

*M. E. Bush*



# Matilda

APRIL, 1943

# “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.

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No. 9.

## B.-P. MEMORIAL FUND.

### Rangers . . . “Something to Say.”

“To be faced suddenly with the urgent necessity of saying something can be distressing.” I agreed with this sentence in an article I was reading to-day, and was interested in the formula which came later in the article. “A sort of abracadabra that you can mutter under your breath . . . What? Where? When? Why? How?”

Well, I thought, I will try this when writing for the Rangers, though writing “a few words” is so much easier than saying them.

What? What will you give? Some amount for each year you have been a Guide or Ranger; a day's or a week's salary; or the cost of “Boots, flying,” if your brother or friend is in the R.A.A.F. Sea Rangers will want to give the cost of a “Life jacket” and a crew might work for the cost of a sextant, for the use of those “who go down to the sea in ships.”

Where? Where will be the Memorial? While the war lasts, the Founder's memorial will be in the bright eyes of many Guides; in the ready hands of many Rangers. It will be, also, on the sea, on land and in the air, wherever our men are training and fighting. After the war, where? In the shining eyes of still more children and girls, and also in a tangible memorial whose form we do not yet know; but, can we hope, still on open land, in fresh, free air, perhaps by the sea?

When? When will you give to the Fund? The Ranger may like to give on the date of the day when she promised “to take this Promise into a wider world,” while the Company may choose to give on its birthday.

Why? Why should you give to the Fund? Have you ever made a list of all the good things Guiding gives you? Perhaps, as paper has to be saved, you had best not start! But it is to the Chief Scout you owe all these, and who would not want to say “Thank you”? Giving to the Founder's Fund is one of the ways.

How? How much, how often may you give?

As much, as often as you like! How can you let ex-Rangers know details of the Fund? Circulars for sending to ex-Guides and ex-Rangers are available at Guide H.Q., or write to the Hon. Sec., B.-P. Memorial Fund, giving number required and name and address.

And now? Why, that's the end of the magic formula! It works! —Ruth Denny.

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARCH 24, 1943.

Outer Southern Division . . . . .	£2 0 0
Miss M. E. Bush . . . . .	2 0 0
2nd Elsternwick Guide Coy. . . . .	5 5 0
Mrs. John Eddy . . . . .	1 1 0
4th Malvern Guide Co. (certificates)	5 0 0
Miss E. E. Ault . . . . .	1 0 0
Miss H. Porter . . . . .	0 10 0
Mrs. C. H. D. Steele . . . . .	0 10 0
3rd Post Ranger Co. (certificate) . .	1 0 0
7th Prahran Guide Co. . . . .	0 5 0
2nd Heidelberg Guide Co. . . . .	1 0 0
M. Darling . . . . .	0 5 0
Two Friends of Extension Branch	3 0 0
Col. S. H. Irving, A.W.A.S. . . . .	1 1 0
Fruit-Picking Camp . . . . .	5 7 6
3a Hawthorn Guide Co. (5 £1 certs.)	8 7 0
5th Hawthorn Brownie Pack (cert.)	1 0 0
10th Hawthorn Guide Co. . . . .	0 10 0
4th Hawthorn Guide Co. . . . .	0 15 0
9th Hawthorn Guide Co. (certs.) . .	3 0 0
1st Hawthorn Guide Co. (certs.) . .	9 0 0
Outer Eastern Suburbs Division . .	3 8 0
3rd Essendon Guide Co. (Cert.) . .	1 0 0
3rd Victorian Post Guide Co. . . . .	0 16 0
Extension Branch Friend . . . . .	0 17 0
Mrs. D. Fox . . . . .	1 0 0
1a Sale Town Guide Co. . . . .	7 4 0
Miss Muriel Drury . . . . .	5 0 0
3rd Kew Guide Co. . . . .	1 1 0
1st Yarragon Guide Co. . . . .	6 15 0
3rd Bendigo Guide Co. (certs.) . .	4 0 0
Grand total at 24th March, 1943	£355 2 6

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

**Receipts.**—Please read CAREFULLY.

To save postage, receipts may be obtained at Headquarters on application. They will be posted only if stamped and addressed envelope is forwarded.

Contributions and progress totals will be acknowledged in "Matilda" each month.

You will receive a Give-Lend Voucher when your final amount comes in.

1. Make out cheques, postal notes or money order to Girl Guide Association.
2. Address letters to Secretary, B.-P. Memorial Fund, Girl Guide Association, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.I.
3. Please send money in round sums of pounds and shillings (not pence).

M. Hoffmeyer, Convener.

### HAWTHORN DISTRICT SAYS "THANK YOU!"

On March 1st, 1943, six Guides, looking very keen and with their hands full of bulging envelopes, stood in front of all the Guides of Hawthorn. The secretary of the B.-P. Memorial Fund was facing them and she said "Remembering the past, we think of all the Founder has given us. Building for the future, we look forward to his memorial after the war. Working for the present, we are putting this Fund into war savings."

Then, to each in turn, she said, "What do you bring as a Thank-you for the great Game of Guiding?" And each in turn replied "I bring . . . (giving the amounts in cash and war savings certificates) . . . from the . . . Hawthorn Guides." The grand amount of over £22 was handed in, and the Guides returned to their places.

This ceremony was followed by a Guides' Own Service taken by Miss S. M. MacLeod, who inspired the Guides by telling many interesting things about the Chief Scout's life. She reminded them of all the Guides in the world at present, who may not wear their uniform, and asked the Guides to wear their own a little more proudly. The service concluded with the singing of Foxlease vesper and the lowering of the Colour.

Then the Guides clustered round to see, with great interest, some examples of equipment, such as their loaned money may provide for the R.A.A.F. The flying boots, the flying helmet and the life-saving waistcoat stole were tremendously admired.

Note. This equipment, on loan from the R.A.A.F., will be on view for some time at the Guide Shop. It is hoped, too, to have some articles lent by the R.A.N.

Ruth Denny,

Hon. Sec., B.-P. Memorial Fund.

### BRIGHT IDEAS SYNDICATE.

2nd Elsternwick Guides made £5/5/- for the Fund by selling newspapers.

3rd Hawthorn Guides were invited by the minister of their church to mind two children under 5 years of age, who, with their mother, are refugees from Singapore. The Guides have done so regularly, and not wishing to take payment, hit on the idea of taking it in war savings stamps, which have gone to the Fund.

2nd Yarraville Guides held a Christmas Gift Bazaar in a garden; novelties, cakes and drinks were made by the Guides. They made £21, half of which went to pay the rent of their hall, and the other half to the B.-P. Memorial Fund.

1st Hawthorn Guides held a concert and made £4, added this to some other money, and bought nine £1 war savings certificates, which have been handed in for the Fund.

3rd Bendigo has received its first contribution from an old Guide, as the result of sending the "To the Guides of Yesterday" circular letter.

1a Sale Town Company raised £7/4/- during Guide Week by the sale of blackberries and newspapers, and having a stall and social.

Guide people who went fruit picking at Bannockburn took up a collection among themselves and sent £5/7/6 to the Fund.

### DISTRICT NEWS,

#### Girl Guide Camp, Warburton, 1943.

Under sheltering gum-trees, near Guide House, five Guiders and twenty-four Guides enjoyed life under canvas. The girls in the camp came from Benalla and South Yarra. The camp was under the guidance of Mrs. Bakewell. The 2nd Benalla Guides had a pleasant surprise at seeing Miss d'Helin, their old Guide Captain, who was acting as First Aider.

We were divided up into four patrols each with a leader. Much more enjoyment was added to this by each patrol having a name. The five Guiders also chose a name each, and used the aboriginal names for Australian birds.

A small tent was used as a pantry; where all the supplies were kept. Near this tent was the camp stove, which generally had many pots and pans on it. Handy to this were gadgets for the cooking utensils, and also an open-air cupboard made out of sticks, which held all our cutlery and crockery, that is, our enamel plates and mugs, etc.

We had the World-flag flying in the centre of the camp, where every day before breakfast we had prayers, and on cold days had some exercise.

As I have told mostly what the camp looks like and is in it, I will now give a rough description of what we did in a day as each day is practically the same, only the patrols having different jobs each day, or going to different walks through the hills. The camp began Tuesday, 12th January, 1943. The whistle for getting up went at 7 o'clock, so we out of bed with many groans and made for the wash cubicles. We had a wash and dressed for prayers, and very quickly ran to the answer of "cook-house." After breakfast we had Health time, in which we put our beds out to air and tidy the tent ready for Inspection. The rest of the time before dinner was taken up with cleaning around the site and making gadgets for the little things about the camp. The dinner whistle went at 12 o'clock, and after having dinner and doing any little job we had to do, we had our hour's rest in which we wrote our letters. After that we got our afternoon tea in haversacks and went to Britannia Falls, which is through a rough track in the hills. After exploring along the river we had our afternoon tea and return by the timber shoot. A few times when it was not raining we went for a swim in the pool at Guide House. When we arrived back at camp we had tea, then with our blankets around us we had camp-fire. The last night in camp all the tents did a stunt which lasted about ten minutes, and much fun we had. After each patrol had had their baths we all went to bed. There is a lot of noise when getting into bed, but after the whistle went for lights out at nine o'clock silence reigned in the camp.

—P.L. D. Smith.

### PLEASE!

If anyone has a Victorian Annual Report and Supplement 1936-7 which she does not want and would give it to the Guide Office, we would be grateful to have it. —M.E.B.

## FIRES AND FIRE LIGHTING.

"Praised be my Lord for our brother fire, through whom Thou givest light in the darkness, and he is bright and pleasant, and very mighty and strong." St. Francis of Assisi.

Last month you will have read the article on the new Second Class fire lighting test, and will, I am sure, have agreed how much more thrilling and woodcrafty that new test is. But, do you know, I think that there are quite a number of Guides, and Guiders too, who are really very vague about how to set about lighting a fire in the open. What do you think about it? Anyway, here are a few hints on the subject just in case,

Choose your site carefully, a piece of bare ground if possible. If not you will have to clear away the grass and leaves, and well away from all trees and stumps. Then collect your wood. And do be sure to collect all you are going to need before you light the fire. Otherwise you will have to run away and get more wood at just a critical point in your cooking, and as a result, your dinner may suffer rather badly! When you have enough wood break it into convenient sizes and stack it in several neat piles, according to size, on the windward side of your fire.

Now you can start building the actual fire. Make a platform of sticks, each about the thickness of your finger, and arrange them about an inch apart, and running parallel to one another. The point of this platform is to raise the fire off the damp ground and also to allow a draught to blow through. For this reason place the platform so that the wind will blow up between the sticks. Next place your punk, or kindling, on the centre of the platform. Dry grass, bracken, bark or tiny twigs are needed for this. Even on a wet day it is possible to find dry leaves in sheltered spots and dead twigs on a tree will be drier than those lying beneath it. Build up your fire pyramid shape, putting very thin dry twigs close to the punk so that the tiny flame can catch them, and not be wasted in a gap between the punk and twigs. Start your fire very small and feed it gradually. When striking the match kneel on the windward side and strike it as near to the fire as possible, protecting the flame with your hands.

The commonest faults with tenderfoots are not protecting the match and making too large a fire. This usually means that there is a gap between the punk and the sticks, and so the wood does not catch or, if built solidly, is not thrifty, being very wasteful of wood and much harder to cook on. Remember you cannot start too small.

This type of fire is known as the Pyramid or Wigwam Fire, and is the basis of all the other types of fire which the Guide will want to go on to later. For the Second Class fire is not an end in itself, but, like all the other parts of the test, is merely an introduction to wider and more exciting things. Here are some of the other fires:—

**Hunter's or Trapper's Fire.**—Put two small logs on the ground arranged in the shape of a V, at one end only a couple of inches apart and at the other about a foot, the wide open end should face the wind. Build your pyramid fire between the logs. This type of fire is quickly made and is used chiefly when cooking with utensils which you can rest on the two logs.

**Cob-House Fire,** used when a quantity of hot embers are required in a short time or for a camp fire. Build your small pyramid fire, then place two logs parallel to each



we were hard at it. We were divided into two groups, each group working half a day, and spent the rest of the time in camp attending to the chores and the cooking, doing necessary washing of clothes, and the remaining time in just "being." At one stage the fruit ripened so quickly that it was a case of all hands on deck, with no respite. Everybody was very cheerful, and the orchard rang with Guide songs and old-time favourites; and with great hilarity as everybody scrambled on to the lorry at the end of the day for the exceedingly eventful and bumpy ride back to the packing sheds. We were a world of our own, and a very lovely world—work to be done, a lovely camp, and at night the joy of a camp-fire where everybody sang just for the joy of it; and at night watching the stars and the moon through the trees—we had tents, but they were mainly used for our luggage, and not to sleep in.

But the time came for the first lot of workers to go home and for the new lot to come down—there were many heart-rending scenes! And the new lot came, and they became pioneers, too, and they soon became part of the camp. And so we went on picking apricots until they were finished—somewhere about eighteen hundred cases. But we were not ready to come home as we had not thought to finish so soon; so we turned our hands to bagging onions. In the last two weeks we had had the upward stretch, and now we had the downward one!

Then it rained! No more apricots, the onions were too wet, and it was time to go home. We made all arrangements to go again next year; we felt that we were part of the place. We said farewell, not expecting to see it again for another year; but!—an urgent call some six weeks later sent eleven of us down to bag onions again. Three went for a week or more and eight of us spent a week end there doing the downward stretch bagging onions until they were all finished. We had made a large contribution to the bagging of eight acres of white and brown onions. And now, we are calling for volunteers to go back for an Easter Camp to grade these onions; but those volunteers are already there!

C.B.

## TO HAVE OR NOT TO HAVE— POINTS.

Some Guiders are all in favour of having Patrol Points in their Companies. Others are as emphatically against it!

What are the arguments on both sides?

For—

- (1) To foster Patrol spirit.
- (2) To make Guides keener.
- (3) To encourage them to work harder.

Against—

(1) Guides develop into "point grubbers" and spend too much time thinking how they can win more points for the Patrol.

(2) Patrols with inexperienced Leaders or many recruits get behind and don't have a fair chance.

(3) Guides are apt to work and play for sake of points and not for sheer interest in the activity.

(4) Is in opposition to our character training as it teaches the Guides to go for what they "can get out" of things—not for what they can enjoy for its own sake or for an ideal.

(5) It wastes someone's time keeping the points.

(6) It spoils the spirit in which the Guide Law is carried out.

(7) Speeds up tempo of the Patrol as a unit without giving the Guides anything lasting. The Patrol should make its own running and aim at beating its own standard without consideration of whether it is slower or faster than another Patrol.

What do YOU think? "For" or "Against."

What about the Guides themselves? They are the most important consideration in this Game. What do they gain from having Patrol points? Does it do them any harm?

What do they gain?

- (1) The excitement of competition.
- (2) Keeness to help Patrol.
- (3) Thrill of beating other patrols.
- (4) Or sportsmanship in losing.
- (5) Impetus to work.

What harm might be done?

(1) There is the danger of giving them the beginnings of a wrong sense of values.

Is the gain worth the possible harm?

If the matter of "shall we have points?" or "shall we go on having points?" comes up in a Company, the Guides should be allowed to discuss it from all points of view, in Patrol Councils and at Court of Honour. If they have never had them you will probably never be troubled (unless you bring it on yourself!).

If you do have points—

1. Give points or stars or ribbons or whatever you decide, to every Patrol that reaches the standard, not just to the winner.

2. Have points only for co-operative efforts, that depend on every Guide, e.g., Attendance, Inspection, Games.

3. Never give points to a Patrol for individual efforts—particularly for passing Tests—or for Good Turns, War Service, etc.

Do not necessarily have points all the time. Have a rest sometimes. If points are to be counted and a winner announced after a period, let it be short and sharp—say a month or two months—and give the slower Patrols a chance to win next time.

Does the ultimate success of the Company depend on one Patrol trying to beat another? Or on each Patrol trying to make its own best better?

Can it be that emphasis on "points" in a Guide Company is a sign of weakness somewhere?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Elaine Moran.

### "SIGNAL THE ALPHABET IN MORSE," BOTH READING AND SENDING.

It does not seem to be fully realised that "alphabet" includes a phonetic alphabet as well. Just repeating the alphabet aloud shows how similar many of the letters are, and how it is necessary to have a phonetic to make it clear.

Many of us can remember the old phonetic alphabet, Cork, Jug, Pip, Quod, Esses, etc., and how strange it was to change to Charlie, Queen, Sugar, etc. Once more there is a change; an almost completely new phonetic alphabet appeared in the daily press a short time ago.

There has been much discussion, and advice has been asked in various quarters about the change-overs. The decision arrived at for the present anyway is that Guides need not change from the Alphabet as given in the Guide Diary. Guiders and Rangers should be familiar with the new Alphabet. Anyone going for the Signaller's Badge should know it.

There is no uniform phonetic alphabet, it varies with each of the Services, and again with any special secret work. The one thing that all are agreed on is that it is essential to understand and work with a phonetic alphabet.

Therefore Guiders should realise that a knowledge of a phonetic alphabet is an integral part of the 2nd Class Test. It will become second nature if phonetics are used from the very beginning of teaching Morse. Each letter as it is taught being given its companion phonetic.

Although the Test reads "Signal Alphabet," one would expect the Guide to be able to read and send simple words. When you once know the alphabet it is naturally more exciting to read and send real words.

M.M.

### EMERGENCY SUBSTITUTES FOR USE IN JAMS, PICKLES AND RELISHES.

(Reprinted from the Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Victoria.)

By Rachel M. Peile, Fruit Preserving Expert.

Many housewives are finding it difficult to obtain certain ingredients—sugar, perhaps, being the most difficult of all. But it may interest many women to know that jams and marmalades, pickles and chutneys may be made quite successfully with much less sugar, provided they are not put away to keep indefinitely. It is a good idea when making jam for keeping purposes to use the whole quantity of sugar, and only half quantity when the jam is to be kept for only a short time or for immediate consumption. When less sugar is used, the jam will require a little

longer cooking before the sugar is added, and the jam or marmalade will result in a slightly smaller quantity, but the flavour and consistency will be quite satisfactory. For example, when making quince jam, the quinces should be barely covered with water and boiled gently for 1½ hours instead of for 1 hour.

If apples are boiled down with sufficient water to cover, strained, and boiled again to reduce them to half the quantity, this liquid may be used in place of part of the sugar in the recipe. It will help to sweeten and set the jam.

In addition to sugar some housewives are finding it difficult to obtain mustard, salt and preserved ginger, while other commodities are scarce also. When pickles and chutneys are being made and preserved ginger is required, this may be replaced by ground ginger, using a much smaller quantity. Mustard seed, a substitute for mustard, now unobtainable in most grocers' shops, can be procured at most seed merchants'. Curry powder also may be used as a substitute for mustard, the quantities used being slightly less than for mustard. If the quantity in any recipe is small, it may be left out entirely, and the flavour will not be impaired.

As all our spices come from overseas, they will be very difficult to procure. Therefore, whenever possible, substitutes must be found or the spices available used very sparingly. When making pickles, chutneys and relishes it is well to remember that a little longer boiling will ensure greater safety in keeping when the amounts of spices and sugar are reduced.

When spices are difficult to obtain, it is suggested that herbs be used in their place. Sage, thyme and marjoram, which are easily grown in the kitchen garden, although they will not quite take the place of many spices, will nevertheless give an excellent flavor, and several recipes are given where such herbs may be used. A recipe for cucumber relish, using curry power, is given also.

When sugar is scarce and needed more for other things, it is a good idea to use half quantity sugar and half quantity raisins when making chutneys and relishes. These dried fruits contain large amounts of fruit sugar which will take the place of white sugar.

**Quince Jam** (less sugar used).—2lb. quinces, 1 lb. sugar. Peel, core and cut up quinces. Cover with water and cook gently for 1½ hours. Add the sugar, dissolve it, and boil until it sets—about three-quarters of an hour.

**Cucumber Relish** (apple cucumbers may be used):—2lb. cucumbers; ½lb. sugar; 4 small chillies; ¼ pint vinegar; 1 level teaspoon ground ginger; ½ teaspoon curry powder.

Peel cucumbers, and mince or chop finely. Place in a bowl, and sprinkle with a tablespoonful of salt. Cover with a plate and allow to stand for 12 hours. Drain thoroughly; rinse and drain well. Boil all ingredients slowly for about half an hour. Bottle and seal.

**Apple and Marrow Chutney** (using herbs, raisins and half quantity of sugar):—2lb. marrow; 1lb. green apples;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. raisins; 2 teaspoons sage;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. onions;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pints vinegar;  $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. peppercorns; 1 teaspoonful thyme. The marrow should be peeled and cut into small pieces, then placed in a basin and sprinkled with two tablespoons of salt. It should be left to stand over-night, then drained well. The next day the apples and onions are chopped finely, the peppercorns tied in muslin, and all ingredients cooked until a good consistency.

**Apple Chutney** (using herbs and less sugar):—2lb. cooking apples;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar;  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of vinegar; pinch cayenne; 2 teaspoons sage;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. onions; 1 small dessertspoon salt;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sultanas; 1 teaspoon marjoram; 1 teaspoon thyme. Simmer all ingredients until of good colour and consistency, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

## FIRE PROTECTION IN RURAL AREAS.

Our forests are a wonderful inheritance—the envy of many treeless countries. They are a source of health and happiness, and are also of great commercial value. A fire may destroy in a few hours hundreds of years of Nature's work. Let us do our part in protecting not only our forests but our grass lands and our homes from fire.

1. The majority of fires can be prevented by a little forethought. Many fires are caused by camp or picnic fires not being completely extinguished, logs or undergrowth left smouldering after smoking out ferrets from rabbit burrows or robbing beehives, matches or cigarette butts thrown from motor cars, hot coals emptied from gas producers. Ashes from the stove or hearth carelessly thrown out in the yard, outdoor coppers and burning rubbish have caused many bushfires. Matches do not go out readily in hot weather; smokers innocently cause numerous fires by throwing away matches which they believed to be out. Break matches in two before throwing them down. Wax matches are particularly dangerous, and should never be used in summer.

2. It is our duty to put out fires if we can easily do so without harm to ourselves. Most fires, when they first start, can be stamped out or beaten out with a green bough. Once a fire gets a hold, scores of men may find it difficult to put out.

3. If a child on the way to or from school sees a fire burning, where there is risk of it spreading, he should report the matter to the head teacher or to the nearest post office. The Postmaster will send word to the Forest

Officer or Bush Fire Brigade. (Telephone messages notifying outbreaks of fire are free of charge.)

4. Never light fires in any position where they can get out of control. Fires should never be lit close to old stumps or logs, which will continue to burn even after water has been poured on them. Picnic fires should never be lit in the open when a high wind is blowing, particularly a north wind. The north wind is the fire's best friend. The fireplace provided at a picnic resort should be used wherever one is available. If there is no fireplace a fire may be lit in a trench or at the foot of a road embankment, provided that all dry material has been cleared away for a distance of at least ten feet from the fire. If stones are used to bank a fire, make sure they are dry, as sometimes wet stones will explode. If you are in doubt as to whether a fire will be safe, the best rule is—Don't light it!

A child should never try to head off a fire which is moving in grass or scrub country unless accompanied by some experienced grown-up person. If a fire is spreading rapidly, you can give best service by going for help. When beating a fire with a wet sack or green bough, never smack down on the fire, as this will only result in scattering live embers. Use the beater with a sweeping action towards the fire, so that all burning material is swept back. Wear a hat to protect the face and eyes from heat.

6. If a bush fire should break out near a house:

(a) Close—but do not lock—all doors and windows, as draughts increase risks, and sparks may ignite curtains or other light material.

(b) Remove any outside canvas or hessian blinds and screens.

(c) Fill all possible receptacles, such as copper, wash-troughs and bath with water. Collect all sacks and soak one end of them in water for use as fire beaters. Green boughs can also be used. Put handy to the water-filled troughs any cans, jugs or buckets which can be used for carrying water. Fill them, too, in readiness. If you can attach a hose to a suitable tap, do so.

(d) Go around the house and remove any stray pieces of paper, bits of dead bracken, dry grass or dead plants likely to catch fire easily. If a heap of dry kindling wood has been foolishly left near the house, remove it if possible, or put wet bags or a sheet over it. (A burnt sheet costs less than a burnt house). Stand a bucket of water near the heap. If the house is built on high blocks, sheets of iron should, if possible be so placed as to prevent sparks from flying beneath the house. Valuables may be placed in water or buried.

(e) If time allows, clear roof gutters of all accumulation of dry litter. This should, however, be done before the summer. The reason is that dry material at the edge of a roof may set fire to the rafters, which are



difficult to get at. If water is laid on and hose available, keep spraying the roof and side of the house from which the fire is approaching.

(f) Each member of the family should be provided with some fire-fighting equipment and made responsible for the safety of an allotted section. Keep in mind that the greatest danger is on the side from which the wind is blowing.

(g) If smoke is very dense, a wet hand-

kerchief tied around the head will give some protection to the nose and mouth. If you have to go through dense smoke in a house, crawl along the floor—the air is purer there.

(h) Should your clothing catch fire, don't panic. Lie down and roll on the burning part. The pressure will probably put it out. If possible, where woollen clothes when fire fighting—they do not catch fire as readily as cotton.

(Issued by the National Safety Council of Australia, 60 Market St., Melbourne, C.1.)



## The Rangers' Page.

### RANGER COMMITTEE MEETING.

Minutes of the Victorian Ranger Committee meeting held at Headquarters on Thursday, 25th February, 1943, at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Miss Barfus (in the chair), Rangers Flora Craven, Greta Richardson, Beryl McNee, Joan Smith, Ethel Preston, Elsie Kemp, Joan Drowley and Greta Roach.

An apology was received from Miss Broadhurst.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

#### Business arising therefrom:

**H.E.S. Training Day.** After discussion the Committee considered it inadvisable to proceed with any further plans with regard to this fixture, as it was felt that the expected attendance would not warrant the asking of experts in the various branches of the Training, which would be necessary for a fixture of this type.

**Country Dance Party.** The Convener was asked to make arrangements for this function, which will be held in May. A circular to be sent to Companies as soon as final arrangements have been made.

Flora Craven and Elsie Kemp were elected Conveners of the Conference which will be held in July.

**Prisoner of War Fund.** It was reported that the total amount collected to date is £44/1/4; £2/8/6 having been received since the last meeting.

**Correspondence.** A letter from Miss P. Barr, Secretary, 1st Metropolitan Cadet Company, asking if the Cadets could be permitted to attend Ranger activities, was read, and it was unanimously decided to invite the Cadets to all future Ranger gatherings.

**Finance.** There is a bank balance of £2/7/6, and 7d. in hand. 5/- was passed for payment to the secretary for expenses. Greta Richardson was elected treasurer until the forthcoming conference.

A resignation was received from Ethel Preston (3rd Richmond) and the committee accepted this with regret.

Owing to the resignations of several members, and in order to bring the committee up to its full complement, it was decided to ask the following Companies to appoint representatives:—East Malvern, Preston, St. Kilda, S.R.S. "Akuna" and Yarraville.

The question was raised as to whether the committee is justified in carrying on at the present time, and it was decided to hold meetings only as required. The matter to be discussed at the Conference.

Date of next meeting, Thursday, 20th May, 1943, at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting then closed.

Greta Roach, Secretary.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN COUNTRY DANCING?

If so, don't miss the Country Dance Party which will be held on Saturday, 15th May, 1943. For further particulars see the Ranger Page in this month's issue.

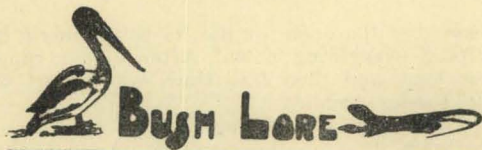
#### COUNTRY DANCE PARTY.

A Country Dance Party will be held by the Victorian Ranger Committee at St. Stephen's Hall, Docker Street, Richmond, on Saturday, 15th May, 1943, at 7.30 p.m. Admission will be 9d., plus two biscuits. Drinks will be provided.

St. Stephen's Hall is not far from the city: take tram from City in Batman Avenue to Docker Street, and then walk up the hill, or if you are coming from Richmond station walk east along Swan Street to Docker Street and then up.

Please note that attendance is not limited to Rangers only. Everyone interested in Country Dancing is welcome.

Joan Drowley, Convener,  
3 Plimsoll Grove, Fairfield, N.20.



Editor: Elsie Sydes.

### Wasps.

The wasp season is almost over, for wasps like it hot. I wonder how many different wasps your Guides have seen? There is the small black one and another black one with orange bands. One day a larger vision of black with reddish wings alarmed me in the garden. Most wasps are silent, but this one had a very loud buzz. You will often see them on the ground fidgeting around, and sometimes you will see them collecting mud for their nests. Most wasps build mud nests of different shapes and sizes. Beneath the outer covering of rough mud are neat tidy cells, each containing an egg and enough food for the hatched egg to feed on. In my young days wasps used to come into the school and build along the tops of books standing on shelves. This gave a perfect row of cells, and generally they had to be broken before they hatched anything, with the result that we had a good look at the contents—generally a collection of colored garden spiders. Grubs are also stored. A Guider here saw a wasp carry a grub down a hole in the ground just the other day, much to her astonishment. I have seen a wasp with a grub so large that it had to carry it along by suspending it beneath its body and then run along the ground, but as soon as it attempted to fly it had to abandon the load. The wasp has a wonderful way of capturing its prey and then storing it—it stupifies it but does not kill it, so that when the young wasp hatches from the egg in the form of a soft grub, it has a nice meal awaiting it. This stupifying is done with the sting. On our woodshed there is a large mud nest and one afternoon I saw a plain black wasp, about 1 inch long, disappear up an interesting little funnel built on the side of the nest. It remained inside for some time, came out again, then disappeared in again. I had to go on some other errand, so did not see any more. Early in March there were several of those monstrous thread-waisted wasps up at Nyah West busy collecting mud from a gutter. I heard one making that curious singing noise wasps make when working, but I could not find the nest. If you don't already know this handsome fellow, you soon will if you see him, for he is such a large, almost terrifying vision, of orange and black, and he has a way of flying with his legs hanging straight down in a single clump.

"Matilda" will be looking for your wasp story next month.

### Native Bees.

I wonder if you have any of these interesting little creatures in your garden? One day

cutting wood I came on a small tunnel in the log, and in it were two papery cells, and in each a small black "bee." One was  $\frac{4}{10}$ ths of an inch long, the other about  $\frac{6}{10}$ ths, and correspondingly bigger. They had narrow pointed strong jaws, a pair of fairly long feelers, a black body with grey furriness on it, and two transparent wings folded on the back. I kept them in a basin for a few days, and they seemed to fight one another. I gave them honey to eat, and did they enjoy it! Finally I let them go. Some days later we observed the same kind of "bees" in the garden on the lupins—they disappeared right into the centre of the flowers.

Another "bee" that visits us is more the build of a blowfly and has a black body with two orange bands across the tail. That reminds me that the little black fellows described above have a round orange patch on the tail. This second "bee" sits on the surface of a dish of water, presumably having a drink. It does not drown or even get wet.

The third kind of "bee" we have spent its days on the lavender heads. It was a fascinating fat-bodied little creature, blackish but covered with thick fur, giving it a greenish colour. It was extremely hard to observe, as it darted here and there with great rapidity, especially when it saw you were watching it. Its method of feeding was to hover on the wing, at the same time inserting its distinctive proboscis in each flower. This was done like a quick dab, the "bee" only spending an instant at each flower. I have called it a "bee," but really we are not sure what it was, the nearest in the insect book seemed to be the bladder-fly, as the shape of the banded abdomen was like it.

Do your Guides look for bees and "bees" in their gardens? There are the true honey bees in most gardens, and the fat old bumble bees, that just enjoy life instead of working hard and storing up honey and comb.

Have you seen the balls of pollen which the bee collects on each side of its body? I watched one emerge from a pumpkin flower yesterday, and it was covered in pollen from head to tail.

### Galahs.

Have you any of these colorful birds in your district? There are about five round here—Castlemaine—that I have seen. I wondered how far south they went, or if this was the limit. They fly about in a flock and make quite a noise all the time.

### Black and White Backed Magpies.

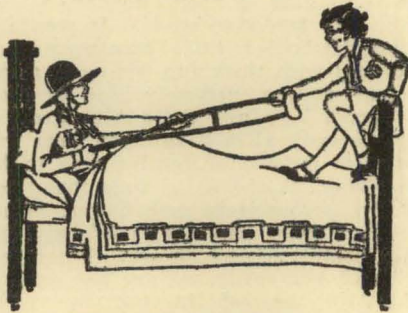
Have you noticed that the magpies up North are black-backed, and that down South they are white-backed? The dividing line seems to be about Bendigo, because we used to see white-backs out near Huntly, and black-backs near Mandurang, and sometimes both sorts. I don't think they associate much, though, and am pretty certain they don't mate.

### Hawks and Ibis.

Recently I was up North and was struck with the wonderful opportunity you people up there have with hawks and water birds. As the train steams along across the flat plains there are hawks all the way. I watched them wheeling and planing with such skill and one day saw one hovering on the wing watching for prey.

And the ibis! Beside a dam there were about a dozen of the white ibis with their funny bent backs and long curved beaks, ready to dart at anything edible. This bird is practically identical with the sacred ibis of Egypt and it should be sacred to us, for it is a great devourer of insects, especially grasshoppers.

And every little dam in the country seems to have its white-faced heron. Do you know this bird? Don't forget "Matilda" wants your notes and discoveries and questions—anything.



Editor: Sydney Foott.

### News from an Extension Company.

The Deaf and Dumb School has been evacuated to the country, and the Guide Company is busy learning all sorts of things they hadn't known before.

One Saturday they had what they called "either a one-day camp or an all-day hike, whichever you like to call it." They borrowed the Scout equipment, and the Institution provided food, etc. One of the local residents took the equipment out in his truck, and the Guides hiked. They had a lovely site down by the river—4 or 5 small clearings opening in to one another. Wood and water were plentiful.

They left on their hike about nine o'clock, and spent the morning getting the site in order and lighting cooking fires. They erected a flagstaff and had Colours. None of the Guides had ever done Colours in the open before, so it was a great experience. Who does not remember the thrill of seeing the Colours broken at the top of the flagstaff one has helped to put up—it gives one the same sort of thrill of sleeping in the tent one has erected.

They cooked sausages, potatoes, carrots and onions. Some were under-done and some

burnt, but the open air did its usual magic in helping everything down! After dinner came rest hour and then free time, when most of the Guides paddled.

Then they played games until tea-time—the main item on the menu being toast and cheese!—and then packed up, ready for home.

The poor supervisor who was on duty that evening needed eyes on stalks to cope with the seventeen excited Guides, all trying to tell her things at the same time!

### Home from Abroad.

Not only Extensions, but everyone in Guiding who knows her will rejoice that Miss McArthur Campbell is back in Australia. She has been overseas for just over two years, and the first news of her arrival came to us on Thinking Day. She is at present posted to a unit "somewhere in Victoria," but we hope to see her in Melbourne again soon.

## BROWNIES.

Mrs. Tate, who has been editing Brownie Page for over two years, has now relinquished this job, and the Brownie Branch take this opportunity of thanking her for all the work that she has put into the page month by month.

As was suggested at the Brownie Guiders' Conference last year, Divisions will now be asked to send in IDEAS, which Brownie Guiders have found useful with their Packs, and may prove helpful to other Brown Owls. Brownie Guiders will be notified when it is their turn to contribute. This month Eastern Division has given us the following:—

### Ideas. Game. Dragon's Tails.

The Pack turn into baby dragons and every one has a plain little tail (about 3ft. of rope) tied to her belt. Brownies use a round turn and two half hitches, and Tweenies put theirs through their belts and join the ends with a reef knot. Each dragon fixes her tail, runs round the hall or yard and shows herself to Brown Owl; and if the knot is correct she grows a spike on her tail—a matchbox cover or anything which can be threaded on to her tail. Brownies tie the first spike to the tip of their tails and after that undo the knot round the belt each time and slip the spike on. Tweenies undo their reef knot each time, so that for each spike the dragons do the knot and the run. Pack Leader is Dragon's Instructor, and any dragon who is unable to do a knot goes to her to learn how. Dragon with most spikes win. —H.G.

### Handcraft. Easter Egg.

Cut two pieces of crepe paper (of different colours) 12in. x 8in. Keeping the edges of both papers even, gather the 12-inch sides and tie with Brown Owl's favourite knot,

then trun inside out and gently press into the desired shape. The egg may be left open to show gift inside or it can be closed by ribbon band or a suitable picture gummed over the opening.  
—D.M.

#### Ceremonies. Presenting a Service Star.

The Pack forms a circle, holding on a coloured string—thin enough to slip the stars on. If only two are given, knots can be tied and Brownies arranged near these. If more than two, the Brownies to receive the stars stand to the left of Brown Owl, and the stars are passed round to the right, whilst the Pack sings to the tune of "Twinkle, twinkle, little star."

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
Brownies wonder where you are,  
Round each year you'll surely roam,  
Till you find a Brownie's home." A.B.

#### Closing.

Pack in circle with hats on and everything ready for going home. Sing Good-bye song (tune, "We're the Brownies").

"Now it's time to say Good-bye,  
And ever so hard we're going to try  
To Lend a Hand in every way  
And try to be a Brownie every day."

Then say (while Brown Owl looks to see everything is tidy):—

"Where we have been no one can find,  
For never a trace do we leave behind.  
Only the people we've helped to-day  
Will know that a Brownie has passed this way."

Brown Owl says "Goodbye," and Brownies all run off. D.C.

### BROWNIE GAMES AFTERNOONS.

Many months ago the Victorian Brownie Guiders' Committee arranged an afternoon to take place in Wattle Park, but the day was wet, and it had to be postponed. Later it was advertised again, but did not take place. Now the committee is glad to report that its hopes have at last been realised. During March not one, but five meetings were arranged for Brownies, the object being to give the Brownies a part in raising money for the Brownie Cottage Fund.

Southern Division had their afternoon on March 6th, at Sandringham Beach, and 48 Brownies spent an enjoyable time in paddling, a Treasure Hunt and a sand-castle competition.

64 Brownies from Western and South Western Divisions went to Altona Beach also on March 6th. Races, games and a sand-castle competition occupied the afternoon and then they all had tea before leaving for home.

On March 20th Eastern and Outer Eastern Divisions Brownies, 88 in all, went out to Cratloe Hill farm, Burwood. The walk was

long, but the Brownies were soon ready for games and a treasure hunt for the Queen's Jewels, after this a story, then tea. Kathleen White, who won 2nd prize for the Treasure Hunt, had left when the prizes were given out, so if her Brown Owl calls at H.Q. she can get the prize from Miss Thurgood.

Brownies from North Eastern Division went to Heidelberg Park on March 20th. There were 54 Brownies present, they played games, and also had a Treasure Hunt. Great was the excitement when one Brownie found a 10/- note, the real treasure paled into insignificance beside this piece of good luck.

South Eastern Brownie Packs went to Caulfield Park on March 20th. There were 50 Brownies, who spent a happy afternoon playing games, then before leaving for home they gathered into one big ring and sang Brownie Taps.

The total sum raised from these five outings was £9/7/9½, a very satisfactory result from the point of view of the Brownie Guiders' Committee. Then there is the other point of view, that over 300 Brownies enjoyed an afternoon in the open air and mixed with Brownies from other districts, so helping them to realise that there are other Brownies in the Guide family. D.H.

### TRAINING AND CAMPING.

(Elaine Moran)

#### Guiders' Training Classes.

##### General Guide and Brownie.

If applications warrant it, a second course of elementary training will commence on Thursday evenings in June, and a third course in September. If the Second Course is not well applied for, only the third course will be held. Application Forms are available at the Guide Office, or (by post) from Miss Macartney, Girl Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. The courses will consist of 12 classes and 3 outdoor days. Further details next month.

##### Refresher.

A special course is being arranged of Refresher training, to consist of about 6 or 8 evenings. Full details will be published next month.

##### First Class.

Would any Guiders interested in special "First Class" training please write to Miss Macartney at the Guide Office by 1st May. It is hoped to arrange a series of classes to commence on Tuesday evenings at the end of May.

(Continued on Page 14)

### OUR TENTH BIRTHDAY.

1st Rosebud Brownie Pack held their 10th Birthday Party recently. The invitations said from 5 till 7.30. We were so glad Miss Black could come on such an auspicious occasion, also Captain and the Rosebud Guide Coy.—quite a few had been Brownies—and then there were the Tadpoles (little sisters) for whom it was a joyous affair.

After games came TEA. We had to catch hands, shut our eyes and thread the magic maze. "Abracadabra" said a voice in sepulchral tones. The Brownies whispered the pass-word "Blue-bird." Brown Owl flung open the door and there was THE PARTY. In the middle of the table, of course, stood the cake ICED (oh my!) with 10 lovely candles, and in the centre a MAGIC TOADSTOOL. The smallest Tweeny and Tadpole blew out the candles. After we had tried everything, or almost, Bluebird cut the cake, and Robin handed it round. No! We can't tell you—it's a secret. There were sweets and favors for everyone. Toadstools to Owls and Brownies.

Too soon it was time to go home. Fairy ring. God save the King! Then Taps. Goodbye, goodbye—the sound of happy voices floated back.

Ten happy years for Brownies and Brown Owl. Let's hope for many more.

P.S.—Brown Owl thinks next 10th Birthday it would be a lovely idea if Brownies gave HER—or what's left of her—a Party! —T.J.C.W.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meeting of the Executive Committee held at the Guide Office on 4th March, 1943.

Present 4th March: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Springthorpe; Misses Cameron, MacLeod, Moran and the Secretary.

Reported that the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund now stood at £319, and that the Air Force had loaned several articles of kit for exhibition which could be borrowed by Districts.—Agreed that they should be kept at Headquarters and displayed in Show case in shop.

Letter from Lady Gowrie, expressing thanks for sympathy in the loss of her son.

Agreed; That Mrs. Bakewell prepare a broadcast talk from the Girl Guides Association in connection with the children's War Savings Army.

That a letter should be sent to the Australian Broadcasting Commission, thanking them for allowing us to broadcast on Thinking Day, and also to Miss Hoffmeyer, thanking her for giving and preparing the broadcast.

That the resignation of Miss Gillett as a Commissioner on the State Council be accepted. Agreed to send very best wishes to Miss Gillett on her approaching marriage.

Agreed to grant leave of absence from the State Council for the duration of the war to Mrs. T. H. B. Foott.

That, as we had been notified that no emergency service could be given to the lift at 60 Market Street, after 9 p.m., Guiders attending evening meetings should walk down the stairs.

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

### WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

District Commissioner:—Marnoo, Mrs. Carter; Redcliffs, Mrs. T. McKellar; Benalla, Mrs. R. D. Bakewell.

Captain:—13a Geelong, Miss D. P. Hodgson; 2nd Ormond, Miss P. Edmondson; 1st Blackburn, Miss J. H. Fletcher.

Brown Owl:—5th Caulfield, Miss G. Roach; 1st Hopetoun, Mrs. Blackburn.

### CANCELLATIONS.

District Commissioner:—Miss D. Gillett, Geelong No. 1 District; Miss D. Holtz, Camberwell South.

Captain:—Miss M. Wills, 4th Camberwell; Miss E. Leigh, 5th Geelong.

Lieutenant:—Miss D. Mack, 1st Sandringham.

### ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

We have received the following additional names:—

W.A.A.A.F.—Misses E. Allan, Welfare Officer (District Secretary, Carlton); M. Ritchie, Welfare Officer (Korumburra); Hazel Henry, Gladys Richards (Hamilton Rangers).

W.R.A.N.S.—Misses A. and K. Winter-Irving (1st Nagambie).

V.A.D.—Miss Valda McLeod (Hamilton Rangers).

### Training and Camping (cont. from page 13).

#### Campcraft Badge Training.

A course of training consisting of 3 week-ends and 3 evening classes will be held later in the year for Rangers and Guiders should applications warrant it. Guiders hoping to take the Camper's Licence Test will find this training useful. Guiders and Rangers interested should read up the Syllabus of the Campcraft Badge in P.O.R. Applicants should write to Miss Harrison, Hon. Camping Sec., 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, before 8th May.

#### Indoor Camp Test and Pack Holiday Permit.

Any Guiders, whether in country or metropolitan districts, who are interested in doing the training for these permits this year are invited to write to Miss Harrison, Hon. Camping Sec., 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6.

Details of the qualifications, syllabus and test will be found as follows:—

Indoor Camp Test, P.O.R. Victorian Supplement, 1941-42, page 57.

Pack Holiday Permit. P.O.R. 1939, Rule 32, Pages 38-39, and Victorian Supplement 1941-42, page 57.

## Patrol Leaders' Page.

"I want a thinnish piece of rope,  
Or if there isn't any bring  
A thickish bit of string."

That's what Piglet sang in the song Pooh made up for him, but then neither of them were Guides, or perhaps I should say Scouts! I am very much afraid though that some Guides think that the "thickish bit of string is all that they require for knotting, and it's you, as Leaders, who must get them out of this habit. Knots are not just something to be learnt at the Guide meeting to be tied with little bits of string, they are something that are going to be of real practical use to you and to other people, something to be brought into your ordinary everyday life, to be used at school, at home and in your job, for your own use and for the good of other people. If your Guides are going to realise this you must teach them practically right from the start, really use the knot, and if that use requires a thick rope or a wet rope have the thick or wet rope there to use.

If we combine the Tenderfoot and the Second Class knots we find that it means every Guide must know eleven before she can wear her Second Class badge. It is true there are only seven required for the test, but suppose Captain asks for the four you have not learnt? Or what would you think of a second-class Guide who came to camp and could not look after her own tent or make a gadget simply because she had not included a timber hitch, round turn and two half hitches, clove hitch and square lashing in her seven? If you are going to teach all these knots it stands to reason that you must know them inside out, back to front and upside down yourselves first. Are you sure you can recognise them all when you see them? And how many can you tie behind your back, with one hand or with your eyes shut? Just try and see!

Now let's get back to ropes. You need to build up a good collection in either your Patrol or Company equipment — long ropes and short ropes, thick, thin and medium ones—you will need them all. Then, when you have collected your ropes, take care of them. Ropes are not too plentiful at present, and anyway "a Guide is thrifty." If you are going to stop your rope fraying away you will need to do something to the ends of them. A backsplice is the most satisfactory method with ordinary three-stranded rope, ask Captain and she will be able to tell you how to do it. Or if you prefer it you can use an ordinary thumb knot or whipping. Do you know how to whip a rope end? This is how you do it:—

Take a thin piece of string and lie one end of it along the rope you want to whip (the end of the string is away from the end of the

rope. Then go on winding the string round this piece of itself and round the rope, working away from the end of the rope and making each round lie right up close to the one before. Continue for about an inch. Now double another short piece of string as a loop and lie it along the rope, the ends towards the part you have already whipped, and the loop towards the part that has not yet been done. Continue to wind the string round the rope and the ends of the loop for another half inch. Put the end of the string through the loop, pull the ends of your loop, and the whipping end will be pulled back under the whipping, the loop comes away, and the end of the string is cut off short. If you wax your string you will find it makes a neater and stronger job. All this sounds rather complicated, doesn't it? It really is quite simple though when you start and do it, but if you should get stuck you can always write to me and ask for more help or fuller directions, can't you? A piece of sealing wax or adhesive plaster stuck round the rope end will preserve it while you are learning one of these more permanent finishings.

Have you ever heard anyone talk about "standing parts" and "looseends," and wondered whatever it meant? They are two terms which you should understand and use yourselves. A rope has one end fixed to something else or anyway not used for tying the knot, and that part is called the standing part. The other end, the one you tie the knot with, is the loose end. When you are teaching your Guides never let them use the standing part to tie the knot with, it is quite a good idea to fasten it up to something. Three other knotting terms you need to know are bights, bends and hitches. A bight is simply another name for a loop, a bend is a joining knot, such as a sheet-bend or fisherman's, and a hitch is a knot which fastens a rope to something else, such as a spar, a tree or a post.

**Reef Knot.**—We generally teach a recruit that this is a knot used in first aid work, but do we ever give her a bandage and let her tie it with that, or give her a Guide tie to put on? That is the practical way, and she sees at once what is the point of learning the knot, and having seen she remembers. And why should a reef be used in preference to a granny? Let the recruit put on a sling with each in turn, and see what she can discover. Having discovered for herself she will also remember that. We say too that a reef is used to join two ropes of equal thickness. I wonder how many P.L.'s have tried it with two ropes of unequal thickness, and see what happens then! If not,

do it now! That is the only way to tackle knots. Try out everything for yourself, and find out the whys and wherefors of what you have been told. And what about a reef knot to join two ropes of equal thickness when the strain on them slackens, is it safe to use them or not? Try and see! To untie a reef take the loose end and standing part on the same end of the knot and pull them apart. This forms what is known as a lark's head. Break a granny in the same way and you will have—what? It's another old friend among the knots.

**Sheet-Bend.**—We know this knot is used to join two ropes of different thicknesses together, but does it matter if we make the bight (do you remember what that word means?) in the thick or the thin rope? Try it both ways and see! You will find that if you have your two loose ends coming out on different sides of the knot it will grip better and more quickly.

**Bowline.** I am leaving the bends and talking of this knot next, as so many Guides seem to think that a bowline and a sheet-bend are the same knot simply looked at from different sides. That all comes from using little bits of string and not proper rope and practical uses. Tie both a sheet-bend and a bowline, study them very carefully, see what differences you can find between them, and then ask Captain if you are correct. When tying a bowline be very careful to see that the loose end comes in the centre of your loop and not on the outside. In the latter case the knot is incorrect. Teach your Patrol to tie up a dog with a bowline round his neck in place of a collar (remember he will wriggle so they must know their knot well!) to tie it round their own waists with either hand (but only using one hand at a time!) and also round another person.

The double overhand, which is in the Tenderfoot in place of the bowline, is the landsman's way of making a loop which will not slip, it is used by mountain Guides in preference to a bowline as they can adjust the loop to fit everyone's waist after they have put it on. The bowline is the sailor's loop, as it is a knot that can be made with one hand, and is also easily undone, and the overhand sometimes jams specially when wet.

**Fisherman's Knot.** This is one of the most useful joining knots. Its name almost tells us that it is used for joining wet ropes together, but is that any reason why it should not join dry ropes too, and is it for equal or unequal thicknesses, or both? Try it out and see!

Get to work this month with your Guides and make sure that you can all really tie and use these knots. If any one has a sailor as a father or brother he will be the person to help you. He is constantly working with ropes and knots. His life often depends on

his knowledge of them. Your life or the life of someone else may one day depend on your knowledge of knots too, it is too late to wait until that emergency arises. "Be Prepared" now! "Tul Kara."

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## PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA

O God, grant us a vision of our country, fair as she might be; a land of justice where none shall prey on others; a land of plenty where vice and poverty shall cease to fester; a land of brotherhood where all success shall be founded on service, and honor shall be given to character alone; a land of peace where order shall not rest on force, but on the love of all for the country, the great mother of the common life and weal.

Hear Thou, O Lord, the silent prayer of all our hearts as we each pledge our time and strength and thought to speed the day of her coming beauty and righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Each session of the Religion and Life Conference, Newcastle, began with this prayer. The Governor of New South Wales (Lord Wakehurst) opened the Conference. Speakers included leaders of Christian Churches, and prominent Australian business men, politicians and professors.

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## CHURCH AND NEW WORLD.

The Church, if it is to play a Christian part, which is a prophetic part in the world to-day, must become a light to lighten the way along which man is now destined to tread. The Christian spirit must become the inspiration of political and economic and social organisation. It must give new life and meaning to culture and art. It must share with the State in the work of education in all its forms.

Above all, it must be the ever restless watchdog of man's essential freedom, that is, it must insist that man be recognised as a spiritual and personal being of unique character and worth. This concern for the individual must be balanced by a strong community sense, a sense of the oneness of the human race, and particularly of the close kinship of those who find in the Christ the captain of their souls.—Bishop E. H. Burgmann, in "The Regeneration of Civilisation."

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### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Te Rama (New Zealand); The Girl Scout Leader (U.S.A.); The Canadian Guider (Canada); Adventuring (South Australia); The Victorian Scout (Melbourne).