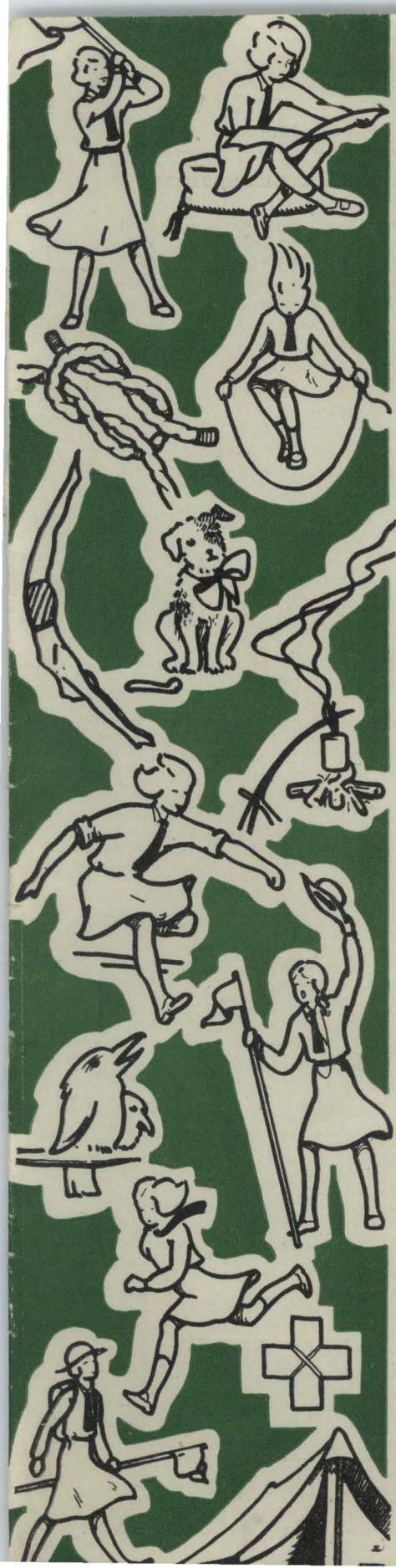


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Matilda



JANUARY, 1942.



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“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.

JANUARY, 1942.

No. 7.

Government House,
Melbourne,
December 5, 1941.

Dear Guides,

I wish you a happy Christmas, and may the New Year bring peace to all mankind.

You have had a year of great achievement. Your war effort is worthy of the highest praise.

It must make you very happy to know of the warmth and comfort you have brought to the bombed children of Britain, by making for them those thousands of lovely garments. I am sure you will all feel you can enjoy your own Christmas better, knowing you have brought such joy and happiness to others who have suffered the terrors and hardships of war.

Yours sincerely,
RUBY DUGAN,
State President.

CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL

The Guide Christmas Tree Appeal was opened by Lady Dugan in the Myer Mural Hall on Friday, November 21, and almost immediately a group of Guides, representing Districts which had already sent their donations in, hung their tokens on the tree, and a blaze of white lights—indicating that £100 had been raised—lit up the tree. Within a few moments these lights had changed to blue as the result of a very generous gift of £200 from a member of the Guide Movement, and when the Mural Hall closed for the day there had been still another change of colour.

In addition to the lights hidden among the branches, there was a large arc or “rainbow” framing the tree, and the first lights on this rainbow showing that £600 had been reached were lit by Lady Gowrie during her visit on Tuesday. It was all most exciting, and the eyes of all those fortunate enough to visit the tree at odd moments turned instinctively, as the lift door opened, to see if the lights had changed since their last sight of them. But the most exciting moment of all was when at 7.30 on Friday, the 28th, the lights suddenly appeared on both tree and rainbow as red, white and blue, and Lady Chauvel announced that the appeal had reached its objective of £1500.

Coloured stars and silhouettes in coloured flannel were sold by helpers all the week, and in addition to bringing in more money made the tree look gay and lovely.

As well as the tree itself, there were three branches, which each did much in its own sphere to further the main appeal.

First, there was the work of the Central Association, which very nobly moved its entire organisation from 60 Market Street to the Mural Hall for the week, and gave a most fascinating exhibition of all branches of its work. There were people spinning, cutting out, sewing, sorting and packing, and Myers lent models, which were dressed in some of the clothes—even including a seaman wearing every conceivable kind of knitted garment.

Next, there were the mannequin parades, which were held twice every day and four times on Fridays. Brownies, chosen from different Districts each day, were dressed in some of the clothes that have been made for the English children, and paraded down the stairs of the dining hall at Myers, along the aisles between the tables and out to the tree. The Brownies did their job very nicely, and helped to create interest in the appeal.

The various Guide Districts in town and country gave our effort wonderful support, and it is largely due to their help that such a large amount was made.

The kindness of Myer's in making the Mural Hall available was very much appreciated by those organising the Christmas Tree.

Last, but by no means least, was the Santa Claus trail, of which an account is given separately.

The Christmas Tree Appeal has been very successful—to date we have £2020 in hand—and the Committee thanks all those who so generously gave of their time and work and money.

SANTA CLAUS EXPRESS

If Brownies and Guides enjoyed the Santa Claus Express as much as the people in the express, then we all had a good time!

We had our bad moments—the night before the express started the light bulbs in the tree blew out one after the other, and we had the depressing thought that we would have to give up all our lighting scheme, but we found our mistake and all went well. The Express Depot was a hive of industry—tinselling stars, making the Santa Claus costume, decorating the tree—ali conducted with very much talk and hilarity.

Then the night came—Santa Claus put on his whiskers, wig, beetling eyebrows and his lovely red mervene trousers, tunic and hood,

beautifully trimmed with cotton wool; and—last of all the gum boots—the general effect was a mixture of benevolent old gentleman and a Don Cossack dancer!

Everyone on the express had their set part—the driver, as well as the important task of driving the car and trailer, had full charge of a melodious bell—just in case people couldn't hear us coming—and a roll call for each District. There were two people who played the mouth organ, and a lighting expert to supervise the putting-on and putting-off of our illuminations. The co-operation was marvellous, and at the end of our tour became quite automatic.

We had some distance to go to our first place of call, and our self-consciousness was great as we went on our way—then, about 100 yards from our destination, we stopped, switched on our illuminations, Santa put his pack on his back, took his assigned position sitting on the hood of the car which had been put down especially, and all of us feeling a bit sick with nervousness, we drove up with a flourish to meet our first audience—we were thrilled and we hope it was mutual. Santa was conscious of shaking hands with many excited and thrilled Brownies, and of being followed and patted during the ceremony that followed. It was interesting to note the different effects of Santa—in some other districts where childish beliefs had been shattered, Santa had many good-natured remarks to meet! We received the tokens of every Company and Pack, and gave our tinsel stars which were to be hung on the big tree. Then our mouth organ experts played their part and everyone danced round the tree to the tune of Jingle Bells. Up started the car engine—Santa took a flying leap on to the running board, and with much hand waving and greetings we went on our way, making for the nearest corner, where, once around it, we switched off our lights, looked up our route and made for our next appointment. It was good to get such a reception for our first effort, and we went on our way very much heartened and cheered.

This went on for eight nights, with little variation, as the time would not allow it, but in one place we found buried treasure and some fierce pirates waiting for us—it was our last place for the night, so we had time to parley with the pirates, and after negotiation we were able to take away our treasure. One night in the wilds of Cheltenham we lost our way and found ourselves in a park dense with ti-tree. It was a very hilarious adventure before we finally found our way out and went to meet our audience at the appointed spot. And we think the general public liked us; especially one man, who leant out of his car whilst we were both waiting at the intersection of Swanston and Flinders streets. We were embarrassed, but happy; but he was just happy! We had the feeling that he had a great belief in Christmas, Santa Claus and Christmas trees!

We do want to thank all the Districts we visited for the spirit in which they entered into the Santa Claus Express and for the very attractive tokens which were handed to us. We also want to thank the people who helped us to make this express possible. So—

Thank you all, from the People of the Santa Claus Express.

LETTER FROM MISS PURNELL

Hyderabad,

20/11/41.

Dear Guides,

Almost every day it seems as if there is something I should like to tell you about, and it is hard to know where to begin.

Everyone has been wonderfully kind to me, and I have thought so often how very friendly the Guide world can be. Soon after I arrived the Commissioners and Guiders invited me to a party at Headquarters, and I met several Commissioners and about 60 Guiders. First of all we had tea outside in the compound; tea was set on table cloths on the ground and there were mats for us to sit on and all the new food looked so very fascinating; several kinds of Indian sweetmeats and new cakes and pastries, all so perfectly cooked. After tea there were games and then a big camp fire, because it gets dark very quickly once the sun sets.

The Guiders sang so well, both in Urdu and English, and Kookaburra seemed to be a great favourite. They presented me with a very lovely garland, which was hung round my neck. It was four rows of tiny white chrysanthemums strung together very tightly and at intervals there were silver flowers which had centres of real flowers, and the whole garland was covered with silver threads. Since then I have visited lots of Guide Companies and Bluebird Flocks, and so many of them have given me garlands and bunches of flowers, which is a lovely way of welcoming anyone. We have had a merry time often when I have tried to thank them in my best Urdu, but my accent is apparently not good yet, as I have been greeted with peals of laughter, and we have all been very happy. I am learning, in Urdu, the instructions for a circle dance which I think the Guides will like, and my little Urdu teacher has been hopping round my sittingroom, as he has to do it so as to find out what I want. I am sure he feels he has a very queer pupil this time.

The other day a Commissioner took me to visit an orphanage, which is some miles away, and where there are about 50 Guides and 20 Bluebirds. The Commissioner suggested that we should take them all for a walk, as they love going outside the compound, and the country near by is very pretty. We walked until we were well away from the Orphanage, then the children played singing games, which they all love, and after that we all sat down

and they sang to us. They sang so well; the Guider told us they sing in the evening when there is nothing else to do, and I am sure they enjoy singing. I watched their faces light up as they went on from one song to another, and although none of them could speak English, they sang several of our songs, including Kookaburra. I asked the Commissioner if she would tell them about a Kookaburra and explain that the birds really do laugh, and that I should try and laugh like one, and then I gave a completely unrehearsed performance, and was amazed at my hitherto undiscovered histrionic powers. The children asked, wouldn't I do it again, so I did, and the applause was astounding, but don't think from this that I am going through India giving such performances. It was almost dark when we left the children, and as we drove away I thought I heard little Kookaburras practising!

To-day I have been very honoured, as I have been to witness the Navjote ceremony of a small boy aged ten. This is a Parsi ceremony, and takes place when a child is ready to say all his prayers and the sacred thread is given to him to wear. Six priests, in the whitest of stiffly starched robes, performed the ceremony. They were seated on the floor in two rows facing one another, and in the centre the small boy sat facing the senior priest. The child had just been bathed, and was wrapped in a big, white shawl, and later was given a complete outfit of new clothes. During the ceremony sandalwood was burnt by one of the priests, and the air was filled with that very fragrant scent. Very long prayers were chanted by the priests and the boy, and these were followed by prayers which were said by the officiating priest and the boy. Afterwards the sacred thread and some of the clothes were put on, water was sprinkled on the new cap, a red mark made on the boy's forehead and a lovely garland of white flowers was hung round his neck. Rice was thrown over him, and a coconut given to him, as well as other things, which all had a special significance, but I'm sorry I don't know their meaning. At the close of the ceremony the grandfather gave the priests bouquets made of white flowers and a few pink ones, and later the guests were given small posies.

It was a brilliant gathering, with so many women wearing the loveliest saris and such magnificent jewellery. Some of the women were purdah, so watched the ceremony through a screen and ate alone, while we were in another part of the building. At this ceremony the children are given very expensive presents, and often large sums of money to be used for their education. The little boy came and showed us a wristlet watch, which was one of the highlights of the day to him.

It will be the New Year before you are reading this, so I send good wishes to you all, and the hope that peace and understanding will come to the world during 1942.

—Edith H. Purnell.

GUIDE AND SCOUT WEEK, 1942

It has been agreed that the Girl Guides' Association of Victoria should fall in with the suggestion of the Boy Scouts' Association Federal Council, that the dates of Guide Week and Scout Week, 1942, should be arranged to include February 22, the Chief Scout's birthday, which is also that of the Chief Guide.

The dates will be from February 16 to 22, 1942. Owing to the fact that many Guide Companies and Brownie Packs do not resume meetings until February or later, there may be some difficulties to overcome, but it is felt that Guiders will be willing to make the required effort to make Guide Week memorable for the Guides.

It will simplify organisation if Districts and Divisions make their own local arrangements for the various activities of the week, in co-operation with the Scouts of the District. The central thought suggested is "Remembrance"—the idea being to get back to "Scouting for Boys" and "Girl Guiding." Displays and combined activities based on these books could be arranged. Guiders are urged to re-read "Girl Guiding" and "Scouting for Boys," and to base their programmes for Guide Week on these two books, in which the ideal we are striving for and the way to attain it are clearly set out for us, remembering that the best memorial we can raise to the Chief is to build solidly on the best foundations that he himself laid for us.

—M. E. Bush.

N.B.—Guiders who have not copies of these books may be able to borrow them. As a shipment of books was lost at sea, new copies of "Scouting for Boys" are not available.

Guiders are asked to send in for publication in "Matilda," any helpful suggestions for Guide Week.

YOUTH PLAYS ITS PART

War Work in Britain

(From the Department of Information).

Nearly a million British girls and boys between the ages of 14 and 18 are connected with organisations giving direct or indirect aid to the war effort. Younger children doing voluntary tasks in out-of-school hours number hundreds of thousands.

Inquiries made by a London newspaper showed that most of the great cities in England had no idle youths. In Birmingham not one of the 65,000 young people on the Juvenile Employment Bureau books was out of work.

Many boys are giving up half holidays and Sundays to work on the land. Last year, 4000 boys from 170 public and elementary schools worked in relays at big forestry camps, felling, cutting and stacking timber.

Young farmers' clubs have been organised

on a nation-wide scale. They consist of lads between the ages of 10 years and 21, and each club carries out the task of buying and selling its own stock, keeping accounts and managing the farm.

The Youth Service Corps has enlisted 250,000 boys and girls from 14 to 18 years. It is of vast help to the war effort.

Boys collect salvage of all descriptions; Scouts teach the Home Guard the elements of stalking and woodcraft; others assist the local authorities with evacuees, and work on the land. Girls help local authorities with their war tasks; they sew, knit and mend for civil defence and other workers; they look after children and evacuees for women who are engaged in war work.

Thousands of young people are working in civil defence, carrying messages through air raids, helping to extinguish fires and rescue wounded.

The youth of Britain is finding that there is a job for everyone in a total war.

EVACUATION OF CHILDREN.

Lady Chauvel has been in touch with the State Evacuation authorities. If evacuation of children from Melbourne takes place, we understand that help will be needed by certain institutions, and we feel that is one of the occasions when the metropolitan members of our Movement could help. From information received it seems that most Children's Homes and Institutions for older children have their own staffs, and will not require any outside help, but Baby Homes would probably be glad of assistance. If Guiders or Rangers, or members of Local Associations could offer any help in this way, Commissioners are asked to get in touch with the Homes direct.

The plans for the Reception Areas in the country are in the hands of the local shire authorities, and we understand that helpers will be needed by the Welfare Committees, especially in Districts to which inmates of institutions will be evacuated, e.g., Baby and Blind Homes. If Country Commissioners could offer any form of assistance from Guides, Rangers, or Guiders, will they get in touch direct with the shire authorities?

Among the evacuated children there will probably be a number of Guides and Brownies, and possibly Guiders. Knowing what contact with Guiding will mean to these children who are away from their usual environment, we hope they can be linked up with Guiding, and also any other children who wish to join the Movement. Country Commissioners are asked to watch for any such Guides or Brownies. Guiders of children who have been evacuated are asked to send information to Country Commissioners concerned.

Circulars concerning the above have been sent to all Commissioners in both metropolitan and country areas.—M. E. Bush.

SPECIAL NOTICE

To cover emergency conditions now prevailing two circulars have been issued to Commissioners and Captains throughout Victoria, one dealing with a Cycle Corps and one with ideas for the training of Guides during school holidays.

GIRL GUIDE CYCLE CORPS, VICTORIA.

It has been decided by the Executive Committee to form a Girl Guide Cycle Corps in Victoria for the purpose of helping by carrying messages in emergencies and at other times.

It is felt that there would be quite a number of uses for trained groups in various districts, not only in emergencies, and it is suggested that their services could be offered to the local A.R.P. authorities or for any other useful purpose in the district.

1. Any Guide, Ranger or Guider holding the Cyclist Badge may enrol in the Cycle Corps.

2. Guides who are not Second Class must do the test for the Cyclist Badge, but will not receive the badge until they are Second Class Guides.

3. All members under 21 years must have permission in writing of parent or guardian.

4. An armlet to be worn on the left sleeve above the elbow will be issued to all who have passed the following tests:—

(a) Pass a test equivalent to the First Class "Knowledge of Neighbourhood" section, to include short cuts, wardens' posts, First Aid posts.

(b) Know the air-raid signals.

(c) Know how to stop bleeding.

(d) Hold the Home Defence Badge or pass the following sections from the Syllabus:—

Know how to behave in an air-raid; Send and receive messages by telephone;

Give concise and accurate information (verbally and in writing) about an unusual occurrence.

Deliver in person a verbal message one mile away.

Tests.

Commissioners are asked to make sure that all tests are thorough and practical (i.e., no written questions).

Organisation.

Central from H.Q.—Organiser, Secretary and Sub-committee, who may inspect District Squads at any time.

District.—The unit in the District will be the Squad. The maximum in a Squad will be 20, but may be less. All local organisation will be in the hands of the District concerned. Districts may form more than one Squad. It is suggested that Squads might be formed in

Districts in age groups, e.g., under 14, 14-15, 16, and over. This would facilitate arrangements for helping various organisations which might require help of cyclists, e.g., Red Cross, Blood Transfusion Organisation, local A.R.P. centres, etc.

Rules.

Each Squad might have regular parades not less than once a week, and more if possible, especially at the beginning when training is necessary. This is to ensure that Guides are efficient and that there is no slackness. In a service of this kind efficiency and discipline are essential.

The Commissioner, or a Guider or responsible Ranger appointed by her, will be officially responsible for Guide Cycle Squads in her District. Adults outside the Guide Movement, men or women, who are interested, can be appointed by the Commissioner to train the Guides for the tests, etc.

All members must attend all parades unless they are away from home or ill. The penalty for non-attendance will be the forfeiting of the arm-band until one month's full attendance has been attained.

Guide uniform must be worn on all occasions (n.b., it will be realised that in the case of an air-raid alert, Guides may not have time to change before reporting for duty). Guides should be trained to keep their uniform in good order ready to put on at a moment's notice.

Proper Roll Books and records, on the lines of a Guide Company Record Book, should be kept by each Squad.

All members must sign an official application form. Details from this form should be entered into the Squad record book and the form forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, Guide Cycle Squad, Girl Guide Office, 60 Market St., Melbourne.

Inspection at parades by leaders of Squads will include bicycles, uniform, equipment. Every Guide will have a triangular tie; two pennies for telephone; clean handkerchief or rag in an envelope; pencil and note-book; simple First Aid kit.

Notes.

As soon as a Squad is formed the Organiser or Secretary should be notified. Application forms should be signed at once, entered in the Squad Record Book, and forwarded immediately by the responsible person.

It is suggested that the school holidays provide an excellent opportunity for the Guides to obtain their training, as it should be possible for them to have training and practices every day. Adults who are not members of the Guide Movement could be appointed to direct this if Guiders are not free in the day time. Rangers and Guiders could form Squads apart from the Guides and have parades after work.

It is hoped that all Guiders will co-operate in making the Guides' Cycle Corps a useful and efficient service by encouraging their

Guides to join if they have access to a bicycle.

It is not intended that the Cycle Corps should take the place of or interfere with ordinary Company meetings. It is hoped that Companies will carry on as normally as possible.—Elaine E. Moran, Organiser.

HOLIDAY TRAINING.

As most Guides have been obliged to cancel their camps and holidays, and only a limited number will be eligible to join the Cycle Corps, it was agreed by the Executive Committee that a scheme should be drawn up whereby Guides could use the holidays profitably as well as happily.

It is hoped that all Guiders, particularly those free in the day time, will make every effort to meet the needs of the children by taking some part. We want to make the scheme as thrilling and as useful as we possibly can. Guiders who are free during the day will naturally have most time to spare, but others may be able to give an hour or two after work, before dark, when they can plan the next day's activities with Patrol Leaders.

Ideas for the Training of Guides During the School Holidays.

1. That regular meetings based on the day-camp idea should be arranged in Districts. The Guides to meet regularly, e.g., twice or three times a week in the long summer evenings or even every day, according to what arrangements can be made in the District concerned.
2. That the Guides remain in Companies or combine as a District Group.
3. That as far as possible Patrols should remain intact, though some adapting will undoubtedly be necessary; if Patrols are combined they should elect their own Patrol Leader.
4. That the Patrol System should be used throughout with frequent Patrol-in-Council meetings; and a Court of Honour after each meeting to decide details for next day, receive suggestions, etc.
5. That candidates for the Cyclist Corps should be in Patrols together as their training may at times be separate, though they can join in the general scheme of knowing the neighbourhood and message carrying.
6. Place.—That Headquarters can be a suitable paddock or garden—there can be one general Headquarters or one for each Company.
7. That the Guides should have practical training on: Home Defence Badge; Knowledge of Neighbourhood for First Class, including Wardens' Posts, First Aid Posts and short cuts; the suggestions in December "Matilda," page 4, "Practical Suggestions for Emergency Community Service." As much as possible of this to be done in the form of Wide Games.
8. That the Guides should be given things

to do at home (see December "Matilda," page 4.) Further suggestions are: Undress and dress in the dark; find way from bedroom to gas main and other places in the dark, etc.

9. Keep fit, and swimming, etc., could be included. If Guides attend swimming baths in uniform, bathing **MUST** be carried out in accordance with the Bathing Rules in Victorian Supplement, P.O.R., otherwise they should be dismissed and **MUST** go home and change their clothes before going to the baths if they wish, as private individuals.

10. Equipment.—That each Guide should wear uniform with triangular tie. She will carry clean handkerchief or rag in sealed envelope; pennies for telephone; her lunch or tea as required; mug; ground-sheet; notebook and pencil; cord; haversack. Each Patrol will have first aid kit and billy.

11. That it would be best for a Commissioner or Guider to be responsible, if possible drawing up a scheme for the District in conjunction with the Guiders. Help can be obtained from L.A. members and friends who can assist in many ways—supervising, training, lending gardens, receiving practice messages, lending telephones for practice, training small numbers in emergency cooking, etc., etc.; the more people who are interested the better.

A further suggestion is that Guiders can take it in turns to plan the sessions and wide games, based on a general scheme.

12. The aim is to give the Guides, under Guide conditions, further training that will help them to be efficient and reliable in case they may be called upon to help in an emergency, at the same time giving them a holiday activity that they will thoroughly enjoy.

The following is an outline of one scheme that has been drawn up, based on daily meetings of a day-camp type:—

Each Guide will come fully equipped and report to Patrol Leader at 11 a.m. at Patrol Corner.

11 a.m.—Patrol Leaders will drill and inspect their Patrols, both for appearance and equipment.

11.10 a.m.—Patrol-in-Council. Discussion of programme for the day prepared at Court of Honour the previous evening.

11.30-12.30.—Training activities and practices.

12.30 p.m.—Lunch and rest.

2-3.30.—Wide games bringing in knowledge of neighbourhood, observation, message carrying, compass, mapping, etc.

3.30.—Swimming, if Guides Rules can be followed.

4.00.—Afternoon fruit; dismiss.

4.30.—Court of Honour. Discuss the results of the day's programme and plan the next one.

If Miss MacLeod or I can be of any assistance in your planning, please telephone one of us as we would like to help in any way we

can.—Elaine E. Moran, Commissioner for Training; Organiser Cycle Corps. Phones: E. Moran (U 4830); S. MacLeod (U 4110).

All correspondence to be addressed to Miss E. Moran, 2 Wilks Ave., Malvern, S.E.4.

VICTORIAN SUPPLEMENT TO P.O. & R.

Have you remembered that you need a copy of the just-published Victorian Annual Report.

You will want to read the general report on Guiding in Victoria, the separate reports on the various branches, the financial statement, including the list of Packs and Companies which have sent donations during the year.

You will want also to know the special additional rules or adaptations of the rules, which apply to all branches of Guiding in Victoria. Remember to consult these before you let a Guide enter for a proficiency badge test; it is very embarrassing and disappointing when you allow the Guides to be tested for a badge (e.g., Domestic Service) which no longer exists!

And, of course, you will need for reference throughout the year the complete list of Packs and Companies in the State, with the names and addresses of the Guiders, and of Commissioners.

The price of the report is 3d. (1d. postage).

—F.V.B.

BROWNIES.

Transition Stage.

Sooner or later comes the time when the ties which bind the Brownie to her Pack begin to loosen. Brown Owl realises this, and the regret which she naturally feels at the thought of parting with her Brownie soon merges in the far greater joy and pride of handing her over to the Guide Company to continue on her way.

Before any definite arrangements are made, mother is approached, and then the Captain should know some weeks ahead so that there will be a place ready for her in the Company, and the Guides have the pleasure of looking forward to their new recruit.

Flying Up Ceremony

For an occasion when the Pack is unable to be present. Brown Owl says to Company—

"Her Brownie days are at her back,

For Margaret has left the Pack.

**She's earned the right to Brownie wings,
She understands most Brownie things."**

Then, turning to the Brownie—

"Good-bye to Fairies, Elves and Sprites,

You soon will know the Guiding rites.

You're stepping forth to wider things,

So take and wear your Brownie wings."

They shake hands, and the Guide Captain asks: "By what right do you come "

Brownie replies: "By the right of my wings."

Guider—

"Welcome to a Brownie true,
Soon you will be dressed in blue.
The Company invites you in,
The first with wings to join them."

Patrol Leader—

"All the Blue Wrens welcome you,
We hope to show you something new.
And we shall teach you all we can,
According to the Girl Guide plan."

Happiness

There is an old saying that there are many wrong ways of doing a thing, and only one right one. In Guiding we can often find many right ways of doing one thing. Our Packs try to make a sound foundation of happiness in Guiding. We value the atmosphere of stability and security, which is the opposite of the tension that disturbs young children so quickly. The work of the world must go on. Plato said: "It is balance that counts," and that is just as true to-day. Sanity, balance, tolerance are all vitally necessary, and our task at present is to go on in the renewed recognition of the value of Guiding, with its balanced activities, its stress on self-reliance, sense of responsibility and its comradeship.

All children should be happy and active. It is their right. Let our work be purposeful, but let it be happy. Happiness brings the sense of security that is necessary for balanced development of young people.

LONES

I have received a letter from the Commissioner from the Lone Branch of Natal (Mrs. E. C. Davey), who tells me that she has been asked to compile a series of booklets for Lone Guides in South Africa. I quote from her letter:—

"I am anxious to put into these books information of Guiding in other countries of the kind that would interest a child from 12-15 years. The books are in story form—the story of a little girl called Gay who becomes a Lone Guide. I am making her receive letters from Guides in other countries conveying the information I want to give about Guiding all over the world.

"Do you think you could get a Guide to write me a letter (writing it to Gay) describing a little of her life and her Guiding activities. If the child who does this for me would like it I am quite willing to write to her in reply, telling about our Lones, or get one of my Lones to do so.

"I do not want an elaborate composition, but just an ordinary letter, and if possible I should like a picture of the trefoil used, just cut from a printed paper, that I could copy."

This is a very nice idea, and one in which I am sure the Lones of Victoria would like to assist. Unfortunately, however, they will be in recess until February, which I gather will be rather late, as Mrs. Davey ends her letter:—

"Time is an important factor, as I want to have some of the books printed and released

by the end of January."

Once our Victorian Lones start meeting again, however, I am sure they will be thrilled at the idea of "getting into print," and will want to reply to her letter. Will Guiders please note Mrs. Davey's address therefore.

Unsinsi Private Bag,
Umtwalumi,
South Coast, Natal,
South Africa.

What a romantic sounding address by the way! And will they tell their girls of her interesting proposition. As there is to be a series of booklets, they will probably extend over some time, so we may not be too late to contribute something towards it.

You all know by now what a tremendous success the Guide War Appeal Week was. How the £1500 that we aimed at—a little breathless at our courage in aiming so high—was not only reached but passed. Those of us who took an active part in the display were thrilled by its success, and in the interest and enthusiasm of our well-wishers and supporters.

I am proud to know that the Lones played their part well in contributing towards this attainment. Although it takes so long for Captains to contact their Guides, they responded immediately, so that before the display closed at Myers the sum of £8/10/- was collected. It had been arranged that Grace McKecknie, of 12th Lones Guides, should bring in the money. Grace was in town and brought her donation to the tree on Friday afternoon.

It was quite an occasion, as the amount brought the total up to £1200. As you know, when each £100 was reached different coloured lights were set up to signify the amount. Although she could not wait until the electrician had changed the colour, she was given the honour of tacking up the notice which said "£1200 has now been reached." This was at 5 o'clock. Between this time and the closing at 8.30, the amount aimed at—£1500—was achieved.

We cannot but feel justly proud that we are members of a movement that can by such co-operation achieve such conspicuous success. It shows too what a strength we can be to the community as a whole when we work together towards a common goal.

This is a challenge to each one of us to redouble our efforts in the grim days that lie ahead of us in 1942, and to pledge ourselves, our brains and hands so that not one hour is wasted than can be given in service to the community.

Therefore, the watchword that I offer you for 1942 is: "A little more than my best." No matter what the job is, if we put into it all of which we are capable, if we can prove to those working with us that we are to be relied upon, if we can provide just that little extra which will help to inspire those around us, then indeed we will have earned the greatest of all praises: "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over little things. . . ."

—M.R.F.

Training and Camping

Elaine Moran

The Gold Cord Award

Word has been received from Imperial Headquarters, London, that after many queries regarding the Gold Cord Test during the last two years, it has been decided to revise the syllabus for this test and for the All Round Cord test.

It has been decided that these syllabuses will be used in Victoria from January 1, 1942. Any Guides who have commenced the test on the old Victoria syllabus, see P.O.R. Supplement, page 25, may continue the test provided that it is completed not later than April 30, 1942.

Revised Syllabus of All Round Cords

The candidate must be a First Class Guide, and should hold: Ambulance or Sick Nurse or Emergency Helper.

Swimmer or Signaller.

Two other badges chosen by herself, of which one at least must be one of the following outdoor badges: Birdlover, Boatswain, Farm Worker, Flower Lover, Gardener, Hiker, Horsewoman, Naturalist, Pathfinder, Pioneer, Star Lover, Woodman.

Revised Syllabus of Gold Cords

1. The candidate must hold the All-Round Cords and be ready for the final test when she is not more than 16.

2. She should hold: The Little House Emblem, the Handywoman's Badge and also one badge taken from the following list—Artist, Booklover, Country Dancer, Dancer, Decorative, Needlework, Lace Maker, Music Lover and Minstrel (if these are chosen, both must be taken), Photographer, Player, Singer, Spinner, Stitchery, Welsh Folk, Writer.

3. She should hold the Pioneer's Badge and have a good report from the Commandant of the camp at which she was tested on her standard of dependability, adaptability, punctuality and general keeping of the Guide Law throughout the camp.

4. She must hold the International Knowledge Badge or the Interpreter's Badge.

5. She must be recommended by her District Commissioner and Captain (with the approval of the Court of Honour) on her standard of

(a) unselfishness,

(b) courtesy,

(c) general appearance (both in and out of uniform).

The Guiders should send a general note of any work done for the Company by the candidate, also of any service she has been able to do for others (apart from Guiding) for any period of not less than three months.

6. Finally the candidate will be examined

by a Diploma'd Guider on any work in these tests, and also on her degree of (a) observation, and (b) common sense.

Miss Shanks, Commissioner for Training at Imperial Headquarters, writes in the October "Guider":—

"The new Gold Cord Test is one not only of general all-round ability, but of character. No one can make a girl a First Class Guide; assuredly no one can make a Guide fit for Gold Cords. She must do it herself. Yet, in Countries, Counties, Divisions and Districts there must be co-operation between Commissioners, Camp Advisers, Guiders and Local Examiners, and finally with Headquarters. A great deal depends on the standard of local badge tests. It is a question not only of achieving a high standard, but of maintaining it."

Combined Ranger Camp

If there are enough applications to warrant it, a Combined Ranger Camp will be held at the Guide House during the Easter holidays, 1942. The dates will be April 2 to 6, 1942. The fee will be between 16/- and 17/6, plus fares, according to the number. Rangers may apply for part time, and the fee will be adjusted accordingly. Applications, accompanied by 5/- deposit, must reach Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, not later than March 1, 1942.

Guide and Brownie Training

Classes are being arranged for Guiders in elementary Guide and Brownie work beginning the first week in March. Guide Training on Wednesday evenings and Brownie Training on Tuesday evenings. Full details in February "Matilda."

Open Week Ends 1942

February 20-22 has been cancelled because of Guide Week. March 6-8, 20-22, April 17-19, May 1-3, 15-17, June 5-7, 19-21, July 3-5, 17-19, August 7-9, 21-23, September 4-6, 18-20, October 2-4, 16-18, November 6-8, 20-22. These dates are subject to school or public holidays not falling at the same time.

STOP PRESS

CAMPING

Owing to transport difficulties and the Government's request not to use the railways during the Christmas holidays, it was decided to cancel all Camps and Training Weeks organised by Headquarters, viz., 1st and 2nd Combined Guide Camps, Guiders' Training Week, Campcraft Week, and Patrol Leaders' Training Week.—E. E. Moran.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on November 19 and December 4, 1941.

November 19

Present: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Edmondson, Misses Cameron, McKellar, Moran, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Reported: That Lady Gowrie would visit the Christmas tree at the Mural Hall.

That Miss Purnell had purchased material for Guide uniforms in India.

Agreed: To invest £140 of Guide House Endowment Fund in Commonwealth Loan.

That Miss Moran and the Secretary should be delegates to the Conference of Youth Organisations.

That Mrs. Orr's request for leave of absence should be granted.

That Miss Butt's resignation as Area Commissioner be received with regret.

That belts shall be bought only with Local Association or Company funds.

Routine and financial business was transacted.

December 4

Present: Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Robinson, Misses Cameron, Moran, Ritchie and the Secretary.

Reported: That £1593 was in hand for the Christmas Tree Appeal.

That Miss Ross had arranged for Miss Barfus to run a camp for land workers in the vicinity of Geelong.

Agreed: That the circular in reference to Guide Week be approved and inserted in "Matilda."

That suggestions as approved by the Committee be made in reference to the proposed constitution of the Committee of Youth Organisations.

That names submitted as Trustees for the Box Hill Local Association be approved.

That, in view of the difficulty of obtaining Guide belt buckles, plain buckles be issued for Guide uniform.

That Districts should be urged to recall belts from ex-Guides.

Routine business was transacted.

GUIDE OFFICE HOLIDAYS

The Guide Office and Equipment Depot will CLOSE on DECEMBER 24 at 6 p.m. and will RE-OPEN on MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1942.

—M. E. Bush.



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WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

District Commissioner: Port Melbourne and Montague, Mrs. G. McCracken; South Melbourne and Albert Park, Miss L. Brand.

Brown Owl: 2nd Brighton Beach, Miss V. Coxhead; 1st Hamilton, Miss M. Hutchins; 2nd Heidelberg, Miss J. Preece.

Captain: 1st Horsham, Miss J. Jones; 2nd Victorian Lone Guides, Miss F. Reeves.

Lieutenant: 1st Cheltenham, Miss N. Woods; 1st Kew, Miss V. Griffiths.

Ranger Captain: 1st Hawthorn, Miss R. Denny.

Pack: 1A Yarram.

Company: 3A Ballarat, Geelong Old Guides' Association, Hamilton Old Guides, 4A Hawthorn, 1A Wonthaggi.

CANCELLATIONS

Tawny Owl: Miss M. Hutchins.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Adventuring," South Australia.
"Le Trefle Rouge et Blanc," Switzerland.
"Te Rama," New Zealand.
"The Girl Guide Magazine," South Africa.
"The Victorian Scout."
"The Waratah," New South Wales.

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