered a great deal of ground this year; some country Guiders were prevented from attending because of the Infantile Paralysis outbreak, but there seemed to be a great number there, and exceptionally keen interest was taken in discussions. And what a delightful and fitting close to the Conference was the Guiders' Own on Sunday afternoon at Warrandyte. There, in beautiful surroundings — the peace and tranquility of the country, among friends and fellow-workers, one was able to recapture the driving fire of enthusiasm, and restrengthen the spirit of endeavour.

Goethe says, "Thinking is easy, action is

difficult, to act in accordance with one's thoughts is the most difficult thing in the world."

But Guides enjoy difficulties.

ENID FAULKNER.

—o0o—

## VICTORIAN GUIDERS' CONFERENCE.

25th September, 1937.

Approximately two hundred Guiders and Commissioners were present at the Conference, and messages of good wishes were received from Lady Gowrie and from the N.S.W. Guiders.

The Conference was opened by Mrs. Faulkner, who welcomed the Guiders. Mrs. Faulkner spoke of the "active and passive voices" of present day life, and said that each of us had the opportunity to decide what her role would be—whether she should be an active or a passive voice. The tendency of modern living was to follow the lead given by some else—wireless, newspaper, pictures—rather than to think constructively and to act. By our activity we make the only original contribution we can to the world. And Mrs. Faulkner (as a true Guider should) drove home the moral with a story.

"A man came upon three workmen. To the first he said: 'What are you doing?' The man answered 'Breaking stones.' Then the passerby asked the second workman: 'Oh, I'm earning a shilling a day.' But when he asked the third, the workman said 'I am building a cathedral!'"

It was proposed by Miss Cornell, seconded by Miss Anderson, that the Minutes of the previous Conference be taken as read.

Miss Broadhurst then spoke on the new uniform, a specimen of which was shown to the conference. She impressed upon the Guiders that the Shop is one of the main sources of income to the movement in Victoria, and that by buying our goods at the shop we are helping ourselves to be self-supporting. A new price list has been published, and there is a much larger range of articles now in stock. The new uniform is designed to be as practical and as inexpensive as possible. The material is as used by Imperial Headquarters, and the colour is guaranteed.

After the group discussion on the uniform (which included, inter alia, comments on Brownie overalls, Service, stars, and that hardy perennial, the Guider's hat!) the following motion was proposed by Miss Lardner, and seconded by Miss Porter:

"This conference approves of the design of

the Guide uniform and recommends that attention might be given to the redesigning of the Brownie uniform."

Miss Boyes then spoke on the Guide House, and told us of the prospective possibility at Britannia Creek, complete with most of the things that the heart of a Guider could desire, including a swimming pool. She also announced that anyone who felt so disposed could endow a day at the Guide House, and said that 102 specific "days" had already been chosen.

After an excited discussion, which included prices of fares, distances, number of camps which could be run at one time, and even whether suitable vegetables for campers could be grown, Miss Armstrong proposed, and Miss Holtz seconded the following motion—

The camp site is desirable and approved.

This conference would like to express its appreciation of the Camp House Committee and recommends that a field or sports day be held to enable as many Guides and Guiders as possible to see it and that a definite date be set by which the money be obtained.

The third subject for discussion was "Matilda" and Miss Anderson spoke feelingly of "Matilda's" difficulties. She asked that Guiders should take the magazine regularly, and that they should pay their subscriptions. The conference was unanimously of the opinion that each Guider should have her own copy, but were divided on the subject of who should pay!

Miss Porter proposed that all "Matildas" should be posted and that subscriptions should be raised to four shillings. This motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

Miss Hoffmeyer then proposed, and Miss Batten seconded, the following motion, which was carried—

That this conference appreciates Matilda. It strongly recommends that—

- (a) all Guiders become subscribers;
- (b) Guiders be encouraged to give a subscription as a Christmas gift;
- (c) that it should be suggested to local associations that they might make sure that each company had a copy of "Matilda";
- (d) that the time for sending in contributions be made later in the month;
- (e) that more space be given to company activities;
- (f) that each division should have a certain month for news;
- (g) that information about fire lighting and suitable places for hikes be included.

Miss Tobin spoke upon the election of a representative Guiders' Committee, and stressed the fact that it was intended to be representative. Mrs. Tate also spoke, suggesting that each Branch of the Movement should be represented, including Ranger, Brownie, Lone, Post and Extension Guiders. Considerable discussion then ensued as to the method of choosing the divisional representative, some groups feeling that the final choice should be left to the Divisional Commissioner after the districts submitted names, others

suggesting that the Guiders should be entirely responsible for the election of their representative. As it was felt that this was a most important question, it was put to the conference as to whether the representative should be chosen by the Guiders or by the Commissioner, and on a show of hands it was unanimously decided that the Guiders should make the choice.

Miss Mullen proposed, and Miss Macartney seconded the motion—

Each Division should be represented on the committee. Representatives may be chosen in which ever way is most convenient for the district. The conference would like to put on record its vote of thanks to the retiring committee, particularly to Miss Tobin and Mrs. Ebeling. The conference also felt strongly that there should be a member of each branch of the movement on the committee. The representative should be chosen by the Guiders themselves and not by the Commissioner.

This motion was carried unanimously, and then the conference dispersed in search of tea. After that diversion, the Guiders separated into three groups—Rangers with Miss Boyes in the chair (if a grassy bank under a large tree can be so described). Guide Guiders with Miss Swinburne, and Brownie Guiders with Mrs. Tate.

After the Group Sessions, the Conference again refreshed themselves, and then followed singing conducted by Miss Joan Webb. We sang four songs—Foxlease Vespers, Gerald Gould's "Wanderthirst," the traditional carol about the three birds, the cuckoo, the pigeon and the dove, and lastly a yodelling song which made us feel like the Comedy Harmonists. (Afterwards, during intervals in the film showing, there would come faint "Holeas" from the back of the audience.) We did appreciate Miss Webb's teaching, and many people learnt (besides the joy of these songs) of the wealth of the Kent County Song Book, purchasable at Headquarters, which contains these and so many others, old and new.

After we had reluctantly stopped singing, we both saw and heard a film of the Swedish Conference. Not that it was a sound film—but it certainly could be described as a "talkie," for not only was there a most entertaining and graphic commentary, but there was the added excitement of a second commentator, with keen rivalry as to who spotted which first. And even Graham McNamee himself does not often appear on the newsreel, whereas we had the joy of seeing both our commentators appear on the film.

And, with a final "Foxlease Vespers," so ended the conference—until next year.

—o—o—

## TALK ON CHINA.

Through the kindness of Miss Reba Shearer, of the International Club, an illustrated talk on China and Japan will be given at Guide Headquarters on Tuesday, November 16, at 8 p.m. Admission, a Silver Coin. The evening is being arranged by Carlton District.

—J.H.

## COUNTY CORONATION CAMP IN DEVON.

27th September, 1937.

Dear Matilda,

I feel I cannot let the opportunity pass without writing a little about the wonderful time we had at the Coronation Camps in England.

Of the Chigwell Row Camp you have already heard and I am sure you will agree with me when I say that the Guiders-in-charge are to be congratulated on their successful efforts. They did everything in their power to give the Overseas Guides and Guiders a really royal time.

The County Coronation Camp at Brixham in Devon to which I was invited was equally enjoyable.

The journey from Chigwell Row to this camp was made by coach as far as Salisbury, and from there by private car. The English country-side is really beautiful and from Salisbury to our destination we were passing through some of the prettiest spots I have ever seen.

What a glorious site was chosen for the camp too! Picture yourself in a field on cliffs overlooking the sea with hills and hedges in the background. I do not think there could have been any place more ideal for a camp than this spot.

Saturday morning (May 17th) was spent settling in and during the afternoon a hike was made along the cliffs to Berry Head. Here the lighthouse keeper explained the workings of the lighthouse and the Coastguard also told his story.

The following afternoon saw us at Torquay, a noted tourist and holiday resort. Here a "Scouts Own Service" was held in the Pavilion, a lovely Theatre. It was a very inspiring service and onlookers must have been thrilled to see the large number of Scouts. Guiders and members of other Youth Movements attending the service. Our campers had tea at the Y.W.C.A. of Torquay to which several Rangers and Guiders of surrounding districts had been asked.

Monday was visitors' day and one of the interesting and exciting features during the afternoon was the Treasure Hunt, which really did make us tramp a fair distance looking for all the set articles. That evening we were entertained by the Paignton Rangers in their own hall.

Tuesday proved to be another enjoyable day. The arrangements for the day were a visit to the St. Peter's Cathedral of Exeter, followed by a visit to Lady Clinton, the County Commissioner of Devon, at Bicton. St. Peter's Cathedral is a marvellous old church and the people of Exeter are very proud of it—and no wonder. England is full of old and beautiful Cathedrals and every effort is being made to keep these churches in good order. Lady Clinton very kindly showed us over her home which is 200 years old.

The next afternoon, Dartmouth Rangers paid us a visit and, like all the other Rangers

we met, were very anxious to know all about Australia.

The following day—Thursday—was the first and only wet day during the whole week, but our spirits were not dampened. From Dartmouth, a ferry trip was taken up the River Dart to Totnes. At Totnes, which is a very ancient town, our party was shown over what is called the Guild Hall, an old place where early Council or Borough Meetings were held and are still being held to-day. The stocks, bull ring, the old prison and many other interesting early historical things were shown to us in this place. Totnes Rangers and Guiders were our hostesses for tea that day.

On Friday we bade farewell to our fellow sisters with memories of the fun and glorious time we had spent together and good wishes for the future.

Before closing I must again mention how grateful I am to the Camp Leaders of both camps for all their kindness.

—A VICTORIAN COUNTRY GUIDER.

—o—o—

## EXTRACTS FROM TOURING RANGERS' LOG.

It was 5 a.m. on July 16th when seven Rangers rose from their couches, donned uniform and watched from the deck the lights of Cape Town as the Tricolor drew slowly into the wharf. Gradually the darkness lifted, and the outline of Table Mountain could be picked out looming high above the city, and as daylight came colour was added to the scene—the white houses with their red roofs nestling close to the foot of a green clad hill making an unforgettable picture.

Fortified by tea and biscuits we sailed forth and had an early morning view of the gardens and some of the principal buildings, the former standing on the site of the original gardens made by the Dutch to provide their sailors en route to Java with fresh vegetables. Then, having met Miss Stapleton, a South African Commissioner, we visited the Bank and sadly accepted 14/8 in exchange for a good Australian £1. Our next port of call was the Post Office where our spirits rose considerably at the news that our letters home only required 1d. postage and those to England went by Air Mail for 1½d.

Our guide took us on a brief tour of inspection about the city and among the interesting things we saw were the first locomotive used in South Africa, the stump of an old fir tree where slaves were sold in the early days, and the Castle. The Castle is the old fort—now used as a military barracks, and we were interested to learn that it is built in the formation of a four pointed star, another interesting feature being two raised sun dials on the walls within the surroundings—one for the morning and one for the evening. We were also shown the Proclamation House and Miss Stapleton recalled her experience, when, standing in the tightly packed square before this building, the Relief of Mafeking was proclaimed.

We pounced eagerly upon Woolworths, and

emerging from this ubiquitous emporium laden with purchases were entertained by three Commissioners at morning tea—very acceptable after our scanty breakfast. The scene switches suddenly to a fruit market where several females in the N.S.W. Ranger uniform are seen bargaining with a gentleman in a red fez. Another change, and the same uniforms are clambering up the gangway lugging a sack of oranges—tired, triumphant, and in time.

While waiting for our ship to weigh anchor our attention was arrested by a gang of coolies working on the road near the wharf. One man chanted a mournful melody and all the picks were raised together, held for a moment and then brought down in time with the song.

Our purchases in Cape Town included a supply of wools and knitting needles and we were soon busy turning out camp berets which vied with Joseph's coat for variety of color. Rabbit's tail tufts on top were an Australian touch, and who's to know that Miss Meek's powder puff met an untimely death in providing them?

As the days grew hotter, the carpenter grew busier, and soon had the swimming baths erected, and we were glad to become mermaids and cool off.

On Friday, 23rd July, the equator was crossed, and to celebrate the event we planned a fancy dress dinner party. Weird and wonderful were the figures issuing from the cabins when the gong sounded. Miss Meek's absence might have caused consternation had her place not been occupied by one, Charles Chaplin, whose eccentricities almost proved the undoing of the stewards. The other end of the table was kept hilarious by the antics of Laurel and Hardy, and rumour hath it that it was Miss Gluth's forelock Laurel twisted in his distress. Balance was maintained by a learned Professor seated sedately by a fascinating gipsy; a bad bold pirate stayed the baby's wails, and only those in the know guessed what a large part the clown's pyjamas played in his costume.

As the Tricolor approached Dakar, the Doctor formed a habit of making everyone a present after dinner—had it been of sweets instead of quinine tablets the recipients would have shown more gratitude. Dakar was reached on 26th July, and due to the extreme heat and the danger of catching malaria, we stayed on board and some of the party had a busy time fishing. Viewed from the boat the town had a foreign appearance, and we were very interested to learn that the huge tarpaulin-covered stacks on the wharves consisted entirely of locally-grown peanuts.

Despite the hot weather, the coolies manning the oil tanker which presently hove alongside, had on a becoming array of knitted pullovers, etc., those who could boast a shirt showed their superiority to the white man by failing to tuck it in and allowing the tails to flap around them as they walked, but, of course, the pair in old kimonos were voted the most priceless.

Two and a-half days from Dakar we passed the Canary Islands, the coast line just visible before sundown, and after dinner we hung over

the deck railing and watched the lights that represented all we would ever see of Las Palmas. It was, somehow, rather thrilling and perhaps impressed us more than had we passed in the daylight.

With only a few more days on board, we are beginning to realise what a happy journey we have had and how sorry we will be to leave our floating home.

—TOURING RANGERS FROM N.S.W.

oOo

### "BAYSIE" MEMORIAL TO THE EDITOR, "MATILDA."

Dear Editor,—

Many readers of "Matilda" in England, South Africa, Australia and elsewhere will remember Molly Bayes, who was "called to higher service" in December, 1936, and of whom the Chief Guide wrote a very lovely tribute, in which she said:

"Molly was a blessed friend, and a Guide of the finest calibre we know. The world is the poorer by her passing, and we have lost one of the best and sweetest Guides I have ever known."

Although in the last few years, "Baysie" (as she was known to her friends) lived in England and Johannesburg, she was an Australian, and will always be remembered in her native land because of the splendid work she did in the early days of Guiding. The fact that she was able to wear Red, Brown and Green Cords is an indication of her amazing versatility.

The Executive of the Girl Guides' Association in New South Wales, knowing that Baysie's friends would want some form of a Memorial to her, has considered several schemes. Eventually, it was decided that this should take the form of a room in the new "Glengarry," for which we are all working so hard.

I should explain that "Glengarry" is our very own site, consisting of over 40 acres of lovely bush country, within easy reach of Sydney, and delightful for hikes. At present there is accommodation for about 16, in two small cottages, and there is a jolly "hut" with a fireplace which can be used in wet or cold weather.

Already we have had the privilege of entertaining the Chief Guide and many other distinguished visitors at "Glengarry," and we look forward to welcoming Guides and Guiders from all parts of the world.

Our aim is to raise enough money to build a new "Glengarry" to replace the old cottage, and to give better accommodation for those who have only a precious week-end to spare.

If there are any Guiders or ex-Guiders who read this, and who would care to have a share in this Memorial to a beloved pioneer in the Guide Movement, the Committee will be very glad to receive and acknowledge gifts (however small).

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) DORIS LANGLEY BEST.

Hon. Sec., "Baysie" Memorial.

Girl Guides' Association, 15 Castlereagh Street,  
Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

5th October, 1937.

## GUIDE CAMP HOUSE FUND.

### Brownie Guiders' Effort.

At the Brownie session of the State Conference, the subject of raising funds for the Camp House was discussed.

We all became most enthusiastic about it, especially when it was explained to us that there is a cottage at the proposed House at Yarra Junction that would be very suitable for Brownie holidays.

Some of you who were not at the Conference may say: "But our Brownies don't go for holidays!" No, perhaps they don't. But what a pity!

But they may go there for an outing, or later, as Guiders, go to camp. What a thrill! We do want every Brownie Guider to help us adopt the cottage by raising a substantial sum for the endowment of the Camp House. Later on we may be able to furnish the cottage. A Committee has been formed to arrange ways of raising money and to collect the amounts. Don't leave it to the other Owls—do something yourself. There are approximately 250 Brownie Packs in Victoria.

Nearly all the Owls of these Packs can, if they but try, raise £1 with or without the help of the Pack.

What about enlisting the help of the Brownies' parents?

For those who find it impossible—we hope there won't be any—perhaps some Owls will make more. The first effort being arranged by the Committee is an outing to the Colin MacKenzie Sanctuary at Healesville on Saturday, 13th November. This is to be by private car. Fare, 3/- return; Children under 16, 1/6; Children under 6, Free.

Anyone desirous of going, please let the Secretary know, and watch the papers for further details.

Will anyone with a car who is willing to take passengers (driver provides petrol), please notify the Hon. Secretary for the effort.

—MISS D. COLES.

Funds raised for the effort to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Mullin, 6 Allison Avenue, Glen Iris.

—o—

### DATES ENDOWED FOR GUIDE HOUSE.

January 1st.—St. Kilda District.  
 February 10th.—3rd Richmond Rangers.  
 February 13th.—1st Curlwaa.  
 February 22nd.—South and Port Melbourne District.  
 February 28th.—1st Trafalgar Company.  
 March 6th.—Carisbrock District.  
 March 7th.—"E.S."  
 March 10th.—G. H. Swinburne.  
 March 18th.—Carlton and North Melbourne District.  
 March 26th.—Miss D. M. Myer.  
 March 30th.—1st Glen Iris Brownie Pack.  
 April 2nd.—Mrs. Onians.  
 April 3rd.—8th Hawthorn Guide Company.

April 4th.—3rd East Malvern Rangers.  
 April 5th.—1st Stawell Guide Company.  
 April 6th.—3rd East Malvern Guide Company.  
 April 10th.—Flinders Naval Depot and Crib Point Company.  
 April 12th.—1st Brighton Beach.  
 April 18th.—Wangaratta Local Association.  
 April 21st, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th.—Warrnambool and Koroit District.  
 April 29th.—1st Gardiner Company.  
 May 3rd.—Mrs. T. C. Alston.  
 May 6th.—1st Mt. Eliza Pack.  
 May 12th.—Tatura District.  
 May 15th.—Hawthorn Guides.  
 May 24th.—1st Skipton Company.  
 May 24th.—Miss Barfus.  
 May 25th.—Essendon District.  
 June 9th.—Dandenong District.  
 June 16th.—Burwood District.  
 June 20th.—Extension Branch.  
 June 26th.—Swan Hill District.  
 July 1st.—Camperdown District.  
 July 2nd.—Rochester Guides and Local Association.  
 July 3rd.—1st Coburg Company.  
 July 4th.—Corryong District.  
 July 9th.—H. S. Officer, Esq.  
 July 20th.—Krowera District.  
 July 22nd.—Nyah District Brownie Pack.  
 July 26th.—4th Brunswick Guide Company.  
 July 27th.—2nd Brighton Beach Guide Company.  
 July 28th.—2nd Elsternwick Guide Company.  
 August 10th.—1st Nyah Guides.  
 August 14th.—Northcote District.  
 August 18th.—1st Mooroopna Guides and Brownies.  
 August 21st.—Mrs. Law Smith.  
 August 29th.—1st Skipton Pack.  
 August 30th.—Kyabram District.  
 September 6th.—Carlton Guide Companies.  
 September 7th and 8th.—Miss G. Black.  
 September 9th.—Warragul District.  
 September 15th.—1st Girdarre Brownie Pack.  
 September 16th.—Tatura Guides and Brownies.  
 September 19th.—Williamstown and Altona District.  
 September 19th.—In Memory of Fay Colechin.  
 September 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 28th.—Camberwell South District.  
 September 28th.—Glengarry District.  
 October 1st.—1st Melbourne Rangers.  
 October 4th.—1st Hampton Guide Company.  
 October 10th.—Heywood Association.  
 October 11th.—Warragul Rangers and Fay Colechin Memorial.  
 October 23rd.—1st Avenel Company.  
 October 27th.—1st Port Campbell Company.  
 October 29th.—Coves District.  
 October 30th, 31st and November 1st.—Terang District.  
 November 7th.—1st Elsternwick Pack.  
 November 11th.—1st Benalla Guide Company.  
 November 14th.—Toorak and Armadale District.  
 November 19th.—Portland District.  
 November 30th.—Yarraville and Newport District.  
 December 7th.—1st Frankston Guides and Brownies.  
 December 9th.—1st Marnoo and Stawell.  
 December 11th.—A. E. O. Officer.

December 13th.—S. R. S. Akuna.  
 December 14th.—Broadford District.  
 December 18th.—1st Glen Iris Guide Company.  
 December 19.—1st Nambrok Company.  
 December 31st.—St. Kilda District.

oOo

### Why the Robin Has a Red Breast.

(By an Australian Blackfellow)

One day a tribe of blacks was returning from the hunt, when they met a very old man carrying a long spear and an empty "dilly-bag." He said, "I have travelled far and am very weary. If you will allow me to rest a while, I shall in return for your kindness, tell you the secret of the fire. (Now these blacks knew nothing about fire and ate all their food raw).

They took the old man to their camping ground and give him the choicest morsels of the feast. This is his story:—

"Far to the East, beyond the mountains that hide the sun, I journeyed. No water was in the creeks, many animals were lying dead, and I hurried on lest I should fall on the track. One day, when my tongue was big in my mouth and my legs weak as a child's, I saw in the distance a gleaming waterhole. I ran towards it, falling many times on the way. At last I reached it. I crawled along the bank bending my head, I tried to drink. Alas! the gleaming water was only sand. I dug deep into the sand until my hands were torn and bleeding. At last, a trickle of water appeared and I drank. I rested there for a day, and then went on much refreshed. One morning, before the sun had climbed the mountains, I saw its fire gleaming through the trees. I crept up quietly and saw Mar—the cockatoo—take the fire from under his crest and light his way with it. Unfortunately, I trod on a dry stick and Mar threw a spear at me. Now, who is there among you all who is brave enough to go and take the fire from Mar?"

The tribe were much excited; they all spoke together and nobody heard. At last, they agreed to invite Mar to a grand corroboree, and, while he was enjoying himself, to steal the fire. It was a great feast. They offered Mar a choice piece of kangaroo tail, but he would not eat it. He was then given the kangaroo skin and he took it away with him to his camp. The feast was over, but still they had not the fire.

Prite, who was a very little fellow, decided to follow Mar to his camp. He followed till he was very weary, and just as he was going to turn back, he saw Mar, the cockatoo, take the fire from under his crest feather. Prite went back and told the tribe that the old man's story was quite true.

Tatkanna, the robin, said he would go and try to steal the coveted fire. Early next morning, he set out and after a long time reached the cockatoo's camp, just in time to see Mar take the fire from his crest and light a fire stick. With this stick, he singed off the hair of the kangaroo skin which the tribe had given him. Tatkanna was so eager to steal the fire, that he came too close, and scorched his breast feathers. He was very frightened, but decided to act boldly. Running to the fire, he seized a fire stick and made off. In his hurry, he set fire to the dry grass around him, and in a short time the bush was ablaze. The fire roared like the sound of flood waters in the mountains. Birds and animals raced before it to gain the shelter of the green trees. But it swept all before it, and left a smoking black waste behind. When Mar, the cockatoo, found the fire was stolen, and out of his control for all time, he was very angry. Taking his nulla-nullas he went in search of Tatkanna to kill him, but the Great Spirit hid him and Mar had to return to his home. The tribe was very pleased with the robin for his bravery. When you next see a red-crested cockatoo, you will remember how the fire was stolen from him, and as Tatkanna, the robin, still retains his scorched feathers, you will know why we call him "Robin Redbreast."

### GIRL SCOUTING IN AMERICA.

From Mrs. H. Officer, Upper Goulburn.

On the 19th July, 1937, I visited Camp Chapparral, Bog Basin Regional Camp, about 50 miles from San Francisco, with Mrs. Kalenborn a Commissioner from Redwood City, who was so interested in Guiding and called at Headquarters to see Miss Irving when she was in Melbourne last summer. A lovely drive up hills through bush and forest and down at last into the Basin where the giant Redwoods grow. Chapparral is specially a training camp for leaders, there were about 100 Leaders and trainers and 100 Girl Scouts for them to practice with. The leaders come from all over California, the Hawaiian Islands and Phillipines, for a two weeks course. There were no buildings or tents, the weather is always so fine in summer. There were very good gadgets made of wood and corded; book shelves, food shelves, seats, dressing tables, tooth brush holders, shoe cupboards, draining racks etc. The beds are made of Redwood tips, soft and springy on which sleeping bags are laid. All the people were in green play suits with ties tied in a Spanish knot the colour of the madrone tree's bark, two soft amber—pinks Madrone is common all up the Pacific Coast of America starting as low scrub about Los Angeles and growing to the size of fine trees at Camp Robinwold along the beautiful Hood Canal where the Seattle Girl Scouts now

own their camp. The swimming pool was small but very charming, edged with ferns and a waterfall flowing into it. Each unit of about eight, usually people of about the same age and experience, camps out of sight of sight of others, has its own little camp fire circle and cooking place. One extra good one was rigged with a reflector oven made by the girls, had its own huge redwood stumps, one to sleep in, one to dress in, one to wash in, very roomy and private.

The groups combine for the general camp-fire, for acting dancing and puppet shows. There is a kiln for baking pottery made by the girls. They were at work on various crafts, plaiting and weaving belts out of gay-coloured string. A cattle bell was used to call to lunch which was attended by all, the day I was there. We sat on seats shaped like toadstools, round sections of huge logs stood on end for tables, eight sided for eight. Our lunch—macaroni, and salad of finely sliced cabbage, squash carrot and dressing was served in a military mess tin, and sweetened rice pudding in its lid, tea coffee, or water in a mug, a spoon to eat with, and a big slice of bread and butter. Each one, even visitors wash their own gear, which is inspected and if passed is put in a rack and plunged into boiling water and stood to drain. Washing is also done in a Community laundry, fairly well equipped with tubs, means for heating water, and lines, but no ironing is done. Water comes by pipes to only a few places in camp, so the girls have a couple of buckets each and whenever they come down from their "Nests" which are mostly up little hills steep enough to make Commissioners puff and gladly stop to admire an exceptionally lovely Redwood or Fir, and some across rather precarious log bridges spanning ravines, they bring down their empty buckets, and carry them back full when returning posse. I did not see anyone salute and everything was informal. Groups of Girl Scouts seated along logs being shown how to make star charts, or one or two with backs to a rock reading nearly hidden by ferns, or one quite high up a tall stump playing some sort of woodman's games and more graceful ones shooting their bows at the archery target made pictures quite suitable for the cover page of the "Guider."

After lunch and washing up came rest hour. Some of the directors took Mrs. Kalenborn and I to see their nest of which they were proud, and then to see "Grizzly" a delightfully large hearted person, head of the camp, in her Den—a super large hollow redwood stump. She had a novel collection of ingenious furniture and a zoo of birds and animals made out of a variety of materials. Each leader who comes to train at the camp takes the name of a bird or an animal and is expected to make a model of herself for Grizzly before she leaves. Everyone was charming, and so kindly interested in Guiding and Australia, and Mrs. Kalenborn was just a dear. On our return to Redwood City she showed me over the Girl Scouts' little home, a nicely equipped cottage with ground enough round it for games and training.

Headquarters was closed for Summer holidays in San Francisco, so I missed seeing what it was like, and also their day camp, which is held on a sandy patch along the ocean front not far from the huge new Golden Gate Bridge which is over 700 feet high and about a mile and a half long—a really beautiful bridge. I also regretted not meeting Miss Ida Smith, Local Director for San Francisco as I heard so much about her charm of character.

At Seattle I was taken to see their Headquarters by Miss Power, a Commissioner, and met Mrs. Shannon who is interested in overseas correspondence for her Girl Scouts and would like to hear of Victorian Guides wishing to correspond with Seattle girls and Mrs. Robins, after whom Robinswold, the Seattle Girl Scout Camp on the Hood Canal, is named. The Girl Scouts really own this Camp, a lovely place and are taking great pride in improving it. They also camp for week-ends at Tarrywood on an island in Lake Washington, which can be reached easily. Robinswold is half a day's journey from Seattle by ferry and different things. They have also permission to use part of the City Parks for day camps, so they are lucky girls and have very wonderful people to take an interest in them. The Girl Scout Movement is highly thought of in America and a great many people take an interest in it, and give it their time, money and help.

The first week in Sta. Barbara the Commissioners were away; next week Mrs. Macy arranged a lunch in the Ladies Club building once a wealthy Spaniard's home—a beautiful adobe mansion with balcony and patio. I met Miss Alley, a jolly elderly lady, still on the Scout Council and a retired Commissioner—Miss Rivers, and Mrs. Hitchcock whose mother was Mrs. Juliette Low the founder of Girl Scouting in America 25 years ago, were cousins. We talked of Guide and Girl Scout matters. I learned their were 300 Girl Scouts and 115 Brownies in Santa Barbara and the two outlying towns Montecicoto and Carpen-teria.

On the 5th July celebrating the Liberty Day, July 4th, which fell on Sunday there was a pageant and procession in Santa Barbara. The Guides had a car prettily decorated with green leaves, their eagle trefoil on it, and an attractive group of Guides in uniform in the car.

Mrs. Hitchcock arranged for me to visit the Scout Day Camp on the 6th and at 9 a.m. called in her car for me looking so healthy and out-doorish, a light summer dress, shady hat, no stockings on very tanned legs, and sports shoes.

We first visited the Girl Scout "Little House" within long walking distance of almost any part of Sta Barbara, and 10 minutes by bus or car. It was a large brown log house having a big living room with the trefoil Eagle in metal let into the stone above the big fire place, a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. It was surrounded by a pleasant field large enough for games and tests though just off the main City Blocks.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

## THINKING DAY CARD COMPETITION.

Designs for the Thinking Day Card Competition (See Matilda, July, 1937) should reach the Federal Secretary by 30th November, 1937. Competitors should address their entries to:—

Hon. Federal Secretary,  
Miss D. Hawthorn,  
Girl Guides Association, Exton Building,  
Queen Street, Brisbane,  
Queensland.

A prize for the winning design is being given by Mrs. Joyner, of Western Australia, and the card will be printed in time for posting to foreign countries by Thinking Day, 22nd February, 1938.

S. H. IRVING, State Secretary.

—oO—

## EXERCISES AND ACTIVITIES.

In response to numerous requests a series of exercises and activities are being published in "Matilda." These may be adapted for Rangers, Guides and Brownies.

### Some Interesting Movements for Brownies.

Brownie meetings are often held just after school, and Brownies have had to sit still many long hours between nine and four. When Brown Owl arrives to take the Pack, is it any wonder the Brownies wriggle, and object to sitting still even for a short while?

Their little limbs have become cramped, and their muscles are asking to be stretched, and won't remain still. Try some of these movements and you will find the Brownies enjoy them, especially if they can play, while performing the exercise, e.g., imitating, or acting a story.

- 1.—IMITATE—(a) Horse—pawing the ground with one foot, walking, trotting, galloping and bolting, until Brown Owl blows whistle, upon which all horses fall over exhausted. (b) Birds Flying (arms outstretched sideways), hovering, hopping, finding crumbs, etc.
- 2.—Brownies run and skip anywhere; when Brown Owl blows whistle or makes a signal they join with a partner and skip round with her—on next signal skip alone, etc. (each time this is repeated Brownies should have a different partner).
- 3.—Run anywhere—on signal stand still on one leg (stork).
- 4.—Walking like a wooden man (tiff arms and legs), change to a rag doll (loose and relaxed).
- 5.—Gallop or Skips, etc., anywhere; on signal try and touch hand with foot.
- 6.—Giant Strides. Children try to cross hall, with as few steps as possible.
- 7.—Try and imitate a kangaroo, jumping anywhere.
- 8.—Run behind Brown Owl—when she turns round, Brownies crouch down.
- 9.—Run anywhere; on signal Brownies form a large circle, hold hands, and skip to the right—repeat several times.

- 1.—Crouch down and jump up—repeat.
- 2.—As small as possible—change from lying, sitting, standing positions.
- 3.—Lie on back—kick legs freely in air.
- 4.—Thread the Needle—Stand with hands clasped in front, try and put right foot through hands—then left, and unthread yourself.
- 5.—Crawling on all fours.
- 6.—Walk sideways, like a crab, hands touching the ground; right hand and right foot moving sideways at the same time.
- 7.—Sit with knees bent, feet on floor, drum with alternate feet, or both together—softly, gradually becoming louder and then dying away.
- 8.—Stretching—Brownie has just awakened, and stretches, moving her body as much as possible.

## Movements to a Story.

- 1.—Brownie wakes very early one morning (stretches), decides to get mother cup of tea, steps out of bed, and dresses (many movements possible here, e.g.—stand on one foot to put on sock). Goes down stairs (high steps), begins to chop wood to light fire (use whole body, not just arms), stoops down to pick up wood—staggers inside with it, etc.,
- 2.—Brownies going by train for picnic (high steps up into train, kneel to look out of window, pretend to be the train). Arrive at beach, and begin to look for shells (bend knees and walk about keeping knees bent). Brown Owl calls, and all Brownies run—and go for a swim, etc., etc.

—B.B.

—oO—

## CAMPING.

Arrangements are being made to hold the following State camps in the summer, and full details will be found in "Matilda" for October.

**A COMBINED GUIDE CAMP** for Guides whose Captains have not a Camper's Licence, at Mornington from 5th to 12th January, 1938. Fee, 22/6.

**ACOMBINED RANGER CAMP** at Warburton from 27th December, 1937, to 3rd January, 1938. Fee, 22/6.

**PATROL LEADERS' CAMP** for Patrol Leaders aged not more than 15 years, holding the second class badge, at Mornington from 28th December, 1937, to 4th January, 1938. Fee, 22/6.

**A GUIDERS' CAMPCRAFT WEEK** for training in Campcraft and testing Camper's Licences, at Warburton from 5th to 12th January, 1938. Fee, 35/-.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FEE FOR THE CAMPCRAFT WEEK IS 35/- AND NOT 22/6 AS PUBLISHED IN "MATILDA" LAST MONTH.**

**APPLICATIONS** for all these Camps accompanied by a deposit of 5/- for each Camper should reach the Commissioner for Camping at the Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1. not later than 13th November.

ELAINE E. MORAN,

Commissioner for Camping.

## CAMP EQUIPMENT FOR SALE.

A country district which has gone into recess wishes to sell its camping gear, and has given it into my charge.

Applications to view the kit should be sent direct to me. The gear includes:—

Groundsheets—some in good order, some unsuitable for sleeping on, but useful for meal-mats and extras.

Miscellaneous kitchen kit.

A few mallets, 1 axe, 7 sets of tent poles, 1 bag of rope (cross guys, etc.).

Latrine and wash-cubicle screening (hessian), with latrine cubicle furnishings.

Two flies.

I shall be glad to arrange for inspection of the gear, as I am anxious to sell as soon as possible.

—F. V. BARFUS.

## GUIDE SHOP.

**BOOKS.**—Further Christmas supplies are coming to hand, and we will be able to sell to Guides and Brownies good Guide and Brownie stories. Some of the Guide books are by Mrs. Osborn Hann, who is well known for very good Guide stories. There is also a very nice Guide Annual full of Guidey things and a very attractive Brownie one. The prices range from 3/6 to 4/-.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.**—A complete range of Guide presents will be given in December "Matilda," so we ask all Guiders and non-Guiders to read these and pass it on to the Guides and Brownies, and send your order to us.

**BROWNIE HATS.**—By the request of Brownie Guiders, the style of the Brownie hat is being changed. It is to be like the style of the Guide camp hat; Brownie Guiders are sure that it will look very attractive for Brownies. These will be ready as soon as the stock of the old style is sold, and that will be quite soon. The price may be a little more but it was generally agreed that the improvement would justify the extra expense.

**BROWNIE OVERALLS.**—Also by the request of the Brownie Guiders, the Brownie overall will, in future, have the same neck as the new style Guide overall. We still have a fair number of the old style, so the change may take place in a month or two. The price will be the same.

**BROWNIE HAVERSACKS.**—We have been requested to stock Brownie Haversacks made of the same material as the overall. These are now in stock. The cost will appear in the December "Matilda" as it had been impossible to arrive at anything definite when this went to the press.

**PRICE OF GUIDE HATS.**—I have been asked to point out that the price of Guide felt hats must be increased to 7/6. This is neces-

sary because of the price of wool and the increase in the basic wage, sending up the cost of production.

CLARA BROADHURST,

Commissioner for Equipment.

—o—o—

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following are the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 7th October, 1937:—

Present.—Mrs. Faulkner (in the chair), Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Eadie, Misses Boyes, Broadhurst, Bush, Cameron, Moran, Lascelles, Furnell, Russell, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Lady Chauvel was welcomed on her return from abroad.

The following was reported:—

- (1) That Miss Sheila MacLeod had agreed to join the Infantile Paralysis Emergency Sub-committee.
- (2) That the Guide House Fund amounted to £4197, and that permission had been granted by the owner for summer camps and a Field Day to be held on Britannia Creek.
- (3) That the Association would arrange a display for the Exhibition being held by the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs on 27th October.
- (4) That the Commissioners' Conference and Guiders' Conference had been held, reports would be received at the next



## THE MUTUAL STORE

features Keen Values  
from the Special

### COLLEGE WEAR DEPT.

#### Girls' Doctor Flannel SCHOOL BLAZERS

The ideal Blazer for School or College wear. Super quality Doctor Flannel in Navy. Finished with Silk Ribbon Binding. Specially Priced

21/-

#### Tailored Fuji Silk SKIRT BLOUSES.

20in. to 27in., 7/11; 30in. to 33in., 8/6; 36in. to 39in., 8/11; 42in. to 45in., 9/11.

THE MUTUAL STORE  
Flinders Street Melbourne  
LIMITED

meeting, and that Mrs. Eadie had been re-elected Commissioners' representative on the Executive Committee.

The following were agreed with:—

- (1) That the quota for the World Bureau and the levy for the Federal Council be passed for payment.
- (2) That an Awards Sub-committee be formed to consist of Lady Huntingfield, Lady Chauvel and Mrs. Faulkner.
- (3) That Australia should follow Great Britain's choice for the list of candidates for election to the World Committee.

Routine and financial business was discussed.

S. H. IRVING, Secretary.

oOo

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### District Commissioner:

- Ballan.—Miss M. Molesworth, Ballark, Morisons.  
 Echuca.—Mrs. Graham, Echuca.  
 Marnoo.—Miss I. Weatherley, Wallaloo Sth., Stawell.  
 St. Arnaud.—Mrs. J. Sinclair, Commercial Bank Co. of Sydney, St. Arnaud.

#### District Secretary:

- St. Arnaud.—Mrs. G. Edwards, Wills Street, St. Arnaud.

#### Warrants.

##### Brown Owl:

- 1st Camperdown.—Miss H. Spence.  
 1st Cohuna.—Mrs. Pollard.  
 1st Shepparton.—Mrs. Whitbourn.  
 1st Stawell.—Miss V. Johnson.  
 7th Geelong.—Miss A. Rosina Bartlett.

##### Tawny Owl.

- 1st Donald.—Mrs. Allen.  
 1st Ivanhoe.—Miss D. Bradshaw.  
 1st Maryborough.—Miss K. McKemmish.

##### Captains:

- 1st Ascot Vale.—Miss M. Beaumont.  
 2nd Camberwell.—Miss I. Assenden.  
 3a Geelong.—Miss A. Moffatt.  
 1st Glengarry.—Miss N. Farmer.  
 1st Deniliquin.—Miss M. Gillespie.  
 2nd Hawthorn.—Miss B. Goldie.  
 1st Ivanhoe.—Miss D. Barnes.  
 2nd Ivanhoe.—Miss D. Sedgfield.  
 1st Kyabram.—Miss I. Robinson.  
 1st Nambrok.—Miss H. Johns.  
 1st Port Campbell.—Miss A. Tune.  
 1st Rosedale.—Mrs. Burley.  
 1st Sunshine.—Miss J. Grey.  
 1st Surrey Hills.—Miss M. Kimberley.  
 12th Vic. Lones.—Miss N. Thomson.

##### Lieutenants:

- 1st Colac.—Miss L. McLean.  
 1st Coleraine.—Miss G. Trangmar.

#### Cancellations.

- Ballard, Miss A.; Brown Owl, 1st Echuca.  
 Layzell, Miss A.; Captain, 1st Frankston.  
 Wheeler, Miss U.; Captain, 1st St. Arnaud.  
 Willmott, Mrs.; Brown Owl, 1st Swan Hill.

#### Registrations.

##### Packs:

- 1st Blackburn.  
 2nd St. Kilda.  
 1st South Melbourne.

##### Companies:

- 6th Camberwell.  
 1st Chilwell, Geelong.  
 3rd Sandringham.  
 1st Woori Yallock.

oOo

### TRAINING.

**TRAINING WEEK.**—A Training Week for general Guide and Brownie Training will, if applications warrant it, be held at Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong, through the courtesy of the Headmistress and School Council, from 28th December, 1937, to 5th January, 1938, inclusive. The Guider in charge will be Miss M. Hoffmeyer, and the Brownie Training will be in charge of Miss E. L. Lardner.

The fee will be 30/-; applications should be sent to the Training Secretary at the Guide Office not later than 16th November, accompanied by a deposit of 5/-, which will not be refunded unless withdrawal is made a full fortnight before the date of the beginning of the week.

Applicants should state whether they wish to take Brownie or Guide Training, and whether they are under or over 21 years.

MERLE BUSH,

Commissioner for Training.

## SCHOOL BLAZERS

Ribbon-bound Blazers in  
high-grade flannel,  
from 18/11

Blazers Tailored to  
Measure

In the best quality Velour  
Flannel . . . . from 45/-

# Snows

John Snow & Co. Pty. Ltd.,  
Melbourne, C.I.