

Mrs M. Bush

Matilda



OCTOBER, 1941.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office, on August 20 and September 4, 1941.

August 20:

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Tate, Mrs. Robinson, Misses Cameron, McKellar, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Area Commissioner.—Miss McKellar was welcomed as the Area Commissioner for the 1st Country Area.

Agreed.—That the trust account of the 1st Essendon Rangers be finalised, £40 being allocated to the Guide House Endowment Fund in the name of the Pioneer Guides of Essendon and the remainder to the Capital Improvement Fund of the Guide House.

That permission should be given for the organiser of the Red Cross Roll Call Appeal to send a circular letter appealing for members of the Junior Red Cross to all Guide and Ranger Captains.

That a letter appealing for new members of the Red Cross Society should be printed in "Matilda."

Reported.—That 64,839 garments had been packed to date for the Guide War Appeal, 54,862 being for children and 9977 for seamen.

That Mrs. Bakewell agreed to be Editor of "Matilda."

That Mrs. Faulkner agreed to be Convener of the Commissioners' Conference Committee.

September 4:

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Tate, Miss Cameron and the Secretary.

Agreed.—That a telephone extension should be made to the caretaker's cottage from the Guide House.

That a Thanks Badge should be granted to Mrs. H. Clark, of St. Kilda.

Reported.—The programme for the Commissioners' Conference.

That the fund for the caretaker's cottage was £263/3/-.

Routine and financial business was transacted.

M. E. BUSH.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

BROWN OWL.—5th Brighton, Miss D. Warmbrunn; 4th Geelong, Miss N. Young; 1st Edithvale, Mrs. Webb.

CAPTAIN.—1st Brighton, Miss J. Eades; 1st Chelsea, Mrs. Webb; 5th Geelong, Miss E. Leigh.

LIEUTENANT.—1st Poowong, Miss M. Ireland; 2nd Surrey Hills, Miss M. Holborn.

RANGER CAPTAIN.—Toorak and Armadale District Ranger Company, Miss D. Ogden.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION.—Red Hill.
COMPANY.—3rd Benalla.

Cancellation

CAPTAIN.—1st and 2nd Geelong, Miss E. H. Purnell.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"Adventuring," South Australia.

"Girl Guide Courier," Western Australia.

"Le Trefle Rouge et Blanc" (June), Switzerland.

"Te Rama," New Zealand.

"The Canadian Guider," Toronto.

"The Council Fire."

"The Girl Guide Magazine" (May-June), South Africa.

"The Girl Scout Leader," U.S.A.

"The Trail Maker," U.S.A.

"The Waratah," New South Wales.

"Victorian Scout."

MATILDA

THANK YOU very much to Miss J. Harvey, Mrs. Morison, Miss G. Roach, Miss C. Rogers, Miss D. Cooper, who offered to help type "Matilda" wrappers.

—M. E. BUSH.

GUIDE GIFT WEEK CARDS.

Are there any Packs, Companies or individuals who contributed to the Guide Gift Week Fund in May, 1940, and did not apply for one of the Imperial Headquarters Thanks Cards? We still have a number which have not been claimed.

If a card is due to you, will you ask for it within the next month? Please enclose a penny stamp for postage.—M.E.B.

WANTED.

Experienced Guider for country Company in Tasmania for two months. Hospitality given and travelling expenses paid.

Apply State Secretary, Guide Office, 60 Market St., Melbourne.—M. E. Bush.

COOK WANTED.

For TRAINING WEEK at GUIDE HOUSE, December 26 to January 3. Total number not more than 36; 55/- and expenses. Guider or Ranger preferred. Apply by letter to Miss B. Macartney at the Guide Office, stating qualifications, experience, etc.

“Matilda”

An Official Treasure Bag of Guiders' Information for Guiders of Victoria, Australia.

Price, 3/- per year. 4/- Posted. Single Copies 6d. each.

Editor: Mrs. GUY BAKEWELL, 4 Stoke Ave., Kew, E.4.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of each month.

VOL. XVIII.

OCTOBER, 1941.

No. 4.

COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

The Commissioners' Conference was held on Thursday, September 18, in the beautiful grounds of Mrs. Pearson's home in Brighton. About 38 Commissioners attended. It was formally opened by horse-shoe formation and colours, after which Lady Chauvel welcomed all those present.

Mrs. Faulkner read out reports received from Districts telling of their various war-time activities and methods of raising money, both for their own local charities and for the Guide War Appeal. There were several interesting subjects brought up for discussion, most of them concerning the effect of the war upon both the Guider and the Company.

After lunch, which was eaten in groups under the shady trees, Mrs. Littlejohn spoke about the Guide War Appeal. She pointed out that the time would shortly come when it would have to receive more financial support, and asked for suggestions as to how this could be achieved. A general discussion brought forth some interesting ideas, and these will be put to the Executive.

During the afternoon nominations were received for five members for the Council.

The Conference closed with afternoon tea. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Pearson for her hospitality in placing her delightful home at our disposal.

—M.R.F.

The following notice has been received from the Hon. Federal Secretary.

Attention is drawn to the following extract from the press (14/7/41).

“Amendment of the control of overseas postal communications makes it illegal to send by post from Australia any newspaper, cutting or publication to 38 overseas countries. The amendment also prohibits postage of maps, photographs, Braille literature, chain letters, pen friends, gramophone records or films.

Places mentioned are: Afghanistan, Andorra, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Eire, Estonia, Finland, Unoccupied France, Hungary, Iceland, Irak, Iran, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lichenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Northern Ireland, Persian Gulf ports of Bahrein, Durban, Kuwait, Muscat and Sharja; Portugal, Roumania, Ruthenia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tangier, Thailand (Siam), Tibet, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vatican City, Yemen.

The order provides that no person could convey from Australia any of the prohibited

articles when the destination was to any of the places specified, and it prevented entry into Australia of the articles when sent from prohibited places.

Please make this regulation widely known in your State, and ask post box secretaries if possible to communicate with people corresponding with anyone in these countries, and note particularly that it will be impossible to forward State Guide Magazines to Switzerland, which we consider is the country most affected as far as Guiding is concerned.

WAR APPEAL

As the majority of the Districts are holding their annual meetings next month it would be very interesting for the members to know of the results to date of their efforts for the War Appeal.

In the period 1939-40 approximately 29,000 articles were made and dispatched. In the past twelve months 39,000 garments were packed. On paper this looks as though there was an increase of 10,000 articles over last year's effort, but actually it represents a great deal more than this; for in the 39,000 are included 9000 seamen's pullovers, shirts, stockings, &c., which are very large and represent a great deal more work than the children's clothing; so it is well within a correct estimate to say that in the past twelve months the results achieved by the War Appeal have at least been doubled.

During the two years of our war work there has been an average of 100 babies' singlets and 130 children's knitted jumpers coming into headquarters each week.

The committee receives numerous letters of appreciation from the recipients of this clothing, and we regret very much that owing to the paper shortage we are not able to print all of them, but an interesting one from the Dr. Barnardo's Homes is being included in this issue.

Since the inception of the War Appeal Committee it has been fortunate enough to have had Miss Grey Smith as hon. treasurer, and regrets very much to have to say that she has found it necessary to resign from this position. The Committee wishes to convey to Miss Grey Smith its grateful thanks and appreciation for her work. Miss Vair Brett has very kindly undertaken the duties of hon. treasurer in place of Miss Grey Smith.

Mrs. Orr is absent on leave from the packing, and while she is away Miss Ritchie is in charge.

DR. BARNADO'S HOMES

Head Offices:

18 to 26 Stepney Causeway, London, E.1.
 Mrs. Littlejohn, 15th July, 1941.
 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1.
 Australia.

Dear Madam,

Through the kind offices of the Girl Guides' Association, London Headquarters, we have received recently six cases of most beautiful children's clothing which were sent for distribution by the Girl Guides of Victoria.

This gift has reached us just at a time when the problem of clothing our very large family has been greatly complicated by the introduction of clothes rationing. The lovely warm frocks with jumpers to match, and the beautiful flannel garments, cardigans and other articles are going to help us considerably in our stock for next winter. We were very unfortunate last year in that just when our winter clothing was ready for distribution to the various branch homes we received an unwelcome gift of some incendiary bombs, which burnt out all our clothing store and all our Christmas toys. I have given orders, therefore, that your wonderful present shall be distributed at once to our various branch homes, and I know that the lady-superintendents in charge would want me to tell you how very much they and the children will appreciate this lovely clothing.

I should be grateful if our thanks could be conveyed to all the Girl Guides in Victoria.

With renewed thanks,

Yours very truly,

P. T. KIRKPATRICK,
 General Superintendent.

GUIDE WAR WORK

In response to a request from Headquarters many reports of the war work being done by Guides throughout Victoria have been received.

These have proved tremendously interesting. When extracts from them were read at the Commissioners' Conference I am sure everyone there felt a thrill of pride at the splendid part our Guides are playing in the war effort.

It is hoped as space permits to publish reports from all the Districts as they come in. So please send us some more accounts of your doings so that we may all share in your bright ideas.

Don't forget that if you don't write and tell us we have no way of finding out all the interesting and enterprising things that you are doing.

N.M.

The following are extracts from the reports sent in to the Commissioners' Conference. For want of space we have not been able to include all the activities described in these reports, but have done our best to give a general outline.—Editor.

KEW.—£22/10/- was raised for the Kew Branch, Australian Red Cross Society, when

the Local Association stocked the Red Cross shop. A Guide and Scout Rally is to be held at Trinity Grammar School on September 27 in aid of war funds.

RICHMOND and EAST MELBOURNE.—Several Guides from two Companies go every Saturday to Red Cross House and run messages and generally make themselves useful.

WARRNAMBOOL.—Guides in the district assist the War Service League Wastage Committee by delivering notices to houses and shops. They also collect magazines, &c., for the Returned Army Nurses' Depot, and at special market days assist the C.W.A. with luncheon and afternoon teas. Many Rangers and old Guides are training for the W.A.A.A.F. Koroit Guides do a particularly good job assisting the Red Cross Links of Service.

CLUNES.—Clunes Company decided in June to adopt a prisoner of war for at least three months at £1 per week, and to ask other Guide Companies in the Division to contribute towards supporting him for the remaining nine months. Parcels and Christmas billies have been sent to local soldiers. A men's auxiliary has been formed for the purpose of making bandage winders, crutches, bed rests, &c. This is proving most satisfactory, and is financed by the L.A. Executive. A Waste Products' Depot has been in operation for thirteen months.

DAYLESFORD.—Daylesford have raised over £60 for local war efforts from waste collected by Guides themselves. Five-shilling canteen orders have been sent to every soldier from Daylesford who is overseas. Two old Guides are nurses overseas, and parcels have been sent to them. The flower stall at a fair for the A.C.F. was run by the Guides and £8 was made. Guides are working for a Guide Fair to raise money for their quota for the Division Prisoner of War Fund. The fair is to be run by the Guides themselves—the L.A. is taking charge of the afternoon tea and the Guides will wait on the tables.

GEELONG II.—Guides sort and fold clean newspapers once a week, and some are members of first aid posts. The 10th Geelong Company raised £5 by a bazaar for the Guide War Appeal. St. John Ambulance First Aid and Home Nursing Certificates are held by many older Guides.

SOUTH YARRA.—The Sea Ranger Company includes four who have passed their Red Cross first aid, and four have had special fire fighting instruction.

SOUTH and PORT MELBOURNE.—Guides have collected and sorted wastepapers and go in batches of fifty to sort waste metals for the Children's Hospital; while metal is also sorted for the Silver Door. Sea Rangers spend at least one meeting a month sorting waste metals. Guides collect magazines and books, and knit articles for the South Melbourne City Patriotic Auxiliary. Sea Rangers collected a large number of books for the hospital ships' libraries, and also contribute odd pence each week to one of their number, who buys cigarettes and sees that they go direct to a mine

sweeper. Many woollen comforts, also books, have been sent to the Seamen's Mission for the men of the Merchant Navy. The Mac-Robertson High School Company adopted an aboriginal member of the A.I.F. He has been sent comforts and several canteen orders. Thirty-five members of the A.I.F., Air Force and Navy have been fitted out with scarves, pullovers, &c. Many first aid and A.R.P. posts are being manned by Sea Rangers and Guiders. Members also work on air force work at Aircraft Supply Depot, and at canteens at Air Force House and Navy House.

FOOTSCRAY and YARRAVILLE.—Companies and Packs in the district donate one week's subscription every two months to the Prisoners of War Appeal. Guides are helping in sending soldiers Christmas parcels, also hampers to the men of the Merchant Service. Rangers assist one Sunday each month at the Y.M.C.A. canteen. Silver paper and corks are collected and sorted.

BERWICK.—Guides are acting as A.R.P. messengers for first aid posts. Blackberries were gathered and sent to the Prahran Patriotic Society for jam.

RUPANYUP.—1st Rupanyup Company conducted a produce stall in aid of Red Cross. Each Guide brought something, and by the end of the afternoon everything had been sold and £2/10/4 was handed in to the Red Cross Committee.

CAULFIELD.—Older members help at "Glass House" at Caulfield racecourse, and are A.R.P. assistant wardens.

MILDURA DISTRICT.—Guides collect salvage, and clothes for the men in mine sweepers have been made. H.A.M.S. Mildura has been adopted and letters are sent to men on this ship.

MERBEIN.—Guides collect salvage, make up parcels to send to soldiers and knit for the forces. A fund is being started to help keep a prisoner of war.

RED CLIFFS.—Camouflage nets are being made, knitting is being done, salvage collected and money has been raised for bomb victims.

WENTWORTH, CURLWAA and DARETON.—Funds have been raised by entertainments, salvage collected, knitting done and St. John Ambulance Certificates obtained by several Guides.

PRESTON.—Preston has a Girl Guide Unit of the Red Cross, and it is working under the District Warden, and has been allotted duties at an emergency hospital called the 1st post. Waste products are collected for the Red Cross, and Guides have assisted at the Children's Hospital Waste Product Depot. Seventy-four parcels, each costing £1, have been sent to men of the district serving overseas, and very appreciative letters have been received.

To think well is to grow well.

"Don't make tragedy of trifles
Don't shoot butterflies with rifles—
Laugh it off."

HERE ARE SOME STORIES OF LONDONERS

Taken from the Weekly News Bulletin of the
Girl Guides' Association.

In Stepney, one of the poorest parts of London, a vicar and his wife are respectively Boy Scout and Girl Guide Commissioners. Both are air raid wardens, and are always among the first on the scene of destruction. The vicarage has been damaged by enemy action, but they continue to live there. Half the house is used as a wardens' post, the other half serves as an unofficial refuge and clearing centre for the neighbourhood; bombed-out neighbours arrive, clutching the last possession they have managed to save—often this is a goldfish bowl or a canary! Weary and dirty after a night's blitz, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey go on working next day—he going round to visit every bombed site, while she looks after those who have taken shelter at the vicarage. Mr. Godfrey has received the Medal of Merit from the Boy Scouts Association and Mrs. Godfrey the same Medal from the Girl Guides Association.

Great bravery was shown by Miss Gillian Tanner, who was a Guider in Gloucester before the war. She is now an A.F.S. driver and for three hours, during one of the worst raids on London, she drove her load of 150 gallons of petrol through bombs and barrage. For this bit of "keeping on keeping on" she has been awarded the George Medal, one of the highest awards for gallantry that it is possible to win in England to-day.

Two of the new Guide awards for courage and devotion to duty have been given to a London Guider and a Sea Ranger.

Miss Riches was on telephone duty at an A.R.P. post when a bomb fell close by, blasting the wall, which fell on top of her desk. When the wardens came to rescue her, they thought there was no possibility of finding her alive, but after digging for some time, they discovered her under the desk, still working the telephone. This occurred at the beginning of her eight hours period of duty; her relief never arrived, and she remained at her post, putting through telephone messages, for the next sixteen hours.

Sea Ranger Bunting, who is a Section officer in the Auxiliary Fire Service, was on duty at a fire station when a high explosive bomb fell in the yard, causing extensive damage and fire. Although suffering from the effect of blast and injury to her leg, she managed to extricate herself from the debris, and set to work at once to re-establish telephone communication. This she succeeded in doing, and during the whole time while the work of rescuing the injured and extinguishing the fire was in progress, she remained at her post, calmly sending and receiving telephone calls, till the station was abandoned. The Deputy Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade says of her: "her behaviour was an outstanding example of courage and devotion to duty."

Here is what the Belfast Guides did to help at the time of the great raid over that city.

At the request of the chief welfare officer for

the City of Belfast three Guide halls were put into service as emergency feeding centres. Guiders had been asked to organise and staff these centres, and they had been provided with the necessary provisions—tea, sugar, milk, bread and ingredients for stews. The morning after the raid on Belfast, the centre in the middle of the worst bombed area was in full swing, bearing the notice, "Come in and get a hot meal," and this in spite of the fact that there was neither water nor gas! For the first ten days the Guides cooked all meals on a camp fire outside the hall, using their own camp equipment. The centre remained open sixteen days and during that time approximately four thousand people were fed.

From Coventry comes another story of great courage and devotion to duty. The George Medal has been awarded to Miss M. E. Perkins, a Brown Owl, for her splendid help on the night when Coventry was heavily bombed. Early in the raid, Miss Perkins was stunned and received internal injuries, but on regaining consciousness she insisted on going to the help of her co-workers; later going out into the nearby streets to attend other casualties, and to a public shelter where she did everything possible to help the people who were hurt and encouraged and cheered the others. Although herself quite badly enough hurt to have been considered a "casualty" from the beginning she worked for hours, quite indifferent to danger and pain, and was a tower of strength to all with whom she came in contact.

—(From The Council Fire).

"THE GUIDE OF DUNKIRK"

Our own lifeboat, presented to the nation in Guide Gift Week last year, is now on service at her station at Cadgewith, Cornwall. Before she was put on service she had to pass a final test of her self-righting qualities. This was entirely successful. A boat of this type is so designed that if she is turned completely over by a heavy sea, she should right herself immediately. When these tests are carried out the boat is loaded with weights representing a full crew, and is then overturned in smooth water by means of a crane. The time which she takes to right herself and drain herself of water is then noted. All this went off very well, and "The Guide of Dunkirk" passed her test with flying colours, righting herself in 16 seconds.

It was not possible to have a welcoming ceremony for the lifeboat because of war-time difficulties, but the Guides of one company heard that the boat was coming and decided to make a day of it. They hiked to the coast, and there is no doubt that they enjoyed themselves. The Leaders of the Blackbird and Bullfinch Patrols wrote and told us about it:—

"We left home at 10.30, prepared to stay out all day. We cooked our dinner in a field near a farm. Afterwards we went down to the

beach just in time to help launch the old lifeboat. As it only had sails and oars, it had been sold for use as a fishing boat after nine years' service as a lifeboat. We practised Morse signalling. We were just finishing tea when the boat came in view, so we hastily cleared up and ran down to the beach. Some of the lifeboat officials gave us the emergency rations from the old lifeboat—a whole tin of chocolate! The Guides were very excited at being allowed to go on board and explore. There was a brass plate near the stern with the Guide trefoil on it and these words: 'Guide of Dunkirk. This Lifeboat was presented by the Girl Guides of the Empire, Empire Week, 1940.' After we had explored the lifeboat we started on our journey back. Before we left, the coxswain told us we could all have a better look at the boat when the excitement had died down. On our way home we picked bluebells. Further on we found a pool with tadpoles in it, so we caught some to keep as pets. After we had caught the tadpoles we started for home, tired but happy to think we had explored a boat which all the Guides of the Empire had bought."

"The Guide of Dunkirk" is painted royal blue and white with two broad red bands on the deck line and above the water line.

—From "The Guider."

IF B.P. COULD HAVE LIVED AGAIN

Two years after the relief of Mafeking the editor of a London weekly newspaper received this letter from B.P., then at Johannesburg:—

"You ask me what I would do if I were a young man again.

"If I had to begin over again I don't think I should materially change my course. I should still carry out the same principles of life as far as possible.

"Sink personal ambition. Be prepared to take such place as duty directs, and be happy—for cheeriness is next to Godliness, where it helps others to bear their burdens.

"Personal ambition is so apt to give you either a swelled head or a soured mind, according as it is fulfilled or foiled. I used once to have personal ambition; my ambition was to be an engine driver; it was foiled, and I've been a disappointed man ever since.

Yours very truly,
ROBERT BADEN-POWELL."

(From the "Children's Newspaper," January, 1941.)

What is a Scoutmaster?

The following list of qualifications for a Scoutmaster may at first sight appear somewhat dismaying, but a study will convince of its essential soundness. Also, it carries a number of valuable reminders of points in the relationship between

Scoutmaster and boy which sometimes slip from one's mind.

The list was compiled by a group of American Scouters seated around a fire, popping and eating corn and talking Scouting "shop." It resulted from a chance question, following a conversational lull; "Just what is a Scoutmaster? I mean what sort of fellow should he be?"

A Scoutmaster

He has a sense of humour.
 He is not easily discouraged.
 He has not forgotten his own boyhood.
 He is a skilful quiet guide—not bossy.
 He knows that loyalty is a two-track system.
 He treats boys with respect and consideration.
 He realises that his own life is his best sermon.
 He gives praise for worth-while conduct and achievement.

He knows that a challenge means more than a bawling out.

He thinks an incorrigible is a bright boy doing wrong things.

He is the first man his boys think of when they're up against it.

He does not talk morals into a boy; he listens and lets the boy talk.

He knows the intimate, personal aspirations of each one of his Scouts.

He never minimises the seriousness of an offence, though his attitude toward the offender is sympathetic.

He senses the deep devotion of a band of loyal fellows and is learning to blaze the trail that leads to God.

He follows the advice of Woodrow Wilson in his attitude toward Patrol Leaders; "The trustworthiness of men who are trusted grows with the trust."

He has smelled the wood smoke of twilight, felt the quiet hush of the open road and the forest trail.

A big order—but the glorious thing is that so many Scoutmasters are just that sort of fellow.—From "The Scout Leader" (Canada), January, 1940, via "The Victorian Scout."

PAST HISTORY—AND PRESENT.

On the occasion of the twenty-first birthday of 1st Heidelberg Guide Company, some of the "pioneers" sent a cable to Mrs. Brady, the first Captain and Commissioner of the Company.

In her reply to her former Lieutenant (now Mrs. Linton) she says: "Thank you, and all my Guide friends, for the very kind and thoughtful cable, which came as a great surprise. Twenty-one years have indeed passed quickly, and how many changes have passed with them, nationally and individually! The Guides of 1920 are in several cases Guiding small families . . . or perhaps doing good in other ways. I join with you in wishing them God-speed and every blessing. Our Empire is calling for the best in everybody and the youth of Australia is alert and prepared as always, to answer the call. Girls and women

have a great part to play in the present struggle. . . .

"Eula (her daughter) has completed two years hospital training.

"The blackout and war has upset Church work everywhere temporarily. The country is refreshing just now (April) with the wild flowers and new life. The parks and gardens are bright with colour, which makes one feel glad with the assurance that summer is coming, and winter is really a thing of the past.

"Please will you convey our kindest regards to all inquiring friends. We all unite in sending loving greetings to each one, wishing you every blessing."

MISS S. H. IRVING.

All the Guide Movement read with pride and interest of the appointment of Miss Sybil Irving, M.B.E., to the position of Controller of the Australian Women's Army Service.

Miss Irving was for sixteen years State Secretary of the Victorian Girl Guides Association, and is a familiar figure to all associated with Guiding. Since last year she has been Assistant Secretary of the Victorian Division of the Red Cross Society, and she will bring to her new post a training and personality which should prove invaluable to the Service.

We all join in very best wishes to Miss Irving.

—Editor.

DISTRICT NEWS

PATROL LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Somers Hill, Bendigo

Barely light, the air full of subdued sound, the confused twittering of birds—a little more light, a tentative thrush note, a magpie's call, harsh cry of wattle bird, bellbirds in the distance, the full, glorious note of the thrush—and dawn is here—at Somers Hill.

Bendigo Patrol Leaders decided to have their Annual Conference under canvas this year; so out they went with tents and dixies to their hill, covered with ragged gums, but magnificent with wattle, waxflowers and orchids.

Eleven P.L.'s were present with two of their Captains. By the time the Captains arrived tents were pitched, fireplace dug and fire already alight. Two Guides had come to attend to the cook house, and a good job they did, especially on the wet day—producing three hot meals in spite of rain and difficulties.

After sound sleep on the hard, hard ground the Leaders hiked, having a merry time and coming to the rescue of the one who lost first her ground sheet and then her belt!—making tracking signs during the search so that they could not get lost themselves! On their return the Conference took place, many weighty matters being discussed. This was under the chairmanship of one of the P.L.'s and not open to Guiders.

Next day opened unpromisingly with lowering clouds, but training sessions were held and compass games took place. After dinner rain set in fairly steadily, but at the offer to go home came shouts of "No"; so a different type of training took place—knowledge of shrinking guy lines was gained and the difficulty of handling wet ropes—how to keep warm and dry amidst cold and rain—utter obedience to Captain's orders—trenching tents—and, finally, sleeping on the very hard floor of the hut.

But wasn't it fun? Cooking toast round the huge fireplace in the hut; removing Captain's gum boots every time she came in out of the rain; songs and stories and prayers and taps.

Next day the wind blew and dried the tents. Into their bags they went and the lovely camp was over. Mothers, doubtless, lay awake thinking of their daughters in the rain, but the daughters slept, happy and warm, having a touch of real adventure under the moonlight and the stars.

DROMANA GUIDE COMPANY

The enrolment of 1st Dromana Guide Company by their Captain (Miss M. Black) on Saturday, September 13, was the occasion of a gathering together of Guides from Rosebud and Red Hill, who were quite recently enrolled; also 1st Dromana Brownie Pack, which was re-opened lately.

After the enrolment ceremony, which was attended by members of the Local Association and parents—many of whom belong to it, games were played with much zest by Brownies and Guides till the whistle blew—a signal for afternoon tea, which had been amply provided for by parents and L.A. Songs, grave and gay, were then sung. "Three Pirates" being most popular; then, after Taps, home!

A red letter day had come and gone for South-western Peninsula.

—T.J.C.W.

TACKLING THE KNOTS IN OUR TESTS

By C. FALCON

From "The Guider"

The recruit's introduction to practical Guiding is almost always learning to tie a knot. She goes home from her first meeting thrilled by the thought that she is going to be a Guide, going to join in all the adventurous activities of the Guides; she has begun already; she's learned to tie a knot! Proudly she displays her skill at home.

To her, knotting is a new craft, unlike anything she has tackled before, which opens the door to all sorts of excitements and offers the opportunity to carry out that new aim of helpfulness which henceforth is to be her special

concern. She sees herself the heroine in countless episodes.

As Guiders, with the help of the Leaders, we must not fail to satisfy that expectation of adventure and excitement, if the girl is to gain the maximum out of her training. Knotting must never be allowed to degenerate into something practised at company meetings, sitting in a circle with a bit of string in our hands, because knotting is part of a test which has to be passed. Knot-tying is included in the two most important tests because it teaches control of the hands, skill, resourcefulness and self-reliance. So give the Guides the chance to use their brains where the tying of knots is concerned. Set them problems so that they have to decide which is the best knot to use under different circumstances. This is a necessary preparation for the emergencies which it is our aim they should be ready to meet with skill and coolness.

It hardly needs emphasising that knotting must be presented to them as knowledge which is used day in and day out. Once they had been shown how to make tea, they wouldn't dream of only making tea that way when brewing it for Guides at a Guide party!

If the Leaders realise that knotting is one of the first opportunities offered a Recruit of carrying out the second promise, and that it may often feature in her daily good turn, the recruit will assimilate this outlook too.

Remember also that through knotting the smallest Guide advertises the Movement. If she can do up a parcel better than the child who is not a Brownie or Guide, if—still better—she offers to do up mother's parcel, Guide training receives an unsolicited testimonial.

The difficulty, of course, which we Guiders are up against is how to maintain the interest and enthusiasm which the recruit bring to her first effort, in a company where the Guides are at all stages, and time for training and meeting is limited, more so to-day than ever before. Also, at the back of our mind is the wish to avoid letting the Second Class test drag out over months with the possibility of the Guide's interest flagging, but this won't happen if practices are sufficiently exciting, and I think under present circumstances we must cease to worry much about the time taken and remember that it is the practical knowledge gained and the improvement in the girl's all round efficiency which count.

Knotting is made interesting by: (1) Training practically. We must try to reproduce the occasions when the knot is used. (2) Outdoor practice. Offers more opportunity for realistic work. (3) Using appropriate materials, rope for bowline, bandage for reef knot. A girl's finger will become all thumbs in the hurry and tension created by an emergency and she will probably fail dismally if she is asked to tie a bowline in rope when her practice has been limited to string. (4) Letting the Guide learn at her own pace. The slow Guide must not be

hustled or knotting becomes a labour. Speed in tying is achieved with practice. (5) Utilising the younger girls' love of playing school. Allow the Guide who has thoroughly mastered a knot (how to tie it and its application in everyday life) to teach someone else.

It is suggested that practices should be made as adventurous as possible consistent with the girls' safety. Let us consider some schemes:

1. Life-saving. Lowering each other in a chair knot from a window. Borrow a stretcher and demonstrate with that to learn the stretcher knot used now in A.R.P. Precautions to take: Choose a window within jumping distance of the ground for first attempts and spread a mattress beneath. Impress upon Guides necessity to use rope which shows no sign of fraying and is sufficiently strong. The free end must be made fast with a round turn and two half hitches to some solid piece of furniture in the room. Show them how better control is maintained of the rope by paying it out keeping the foot pressed on it against the wall below the window. It would be wise for Captain to ask a fireman friend to demonstrate the method to her in the first place.

2. The Guide room is turned into a First Aid Post. There is an imaginary air raid on and casualties are brought in. Don't limit your instruction to the teaching of the reef knot, but take the widest possible view in all knot training. In this instance let the Guides learn from the Patrol Leaders how to stop bleeding, how to treat shock, put on slings, make the injured comfortable, fill hot water bottles and avoid burning the patient with them; how to encourage the fearful, allay anxiety about possible missing relatives and instruct how further aid for the homeless can be obtained.

3. Summer is coming (though it wouldn't matter if it were winter) organise a knotting hike. Guides demonstrate as many different knots as they can. Suitable rope for various needs should be collected beforehand and points are lost for using unsuitable material, i.e., too thick string for gadget-making. Gadgets, huts and shelters, erection of flagstaff and bridge building are among the possibilities of this hike.

4. Similar to above, but production of demonstration articles carried over a week or fortnight. This may be found useful among companies only able to meet irregularly at present. Maintain a high standard in judging, remembering that if a gadget is made, it must be usable.

5. Model boat sailing to teach such knots as clove hitch, round turn and two half hitches, bowline, running bowline, fisherman's bend and other nautical hitches and bends. One day, if enough boats can be mustered, organise a regatta. Have a towing race (two ropes joined and secured); a race which only finishes when boats are made fast to a bollard (a post or stick); a race in which boats tow a spar; and one where, because of the rising tide, they

cross the water and are left tied up with a running bowline. Races would need to be handicap ones if the boats' performances varied greatly.

6. An attractive set of table napkin rings, can be made out of four-stranded turk's heads, which are painted inside and out with belco or some similar paint, to make them stiff.

7. Making a flagstaff introduces many knots. Suggest at the Court of Honour that one is made for company H.Q. There is the lashing together of Guide poles to make the post, the fixing of halyards and of guy lines. A flagstaff such as this was made by one of my companies and erected at each meeting in the centre of an up-turned table, the guy lines being hitched under nails driven, by permission, into the table legs close to the top. In this way every Guide became familiar with the knots and ceremony used in hoisting colours.

8. To encourage use of knots at home. Each Leader keeps a record for two weeks of the occasions found by members of their patrols when a knot was used. The record notes the occasion and the knot used. In judging, points are awarded for the number of occasions the Guides discovered and for the correct knots used.

9. Mannequin Parade. Each patrol works out its own ideas in a given time and produces characters to illustrate the uses of the knots, for example: Girl rescued from smoke-filled room (with rope under arms, etc. In judging note that suitable rope has been selected); fisher-girl, complete with jam jar; camper returning from wooding expedition; hiker with mackintosh on back; lady exercising dog with improvised collar and lead; wounded with bandage; wounded with sling improvised with a clove hitch.

It's not possible to arrange thrilling incidents such as life-saving at every practice and games must often supply the necessary background of excitement and competition.

These points are worth consideration when planning games both to give practice and to test.

(1) The game must be fun. (2) For the game to be a success the Guides must know the knots it introduces. (3) Recruits must be able to take part. (4) Guides who fail to tie a knot correctly must learn before the meeting ends. It's a good plan for the Guide to fall out and learn from Lieutenant or a Patrol Leader, then, having mastered the knot, join in the game again. Remember if a Guide has to fall out for the rest of the game she loses an opportunity to practise, so falling out should be avoided and, preferably, points be lost for mistakes. (5) Introduction of a subsidiary subject; this may be simply a race, or first aid, or gadget-making, etc. (6) When the players consist chiefly of recruits and tenderfoots, points should be gained for correct tying and knowledge of use rather than for speed in tying. (7) Keep the games simple so that they go with a swing and the interest is maintained. Remember the size

of the Guides' hands and avoid asking girls with stiff, unmanageable fingers to do difficult feats in a game; lead up to the difficult feats. (8) Avoid games where the knots are put to unnatural uses. I have seen a game played in which you tie a clove hitch round your own neck. This, I think, confuses the use of a knot in a Guide's mind.

"SEEING STARS."

Our first constellation, of course, is the Southern Cross. Look towards the south and you will find it, a perfect cross shape with four bright stars and a wee extra star on one side. To help you it has two very bright stars pointing to its head, known as "The Pointers." At its foot, quite close, is a wee lop-sided figure of four stars known as the Southern Fly, and above the pointers you will find a triangle of three stars known as the Southern Triangle.

Now let us return to the Cross. Just near it you will find one of the most remarkable features of the Milky Way, a pear-shaped black patch on the sky, which the early navigators and astronomers called the Coal Sack. Early Australian folk lore interprets this as a yawning pit of blackness, and also as the embodiment of evil in the shape of an emu, which lies in wait at the foot of a tree represented by the stars of the Cross, for an opossum driven by its persecutors to take refuge among its branches. Early astronomers really thought it was a hole, a kind of black tunnel through the atmosphere out to outer space, but we know now that it is a cloud of dark matter which blots out the stars behind it.

If you carry a line from the head of the Cross down its length straight across the sky, the first star you will come to is the bright bluish-white Achenar at the mouth of the River Eridanus. The distance is roughly seven times the length of the Cross, but if you have a straight eye you can't mistake Achenar for anything else. Now make a clock face out of cardboard and pin to it a long pointer. On one end draw the Cross, and on the other a round dot to represent Achenar, and you can give the Guides a practical example of how stars move. Let them take it with a torch outside and turn the hand round until the Cross on your dial is in the same position as the one in the sky. Achenar on the other end of the pointer will automatically be in the right position. This is true all the year round. If the Cross is at 6, Achenar will be at 12, if the Cross is at 9, Achenar will be at 3, and so on. You will also find that the Southern Fly (Musca) will be at the foot of the Cross when it is on its side, when it is upright or upside down, and that Triangulum will move with the Pointers.

Now get the Guides to consider that imaginary line across to Achenar very carefully until they decide where the halfway mark is, and when they have decided, get them to hold out their arms and sweep from the sky

to the horizon, and borrow Captain's compass and check up. If they are good judges and have got the halfway mark their hands will point dead south—there is always great excitement when this comes off correctly, and it is so mystifying to people who don't know anything about stars and cannot understand how you do it so correctly. With the aid of the dial you have made, explain to the Guides that no matter where Achenar or the Cross are on the circle the line from the centre to the ground must always fall in the same place—and they will know once and for all the infallible method of finding the south at night. Let them turn the dial round and test it for themselves.

After the sun and moon the brightest object in the sky which they will see in the west en route to Company meetings is the planet Venus, a great golden-yellow "star." Because it lies between the earth and the sun we see it only after sunset in the winter and after sunrise in the summer. Planets are wanderers and have a disconcerting habit of popping up at unexpected times, but Venus will always be in the east or in the west, and never gets very high up in the sky. In the summer sky in the morning she is the last star to fade when the sun rises, and for this reason is commonly supposed to be the Star of Bethlehem which led the Magi—"the Star of the East". However, most people know her as "the evening star." You have to be banging in tent pegs at about 4 a.m. to see her at her best in summer.

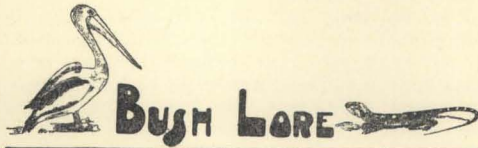
Venus is like a lamp burning in daylight or twilight trying to compete with the fierce light of the sun, but the other planet which the Guides will see at 9 o'clock when they leave the Company meeting is like a candle burning in the darkness of the night with nothing to take away from its glory—and if you look in the east this time fairly high in the sky you will find Jupiter.

Astronomical memoranda in any daily paper (only rarely shown now) will tell you when the planets rise and set, and this is your best guide. If Jupiter rises at 5 p.m., obviously by 8 o'clock it will be well up above the horizon, and you have a rough idea where to look for it. If it rises at 8 p.m., give it an hour at least to get up above surrounding buildings, out of the smoke haze, and then look low in the sky along the eastern horizon till you find it. If Venus sets at 8 p.m., by 7 she will be getting low in the west, and it depends on buildings, hills, etc., how long after that hour you will be able to see it.

A book of reference is "An Easy Guide to Southern Stars," by M. A. Orr. See Maps 1 and 2 for the Southern Cross, Achenar, and finding the south.—M. B. Fowler.

Thoughts on the second Guide Law by a small Guide: "A Guide should not walk about saying 'Hail, Hitler,' etc."

Statement made in connection with the Ambulance Badge: "Venemous blood is purple."



Editor: Ina Watson.

[These interesting notes are from Mrs. Edmondson, who has been on holiday "up north." Don't forget that "Matilda" wants YOUR notes on anything you see in the bush.]

THE SPOTTED BOWER BIRD

I heard the cat "meow." I was in the garden at Garches, Central Queensland, and I felt sure the cat was looking after her three kittens in the lumber room. Close by was the bower, a playground of the spotted bower bird, and it was the bird meowing like the cat! He is roughly like a large thrush—brown with buff markings, speckled grey on upper breast, whitish under body. His beak is black and strong, and on the back of his neck he has some lilac-pink feathers, which he raises when performing.

THE BOWER—AND DINNER MENU

It has made its bower under a small shrub, it is of grass shaped on either side to form a runway about 18 inches long with high curved sides, almost meeting overhead. The grass is unlike any growing in the garden, and has been brought bit by bit and formed into shape by the clever little bird. When I first saw it there was only a very small collection of bits and pieces inside this bower, and a few more in front of it. Every day more treasures are brought, till now, after about three weeks, there is quite a pile inside and around it. We offer him all kinds of things. They are put on the back verandah near the remains of puddings, bits of bread and butter, tomatoes and similar eatables. Most of these he eats with gusto, but he prefers to perch on the side of the bowl containing the half-made butter and take a mouthful or two. The offerings for his bower usually remain untouched for a time, but eventually we find them in the bower or near it. Some of these things were three red rubber rings, which he loves, moving them to new places every day; a red pencil, which he accepted after a long time; some pieces of coloured wool—these he took a long time to consider about, but eventually moved them nearer the bower; a blue coloured marble, which pleased him at once, and two green beads, which he took no notice of at all. His own collection contains a mass of small pebbles, mostly whitish, pieces of kopi (a kind of sparkling crystal), spent carbide, a great many pieces of green glass, bits of tin, wire, a flat piece of metal with raised letters on it—this he puts in a new place every day, and it seems a particular favourite. Sometimes he hangs things on the sides of his bower, stands back to study the effect, and then changes their position. He likes the red

stalks of beetroot and pecks off the green leaves and takes the stalks to his bower. Some of his treasures are quite heavy and must weight several ounces.

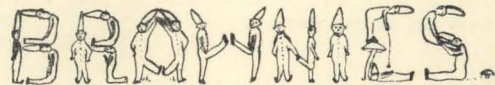
THE LADY IS QUIETER

The male bird seems to do most of the work. He jumps about with queer stiff steps, stretching his neck the while, beak wide open, and suddenly picks up something, making a harsh scolding noise all the time. He goes through more antics, holding this in his mouth, and sometimes dashes it down as if in a rage—at other times he just puts it down in a different place.

The hen bird usually stands quietly inside the bower while her spouse plays about. Sometimes she tidies the side of the bower in a leisurely fashion, or hops slowly on to one of the lower branches of the shrub. She accepts all his antics with rather a bored, indulgent air.

IMITATIONS

The bower bird's usual cry is a harsh, scolding sound, but sometimes as well as meowing like a cat I have heard them yap like a puppy and make the sound of a saw. They also imitate other bird notes I am told, and to distract a person searching for their nest they make a sound exactly like cattle crashing through dead timber. Truly wonderful birds!



Conferences are in the air. The State Guiders' Conference and many Divisional ones occur at this time of the year. Once upon a time Brownies' Guiders discussed their special problems during the State Conference, but now a separate meeting is held at a later date.

Many questions arise and are discussed. Sometimes Guiders prepare a paper upon different aspects of a subject, and in this way some well-prepared papers have been presented and interesting discussion taken place.

This year the same outline is to be followed: On Thursday, October 30, at 8 o'clock in the Meeting Pool at Headquarters. The programme is as follows:—

Punctually at 8 o'clock:

A—

- (1) Opening of the meeting by the Commissioner for Brownies.
- (2) Minutes of the last annual meeting.
- (3) Report from the Brownie representative on the Shop Sub-committee.
- (4) Report from the resigning Brownie representative on the Guide House Committee, and announcement of new representative.
- (5) Report from the Guider in charge of the Brownie Library.
- (6) Report on "Matilda" page.
- (7) Report and balance sheet of the Cottage Committee and announcement of office-bearers.

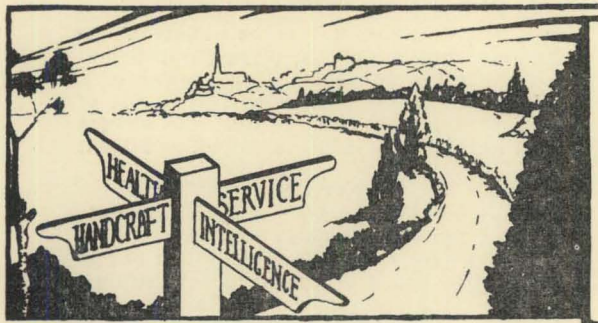
B.—Conference session at 8.30.

Short papers will be read and open discussion will follow each item.

- (1) Digest of First Class Testing.
- (2) More Revels.
- (3) Pack Leaders.
- (4) The Brownie Branch.

C.—Taps 9.30.

The Sign Post



Editor: Marjorie Nicholson

Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars.

—Henry Van Dyke.

BEFORE THE EVENT.

Are We on the Right Lines?

(Taken from "The Guider").

It surely reflects rather sadly on our confidence in the people whom we ask to train and test our Guides for Ambulance and Sick Nurse Badges, that in camp we give them so few chances of making use of their knowledge. Is there any reason why those who have passed the tests should not actually deal with "patients"? Captain might be busy in the background, meanwhile, but once she has seen the blistered ankle, cut hand, or sunburnt arm, she should be willing to let her more experienced Guides deal with the situation. They tremendously enjoy making some practical use of what they have learnt, and camp is the ideal opportunity for them to do so, under supervision. There must, of course, be a clear understanding that each case is first seen by whoever is in charge of the hospital tent, but for minor injuries she should be willing to act as consultant, and to leave the actual treatment to her assistants.

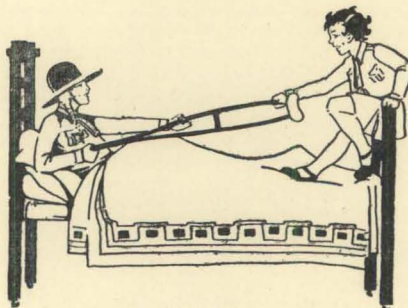
So often preparations for camp seem to consist principally in the playing of the game where you, labelled "sardine tin," rush madly from one corner of the hall to another in the desperate hope that you are travelling from the incinerator to the rubbish pit more rapidly than your rival in the next Patrol!

As a "warmer-up" on a winter evening nothing could be better, but as an introduction to that intractable confusion of wire netting, damp paper, rubber shoes and orange peel, known all too aptly as "Cin," it is scarcely adequate.

Is it not worth while making the Guides think out for themselves the kind of refuse there might be after a day in camp (taking into account the menu, parcels from home, canteen, etc.) and then discussing the possible means of their disposal? The actual making of an incinerator with books and a roll of paper substituted for bricks and wire is possible in any club room, and does give the new camper some idea of what the real thing looks like, at least.

MUST Q.M. pose in patient solitude over those complicated menus, that interminable grocer's list, that impossible bread order?

Once in camp it will be the Guides who are expected to cook, eat and wash up the results of her deliberations, and they do deserve to be consulted beforehand. It is the perfect opportunity for a discussion on food values, economy in ordering and use of utensils, and it avoids that horrid moment when the Leader of the Cook Patrol looks suspiciously at the macaroni for supper, and cheerfully promises you, "Nobody won't ever eat that, Lieutenant!"



Editor: SYDNEY FOOTT

BROWNIES' PICTURE NIGHT.

"Posts" are more expensive to run than active Guides and Brownies, as it is difficult to organise money-making activities among the Posts themselves, and it is much more expensive sending out typed Company meetings, to say nothing of additional letters to individuals. So every now and then the Extension Branch has to make a big effort.

The Post Brownie Guiders had a very interesting and successful evening in August, which gathered in a most satisfying amount for the Post Brownie Budget. This took the form of a journey round the world—in moving pictures—and was held at St. Columb's, Hawthorn. Everyone present commented on the excellence of the pictures, and the fact that one actually seemed to have been there oneself, even having the excitement of seeing the "home town" again when the photographer returned to Melbourne. We are most

grateful to all those who helped to make this evening such a success.

"ADOPTIONS."

Two offers of "adoption" have come lately—one from a Patrol which wants to write to a Post Guide and help her with her Guide work, and another from a Ranger Patrol who are celebrating their Company birthday by helping on a Post Guide. It is so exciting when these sort of offers come, as it means so much to have these added links between the active and the Post Guide. Imagine how thrilled you would be, as a shut-in child who felt she couldn't share in other people's activities, to find that now you are a Guide you really DO belong to a sisterhood, and that your sisters are eager to show their friendliness.

SERVICE.

The 1st Janefield Company are busy making camouflage nets—and are being very successful at it, too.

LONES

Dear Guiders,

I know that one of the greatest difficulties Lone Captains have to face is what to do to make the Company good turn effective and practicable. So many children live in such isolated areas that they have very few opportunities of doing anything in their communities to help others beyond their immediate families; and this, because they have always helped their fathers on the farm or their mothers in the house, they have grown to consider as part of their ordinary life and nothing special. And we who know they are already doing so much are apt to leave it at that. Yet I think we should not neglect to point out to them that by doing these jobs well and cheerfully they are really carrying out their promise as Guides. What a thrill it must be for them to discover that feeding the chickens or weeding the potato patch, or minding a younger sister, instead of being an extra job to be crowded into an already busy day, is a practical way of living and acting the game of Guiding!

I once knew a Lone who used to harness up the pony early each morning and drive her two younger sisters five miles to the local school; collect the mail each evening and drive home again; then if it were still daylight on her return she would spend a little while digging potatoes, or feeding the pigs or calves. I know she would have done it even if she had not been a Guide, because it was part of her ordinary life. The jobs were there to be done, and years of watching her parents do them when she was too young to be of any real assistance had taught her to take them as a matter of course. But I do know that when she became a Lone there was a thrill in carrying them out because of the knowledge that she was also carrying out the Guide law.

I think sometimes a Guide is apt to put her Guiding and ordinary life into two separate compartments. It is our job to show them that the two are inseparable, and that their Guiding life is valueless unless they put it into practice "at all times." The mother of one of my Guides once said to me, "She will do things for you she won't do for me. She only remembers she is a Guide when she has on her uniform." I have courage in quoting this even after so many years, for what an acknowledgment it is of bad teaching that she should have grasped so feeble an idea of the Promise!

Having shown them the importance of helping at home, we have still the responsibility of imbuing in them the community spirit in order to prepare them for good citizenship. How can we achieve this in Lones?

I quote once more from the New Zealand Lone Conference (what a fund of suggestions it holds):—

COMPANY GOOD TURNS

1. Making a scrap book, jig-saw puzzles, &c., for hospitals.
2. Making soft toys and other playthings for crippled children.
3. Collecting clean waste linen for hospitals.
4. Collecting toys, embroidery cottons, &c., for missions.
5. Saving used stamps for S.P.C.A. and other societies.
6. Collecting such things as buttons, safety pins, needles, for patriotic depots.
7. Collecting waste paper, silver paper, scrap metals, empty cotton reels for waste product depots.
8. Making Christmas stockings and cards for poor children.

Have you tried out any of these? Or can you suggest any others? I would be pleased to have an exchange of ideas. I have just received word from one Company. It has started a war savings group which is going ahead like a house on fire, and all the parents and friends have joined in.

You do know, all of you I hope, that the Lones Branch has a good credit with the Guide War Appeal, which makes and sends clothing to the evacuated children of Britain. Have you found out if your girls are good at knitting or sewing, and would like to show their practical interest in this splendid work? Most country districts have depots to which waste products can be sent. The Red Cross will be grateful for secondhand clothing. Washers can be made from scraps of toweling.

Give to them the inspiration of the Guide Law and Promise, which is an incentive to service, for it is the spirit in which the deed is done that is important. We cannot teach them too young that none of us can live unto ourselves, and that it is only by giving to others in unselfish service that we can ever achieve happiness and contentment of mind.

—M.R.F.

Camping and Training

Elaine Moran

Guiders' Campercraft Training

Camping is an essential activity of any normal Guide Company. It is not one of those activities that it would be nice to include if possible but one of the essentials. Therefore every Captain owes it to her Company, and in fact to the Guide movement, to do her level best to get campercraft training somehow or other, and to get her Guides to camp by hook or by crook. In the coming summer a special camp for Guiders will be held in order to give campercraft training. This is the opportunity for Guiders who have not done any camping to come along and learn something about it. Guiders who have had previous experience in Guide camps and who are nominated by their Commissions will be tested for the Camper's Licence; but for Guiders who are not doing this test no previous experience is needed and quite new campers will be specially welcome.

December 26-January 3.—Fee 22/6 to 30/- (according to numbers). Fare from Melbourne, rail return 5/9; bus, 1/3. Guider in charge, Miss C. Broadhurst. Site, Guide House.

Applications accompanied by deposit of 5/- must be sent to Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, by November 21. Those wishing to be tested for the Camper's Licence should apply by October 16, as a written paper will be done before camp.

Combined Guide Camps

Two Combined Guide Camps will be held under canvas at the Guide House during the summer. There will be vacancies for 32 Guides at each of these camps. The dates are—December 27 to January 3 and January 5 to 12.

(1) Not more than six Guides or five Guides and one Guider may apply from any one Company.

(2) Guides must be under 15 years of age on January 1, 1942.

(3) Guides must have had at least one year's Guide service.

(4) Applications must be made on special application form, and must be in not later than October 16, 1941.

Please send stamped addressed envelope for application form to Miss E. Reeve, Assistant Camping Secretary, 13 McKinley Avenue, Malvern, S.E.4.

Guiders' Training Week

All Guiders should go to a training week as soon as they can after joining, and all Guiders should go to one every few years to keep themselves up to the mark, and to recapture the sense of fun and "worthwhileness" of Guiding! You can go to all sorts of classes and pass all sorts of tests, but there is something about a training week or a camp that you do not get in any other way. And a training week at the Guide House is really something special that all Guiders should experience.

This year the training week programme is

being planned in conjunction with the Patrol Leaders' training programme. So it is hoped that Guiders who are sending Patrol Leaders will come themselves to their own week so that they can carry on the good work in their Companies.

At the Guide House, December 27 to January 3. Guide and Brownie training. Fee, 25/- to 30/-, according to numbers. Fare, rail, 5/9; bus, 1/3. Guider in charge, Miss E. Moran. Brownie trainer, Miss A. Searle.

Patrol Leaders' Week

The first of its kind! At the Guide House from January 17-24. Patrol Leaders should: (1) Be Second Class; (2) have at least one year's Guide service; (3) be not more than 15 years of age on July 1, 1941. Fee, 22/6. Fare, rail, 3/10; bus, 1/3. Guider in charge, Miss S. MacLeod. Applications must be made on special form obtainable from Miss Macartney at the Guide Office. (Please send stamped addressed envelope.)

Applications

For both training weeks should reach Miss B. Macartney, Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1., not later than November 21, 1941. Five shillings deposit should be sent with application; this will not be refunded if withdrawal is made later than three weeks before the beginning of the training. If rail ticket is required from Melbourne at concession rates the money for this must be sent too.

Rail Concessions from Country Stations

If six or more are travelling in uniform from a country station to the Guide House a special concession can be obtained. A special form should be asked for when application is made. This concession is: Adult return at single rates; under 16, return at two-thirds single rates.

Open Week Ends

There are odd vacancies left for open week ends for this year. For details apply to Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6. Companies may go on the waiting list in case another Company withdraws.

For 1942 the following details are announced:—

The fee per head for week end, from Friday night to Sunday night, is 6/3; this is liable to alteration as the cost of living varies. Slightly less is charged for those not attending the full time. Fee includes bus fares. Rail fare from Melbourne: Under 16, 3/10; 16 and over, 5/9.

Applications should be made at least two weeks before the week end concerned, and full fee of 6/3 must be paid for all campers on application. This will not be returned unless withdrawal is at least made one week before the week end concerned. It has been necessary to make this alteration, as campers have withdrawn at the last minute, and the deposit charged did not cover expenses for food, &c., leaving a deficit for the camp.

Dates, 1942 (liable to alteration or cancellation should they fall during school or public holidays).—Feb. 20-22; Mar. 6-8, 20-22; April

3-5, 17-19; May 1-3, 15-17; June 5-7, 19-21; July 3-5, 17-19; Aug. 7-9, 21-23; Sept. 4-6, 18-20; Oct. 2-4, 16-18; Nov. 6-8, 20-22.

GUIDE HOUSE GROUNDS AND GARDEN.

There will only be two more Working Bees this year—October 11 and 12; and November 29 and 30.

The latter will be a large one, and we hope to overhaul camp equipment as well as the ordinary maintenance work around the place. Would all those wishing to come apply to Miss C. Broadhurst, Girl Guides' Association, 60 Market St., Melbourne. The fee will be 10/- if you come on the afternoon train on Saturday, and 10/9 if you come on the morning train. This includes everything. When making your application, please enclose 8/3, which includes the money for your concession fare and 2/6 deposit for food. State also if you will be going on the morning or afternoon train.—Clara Broadhurst.

GUIDE SHOP.

DIARY, 1942.

This will be available at the end of October. There are many new items this year; it will make a very pleasing present for Christmas at a very small cost—1/6 with pencil, and 1/3 without. By the way, pencils are becoming very scarce, so the numbers are limited this year. Special items are:—

New Ideas on Morse.—This article has been

completely re-written, so that it conforms to present methods of procedure.

Home Emergency Service for Rangers.—This needs reading in its entirety to be understood; but it is a challenge to all Australian Rangers, to see if they can meet it as well as it has been met by the Rangers in England.

Little House Badge.—There is an illustration of the Badge, and a short history of how it came to be.

How to Throw a Life-line.—This is necessary if you wish to be a First-class Guide. It is illustrated, with a full explanation of how to go about it.

World Flag.—This has been re-written so that we know its history and what it stands for.

There are other new articles, but it would take too much space to tell you about them; BUT—

In the middle pages where the dates are kept, we have made a special feature of a series of Challenges and Tests of Knowledge—things that all Guides should know; BUT ARE YOU SURE?

For your own satisfaction, we have placed a Scoring Sheet at the end, so that you can mark off how successful you have been.

COMPLAINT.—We would be so grateful if Guiders would give to parents a complete list of the things that they are required to purchase, when they come to buy the uniform for their children who are ready to be enrolled. Wishing to be helpful, we say: "Is she a Violet?" "A Kookaburra?" etc., etc.; but it makes no impression, so the poor mother goes home to find out, with the pros-



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pect of another journey to Guide Headquarters.

S.O.S.

Local Associations and Captains, Please!

We have a supply of belt buckles to last us for another six months, and then nothing. Will you help?

It has always puzzled us where Guide belts go to; we sell a hundred or more each month, and yet our numbers have not increased to any great extent! There must be hundreds floating round the countryside, held by people who no longer belong to the Guide Movement.

As you know, these belts belong to the Guide Movement because they are registered as such, and it is the responsibility of L.A.'s and Captains to keep a check on them.

We would be so grateful if every District could make a drive to call in all these “floating” belts. If they are in bad order, the Guide Shop would be quite happy to buy them back from L.A.'s at a small cost that will cover the cost of the buckle. These can then be re-made and re-distributed.

Please help us by doing something about this. We will then be sure of being able to provide belts for all our Guides of the future.

—Clara Broadhurst.

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