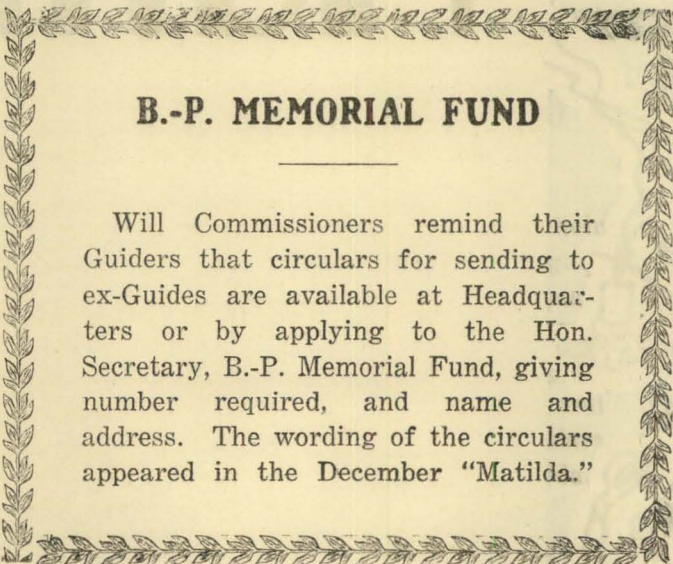


Merle Beush.

Matilda



MARCH, 1943



B.-P. MEMORIAL FUND

Will Commissioners remind their Guiders that circulars for sending to ex-Guides are available at Headquarters or by applying to the Hon. Secretary, B.-P. Memorial Fund, giving number required, and name and address. The wording of the circulars appeared in the December "Matilda."

"Matilda"

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

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

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

Correspondence should reach the Editor not later than the 26th of each month.

VOL. XIX.

MARCH, 1943.

No. 8.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meetings of the Executive Committee held at the Guide Office on 4th and 18th February, 1943.

Present 4th February:—Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Springthorpe, Misses Macleod, Moran, Ritchie and the Secretary.

18th February: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Littlejohn, Misses Cameron, Holtz, Maling, Macleod, Moran and the secretary.

Reported—That "Matilda" would in future be printed by McKellar Press.

That word had been received that 22 more cases of clothing from the War Appeal had arrived safely in England. This accounted for all that had been dispatched till the end of August. That four more cases of clothing had been sent to England, and that more garments had come in since.

That Lady Stradbroke had sent £10 to the Association in Victoria with a request that part of this gift should be given to the Lone branch. It was agreed, after consultation with the Commissioner for Lones, that £2/10/- should be given to Lones, the remainder to be put into a fund to be in the nature of an endowment for Headquarters.

That Mrs. Wilkinson had been appointed to the Headquarters staff as office assistant.

That a grant of £50 had been received from the National Fitness Council from the money made available by the Commonwealth Government for the co-ordination and extension of boys' and girls' club activities.

That an invitation had been received from Miss Swinburne for members of the Executive to attend the events of Guide week in Hawthorn.

That through the courtesy of the Australian Broadcasting Commission Miss Hoffmeyer would broadcast a message in connection with the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund on Thinking Day at 6.50 p.m. from 3L.O. The Scout Air Jamboree would be broadcast at 8.20 p.m.

That the Federal Secretary had sent a cable to Lady Somers on her appointment as Chief Commissioner, and had received a reply from her—"Grateful thanks. Love to you all."

Agreed that Mrs. Edmondson should be the delegate to the National Council of Women, and that Mrs. Springthorpe should be Proxy.

That the Secretary should attend the next meeting of the Committee for Youth Problems of To-day.

That a letter of sympathy should be sent to Lady Brookes.

That the lease of the safe deposit at the National Bank be renewed for the following year.

Routine and financial business was transacted. —M. E. Bush.

The Chief Commissioner.

The Guide Movement in Victoria owes much to Lady Somers, who was our State President when her husband, Lord Somers, was Governor. Now we have heard that Lady Somers is the new Chief Commissioner, and greetings on her appointment were sent to her from Victoria, and also from the Federal Council. She has cabled in reply thanking us for our messages and sending love to all.

Gift From Lady Stradbroke

Lady Stradbroke, who preceded Lady Somers as State President, was also keenly interested in our work, and the Stradbroke Cup bears her name. Now she has sent a gift of £10 to the Association in Victoria, and has asked that part of it should be devoted to the Lone Branch. It is encouraging for us to have such a tangible expression of appreciation of the work of the Girl Guides and also to know that the movement in Victoria is still remembered with affection by Lady Stradbroke.

1. The following clause to be added after "Second Class Guide"—"Before being awarded the Second Class Badge, the Guide must show that she is trying hard to keep the Threefold Promise."

2. Paragraph 2 under "Intelligence" to be deleted.

Paragraph 3 under "Intelligence" to be numbered 2, and altered to read:—"Signal and read the alphabet in Morse," and the words in brackets to be deleted. —M.M.

THE JOY OF SINGING.

"How does the song come,
Whence upswell?
Whence on the tongue come?
Playmates, tell."

Have you ever thought why singing is so important a part of Guide work and play? And not solo singing, but singing all together? Why should "everyone suddenly burst out singing"? It is not only because a love of music is an asset to every human being, and therefore should be taught to children. With the best will in the world some of our Guide singing is not very musical, but even so, we all enjoy it and feel better and happier for our sing-songs. Let us consider the reason why.

I think the first reason is that rhythm brings peace and contentment. Rhythm is the fundamental law of nature. Trees, flowers, birds, animals, live according to an orderly rhythm. The stars and moon take the place of the sun at their appointed time; then the earth swings on its unalterable rhythm, and back comes the sun; daylight succeeds dark according to the Divine plan. You will notice how contented and placid country people usually are compared to townspeople. That is because they live near to nature and their lives are influenced by her orderly rhythm. Man misuses his free will to disturb natural rhythm, but his soul longs for a return to it. I think that is why singing and dancing have always played such a profound part in the history of the human race. Another motive which urges us to sing together is that the uniting of voices in the same words and the same tune creates a feeling of comradeship, a feeling of strength that goes beyond the meaning of the words or music alone.

"Where does the song go
While words fly?
Somewhere so long ago,
Somewhere die?
Say, into far land
Sound waves flow,
Lost in the star land?
No! No! No!"

Our community songs are never forgotten. We may sing them again and again, in

different countries, with different companions, under different circumstances. Every time we sing the familiar words to familiar music, back crowd the memory pictures of former days. Happy pictures and sad pictures, some lit by camp-fires, some picked out in clear daylight, some clouded by darkness and storm. The friends who sang with us seem to be near us again, and places we have loved and had to leave open up before our eyes of memory, and we are home again.

And songs make the heart dance, and the feet of marching men step lightly, and the spirits of fighting men to rise. . . .

Our songs are not songs of war, unless we interpret our Guide work as a war against ignorance, laziness, selfishness, cruelty. Round our camp fires all over the world echo songs grave and gay, in different languages, but with the same tunes and meanings. They should help us to realise that we are all part of a huge family which will be doing its part in the future to heal the wounds of the world.

"Songs where the thought was
If aught true,
If tender aught was,
There hide too,
Down in the chamber
Hearts hold deep.
Cradled in amber,
So songs sleep."

—From "The Indian Guide."

In connection with the above article it may be noted that the Girl Guides Association in Great Britain is starting a campaign for an improvement in camp-fire singing, and is making a collection of the most characteristic songs of each country.

At international gatherings it has been difficult to find songs which are known by all. Each country, therefore, has been asked to choose and to know well two songs of its own land. England has chosen "Summer is i-cumin-in" (the oldest known song in the language) and "Rio Grande" (a sea shanty). All the Dominions and Colonies are sending their two choices, and they are being published in "The Guide" newspaper.

India was asked to send two songs, and after a great deal of thought and discussion the Trainers' Conference made selections from ideas sent in. It was thought that words, tune and rhythm must be essentially Indian, though not one of those very difficult rhythms which Westerners find it so hard to learn. Urdu and Hindi are more generally known, and easier to pronounce for those who do not know them, than Tamil, Bengali, etc. The General Council of the Girl Guides Association in India has decided that the two songs should be "Sare Jahan se Accha" (Urdu National Hymn) and Tagore's "Morning Hymn."

—From the "Council Fire."

“... LIGHT A FIRE ... AND COOK ON IT.”

This alteration to the Second Class Test is going to mean much more fun for the Guides. You have to be a real woodcrafty person to be able to cook a tasty dish on an outdoor fire. There are all sorts of things you have to know, such as what wood to use to make good coals, and when the fire is ready to cook on. For, you know, it is hopeless to start cooking on an open fire before the flame has died down, leaving a nest of good hot coals. Another thing you have to be careful of is to begin very, very small, and to have the fire just big enough to cook your dish, but on the other hand to have wood of decent thickness, nice chunky bits that will burn steadily and leave good coals. Most Guides are frightened to put a piece of thick wood on their fire. They go on and on, feeding the fire with small pieces that flare up and die away quickly. We must teach them how to build up the fire, and when they can safely start adding thicker wood. Through practice they will learn judgment in building up a fire of the right size for the particular dish they intend to cook. by size we mean the depth of the nest of hot coals. They need to know, too, how to keep the fire going during the cooking, should the dish be one that requires long, slow cooking.

Now that the open season for fires is beginning, Patrols will breathe a sigh of relief. They will be able to have “cooking hikes” from now until November. Somehow or other “cooking hikes” seem to be much more popular than the non-cooking ones. How right that the Test should include things that the Guides are enthusiastic about! I can imagine that they will be keener than ever, for, of course, there will have to be lots of practice. One could hardly expect to pass the test with a charred chop or with a Damper Twist black on the outside and doughy inside! I had the real pleasure a little time ago in being with some Guides when they made their first successful, really delicious Damper; before that, in spite of all anyone said, they were too impatient to wait until the fire had died down sufficiently and to sit quietly holding the green stick so that the damper would cook evenly through, while gradually browning and crisping on the outside. However, at last they did it, and the next day did it again! They were enthralled and insisted on making their highly renowned Damper every day for the rest of the Camp.

It is easy to prepare really delicious meals on an outdoors fire, just as easy as preparing the other sort, if you know how!

The Guides will probably want to be able to cook with utensils and without them. The latter is far more adventurous! The point about utensils is that they should be reduced to a minimum. One billy for a patrol should

be sufficient at any hike. It is necessary to take one in any case, because you have to soak the remains of the fire with water before clearing it away.

There is nothing to say how many people the Guide doing this test must cook for. It can be for herself alone, or for herself and one or two others, or for the whole Patrol, whichever she likes; but she must do it all herself. For practice two or three Guides can share a fire if they like. I think it is a good idea if the Patrol Leader divides the Patrol into twos or threes, and each group has its own fire, instead of just one for the whole Patrol. However, that is really up to the Patrol itself, isn't it?

It would be a good idea for every Patrol to start a Hike Recipe and Cooking Hints Book, wouldn't it? Guides and Guiders could look out for suitable items when reading Scout or Guide books and magazines, and when talking to others.

Here are some hints and recipes that were printed in the Australian Girl Guide Diary of 1941.

Baked Egg in Orange Skin.—Cut a large orange in half and scoop out the orange. Line one half of the skin with greaseproof greaseproof paper, and replace the other paper, break the egg into it, cover with more half of the skin. Place on the edge of the coals and bake ten to fifteen minutes.

Roast Egg.—Pierce both ends of egg with a pin, then cook at edge of hot coals. Turn egg over after five minutes. Allow ten minutes to “hard boil.” Eggs can be scrambled or poached in the lid of a billy.

Baked Dinner in a Cigarette Tin.—Clean a one hundred cigarette tin or toffee tin by boiling with Persil. This removes the enamel and the odour. Make two small holes in the top of the tin to allow steam to escape. Into the tin put a small dessertspoon of fat, a chop or a piece of steak, slices of carrot, onion, potato, and any other vegetables suitable for baking. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, close lid and bury in the coals. Cook 15 to 20 minutes according to heat of coals. Do not slice vegetables too thinly, or they will cook too fast and burn. The tin can be cleaned and used often.

Damper Twists.—Make a stiff scone dough, roll into narrow strips and twist around the end of a green stick. Cook over hot ashes and eat with butter or jam.

Sausage on a Stick.—Pierce a sausage lengthways with a green stick, heat gently, turning repeatedly until skin hardens, then cook over hot coals.

Sweet Dumplings.—Stew two or three apples in a pint of water, sugar to taste. When the apples are cooked and boiling add scone mixture ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup self-raising flour). Replace lid and simmer gently for twenty minutes. Do not lift lid whilst cooking dumplings. Currants or raisins add to the flavor.

Kabob.—Take a thin pointed green stick

way, so that if there is any job for them, however small, they may be prepared to do it? Secondly, think of a change system from last year, work it out with the Guides themselves. They have proved their dependability by attending regularly last year. This year suggest cutting out regular parades, and have emergency parades instead, they need not be so frequent.

There is no need for me to give details of an emergency parade. The notice given should be short, and the method of circulating the Guides tried out by different means. The main thing is that the Guides should report in the shortest possible time, in uniform, with proper equipment, and cycles in good working order. The details of the parade and programme will suggest themselves to you; there is an abundant field to work on!

Meanwhile, continue with your Cycle service. The messenger work for Red Cross, A.R.P. and A.C.F. authorities, the salvage collecting, the neighbourly shopping messages and all the others. And please remember to send in the Report! Best wishes to all for 1943.

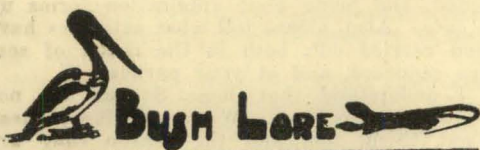
The following Guides have qualified for and been awarded armbands, which, by the way, should be worn on parade or on duty only.

Bendigo: Jill Hardiman, Nanette Ferguson, Audrey Young, Marjorie Williams, Lesley Kerr, Jacqueline Young, Betty Johns.

Benalla: Jean Moore, Kathleen Smissen, Margaret Garson, June Hyde, Dorothy Thompson, Linda Hobbs, Jean Munro, Dorothy Smith.

I understand that there are many others who have qualified, but no application has been sent for their armbands. Why?

—Elaine Moran.



Editor, Elsie Sydes.

COMPENSATIONS.

Blackbirds' Antics.

It is a warm day towards December end. Cicadas are shrilling a strong chorus, a thrush is feeding about five feet away, and a blackbird is enjoying a water bath. But why are those other blackbirds behaving so curiously? First one throws herself down and stays motionless, tail and wings outspread on the lawn, back feathers fluffed up and beak open. Suddenly she jumps up and runs away under the shrubs and another bird darts out of the geraniums and throws herself down in the same way. The third blackbird I've seen to-day performing this trick.

Thrushes and Others.

The four young thrushes are now so large they almost overflow the nest, and No. 4 seems perched on top of the others. Mother Thrush, quietly proud, sits on the nest edge, but Father Thrush gets somewhat excited and makes dashes above my head when I approach the nest in the syringa. The other day he had to oust a presumptuous Yellow-breasted Shrike-tit from the wattle tree next to his nest tree. Shrike-tit, black and white crest erected, returned next day to capture a cicada, which, however, got away with a great whirring of wings. Into the same wattle tree one morning flew a thornbill, but he did not stay long enough for me to see whether he had striations on the head as well as on the breast. If I had made sure that he had, then I'd have known he was the Striated Thornbill, for the Brown Thornbill has striations on the breast only.

Visit from a Bat.

About 11 p.m. last night I became aware of a something in the air round my bed on the balcony. A bird it could not be, it was too soft and silent. A bat! That was it. I remembered one had been caught in a sleep-out in this street a while ago. Drawing the mosquito net over just in case the bat tried a lower strata, I soon fell asleep.

Curious Spider.

At the moment, tiny spiders persist in crawling over me, but are not as intriguing as one I found yesterday. He was quite small, and light brown, and his legs appeared to be attached to his head, while his back was humped more than any camel's. This strange back carries markings like an old man's face, and probably is to frighten his enemies.

Beetle's Sad End.

Then there was the gorgeous golden-bronze beetle which had what appeared to be two hooks at the end of each leg, and which gave a curious tickly feeling when the beetle walked over my hand. I put him back on the marrow patch but, alas, after the fowls had been let out for their daily forage, I found him with one of his lovely wing covers off, his frail looking wing extended helplessly, and one leg missing. Obviously he could not look after himself, yet I hesitated to kill him. My problem was solved when I saw a blackbird eating a plum on the lawn, and I threw the beetle down near her. Leisurely she finished the plum then, with a sudden look in the direction of the beetle, she had him, and though he did not give up without a struggle, his end came soon.

Frog-Hoppers.

Other fascinating insects which have interested me during this week of enforced idleness are the frog-hoppers. Poking about with a small twig in a number of "blobs" of cuckoo-spit on the wattle trees, I found many tiny nymphs of a splotchy brown and green,

each snugly tucked away in its self-made, frothy cuckoo-spit. At last I found one out of its nymphal skin, but still a lovely pale green colour, the two simple eyes showing out well, and its absurd "beak" curved up to heaven. Its sucking tube for taking sap was under this beak, I supposed, but could not see it. Was it very outraged, I wondered, at having its frothy curtain thus drawn aside and its pale self exposed to the gaze of one human? Soon I found an older frog-hopper, changed from pale green to blotchy brown, and almost invisible against the striped brown bark of the wattle tree. A light touch on the ends of his folded wings, and he was away in an instant.

To-morrow I return to work, and no longer shall have that left-by-the-tide feeling. But there have been compensations in this suburban garden. Ruth Denny.

Grey Squirrels at Ballarat.

The first week-end in January I spent in Ballarat, and sitting by the Lake in the morning, was delighted to see several grey squirrels gambolling about. They had long bushy tails which they curled up in the conventional manner. What struck me most was their quickness, a jerkiness of movement at the slightest hint of danger, and yet they could "freeze" magnificently—all Girl Guides should take a lesson from them! The distant sound of a dog, they were all alertness, then the dog approaching they went like lightning to the nearest tree. Sometimes they ran up a little way, turned with head down ready to spring down again, and hung there flat against the trunk, motionless. If the danger seemed more acute they raced out of sight amongst the leaves. When they moved across the ground in "slow motion" they gave a series of long hops, tails jerking and bodies all a quiver. In a way they remind one of those unlovely creatures, the rats. One little fellow found a crust in the grass, and straightway mounted a seat and sat motionless on his hind legs, holding the crust in his front paws and nibbling busily away at it. Later on in the morning I saw one racing about in a chestnut tree and tree-climbing was no trouble to him, believe me!

Bird-Dropping Spider.

Last time I told you of my "pet" and how she had seven egg sacs. Well, now (Jan. 14th) she has ten, and one morning when I looked there were young ones coming from the first cocoon, about five of them remained in the web, funny little black and white things. They, too, soon took to their gossamer threads and blew away on the wind.

Training and Camping

Elaine Moran.

Pioneer Camp.

If applications warrant it, and transport and other arrangements permit, a Camp will be held at Woori Yallock during the May

holidays, for Guides to work at the Pioneer Badge. This Camp is being arranged to enable Guides who have camped before and show aptitude for Camping to work for and, in some cases, to be tested for the Pioneer Badge. Guides attending must have the following qualifications:—

- (1) Hold the Second Class Badge;
- (2) Have attended a Guide Camp of at least one week.
- (3) Be recommended by her Captain, or the Guider-in-charge of the Camp attended. She should have proved herself a keen and energetic camper, anxious to learn more about it.

Date of camp will be 17th to 24th May. Cost 25/- plus fares. 16 and over, 5/5; 14-16, 2/9; under 14, 2/1.

Applications must be made by the Guides' own Guiders.

Special application forms will be available after 15th March. These must be returned with 5/- deposit and fare for each Guide, not later than 19th May. Forms will be available at Headquarters for those calling for them. Guiders wishing them to be posted should apply to Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Training Week-end.

Another training week-end for all Guiders will be held under canvas at "Gipton," Frankston—2nd-3rd October, 1943. Keep the date free. Further details will be announced later.

Training Classes.

The classes at present being held at the Guide Office on Tuesday evenings are very well attended.

If applications warrant it, a second course of elementary training will commence in June, and a third course in September. If the second course is not well applied for, only the third course will be held. Further details will be given in April "Matilda."

COUNTRY COMMISSIONERS AND GUIDERS — URGENT!

The Training Department announced some weeks ago that a Correspondence Refresher Course is open to all country Guiders who feel out of touch and want new ideas. The fee is 5/-. This has not attracted much response, so it is felt that everyone has not heard about it.

Will you please mention it to any Guiders you come in contact with?

Applications should be sent to Miss A. Sides at the Guide Office, stating previous training and experience.

Camping Week-Ends, 1942.

Three Guiders have asked for these to be arranged for their Guides, and the Camping Department has been very pleased to do so.

The Rangers' Page.

VICTORIAN RANGER COMMITTEE MEETING.

Minutes of Meeting held at Headquarters on Friday, 5th February, 1943, at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Miss Broadhurst in the Chair; Rangers Elsie Kemp, Beryl McNee, Flora Craven and Greta Roach.

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising Therefrom:

The financial statement on the 1942 conference was read and received by the Committee. This showed a profit of 7d.

H.E.S. Training Day.—Owing to lack of support it was decided to hold all arrangements in connection with this fixture in abeyance, and the matter was deferred to the next meeting of the committee. All members to be asked to make a special effort to attend.

Ranger Prisoner of War Fund.—The 3rd Melbourne representative on the Committee (B. McNee) reported that the total amount collected to date is £42/12/10.

Correspondence.—Letters of resignation were received from Lillian Elliott, Grace Harris and the Treasurer, Margaret Shaw, and it was moved by Elsie Kemp and seconded by Beryl McNee that these resignations be accepted with regret.

Finance.—There is a Bank Balance of £2/7/6, and 7d. in hand. It was reported that £3/10/- had been sent to the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund, and that 2/6 had been paid to Headquarters for Lighting.

Date of Next Meeting.—Thursday, 25th February, 1943, at 6.30 p.m.
The meeting then closed.

Greta Roach, Secretary.

WHAT WE FIND IN THE LAW.

In the Law there is simplicity—the direct simplicity of the child, who will attempt things which are hard, and dare discouragement. The simplicity which looks at facts and sees them through the conventions which have clothed them out of their true shape.

In the Law there is Courage—the courage of the truth-teller, the promise keeper, the loyal friend. The courage of those who, laying down their lives for others, expect no reward.

In the Law there is Laughter—the sense of humour which swings difficult situations back into proportion, the light word and the light touch that turns hostility to friendliness.

In the Law there is Common-Sense—the

common sense of the thrifty who, in a world of dwindling resources, know the value of goods and use them masterfully, neither skimping nor wasting.

In the Law is Courtesy—the control of self which breeds strength, the consideration for others that breeds gentleness.

In the Law there is One-Pointedness—the singleness of purpose which marks the patriot, the priest and the artist; that “purity” which, transcending mere moral significance, strikes the keynote of all great achievement.

—From “The Council Fire.”

RANGER H.E.S. TRAINING DAY.

The Committee has fully discussed this fixture, which is one that was voted for at the 1942 conference, and it has been decided that owing to the present circumstances it would be inadvisable to proceed with any further plans, and therefore it is regretted that it has had to be abandoned.

Watch next month's “Matilda” for details of an extra special Country Dance Party!

Greta Roach.

Secretary, Victorian Ranger Committee.

LEADERSHIP FOR YOUTH. A Wartime Necessity.

The National Fitness Council of Victoria announces its fifth central Training Course in “keep fit,” and recreative activities, for men and women leaders engaged in community service with youth. Applicants should have some aptitude for recreational work, capacity for leadership and, if possible, be nominated by an approved youth organization.

The course will be held at the Teachers' Training College Gymnasium, Grattan Street, Carlton, commencing—women, Tuesday 23rd; February; men, Thursday, 25th February, and continuing each week until May. Application should be made immediately to the Council Rooms, Public Library Buildings, Latrobe Street, Melbourne, C1. Central 3708.

Courses will include free standing exercises, deportment and games, rhythmic work and English and Continental Folk Dancing for women. Free standing, marching and running exercises, apparatus, games, boxing and wrestling for men.

Theoretical tutorials will cover Class and Club Management, Principles of Leadership, the Psychology of Recreation, etc. Swimming tuition will be available to both men and women leaders.

Youth leadership is vital to the nation, for it is upon the youth of to-day that the burden of the new world will fall.

BROWNIES.

This month will see five gatherings of Brownies in five different suburbs. The organisers are the members of the Cottage Committee who hope by this plan to raise a nice little sum of money. The proceeds will be used to carry on the good work of improving and beautifying the Cottage, and it is hoped that this one scheme will bring in enough for the needs of 1943. There is every prospect of a record attendance at the five meeting places.

Hopping.

Variations of hopping and skipping give the Brownies practice without monotony. Here is a simple hopping game which is not too tiring. Brownies are in a circle and hop around, each trying to touch the one in front of her. When touched, a Brownie must fall out into the centre of the circle.

Theme Song for Health Talk.

Tune: "The more we are together."

"How we love the sunshine,
The fresh air and sunshine,
How we love the sunshine,
It's good for us all."

Programme Suggestion. Australia.

Open with Pow Wow. "Do you know that there are numbers of Brownies in the world?" After talking about them—"Let's magic them here for our meeting. Well, first of all, are we tidy?"

Inspection.

"Then let us make our ring in the shape of the world, so that our visitors will feel at home."

Fairy ring.

Pennies. Brown Owl puts a large map of Australia in the centre of the ring and Brownies put their pennies where they fancy on the map.

Game.

Story.

Small Union Jacks and Australian Flags are handed round and the difference noted.

Handwork. Draw boomerangs or something Australian.

Closing.

"Brownies who have been with us
In fancy for a while,
Take to your homes all round the world
A great big Brownie smile."

Testing.

A suggestion for testing, when Brown Owl is single-handed. Give each Six written in-

structions and materials which are identical for each Six. Let them have five minutes in their homes to allot the items and select their material. Call them back to the circle, and one Brownie from each Six demonstrates item number one, three more do item number two, and so on.

Example of a set of items.

1. Fold and tie a tie.
2. Set a table.
3. Tie up a grazed knee.
4. Semaphore five letters and name them.
5. Tie a parcel. V.A.T.

BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES.

Young Harvesters' Effort.

Britain's primary production record of 1942 ranks as one of the most remarkable achievements of her long history. And, incidentally, there will be no lack of historians to impart the story to future generations. For in Britain, as in Australia, the boys and girls of the nation have played and are playing a grand part in assuring to the national use nature's bounteous gifts of food.

The eagerness and goodwill with which the tens of thousands of Britain's youthful land army—there were 20,000 schoolboys alone working it in—tackled the harvesting operations, helped materially to save a most difficult situation brought about by two coinciding factors—a rich and abundant harvest and a shortage of farm workers.

The armed forces naturally drew heavily on the farm workers of England and Scotland. But boys and girls from the bombed cities, who up to a year or so ago had no acquaintance with the countryside, evacuees whose parents are in the armed forces or in war industries, sturdy children born and reared on the land, and boys and girls from the schools in towns took over their share of the work in the hopfields of Kent and the fruit orchards of the Southern Counties and West of England.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Board of Education who between them originated the scholar-harvester nation-wide plan ensured that a fair balance was kept between the need of farm labour, the children's keenness to supply it, and the vital necessity that education should not suffer. War Agricultural Committees acted as liaison officers between the farmers and the schools, deciding where the need of labour was most urgent, and determining with the schoolmasters how many scholars should be sent to certain places. They settled the hours of work, which are limited by government decree, and arranged the children's housing in large country houses, village halls, camps and hostels.

As it had been ruled that the supervision of farm work by the farmers did not relieve teachers and the school authorities of their responsibility for the safety and well-being of children in their charge, teachers always accompanied their pupils on the land work done by schools. Boys from two of England's famous schools drove combined-harvesters in East Anglia, and assisted to harvest 2000 acres of corn.

Britain's need of such harvesting assistance is probably greater than that of Australia, but here schoolboys and girls have demonstrated their readiness to assist where necessary. Many young men and women from the Universities are spending their vacation picking fruit, gathering flax and doing other essential harvest work. Lads from the Public Schools are wielding axes and saws in forest areas to augment the cities' firewood stocks and many other boys and girls have undertaken seasonal work in canneries to help process the fruit crop.

Not only should this work be of benefit to health, but it should also develop a practical appreciation of the nation's requirements and of the part citizens, young and old, are required to take in ensuring its survival and future stability. —Dept. of Information.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GUIDES.

The Dietitian, Sister LeLean, at the Melbourne Hospital, requires large numbers of hips, seed box of roses, and preferably of the wild sweet briar rose. A syrup rich in vitamins can be extracted from these hips. They are now ripe and can be gathered in quantities, on the outskirts of Melbourne. A Guide Company was among the first to send some to the Hospital, and there must be many others who can do the same. Supplies can be sent free of charge on the Railways, addressed to Sister LeLean, Melbourne Hospital, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

COTTAGE WORKING BEE.

A working bee will be held on April 10th and 11th, to make the Brownie Cottage as clean and shining as a Brownie Cottage should be. Workers will leave City about 1.30, returning following night. Cost will be 10/-. Applications, with 2/6 deposit, should reach Miss G. Thurgood, c/o. "Guide" office, by March 29th.

"MATILDA" RECEIPTS.

Receipts are held at Headquarters for the following subscriptions:—Mrs. M. J. Birdsey, Miss L. Duff, Mrs. Vibert, Miss M. Drury,

Miss M. Nicholson, Miss M. Hoffmeyer, Mrs. F. W. Faulkner, Miss J. Sanger.
G. Thurgood.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

We have received the following additional names:—

A.W.A.S. — Dorothy Hewish, Grace Phillips (1st Croydon), Margaret Pottenger (Shepparton), Alice Haidon (S.R.S. Endeavour).

W.A.A.A.F. — Sybil Fleming, Dorothy Hipwell (S.R.S. Endeavour), Ethel Riddington (Kew Rangers), Betty Greer.

A.A.M.W.S.—E. M. Long (11th Geelong).
—M.E.B.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

Captain—2nd Benalla, Miss J. McDonagh; 2nd Shepparton, Miss G. M. Newnham; 1a Wonthaggi, Miss E. M. Harrison.

Lieutenant—5th Ballarat, Miss E. Wilson and Miss D. Robinson; 11th Ballarat, Miss A. M. Horwood; 4th Preston, Miss E. Cusworth; 2nd Shepparton, Miss M. A. Bingham.

Brown Owl—1st Redcliffs, Mrs. McDonald.
Registrations — Yarra Glen Presbyterian Brownie Pack.

CANCELLATIONS.

Captain—Miss N. Bryant, 1st Fairfield; Miss H. Carnegie, 1st Canterbury; Miss M. Fawcett, 1st Footscray; Miss G. Parkins, 2nd Surrey Hills; Miss D. Thompson, Yarram District Company.

Ranger Captain — Mrs. Ebeling, 3rd Richmond Ranger Company. — M. E. Bush.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Adventuring (South Australia); The Canadian Guider (Canada); The Girl Guide Courier (Western Australia); The Girl Guide Magazine (South Africa); The Girl Scout Leader (U.S.A.); Te Rama (New Zealand); Le Trefle Rouge et Blanc (Switzerland); The Victorian Scout (Melbourne); The Waratah (N.S.W.).

Patrol Leaders' Page.

Games for Patrol Time.

Last month one Leader wrote and asked for examples of games to play during Patrol Time, so we are printing some for you on this page. The exact request was for "indoor Patrol games lasting about 10 to 15 minutes." You do realise though, Leaders, that there is no need for you to spend Patrol Time in your Corners, don't you? You can be there if you like, or anywhere else in your hall or, best of all, outside. Some Leaders seem to think that Patrol Time has to be spent sitting in a little circle in one particular place in the hall. Not a bit of it! The only essential is that the P.L. and Second should talk the programme over and have it arranged beforehand, and that during Patrol Time all your Guides should be kept happy and busy, working as a unit or in twos and threes, which ever way fits in best on that particular day. If you look through some of last year's P.L.'s pages you will find that some Patrol Games have already been suggested. You will also be able to adapt some of your Company games for smaller numbers.

Law Grab.

Equipment required—a pack of cards. Deal these round to the Patrol, each Guide keeps her pile in front of her, face down. Each in turn turns up a card and puts it down, face up, beside her other pile. As soon as two similar cards appear the two Guides possessing them have to repeat the Law corresponding to the number of the card. (N.B. Court cards are either ignored or removed from the pack). The first to say the correct Law takes both piles of cards, the winner is the one with the most cards at the end of a given time. This game gives practice in learning the Law, but the P.L. will need to go through them all and explain them to the recruit, for her tenderfoot the recruit has to know the Law, but if at her enrolment she is going to promise to keep the Law, she must also understand what each one means.

Australian Flag.

Have two cardboard Red Ensigns, coloured on both sides, and separate stars for making them into Australian Flags. Divide the Patrol in two and have a race. It can be played as a relay race, each team sending up one person at a time to pick up and place a star in position. No one may move a star which has been placed previously, and which she thinks is incorrect. Both teams stop as soon as one is finished, they score one point for each correct star. You will need a completed flag to check this with and to show anyone

where they were wrong. If your ensign is coloured on both sides you can play with the hoist of the flag first on the left and then on the right. The latter position is not usually seen in books or drawings, so the Guides will find it more difficult, but they should be able to do it that way, too.

Morse Songs.

Divide your Patrol in half and signal a word to them. The first team to sing a song containing that word scores a point, and sends up the next signaller. It is as well for the signaller to make sure that she can think of a song containing her word before she starts to signal.

The Chief Scout was always stressing how important a thing was observation, and how all Guides should cultivate it. Just think, for instance, how many of the Laws could you keep without it? How observant are your Guides? Quite a number of us are not very good! Here are two games to help you with this.

What Did You See?

Have a large sheet of newspaper or brown paper divided into 12 squares. In each square have a different symbol or letter, e.g., J P + 2)) = etc. Let your Guides look at it for a short time and then see how many of them can draw it correctly.

Remarks.

Equipment — spray of flowers or leaves. Patrol sits in circle, pass spray round, each Guide in turn makes a remark about it, e.g., the stalk is hairy, leaves are rough, flower has 5 petals. The spray is passed round and round the circle until no one can find anything more to say about it. At first you will find that remarks run out very quickly, but quite soon, as the Guides learn to become more observant, you will discover all kinds of things that you did not know before. This game is also practice for the nature section of the Second Class.

Happy Families.

For this you will need to get to work with your Patrol and make a set of cards. Choose about a dozen people—Captain, Brown Owl, the Chief Guide, Ranger Lieutenant, your Commissioner, etc., and look up in P.O.&R. (ask Captain if you do not know what that is) and discover what uniform they wear. Then, on separate cards, draw and colour their hats and ties, and on two other

sets write their names and the positions they hold. Mix up all the cards and deal them round the Patrol. Each Guide sorts her hand and sees if she holds a complete set (this would mean four cards—hat, tie, name and position to correspond). Then each Guide in turn asks any other for a card she wants, e.g., Captain's hat (she must say the colour of the cockade, Brown Owl's brown tie, etc.) If the person asked has the card it must be handed over, and the girl who gets it goes on asking for other things until someone has not got what she asks for, the next girl has a turn, and so on. As soon as anyone has a complete set it is placed on the table, face up, and the Guide who finishes with the largest number of complete sets is the winner. It is as well to play with a copy of P.O. & R. handy to check anything you may doubt!

Now here are two games to finish with that you can play outside:—

Health Rule Shopping.

Divide the Patrol into pairs, tell them they have a certain sum of money with which to provide a meal for a certain number of people, then send them out to look in shop windows and choose their meal. All must be back at a set time, when the meals are read out, discussed, and the best decided on.

Desert Island.

Send the Guides out in pairs to walk round the block. They must imagine that they have been wrecked from an aeroplane in an unknown land, it is a pitch black night, and they must discover all they can without the use of their eyes. That is anything that their other four senses—hearing, smell, taste and touch—can tell them. —“Tul-Kara.”

ON GONA TRACK

The guns had been silent on the jungle track for almost an hour. I squatted beneath a shady vine-clad jungle tree, listening to the drone of aircraft high overhead and noises of teeming insect life all about me. The sun throbbed downward so violently that even it seemed to have a faintly pulsing sound.

The two groups of men came toward me, the one from the northward black against the chrome of a kunai patch, the one from the southward difficult to pick out with their green uniforms blending with the bottle-green wall of jungle—wounded coming back from the front line and fresh troops going up to relieve them.

There were three wounded—one man walking with his right arm in a bloodstained sling, his right eye hidden beneath a heavy bandage—two others lying on crude litters carried by natives on their hard-muscled shoulders as they slithered splay-footedly through the fine black dust. The uniforms of the three Australians were torn and smeared with sun-dried grey mud; each wore a heavy beard.

The Australians moving up, also heavily bearded, looked like Robin Hoods in green uniforms and green slouch hats pinched, torn and battered into all sorts of weird shapes. Rifles and tommyguns were slung over their shoulders.

I looked at the three wounded men, all probably suffering considerable pain and discomfort, all grinning and joking together. I kept thinking how strange it was that these Australians never complained. I had seen hundreds of wounded men, some of them with five or six ugly wounds. I had never seen a single man wince. They complained about nothing.

I have never been so proud of my Australian nationality as when I spoke to these men. There was only one basic answer to the query, “Well, how are things?” Always it was a grin and a laconic “Goodo, sport. No complaints.”

Many times on that track there was a lump in my throat as I spoke with these quietly spoken, courteous, courageous young men of the A.I.F., with their grimly blood-soaked bandages. There was a time when I thought the vaunted claim that Australians were at least as good as the best fighters in the world was so much ballyhoo. Now I have seen this expression of undaunted spirit I believe it is true.

—George H. Johnston,

“Argus” War Correspondent.

“MATILDA” CONTRIBUTIONS

“Matilda” will be going to press at a different time in the month from now on.

Would contributors send the Editor their material by 26th of each month instead of 16th?