

*M. E. Bush*

# Matilda



MAY, 1942.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings of the Executive Committee, held at the Guide Office on March 19 and April 2, 1942.

Present.—March 19: Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Edmondson, Bakewell, Blackwood, Bennett, Littlejohn, Misses Cameron, Moran, Ritchie, Swinburne, and the Secretary.

Present.—April 2: Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Faulkner, Buckley, Edmondson, Pearson, Misses Cameron, McKellar, Moran, Ritchie, Swinburne, and the Secretary.

#### Agreed.

To renew our membership of the National Theatre Movement.

That we should agree to the suggestion from the Federal Secretary that the date for opening the proposed Chief Scout Memorial Fund should be deferred for six months.

To suggest to the Federal Secretary that all the suggestions from States for the form the Memorial should take, should be sent to Imperial Headquarters.

To accept the recommendation from the Commissioner for Brownies for a temporary alteration to a clause in Rule 32, P.O. and R.: "Only Golden Hand Brownies may earn Proficiency Badges," by substituting "Brownies are permitted to earn two badges before they are Golden Hand."

That the Secretary should communicate with the Diocesan Scout Advisory Council in reference to the St. George's Day Service.

That permission could not be granted to Guides to march in the procession on Rivet Day.

That money from disbanded Companies should be held by the Guide Association for "Guide purposes in the same District in which the Company was disbanded" (see Rule 29 (e) P.O. and R.) for a period of five years, after which it should be paid into the general funds of the Association.

That the proposals from the Guide House Committee in regard to raising money for the Guide House funds be accepted.

To have a meeting of Commissioners and representatives of Guiders and L.A.'s to discuss the future of the Guide War Appeal and Guiding at the present time.

To reply to the Federal Secretary that the World Bureau and Federal Council quotas and Emergency Levy be paid by States this year as usual.

That Miss Cameron be appointed Convener of a sub-committee to deal with trust deeds.

That the recommendation from the Training Committee that the "shortened Second Class Test as adopted in England for the duration of the war should be adopted by Victoria," be approved.

#### Reported.

That a letter had been received from Mrs. Stanley Elder, Acting President of the Chil-

dren's Hospital Auxiliary, expressing great appreciation of the help given by the Guide Movement in the sorting of silver paper, and hoping that this help would be continued in Districts.

Routine and financial business was transacted.—M. E. Bush, State Secretary.

### EQUIPMENT NOTES.

#### Urgent—Re Guide Belts.

Owing to war conditions, we shall not be able to import any further supplies of buckles; and each day it becomes increasingly difficult to get any leather.

It is therefore urgent that Districts make local plans to call in all available belts (old-style belts whose leather is in bad condition can be renewed—we have at present a small stock of leathers for this purpose at 1/9).

Belts thus obtained can then be used for new recruits in the District. It is strongly recommended that belts become District rather than Company property.

Districts may be able to co-operate with other Districts in their Division, who may happen to have larger supplies than they need.

In Districts where Guiding has been established for some time, there must be a number of Guides who have left the Companies without handing in their belts. (As these are registered equipment, the Local Association and Guiders are responsible to see that the belts do not remain in the possession of those who no longer belong to a Company).

The VERY small supply of belts on hand at Headquarters must be kept for Companies in new Districts where belts have not previously been issued, and for Companies who find it impossible to get any old ones locally.

**Please do not ask us for belts unless you have really exhausted every possible source in both Districts and Division.**

### NAME-TAPES.

We have been informed that the manufacturers will no longer be permitted to make name-tapes, so further orders for these cannot be accepted.—C. Broadhurst, Commissioner for Equipment.

### WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

**District Commissioner.**—South Yarra, Miss V. Brett, 41 Walsh st., South Yarra, S.E.1.

**Brown Owl.**—1st Benalla, Miss S. Biddle; 2nd Benalla, Mrs. D. K. McMillan.

**Packs.**—1st Rutherglen Pack.

**Companies.**—1st Metropolitan Cadet Company; 3a Hawthorn Company.

**Cancellations.**— District Commissioner: South Yarra, Miss J. Ritchie. Captain: 1st Moe, Miss M. Flewin; 1st Seymour, Miss D. J. Wickham.

# “Matilda”

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No. 11.

## GUIDE WAR WORK.

1st Cohuna Guides collected 58lb. of cleaning rags for the services, and 36lb. of white linen suitable for dressings. These were delivered to the local branch of the Red Cross. In addition, a large carton of scraps was sent to the A.C.F. local depot.

The Guides of 1st Lockington set out to collect rag for the A.C.F.; to date they have despatched 25lb., but hope to be able to get more a little later.—N.M.

## SOCIAL SERVICE AMONG WOMEN OF THE SERVICES.

### Urgent Need for Leaders.

The Girl Guides' Association has been asked to make known among our members the opportunity offered by the Y.W.C.A. of Australia to women trained in group work and leadership for social welfare work among women of the services.

The Y.W.C.A. has undertaken to extend social service activities, and the need for them is increasing rapidly. Applications for leadership positions are invited, and qualifications include Girl Guide, Club or social work. Appointments will carry a salary, and in the service units, officers' rank; applicants must be prepared to work in any part of Australia. A brief course of training will be given in Melbourne.

Applications should be made immediately to Y.W.C.A. of Australia, 55 Collins Place, Melbourne. Age, qualifications and experience should be stated, and testimonials should be enclosed.—M.E.B.

## PAPER SORTING FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY.

We have had a letter from Mrs. Stanley Elder, Acting President of the Children's Hospital Auxiliary, expressing her thanks for all the "splendid help given by Guides at the Children's Hospital Waste Depot last year on Saturday afternoons." She says that with this help "a tremendous amount of unfolding and 'first sorting' of silver paper and tubes was done."

Commissioners had offered the help of the Guides again this year, but now that the Auxiliary has moved to much smaller premises at 50 William st., practically only the final sorting can be done there.

In order to carry on this very necessary

work, the Auxiliary is forming District Groups for the preliminary unfolding and first sorting of the silver paper, etc. Mrs. Elder writes: "Should any Guiders be able to organise working parties to carry out this work we would indeed be grateful. Our work has become of vital national importance owing to the great call for aluminium by the Defence Department. The greater part of silver paper is composed of aluminium, and is needed for the making of patterns and jigs for tank tracks, Bren gun carriers and aircraft parts."

Here is a job which could be undertaken locally by any Guide Company, and there would be something for everyone to do—some to collect the foil, etc., some to unfold and flatten, and some to sort. Guiders could probably obtain permission from someone with a spare room to use it as a "dump," or even as a workroom for the job. Those Guiders who helped with their Guides last year will know what is required; others may apply direct to Mrs. Elder, 15 Jackson st., Toorak, for instructions.

Any of this work done by the Guides will not only augment the revenue of the Children's Hospital, but can also help in providing an urgently needed and vitally important product.—M. E. Bush.

## CAMOUFLAGE NETS.

The Girl Guides' Association has returned 200 completed nets to the Country Women's Association. Work is continuing steadily. Unfortunately, owing to difficulty in obtaining twine the C.W.A. has been forced to limit the number of Depots to the existing ones, and cannot issue to them more twine than they have been using hitherto. Thus the situation has changed since my last article in "Matilda" urging more people to take it up as their war effort.

Those who have already been registered at the C.W.A. can, of course, continue, and we will be glad to hear of any nets that are returned there, so that we can add them to our list. By the way, please return all empty spools, as these are used again.

We regret having lost Mrs. Potter—one of our most indefatigable workers—who has moved to Geelong. Mrs. Tremlett's depot at Janefield has been another energetic contributor, as has been Malvern and East Malvern, and Burwood and Hartwell. Preston, Northcote and Heidelberg have also been sending in a steady flow. We are indebted to all our workers for their loyalty and support.—M. R. Fairbairn.

### GIRL GUIDE CYCLE CORPS.

On Saturday, February 28, nine Guides from the Kew Division of the Cycle Corps rode from Kew to the Forrest Hill Kindergarten Holiday Home to help the kindergarten teachers with the black-out preparations. When the Guides had finished half the black-out screens, they built a fire and cooked their lunch and had a well-earned rest after their long hilly ride.

In the afternoon they continued their work and finished before 3 o'clock. There were still several jobs they found to do, such as apple picking and peeling fruit for the children's tea.

After an early tea they rode home through Tunstall and Box Hill, feeling very tired but very happy.

Two weeks later the same girls rode out to the "Ware" Holiday Home outside Ringwood. At "Ware" they weeded, dug, raked, and hosed a very large weed-covered vegetable garden.

The day was very hot and at intervals the girls paddled in the large wading pool—and were soon refreshed.

Lunch and tea were cooked over an open fire overlooking hills and orchards. But this time the Guides were far too tired and hot to ride home, so they packed their bicycles into the train at Ringwood and relaxed in their seats. Their work was very much appreciated by the Holiday Homes, who sent a letter of thanks to the Kew Cycle Corps.—Pat Wells, Kew Cycle Corps.

### HEADQUARTERS ANNUAL LEVY.

In 1939 it was agreed by Districts that, in order to supplement Headquarters funds, there should be an annual levy on all Packs, Companies and Local Associations. The amounts suggested were 2/6 per Pack, 5/- per Guide or Ranger Company, 10/6 per Local Association.

Last year, this levy brought in £76/15/6, but, owing to the change of date of the financial year, the period covered was only nine months.

The financial year ends on 30th June, and it would help us if donations were not all left until the last month, but were sent as soon as possible.

In explaining to the various groups the need for this levy, Guiders may find it helpful to refer to the printed balance sheet, showing items of receipts and expenditure, as printed in the Victorian Annual Report and Supplement (3d.).—M. E. Bush, State Secretary.

### COMPANY PROBLEMS.

#### The Guide Who Has Gone to the Country.

Many Guiders are finding that odd Guides in their Companies are going away to live in the country, either with their schools or to live with relatives. Where there is a Company in the District to which the Guide has

gone, no time should be lost in sending an official transfer, and if time permits a personal note to the Commissioner or Captain in that District, so that the Guide will link up with Guide friends in her new home town without loss of time.

But what to do with the Guides who have gone to Districts where there are no Companies? A request has been received by the Training Department for help in this direction. So, we are sending into "Matilda" the copy of a letter which has actually been used. This letter, which will explain itself, was attractively decorated with tracings from pictures in "The Guider." The Court of Honour should have a part in planning it, and the Patrol Leader's section to each individual Guide can be attached, as well as letters from any individual Guides who care to write.

19th Cairngorm Guide Co.

April, 1942.

Dear Guides,—

Several of the schools have been taken over by the Army, and so have had to transfer most of them to the country. That means that some of the Guides are now living in the country out of reach of a Company. Others have moved privately to the country, often to places where there are no Guides.

This has happened to some of 19th Cairngorm Guides, and that is why you are getting this letter. Would you like to belong to the Company just the same, carry on with your Second Class, and receive a letter every month with suggestions and ideas for things that you can do? If you would like that, and if you answer your letter before the end of each month, you can still belong to 19th Cairngorm and qualify for your service star at the end of the year. Lieutenant or I will write to you each month, probably during the first week, and send you a letter something like this one, and also a personal letter for each Guide.

I hope you took your Guide badge with you. If not, ask your mother to post it after you. Wear it as much as possible, and keep it bright and polished all the time.

With best wishes,

From Captain.

### COMPANY NEWS.

#### Goanna Ptarov.

Peggy Wilkins has chosen Jennifer as her Second.

Daisy Patrick has gone to live at Bendigo, but is going to join a Company there.

Anne has gone to Warburton with her school, but has not left the Company.

Jane, Winnie, Susan and Lavender are four new recruits.

Polly has received her second service star.

#### Spider Orchid Patrol.

Daisy has chosen Nona as her Second.

Judy has gone to live at Healesville, but has not left the Company.

Edith and Maisie are two new recruits in this Patrol.

**Periwinkle Patrol.**

Lola has transferred from the Spider Orchids to be the P.L. of the Periwinkles.

Cath and Janet have left. Their school was taken over, and they now have gone to another school and are too late home.

Betty has transferred from the Robins to the Periwinkles.

Hattie has passed her Morse and Bleeding, and Marjorie her Mile.

**Robin Patrol.**

This Patrol has closed down.

Elsie and the Twins now go to school at the Technical School and are too late home. Elsie has transferred to 7th Cairngorm and the Twins have joined the Salvation Army Guards.

**General News.**

It was decided by the Court of Honour that in future P.L.'s should be elected from among Second Class Guides only, as the Company has now been going long enough for this.

We had over £4 in Company funds, so the Guides decided to give 5/- each to the Red Cross and Comforts Fund and £2 to the Guide House. The Guide House needs money for its upkeep, usually it gets rent from camps and week-ends. This year most of the camps were cancelled, and not many week-end visitors go there, as they cannot get a train home on Sunday night from Wesburn.

The Company is going for a hike on Saturday, probably to Blackburn Lake.

**MESSAGE-CARRYING.**

This month we have been trying to practise carrying messages in our heads; none of the Patrols are very good at it. I think that the Periwinkles have been the best.

This is what an English Guide paper says about message-carrying: "In the days when people had no mechanical means of communication they generally devised ways of spreading news through even thinly populated country almost as quickly as if they had telegraphy at their command. Now that communication is not so easy, thanks to petrol restrictions, many Districts may be evolving some means of communication of their own. Something like the old Highland method of the Fiery Cross may be considered, though this was, of course, only used for the gathering of the clans. The cross was roughly made of untrimmed wood lighted in a fire, and quenched in goat's blood. The Chief's swiftest runner carried it to the nearest village, showed it at every window, and called out the name of the meeting place; then he handed it to the best runner of that place, to be carried on; so the news was passed on, and very soon the whole clan was at the gathering place."

In an emergency, telephone wires might be down and people be sent round on foot to

deliver urgent messages. Wouldn't it be dreadful if a Guide forgot her message or got it mixed? The only way to prevent this is to practise now.

Here are three messages. Take them one at a time, starting with the shortest, memorise one when you get up in the morning, write it down before you go to bed that night, then compare it with the original message. If you are right go on to the longer one next day; if you had even one word wrong, make up another short one for yourself, write it down, memorise it, and repeat it before you go to bed. When you are right, go on to the longer one. These are the messages; let me know how you get on:

1. "Carroll Creek is in flood; notify all people living south of Benson road to leave their homes immediately. Cars are waiting for them at Dent's Corner."

2. "Message to be broadcast immediately: Three tigers, a panther and four leopards have escaped from Wirth's Circus; last seen heading north-east from Lilydale. Anyone knowing anything of their whereabouts, please ring Lilydale Police immediately."

3. "Message from Miss Pratt to Whoop Whoop General Store: Please give bearer three pints of milk, one small tin of cocoa, ½lb. of sugar, and two large tins of biscuits. Charge to Area Y Emergency Canteen. Also forward six pairs of blankets, four pillows, and 10 lanterns by carrier to-morrow."

(N.B.—Here follows diagram from "The Guider," February, 1940, page 33).

Fold a square of paper in half as in 1. Fold one corner across as in 2. Turn the paper over and fold over other side as in 3. Tuck flaps as in 4.

Would you like to make a paper drinking cup to carry with you on a hike? It is useful, too, to cook an egg in. When cooking an egg, make the cup out of several layers of greaseproof paper, or else grease your paper well. Put a piece of butter about the size of a walnut in the bottom and break your egg into it; put a green stick through two holes in the top of the cup, and hold it over the ashes. If you hold it over flames your cup may burn, which would be the end of your egg. If you like cheese, grate a little and sprinkle it over the egg.

Have you ever seen a horse's footmarks on a muddy road or track? I'm sure you have, hundreds of times. Do you know that you can tell by them if the horse was walking, trotting or galloping? See if you can find any this month and discover how they are different. You should be able to find plenty of tracks after all the rain we have had. I expect you see plenty of birds about, too. Have you ever noticed their beaks? You can tell by the shape of them what the birds eat. Choose any three birds, look at their beaks, guess what food they live on, and then watch them to see if you were

right. Let me know how you get on. It does not matter if you do not know the name of the bird, find out if you can; if not, send me a description of it. Tell me in the description its size compared with a bird you do know, its colour, shape and anything else that you noticed about it.

(N.B.—The drawings that were traced to decorate this letter will be found as follows: "The Guider," December, 1939, p. 442; June, 1939, ps. 213-214; January, 1940, p. 2; June, 1940, p. 151; September, 1939, p. 332; September, 1939, p. 331).

### SEALED ORDERS.

#### Based on the Tenderfoot Test.

Suitable for a Patrol meeting at which no Guider can be present. These orders can be prepared by the Guider beforehand and given to the Patrol Leader with instructions to place them at appropriate places round the paddock, garden or hall—or they can be prepared by the Patrol Leader and Second. In the latter case the Leader and Second would not take part, but could practise some other tests, e.g., First Class, or help new recruits with the orders, etc. Guides work singly or in pairs, each starting at a different order and passing on to another when one is completed. Time, approximately one hour. Time should be allowed at the end for discussion, comparing points, etc.

#### Order I.

The answers to these questions will give you 10 jumbled letters, which, if they are correct, will give you the password when you sort them out. As soon as you know the password open the envelope and go on to the next section. If you cannot get the password, look up in these books to make sure that your answers are correct. Then open the envelope.

1. If the first Guide Law is A GUIDE IS LOYAL, write G. If not, write B.
2. If you salute while the National Anthem is being sung in Church, write U. If you stand at attention only, write R.
3. If the "Red Australian Flag" is used by the Merchant Service, write A. If it is used by the Navy, write O.
4. If Guides should salute members of the Air Force, write E. If not, write D.
5. If St. Patrick was born in Ireland, write U. If he was born in Britain, write E.
6. If you would run to Captain if she blew a series of short blasts, write R. If you would still, write D.
7. If St. George was born in Asia Minor, write P. If he was born in England, write I.
8. If the Australian Flag was first flown in 1901, write E. If 1903, write P.
9. If the Union Jack was first flown in 1605, write E. If 1802, write S.
10. If there were seven points in the Federal Star in 1907, write H. If there were six points, write E.

In an envelope is the following:—

Answer to 1st question . . . . B

..	2nd	..	..	R
..	3rd	..	..	A
..	4th	..	..	D
..	5th	..	..	E
..	6th	..	..	R
..	7th	..	..	P
..	8th	..	..	P
..	9th	..	..	E
..	10th	..	..	E

The password is BE PREPARED—the Guide motto.

One point for each letter right and an additional five points if you had the password correct.

Materials required: Any books or pamphlets such as GIRL GUIDING and AUSTRALIAN FLAG PAMPHLET which will give the answers. The map in a Bible is sometimes useful for finding out where Cappadocia is.

#### Order II.

Draw illustrations of two different Guide Laws, show them to another Guide. If she guesses which Laws they are meant to be, take two points for each.

#### Order III.

Tie up this jar of water so that it is hanging from something such as the bough of a tree, without spilling any water. When you have done it, or if you can't do it, open the envelope.

In envelope: Did you use the Fisherman's Knot? See the green book, page 19; and try again if you were not right. Take five points if you were right.

Materials required: One jam jar partly filled with water. One long piece of rope or cord. Copy of "How To Do It"—Patrol Charts.

#### Order IV.

Moor this boat to pier. As the tide goes very low at this place, you will have to join two ropes first. When finished, open the envelope.

In envelope: To join ropes, Fisherman's. To join rope to boat, Sheetbend. To join rope to pier, Clove-hitch.

Total, three points. If wrong practise until correct.

Materials required: One toy or paper boat provided with loop. Two pieces rope.

#### Order V.

With these materials make a Union Jack 5in. x. 4in. Then open envelope.

In envelope: Correct by this flag. Start with 10 points and take one off for every mistake.

Materials required: Pieces of blue, red, and white paper. Several pairs old scissors. In envelope one accurate copy of Union Jack 5in. x. 4in.

#### Order VI.

Make the tracking sign you would use at the end of a trail showing others your proposed camping spot for the night.

In envelope: Did you make a sign showing where and how far away you had hidden a letter saying where you had gone and when you would be back to meet them? Two points.

Material required: Sticks and stones if they are not already lying about.—E.M.

## THE PATROL LEADERS' PAGE.

"NO GUIDE MAY BE A PATROL LEADER UNTIL SHE HAS PASSED HER SECOND CLASS AND SHOWS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF PATROL DRILL."

That is what we read in P.O. and R. (Policy, Organisation and Rules). Borrow a copy from Captain or from your Company library and see what else it has to tell you about P.L.'s.

Don't you think that it might be a good idea of each Leader conducted a personal self-examination to make sure that she could fulfill that opening sentence? Some of you will have been Leaders for many months; make sure that you have not got a little rusty on your drill and test work! And what about all you new Leaders who have just been elected? Perhaps you know your drill in theory, inside out and back to front, but what happens when you drill your Patrols? Probably at first your memory and your voice will both leave you! Don't worry about that, it is rather disconcerting, but we have all been through it. Practice, and plenty of it, is the only cure, and here are a few hints to help P.L.'s, old and new, with that practice.

First, why do we drill at all? Think it out for yourselves; there are many reasons, but the following quotation gives a good summary: "Discipline is something we must all learn, for life demands it. To take part in drill is to accept discipline from without and at the same time to exercise self-control. To be of any use at all, drill must be well done; then it will be entered into with zest and enjoyed by everyone."

Whether it IS well done or not depends largely on you Leaders who are taking it. If you give your orders in a lazy, go-as-you-please tone of voice, your Patrol will obey in the same slovenly, casual manner; but snap out your commands briskly as if you really meant it, and see how your Guides will respond. Always stand at attention when taking drill, and make sure that your Guides come to attention before making any movement. If they make a mistake, pull them up immediately and repeat the order. Don't let anything pass until you are satisfied with the manner in which it is done. Your Patrol will never drill as you would wish if you say "It's good enough" or "It will do"—it must be perfect. It is better to do a little really well one week than to try and do a lot and do it badly. Remember, too, never push your Guides into position, stand quite still, and TELL them what to do; do not touch anyone.

Now for the actual drill. The correct position for a Patrol to fall in is in line with the P.L. at one end, the Guides on her left, with the Second last in the line; the third senior Guide is next to the Leader, working down to the newest recruit next to the Second. Those are the positions if someone else—such as the Guider—is going to take over the Patrol. If the P.L. is responsible

for the whole drill, then the Second should fall in in the Leader's place and No. 3 at the far end of the line.

The Patrol Leader will give the order, "Patrol Second, fall in!" and the Second will come to attention, run up (notice that, RUN, not walk or stroll!) and fall in in front of the Leader, two paces away from her; she falls in at "attention," and comes to "stand at ease" immediately. At the next order, "Patrol, fall in!" the remainder of the Patrol come to "attention" and fall in at the double on the left of the Second, falling in at "attention" and coming to "stand at ease" in the same way. Perhaps your Patrol is new and their line is a little wobbly, then give the orders, "Patrol, attention!" and "Right dress!" At the latter command the Second does not move, the others take a step forward (always move the left foot first), turn their heads to the right, and take little steps back until they are all shoulder to shoulder and absolutely in line. The Leader then gives the order, "Eyes front!" and all heads turn to the front again.

You can give your Patrol extra practice with right and left turns, about-turns (always by the right) and marching. Add more as they become smarter and more proficient, but do not keep them standing at attention for too long. You do not want to have to render first aid to six fainting Guides! Remember, too, that this is not the time for conversation; allow no talking during your drill. Each P.L. has a roll book in which is a list of the names and addresses of her Guides, and in which she keeps a record of their attendances and subscriptions. Take a pride in keeping your book well. Captain or Lieutenant will want to see it once a month, and will compare it with the Company Roll Book; it does not say much for your reliability as a Patrol Leader and is an extra trouble for them if it is incorrectly marked. Watch and see if any of your Guides are attending irregularly; it is your job to find out the wheres and whyfors.

When you are marking the roll the Patrol should be standing in line in front of the P.L. as I have described previously. Call each girl's name in turn. She comes to "attention," salutes, says "Present, Leader," and hands in her money.

Next, we come to inspection. Last month I spoke to you about the appearance and smartness of your Patrol. Are they all perfect now? It is a good thing sometimes to vary inspection—look for the most perfect Guide above the neck (i.e., hat well brushed, hatband neat, hat marked with name, no coloured ribbons or clips, etc.), or the one with the best equipment in her pockets. Keep your Patrol guessing so that they never know what you will inspect next and their standard will improve all the time. A little word of warning, though; you must be above fault yourself. At the words, "Patrol, dismiss!" your Guides will right turn, turn their heads left—that is, to face you—full salute, turn their heads back again and break off. Your recruits, of course, will not salute,

You see, there is quite a lot covered by those five little words "good knowledge of Patrol drill," isn't there? And I repeat what I told you last month, "Don't forget your Second." You may suddenly get a bad cold or stay home to help mother. Have you made sure that your Second can carry on? Can she step into your shoes and take Patrol drill? It is her responsibility, but it is yours, too.

Then a P.L. must be Second Class, but she must be more than that—she must be able to teach her Guides Second Class and Tender-foot. Spend this month brushing up your test work, and later I will give you some hints on teaching it to your Patrol. Are you quite sure that you could turn all the tests that you have passed to good account at any moment? Could you lead the police to capture an escaping spy or to find a lost child because you had practised observation so well that nothing escapes your notice? We cannot learn this in a day; it needs practice—train yourselves now in observation. Here are a few questions to ask your Guides to see how observant they really are: you can make up others like them:

On which side does my mother part her hair?

How many stairs are there at school?

Is the hot tap on the right or left hand side on the bath? Is it the same on the kitchen sink?—"Tul-Kara."

#### THE GUIDE HOUSE.

We are most heartened by the response of the Local Association, Companies and individuals who have, on realising our need, quickly sent us amounts ranging from 1/3 to £25 to help liquidate the debt of the Guide House. At the moment of going to press the total received is £104/19/3.

There are still 10 days to go before 30th April, and it will be splendid if we have by that date received all we need, with no prospect of the "blight" setting in again.—Mary Littlejohn.

#### GIPTON LOG BOOK.

Gipton has a Log Book. Does that surprise you?

The Gipton Committee has endeavoured, as far as possible, to keep a history of the Companies and Guides who have camped at Gipton, but for the last few years it seems that many Guides and Rangers have forgotten to record their stay.

The two Ranger representatives on the Gipton Committee have been asked to be responsible for the Log Book. Will you help them—it should not be hard to remember to write it up if you appoint one member of your Company to do it.

The finished history may be left at Headquarters.—M.S.

#### BROWNIES.

##### Guide House.

V345109 Private Niquet, L., resigned from the Guide House Committee, owing to her work in the Australian Women's Army Service. She will be missed by her many friends in the Girl Guides' Association. The new Brownie Branch representative on the Guide House Committee is Miss Greta Roach, 22 Neville st., Glenhantly, and she will take her place at the next meeting.

##### Brownie Mats.

Once upon a time there was a Brownie Pack. This Pack made for itself 18 little cushions. Each cushion was stuffed with something soft and nobbly to feel, yet quite comfortable to sit on. And on one side of each cushion was stencilled a design of an Owl or a Sprite, etc. Then the Brown Owl went away to another country, and the Pack scattered far and wide, and the cushions lay in a box for a long time wishing the Brownies could come back. It is not possible for that to happen, but perhaps there is another Pack just longing to have 18 rather dusty but still useful cushions. Write or telephone Mrs. F. Tate, 54 Harp rd., East Kew, so that the story may be ended, and the little cushions can live happily ever after.

##### Brownie Uniforms.

Brownie overalls do not often languish for lack of use, for in nearly every Pack a good deal of passing on takes place. But every now and then oddments are handed in to the Brownie Branch. As far as the overalls are concerned, they usually show signs of wear, and are always faded from washing, but might still be made use of if Brown Owls knew just where to find them. The oddments on hand at the moment are in the care of Miss H. Gross, 39 Kooyong road, Armadale.

##### Proficiency Badges for Brownies.

In our Book of Rules is to be found nearly 20 different Proficiency Badges which would appeal to Brownies, yet we very seldom see a Brownie wearing one of these badges on her arm. The absence of these badges has been largely accounted for by the rule which says that "Only Golden Hand Brownies may earn Proficiency Badges." Do I hear some say that they cannot find that rule in the book? It appeared as a clause in Rule 32 until a few years ago, and then it was omitted, but last year Headquarters in England published in "The Guider" a reminder that the rule still existed and was to be inserted once again. Golden Hand Test is beautifully thought out, and it is of the greatest value for every Brownie to be thoroughly familiar with the 20 items in it. But here we find a difficulty. It is only a small percentage of Brownies who arrive at the high standard required to earn the Golden Hand, and of those that do obtain it most have but little time left to remain in the Pack before Flying Up.

Brown Owls who have observed this state



of affairs, and pondered wistfully on the badges which might have been won had Golden Hand not come first, please now take notice. The following alterations to the Rule is permitted by the Victorian Executive Committee: "Brownies are permitted to earn two badges before they are Golden Hand."

#### First Class.

While we are on the subject of Golden Hand, I should like to repeat the alteration to the Book of Rules to which the Victorian Commissioner for Tests and Badges drew attention in "Matilda" last month. Owing to the rationing of milk and the difficulty in obtaining fruit in some places, clause 3 now reads: "Cook a useful dish such as milk pudding, porridge, potatoes or other vegetables, or prepare a mixed salad."

#### Buttons, As In Golden Bar Test.

I had never been able to see anything really amusing in sewing on buttons until by a lucky chance my eyes were opened by a paragraph in an old "Matilda." A Geelong Guider had written: ". . . I drew with crayons a number of faces, fat, thin, laughing, scowling faces with beards (these were in great demand) on calico or any such stuff. In drawing these faces, I omitted the eyes. I gave each Brownie a face and a large and small button. These they sewed on as eyes. The effect was most comical, and created much amusement in the Pack. After the meeting the buttons were taken off and used again later."

Although a very poor artist, I also drew my faces and offered them to the Pack with trepidation. The Brownies were just as amused as those Geelong Brownies had been 10 years ago.

This useful little hint indicates the opportunities we can cultivate to produce plenty of Brownies' smiles. These smiles are the antidote to the gloom of the war.

## The Sign Post

Editor: MARJORIE NICHOLSON.

"The secret of happiness is—something to  
—John Burroughs.

### SIGNALLING (Continued).

#### Special Points.

The following points require careful attention:—

(a) The caller should speak the groups distinctly, spelling out any difficulty, e.g., "yew" should be spelt out to distinguish it from "you" or "hew." He should take care that the sender is supplied with the next group immediately the answer reader announces that

the distant station has answered last.

He must superintend generally the sending of a message, and order the "erase" if he notices any group being incorrectly sent.

(b) The sender must act without delay on the word of the caller, and must take his order from him only, and not from the answer-reader, except where the answer-reader wants a call for light, when working with lamp or heliograph. It must be impressed on the sender that if a group is not answered he must go on sending until it is answered.

(c) The answer-reader must not allow his attention to be distracted from the distant station for an instant, or he may miss an answer or an interrupted signal.

Where the distant station sends the general answer (T), he will merely call out to the caller "Answered," but where the distant station sends some other kind of signal, e.g., the reply to VE (the calling-up signal), or the alphabetical check for numerals, he will call out what he actually reads, for example, in the case of VE, it would be "K" or "Q," and in the case of figures the letters of the alphabetical, "BCFA" (or whatever the check letters sent may be).

(d) The writer should satisfy himself that so far as it is possible to tell, the group has been correctly received before he directs the answerer to reply. If he merely wants the "general answer" to be sent, he will only say "Yes"; but if the group has been one requiring one special answer he will say to the answerer exactly how to reply, saying, for example, "K," or "FDGB," or whatever are the correct check letters in the case of numerals. It should be impressed on the writer that if he is not satisfied with the group as he has it down, he must not say anything. The utterance of such remarks as "Don't answer" or "No," may cause confusion.

(e) The reader must, like the answer-reader, keep his attention continually on the distant station. He should call out each letter, figure or sign as sent, and must say "Group" at the conclusion of each group as sent by the distant station, i.e., whenever the flag is lowered or the light obscured. The reader must on no account try to guess any letter that he cannot read. And he should say "Miss" and the writer-down will leave a space to be afterwards filled in.

(f) The answerer must act promptly on the word of the writer and on his orders only, with the exception of when the reader wants a call for light. When using a light he will stand at the "Prepare to signal."

(g) All calling out must be done in a firm, clear voice, particularly if there is much wind or other disturbing noises.

(h) The members of any station should place themselves in the most convenient positions, with regard to each other, taking care, however, when working with flags that there is no obstruction to the view of their flags, as seen from the distant station, e.g., no Guide should stand so that she forms a bad background to the sender's flag.

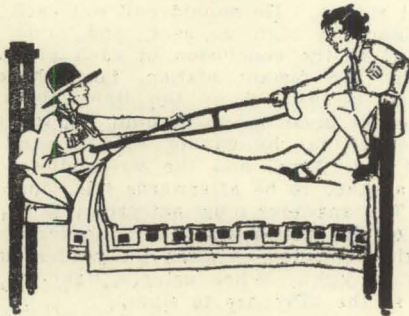
(i) A good Guide signaller should always be prepared to blame herself rather than the distant station for any delay or failure.

(Note.—All signallers when performing these duties should be careful to use the phonetics.)

### Backgrounds.

With flags the question of the background is most important, and the great point to bear in mind is that, though it is desirable to have a uniform background, at the same time every effort should be made to secure as great a contrast as possible between the flag and the background; when working with a white flag the dark background of a wood, a hedge or even a ploughed field will be most suitable, whilst a blue flag will require a light background as where read against the skyline or against water.

It should be remembered that the less the distance between the flag and the background, the sharper will be the contrast, whereas a very distant belt of trees appear almost as light as the sky itself. It must also be remembered that it is often very difficult to tell at a sending station exactly what particular features of the background will form the background, when viewed from the distant station, but from the distant station the flag may be seen partly against the hedge and partly against the sky or the light sides of the far distant hills. It is particularly easy for such a case to arise, since the flag at its highest point of the sweep is considerably higher than the level of the eyes when one is inspecting the background of the sending station, and the distant station may be quite possibly on an angle entirely different to the sending station. In the case of lamp or heliograph, care must be taken that there are not other lights, reflections from windows, etc., in the close vicinity.



Editor: Sydney Footc

### POST GUIDING—FOR THOSE NOT DOING IT.

Those who are engaged in the more active forms of Guiding may think that Post Guiding is a duller and less vital affair—but this is far from being the case. To the physically-handicapped or invalid girl, whose health pre-

vents her from attending meetings, Post Guiding has just the same appeal as active Guiding has to her stronger sisters. It appeals to her imagination, to her desire to achieve, to her wish to be a useful member of society, and **it satisfies that great longing she has to be like other girls of her own age, either as Ranger, Guide or Brownie.**

What is it that the active Guide expects to get through her Company meeting? Plenty of fun and games, tests to pass and badges to win, and opportunities of "doing things" for herself and other people, in company with a cheerful group of girls out on the same thrilling adventure as herself.

All this is exactly what the Post Guide gets—NOT through a weekly meeting, but through a monthly "Company Meeting Letter" drawn up by her Guiders with the help of the P.L.'s and the Guides themselves, and circulated round the Company by post.

It is a real "Company-Meeting-on-paper" with Roll Call, Inspection, Patrol Corners, Games, Competitions, Badge Work, Woodcraft, Camp-fire, etc.

These Company letters are illustrated, if possible, and are as light-hearted and full of fun as an active Company meeting, and at the same time they try to create (just as a Guide meeting does) a real spirit of friendship and co-operation among the Guides and to train them along the four main lines of Guiding to take their place in the world more usefully and happily.

Where physically possible, Post Rangers, Guides and Brownies pass the same tests as active children. If part of a test is not possible or quite useless to her, an alternative test is used, but they are never simplified or cut out. A physically handicapped child necessarily gets so much done for it that a test which gives it real difficulties to overcome gives the child a definite sense of achievement.

Post Companies are run on the Patrol system, and a Court of Honour is held about four times a year. Sometimes it can be arranged that the P.L.'s and Captain meet but otherwise it is managed by post. Questions are sent out to the Leaders, who discuss them in letters to their Patrols; the P.L.'s then send in the results of these discussions to the Captain who writes a summary of them into the Court of Honour Book. This is then sent to the P.L.'s, who initial it and act on it as required. This is just one way of having "Post C. of H." every Company works out their own way.

Every Post should be attached to a local active Company. This, unfortunately, is not always possible. Sometimes she can go to meetings, and active Guides will be surprised to find what a lot of activities she can share. However, visits to Company meetings are not always practicable, but **active Guides' visits to Post Guides** are nearly always possible, and are a terrific thrill to the Post. Sometimes it is hard to understand everything in the Company meeting letter, but when it is explained and demonstrated by an active Guide or Guider, it is quite different.

So, please, Commissioners and Guiders, will you find out the Post Rangers, Guides or Brownies in your Districts and let them join with you in your activities?

If you have read this article, thank you! If you will help, twice thank you!

—J.A.

#### THE "THANK YOU" FUND.

Do you usually subscribe to this fund? Please don't forget us on your birthday!

Our Post Companies are expanding rapidly owing to evacuation of some city institutions, and our stamp, paper and envelope bills are also expanding!

So will you remember to send us your 2/6 on your Company or Pack birthday as a thank-offering for your ability to enjoy active Guiding?

The Treasurer is: Miss Alston, 5 Struan st., Toorak, S.E.2, and there is also a "Thank You" Fund box at Headquarters.

#### EXTENSION BRANCH NEWS.

2nd Heidelberg Guides held their birthday meeting on Tuesday, April 14. This Company has several Second Class Guides and one trier for First Class.

\* \* \*

2nd Heidelberg Pack has quite a number of Golden Bars, including two Brownies in the respirator ward. These two are now going for their Golden Hand, using alternative tests for those which are impracticable.

\* \* \*

To date, Post Rangers have contributed £1/2/6 to the Prisoner of War Fund.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Grant Coutts (nee Elsie Armstrong) who was Captain of 1st Post Rangers for many years, has had to resign owing to lack of spare time. Those who knew her will be interested to hear she had a son born early this year.

\* \* \*

Extension Guiders—please note that the "Uniform Dump" is no longer at 41 Spring st. Miss Alston has it at the moment, and anyone wanting uniforms can have them by sending her the required measurements.

\* \* \*

Extension Guiders' Training.—This will be held at the end of May or the beginning of June. Will Guiders who have not already done so, please let Miss Alston know what subjects they want at the sessions. The Training will take place on a Saturday afternoon and evening.

#### WANTED.

A Post Ranger Captain for 1st Victorian Post Ranger Company. A small Company of very young Ranger recruits and one enrolled Ranger.

All offers thankfully received by Miss J. Alston, 5 Struan st., Toorak, S.E.2.

#### THE RANGER PAGE.

"I know not where the white road runs, nor what the blue hills are,  
But a man may have the sun for friend,  
and for his guide a star,  
And there's no end of voyaging when once the voice is heard,  
For the river calls and the road calls, and oh! the call of a bird."

#### ON FOOT I GAILY TAKE MY WAY?

The morning of Friday, April 3, found three Rangers setting out on a walking tour. Having reached their starting point, Croydon, a huge map was produced, and the three began their long walk along Oxford road. At 2 p.m. a halt was called, and a hearty lunch partaken of by the wayside. After lunch they arose and hit the trail again. The weather was rather unsettled, and the little party made quite a picture as they trudged along, clad in raincoats and sou'-westers and carrying large and weighty rucksacs upon their backs. As the miles sped by packs became heavier, legs a little wearier, and the recreation reserve they were seeking seemed very far away. At last, as twilight was falling, they decided to pocket their pride and enquire at a nearby house where the reserve was to be found. To their horror the occupants seemed only vaguely aware that such a thing existed and pointed to the top of one of the surrounding mountains. They gave up hope of reaching the reserve at that hour of the night and enquired whether there was a suitable camping spot nearby. The man of the house suggested that as he would be taking his truck out in a few minutes, the three Pioneers should get in and be driven to a suitable spot.

They needed no second invitation, so hopped in, and after a very hair-raising drive during which they expected to go hurtling over the bank at the roadside, they at last found themselves on terra firma again. However, they found that the spot which had been recommended by their friend had been found by a party of Scouts, so the three had some more hunting to do before a suitable camping place was found.

Soon they had a fire crackling merrily with a tasty meal of chops, tomatoes, apricots and sago, and coffee well on the way. Hike tents were erected, and having partaken of a somewhat belated dinner they retired to bed. During the night the baby of the party, who was sleeping in a tent by herself, was aroused by a loud thump just outside the tent. Instinct directed her to retire beneath the bedclothes, but she plucked up enough courage to poke an enquiring nose out into the moonlight to find the cause thereof. Of course, nothing was to be seen, so in much disgust she lay down again, only to be aroused again by the

sound of footsteps approaching. This was not so good, and as in fear and trembling she again poked her nose (just the tip this time) outside. She fully expected to see some beastie of the wilds, but again nothing was to be seen. Then—came a louder thump, at which baby almost jumped out of the tent with fright, and shot down into her bed, where she lay and shivered for some time. (The cause of the thumps was not discovered).

The Pioneers awoke next morning to the steady patter of rain on the tents, and an atmosphere at least 20 degrees below zero. A cooked breakfast was out of the question, so after delving in packs some dried apricots and some chocolate became breakfast. As the tents became wetter, they decided to arise, and with the greatest possible difficulty and many moans succeeded in dressing and packing in the hike tents, and emerged to a wet and dreary world.

Having struck camp they were soon on the trail again, and as they approached the house of their friend of last night they could hear the sound of his car. As they rounded the bend they saw the family about to start out on a shopping excursion. He informed them that he was going to Olinda, and if they'd care for a lift—. They accepted, piled into the van, and were soon jogging along the high road once more. At Olinda they bade their friend farewell, and moved on again under their own steam this time, discussing as they went the possibility of accommodation in somebody's barn for the night.

One of the party had some friends at Sassafras, so in that direction they wended their way, in hopes of being invited to lunch. On their arrival, the prospective hosts were seen to be on the point of departure, and to the joy of our Pioneers they placed the house and contents at their disposal, with instructions to make themselves at home. This they did with much gusto, and soon had some bacon, tomatoes and chips sizzling on the stove.

As the owners would not be returning until the following evening they had the house to themselves, and made themselves comfortable. After lunch they had rest hour, and went down town to buy something for tea as the menu had become rather disorganised. They dined in state on tomato soup, camp pie and tomatoes and apple pie, and having washed up and performed their toilets, retired to bed.

Next morning they awoke and looked out the window to find a heavy mountain mist enveloping the countryside. Bed was a very good place, so the Pioneers stayed there until about 12 p.m. Breakfast at 1 p.m., and dinner of tomato soup, steak and kidney pudding, stewed plums and apples and cream at 3 p.m.

As the mist had hung about all day, and it had rained quite a lot, the three Pioneers decided to take the bus to Fern Tree Gully, so 5 p.m. found them waiting outside the General Store for same. The train was very

crowded, and by the time the city was reached limbs were cramped to such an extent that their respective owners felt that never again would they be able to stand upright, much less walk. They bade each other a sleepy farewell, and dragged their weary bones homewards, worn out after such an exhaustive week-end.—“Three Pioneers.”

### LONES.

Dear Lones,—

Here is news for you. The Lone Exchange is once more in being! This was inaugurated in 1933 with the following aims:—

- (1) To help new Guiders plan a good Company meeting.
- (2) To give ideas of interesting and effective ways of presenting the various subjects.
- (3) To give experienced Guiders new ideas. It was not designed for the purpose of doing the thinking for Lone Guiders, or for supplying all their needs, but should be regarded as a bureau for reference and an exchange of ideas.

Although it has apparently not been made much use of for some years, its material is still good, and contains many bright ideas in practically every subject of Guide teaching.

The conditions for making use of it are the following:—

- (1) The Guider should give details of the subject required, stating whether it is wanted for teaching or testing.
- (2) The material is only available for a month, and must be returned at the end of that time.
- (3) The Guider must send a stamped and addressed envelope with her request.
- (4) Each time an idea is borrowed the Guider must send one in exchange. It does not matter on what subject.

The Bureau contains such valuable material as The Introduction to the Second Class; First Part of the Second Class; Letters to Parents; Hints and Explanations to Leaders; Court of Honour; Suggestions for Raising Funds; Sample Tenderfoot Test Paper; Specimen Company Meetings; and Talks—as well as the various subjects of Tenderfoot and Second Class.

Some subjects are sadly lacking, however, the principal one being Nature. I think the Nature folder must have been mislaid, because there just wasn't one at all, until I put a small collection of my own into a folder and labelled it. I cannot think that Lone Guiders haven't been able to contribute something to this important and fascinating section, from their own experience, particularly when dealing with country girls to whom Nature is part of their very existence.

I am so anxious to rectify this omission that I hereby announce a competition for all Lone Guiders for the best contribution, suitable for using in a Budget, for either teaching or testing Nature. The time limit will

be three months—that is, the end of July. I will donate as a prize a year's subscription to "Wild Life." So put on your thinking caps, and show that the Exchange Bureau of 1942 intends to keep up its original standard.

Another folder which is empty at present is Handcraft. Has none any ideas of presenting handcraft effectively to Lones? No diagrams or patterns for useful articles or gifts? If so, please send them along. There are no articles on camp gadgets, which would be such fun for the Lone to practise in preparation for camp when happier times come again, besides giving her a practical use for her knots.

Remember that the Bureau belongs to each one of you, and its success depends on your co-operation.

Library.—Last month I recommended several books useful for applying to Lones from my own Guide Library, which I am ready to lend to anyone who applies. Besides these I have a very comprehensive collection on all subjects of Guiding. When applying, you should state the subject you require. As this library contains 110 books, I think I can guarantee to fulfil your need whatever they may be!

Conditions for borrowing from this will be:

- (1) A fee of 2d. will be charged on each book.
- (2) Books should not be kept for more than a month.
- (3) Postage or carriage one way should be paid.

Budgets.—Another means of gaining knowledge is by borrowing Budgets. I have a good supply of these, which I can send on application. I would like to remind Guiders, too, that I want two of their Budgets a year. The reasons for this are twofold. Firstly, so that I can see how the Company is progressing, and, secondly, so that they can be used as exchange. In this way, each Guider can see how someone else manages her Company, and can probably glean some useful information and ideas.

Incidentally, a very precious Enrolment Budget which I lent to some Guider has not been returned to me. I sent it in the days before I kept a strict account of the details, and do not know who is the culprit. Will the guilty one on seeing this, please return it? It was the Enrolment Budget of the 7th Lone Guides, and was done specially for me by Mrs. Freshwater.

I think this is the moment to remind Guiders that the next Budget I have "called in" is the May one. This means doing an extra copy, so that there is one to spare for me.

Added to my library I have just started a subscription to "Wild Life" which, as you know, is an Australian Nature magazine, delightfully set up and full of articles and illustrations of absorbing interest to Nature lovers.

I have also copies of "The Guide" from February, 1941. Although this is a magazine primarily for Guides, there are many articles useful to Guiders. These two periodicals are available also, but because they have soft covers, care should be taken that they are returned in good order.

Here are your chances then to help me to help you. Yours is the next move!—M. R. Fairbairn.

#### LONES LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of meeting of Lones' Local Association held at Guide Headquarters on April 14, 1942.

Apologies.—Mrs. Keble, Mrs. McNaughton, and Miss Weppner.

Present.—Mrs. Fairbairn, in the chair; Mesdames Hull, Higgs, Harley, Jardine and the Hon. Secretary.

#### Business Arising From Minutes.

Guide Library.—Agreed, that this was not a workable idea, postage being too heavy. Guides usually have access to good libraries in schools and centres. Mrs. Fairbairn has a comprehensive library for use of Guiders.

Badge Work.—Although Guides could not obtain badges until they had attained Second Class, they could take advantage of first aid and Junior Home Nursing lectures in their centres.

Correspondence.—Letter received from Mrs. Moore, of Kerang, promising interest in a Lone in her District.

A circular letter from Mrs. Littlejohn asking for financial support for Guide House.

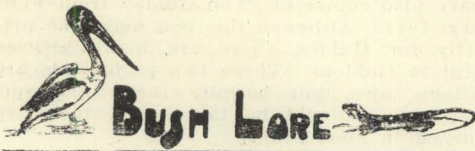
General Business.—Re Commissioner's postage: The sum of £12/5/5 had been paid last year. As this was very heavy, Mrs. Fairbairn suggested that in future a sum of, say, £5 a year should be paid Commissioner who would meet any extra herself. She felt that Companies needed support more urgently. After much discussion, it was referred to annual meeting.

Annual Levy.—A sum of £1/1/- would be paid to this.

Badge Correspondence Work.—Mrs. McNaughton reported having completed the course for Laundress. The Needlewoman's was almost completed.

Next Meeting.—As next meeting would be the annual one, and as Guiders had asked that it might be held on a Saturday afternoon, so that they might attend, it was decided to hold it on Saturday, July 11, at 3 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Fairbairn, 236 Kooyong road, Toorak. Guiders and members of active Local Associations are invited to attend. Decided to have an Opportunity Shop at annual meeting to assist Lones' L.A. funds.

Meeting then closed.



Editor: ELSIE SYDES.

### NIGHT NOISES.

We read of the voices of birds being stilled in sleep, but does not the willie wagtail sing at night, and the plover and others, such as the reed warbler, who gives of his best in the evening. Water birds frequently move about at night, and give a few calls as they pass. I have even heard a magpie warbling on a bright moonlight night. But what of all those other little whisperings and sometimes raucous noises? These latter, of course, emanate from the pond, and we can all guess what they are. The mole cricket cannot be overlooked as he deafens us on a warm night; he is having his opera season now. Have you ever tried whistling when one of these is shrilling—the effect is most peculiar! I think we know the squeak of the bat, too, and the harsh noise of the opossum.

But there is a soft clicking sort of noise that you could easily overlook. I was doing some late watering—it was dark—when quite near I heard this little clicking noise. I had often heard it at night in the bush or outdoors, so here was my chance. I stalked it to some little pink bell flowers, rich in honey, then went inside for a torch. What do you think I saw? There, sipping honey and making little clicks, was a handsome green grasshopper—the long-feelered grasshopper, or "katydid." He had a hard pair of wings the colour of gum leaves, and they were made to look like them, too, even to a little brown patch. These covered his fat short body until he flew, then were revealed the thin wings under these and the beautiful striped body—blue-green colour with rich reddish-brown stripes. All his legs were thin, even the hind ones (he hadn't the strong well-developed jumping legs of the short-feelered type). His head was mantis-shaped, and he had two long thin feelers which were a pale yellow colour.

### Starlings—Clean or Dirty?

Are starlings clean or dirty? I'm afraid we have to class them in the latter category when we take into account their nesting habits and the fact that they become infested with lice. But taken by our own standards of bathing you will have to class them as clean. For every afternoon they visit our magpie's bath dish and have a really good dip—coming out quite wet. Sometimes there are two in together, and then there is a fight, and one is driven off. They do enjoy their evening dip, there's no doubt.

### A Handsome Fellow—But Restless.

One of our most elegant and most hand-

some birds is the restless flycatcher. Thinner and more streamlined than his "double," the friendly little Willie Wagtail, he can be distinguished quite easily from the latter by his white "underneath" which goes all the way, i.e., his throat is white, while "Willie" has a black throat and upper breast. The restless flycatcher is more shining, too, and has no white eyebrow, and certainly he is not such a friendly little fellow, but more aloof, as befits his elegant appearance.

How does he catch his dinner? I watched one for some time the other afternoon, and noticed for the first time that he has the same hunting style as a kite, in that he looks down from a height most of the time, and then makes a quick dive on to his prey. I have seen and admired them hovering on the wing about two yards or so above the ground with head always down watching for insects. But this time the head-down watching attitude was constant from post and fence, always followed by a swift dive and a full beak. When watching like this and especially when hovering, the bird makes that peculiar noise like "scissor griding," hence one of its common names—"scissors-grinder."

The willie wagtail's favourite method in our garden is to hunt on the ground. He runs across the lawn at top speed, and you can hear his beak snapping on the small flies and insects—back and forth he goes. Sometimes a family of blue wrens share the hunt, and autumn seems to be a rich time for insects. In the evenings the air is filled with birds on the wing catching their supper—starlings don't do so badly in their imitations of honeyeaters and such clever "hunters on the wing," but when the poor humble sparrows emulate their clever brothers they never fail to look slow and clumsy. I expect they catch their prey pretty often, though even if not always. Have you noticed what imitators they are? If a honeyeater or some strange bird visits the garden, the sparrows are always there nosing round and doing their best to imitate. The woodswallows are also keen hunters on the wing these evenings, and give fine displays of wheeling and gliding. These I saw a night or two ago were the dusky woodswallows.

In the mornings the bird world is equally alive and busy these lovely autumn mornings, too. This morning I heard in a short space of time a thrush, the chough's mournful whistles, a grey currawong's clear single note, and I wished that bed had not been such a cosy spot and that there were no other calls upon my time. Do get out in the morning if you can—it surpasses all other times in the bird world.

### "MATILDA" WRAPPERS.

We should like to thank Miss Joan Harvey for typing "Matilda's" wrappers, and also to say "Thank you" to Miss Greta Roach, who has agreed to take her place now that Joan can no longer continue this very helpful job.—M. E. Bush.

**TRAINING AND CAMPING.****Headquarters Training Classes.**

Training Classes will be arranged at Headquarters or elsewhere as requested. It is proposed to hold a course of elementary classes for both Guide and Brownie Guiders commencing in August. It has been suggested that the usual classes should be held at a different hour, e.g., 6.30 to 8 or 8.30 p.m., or at some time to suit the majority of Guiders who wish to attend. Therefore, Commissioners and Guiders are asked to make a note of this, and are asked to write to Miss Macartney at Headquarters. If sufficient nominations are received, a class will be started at a time and place to suit the majority. Please do not be put off by this vagueness! You see, it is not much use arranging a class for, say, 6.30 p.m. when the majority of Guiders cannot possibly get there before 7.30. On the other hand, the majority might prefer 6.30. When enquiring, please state the times and week nights that suit you.

**Indoor Camp Certificate Pack Holiday Permit.**

The same arrangements as for the Training Classes will be carried out for classes for the above Camping Certificates. Will any Guider or Commissioner interested, please write to Miss V. Harrison, 126 High st., Glen Iris, S.E.6, before May 31.

Before applying, please read Rule 32, P.O. and R., 1939 pages 38-39. P.O. and R., Victorian Supplement, 1940-41, page 24, under heading "Camping."

**Camcraft Badge.**

Are any Rangers or Guiders anxious to have training for the Camcraft or Pioneer Badges this year? Usually, we hold a course of three classes and three week-ends with an additional week-end for the test.

Anyone interested is asked to write to Miss V. Harrison, 126 High st., Glen Iris, S.E.6, stating Camping experience, before May 31.

**Guide Second Class Test.**

The Executive Committee has approved the use in Victoria of the war-time alternative Second Class Test which was adopted in Great Britain some months ago. This test is similar to the ordinary Guide Second Class Test, but is shorter. From now on until further notice, Companies may adopt this test if they wish. Those that prefer to continue with the old test may do so.

The syllabus of the shortened Second Class Test is as follows:—

**I.—Intelligence.**

1. As in P.O. and R.
2. Have shown by practical example that she has done her best to keep the Law.
3. As in P.O. and R.
4. Make two discoveries from personal observation about three living things in their natural surroundings.
5. Know how to stalk and track, or (for town girls only) street observation of shops and people.



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*"Oven-crisp"* **BISCUITS**

**II.—Handcraft.**

1. and 2. as in P.O. and R.

**III.—Health.**

1. Through her knowledge of the Health Rules shall have learnt to: Carry herself well, look neat, and prove that she has done her best to maintain a high standard of fitness.

2. As in P.O. and R.
3. Deleted. Incorporated into No. 1.

**IV.—Service.**

1. As in P.O. and R.
2. Make some article useful to others.
3. As in P.O. and R.

N.B.—The following footnote, P.O. and R., page 42, to be moved to the end of the Tenderfoot Test, in both the old Second Class Test and in the shortened form:—"Before completing this test, the Guide should have been told the legends of the Union Jack Saints."—E.E.M.

**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.**

"The Victorian Scout."  
 "Le Trefle Rouge et Blanc," Switzerland.  
 "Adventuring," South Australia.  
 "The Trail Maker," U.S.A.  
 "Waratah," New South Wales.  
 "Te Rama," New Zealand.  
 "The Girl Scout Leader," U.S.A.

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