

Matilda

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Headquarters after the Brooks Building fire, 2nd July, 1962.

—Photo: Betty Reynolds.

STATE COMMISSIONER'S DIARY

Tuesday, 5th June: I was invited to speak on Guiding at a meeting of The Inner Wheel, at which, I will have you know, the Guides of Ballarat were presented with a lovely electric heater for their Guide House and a hot water jug. Wasn't it a wonderful gesture? We have so much to thank Rotary for over the years.

Friday, 8th June: The Commissioners' Conference took place at Sherbrooke. I went up in time for lunch on Saturday, stayed on to the end and thoroughly enjoyed it. Some of us, perhaps, feel to go every year is not necessary. I think that is fair enough, but every time one goes one learns something new and also one can give help in friendly chats to those who attend for their first time. We had some very new-born Commissioners of two and four weeks old! They were most interested and did feel they had a wider knowledge of the Movement in general. I, of course, loved it all; we all have such fun, don't we? Our new State Commissioner-elect was good, wasn't she? It is always said women can never keep secrets—maybe it is true, but Guides are pretty good at it.

Thank you, Mrs. Barwick, for a lovely weekend, and I do congratulate you all on a successful Conference.

Wednesday, 13th June: The Local Association Conference at the Richmond Town Hall.

I am sure everyone enjoyed that Conference. All the speakers gave ideas. I came back with renewed vigour to my Local Association, for which they are grateful! I did appreciate the invitation to attend, and thank Mrs. Curwood and her Committee very much indeed for a lively and interesting day.

Monday, 18th June: Skipton Local Association meeting, at which we started the Travelling Basket, which I learnt about the other day. Everyone thought it a very good idea for making some money. A little basket, but I have always been told by short people great good comes out of small things! Dim outlook for me!

Tuesday, 19th June: I attended the Streatham Local Association Annual Meeting. They have, at present, 30 members and seem to have had a successful year. The Guides and Brownies have worked extremely hard helping in a big way old people's homes, knitting squares for warm rugs and making money for "Save the Children Fund." It was a very excellent year's work.

Wednesday, 20th June: A morning meeting of the Division at Banongill. So many decisions to be made and so many projects to take part in.

Thursday, 21st June: Executive meeting.

Saturday, 23rd June: I went to a party given by Miss Margaret Fowler, who was Federal Secretary to me for 17 years and then Post Box Secretary for Australia, and Miss Vera Fowler, who was a Guide and Guider for many years and is now our (the Association's) lawyer. They lost their house at Kalorama, in the fires, and now it has risen again. We started the party with a Service of Blessing. The view now the trees are not so thick is quite lovely. It was a lovely party.

Monday, 25th June: I catch a plane at one o'clock for Adelaide, with Miss Clare Broadhurst. We are on our way to the Northern Territory for three weeks' Guiding.

If my photos are successful (I am an unknown quality where photography is concerned, being a very new girl at the hobby), I will be pleased to show some at a future date.

IRENE FAIRBAIRN.



THE SECRETARIES CONFER

Left: Miss B. Macartney, State Secretary, G.G.A.
Right: Miss D. Carter, General Secretary, Y.W.C.A.

Dear "Matilda,"

13th July, 1962.

The day to which we have so been looking forward has arrived and Victorian Headquarters Staff is back "home" again, the final move having been made yesterday morning, and how happy we were!

With life now on the road to "normality," I feel I must spend a few moments to write and express to so many kind friends, who sent sympathetic thoughts and generous offers of help immediately following the disastrous fire on 2nd July and during our evacuation, our sincere and grateful thanks.

Perhaps you may be interested to hear a little about our adventure, if one can call it that?

At approximately 5.20 p.m. on the night of the fire, when I was busily clearing up following a meeting of the State Council, the cry went up, "There go the fire engines."

Another cry went up from the girls working in the General Office at the rear of the first floor, "Come and look, the fire is next door!" Not expecting to see more than a small blaze, we were appalled to see flames roaring upwards and travelling fast over a wide expanse of the second floor of the building just adjacent to our toilets and staff room.

Out came our fire extinguishers and our old garden hose, for use in case of an emergency in our backyard — even the cleaner's bucket was thrust under a tap. Hardly had we prepared for any emergency than the firemen came through looking for a place through which to take their hoses — up went our smart new back gate and through went the hoses, which, of course, had to be brought right through the shop!

Members of Staff who were still in the building departed, as I did about 10 minutes later, on the advice of the firemen. By this time, glass from the windows of the furiously burning building was shattering into Russell Street, and water was spraying and pouring everywhere, gradually flowing further and further into the shop. In horror I glimpsed four bales containing our recently arrived English order (as yet unpacked) reposing in it. However, there was nothing I could do but hope that the contents would not suffer, and, believe it or not, everything had been so well packed that not one book was damaged by water. For this we probably have to thank the firemen, who very kindly lifted the bales on to the counter of the shop the following day.

Though it seemed senseless to wait watching the blaze and wondering how our little building could be saved (it looked just like "Little Bear" nestling beside "Father Bear"), I felt I had to stay until I knew the worst. Having alerted one of our Assistant State Commissioners, I stood — with my heart in my mouth — with thousands of people while the report was passed around, "They say the wall will collapse in 10 minutes or so" — that meant on to our lovely little Headquarters, the painting of which had only been completed four days before.

I dashed home by taxi at 7 p.m., and swallowed a bite to eat, after which Mrs. Curtis-Otter, who happened to ring just as I walked into the house, very kindly drove me back into the city. Can you imagine our relief when we saw Headquarters still intact while the fire continued to blaze furiously right to the fifth floor of the next door building?

We cannot speak highly enough of the courtesy and kindness of the police on duty and the firemen, particularly the latter, who, because we were in uniform and they knew the danger to our building, took us under their wing. Two firemen even offered to go into Headquarters to collect for me one drawer from my desk containing important papers and those essential Group Tax Certificates, which were almost completed. My next thought was the Annual Census Forms, which had been arriving at Headquarters daily from the Divisions, and, without which, we would have been "in the soup." Back they went for these, which had fortunately been packed away in order in boxes for thorough checking. Later I thought of so many valuable things which I might have asked for, but at a time like that one's mind is a blank, or mine is anyway!

All we knew of the damage to Headquarters when we left the scene of the fire at 9.30 p.m., or thereabouts, was that our new back gate had been destroyed due to the heat and falling bricks (this was reported by an extremely helpful fireman who had borrowed my keys to lock up the building). Later, of course, we found that much more damage had been done. Falling bricks and debris from the burnt building had gone right through the roof of both toilets, smashing one lavatory bowl to pieces — extremely awkward! The roof of the Staff Room was similarly damaged and one of the hand basins broken. The other damage is from water only — stock in the shop (though we really were extremely fortunate in this regard, as it was mainly books displayed on stands near where the hoses were dragged through), the electrical wiring throughout the building, the floors in the Staff Room and the new Store Room (however, no stock in the cupboards here was affected). The rear of the building was a scene of devastation when we finally were allowed to view that part of the premises, but we realised how thankful we should be that we had got off so lightly. As you can imagine, my phone ran hot that night, and the next morning I practically got dressed in front of it. I arrived in the city at 9.30 a.m., when some of us had arranged to meet to discuss alternative accommodation, having been advised that our building and the street were declared unsafe until the “wreckers” had been at work.

All sorts of suggestions for alternative accommodation were put forward, but something told us that we should try the Y.W.C.A. (just up Russell Street from Headquarters) first. I am sure you will all know the warm and wonderful feeling that came over us when we arrived on their doorstep to be greeted with “Where have you been? We have been waiting for you, as we have rooms all ready for you to work in.”

To the General Secretary and all members of staff of the Y.W.C.A. we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude, for not only did they make accommodation available during the period of our evacuation, but they showered us with kindness. We will never be able to thank them for their generosity and kindness.

We had visualised as a temporary office merely a small room to cope with enquiries, whereas the “Y” had provided a lounge (with sofas and armchairs!), and another smaller committee room where the Accounts Staff were able to cope to a degree.

Then followed several days, during which we coped to the best of our ability with urgent matters and many, many enquiries, as you can imagine. One or two of the Staff members had typewriters at home and were able to carry on there. With permission, and a fireman as escort, we were allowed to enter Headquarters on one or two occasions (though you will understand none of us were very happy until we were out again, because of the “wall” declared unsafe) to collect some items of equipment with which to work. It was impossible to take much, but we got by in our temporary “home” with many laughs. The Shop Staff, of course, could not be occupied, but now the pressure is well and truly on for this Department, as orders have banked up, to say nothing of metropolitan customers calling daily for their requirements. Before we could open the Shop, it was necessary for an inventory of damaged stock to be taken for insurance purposes.

The room at the Y.W.C.A. in which most of us worked was a lounge, which is really a kind of “rest” room for not-so-young ladies who, by paying a small membership fee, are able to come there whenever they wish. We were working in conditions that did not make for quietness, and I was always concerned that we were being a nuisance and worry to them. But, on every occasion I apologised, I was greeted with comments, “We are enjoying ourselves!” “It’s good to have something interesting to see and hear!” Some of the more regular members who frequented this lounge sadly informed us on the night prior to the final move to our OWN home that they would really miss us!

So ends another chapter in the history of Guiding in Victoria.

I close with an expression of heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your sympathetic and kind thoughts.

BETTY M. MACARTNEY, State Secretary

Headquarters carries on at the "Y"



SECRETARIAL, TRAINING and PUBLICITY STAFF



THE SHOP !



ACCOUNTS STAFF

The Fire

As one of the members of Headquarters Staff who reported for duty on the Tuesday morning, I was among the hundreds of people who were viewing the damage from the other side of the street. H.Q. Executive Personnel were talking to police and fire officials to find out how long it would be before we could enter our building, and at the same time were contemplating making an approach to the Y.W.C.A. re the possibility of using a corner of one of their rooms to enable us to deal with urgent matters. Imagine our great delight when Miss Carter, the General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A., greeted us and asked what had delayed our arrival! They had even arranged to collect our mail from "Mac" the postie!

We knew that people would be wondering where we were and whether it would be possible to obtain goods from the Shop, so arrangements were quickly made for all Radio Stations to broadcast our temporary plans. The P.M.G. Department transferred our two main lines to the Y.W.C.A., and once they began to ring we felt at home again.

Later in the day, a few members of H.Q. Staff were permitted to enter Headquarters with the fire officials, and they managed to bring out some equipment, including typewriters. The TV cameras captured this activity on film, and many of you would have seen us in your homes that evening.

It was possible to enter the building again on the Wednesday — this time we had the help of the "Whelan the Wrecker" crew, who very kindly carried our files, etc., to the Y.W.C.A. office. It was then that we found a note propped up in front of the telephone in our Shop Manageress' Office. We don't know just when it was received, but it read:

"Mrs. X, from Some Town, wants you to send her a Mushroom at once. The Fireman."

On behalf of Mrs. X, we extend our thanks to the fireman!

Fallen debris has made a mess of our Wash Room and Toilet Block at the back of the building, and there has been some water damage to stock in the Shop. However, when we stop to think of what could have happened, we realise how very, very lucky we are.

The greatest tragedy of the fire was the death of Mr. Knowles, one of the tenants in the building. He was one of our suppliers, and our sincerest sympathy has been extended to the members of his family.

Now we have returned to Headquarters and mopping-up operations have begun.

You will all be interested to know that the Y.W.C.A. staff have now been admitted as members of the Voluntary Helpers of the Girl Guides Association, and a Certificate to that effect has been presented to them, in appreciation of their kindness to the Guide Headquarters' Orphans! To them, particularly, and to the many others who offered help during this emergency, we express our very sincere thanks.

N.L.



Brownie Handcraft Day

I was concerned to learn from the State Secretary that a number of people came to Melbourne on 3rd July for the Handcraft Day. We are indeed sorry for the inconvenience and expense incurred, particularly with those from long distances.

Miss Macartney endeavoured to contact me early on Monday night (but through circumstances beyond our control, was not able to reach me until 10.30 p.m.), to notify me that the Fire Authorities would not permit anyone to enter Headquarters until further notice. It was not possible to make any alternative arrangements, as the Handcrafts were displayed ready at Headquarters on the Monday and, under these circumstances, could not be removed, and even now, a week later, have not been touched.

We are extremely sorry that the fire caused such disruption, but we intend to hold the Handcraft Display at a later date, and, in response to many requests, will have it during the day, and at night. The date will be given at the Division Commissioners' Meeting in August, and will appear in Matilda.

DOROTHY FOX, Brownie Adviser.

"NO MATTER TO WHAT CREED"

Since my appointment as Liaison Commissioner for Jewish Guides and Brownies, I have many times been asked—"Why are Jewish Guides and Brownies segregated into their own Companies and Packs?" I think the answers may be of interest to many of you.

In the first place, while there are at present three Jewish Companies and two Jewish Packs in Victoria, with a personnel of approximately 80, there are at least 40 other Jewish members (Commissioners, Guiders, Cadets, Rangers, Guides and Brownies) spread throughout Victoria. The names of these are known to me, but I believe there may be many more.

You may ask, "Why can some Jewish children belong to open Companies, while others prefer to be in a Company by themselves?" Here is the explanation. In Judaism, which is the Jewish faith, there are certain laws concerning the Sabbath and food which are strictly adhered to by members of the Orthodox Synagogue (our place of worship). On the other hand, many Jewish families belong to the Liberal Synagogue, which does not demand such a strict adherence to these laws; Liberal Jews consider that some of the laws are outmoded by modern hygiene and State health precautions. Those who accept the Liberal point of view see no harm in permitting their children to mingle freely, sharing the kind of food and activities of others at Guide meetings, camps, etc.

But the children of Orthodox families must obey the laws of the Sabbath — that is from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset — when they could not take part in Guide meetings, hikes, etc. As you know, many Companies do meet on Friday evenings, most hikes take place on Saturday. So that is one of the difficulties. Other problems arise in camp. These children may not eat certain foods; the prohibition goes back to Biblical days when such food as pig in all its forms was THEN both unclean and often diseased, and certain kinds of fish were regarded as scavengers, therefore also unfit to eat. In addition to this, certain foods may not be eaten at the same meal, and meats must be prepared in a special manner. All these food laws were based on hygiene and health. So, you see,

the Jewish people had a very high regard for the need of hygiene taught to them in Biblical days, and have maintained and carried out most of these laws as tradition. Orthodox Jews still feel this to be an important part of their religious obligations.

Now you can see why it is better for these children to be in a Company together. If they could not be, it is unlikely they would ever become Guides. Then they would miss all the joys and benefits of Guiding.

If, at any time, a problem arises concerning a Jewish Guide or Brownie in your Company or Pack, please write or phone me. I may be able to help you or explain the reasons. Please do let me have the names of any Jewish children in your Company, so that I can invite them to join us later in the year at our special Guide Service.

NANCY KIRSNER (Mrs. M. Kirsner)
Liaison Commissioner for Jewish
Members, 50 5224.



KILSYTH HUT

What an exciting day for 1st Kilsyth Guides and Brownies when we were honoured with the presence of our State Commissioner, Mrs. Fairbairn, who opened our "Guide Hut" — so called because of its size. Grateful thanks go to our L.A., who made it possible for us to use this building. Originally, it was the Rural Fire Brigade building; the L.A. had a floor put in and polished, the ceiling and walls lined, water and electric light connected, cupboards built inside, and the whole building painted outside.

Our District Commissioner, Mrs. Page, painted a World Badge on the bright blue door, and we had our own home.

To add to this day, our first First Class Badge and Allround Cords were presented to P.L. Alison Carman by Mrs. Fairbairn, and a Thanks Badge was given to Mrs. Rolland for the wonderful work she had done with the L.A.

M. CRAWFORD, 1st Kilsyth Coy.

CHARLTON GUIDES AND BROWNIES HOLD A CONCERT

It all started when we were talking about Camping, and how to raise funds for equipment.

"Let's have a concert, and give half the proceeds to the New Charlton Hospital Building Fund, and keep half for our Camping Equipment Fund," said someone.

"Yes, let's," said everybody else. And so we did—in our meeting place, the Presbyterian Hall. It only took five or six weeks of practice and we had a splendid variety of items.

A very musical mother helped the Brownies with their singing games and songs, and our talented Lieutenant played accompaniments for those of the Guide items that needed it.

We sang our own Company Song, set to the tune of "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," as we marched in and took our places on the platform for the National Anthem; then the Brownies had "Brownie Ring," and the concert got away to a good start.



All the items, including Camp Mimes, a Schoolroom Play, an Indian Scene incorporating "Land of the Silver Birch," "Totem-tom-tom," and "Pow-wow," "Maori Stick Game," an amusing mime, "The Barber's Busy Morning," a lovely setting of "Rendezvous," and three short Glove Puppet Plays, were enthusiastically received, as were also individual piano solos, piano duets, piano accordion solo, various songs and a "Tumbling Trio" who did gymnastic tumbling very well indeed.

The Hall was filled and the Guides and Brownies were proud to hand over to the Hospital President the sum of £11/10/-. A similar amount has gone into our own Camp Equipment Fund.

After the impressive Closing, the Guide Law Chant, Brownie Prayer Song, and Taps, everyone went home happy at giving such obvious enjoyment, and with a splendid feeling of having achieved something well worth while.

1st Charlton Guide Company.

AN EXCITING TRIP TO THE BOTANIC GARDENS

Brownies of the 4th Malvern Pack met to go to the Botanic Gardens. On the way, Brown Owl told us that when we got there we would meet a Brownie Pack from Mt. Eliza.

When we arrived first, we all decided to hide and surprise the other Brownies.

We mixed up with the other Pack and then got into a circle and said our names so we would get to know each other.

After lunch, and a big Fairy Ring, we walked right through the gardens and all enjoyed ourselves.

The other Brownie Pack wanted to see Government House and the Shrine. When we got to Government House, one of the guards told us that if we waited five minutes we would see Lord De L'Isle. So, with great excitement, we saw him and he waved to us all.

Then we all said goodbye and went on our way. What an exciting day we all had.

WENDY ZWAR, 4th Malvern Pack.

SWIMMING GALA

The 1st Boronia Company went to the Malvern Squashways for our Christmas break-up. We swam in the pool, and watched the men play bowls. It was great fun, and gave us the idea of challenging the Bayswater Guides to a swimming gala.

The night was arranged and the pool booked (or so we thought). Fifty of us rolled up in a special bus—what a chatter on the way down! When we arrived we were dismayed to find that the pool was full! We found that, as this is a public pool, we were not allowed to book it entirely, and it was just bad luck that we had struck a very hot night. Anyhow, we hopped into the shallow end and had a swim and lots of fun. Gradually, we found that we had the shallow end of the pool to ourselves, so the fathers with us put a lifeline across half the pool and away we went.

We shouted and cheered our girls, who did a really good job under difficulties.

Who won the shield?—why, Bayswater beat us—but only just, and we are waiting until we can challenge them again. V.P.

THE O. G. M. KNIGHT MEMORIAL

At the Guiders' Conferences last year approximately £86 was contributed towards a memorial for the late Mrs. O. G. M. Knight.

The Guide House Committee used this money to purchase 14 stack chairs for the Guide House, Yarra Junction. The tubular legs match the new tables and they are covered with an olive-green daynide. On the back of each chair is a small plate reading, "Remembering Mrs. O. G. M. Knight, 7/12/60."

A DAY AT YARRA JUNCTION

Brownies and Guides from Merri Division recently visited Guide House, Yarra Junction. The main purpose of our visit was to see the memorial seat erected in memory of Mrs. Knight, who had done a lot for Guiding over a number of years. Her good work will not be forgotten. The seat was a very appropriate memorial as, during her many visits to Guide House, she always wished there was a seat where she could rest. The seat is of Lilydale stone, and is placed in beautiful surroundings amid lovely trees outside Guide House.

On the way up and back we saw many people burning off. I think it was amazing to see some rather big fires, for it was so dry, and I did not think they would be allowed to burn off in such bushy surrounds.

We brought home what we thought were tadpoles, but they turned out to be wrigglers which would have turned into mosquitoes; we were disappointed, as we wanted to pass our Nature Test.

JENNY DALEY, 2nd Northcote Pack.

BROWNIES' GOOD TURN

This year for our good turn we decided that we would help to raise money for the new Spastic Centre in Pascoe Vale. We had all received letters from the society asking for assistance, so what better good turn could we do than one in our own District? 2nd Pascoe Vale Pack decided to hold a fancy dress party. This entailed a lot of work — we had prizes to get, also a pianist, judges, and, most important, food and drink, and that is where the mothers came in, and how eager they were to help.

The day was set and all the Brownies were asked to come along with their friends and make it a wonderful day. What a crowd of

happy people we had, everyone joining in the games and having great fun. Then came the time for the judging and the tension was mounting. The costumes were lovely and the mothers should be congratulated.

We were very happy to have three people from the Spastic Society to do the judging, and we do thank them very much.

After the prizes (which were kindly donated to us) were handed out, our Sixers had much pleasure in presenting the pianist and judges with baskets of fruit. When all thank you's had been said, we went off to partake of refreshments. Some of the mothers had made sweets which were sold, to add further to our effort. Our final result was £11/13/-, and how happy we all were. It's a good feeling to lend a hand, isn't it?

D.S.

A PACK HOLIDAY

Brownies from three Packs (Beechworth, Whorouly and Wangaratta) recently had a most enjoyable Pack Holiday at Brownie Cottage, Walnut Grove, Gapsted.

Although the weather was not particularly favourable, it didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

The theme of the holiday was taken from early history—based on the story of the Docker family, "The Saddle of Bontharambo."

Brownies were "explorers, squatters and miners," and the games were based on prospecting, exploring and early home building.

Boobook Owl had prepared scarves on which each child drew her emblem with textacolor and then each day a picture about the events of that particular day was added.

Activities included "Prospecting for Gold," and a mysterious message in semaphore resulted in the finding of several big nuggets (or oranges).

Explorers took rations and a good travelling companion to explore round the Ovens River for new pastures, but rain and hail forced them to return to their Camp. The Squatters were luckier next day, and managed to build their bark huts and plant a home garden in miniature, on sand trays.

The last morning was spent in gathering nuts, which were divided among the Brownies. These will be sold, and the money sent to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign as a Pack Holiday Effort.

GWEN PRITCHARD, Brown Owl,
1st Beechworth Pack.

"INTERNATIONAL" BROWNIE REVELS SOUTHERN SUBURBS DIVISION

One Saturday morning the Southern Suburbs Division gathered together at Whyte Street Oval, Brighton, for their 1962 Brownie Revels.

The theme was International—representing five countries of the world—England, Switzerland, America, Malaya and India. Each Brownie wore a small flag of one of the countries, and each group had a large standard representing one of the countries.

The Brownies formed a large circle and flew around singing, "We are flying around the world"—then they flew off to their respective countries. On arrival at their country, each Brownie put her contribution into little Toadstool money boxes before joining in the games and activities planned. These, in turn, were active singing game, nature, handwork, quiet game, story and flag game.

The morning concluded with the happy and tireless Brownies forming a huge double Fairy Ring for the closing ceremony.

Mrs. McClean, the Division Commissioner, thanked the Brownies for inviting herself and the District Commissioners to the Revels, and also thanked the Brownie Guiders for making our 1962 Revels such a success.

D. MACDONALD,

Brown Owl, 3rd East Brighton Pack.

NEWPORT DISTRICT REVELS

Three Newport Packs and 1st Spotswood Pack met at the Fitzroy Gardens for Brownie Revels.

The Brownies went to see the Village, Fairy Tree, Captain Cook's Cottage and other interesting things.

After lunch the Brownies were thrilled to have Divisional Commissioner (Mrs. White) and District Commissioner (Mrs. Murray) join them in Brownie Ring, and three little Tweenies were proud to be enrolled on such an important occasion.

After hearing the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the Brownies set off on a treasure hunt, in which they discovered beautifully drawn pictures of all the characters in the story, and, of course, the treasure at the end.

Brownies dropped their coins down the chimney of the Dwarfs' Cottage.

M. J. McCLUSKY.

BROWNIE REVELS EASTERN SUBURBS CORROBOREE

The Eastern Suburbs Brownie Revels for 1962 took the form of a Corroboree, which was held at St. James' Park, Hawthorn, and was attended by Brownies, Pack Leaders and Guiders from Richmond, Hawthorn, Kew and East Kew.

Soon after the Brownies arrived, the great drum called them to gather round the Witch Doctor and his Assistant, who uttered mighty words of wisdom and placed everyone under a magic spell, turning them all into aborigines.

There were five tribes, and each aborigine was given a tribal emblem to wear.

All the tribesmen formed into circles round the totem—a gaily-painted piece of wood, shaped oddly like a toadstool — and all danced merrily around, chanting a magic song. The Corroboree had begun!

After this dance they separated into their own tribes, and gathered close to their own tribal tree. The Hunting Spears found out interesting things about trees and leaves and plants, and played games with them. The Boomerangs ran around and played exciting games and danced energetically. The Nulla-Nullas made boomerangs and other small tribal emblems. The Didjeridoos danced and sang songs. The Warrior Shield tribe found lots of fun in less boisterous activities.

Again and again the drum beat out a message—telling the tribes that they should go walkabout and visit other tribal trees, so that they could learn their interesting customs and habits.

All this visiting and dancing and singing made them all very hungry, and very soon it was tucker-bag time.

After the tucker-bags had been emptied, the leaders told their tribes a story. Then the drum called them all together for the last part of the Corroboree.

With waving arms and more words of exceeding great wisdom, the Witch Doctor and his Assistant released all the aborigines from the magic spell—and there, standing in two big circles around the Toadstool, were lots and lots of Brownies. The Corroboree was over.

B.N.



OUR WILDFLOWERS

The rains have come and once more the earth is green again. It was one of the most severe droughts in memory. Rain is essential to plant life, though Australia has many drought-resisting species. Once more we may watch with pleasure the beginnings of spring, with the first wildflowers springing up anew. Each of us should resolve to visit some known bushland place, to glimpse again something of this yearly miracle.

I wonder who were the first Guides to find Early Nancy—they should be plentiful this month. Look for them in the grass, and remember that this little lily has two different flowers, as was explained last month.

The lily family is an interesting one. Australian lilies are mostly small, and not big like the cultivated lilies of our gardens—and rarely do they have bulbs. Most native lilies have a flower composed of three petals and three sepals, usually of the same colour. (Sepals are the leaves round a flower.) The distinguishing feature is the seedbox, which is inside the flower. By now I hope that some of you can tell some of our main flower families or orders. I expect that many of you know the fragrant mauve chocolate lily, so common in October.

One of the great changes in modern Melbourne is the housing estates, which now cover the onetime bush country from Ringwood to Ferntree Gully. Here, the little wildflowers of the grasses were plentiful a few years ago, and within easy reach of city Guides. These flowers are not so easily cultivated, and vanish before our spreading settlements.

One of these flowers is the Yellow Star, an early spring flower. It has narrow grass-like leaves with a yellow star-shaped flower which is green when closed. This belongs to the

Amaryllis family, which includes Jonquils and Daffodils, and differs from the lily in having the seedbox below the flower.

Some Greenhood (pterostylis) Orchids of August are the tall, the dwarf, the blunt, the midget and the maroon-head. We have a correction to make in the May issue—the Tiny Greenhood (pterostylis parviflora) was spelt wrongly.

Remember that some of our orchids may be late this spring.

A shrubby wildflower to look for now is the grey Parrot-Pea (*dillwynia cinerascens*) with golden brown clusters of pea flowers. It grows about two feet high. Another early wildflower of the pea family is the common Hovea, with longish leaves and pale lilac flowers at the base of the leaves. It is usually under one foot.

Silver Wattles and Blackwoods should be out in their full glory this month—the Blackwoods a little later, perhaps.

J.H.

GOOD TURN GAME FOR BROWNIES

Brownies are squirrels, mice and rabbits in rotation round the circle. Spills, buttons, etc., are in the middle of the circle on the floor.

When their animal is called, the Brownies run round the circle, clockwise, go through their own gap and pick up spills or buttons, one at a time.

As soon as the first Brownie is through her gap, the others begin to count aloud, up to 10, slowly.

Brownies picking up the spills, etc., take them back to their place and make a picture of something with which she could do a good turn for mother, granny or young brother, etc.

At the end of the count of 10 each Brownie explains her good turn.

NATURE — WHAT IS IT?

We talk a lot about woodcraft. What do we mean by it, and how can we bring it into our programmes?

Woodcraft was originally working with wood. Bushcraft is the ability to live with one's surroundings out of doors.

We can bring it into our programmes by: Camping; wide games, stalking and tracking; gadgets, handcrafts; nature; fires and cooking.

Why do we regard out-of-doors activities as so vital a part of our programmes?

Because of—exercise; fresh air; knowledge of nature; letting off of steam; sense of "space"; the gaining of a sense of the Creator.

In what way does woodcraft training help with character training?

It stimulates—initiative; use of the senses; observation; love of outdoors; appreciation of nature; imagination; ability to create and repair; the ability to fend for oneself; alertness; self control; concentration.

Most children have nature study in their schools. How can we vary our approach from that?

We can use the "discovery" method—get their interest and enjoyment; let them grow cuttings—have outdoor games and treasure hunts—understand proper care of their pets—and, above all, we can use our time in Camp.

Guiders who don't know are usually shy about "tackling" nature because it is such a big subject.

But show interest and be prepared to learn; it doesn't matter if you don't know. And if you can't get out as much as you would like, bring nature in rather than ignore it altogether.

Don't just send Guides out to collect so many flowers, etc. Use scavenger hunts with questions—

How does a spider walk across his web?

How does a particular bird walk?

What kind of leaves does a certain flower have?

Have books available to hunt up information, and remember B-P's yarns on natural lore and observation from "Scouting for Boys." Encourage the Guides to use and stimulate their observation, not just name the object. Help them to show continuity of observation, and to follow up what they have seen. (Continued next column.)

TRAILS FOR BROWNIES

Trails and stalking games, as far as Brownies are concerned, are invented purely for entertainment, adventure and the wonderful "unknown" that is at the other end. Little do they know that good stalking and tracking is the ultimate training in observation, alertness, self-discipline, the ability to fit oneself into nature, to master the environment.

With a Pack that is not used to these kind of activities, man-made clues are the best for the beginning. Perhaps Mowgli's tiny footprints telling the story of his wanderings through the jungle until he gets back to the security of the wolf pack and Akela; tiny birthday candles scattered along the way mark the path of the Boggarts, who robbed the Pack Birthday Cake while we were busy watching tadpoles and putting stepping stones across the creek; a trail of cherries, where cherries had no right to be (make sure that each Brownie who found a cherry pairs off with a less fortunate one to help her find a cherry, too); peanuts that have fallen out of a bag the monkeys stole from the nearby store are invaluable on a hazardous chase and gallant attempt to retrieve the stolen goods.

This is the way we go from man-made clues to more natural ones, until our Brownies learn to see unusual signs and, finally, to read the lore of a true track.

Stalking games can be played in a more restricted area with the same element of adventure if we call on the imagination of our Brownies. Try to sneak up to a sleeping lion who guards a treasure of jelly beans and gives a terrific roar when he can hear you, so that you must freeze on the spot; creep up to the bear—unseen and unheard—until you can snatch his pot of honey; try how near you can get to Willie Wagtail before he flies away.

When and where do we do all these exciting things? Whenever we have an opportunity—and we should look for them—but our best chance is the Pack Holiday, which should be the culmination of our Brownie year—where the Magic Circle closes. G.M.K.

(Continued from previous column.)

Remember the stars, too. Encourage the Guides to watch the skies, but be sure they come down to earth, too! M.S.

Introducing Victorian Headquarters:

The Guide Shop



The Guide Shop, at 20 Russell Street, Melbourne, gives Service:
TO A CITY CUSTOMER (The Shop Manageress serves a Guide)



TO COUNTRY CUSTOMERS

(A Member of the Shop
Staff packs Country
Orders for Despatch)



THE RECEPTIONISTE directs
Visitors to
HEADQUARTERS

THE STATE SECRETARY
prepares for an **Executive**
Committee Meeting



THE TRAINING ADVISER
and her **Secretary**
plan **Training Courses**
for new **Leaders**

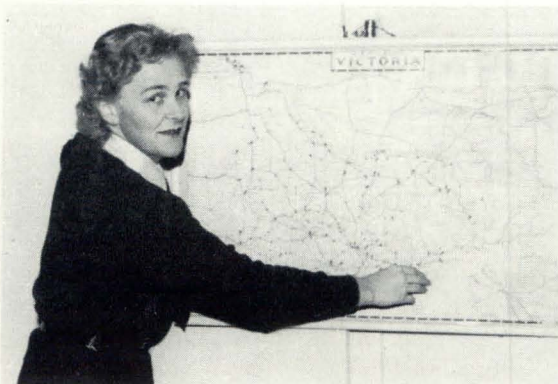
Did You KNOW?

That Headquarters has:

21 Full-time Members of Staff

13 Part-time Members of Staff

A "drop in the ocean" compared with our membership of voluntary leaders, who are the backbone of the Movement.



THE ORGANISING SECRETARY
checks on
Division Boundaries



THE PUBLICITY OFFICER
contacts helpers
for the Chadstone Display

General Office



SECRETARIAL STAFF
check Annual Reports

Accounts



THE SENIOR ACCOUNTS CLERK
on Duty in the Office

“Matilda”



MAGAZINE SECRETARY
with Subscribers' Address
Plates for “MATILDA”

MYSTERY TEENAGER WAS A GIRL GUIDE

The mystery teenager who was highly praised by police last week for her competent handling of traffic after an accident at Doncaster is now known to be a Girl Guide from Box Hill.

She was 16-year-old Jan Richards, who belonged to the 1st Box Hill Girl Guide Company until she turned 16 years of age.

Jan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Richards, of Doncaster.

Mrs. Richards was formerly District Commissioner for Doncaster, and is now a member of the State Council.

Jan joined the Brownies at the age of seven, and spent the next nine years in Guiding.

Last week she won the admiration of police and local people for her prompt and efficient action after three cars had crashed in Doncaster Road, and were spread the full width of the roadway, blocking traffic.

The accident occurred at 6 o'clock, when growing darkness and heavy Saturday evening traffic added to the confusion.

Bystanders could not move the crashed cars and no tow trucks were available.

Spectators were surprised to see a teenager appear and direct traffic until assistance arrived 20 minutes later.

No one knew Jan had been a passenger in one of the crashed cars and suffered minor injuries.

She was later taken to a local doctor, where she was found to have lacerations to the leg and shoulder, and an injured nose.

Although all three cars were extensively damaged, no one was seriously injured.

(From "Nunawading and Doncaster Reporter," June, 1962.)

AND—

Faye Evans is a Guide of 13 who was going home after doing the shopping.

Crossing the Boronia railway crossing, she saw an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair with the wheels of his chair caught in the railway line. He was struggling to free himself and Faye went to his aid. A train was standing in the station — 40 or 50 yards away — and whilst they tried to free the chair the train whistled and came towards them.

Faye was really scared—but kept on helping the man till they managed to get him free.

Luckily the train driver saw them and stopped short of the crossing.

I might add that this incident took place about 5 p.m. one week night. There were plenty of adults around, but not one stopped to help.

V. PARRANT, 1st Boronia.

SALUTE, SIGN AND HANDSHAKE

Each Patrol in turn acts a different form of greeting. These must not be repeated, so the winning Patrol is the one which can think of the most methods. The Guide Salute, Sign and Handshake will certainly be produced, and there will be opportunity of stressing the correctness, meaning and use of these.

Other ideas are bowing, curtsy, Indian greeting, nose-rubbing, etc.

GUIDE AND BROWNIE RALLY (KERANG DIVISION)

The Kerang Division held a very successful Rally on the Scouts' Camp Site—about one mile out of Kerang. The day was perfect; the Rally began with our Divisional Commissioner, Mrs. Hughes, taking the salute. For the month past of eight Guide Companies led by Colour Parties and eight Brownie Packs.

Mrs. Hughes told us how nice it was to see so many happy faces, and Mrs. McLarty, Kerang's District Commissioner, led the girls in three hearty cheers in appreciation for the wonderful work Mrs. Hughes has done during her five-year term.

Mrs. Pollard, District Commissioner for Cohuna, then led the Brownies in Red Indian tribal games, complete with feathered head-dresses. The Guiders joined in many and varied activities. At 3 p.m. a well-earned drink was supplied by the hard-working Local Associations. What would we do without you?

Afterwards, we cooked our tea, and then the Camp Site was cleared and the Guides and Brownies formed a large circle for a twilight sing-song led by Mrs. Pollard.

Some girls had to travel as far as thirty miles before reaching home, but everyone was still smiling.



—Block by courtesy "Benalla Standard."

QUEEN'S GUIDE IN BENALLA

Tina Varnek, a member of the Benalla 3rd Company since its inception in 1957, recently obtained her Queen's Guide Badge and is the first naturalised Australian in Benalla to do so.

When formed, this Company was comprised solely of New Australian girls, and all Guiding activities were conducted strictly within the confines of the Migrant Holding Centre, mainly because the parents wished it so. Since then, however, the Company has grown and is now full-sized with both "new" and "old" Australian girls in it. It is no longer a separate unit, but completely allied with the activities of the District. By gaining her Queen's Guide Badge, Tina has brought credit, not only to herself, but also to Guiding, which has done so much to assimilate these girls.

The accompanying photo is of Tina proudly showing three fellow-Guides her badge, which was presented to her by Divisional Commissioner Mrs. D. K. McMillan, who also enrolled her in 1957.

QUEEN'S GUIDE BADGE PRESENTED

At a special Presentation Ceremony held in Hamilton, Ronda Henning of the 2nd Hamilton Guide Company, Wannon River Division, was presented with the Queen's Guide Badge by Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn, State Commissioner. Ronda is the first Guide in the Division to achieve this badge.

The Ceremony was attended by the Mayor-ess of Hamilton, Mrs. J. E. Riley, our Division Commissioner, Miss R. M. Abbott, District Commissioners, Guiders, Guides and Brownies, parents and friends from the Division.

The programme included a mime given by the 2nd Hamilton Guide Company on the Ladder of Guiding, showing the number and variety of badges a Guide achieves from the time she is a Recruit until she receives the Queen's Guide Badge.

Our many thanks go to Mrs. Fairbairn for coming such a long way to do this good deed for us.

I.M.

A CAMP AT SHEPPARTON

Twenty of 2nd Shepparton Guides, and Leaders, left Shepparton by bus for a Camp at Buckland Valley.

This delightful Camp Site is in rolling country, surrounded by tree-covered mountains, with Mt. Buffalo in the background, and it has many large trees for shelter.

Hikes, mountain climbing and fern gullies provided plenty of fun for everyone; First Class Expeditions and Second Class Tests were done with enthusiasm.

In the evenings we were all ready to sit round the Camp Fire and enjoy our favourite songs and items. And on Sunday we heard the Message of our Guides' Own Service under the spread of a giant autumn-tinted tree.

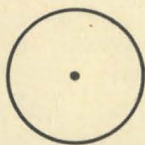
Visiting day brought many parents and friends. Everyone was intrigued by our many gadgets, which included a rotary clothesline and a shower recess (with dressing room and hot water!).

Patrol jobs were done quickly and the cooks always turned on the most appetising meals.

We were in Camp on Anzac Day, and during Colours we remembered those who had given their lives for this country.

It was also our last day in Camp, and we regretfully packed up, and said "au revoir" to the Buckland Valley.

JHEMBA.



IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Joan Wightman (nee Downer), who died on 9th May, 1962, was a Guide in the Shelford District for many years.

An ex-member of the W.R.A.A.F., she gave unsparingly wherever she could help.

Brown Owl of the Shelford Pack, she was loved by all her Brownies, and was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

P. TURPIE, District Commissioner.

1st HEIDELBERG COY.

Earlier this year a group of 11 Guides from 1st Heidelberg Coy. set out for a week's camp at "Tallawalla" Camp, near Airies Inlet. (Geelong Camp Site.) We arrived at midday, but were unable to erect our Tents, as other Guides were still moving out. As to be expected, everyone was very excited at their first night at Camp, and they talked long into the early hours.

We rose at six o'clock and started preparing breakfast. Before this we had Colours and Prayers. After all jobs were completed we divided the Camp into three groups with a Leader in charge of each. At Court of Honour we gave a Camp name for our third in command (Miss Ella), we decided on "Cohuna." Following lunch, we went down to Fairhaven surf beach for a swim.

As we were all very tired, we went to bed early after Camp Fire.

The following morning we rose early. The Cooks lit the fire and Camp Patrol practiced putting the Flag up. After lunch, half went down to the beach by car, and the other half walked. That evening we invited another group of Guides who were sharing the Camp site to join in our Camp Fire, and all sang some rollicking Guide songs.

The next day, a group of us went swimming, even though it was cold and wet, the surf was very rough, so we got out quickly and played cricket on the beach. After our invigorating swim, we went back starving, ready for a large tea.

We had a fancy dress sing-song, because it was our last night, then we had a midnight feast—unknown to our Leaders.

On the last morning, our Leaders-in-charge, Captain, Lieutenant and "Cohuna", interrupted our slumber early in the morning.

After breakfast we struck Camp, dug in trenches, etc., then after lunch we had Colours, thanked our Leaders and started for home.

In all, we enjoyed Camp, and we are longing for our next one to start.

Patrol Leaders, ROSALYN FINCH,
FIONA CAMBALL
and MAUREEN WIKAME.

BRITISH EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES, PERTH, W.A.

Western Australian Headquarters has invited any members of other States to inform them if they are planning to visit Perth for the Games. They are anxious to do everything possible to make the stay of Guide visitors an enjoyable one, and would be happy to forward information if required.

Would intending Guide visitors to Western Australia for the Games please contact the State Secretary, Victoria, in the first instance?

WORLD BADGE

At the Commissioners' Conference, a question was asked regarding the wearing of the Long Service Award. The All-Australia ruling is that the World Badge should be worn above Guide Awards. This comes into line with P.O. & R., page 128, Rule 34 (c).

L. GREGORY,

1962 VICTORIAN SUPPLEMENT

Change of Names, Addresses or Telephone Numbers

Would Commissioners please send names of new Packs or Companies (formed since 31st May), with name and address of the Brown Owl or Captain, and any change of personnel or addresses and telephone numbers of Guiders of existing Packs and Companies, to Guide Headquarters by 24th August, so that these may be included in the Supplement.

Headquarters should be informed immediately of any changes occurring in late August or early September. If received in time, these can be altered in the proofs of the Supplement before it is finally printed.

BETTY M. MACARTNEY, State Secretary.

CAMPING DEPARTMENT

Q.M. Course:

Four weeks' Course to commence Thursday, 20th September, 1962. 7.45-9.45 p.m. Guider-in-Charge, Miss D. Holtz. The Course will be held at Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell St., Melbourne, and applications must reach the Camping Secretary one week before commencement of the Course. Fee, 5/-.

B. D. McNALLY, Camping Secretary.

TRAINING COURSES TO BE HELD AT 20 RUSSELL STREET, MELBOURNE

BROWNIE: 6 weeks' Preliminary Course for new Brownie Guiders will commence on Thursday, 20th September. 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Guider-in-Charge: Mrs. Barratt.

6 weeks' General Course for Brownie Guiders who have attended a previous Course/s will commence on Wednesday, 19th September, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Guider-in-Charge: Mrs. Sharp.

GUIDE: 6 weeks' General Course for Guide Guiders who have attended previous Course/s will commence on Tuesday, 18th September. 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Guider-in-Charge: Mrs. J. Moors.

Commencing late September:

6 weeks' GENERAL Course for Brownie Guiders, 8-10 p.m.

6 weeks' PRELIMINARY Course for new Guide Guiders, 8-10 p.m.

6 weeks' PRELIMINARY Course for new Guide Guiders, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

6 weeks' GENERAL Course for Guide Guiders, 8-10 p.m.

See September "Matilda" for details of these Courses.

Applications for these Courses **must** reach the Training Secretary SEVEN days before commencement of a Course. Fee for Courses 5/-. Guiders applying for Training must have reached their 17th birthday.

COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE, 1962

The Convener and Committee of the 1962 Commissioners' Conference express their thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the Conference:—

To Mrs. Walker and her Training Team; to the Advisers who were called on to answer all sorts of queries; to the Public Relations Adviser and Publicity Department; to Miss Barr and all at H.Q.; to the speakers, leaders and our artist; to Miss Judy Bierwirth, who copes so well with the Minutes and Records; to Ferntree Gully Division for their lovely offerings of flowers; to Mrs. Rawson for her magnificent "shop"; and to everyone who helped us in so many and varied ways—our very grateful and sincere thanks.

EILEEN BARWICK, Convener.

1962 GUIDERS' CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday, 27th October.

Place: Old Arts Building, Melb. University.

Your Committee, at its first meeting, outlined the following plan:

Early afternoon: Opening and a short talk, then the greater part of the afternoon for Branch time.

Saturday evening: General question time and sing-song.

Training on Saturday morning for those who wish. It has been suggested that Brownie, Guide and Ranger Training be for newer Guiders, and that Guiders of some years' experience may enjoy sessions to widen interests . . . as new games, maybe handcrafts, perhaps miming . . . for which we would try to get instructors from outside our Movement.

If you have any definite requests or opinions about these tentative arrangements, tell me by letter soon — it is **your Conference**, and the Committee wishes to organise what you want. ENID BUNNING, Convener P.S.—For Sunday, 28th October, plans are in hand for an outing we think you will find most interesting.

P.P.S.—Look in the September "Matilda" for more detailed plans.

GILLIE DHU EMBLEM

Have you seen this cheery little fellow in the Brownie Book? If you have a new Pack, or planning a new Six, and the Brownies would like this emblem, it will be available at the Guide Shop. Brownies requested this, and it seems a further variety could be indicated. What do Brownie Guiders think of the suggestion that we have a typical Australian emblem, remembering, of course, the Guides have heath, wattle, koalas, etc., at Patrol emblems.

I just cannot picture a Six, "We're the dazzling Southern Auroras," but they could be "Busy Jillaroes" if there is such a word.

NOW, WHO HAS A BRIGHT IDEA? Do let me know, please. DOROTHY FOX.

PHANTASMAGORIA REUNION

Members of the Victorian Contingent to this Camp are invited to a reunion to be held at Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne, on Saturday, 22nd September, 1962, at 8 p.m.

Uniform is not necessary. All slides and pictures to be brought, please.

FALK MEMORIAL FUND

Many members of the Movement in Victoria have enjoyed exciting holidays in the friendly and happy atmosphere of "Our Chalet," and it is to those people, particularly, that the following news will be of interest.

The World Committee has approved the proposal of "Our Chalet" Sub-Committee to open a fund in memory of Mademoiselle Ida de Herrenschwand, who was fondly known as "Falk" to thousands of Guide people who have visited or stayed at "Our Chalet," of which she was Guider-in-Charge for many, many years.

The object of this fund is:

"The promotion of Guiding/Girl Scouting by enabling members of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement to stay at "Our Chalet" who might not otherwise be in a position to do so, such as handicapped, refugees, and others."

The World Committee has asked that the establishment of this fund be brought to the notice of members throughout the world; in particular, those people who have known and loved Falk. Members who wish to subscribe to the fund may send donations (earmarked for the FALK MEMORIAL FUND) to Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne. Please make cheques payable to the Girl Guides Association, Victoria.

PENNIES FOR THE CANOE FOR NEW GUINEA

The beginning of another month, and the total is now £223/7/6. Thank you, to everyone who has been able to help. I really think we can reach £300 — do you?

DOROTHY FOX.

BROWNIE BETTY

DO YOU AGREE? (Answers)

1. Golden Ladder is an OPTIONAL stage to Golden Hand, and is meant for Brownies who aren't able to do Golden Hand because of lack of time or ability, or because they are not trying hard enough to keep the Brownie Promise; and for those who, when they complete Golden Bar are not yet ready to tackle Golden Hand.
2. The Test only deals with care of nails and teeth and correct breathing, because these are things a Brownie can do herself. Most Brownies' mothers decide what they'll eat, and how often they'll bath and change their clothes.

It's Fun to Stay There!

Where?

"OUR ARK"

at 45 LONGRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.5

Have you ever felt thankful for a friend in need? Have you ever been alone in a strange city, bewildered by crowds and strange tongues? If you have felt any of these things and then the relief of release from the strain, you will have some idea of the feelings of the many, many Guides and Girl Scouts who have arrived in London and stepped over the threshold of Our Ark.

Our Ark is far more than just a hostel for Guides/Girl Scouts in London. It is a place of friendliness, helpfulness, peace and fun. Although Our Ark has changed its address from Palace Street to 45 Longridge Road since I was in London, I'm quite certain the atmosphere hasn't changed, even if the building has!

Only a short time ago I was able to listen to Yabinga, our Miss Barfus, who is now back in Melbourne and was, for six years, Warden in charge of Our Ark, giving up-to-date news of activities at Our Ark and personalities there, and it seemed to me the years slipped away, and I could see the people who resided there with me—their problems, work and play, all meaning so much to the staff—and everyone taking a friendly interest in anything one liked to chat about at meals or in the lounge.

On my first day there, a New Zealander took time (which I found later she could ill afford) to take us to our bank for mail (so precious when one is away), and told us how to find Our Ark again in time for supper. So when it started to get dark my sister and I wended our way back to Palace Street, only to find it was 3.30, not 6.30 p.m. as we thought—the English winter!

I was really thrilled to read the new pamphlet issued by Our Ark, and to find they now have so much extra accommodation. Palace Street was never big enough (I wasn't a bit surprised to hear that the front wall finally bulged out!) for all who wanted to stay, but Longridge Road has eight single rooms, four rooms with two beds and ten rooms with three beds, so 48 lucky people can stay there at one time.

In the dining room they still carry on the tradition of placing the flags of the countries represented amongst the residents on the mantelpiece or a table, so each morning you could tell whether, overnight, there had been any new arrival from a different country—good Kim's game practice!

All members of the Movement are welcome at Our Ark, and Extensions will be interested to know that, fairly recently, a blind Swiss Guide stayed there whilst receiving special training which she could only get in London. It was the first time Our Ark had had a blind Guide in residence, but she was an exceptional girl, and staff and residents alike found fun in helping her when necessary—but she was very independent and liked to do things for herself.

Our Ark is in a very good position for visitors to London, being only five minutes walk from Earls Court Underground Station, and ten minutes walk from the air terminal in Cromwell Road—and, of course, there are always buses for those who don't want to walk! It takes only 20 minutes by underground railway to reach C.H.Q. and the World Bureau, and also many of the special places you will want to visit in London — Buckingham Palace, Whitehall, Westminster, with only a few extra minutes to the West End.

Accommodation is arranged on a bed, bath and breakfast basis, with supper available in the evening if ordered (and don't fall into the trap I did—supper here means the evening meal, not a 10 p.m. hot drink!), and lunch and tea (4 p.m.) can be ordered for Sundays. The Guider-in-Charge is always happy to receive enquiries, so if you are planning a holiday abroad, don't forget the facilities and fun of Our Ark.

Perhaps you are travelling with a relative or girl friend who isn't a member of the Movement. You can still ask for accommodation for her — the charge is an extra 2/- per night for non-Guide friends. It is useless for me to quote charges here, because, like everything else, they must vary with the times, but these can be had on application,

and are very reasonable. Bookings can be made up to seven months ahead, and should be accompanied by an International Reply Coupon (available at your Post Office) for the reply to you.

Many Victorians have enjoyed a stay there over the years, and, if you ask any one of them, they'll say without hesitation, "Go and stay there, it's simply wonderful." Because Australia belongs to the W.A.G.G.S., Our Ark belongs to us, just as it belongs to all the friends you will meet there—so, when planning that overseas trip, don't miss your opportunity to stay at OUR ARK.

NORMA YOUNG.

FIRST CLASS PATROL LEADERS' CORROBOREE, 1962

Over the weekend of 22nd to 24th June, a First Class P.L.'s Corroboree was held at "Marybrooke" Guest House, Sherbrooke, under the leadership of Mrs. Stuart, ably assisted by Mrs. D. Smith, Misses S. Taylor, J. Duncanson, S. Page and attended by 24 Patrol Leaders.

Arriving on Friday night we were introduced and, during and after tea, began many friendships. The girls were divided into four Patrols, and each chose an aboriginal name—one making theirs up from the first letters of each members' name — the Manelkaydicats.

After breakfast on Saturday we were informed that the local tribal chiefs required our help in tracking down a dangerous evil-doer, who had committed a foul deed in the forest. Armed with protective weapons and much imagination, each Patrol followed genuine tracks through the forest. They returned to report that, although the evil-doer was still at large, they deduced, backed by substantial evidence, many and varied stories as to the nature of the crime, the criminal and the victims. It is interesting to note that neither the Guiders or known persons had laid any trails!

An adventure was planned for the afternoon and, after hiking through the forest, water was collected in a billy from a log bridge without going off the bridge or getting wet. Useful articles had been hidden near a selected spot, but none of the objects,

which were at eye level, were found. Near the picnic area a scramble net had been erected, and what a scramble! To cross a crocodile infested area without being eaten by a ferocious looking bark crocodile, each girl attempted to cross a pole lashed 10 feet from the ground between two trees. Another test was to boil the billy within 15 minutes and to make a snare capable of catching any animal.

Back at "Marybrooke" everyone gratefully rested round the fire, whilst two Rangers—a Land and a Sea—talked about the aspects of their sections, and were questioned by interested girls. Many ideas about the gap between the Guide and the Senior Branch were discussed. After one of the enormous and very nice meals we gathered for a really good Camp Fire, swapping songs and skits, and, in general, having an hilarious time, encouraged and inspired by the Guiders. Then to drop into bed and talk.

Most people woke early, and gamely tried the flying fox that Mr. Smith had kindly erected. All had marvellous fun and some overweight types had brambled tails. After Court of Honour we all followed Mrs. Stuart into the forest and were thrilled to watch an almost tame male lyre bird. Hurrying back we learnt that in the strong wind Mr. Bill Onus would not be able to show us how to throw a boomerang, but, instead, he talked to us about aboriginal culture and roused many to stronger feelings about their Australian background. We really had our Corroboree and learned some of the native movements which will enrich future Company Camp Fires.

In the afternoon, after a very beautiful "Guides' Own," a nature game was organised, and textures and colours of materials and buttons matched with natural objects, also a piece of head gear suitable for a Corroboree was made by expert milliners.

Au revoirs were said in the late afternoon, and the Guides greatly enthused, and having gained much in experience of Guiding adventure and friendliness, planned to have a reunion. A small part of our appreciation for the work done by the Guiders was shown when they were presented with decorated boomerang tokens.

ALIX McEWIN, 1st Beaumaris.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The eleventh Local Association Conference was held at Richmond Town Hall on 13th June, and for the eleventh time this was highly successful and helpful to L.A. members. Delegates came from all parts of the State and 132 Local Associations were represented by one or more members.

The State Commissioner and the two Assistant State Commissioners were welcomed by the Chairman, Mrs. A. Ray (Yarraville), who invited the State Commissioner-elect, Mrs. J. R. Price, to open the Conference. Mrs. Orr outlined the functions of Local Associations and Mrs. N. Davidson (Caulfield) spoke of the practical working jobs which can be done by members to assist Guiding in the Districts. Miss F. V. Barfus told us of her experiences in various Guide fields during her fifteen years abroad.

Questions from the Question Box were dealt with during the afternoon session, under the chairmanship of Mrs. R. Starford (Footscray).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Mrs. Davidson (Caulfield): "Our State Commissioner-elect has been introduced to us as a Master of Science. As a member of the Local Association and as a Commissioner, Caulfield District has found Mrs. Price to be a Master of Human Relations."

Miss Barfus told us that during her years as Warden of Our Ark she and her Assistant had been surprised to receive gifts from the visitors on Mothers' Day, because they were their "other mothers." Not so surprising to those of us who have known "Barf" through the years.

Miss Barfus, again. The satisfaction of being able to give one exercise book from a Victorian gift parcel to a teacher who had been trying to teach children in a Relief Camp to write upon the margins of old newspapers.

Most Local Associations seem to be giving Guiders financial help with training expenses and cost of uniforms.

Members and their husbands are invited to come to the Guide House for working bees—contact Guide House Convener.

We all went home knowing more about Guiding and knowing more Guide people. Yes, it was a successful Conference. Congratulations to the organisers. H.W.

DIVISION PATROL LEADERS' TRAINING

Eastern Suburbs Division Patrol Leaders met together recently at Carey Grammar School for a period of intensive training.

Moving from group to group they learned ideas for teaching Tenderfoot Test work — with jigsaws of the World Flag and Union Jack; with question and answer pictures on Guiding in Australia; with discussion and pictures of the Law and the Promise. They played games and activities they could play with their Patrols, or leave their Patrol to play—have you ever played noughts and crosses with Flag questions? Or tracked down the solo singer in the choir?

Then the Leaders learnt how to tie the Highwayman's Knot—and a very interesting session was followed by the hold-up of the coach whilst the horse was held by the knot they had just learnt. And Carey's stairways groaned under the onslaught as one and all climbed down rope ladders.

Hot soup was most welcome at the end of the afternoon, and then it was back to work.

"Leadership and How it Affects Us" was the subject discussed by the Leaders, and some quite mature ideas came forth from the questions, discussed in groups, of experiences which the Leaders present could, and would, meet in actual practice.

The training finished with one of the most hilarious Camp Fires on record! "Stunts and How To Do Them" was basically the subject, and the Guides entered into the spirit of the session with a will. We all thoroughly enjoyed watching and participating—and we do thank all the people who gave of their thought and time to help us.

WILLING SHILLING CURTAINS

East Brighton District decided to use their Willing Shilling money (over £30), to supply curtains for the cottages rebuilt for pensioners after the recent bush fires at St. Andrews.

The Commissioner bought the material with the District share of the Willing Shilling money, and Guide and Brownie parents made up the curtains.

It was also arranged, through the Hurstbridge Guide Captain, to supply some household furniture and other goods. G.W.

BROWNIE BETTY

(Continued from July "Matilda.")

As the meeting continued, Brownie Ring came next, then a Union Jack game, for which three sets of 12 Union Jack cards were used. The cards had crosses, emblems, and names of each country and saint on them, and each set had the initial of a Six on the back. They were scattered with the initial up, and the Brownies were turned into chicks and the Sixers into hens. When a Brownie found a card with her Six letter on it she said "Chick, Chick, Chick," till her mother hen came and collected it, and when she had twelve cards, they sorted them out into countries. The Fairies were first, and correct, so they won.

During the game the Tweenies had proved that they knew when to use the Salute and Sign by sorting out the Salute cards, and Marea had done her plait.

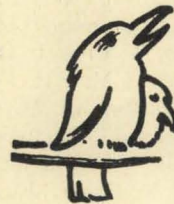
Pack Leader led for "Change Follow the Leader." When she called "Change" everyone turned and followed Julie, who was at the other end, until she said "Change" and "Pack" became Leader again. Brown Owl went inside and put out equipment to help the two Golden Bars learn the National Anthem. The Anthem had been typed on cardboard and cut into pieces to be placed in correct order, and there was a jigsaw with the words of the Anthem on one side and a picture of the Queen on the other, one bigger piece had the Queen's face on it, as Brown Owl hadn't wanted to cut that. The puzzle fitted into the transparent top of a notepaper package, so could be held up to show the underside.

For the other Brownies she put drawing paper, lead and coloured pencils and the health rhymes which they were to illustrate.

She explained to the Pack what each group was to do, and asked the Signalling and Anthem groups to be sure to finish up quickly when "Pack" asked them to. She had allowed 20 minutes for group time, five minutes to clear up, and then "Pack" was to play "Clear the Decks." The Tweenies knew their Test well, and were able to join in for the last few minutes of the game.

At Pow-wow time, Brown Owl said that the Tweenies were ready to be Brownies, Susan and Sandra said the National Anthem with just a little prompting, and the signallers told what they had done. Then they voted for the best picture to illustrate each health rhyme, and the nine chosen were put aside to be made into a chart with the rhymes next week. Betty had done Jessica Jane's hand by drawing round her own, but drawing awful bitten nails, and beside it a big snail on a plant with partly eaten leaves and petals; and she had also drawn Brownie Betty with nice teeth. Faye's Brownie Betty was chosen, and Betty's Jessica.

The Toadstool and groundsheets were put away and, after a closing prayer, Brown Owl said "Goodnight, Brownies," then she closed her eyes and said, "The magic spell is working and the Brownies are silently disappearing," and if they weren't completely silent they certainly had vanished when she and Pack Leader opened their eyes.



DO YOU APPROVE ?

Do you approve of the way Betty's Pack is being run? Answer the following questions, then turn to page 41, where you will find Betty's Brown Owl's answers. Do you agree with her?

1. The two Brownies who had just passed Golden Bar did National Anthem, which comes in Golden Hand, but not Golden Ladder. Should they be working for Golden Ladder?
2. There is nothing in the health rhymes about eating good food, bathing or changing clothes. Shouldn't this be included in Golden Bar Health?

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Received with gratitude:

Stawell Division; Mt. Waverley L.A.; Bendigo L.A.; Creswick L.A.; Dingley-Springvale South L.A.; Pascoe Vale District; Oakleigh L.A.; Jordanville L.A.; Miss A. Danks; Estate, late J. O. Holston; Glen Iris-Ashburton L.A.; Carngham L.A.; Stawell L.A.; Chadstone L.A.; Benalla L.A.; Euroa L.A.; The Union Trustee Company of Australia Ltd.

FOR SERVICE

Thanks Badges awarded to:

Mrs. R. O. Cuthbert, Shepparton; Mrs. M. Breydon, Mrs. B. Hilton, Mrs. V. Visbord, Mr. E. Hyman, Mr. R. Judd, Mr. S. Nathan, St. Kilda; Mrs. A. E. Dodson, Sunshine; Mrs. N. Woodlock, East Malvern-Gardiner.

Long Service Ribbons awarded to:

Mrs. H. W. Speering; Mrs. G. M. Weste.

RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS

With Regret:

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* * * *

Photographs — All photographs (except the one on page 38) by Betty Reynolds.

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OPEN—Week Days: 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Saturdays: 9.5 a.m. to 12 noon. Holiday week-ends excepted.

Shop - - - MF 6023

Office - - - MF 4545

GEELONG DEPOT :

Guide Hall,
Myers Street, Geelong

BALLARAT DEPOT :

4 Grenville Street South, Ballarat.

Wednesday, 2.30 to 4.45 p.m.

Saturday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

GUIDES

When ordering Guide skirts, state waist and length. Guide blouses, bust measure.

Guide Skirts, all sizes	32/6
Guide Blouses, all sizes	32/6
Guide Ties	3/-
Guide Berets, standard size	8/-
Guide Beret Badges	1/6
State Badge	1/7
Emblems and Colours	2/8
World Badge	2/-
Belt	7/-
Swivel	1/-
Knotting Rope	1/-
Fawn Sox, all sizes	6/9
Navy Pants, all sizes	6/9
Navy Half Slips	12/6
Guide Whistles	3/-
Diary	2/9
Pouch	4/-
Guide Miniature Badge	1/3

BROWNIES

Uniforms, length: 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, all sizes	36/9
Ties	3/-
Cap	6/9
Belt	4/6
Pouch	4/-
World Badge	2/-
Sox, Fawn, all sizes	6/9
Fawn Pants, all sizes	6/9
Diary	2/9
Emblem	9d.
Brownie Miniature Badge	1/3
Brownie Mag.	6d.
Brownie Cardigan, 26, 39/6; 28, 39/6; 30, 40/-; 32	42/-

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Skirts, state waist measure	60/-
Blouse, fused or soft collar	29/11
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Beret, state size	14/9
Belt	7/-
Swivel	1/-
Knife	12/3

Whistle	5/-
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World Badge	2/-
Brown Owl or Captain Patch	1/-
Junior Navy Pullover — 32, 44/6; 34, 26/6; 36, 48/6; 38, 50/6; 40, 52/6; 42	54/6
Guider's Shoulder Bag	42/-
Guider's Overnight Bag	25/6
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Standard Wool	72/6
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Superior Orlon	130/-
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Rucksack, 2 pockets	36/6
Rucksack, 3 pockets	75/6
Framed Rucksack	£5
Ground Sheet, 6' x 3'	14/6
Hike Ground Sheet	2/-
Camp Knife, Fork and Spoon Set	8/6
Fry Pan Set (Mess Kit)	16/6
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Brownie Tea Towels	6/11
Guide Tea Towels	6/11
Brownie Toadstools	47/6
Flag Trefoil	45/-

STOP PRESS

"Brownie Handcraft Day—at Headquarters from 10 a.m., Tuesday, 28th August."

A National Fitness Adventure Camp for girls — Wilsons Promontory, 1st-9th September. Fee, £9. Open to Senior Branch members with Lightweight Camp experience. Details from Div. Commissioners or Senior Branch Adviser. Applications, with deposit, close 20th August.

All Senior Branch — Marching practice, Batman Avenue Drill Hall (opposite Anderson Street bridge), 15th September, 2-5 p.m.