

MATILDA

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Melbourne, for transmission
by post as a periodical.

Vol. XXXIV.—No. 8.

APRIL, 1956.



Block by courtesy of the "Sun News-Pictorial."

VICE-REGAL GARDEN PARTY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, 10th MARCH, 1956.

His Excellency the Governor chats to Diane, 2nd Hampton Company. Guides in the group are from Mt. Beauty and Horsham who have been Post Guides in the Extension Section. Just after this Sir Dallas Brooks realised that the sun was in the eyes of the Guides, and asked three Eoy Scouts standing near to lend their hats for shade.

EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT

HOURS—9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Week Days.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon (Holiday Week-ends excepted)

SPECIAL NOTICE

REGISTRATION SLIPS must not be sent in without Guider's name and address attached
PRICE LIST—This is completed, and will be available when printed.

NEW STOCK

GUIDING IN AUSTRALIA PICTURES
Sets of 19 Pictures 4/-
Small Pictures each 2d.
Large Pictures each 3d.
Suitable for 1st Class Books or Talks,
for Pen Friends, or to show Recruits.

Notes on Pictures: No. 5.—Miss Bush, O.B.E., receives 2nd Diploma from Lady Lady Somers. Miss Smith, State Secretary, N.S.W., on left. No. 14.—The message is reproduced on Thinking Day card for 1956.

BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA

In Colour, by Lyle Stevens 12/6

SLEEPING BAGS

With Hood and Zip Fastener 124/6
With Quilted Hood 90/6
With Plain Hood 77/6

FOR CAMP

Knife and Spoon Set	4/6
Spoon and Fork (1/6 each)	3/-
Rucksack	59/6
Rucksack	77/6
Brownie and Guide Hike Haver- sacks	7/-
Guide Camp Hats	12/6
Enamel Plates	3/11
Plastic Plates	2/-
Plastic Pegs	per doz. 2/-
Torches—Red, Green and White Lights	13/6
Torch Batteries	1/2
First Aid Kit	12/6
First Aid Kit, small	6/9
Ground Sheet, 6 ft. x 3 ft.	11/3
Sheath Knives	9/9
Camp Knives	5/3
Adaptoplat	2/6 and 2/3
Surgical Plaster	3/6 and 1/1
Triangular Bandages	2/9
Crepe Bandages	3/10

**FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT AND
BALANCE SHEET 2/6**
(Recently arrived from Commonwealth
Headquarters)
B. J. RAWSON, Manager.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

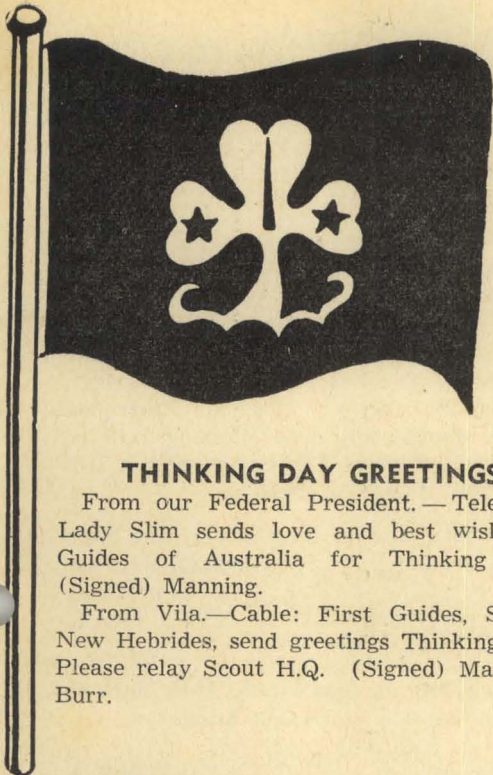
In future "Matilda" will accept advertisements of Guide equipment, uniforms, etc., for sale, at 1/3 per line.

FOR SALE.

Secondhand Brownie Guiders' Uniform, S.S.W., bust 32in. Enquiries to Miss King, Brown Owl, Bonegilla.

"MATILDA" SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

See page 15.



THINKING DAY GREETINGS

From our Federal President. — Telegram: Lady Slim sends love and best wishes to Guides of Australia for Thinking Day. (Signed) Manning.

From Vila.—Cable: First Guides, Scouts, New Hebrides, send greetings Thinking Day. Please relay Scout H.Q. (Signed) Margaret Burr.



THE HOSPITAL



“Scouts’ and ‘Guides’ are parallel movements—
‘But not in geometry, because they sometimes
meet.’”

Extract from letter to Miss V. Harrison from Dr. W. Balfour Wishart, Medical Officer for the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree:—

“In appreciation of the work of the Guide Movement, which made the hospital the outstanding success it really was, I send to you and your associates my hearty congratulations, and to the Rangers and Guiders, for the way they responded in very trying circumstances. I am ordered by Lord Rowallan to send to one and all his personal thanks for ‘your ungrudging service to the boys, which was an outstanding example of the Scout spirit.’”

Extract from letter received from Miss V. I. McKay, Matron of the Jamboree Hospital: Dear Mrs. Curtis-Otter,

... I would like to thank you most sincerely for your very kind remarks about the Jamboree Hospital.

I would like you to know that I thoroughly enjoyed running the hospital in conjunction with Miss Harrison and her very able and efficient assistants, Miss McDonald and Miss Leigh. I have nothing but the highest praise for the Guiders, Cadets and Rangers, and would like to thank them all most sincerely for their splendid efforts, working under the most adverse conditions without complaining. They all made our Camp Hospital a workable, happy place, of which I was justly proud. I would like them all to know this, Mrs. Curtis-Otter. I tried to convey my thanks verbally, but I felt my words were most inadequate. I wonder if a paragraph could be inserted in your Guide paper, “Matilda?”

Some of the ward orderlies showed outstanding ability, and I felt sure that we had some very promising recruits for the nursing profession amongst them.

The mess and camp orderlies did an equally good job in their own spheres, under the direction of their Guiders.

In fact, I would like to offer my hearty congratulations to the Girl Guides’ Association for the wonderful way they rallied around to staff the Jamboree Hospital in a voluntary capacity, especially when most of the members gave up their holidays to give service.

I was really most impressed and very grateful indeed for all the assistance given to me and my staff of trained nurses to make our Camp Hospital a success. The wonderful spirit that prevailed was universal throughout the camp, and was recognized and remarked upon by many of our important visitors.

I am enclosing a cheque for £10, which I should like you to accept and spend on some useful article for the Guide House. I shall leave the choice to you, or to the members directly concerned with the administration of the Guide House.

With every good wish and my thanks once again for your very nice letter.

Yours sincerely,

VIOLET I. MCKAY, Matron.

EXTENSIONS SWIM

We have just seen the revised test for Swimmer Badge for Extensions. It has every clause similar to the general ones for Guides, but alternatives for those who cannot use legs, who have not full use of arms, or have stiff necks.

But they swim, and they win the badge.

GUIDERS' MEETING

PLEASE NOTE!

All contributions must be in the hands of the Editor by the **First day of each month, at latest.**

TRAINING

SECOND COURSES FOR 1956

At Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne.

BROWNIE GUIDERS.

Wednesday, 6th June, at 7.45 p.m. Eight evening classes and one Saturday afternoon. Fee, 4/6, to be paid at first class. Guider-in-charge, Mrs. L. Sharp.

GUIDE GUIDERS.

Tuesday, 5th June, at 7.45. Twelve evening classes and three Saturday afternoons. Fee, 7/6, to be paid at first class. Guider-in-charge, Miss S. MacLeod.

COUNTRY TRAINING WEEK-ENDS.

Camperdown.—21st-22nd April, 19th-20th May.

Echuca.—21st-22nd April, 26th-27th May.

Stawell.—21st-22nd April, 19th-20th May.

Gipton.—19th-20th May.

CAMP-CRAFT WEEK-ENDS.

If applications warrant it, there will be five Campcraft week-ends at the Guide House on 7th-8th July, 4th-5th August, 8th-9th September, 6th-7th October, 3rd-4th November. Applications to be made before 8th June. Deposit, 10/- to be sent with application. Guider-in-charge, Miss S. MacLeod.

All applications for these trainings to be sent to the Secretary to Advisers, Miss Norma Lee, G.G.H.Q., 20 Russell Street, Melbourne. No acknowledgment will be made to Guiders applying for Training classes at Headquarters.

" MATILDA "

Subscriptions

NOW DUE!

See page 15.

COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

Calling all COMMISSIONERS! Especially those who have never been to their Conference. You all know it will be held at the Retreat House, Cheltenham, this year, from June 29th to July 1st.

It is always a very happy time. We all feel rather diffident the first time, but Guide people go out of their way to be friendly and welcoming. Our State Commissioner, Mrs. Curtis-Otter, always makes a point of speaking to Commissioners who have not been there before, and this year our Australian Chief Commissioner, Miss Manning, will be there for the whole Conference, and it will be our first chance to meet her.

So do come and learn about our work from each other and from the Advisors, who are always so willing to listen to all our problems and worries, however small. It's a pity to miss this great chance.

Closing date for application, April 30th. So do mark the 27th NOW for posting.

CYNTHIA MORELL, Convenor.

EMPIRE YOUTH SUNDAY

Empire Youth Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 6th, and, as in previous years, Guiders and Rangers are invited to take part in their district celebrations and in the city march. Information has been sent to Commissioners, but those taking part in the city march are asked to note the following details:

Guiders, Guides and Rangers will assemble in Alexandra Gardens by 1.30 p.m. Recruits and Brownies will NOT be permitted to march.

Full and correct uniform must be worn, including fawn socks for Guides, white socks for Sea Rangers, stockings for Land Rangers. Unless it is actually raining, no coats, blazers or jumpers will be permitted. No Guide may carry anything in her hand. No talking or laughing allowed once the march begins.

Districts are asked to send one Guide Colour Party, which should be well trained in carrying colours. Each Ranger Company is asked to send one colour party unless taking part in local celebrations. No red Australian flags may be carried.

P. BARR, Guide Adviser.

OF INTEREST TO L.A.'s
EMPIRE DAY STALL—18th MAY

Next month, on Friday, May 18th, we will be conducting our annual Empire Day stall in Collins Street, near the Centreway.

We have already told the Movement, through "Matilda" and the branches, of our plans to hold a hand-made handkerchief competition, in which the entries will be sold at the stall after the contest has been judged. Hand-made edging on machine hemming will be accepted. Here again are the details:—

Prizes of £3/3/- each will be given to the competitors who send in:

- (a) The best hand-made handkerchief.
- (b) The most original handkerchief.

Entries will close on Friday, May 4th, and the competition is open to the public.

Please wrap your entry in cellophane, enclose your name and address, and send it c/o Mrs. J. M. Eddy, Guide Headquarters, Russell Street. Names of the judges will be announced in May "Matilda" and the daily press. When judging is completed and the winners notified, there will be an exhibition of the entries at Headquarters prior to Empire Day, when they all will be sold at our stall.

Also, we are making an appeal for home-made jam, cakes, biscuits and cut flowers for the stall. There always is a ready sale for these. It will help us if you wrap them in cellophane, ready to be taken away.

All such gifts for the stall may be left at Headquarters, or at the home of Mrs. Swinburne, 41 Kinkora Road, Hawthorn, up till Friday morning, May 18th.

Will you and your friends please help us to make our 1956 Empire Day Stall a really big success?

Convenors: Mrs. J. M. Eddy,
Mrs. M. Colman Burke.



MISS GETSIE SAMUEL,
Guide Trainer from India, whose letter
appeared in the March issue.

GUIDERS' SINGING GROUP

Do you enjoy Campfire singing? Do you want to learn some new campfire songs? If so, are you interested in joining our Guiders' Singing Group?

This group is being formed for all Guiders who enjoy campfire singing, so if that includes "you," please come and join us. We plan to hold regular "Singing nights" at fortnightly or monthly intervals, and we are hoping for a good response.

The first meeting will be at Guide Headquarters on Wednesday, 2nd May, at 7.45 p.m. Leader, Miss P. Barr.

GUIDE BRANCH

ALTERATIONS TO SIGNALLING PROCEDURE.

The Procedure signals for Morse and semaphore codes have been changed recently, and, as a knowledge of these signals is essential for 2nd Class signalling, Guiders are asked to note these alterations and to make them known to their Guides as soon as possible. Details of the signals now in use are as follow:—

Morse.

AA AA—Calling up sign.

This is answered by

K—Carry on, I am ready. (This is sent by the Reader as soon as she is ready to receive the message.)

T—General Answer. (This is sent by the Reader in acknowledgment of each word when it has been understood. If the Reader has not understood the word, no answer is made, and the Sender repeats it automatically.)

AR—End of message. This is acknowledged by T, after which the Reader and her Writer check the message through together. If the message is understood, the Reader sends:

R—Message received.

EEEEEEEE—Erase. (This is sent by the Sender if she wishes to erase an error. The Reader answers with T. The Sender then signals the whole word from the beginning again.)

Semaphore.

Calling up.—Sender faces squarely towards the Reader and swings both arms rapidly up and down.

J—Direction sign. This is signalled by the Sender to indicate which way she is facing.

The direction sign is answered by:

K—Carry on, I am ready. (This is sent by the Reader as soon as she is ready to receive the message.)

C—General answer. (This is sent by the Reader in acknowledgment of each word when it has been understood. If the Reader has not understood the word, no

answer is made, and the Sender repeats it automatically.)

AR—End of message. This is acknowledged by C, after which the Reader and her Writer check the message through together. If the message is understood, the Reader sends:

R—Message received.

EEEEEEEE—Erase. (This is sent by the Sender if she wishes to erase an error. The Reader answers with C. The Sender then signals the whole word from the beginning again.)

Note: Where the signals are composed of two or more letters (written with a bar above them, e.g., AR) they are signalled as one.

P. BARR, Guide Adviser.

WHO LOST INTEREST FIRST?

I've been thinking a lot about this leakage question lately. There's been such a lot of talk about it in both our Movement and the Scouts. Why do they leave?

We can generalize I'm sure. Each one leaves for her own good reason, and every case is a special one. Thinking back over my own "lost" sheep, I haven't found one yet that I didn't somehow feel was my fault. There was Margaret, who had been an acting P.L., but hadn't coped very well and just didn't make Second Class. The Patrol chose someone else at the annual re-election and Margaret left. When she told me that she didn't want to stay on as "not a P.L." I accepted it, and thought "not much loss to the Company." Remembering that, I am ashamed at myself for forgetting that the good of the Company is the good of each member, and that the Company as such only exists to serve, and not to be served. We might not depend entirely on Margaret, but she certainly needed Guiding.

It was she who was badly scalded one evening, and had to wait while her mother searched a First Aid book for the correct treatment. Just the household for a trained self-reliant Guide—why didn't I make that bit more effort to get her on beyond Second Class and help her as a P.L.?

(Continued on next page)

BROWNIES ON THE AIR



Seoul, Korea.
January 23, 1956.

Dear Miss Macartney,

It takes many weeks for packages to come from Australia through my A.P.O., because they go all the way to San Francisco and then back to Korea.

The parcel with the Brownie uniforms, sent in September, came a bit before Christmas. The girls are very proud of them and were glad to have them to use for their Christmas programs. Enclosed is a picture they thought you might enjoy seeing.

They are very appreciative of any help they receive. The Korean families have gone through terrible hardships.

The packages which have arrived from Australia have all been quite torn when they got here. Things really should be packed in strong boxes to stand the long, hard trip, I guess.

May I thank you for your kindnesses, too.

Yours very truly,

HELEN BETH KING
(American Adviser.)

WHO LOST INTEREST FIRST? (Continued from page 6).

And Joyce, who left when her friend went to the grammar school and made new friends. Wouldn't a bit more notice, a bit more encouragement, have kept her interested when she needed us most?

And casual, infuriating Veronica, who failed to turn up three times for a test and finally sent word she had left because she hadn't time. Perhaps if I'd called to see your casual, erratic mother straight away you might have turned out as rattling good a P.L. as your younger sister, and become as reliable and determined as she is.

As for Christine—ugly, whining, selfish Christine—I just didn't like you, and you knew it. I wish now that I'd concentrated on your better qualities—loyalty, stickability and a basic honesty—and really tried to give you some of the affection you craved and didn't get from your smart and sophisticated mother.

My record book accuses me with the phrase "lost interest." Who lost interest first, I wonder? Myself—or the Guide? The answer makes me rather uncomfortable.

—"The Guider," September, 1955.



FAITH

"A RANGER IS EXPECTED TO DO ALL SHE CAN TO DEEPEN HER RELIGIOUS FAITH.

Those words are found in section 70 of P.O.R., immediately after the pre-enrolment test. As soon as the Ranger is enrolled she refers to section 71 of P.O.R., or those sections dealing with the particular Land, Sea or Air Ranger tests; she tackles those tests straight away, and with a certain amount of confidence. The Ranger knows that a general idea of first aid, for example, is almost useless, so she sets to work to obtain information and spends time and effort in making herself proficient. So, with the other parts of the test, all of which are tackled systematically and with enthusiasm until the desired result is obtained.

Meantime, the most important section is shelved. Usually it is because the Ranger does not know where to begin. What can she do to deepen her religious faith? It takes time and thought and effort to deepen one's faith, to get nearer to God, and it is a help to remember what we are told over and over again in the Bible, "When ye search for me with your heart, I will be found of you, saith the Lord." Some of the following suggestions may be helpful.

Have you read any of the gospels right through? The gospels contain the key to the Christian faith, and if you have previously read only bits of them you would be rewarded and enlightened by reading one right through. St. Mark would be a good one to begin with; it is the earliest gospel, and, being written for people who were not Jews, it has fewer references to Jewish customs and history than have the other gospels. Read it as you would anything else in which you are

interested. Some people find difficulties in the older translations of the Bible, but there are several new translations in modern English which should overcome that problem.

"As His custom was, Jesus went into the synagogue on the sabbath day." Do you go to church? Going to church will not necessarily deepen your religious faith, but it can help a very great deal. It largely depends on the spirit in which you go. Go in a spirit of praise and gratitude—praise because there is something greater than mankind, gratitude for so many lovely things, friendships, talents and intimate things. Your religious faith is likely to be deepened by your church-going in proportion as you bring to church this spirit of worship and gratitude.

It is a great help to carry a particular thought or verse with you all day and see how it applies to your way of living. "Be ye kind to one another," "Whatsoever is true is lovely, is of good report, think on these things," "Every man that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things," "The kingdom of heaven is within you." If you think about them and watch yourself carefully, you will become aware of your weaknesses, and will realise how far you fall short of the high moral standards of your religion.

How much active, positive thought do you give to God, to things relevant to Him, and to religion? Naturally, at the same time as you are enjoying the reading of the several incidents in St. Mark you will be thinking of their implications; when you are in church you will think of the words of the prayers so that you can take your full share in them; when you choose your particular verse for the day or week you will think about it and decide what it means, and when you forget or fail to carry it out properly you will think about that also. In addition, it would be well

to set aside ten minutes once or twice a week when you simply **think**. Don't just dream; really think about something definite—your text for the day if you like, or the petitions in the Lord's Prayer, each taken separately. Perhaps it would be easiest to begin with a sort of "count-your-blessings" session. The Wayfarer's Grace, for example, would be good to start with—

For all the glory of the way,
For Thy protection night and day,
For roof, tree, fire, and bed and board,
For friends and home, we thank Thee,
Lord.

The first line may start you thinking of the beauty of the hills and the trees which you saw when hiking, or of the splendour of the stars at night, and you may marvel at the Power that has created and unites such a varied and far-reaching universe; the second line will need much thought; and so on, down to the phrase "friends and home," with all it brings of the most worth while things of human life. Don't try to hurry your thinking; it is the quality of it that is important. Obviously it is easier to think in a quiet place, but it is amazing how you can train yourself to concentrate in a noisy room, on a tram, or as you walk along. Your mind will be enriched and there will be valuable growth towards a deeper religious faith.

Religion is part of everyday life. Think of how Jesus spent His days teaching, enjoying the company of his friends and the social life of those days; but He was always ready to help people and, all the time, God was in His thoughts, in His whole attitude to life. Every day and every year we should be striving to reach the standards that Jesus has set us, to get nearer to God and to gain a greater understanding of His ways.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

St. Mark in Current English, by Mary L. Matheson, M.A.; price, 10d.

St. Luke in Current English, by Mary L. Matheson, M.M.; 2/7.

Christ in the Gospels, Book 1, A. F. Titterton.

The Bible, published in 1954 by the British and Foreign Bible Society for their Jubilee, 12/6. Attractive in appearance and with some interesting illustrations, this Jubilee edition

has exactly the same words and phrases as the Authorised Version of the Bible, but is not broken up into numbered verses; it flows on in long or short paragraphs, as any other reading matter.

NOTE

When writing this article the author was thinking mainly of the girl brought up in the Christian faith and of a Protestant denomination, but Rangers of other religious denominations will probably find the article helpful. For example, the Jewish or Moslem girl will have something in her own religious literature equivalent to the Christian gospels—something that contains the core of her faith, and in which can be found a daily text for action and thought. "Thinking" is obviously applicable to all religions. In any case, it should be remembered that these are only suggestions; they do not claim to be a set pattern for action; they have proved helpful to some people, they may be helpful to you.

The editorial committee would be very pleased to hear of any discussions that have occurred in companies concerning section 70. Does the Ranger take for granted the religion in which she was brought up? Have any of you discussed the fundamentals of religion as distinct from your own particular religion? Have you discussed "what is religion," "what is faith?" Have you read any books on comparative religion, religion and science, religion and philosophy, on scepticism? In fact, we should like to hear your ideas and, if we think they may be of value or stimulating to other Rangers, we shall publish them on this page.

"MATILDA"

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for Guiders of Victoria, Australia.

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30th April.

PATROL LEADERS' PAGE

ABOUT PATROLS IN COUNCIL

Well, Patrol Leaders, are you and your Patrols really working as a team now, planning and playing and even arguing a bit? You see I put planning first. You need to plan carefully before you do anything as a Patrol or it will probably be a deadful flop. You need, too, a lot of planning and discussing before Court of Honour, so that you, the P.L., know exactly what would be your Patrol's opinion on each subject that will come up for discussion. That is why you have Patrols in Council.

How do you run your Patrol Council? It is not easy, is it, to keep to the track all the time, and to keep everybody from talking at once. That is what you, the P.L. who acts as the chairman, must do. You will probably find it a great help to make a list of the things you need to discuss. Some will have come from Captain, who has put them on the Court of Honour agenda, some will be your own ideas, and some will be those that you know your Patrol wants to thrash out. At the end it is always a good idea to have that very useful "any other business," which will give each Guide an opportunity to produce her latest idea. Once you have such a list, you will be able to make the best use of the time available.

A Few Tips.

Now, as to the actual running of Patrol in Council, here are a few tips. They are the sort of things that every chairman, however large or small his committee, needs to remember:

- Don't do all the talking yourself.
- Do see that everyone has her say.
- Don't let any one Guide talk too long.
- Do keep the discussion reasonably close to the subject in hand.
- Don't let several people talk at once.
- Do see that all remarks are addressed to the chair.
- Do take a vote or record a decision after a subject has been fully discussed.

It will help to note down the decision on the list from which you are working. It is

most discouraging for a Patrol to discuss something at great length and then to feel that Captain and the Court of Honour never really heard of their idea.

Very soon you will probably be attending one of the regional Patrol Leaders' Conferences that are being planned. Will you really be a P.L., there as your Patrol's representative, or just another of the audience?

Next month we will talk about another of your jobs as a P.L.; until then, here is a handful of ideas to work on:

Stretcher.—You need two poles five or six feet long (broomsticks or garden stakes are good). The cords you wear on your belts, criss-crossed between the two stakes and secured with clove hitches along each side, make a good base. If you need to join two cords, a fisherman's knot is best. (Two tenderfoot knots learnt and used.) Make sure all the "rungs" are the same length and close enough together at head and foot. Cover stretcher with coats or pullovers, and make a pillow. The Guides preparing for Second Class need to know how to make a patient warm and comfortable. Now put a volunteer on your stretcher, cover her warmly, and carry her about, up and down steps, through doorways, etc. You needed practice like that for your own First Class test, didn't you?

Equipment for your Patrol Box, or perhaps there is someone who would like to do the job as a "useful article." Carefully draw and colour a Union Jack on a piece of firm card 6in. x 3in. (the back of an old writing pad is excellent). On the back write the chief points in the history of the flag, or a quiz about it. Then cut the card up to make a jig-saw puzzle. If the puzzle is put together on a book, the whole thing can be turned over, and the information read off the back.

A Variation on Kim's Game.—Each Guide contributes one article. They are arranged in front of the Patrol, who study them for, say, one minute. While they hide their eyes you move one object slightly. The first Guide to describe the alteration accurately when the Patrol looks again has the privilege of making the next alteration.

PATROL NATURE LOG BOOK (6)

(The ideas for these articles came from Mrs. J. Gorvet and "The Guide," by whose courtesy we have been able to adapt them for our own needs.)

"A WORLD OF LITTLE LIVES."

Only three more weeks to April 30th. As usual, the Robins had met in Jill's garden and were sitting on the lawn discussing what could be done in the short time before their book must be handed in.

Jill produced a small notebook from her pocket.

"Here's where I wrote down what each of us wanted to do when we first decided to keep a Nature Log," she began. "Now, let's see. Sheilah's done a grand job with the maps. We've got notes about trees and flowers, and some extra nice drawings from Elizabeth. We seem to have plenty of bird notes, and there's the list of the ones seen in our area to go in at the end, with the flower list and the weather records. Not much in the way of animal notes except in the holiday section, but Jane has written some extra good bits about what we found at the pond."

"Well, a frog's an animal, isn't it?" remarked Jane, "and at that rate a tadpole must be too, and we saw plenty of those. Just the same, we have left something important out of our log. The only insects in it are the water ones, like diving beetles and mayflies. What about all the others that live in our area? There must be thousands and thousands of them, and they've hardly had a mention."

"It's not quite so bad as that," said Jill, glancing through the logbook sheets. "Here's Pat's story about the cabbage moths in her vegetable garden, and she's done a lovely life history of a cicada for us as well. Just the same, I see what Jane means. We haven't enough about insects. What do the rest of you think?"

Sheilah volunteered the information that she had read somewhere that nearly three out of every four living things on the earth are insects.

Elizabeth, who had been watching a vine-moth fluttering around the virginia creeper, spoke next. "What I'd like to know," she

said, "is just how that mother moth knows she must lay her eggs there, or else on the grape-vine. Why doesn't she put them on a cabbage or a gum-tree, where they'd all die? She wouldn't know by the taste, because she doesn't eat leaves. She just takes a sip of nectar here and there from the flowers. Isn't that right, Pat?"

"Yes; she doesn't live long enough to need more than that," Pat answered, "but don't forget that, though she's a pest to the grape-grower when her caterpillars eat his vines, she still does some useful work in his garden. Her visiting the flowers helps to carry pollen from one to another. We mustn't give the bees all the credit for that; other insects do help too."

"Do you suppose," asked Caroline, "that if we could watch insects really closely and see all they do, that we'd find most of them, even the ones we call pests, doing useful work as well?"

"I'm not a good enough naturalist to answer that one for you," laughed Pat. "But I expect it's true on the whole. The more you think about it the more things—I mean things in nature—seem to fit together in a pattern."

Silence for a moment while the patrol digested this remark; then, from Jill, who had been examining the rose bush alongside, "What about this aphid? Don't tell me it does any useful work."

"Not for us, perhaps," Patricia answered thoughtfully, "but it's useful to the ants that come along and drink that sweet juice that oozes from its body. And the ants in turn are useful in the world as cleaners-up of rubbish . . ."

"That's right," broke in Susan; "we found a dead snake in the holidays, and Dad said to put it on an ants' nest if we wanted the skeleton. Do you know they cleaned it all up as clean as a whistle? We brought it home for our museum."

"Blow-flies and house-flies help with the tidying-up too," Pat continued, "though actually it's their larvae—maggots, as we call them—that do the job."

"I've never thought of flies, or ants either, as anything but a beastly nuisance," commented Sheilah. "But I can see what you

mean about a pattern. Listen, everyone, I vote we go for an insect walkabout right now. We can go all round our special area and make a list of the things we find for the log-book."

The patrol had been sitting talking long enough and Sheilah's idea met with general approval. At Jill's suggestion they decided to take special note of where they found insects and, if possible, discover why, or, as she put it, "try to find out where they fit into the pattern."

A ladybird on the rose bush drew their attention first, and a note for the log recorded aphid-hunting as the reason for its presence there. Its spotted appearance was mentioned as probably camouflage—like the blotches on army vehicles that make them harder to see at a distance than if they were all one colour.

Before the patrol had left the garden, "soldier beetles" were noticed on the dahlias. Patricia produced the information that these were not beetles at all, but harlequin bugs, and belonged to the same big group of insects as the tiny green aphid, and that all of them had curious mouths for piercing a plant and sucking out the juice, not proper chewing jaws like a beetle.

The harlequin's striking orange and black colouring went down in the log as "bird-scaring tactics."

"That smell they give off must help, too," suggested Susan. "They must taste just awful. If a bird had once tried a meal of Harlequin Bug I think he'd keep well away from anything that looked like that in future!"

Needless to say, the Robins didn't get right round their area that afternoon. Another excursion was planned, and even Sheilah admitted that she was developing quite an "insect eye."

Walking home by herself, Patricia paused to watch an army of brown and black sugar ants patiently re-building their home after a catastrophe caused by a passing cyclist. A cricket started to trill from the grass at the roadside. A small blue butterfly flitted past and landed, wings pressed together, on a patch of clover. "A World of Little Lives," thought Patricia, remembering the name of a book she had seen on the library shelves. She turned towards home. For Pat, handing in the finished log-book wasn't going to be the end of the Nature Trail . . . she wanted to go on.

NATURE ARTICLES

This is the last of the Nature articles for Patrols. They have all been prepared by Mrs. J. A. Bell jnr., of Camperdown, who has adapted the writing to Australia, and added what has been needed; and by Miss Jean Barclay, of East Melbourne, who has drawn nearly all the pictures.

We do thank them very sincerely indeed, and trust that their greatest pleasure will come when they meet Guides from all over Victoria who are quoting their articles and using them, because they have awakened a love based on knowledge of the World of Living Things.

PATROL NATURE LOG BOOK COMPETITION

CLOSING DATE—30th APRIL, 1956.

Has your Patrol completed a Nature Log Book for this competition? If not, please hurry, as the closing date is 30th April.

All books to be sent to "Nature Log Book Competition," Girl Guides' Association, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne.

Make this competition a success and send in a book from your Patrol—you still have a little time.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATIONS.

3rd Bentleigh Pack; 2nd Bentleigh Coy.;
2nd Moonee Ponds (St. Monica's) Coy.

WARRANTS.

Captains.—Miss V. Fenton, 1st Jordanville.

Lieutenants.—Miss P. Witton, 2nd Korumburra.

Brown Owls.—Miss M. L. G. King, 1st Boe-gilla; Mrs. W. M. Jones, 2nd Moorabbin; Mrs. R. J. Kellond, 1st Bentleigh.

CANCELLATIONS.

Mrs. M. P. Waterhouse, Capt., 1st Bandiana; Miss E. M. Elston, B.O., 1st Wentworth; Miss V. Harrison, D.C., Caulfield; Miss J. Dunn, Capt., 1a Sale; Miss D. E. Little, B.O., 1st Benalla; Mrs. B. E. Noke, Lieut., Kew District Rangers; Mrs. I. Merrick, Capt., 2nd Sale; Miss C. Froggitt, B.O., 1st South Yarra (St. Joseph's); Mrs. J. M. Winter, Capt., 1st Cobram; Miss J. Matthews, B.O., 1st Maffra; Mrs. R. D. Hingeley, Capt., 1st Dromana; Miss N. Shaw, Lieut., 1st Dromana.

A VISIT TO MOORABBIN AIRPORT

Two Guides from Fitzroy were very keen to pass their Aircraft Badge, so Mrs. E. May, our District Commissioner, arranged for 21 girls from Fitzroy Companies to visit Moorabbin Airport as guests of Miss F. Thompson, one of Australia's foremost women pilots. Miss Thompson was one of the first women to fly solo from Australia to England, and so you can see why we were so excited at having such a distinguished hostess.

We arrived at the aerodrome about 11 a.m., and made our way to the first hangar. Here we were shown how the body of a plane is constructed. A light wooden frame (usually of spruce for flexibility) is covered with specially treated cotton, and when dry and hardened is then painted. We also learned here the intricate way repairs are made on the different aircraft.

After lunch we climbed up to the control tower and acquainted ourselves with its radio, maps, weather instruments and signal lights with which the planes are signalled to take off and land. The efficient operators of this small room have up-to-the-minute data on all pilots in the air, minimising the danger of any plane being lost. We learnt how to fill in a clearance form, which all pilots wishing to make over a forty-mile flight must do. We were then allowed to inspect the other hangars, and found them housing all types of private aircraft from Gypsy Moths to Proctors and Minors. Everyone had great fun sitting up in the cockpit, moving the rudder, wing flaps and elevators, pretending all the while to be miles off the ground. All the time Miss Thompson patiently explained the workings of the dials and controls on the dashboard.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely, even the mechanics, who good naturedly explained the different parts and workings of the planes, and the firemen who didn't mind when we accidentally pushed the fire siren. It came as a shock to learn that we had time only to take a last photograph before leaving for home, and everyone crowded around for a last look.

We had all gained some interesting knowledge; the two girls passed their Aircraft Badge, and everyone voted it a truly wonderful day. So I hope that other Guides will enjoy reading this account as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

MARGARET BATTISTA, 4th Fitzroy Coy.

STAMPS

"Thank You's" go to the following for parcels of mixed stamps received in January and February: 1st Bairnsdale Pack; 1st Wonthaggi Pack; 1st Tongala Company; 7th Prahran (Deaf) Company.

COMPETITIONS, 1956: ALL AUSTRALIAN STAMPS.

15th June: 1d. (any issue); 1½d. new Queen (side face); 2½d. blue, Queen Elizabeth II, brown and red King George VI (not old issue or commemoratives—see note below); 4d. Koala; 9d. Platypus; 1/- (any issue).

15th August: ½d. Kangaroo; 4½d., 5½d., 6½d., 7½d., 8½d., 1/0½d. (any issues).

15th October: 2d. (any issue), 3d. not comems.—see note below), 3½d. blue King George VI, 6d. Kookaburra; 1/3, 1/4, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6 and higher values of any issue.

Note: Commemorative issue stamps and any common varieties should be sent in separately at any time.

Conditions and Hints will not be repeated this year. Please keep this page in a handy place.

1. Note closing date, 15th of the month listed.

2. Stamps must be whole, corners intact, back not stripped off, perforations not cut.

3. Do not save stamps which are very heavily postmarked.

4. Soak stamps off paper by floating on cold water in shallow dish; do not put in blue packed paper.

5. Dry stamps face downward on clean blotting paper.

6. Place each kind of stamp into a separate packet. "Window faced" envelopes are ideal.

7. **Important:** Wrap all packets securely and address to Miss L. E. Cuzens, 9 Uvadale Grove, Kew, or deliver to Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne. Postage rates are 3d. for first 4 ozs., and 2d. each additional 4 ozs.

8. **Prizes:** Cash orders for goods from Guide Headquarters Shop. If sufficient entries are received, both country and metropolitan winners will receive a prize.

LORNA E. CUZENS,
Hon. Organiser for Stamps.

GUIDING IN NEW HEBRIDES

(Extract from letter written 8/12/1955 by Miss Margaret Burr, well known as Guider, Trainer and Adviser in Victoria.)

"The subject of youth work among the young people of the villages was discussed, and it was agreed that we should attempt to commence Guides and Scouts for the younger children. This we have attempted to do, and with quite a deal of success.

Our first step was to have a Leaders' Training Course, and we found the boys and girls just clamouring for it. Our training classes, held every Friday night for the past three and a half months, have had an average attendance of about 40. Most of these youngsters have had to walk long distances to be at the classes. I wonder how many of our young people at home would be prepared to walk for two hours to come to a training class, and then have to face a two-hour walk back again afterwards. We felt it showed that these folk were really keen. We also held a successful week-end during this period.

The next step was to get things under way in the villages.

Jerry and I began a group at P.M.C. with the Sunday School children, and used that as a training ground and demonstration group. We have a Cub Pack, a Brownie Pack and a Guide Company. All fairly small, as there are not very many children in the town itself, and it is quite an international group—Australian, English, Chinese, Tonkinese, French and New Hebridean. We have invested our first Cub, and next week we invest four Brownies and five Guides.

Then we began on Fila Island. We ourselves went along every Monday night at 6 p.m., and with the help of the future Guiders and Scouters began a very strong Scout Troop and Guide Company there. Of course, a great deal of our work has to be done through an interpreter, and so that slows things up considerably, but the youngsters are very keen and seem to love this great game. As yet we have only invested the Guiders and Scouters there, but trust it will not be long before the Patrol Leaders are also invested.

I wonder how many Scout Masters and Guide Captains at home travel to their meetings by canoe, or even by boat, and how many of you can boast a hoard of eager little black

children swimming out from the shore to greet you as you pull into the shore? How many of you have practised your knots on your feet, tying a round turn and two half-hitches around your big toe! Have you played stepping stones with your group, and seen them pick up paper (stepping stones) with their toes and put them in their place? These are just a few of the things that we find are making our work among these youngsters so much more interesting and exciting. Of course, Jerry has now returned home on furlough, and I am missing him a great deal, particularly in the work we have been doing together among the youngsters. We hope that when he returns in the early part of next year we will be able to commence in several of the other villages, and we have planned to invest another six of the Guiders and Scouters next week.

We have chosen as our uniform colours—Brownies: Fawn denim uniforms and gold ties. Guides: Green denim uniforms and red ties, edged with the village colours. Cubs: Khaki shorts and shirts and red ties, edged with the village colours. Scouts: White shorts and shirts and red ties, edged with the village colours. No hats, as these fuzzy wuzzies would find them very hard to keep on, and anyway they look lots nicer without.

Then, as our distinguishing badge (as our State Badges) we have chosen a sail canoe, quite a nice design. All look very nice in their uniforms, and the girls' are the same style as our Australian ones, only with short sleeves.

Recently the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific has been in the New Hebrides, and both he and his wife are keenly interested in youth work, particularly Guides and Scouts, and they were very interested and delighted to know we had really begun here in the New Hebrides. During their visit it was decided that the British Resident Commissioner and his wife would be the Presidents of the Councils that will govern the Movements in this place, which we feel will be a great help to us."

All good wishes to New Hebrides from Victoria.
(See page 3.)

DO YOU WANT YOUR "MATILDA" ?

You do? How surprising!

Perhaps you expect it whether it's paid for or not? But, alas, we are not a philanthropic organisation; so—no subscription—no "Matilda."

Last year it was October before the last few subscribers remembered to pay—that meant they had no copies for five months!

This month you will find a neat little form in your "Matilda," just below. If you don't fill it in and send it to Headquarters with your money, you will receive no more copies.

So take your pen and clutch your 10/- in your little hand and send in the form STRAIGHT AWAY.

Then your own "Matilda" will arrive on your doorstep every month without a pause.

And Headquarters won't be caught in the turmoil of sorting subscribers from non-subscribers.

J. ALISON, Head of Wrappers.

"MATILDA"

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO "MATILDA," MAY, 1956-57 IS NOW DUE

Will ALL Subscribers please complete the form below?

If you are a NEW Subscriber, please write "NEW SUBSCRIBER" across top left-hand corner.

If you have a friend who is interested in Guiding, why not send her a subscription as a birthday present?

Send form to HEADQUARTERS, 20 Russell Street, C.1., marked "Matilda."

I enclose herewith my subscription, to the value of 10/-.

I am NOT renewing my subscription.

Signed.....

The addresses to which it is to be sent are:—

1. NAME—Mrs., Miss.....

Address.....

2. NAME—Mrs., Miss.....

Address.....

(Signed) Mrs., Miss.....

Address.....

Company..... Pack..... L.A.....

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE EDITOR.

*There is no ~~IF~~
about it!*

There are people who say: "I could save money IF . . ." But there is no IF about it when you plan to save by the budget method.

Budget your income . . . deposit part of your earnings to your savings account BEFORE you start to spend the remainder. Pay yourself first — that's the secret of saving.

When you have acquired the habit of paying in regularly, your progress towards financial happiness is helped considerably.

Save Something Every Pay-Day.

**THE
STATE SAVINGS
BANK
OF VICTORIA**

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Report on business dealt with on February 2nd, 1956.

General Business.

It was reported that Miss E. Manning, Chief Commissioner, has accepted Victoria's invitation to attend and open the Commissioners' Conference in July, 1956.

Co-ordinator, B.P. Centenary year.—Miss MacLeod appointed.

B.P. Centenary Contingent.—Sub-committee formed, to consist of Mrs. Catamore and Mrs. Fairbairn, with power to co-opt.

International.

Nominations considered for the International Extension Training at Foxlease, in July.

Invitation from the U.S.A. for two Australian delegates to attend an International Gathering at Camp Edith Macy, received and considered.

Empire Day Buttons.

It was reported that Mrs. T. Ramsay had agreed to be responsible for the distribution of the Empire Day buttons in 1956.

A.Y.C. Representative.

Miss N. Couper appointed as the Association's second representative, as a substitute for Miss Wirth during her leave of absence.

Property.

Items regarding the following properties were discussed: Moulamein, Patchewollock, Mitcham.

Leave of Absence.

Granted to Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn for a period of four months.

Finance.

Minutes of Finance Sub-committee meeting accepted. Further details regarding proposed "Willing Shilling" Drive considered.

Federal Council Meeting.

Further items for agenda recommended. Routine Federal correspondence received.

Mount Morton.

Agreed that the property as a whole at Mount Morton be named Whitlam Park, and that the three camp sites thereon should bear the names of Mr. Whitlam and his mother and sister.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS TO 28/2/56

2nd Deniliquin Pack, £1/11/-; Ballarat L.A., £5; Box Hill L.A., £2/2/-; Dr. G. C. Amies, £2/2/-; State Treasury, Melbourne, £2,000.

ST. PATRICK, "PIONEER"

St. Patrick died 463 A.D. His day is 17th March.

"St. Patrick's mission to the Irish in the fifth century is one of the great stories of mankind.

A Roman-British landowner's son of Wales, who in his youth had been carried into slavery by pirates from Ireland (by tradition they were led by High King Niall of the Nine Hostages), he insisted after his escape on returning to the island, where he had suffered so much in order to save the souls and soften the harsh existence of its poor peasants. Braving the wrath of its slave-raiding princes, he faced the High King himself and his magicians in the Hall of Tara. "I have cast myself," he said, "into the hands of Almighty God . . . and He shall sustain me." Wherever he went, on his constant journeyings, he baptised the people in river and well, impressing on them the memory of his simple, unpretending, heroic personality. When he died, he left behind him the beginnings of a Christian nation.

The impact of his work went far beyond Ireland. The pirate raids on the British coasts ceased; instead of slavers with their dreaded war-horns, the western isle exported saints and missionaries to convert others. During the dark centuries after Rome's fall, Ireland was a Christian haven in a world of storm. Secure in her ocean remoteness from Teutonic barbarism, she became a training ground for scholars, visionaries and artists. A hundred years after Patrick's death the poet saint, Columbanus, and his disciple, St. Gall, planted the seeds of her austere learning in the monasteries of the Vosges and Switzerland. Others, even braver, crossed the Atlantic in open currachs to the Feroes, Iceland and Greenland, where their relics are still found.

St. Columba, most famous of Patrick's disciples, tall, with brilliant eyes, a descendant of the Irish pirate kings, was as eager and fearless in saving men as his forebears in enslaving them.

On Iona he set up a church and a chain of stone and wattle huts that became the camp for the conversion of a nation. Up and down the northern moors, where even the Roman

legions had never penetrated, Columba's monks made their way, preaching, healing and winning men's hearts. As the old saint died, he blessed his monastery, and the island, the winnowed corn and the old white horse that worked the dairy. He left behind him his apostles to carry his work, not only into the mountains of Caledonia, but southwards into England.

The Celtic evangelists drew their faith from the saints of windswept Atlantic islands, and their contribution to England's conversion lay, not in doctrine, but example. King Oswald gave St. Aidan a horse for his journeys, but Aidan gave the horse away to the first poor barefoot beggar that he met.

By this they won the English to Christ. Like their master, they took no thought for the morrow of what they should eat or wear; they put their faith wholly in his spirit, and giving themselves to his selfless gospel, lived it. With those among whom they went, purseless and on foot, they left an image of the Good Shepherd giving His life for His sheep, that was to run like a silver thread through the English tradition.

—Sir Arthur Bryant, "The Story of England."

Note.—The Romans ruled the Celtic Britons from about 40 A.D., 410, and during the last hundred years taught them to be Christians. The Roman armies left Britain because "Teutonic barbarians" and others were overrunning the outer provinces of their empire, and already threatening the centre itself. So, in the century after the death of St. Patrick, Romanised Christian Britain became Barbarian Heathen England, until the followers of St. Patrick and his disciples spread their teaching from the North, and Augustine and his missionaries, from Rome, landed in Kent and spread their teaching from the South.

The badge of the Order of Knighthood, founded to honour St. Patrick, is part of the British Flag.

Our Flag three crosses showeth, the third slants white and red;

It stands for brave St. Patrick; in Wales his sheep he fed.

He gave his life for Ireland, he lies 'neath Irish sod,

And so his cross reminds us, to win the world for God.

—From "Song of the British Flag."

GUIDES OF AUSTRALIA

The number of members for 1954 was 44,415. Therefore 1955 shows an increase of 1,740 in the number of members of the Movement in Australia.

Figures compiled from States' Annual Reports sent to C.H.Q., November, 1955. Australian totals to be reported to the World Bureau for Biennial Report.

Branch	N.S.W.	Qld.	S.A.	Tas.	Vic.	W.A.	Aust.
Local Associations	248	100	69	41	192	45	695
Guide Companies	302	150	103	67	336	115	1,073
Lone Guide Companies	3	3	4	3	12	2	27
Extension Guide Companies	4	6	1	—	14	1	26
Brownie Packs	260	140	83	42	259	75	859
Extension Packs	3	2	1	—	5	1	12
Land Ranger Companies	22	11	3	—	21	3	60
Sea Ranger Crews	14	5	4	3	7	2	35
Air Ranger Flights	3	1	1	—	—	—	5
Cadet Companies	—	6	1	—	1	2	10
					TOTAL UNITS		2,802
Commissioners	155	78	48	42	183	54	560
Guiders	939	439	284	164	1,146	310	3,282
Secretaries	500	144	20	—	205	24	893
Guides	6,720	3,155	1,682	1,249	7,463	2,450	22,719
Lones	60	23	33	19	126	19	280
Extensions	89	106	21	—	195	—	411
Brownies	5,399	2,719	1,447	721	4,735	1,859	16,880
Land Rangers	161	104	17	—	238	23	543
Sea Rangers	162	58	23	14	118	24	399
Air Rangers	20	19	7	—	—	—	46
Cadets	—	70	19	14	13	26	142
					TOTAL MEMBERS		46,155

THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

Dear Matilda,

We must all be concerned about the article on Hitch-hiking, in March "Matilda." Can we consider what we should do? Is this a case where the "thin edge of the wedge" has been allowed, and even treated with amusement? Then it is taken up with energy and thoroughness, and the "wedge" is driven completely home.

Could we think of other matters where we allow ourselves to just step over the line (to change the idea)? Once over the line, where is the limit? And who sets it?

Perhaps we see more clearly if we think of the effect on ourselves of "a little" dishonesty, rather than judge always by the effect on others—"SHE won't miss it!"

For God gave us His commands, for the sake of each one of us; because of His love for each one, to invite us to live in His Spirit. . . .
Yours truly, H.

Dear Matilda,

The 4th Malvern Guide Company is proud of the King family. Robin was the first to obtain her Queen's Guide award, after which she became a lieutenant. Next came Rosemary, who has been an acting lieutenant. Then "Tim," and now finally Joscelyn, have obtained the highest honour a Guide can have. Their mother is a most active Brown Owl. Can you beat that for a family record?

V. G. STREET,
District Commissioner.

**DON'T FORGET
YOUR . . .**



**COMPACTOID
first aid kit**

Small, Medium, Large — at THE GUIDE SHOP

