

Matilda

Registered at the G.P.O.,
Melbourne, for transmission
by post as a periodical.

Vol. XLI.—No. 6.

DECEMBER, 1962.

PUBLISHED BY THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, 20 RUSSELL STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.





Our best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas,
and may the New Year bring you health and many
pleasant surprises.

We do appreciate and thank you for your help and
many kindnesses, and especially the lovely days we
have shared with you.

Gene Lanbarn

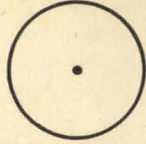
Jeanette E. McKay

Beverly E. Orr

Mabel Cooper

Betty M. Macarthy





16th NOVEMBER, 1962

This morning was one of the loveliest I have ever seen—only to be marred by a voice giving the tragic news of the death of our beloved Australian President, Her Excellency The Viscountess De L'Isle. Our love and deepest sympathy goes to His Excellency the Governor-General and his family in their great sorrow.

Lady De L'Isle has left us a silent and beautiful message by her example of courage, fortitude and sense of duty.

Irene Fairbairn, State Commissioner.

Thy blessing, Lord, on all vacation days!
For weary ones who seek the quiet ways,
Fare forth beyond the thunder of the street,
The marvel of Emmaus Road repeat;
Thy comradeship so graciously bestow—
Their hearts shall burn within them as they
go.

Grant those who turn for healing to the sea
May find the faith that once by Galilee
Flamed brighter than the glowing fire of
coals.

And when Thou hast refreshed their hungry
souls,

Speak the old words, again, beside the deep,
Bid all who love Thee, Master, feed Thy sheep.

Be Thou with those who bide where moun-
tains rise,
Where yearning earth draws nearest to the
skies!

Give them the peace, the courage that they
ask:

New strength to face the waiting valley task,
New light to lead through shrouding valley
haze!

Thy blessing, Lord, on all vacation days!
Amen.

By Molly Anderson Haley.

(Printed in "Altars Under the Sky," New
York.)

A "THANK YOU" FROM OUR STATE PRESIDENT

"Government House,
Melbourne,
1st November.

My Dear Mrs. Fairbairn,

I was quite overcome with pleasure at the beautiful gift of the lovely diamond brooch and earrings you presented to me after our Annual Meeting.

It was so unexpected and so lovely that it took me completely by surprise.

I do want to thank you all, and I am so touched to think that it was given to me by the Brownies, the Guides, the Rangers, the Guiders, in fact, all you kind people of our Guide Movement in Victoria.

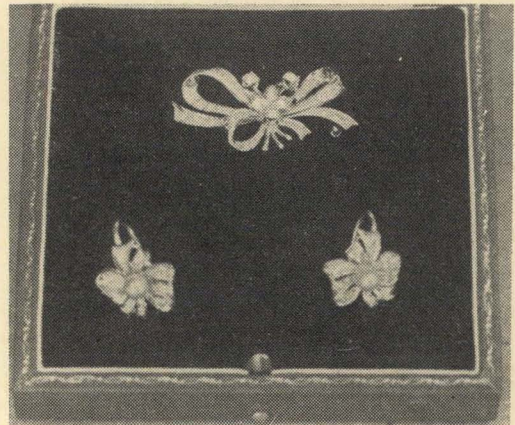
So please tell them that I thank them **all**, from the depth of my heart, for giving me such a lovely gift; a gift which I shall treasure and enjoy wearing so much, as it will bring back even clearer the happy times I have had with you all, and the warmth of the friendships made. I feel the brooch will be a talisman!

I do wish you all so very well, and that our Commissioners and Guiders will continue their unselfish kind leadership and that our Guides and Brownies will learn a lot and also find a great deal of enjoyment in the Movement.

With much affection and thanks to every-
one of you for your lovely gift.

Yours very sincerely,

Violet Brooks."



**Brooch and Earrings
presented to Lady Brooks**

STATE COMMISSIONER'S DIARY

At Miss Manning's suggestion (she having to be away in Europe herself), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts asked me to represent them at the Tenth Triennial World Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World held in Melbourne. Everything the C.W.A. organised was "tops," it couldn't have been better. All visitors to this country must have been duly impressed with everything (except, maybe, the weather). It was rather cold for the delegates who came from the tropics.

2nd October was the Welcoming Party at the Gallery.

3rd October was the Grand Opening at the Town Hall. It was a most impressive sight. Mrs. Orr and I were special guests and we thoroughly enjoyed it all. Miss Peg Barr had trained personnel in charge of the Colours and everything went splendidly, including all the opening speeches!

The World President, Mrs. Van Beekhoff, is a most attractive and efficient World President. We had parties, entertainments, handcraft exhibitions, picnics, etc., never a dull moment, and all splendid.

I have just sent off my short report to the World Bureau; if it is accepted I will give some extracts for and by the discussion groups to later go into "Matilda." It was very interesting.

Our Association, like other Associations, were classed as Fraternal Delegates; that means, of course, you are a non-voting one and almost a non-speaking one. Quite a thing! I would like you to know my number—1389—and all women! I certainly would like the Victorian Countrywomen's Association to know how much I enjoyed it, and to thank them for all they did for me. Many congratulations to them on a magnificent achievement.

3rd October.—I did manage, in between the morning and afternoon Town Hall Opening Ceremony and Symposium, to run in for lunch with the Divisional Commissioners and a short stay in the meeting.

6th October.—A very pleasant visit to Noble Park to open their Guide Hall. It is a

beautiful hall and so much has gone into this project by members and friends. Mr. Reid, the Member of Parliament and the Mayor, came bravely and shivered with us all, but the rain kept off, which was fortunate. I do appreciate being invited to open these precious halls; I am sure they will be blessed as a meeting place for members imbued with the Spirit of Guiding.

8th October.—Lunch-hour meeting at Headquarters — "Special Finance" — really, the lack of it at the moment, owing to the new building alterations which, as you know, are superb. Come on, everyone, we must go all out to overcome the deficit. I am sure we will if we face up to it.

10th October.—Tea Party for Miss Cobham at Headquarters. She was passing through on her way from training in South Africa to training in Queensland. Miss Cobham hasn't been here for about 12 years, so many old friends were waiting to greet her.

12th October.—Was delighted to give lunch to Mrs. Anjanappa, a delegate to the A.C.W.W. from India, and the State Commissioner for Mysore. There were many Guide Association members attending this Conference from overseas, Northern Territory, North Queensland, Papua, New Guinea, etc.—it was fun meeting them.

13th October.—I opened a lovely new hall in Warrnambool, worked for by the Guides and helped by our ever faithful friends, the Apexians. In spite of a bicycle race, bowls tournament and umpteen other things the Mayor and Councillors were there. We do thank these busy people for their attendance and encouragement.

15th October.—Annual L.A. Meeting at Skipton, at which I showed my few slides of the Northern Territory. Being a very amateur photographer, I found myself exclaiming in ecstasy and saying, "Isn't that good?" (when it is!).

16th October.—Divisional Meeting at Banongill from 10.30 to 4 o'clock. In spite of hilarity we did solid work, at least, I think so!

17th October.—Dashed to Melbourne for the Advisers' Meeting. These I have always enjoyed—one does learn what is going on and what is needed. Thank you, Advisers, for all you have done.

18th October.—Executive Meeting. Now, perhaps, is the time to thank all the Executive members for helping me all these years. I came in as State Commissioner rather wondering and floundering, but everyone has helped me over stiles, so thank you, everyone, for being such a wonderful Committee—it certainly has been a happy one.

19th October.—Went to Corio and stayed the night with Mrs. Ponder at the Grammar School. We started at 5.30 with a sherry party, then a dinner party, and afterward Corio Guides and L.A. and friends gave me a party at the Geelong Guide Hall. I showed my Northern Territory film, etc., and thoroughly enjoyed it all.

20th October.—The next morning I left for Ballarat to pick up Miss Ethal and take her to Banongill for the weekend. Poor darling. She had a wretched cold, so, after lunch, I firmly made her go to bed. Some of our cverseas "Power Visitors" were coming up the next day, and I was anxious to show off our Sioux City Scout Leader. Between us we just made it!

22nd October.—Down we came for the Annual State Council Meeting which I think was a good meeting, and Betty Ethal delighted us all with her talk and slides. Thank you, Betty.

After this meeting I left for Barwon Heads as I needed two days to write a report on the A.C.W.W. Conference. Luckily it rained, so I didn't fall by the wayside and go golfing!

25th October.—Returned to Melbourne for domestic Guide work, and, with Miss Macartney, attended the Annual Meeting of the Y.W.C.A. It was a good meeting. They have had a very busy year, and we congratulate them on a really good year's work. After the meeting returned to Barwon Heads.

26th October.—Took a few spare breathing exercises, plus seven holes of golf!

27th October.—Attended Government House Queen's Scout and Guide awards. Wasn't it exciting having so many Queen's Guides—eighty-six—and didn't they look nice?

We were very proud of our little Fortitude Award winners. I am glad they were made a fuss of, they have been very brave, but looked as though they had suffered, poor little souls. In the afternoon I went to the Guiders' Conference and thoroughly enjoyed

it. Thank you, Guiders, for inviting me. I learned a great deal in my short time with you—for my good, I might add!

29th October.—Annual General Meeting.—Just wonderful. How can I thank you enough for coming. From where I was, it was a superb sight—full house. I think the meeting was fun, and so many have either rung Headquarters or told us how much they enjoyed it. It was fun to be able to give those few awards. I am not sure whether Mrs. Orr will ever forgive me for having her Fish presented there! However, I can take it!

30th October.—Morning meeting of Regional Chairwomen. Evening—Miss Macartney and I attended the Red Cross Annual Meeting, at which General Porter (Chief Commissioner of Police) was the guest speaker. The subject was "Civil Defence and Disaster Relief." As you can imagine, it was a most interesting and enlightening talk. What a wonderful job is done by the Red Cross. We congratulate them.

It will soon be Christmas—may you all be blessed with serene happiness.

Irene Fairbairn.

**A NOTE FOR YOUR 1963 DIARY
WEDNESDAY, 20th FEBRUARY**

when

Mrs. Fairbairn, Mrs. McKay and Mrs. Orr
will be

"AT HOME"

at Guide Headquarters
from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

to say goodbye and have a chat over
a cup of tea with all members who
would like to have this opportunity of
thanking them personally for their
outstanding leadership.

JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

You may have read in the daily papers that many Scouts interested in amateur radio were conducting a Jamboree of the Air in October.

We were pleased to know that the Guides of Victoria played a small part in this Jamboree in that Guides from the Ringwood-Heathmont area were invited to see the Jamboree in operation from stations VK3AOC AMN/T and VK3ZLZ, located at Ringwood and Boronia.

FROM THE SMALLEST BROWNIE TO THE TALLEST STATE COMMISSIONER

36,179 Guides should be proud of the development of their Movement in the last twelve months.

That it had been a busy year was underlined at the Association's Annual Meeting at the St. Kilda Town Hall, where a large gathering heard the report presented by the retiring State Commissioner, Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn.

Mrs. Fairbairn stressed how inadequate words were when we realise the amount of work which was actually covered by the report. Camps — Conferences — Trainings — how much physical and mental effort, thought and time is given to these activities by those who plan them, to say nothing of the regular "work" at Company and Pack meetings.

Unfortunately, our finances had not quite kept pace with our work—but Mr. Gregory and Miss Cooper seemed confident that the challenge represented by the deficit for 1961/62 would be taken up by the Movement in 1962/63.

Mr. G. Reid, M.L.A., and husband of a Guider, moved the adoption of the Annual Report, and we were pleased to have him with us.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of four Guide Awards—

The Silver Fish to Mrs. R. Graeme Orr, who has worked hard and constantly for such varied facets of the Movement as the Guide War Effort, State Executive, Committee for new Commissioners and Boundaries, the organisation of the appeal for the purchase of our own Headquarters, negotiations with the Government for incorporation of the Association by Act of Parliament, and the organisation of the Regional Scheme. In addition, she has held appointments as Commissioner, including that of State Commissioner from 1947-1952. As the citation of the award stated—"Her vitality, vision and understanding of Guide ideals have permeated the whole Movement, and drawn to her our deep affection and regard."

The Beaver was presented to Miss M. Lambe and to Mrs. Hartley Watson.

Since her enrolment as a Brownie Miss Lambe has been an enthusiastic member of the Movement and has given outstanding

service as a Trainer in Victoria, interstate and overseas, and to the Extension Branch. At all times she has shown willingness to use her talents to serve the Association.

Mrs. Hartley Watson has given loyal service to the Movement in many capacities, as Guider, District Secretary and Commissioner, Sea Ranger Skipper, Lone Adviser, Division Commissioner and Regional Chairman. She served as Convener of the Gipton Campsite, and has organised a number of special projects, including the 1953 Coronation Rally and the recent Guide float in the Moomba Procession. At all times her service has been characterised by wholehearted enthusiasm.

Mrs. J. Legg was presented with the Gilt Cross for Bravery following her rescue of two small boys who got into difficulties in swiftly flowing water. Mrs. Legg, not a good swimmer, fought the strong current to drag the children to safety.



**Lady Brooks with Guiders
at the Annual Meeting.**

Everyone present was delighted to see Lady Brooks on the platform, and Mrs. Fairbairn expressed to her the Movement's appreciation of the many kindnesses extended to Guides and Guiding, both by Sir Dallas Brooks and herself. She had endeared herself to us all and we felt that we would like her to have a tangible remembrance of our affection. The lovely diamond bow brooch and diamond and pearl earrings obviously delighted Lady Brooks, who spoke to us of

(Continued on page 134.)

BADGES OF FORTITUDE AND 1962 QUEEN'S GUIDE AND SCOUT PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The Guides really looked "smashing" at the presentation of the Queen's Guide and Scout Certificates. As they marched in—and they marched beautifully—you could hear a whisper through the crowd: "Don't they look nice?"

The sun made the lovely gardens even more beautiful, and soft music, played by the Melbourne Grammar School Band, drifted across the lawns.

Miss Macartney presented each of our Queen's Guides to Sir Dallas, who presented them with their certificates.

Then were presented two thirteen-year-old Guides—each to receive the Badge of Fortitude. This award is given to Guides who have shown unusually great courage and endurance under suffering.

Kerry Divola, of Mildura, averted a possible tragedy to younger children when she took a loaded gun from a child, but she sustained severe abdominal injuries. Throughout the long period during which she has been undergoing operations Kerry has shown remarkable courage and cheerfulness, upon which the doctors have commended her.

Noni Sinclair, of Boronia, has suffered from a disease of the alimentary canal, with major abdominal surgery. However, she has shown exceptional fortitude, and has maintained her interest in Guide activities, although not able to attend meetings.

Sir Dallas spoke to us, bringing before us the need to remember and maintain our standards, and then he invited us "to eat, drink and be merry." After three cheers for Sir Dallas, and a "cuppa" interspersed with photographing of Guides and surroundings, the crowd dispersed — with much to think of when remembering the wonderful spectacle they had seen.

The only thing that caused us to be jealous (slightly) of the Scouts was that they had three sets of twins receiving their Queen's Scout awards. We hope that perhaps our turn to have twin Queen's Guides will come soon!

Sally Alston.



**Presentation of Badges of Fortitude
by Sir Dallas Brooks.**

Although many, and varied, badges were seen at Government House, all Guides and Scouts present had the Queen's Badge in common.

The occasion—the presentation of certificates to Queen's Guides and Scouts by the Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks, was most impressive, and the sun shone brilliantly just as the Governor approached the dais.

Eighty-five Guides (twice as many as in 1961) and one N.S.W. Guide received their certificates, whilst proud parents clicked cameras. The Guides were proud, too — and scared and awed and thrilled at the same time.

Among the onlookers we were pleased to see our State Commissioner, Mrs. Fairbairn, and our American visitor, Miss Ethal.

The significance of the ceremony was underlined by Sir Dallas in his talk to us, and he stressed that we must maintain our standard as Queen's Guides and Scouts.

A message of loyalty, written by Janet Butson, was read by Lorraine Coutts; a

similar message was read by a Scout, one of the 234 to receive their Queen's Scout Badge.

A highlight of the morning was the presentation of the Badge of Fortitude to Kerry Divola and Noni Sinclair. Three Scouts also received awards for gallantry.

At the conclusion of the ceremony morning tea was served and we were able to talk with the Governor and Lady Brooks. We all I am sure, felt recompensed for the effort expended in gaining the badge, and indebted to all who had helped us.

From Janet Butson, Julie Rothwell,
Jennie Wyles and Vivienne de
Crespigny.



Miss Betty Ethal with two Queen's Guides.



I have kindly been permitted to put a short note in "Matilda" as it is impossible for me to thank everyone personally for making my stay in Victoria such a memorable one. To "borrow" the expression used at the Annual Meeting — "From the tiniest Brownie to the tallest State Commissioner" — Guides, Rangers, Guiders, L.A. members, Commissioners, Executive Committee members, Headquarters staff—your warmth, most generous hospitality and ability to make me really feel the true meaning of belonging to a World Movement will be remembered forever. I am looking forward to coming back to Victoria some day for a personal visit.

Every good wish for your continued success in Girl Guiding.

Betty Ethal.

OUR U.S. VISITORS

Many of you will have met our two visitors from the United States of America — Miss Betty Ethal and Miss Natalie Evans. Miss Ethal, a Girl Scout professional worker, has been an executive director for 15 years — 12 years with the Sioux Trails Council. Betty has had a great deal of camping experience and was, for five years, Girl Scout Camp Director. Her outside interests include social work, educational and community associations also. Miss Ethal's home State is Iowa.

Miss Natalie Evans is a voluntary Girl Scout worker, and has held many positions. Among other work she was an Intermediate and Senior Girl Scout Camper for six years; was a leader of all ages for 14 years—eight years as Senior Leader. She has held Camp staff and director positions, including an assignment as hostess at the All-States Encampment in 1961. Her outside interests also are many, but one big job she has had is editing manuals published by Cincinnati Public Schools. She was also Superintendent of the children's division in her Church for 15 years. Miss Evans, who lives in the State of Ohio, has done a considerable amount of television teaching.

I am sure you will agree that both these people are most charming, and a lot of fun to be with. We have learned a lot from them, and hope that they, too, will be able to take home something from us.

We were sorry that they could not have visited more Divisions, but the length of their visit would not have allowed for that. Some of the Divisions and Districts visited by both of them were Monash, Donald, Ballarat, Banongill, Maryborough, Mornington Peninsula, Nunawading, Bendigo and Dandenong. They also enjoyed a stay at Guide House, at a Campcraft Training weekend and a Senior Branch weekend. Miss Evans went to an Air Flight meeting, and Miss Ethal spoke at the State Council meeting and attended the Guiders' Conference.

We are very grateful to the Juliette Low Friendship Fund for allowing us to partake in this visitor exchange plan. It helps the bond of friendship to become stronger than ever.

Betty Pearson,
State International Representative.

"TO DO A GOOD TURN EVERY DAY"—

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts has undertaken an imaginative programme of education throughout the world on the subject of hunger and malnutrition and F.A.O.'s. rule in its eradication. In France, booklets telling the story of the world's hungry people in a graphic way have been prepared for distribution.

In the Netherlands, Guides are playing their part with other youth organisations in "Operations Ten Times Ten," in which young people pledged to give ten per cent of their allowances for ten weeks.

Denmark has also prepared an illustrated booklet for distribution to Guides and Brownies.

In Monaco, the Guides have taken Freedom from Hunger as their programme theme for 1961 and 1962 and are engaged in fund raising.

Finnish Guide Companies are including the F.F.H.C. among their objectives.

In Ireland, Guides are taking part in the national fund collection.

Guide Companies in Peru have contacted F.A.O. personnel to ask for help in promoting knowledge of horticulture.

In Burma, the Girl Guides are giving practical help in some of the projects arranged by the national F.F.H.C. Committee.

The Association's Secretariat in London circulates the "Freedom from Hunger Campaign News" in its member-countries, and information on the Campaign is included in their own magazines. The Swiss publication, "Atlantis," which was devoted to the Campaign, has been distributed to editors of the Association's magazines and is being used as a basic document for an international Public Relations Conference to be held at Geneva in September. Campaign co-ordinator Charles Weitz has written to the Association from F.A.O. Headquarters:

"The Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are a vital organ in the success of the Campaign. You have the future home-makers; no social revolution can succeed until the women become determined and demand an improvement in their lot."

Betty Pearson,
State International Representative.

THE GUIDERS' CONFERENCE

Impression of My First Conference

It was a wonderful feeling to walk into the theatre at the University to be confronted with a mass of blue uniforms, the same or similar to my own. From the time we all sang the National Anthem to the Campfire and Taps at 9.30, I felt at ease in the company of other Guiders from the State; the friendly atmosphere of Guiding was evident throughout the whole Conference. My happiest experience was to meet the District Commissioner for Hamilton, where I was enrolled and attended her enrolment.

From this you may well know that this is my first Guiders' Conference, having been Lieutenant of 2nd Mitcham for only six months, but it was, I hope, not my last.

Sandra Holden, 2nd Mitcham.

As a Guider who has been attending Conferences "for years and years" (in fairness I would state that my attendance has only just reached double figures) I have been asked to give my impressions of the 1962 Conference.

During the Conference, as with previous ones, I felt that the meaning of "Conference" was being left far behind. Instead of it being an "exchange of views" it is becoming, rather, a few people giving ideas, and the time for the real exchange and discussion of ideas is getting shorter and shorter.

It is, however, good to notice the co-operation that exists between other organisations and our own. I understand the Commissioner of Police is to be asked if he has any more senior constables like the one he sent this time! The display provided by the Native Plants' Preservation Society was a good forerunner of the Sunday excursion and an interesting introduction to our own "Plan Evergreen."

This year's Conference is over — and we look forward to next year's. I would, though, like to suggest to the incoming Committee that, if possible, more time be given to enable Guiders to meet one another, to discuss their problems over that cup of tea, and to renew acquaintance. After all, it is sometimes only at Conferences that city and country Guiders meet.

I.K.

Notes from a Newcomer

Four months ago I was introduced to Guiding by a District Commissioner who
(Continued on page 144.)

OPERATION KOALA

Highlights of the day? Trees, yes; koalas, yes; but mainly RAIN!

We welcomed 500 Guides and Brownies, and Mr. Jeffries, Shire President, welcomed them to Rhyll, this year's site of the tree planting.

Headquarters representatives were there, too, and we were glad to see them. With our L.A., who for the first time had organised a stall for Operation Koala Day, they were soon drenched! Ice creams, usually so popular, did not fare very well on the stall today.

Mrs. Turnbull, organiser of Operation Koala, welcomed the Brownies and Guides, who received their trees at the gate and planted them quickly. Because of the weather we did not have nearly as many children present as in 1961, nor the time to plant as many trees and have the short ceremony of the planting.

However, we do thank those who came, in some cases from long distances, to help in the planting; we thank the Phillip Island Koala Reserve Committee, the Tree Planters' League and the Fisheries and Wild Life Department for their help; and the L.A. members for their "smiling under all difficulties." And, in spite of it all, we look forward to seeing you in 1963 at Operation Koala!

Eileen Gaughwin, District Commissioner,
San Remo-Newhaven.

(Continued from page 130.)

her work with the Guides in her 13 years as State President, and thanked everyone for their thought.

The Guide Choir was another feature of the evening—we look forward to hearing more of them, both in person and on the record which is proving so popular.

An Annual Meeting — the review of the last year's work — and now we are moving on in the next year, ready to accept the stimulus and challenge presented by the needs of each one of the ever growing family of Guides.

(Continued from next column)

the canoe a reality. May you all have a happy Christmas and a happy New Year to follow.

D.F.



THE CANOE FOR NEW GUINEA

Yes, here it is!

It was most exciting to meet Miss Ethal of U.S.A. on her visit to Victoria, and to hear first-hand news of the Christening Day. Miss Ethal explained in her delightful way "that she managed to cut the ribbon, and name the canoe for us quite successfully."

Miss G. Brown, Territory Secretary for the Girl Guides Association of Papua and New Guinea, said, in her letter, that between 300-400 Guides and Brownies attended the ceremony, which took place in the Guide House grounds, Port Moresby. A curtain tied with yellow ribbon hung over the name painted on her side, and as Miss Ethal named it, she cut the ribbon, allowing the children to see the name. This was followed by "three cheers" for the Victorian Brownies, and a big Camp-fire for all.

Miss Brown stated that after much thought it was decided the canoe would be known as the "Lend a Hand" in honour of the Victorian Brownies and their "good turn," and the New Guinea Guides thought it would be an appropriate name in that the canoe would be "lending a hand" with carrying Guides and Brownies and their Leaders.

A cheque for £350 has been forwarded to New Guinea, and a smaller one will follow, as further contributions have been received. At the conclusion of this successful "Canoe for New Guinea" project, I would like to sincerely thank the Brownies and all other friends for the wonderful way you so generously supported this appeal, and made

(Continued foot previous column)



KNOTTING

Why is Knotting included in the Guide syllabus?

Knots are a handcraft. They appeal to the adventurous spirit and present a challenge; they have everyday uses; they train patience; a child who is not a student can gain a sense of achievement; they help us to use initiative; they teach improvisation; they can be taught from the very first meeting.

To teach knots—be practical and demonstrate; show some uses of the knot and encourage the Guides to find others; teach them to recognise and tie knots in different positions; have frequent revision; give them the situation and let them find the knot; have the right material on hand.

Knots are common to all Branches of the Movement—they encourage dexterity, present a challenge and help our service.

Can you discover why—?

1. You don't use a reef knot when you tie uneven ropes together?
2. When doing a sheet bend, you make the loop with the thick rope?
3. How it is possible to do a sheet bend with the loop made of the thin rope?
4. It might be better to use a fisherman's knot rather than a sheet bend for tying uneven ropes together under certain circumstances?
5. It might be sometimes better to use a fisherman's, rather than a reef?
6. It might not be a good idea to put a bowline at the end of a line you were going to throw?
7. There are certain disadvantages in the use of the double overhand?

Answers

1. The knot will not jam in the hauling section.

2. The thinner rope is more flexible—it has more work. With the loop in the thinner rope the knot would not jam.
3. It can be done if the loop is made fast or is already made on the loose end (e.g., a blind cord.)
4. A sheet bend must have strain to keep it taut.
5. A reef's strain must be in one direction—where the strain varies, or if there is any **real** strain, the fisherman's knot is better.
6. It reduces speed and can come undone as the bowline must have a strain to hold.
7. It is hard to undo, and if the strain is from the side the knot may break.

OUR WILDFLOWERS

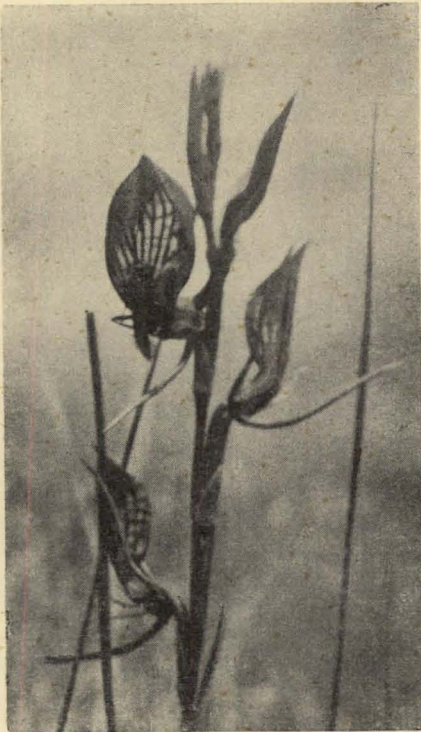
December in Victoria brings the thought of the Christmas bush in cool gullies, or on sheltered slopes. It is one of our mint bushes. The small, fragrant white flowers attract many insects, and are dotted inside with purple and gold. As they fall they make a carpet of snow. These shrubs grow from two to five feet high, and sometimes into small trees. Christmas Bush reminds one of holidays and the festive season. It likes coolness and water. If you crush a soft green leaf you will notice the mint scent. The proper name is *Prostanthera*. There are other kinds of mint bushes, some of which are being grown in our gardens today. They have mauve, lipped flowers and are handsome shrubs. One variety, *P. Nivea*, has snow white flowers.

Mt. Buffalo has several native mint bushes, including the Christmas Bush; some are in flower now. Look at a Deadnettle or Sage flower and you will see the same shape as that of the Mint Bush. Hence the name

Labiatae or "Lip" family. Buffalo is also the stronghold of the rare Monkey Mint Bush, discovered in 1903. Greyish-green flowers and an absence of mint scent in the leaf distinguishes this uncommon variety. If you are holidaying there go looking for it.

Another shrub, equally noticeable in December, is Sweet Bursaria, with masses of tiny, cream scented flowers. It is to Phillip Island what the Christmas Bush is to the hill gullies. Bursaria is widely found, and about Christmas time it is covered with brown butterflies. It is also the Christmas bush of Tasmania. The new aboriginal name for it is Kurwan.

Last month we mentioned the everlastings, in the Daisy family. These continue to bloom in December. Upon the Alps there are two lovely yellow ones — the clustered and the golden, which last until February. In another section of the family are the Cassinias, the common one being known as Dogwood. This is a widespread shrub, especially in the Dandenongs, where the white



Large Tongued Orchid.

(Block by courtesy of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria.)

flower clusters are seen throughout the summer. I think it resembles bits of cauliflower! All the plants are aromatic. The narrow leaves of one Cassinia give some people a skin irritation.

A special Orchid for December is the Large Tongue Orchid (*Cryptostylis*), so called because the large red and bronze tongue hides the column. It grows in moist places amid the hills, and is about 18 inches high. The tongue is very attractively decorated. Watch out, too, for the first Pink Hyacinth Orchid, the wildflower with which this series began.

J.H.

CHRISTMAS

Once again we approach the season of festivity and goodwill, the time when we let ourselves forget some of the cares of everyday life and join with everyone in wishing a merry Christmas to friends and everyone everywhere.

It is a time for reflection and expressions of gratitude and thanks for the many times during the year when we have been apt to take kindness and help, understanding and friendship, as due to us, and not as spontaneous acts for which we should be grateful. Christmas is an opportunity to say thank you.

Each of us passes through the year engrossed in his or her own problems, thoughts, hopes and fears, but at Christmas we give pause, we remember those we have perhaps forgotten, and the things that have been done for us.

It is a wonderful time, one when even an editor relaxes—and feels sorry that space did not always allow her to give full rein to her many welcome contributors, that the scissors had to be used sometimes so ruthlessly, that such and such a picture was considered unsuitable, or too costly, to reproduce.

It is a time, too, when an editor thinks of all those who have helped her with material for the magazine; she remembers those who have typed for her, and those who showed appreciation of the difficulties of publication and despatch.

So, to those people, and to all our readers, goes the evergreen wish — a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

(From the "Waratah.")

TRAINING COURSES, 1963

PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE

(Watch for later dates and further details.)

Each of the following dates indicates commencement of a Training Course. Preliminary, General and Senior Branch Courses are held once a week for six weeks, plus one outdoor session. Specialised Courses and Camping Department Courses may vary and details of these will be published later.

*Places and dates Country Weekends to be advised.

Date	Time	Course
FIRST SERIES :		
MARCH 5	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Brownie Preliminary
5	8.00 a.m.	Headquarters Brownie Preliminary
6	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Guide Preliminary
6	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Guide Preliminary
6	10.00 a.m.	Area — Brownie Preliminary
		Area — Guide Preliminary
7	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Brownie General
7	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Guide General
8	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Brownie General
APRIL 23	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Guide General
23	10.00 a.m.	Area—BOX HILL—Brownie Specialised
24	8.00 p.m.	H.Q. Guide Specialised (First Class)
26	7.45 p.m.	Headquarters Camping
MAY 2	7.45 p.m.	Headquarters Senior Branch
		*COUNTRY WEEKEND.
SECOND SERIES:		
JUNE 4	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Guide Preliminary
6	6.30 p.m.	Headquarters Brownie General
21	6.30 p.m.	Headquarters Guide Preliminary
22	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Brownie General
23	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Brownie Preliminary
24	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Guide General
		*COUNTRY WEEKEND.
JULY 2	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Brownie Specialised
2	10.30 a.m.	Area — Brownie General
3	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Camping
4	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Senior Branch
5	7.45 p.m.	Headquarters Guide Specialised
THIRD SERIES:		
AUG. 6	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Brownie General
6	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Brownie General
8	10.00 a.m.	Headquarters Guide General
8	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Guide Preliminary
9	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Brownie Preliminary
14	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Guide General
		*COUNTRY WEEKEND.
FOURTH SERIES:		
SEPT. 17	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Campcraft
19	8.00 p.m.	Headquarters Guide Specialised
20	7.45 p.m.	Headquarters Senior Branch

Application forms must be filled in for all Courses, but it will be noted that Commissioner's signature is required on application form for first training undertaken ONLY.

(Continued next page.)

Application forms may be obtained from the District Commissioner or from the Training Secretary.

Application to attend a course MUST reach the Training Secretary ONE WEEK before commencement of course.

Fee for courses: 7/6. Special trainings: 2/6 per night. All fees may be paid to the Trainer at first class of each course.

Cynthia Walker, Training Adviser.



THE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL "MISS TEENAGE" QUEST

In 1963 the Senior Branch intends to enter a "Miss Senior Guide" in the "Sun" "Miss Teenage of Victoria" Quest, for which the prize for the winning entrant is (among other things) a trip round the world by Qantas for herself and her mother.

Each entrant must raise at least £200 for the Women's Hospital (the slogan, "The mothers of tomorrow help the mothers of today"), and at the July Conference it was agreed that each Senior Branch Unit would raise at least £5 towards this (though it would be a pity if—with the whole Branch behind her—our entrant could only put up the bare minimum towards such a cause), and Companies will perhaps be interested in selling Women's Hospital Christmas cards to help them raise their quota. The cards can be obtained from either the Women's Hospital or from Mr. Ray Chapman at 3AW; they cost 1/- each or 10/- a dozen, and the whole of that amount is credited to our nominee.

The girls are judged on appearance and carriage in sports clothes (usually tennis), day clothes and evening wear, and on their poise, ability to carry on a conversation, charm, grace, voice, manner and general interests.

Each Unit will be invited to send a chosen representative to meet a selection panel at Headquarters (probably about the end of March next year) when our "Miss Senior Guide" will be chosen, so it might be a good idea to appoint local panels to make primary selections from Units at a District level. This should be an exceptionally good oppor-

tunity to encourage training in poise, grooming and charm among all Seniors. N.B.: Do not encourage the purchase of new or expensive clothes for this or even for the final selection; suitability (for the occasion and for the girl's age and appearance), neatness, freshness and style will be the points considered.

Money raised should be sent to Mrs. J. Tucker, 2 Kembla St., Hawthorn (WA 3230), by 30th April, or sooner if desired. In the unlikely event that the minimum of £200 is not raised, money collected will still be donated to the Women's Hospital, but we will not be entitled to enter a candidate in the Quest.

TRAINING IN METEOROLOGY

Following a request from an Air Ranger Guider, a course of two nights has been arranged for Senior Branch Guiders at the Meteorology Training School, 2nd floor, Grant's Building, 501 Swanston Street, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th March, and Wednesday, 20th March. Only twelve trainees can be accommodated. Apply Mrs. Lawson, Guide Headquarters.

THINKING DAY

The Senior Branch will hold a Thinking Day Service at Guide Headquarters at 6.30 a.m. on 22nd February, at which anybody who cares to attend will be made welcome. The Service will commence with the breaking of the World Flag, followed by prayers, then a Ranger and a Cadet who have recently returned from Britain's Panorama will speak of their trip. The Service will conclude about 7.45 a.m., after which tea will be available. Those going on directly to school or work may wear their uniforms if they wish, provided their school or employer is agreeable.

(Continued on page 141.)

FEBRUARY 22nd-25th, 1963 THINKING DAY AND ROYAL VISIT

22nd - 25th February, 1963, promises to be a particularly exciting weekend for all members of the Movement. Not only is it Thinking Day, the special day which Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world set aside to think of their sister-Guides and Scouts in other countries, but we are to have OUR QUEEN in Melbourne!

If you read the brief notice in the November issue of "Matilda," you will know of the suggestion of a "Royal Visit Link-up." Such a link-up was suggested as we felt many country Guides would be thrilled to be invited to Melbourne to have the opportunity of catching a glimpse of Her Majesty.

Metropolitan Divisions — this is your opportunity to extend the hand of friendship to your country colleagues. Remembering what fun metropolitan and country Guides had together through the "Link-up" in Jubilee Year, it is suggested that the same links could be taken up again and strengthened in February, 1963.

We hope to arrange a Thinking Day Camp-fire, in which everyone can join, on the evening of Saturday, 23rd February, but no other centralised programme will be planned. Divisions will, therefore, make their own arrangements for special activities and for watching the Royal Progress.

With the development of the Movement and subsequent changes of personnel, we realise that some metropolitan and/or country Divisions may have lost, or wish to change their partners, in which case the Commissioners concerned should contact either of the undersigned.

Commissioners, it is now over to you. Please let us know whether or not you are able to take up this suggestion.

Betty M. Macartney, State Secretary.
Peg Barr, Organising Secretary.

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

IF SO . . .

Would you consider joining our Guide Choir for the occasion of the 1963 Annual Scout and Guide St. George's Service, to be held on Friday night, 19th April, at St. Paul's Cathedral, at which we are delighted to

announce that OUR Guide Choir will lead the service in singing?

To supplement their numbers for this special occasion, they would welcome the support of members of the Senior Branch and Guiders, and we do hope that those of you who read this note and who enjoy singing will be willing to come forward and join the Choir for the 19th April, 1963.

It will be necessary, of course, for one or two special practices to be held beforehand so that every member of the Choir will know the Service.

If you are interested — and we are hoping for quite a number of volunteers — would you please contact the undersigned, so that full information regarding the dates of special practices can be given to you.

Betty M. Macartney, State Secretary.

ATTENTION — CATHOLIC GUIDES

It is anticipated that the Annual Scout and Guide Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral on a Sunday near Thinking Day. Please see the February issue of "Matilda" for final details.

Camp — Labour Day Weekend

A three-day camp at Guide House, Yarra Junction, will be held for Catholic Guides from 9th-11th March. Guides must have passed Clauses 4 and 5 of their Second Class to be eligible. Applications to be forwarded **by their Captain** giving the following details, and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each Guide: Name, Company, Age.

These applications to reach Miss Q. Aitchison, 19 Victoria Street, Oak Park, by 1st February, 1963.

The cost of this camp will be £1/15/- plus fares.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

A SUMMER TRAINING WEEK for Guiders (Brownie, Guide and Senior Branch), will be held at Guide House, Yarra Junction, from Friday, 28th December, 1962, to Friday, 4th January, 1963.

The fee will be £5/10/-; deposit, £1; fares, 8/- single. The Guider-in-Charge will be Miss S. MacLeod.

Applications from those wishing to attend should be forwarded to Mrs. F. Roffey, Training Secretary, Guide Headquarters, **IMMEDIATELY.**

CAMPCRAFT TRAINING

Campcraft Training will be held under canvas at the Guide House, Yarra Junction, 3rd-7th January, 1963. This training will cover all aspects of camping in the syllabus for the Guiders' Camp Permit, the qualification needed for a Guider to take her own Guides to camp.

Guider-in-Charge: Miss M. Mellor.

Fee: £2/15/6, plus 11/- fare from Melbourne.

Applications to be made in writing to Miss M. Mellor, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne, by 26th November if possible. Set out previous camping experience, if any, and enclose Commissioner's nomination form, 10/- deposit and 11/- if transport from Melbourne is required.

STATE PATROL CAMP — EASTER, 1963

A camp for holders of the Patrol Camp Permit and their Patrols will be held at Guide House, Yarra Junction, from Good Friday, 12th April, to Easter Monday, 15th April, 1963.

An interesting and adventurous programme is being planned. A "General Store" will be established and Patrols will buy their own food.

Each Patrol will be supplied with a sleeping tent—any extra sleeping accommodation and all kitchen utensils must be supplied by the campers.

A camp fee of approximately £1/5/- will be charged—this will cover fares (to and from Melbourne to Yarra Junction), hire of canvas, etc. However, Patrols must bring sufficient money to cover the cost of food (approximately £1 per head).

Application forms may be obtained from Miss S. Wirth, Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne. Please mark envelope "State Patrol Camp." Applications close on 1st February, 1963.



Highlight of Springvale L.A. Annual Meeting was the address given by Miss Frieda Barfus on "Our Ark." Miss Barfus, with her wonderful sense of humour, painted in everyone's mind a perfect picture of the London home of the world's Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and of the many international members of the Movement who visit there.

GUIDE HOUSE

The Guide House Committee wish to advise that the following alterations have been made for the booking of the House, Cottage, Cabin and Campsites.

In future booking will open with Miss Thurgood at Guide Headquarters as follows: On 1st December for the period 1st April to June.

On 1st March for the period 1st July to September.

On 1st June for the period 1st October to December.

On 1st September for the period 1st January to March.

During the very severe conditions during September and October a large number of trees were blown over on the Guide House property.

In order to get the place tidy again we would like to ask your help in collecting and using all twigs and leaves around the property.

HELP WANTED

The Guide House Committee wish to fence the property and would like the help of a Surveyor to check old pegs and mark our boundary line. Anyone able to help could contact the Convener — Mrs. W. L. Davies at 22 Gardiner Street, Lilydale, phone Lilydale 7 1680.

QUEEN'S GUIDE : AN ERROR AND AN APOLOGY

In the November issue of "Matilda" I indicated that it would be possible to complete Queen's Guide tests in Rangers or Cadets. I had discussed the matter with the Guide Adviser and thought — quite wrongly as it turns out — that this was to be permitted, and that a notice to that effect was to appear elsewhere in the November "Matilda." However this is apparently far from being the case, and considerable further discussion and thought will need to be given the whole matter before any decision is made. For the time being, at any rate, please note that there is NO alteration in the previous ruling that a Guide must complete the Queen's Guide syllabus while a member of the Guide Company, and accept my apologies for the mistake.

A. F. Rylah, Senior Branch Adviser.

A THINKING DAY CAMPFIRE

will be held

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1963
at the SIDNEY MYER MUSIC BOWL
as part of our Royal Visit festivities.

PUBLICITY TRAINING

A Training for Publicity Secretaries will be held on Friday, 15th March, 1963.

On Saturday, 16th March, 1963, there will be, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., a Publicity Secretaries' Conference.

Further training sessions will be held on Friday, 14th June, 1963, and Friday, 13th September, 1963. All sessions will be at Guide Headquarters, and full details will be advised in due course.

FOR THINKING DAY?

It has been suggested that thoughts for Thinking Day would be appreciated before February. Here is a report of one District's remembrance—

On the Sunday evening before Thinking Day a Service of Re-Dedication for Scout and Guide Leaders was held at a local Church. This was sponsored initially for the Guiders, Scouters and Patrol Leaders of the Church's attached Company, Pack and Scout group, but members of other groups were invited, too. About fifty Leaders attended. It was an inspiring service and is to be an annual event. Following a Scouter's suggestion, occasional corporate Communion Services are being held.

The purpose of having a service for Leaders was to provide challenge and inspiration on an adult level.

On the actual Thinking Day Guides and Guiders gathered at 7 a.m. at the flagpole outside the Shire Offices and the World Flag was hoisted. At 7 p.m. a larger gathering of Guides and Brownies saw the flag lowered and Thinking Day pennies were brought forward by Company and Pack representatives. Later, Brownies had a combined meeting in the District Guide Hall, whilst all the Guides gathered together at the Parish Hall. Each Pack and Company had at least one member dressed in the uniform worn by Brownies or Guides in another country, and had gathered interesting facts about Guiding in "their" country.

E. J. Ryan, 2nd Doncaster (Holy Trinity) Coy.

STATE COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the State Council was held at Guide Headquarters on 22nd October. The following members were elected to the Council: Mrs. C. D. Barratt, Mrs. H. E. Bolte, Miss C. Broadhurst, Mrs. J. G. Cameron, Miss M. Cooper, Mrs. W. Dwyer, Mrs. R. H. Friend, Miss H. Gross, Mrs. S. McKay, Mrs. R. G. Orr, Mrs. W. D. Parkinson, Mrs. G. O. Reid, Mrs. W. D. Robertson, Miss P. M. Russell, Mrs. Alex Taylor and Mrs. R. C. Wallace.

As the result of the election for the Executive Committee (which is composed of twelve elected members with the State Commissioners, Advisers and State International representative) Miss C. Boardhurst, Mrs. F. S. Catamore, Miss M. Cooper and Mrs. D. Curtis-Otter were elected.

After the business of the meeting we were delighted to hear something of Girl Scouting and Sioux City from Miss Betty Ethal, who also showed us some slides of her work as a Girl Scout Executive.

(Continued from page 138.)

SENIOR BRANCH CONFERENCE CAMP LABOUR DAY WEEKEND, 9th - 11th MARCH, 1963.

A Conference/Camp will be held at Guide House from Saturday to Monday; Seniors are asked to bring hike tents, but ridge tents will be available. Fee (including food) approximately £2/5/-, and application forms can be obtained from Miss Jan Oliver, 123 Wellington St., Windsor (LA 1065), up to 31st January. Unless called elsewhere for duty, the Police Search and Rescue Squad will visit the camp on Sunday for a full-scale demonstration and training, which should be of great interest to those hoping to join the Senior Branch Disaster Squad.

MANNEQUIN PARADE

A MANNEQUIN PARADE and a display of FLORAL ART will be presented during the 1963 SENIOR BRANCH WEEK to give the Senior Branch an opportunity of demonstrating some of the activities enjoyed by its members. DATE: 31st AUGUST-9th SEPTEMBER, 1963. Convener, Senior Branch Week — Mrs. A. E. Sharp.



Queensland Brush Box (*Tristania*) Trees in Flemington Road.

(Block by courtesy of Natural Resources Conservation League.)

This month we are going for an Evergreen Walkabout in the suburbs.

Let's start outside our own front gate and perhaps suggest to the Guides and Brownies that this is the first place to begin looking after the roadside. We can make a point of seeing that our piece of footpath is always tidy and free from weeds or bits of litter. In the autumn there may be leaves to rake up and scraps of paper have a habit of lodging in the gutter at the side of the street.

It is worth making a special effort to explain that, although we have Councils who are forever cleaning up our streets, WE — and that means the Guide or Brownie's parents and probably herself in a few years' time—have to pay large sums of money to have this done. Thousands of pounds' worth of machinery and petrol and hundreds of man-hours are used up just coping with street litter. How much better if we would save some of it to spend on Baby Health Centres, libraries and parks and all the useful and permanent things that need doing.

A simple and practical approach such as this will help build up a more personal interest in roadside care. Children will be quick to see that mechanical cleaners can't climb on to footpaths or sweep up awkward

corners, so this means more expense when we have to pay to do this work by hand.

It's heartening to know, by the way, that our Minister for Local Government is most interested in PLAN EVERGREEN because the problem of litter is causing great concern to all our municipal councils. So, even if the efforts of one pair of Guide or Brownie hands seems insignificant, if we multiply that by many hundreds, over a year a really worthwhile service to the community could result.

Going further afield than the home frontage in our own street, we can next include the area round the Guide Hall. Could we go beyond just keeping it tidy and see what can be done to make it more attractive as well? Is there, perhaps, a place to plant flowers **outside** the fence? Does the fence itself or the gate need painting, and do we always remember to close gates properly and not leave them swinging untidily on their hinges?

Opportunities for this kind of activity will vary very much with different localities and types of housing. For people living in flats, window-boxes might be suggested as a way of contributing to roadside pleasantness. Another idea for a Patrol or individual project would be to grow hardy flowering plants,

such as geraniums, in large pots or tubs. These could be placed beside the gate at home or outside the Guide meeting place. Permission might be obtained to group them near one of the civic buildings. Photographs of European cities, such as Stockholm, could be used to illustrate this idea and show the interest and colour that flowers spilling over from a well-shaped container can give to a grey city street.

Next we come to thinking specially of the roadside trees. A project such as a "tree census" might be a good way to start. Use a map to define the boundaries of your particular area and perhaps allot a different section to each Patrol. The Guides go out and count the different kinds of trees in their section — e.g., Smith Street, 15 oaks; Brown Street, 5 flowering gums and 6 lilli pillies, etc. Results from each Patrol are added up and a list compiled which will show the street tree "population" for the whole area. The same idea in a simpler form could be used for Brownies, with Guiders going with them to help identify the trees and keep a record of street names and trees counted.

This type of go-out-and-look activity could lead up to a discussion of which trees are the most beautiful and the most suitable for roadside planting and why certain areas have no trees at all. Whether or not the local council could be approached with an offer to plant trees as part of PLAN EVERGREEN might also be discussed.

It is important for the Guides to learn by observation that a great deal of thought and far-sighted planning must have taken place to produce beautiful trees that fit happily into their surroundings. Time spent in this way is very worthwhile. Even if it turns out that no additional trees can be planted by the children themselves, we are at least helping to form a nucleus of future citizens who will value their community's trees and take an interest in their welfare and proper management.

Apart from actual street planning there are other possibilities, such as planting trees to form a screen along railway yards or in one of the unwanted pieces of land left over from suburban development. Cleaning up and planting a "waste" area is quite a big undertaking. Such a scheme needs careful planning and probably some help from a

landscape expert, but as a major EVERGREEN project it has definite possibilities.

And, finally, stepping outside the suburban areas for a moment, what about the conservation side of next year's plan? Is there an opportunity for town Packs and Companies to help care for some of the lovely bush roadsides we enjoy so much on our hikes and drives in the country? Would it be possible to "adopt" a favourite stretch and make regular excursions there to clean up litter, invading weeds and fire hazards?

Meantime, the roadsides will be with us in all our comings and goings over the holidays, so there's no need for any reminder that 1963 is PLAN EVERGREEN year.

* * *

A FOREST IN A SEEDLING BOX !

A forest in a seedling box, thousands and thousands of embryo trees, many with their seed-caps still on their not yet unfolded leaves . . . difficult to imagine that one day they would be shady trees or colourful shrubs, gracing our roadsides, parks and farmlands! The Guiders who saw them on Sunday, 28th October, in the glass-houses at the Nursery of the Natural Resources Conservation League, were fascinated to learn of the work being done by the League, the collecting and propagating of the seed, pricking out of the seedlings into six-inch tubes, and distribution throughout Victoria. Outside the glass-houses were row upon row of frames, packed tight with the developing trees in their little veneer tubes, recognisable now by their leaves—eucalypts, wattles, melaleuca, bottle-brush and hosts of others—still only a few inches high, and it was astounding to learn that these little trees would grow eight or nine feet in the first twelve months after planting!

Many useful tips were given to us on the preparation of soil and planting of seedling trees, information which will be of great benefit to Districts which are undertaking tree-planting projects in connection with Plan Evergreen next year.

In the afternoon a visit to the Dandenong Community Forest showed what community effort could do, and also the continued interest that is necessary over the years.

M.M.

BROWNSEA ISLAND

How thrilling to know that Brownsea Island is now in the hands of the National Trust, and that it will be possible for Scouts and Guides to visit and camp there.

When I was in England a few years ago, I visited Brownsea Island. I didn't realise at the time that this achievement was something akin to getting behind the Iron Curtain!

It all began with the Chief, at one of her famous afternoon tea parties for overseas Guide people, at Hampton Court. In that wonderful way she has, of making each one feel that she is the one who matters most, she extracted me from the table at which I was sitting, led me by both hands to a window-seat, and said, "Now tell me all about what you are doing." When she heard that I had hired a bike and was Youth Hostelling around England, she wanted to know if I was going to Brownsea Island. At that stage I hadn't even located Brownsea Island on a map, and hadn't a clue where it was, but was immediately fired with the ambition to get there!

A few days later—a grey, cold day with a choppy sea—found me gazing across the water of Poole Harbour to the island. After much discussion I persuaded a man to take me across in a launch, but only on condition that I would not attempt to go ashore unless permission could be obtained, and with the warning that it was unlikely to be forthcoming. The elderly owner of the island had had much trouble with picnickers and sightseers in the past, and she had completely closed it to the public.

So, not at all hopefully, I bobbed up and down in the little boat at the quayside, looking up at the old castle home of the owner, and wondering if braving that choppy crossing had been worthwhile! But it had! Eventually the boatmen came back with Bill, the island's workman, and I was permitted to land.

Bill took me all around, through heather and gorse and blackberries, over stretches of sweet-smelling springy turf and on overgrown pathways, until near the far end we peeped through the trees and down to the house on the beach below, where B.P. held that first camp. We saw and heard pheasants, and on the lakes we passed were heron and swan and waterfowl. The paths in to these lakes

were literally tunnels hacked in the rhododendrons, and the mauve flowers fallen from these bushes gave a curious pinky glow to the dimness. A wonderful place, indeed, for all the wide games and woodcraft which must have gone on back in '07.

And now, if the money can be found, the National Trust will maintain the island as a bird sanctuary, and the "Cradle of Scouting" will again be available to the boys and girls to whom its name means so much.

I would like to contribute to this fund. Would you?

Margaret Mellor.

Contributions should be sent to Miss M. Mellor, Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne.

(Continued from page 133.)

convinced me that Guiding was worthwhile and that Guiders were needed. As a result of this infectious enthusiasm I attended my first Guiders' Conference.

In an atmosphere of friendliness and fun, my enthusiasm was fortified by absorbing the formulae for activities, such as Company Drill and the Commonwealth Knowledge Badge, listening to suggestions and information from Advisers and experienced Guiders, and relaxing whilst mentally participating in an overseas tour and singing previously unknown songs.

I was impressed by the contribution to Guiding by young women and those not so young; the correlation between Brownie, Guide and Senior Branch Guiders; and the comments from regular participants who described Conference as a tonic to keep them going another year.

E. M. Hansen, 2nd North Balwyn.

We would like to say thank you to Miss Bunning, Convener of the Guiders' Conference, and her Committee, for their work, thought and planning — and their unruffled calm at the Conference itself!

Thanks go, too, to Miss Mellor and helpers for the day at the forest on the Sunday.

UNIFORM

For Sale — Guider's uniform. Skirt 26 inches, jacket and blouse, 34 inches, belt and beret. Reply to B. Harris, 3 Highbury Grove, Kew, E.4. WM 7394.

BROWNIE BETTY

One spring day Tawny had taken a group of Brownies to a sunny spot near the fence to practise knots. She began by checking the reef knots in their ties, and Betty's was right; and she told them that a reef was used for joining ropes and strings of equal thickness, and for tying ties and bandages, because it was a flat knot which wouldn't slip. They tied reefs first with their eyes open, then with eyes shut.

"When you really know a knot you can tie it blindfold," said Tawny. "Now, who knows how to join two different ropes together?"

"Sheetbend, and I can tie it," said Betty, and she did, making the bend with the thicker cord and tying the thin one to it. "Good," said Tawny, "now try with your eyes closed."

This took several tries, but at last she managed it and was so pleased she did it several times more.

Some of the group could tie round turns and two half hitches, so Tawny got them to try with their eyes closed while she showed the others on the rail of the fence. "Think of a snake starting from the left side like you do when you're writing and crawling round the rail the way the clock goes, twice. That's the round turn. Now he crawls twice round his own body still going the same way as a clock, and that's the two half hitches. Then you pull his head to make the half hitches tight, and pull his body to make them slip up to the round turn. Now, Betty, you tell me how to do it."

Betty told Tawny while she did it, then she tried herself and got it right, and repeated it to make sure. Even when Tawny told her to try round the post making the snake crawl up the post, still going clockwise, as she did the round turn, Betty got it right. She showed her parents that night and practised it with her eyes closed.

They sometimes played knot games at Brownies. Betty's favourite was called "Knot Giant's Caves." Ropes were placed in each of the places chosen as caves with notices saying "Reef Knot," "Sheet Bend," "Round Turn and Two Half Hitches" and "Packer's Knot." (There had to be something to tie them on in the last two caves.)

Tawny and Pack Leader turned into giants who chased the Brownies and put anyone they caught in a cave (Tweenies were only put in the Reef Cave, and only Golden Bars went into the Packer's). Brown Owl was a good fairy who could go into the caves and teach anyone who was stuck, because each prisoner had to stay there until she could tie the magic knot and show it to a giant who came to the cave. Betty could tie the three Golden Bar knots easily, so she never stayed in a cave for long—the giants would check her knot and tell her to untie it, as they didn't want anyone else to escape by her magic, and then she would run round again till she was put in another cave. It was fun.

Betty used her knots, too, being specially proud that when a hairbrush had been washed, her mother always asked her to hang it to dry and she tied one end of a string round the handle and the other to the clothes line with a round turn and two half hitches. When she came to do her test it was easy, even though Brown Owl had a toy boat, with a short string to which Betty had to join a similar piece and then a thinner piece of string and then tie the end to a rail; then tie the thickest skipping rope (which Brown Owl said was the mooring rope of a big boat) round a post; she did it easily, telling each knot's name as well as its use.

Betty did another test before Christmas. At Pow-wow the Pack had decided to have a picnic in the park for a break-up, instead of a party; and to put the money which would have been spent on a party with their Thinking Day contributions.

"Parties are fun," said Betty rather wistfully during the discussion, "but I'm usually sick after them."

Each time the Pack went out they had practised road rules; one meeting Betty had been for a special "traffic walk" with Tawny. They had discussed road rules at Pow-wow and the Guiders had noticed how she kept them when they saw her in the street.

Cheryl passed her road rules going to the picnic, and Brown Owl asked Betty if she'd like to try on the way home.

There were traffic lights beside the park. Betty waited for the green, and, watching for turning traffic, led the way across the road. On the footpath she kept well to the

left. In fact, when they met an old lady who was walking on the wrong side, Betty said, "Scuse me," and almost pushed between her and the fence. Some Brownies followed her, others went the other side of the lady, so that she was rather jostled, until Brown Owl, with a word of apology, led the remainder of the Pack round her. Betty carefully looked right, left and right again, before crossing small streets; and at the flashing amber lights she let traffic that was close to the pedestrian crossing pass before she stepped off the footpath. Back at their meeting place she told Brown Owl more about traffic rules—about being extra careful in wet or foggy weather because it's harder to see, and cars can't stop quickly on wet roads; about keeping to the right when walking along roads without footpaths; about waiting till trains, trams and buses stop before getting on or off; and going to the nearest footpath after getting off a tram where here is no safety zone; why it isn't sensible to play ball or chase in the street; what to do if a coin rolled on to the road and how to look after small children when crossing roads. They discussed how, when a car was backing, the driver couldn't see small children who might get in its way, and how a Brownie might be able to do a tremendous good turn by seeing that toddlers playing near a driveway or lane didn't run into danger.

"And Betty," said Brown Owl, "remember that old lady we met in High Street?"

"Yes, Brown Owl. She was walking on the wrong side of the footpath."

"But we could have gone round her, there was plenty of room."

"But I was right, and she was wrong," said Betty.

"Yes, but even when we're right, we shouldn't push past people or make a fuss about who is right when it really isn't important. It is important to learn to keep to the left so that everyone can get along more easily in a busy street, but not to jostle anyone when there is a lot of room."

Betty's face fell. "Does that mean I can't pass my road rules?"

"You have passed them very well; and you've learnt something that will help you

(Continued on page 147.)

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Your attention is drawn to the details of this Policy, which benefits all members of the Movement.

This form of Insurance is intended to pay a sum of money to the insured or, in the event of her death by accident, her beneficiaries, for loss of income due to disablement by accident or sickness or for loss of sight or limbs or for death by accident. It can be well called "Disability Insurance."

The Policy available is as set out hereunder:

To provide the following compensation in respect of:—

- (a) Warrant holders, unwarranted uniformed Guide officials, Cadets and Rangers whilst engaged in any "Guide activity" with the knowledge of the Association and/or District.
- (b) Guiders, Cadets, Rangers, Guides and Brownies, whilst under the control of a Warrant holder or other Guide official.

For death or accidents occurring in the Commonwealth of Australia as per Items Nos. 1 to 9.

For sickness occurring in the Commonwealth of Australia as per Item No. 10.

For expenses incurred in the Commonwealth of Australia as per Item No. 11 as set out in the following schedule:—

COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS

1. Death by accident £50
2. Total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in both eyes £250
3. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of both hands or the whole of both feet or the whole of one hand and the whole of one foot £250
4. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of one hand or the whole of one foot together with the total and irrecoverable loss of all sight of one eye £250
5. Total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in one eye £100
6. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of one hand or the whole of one foot £100
7. Permanent and irrecoverable total disablement from accidental injuries certified after twelve months' treatment (other than loss of limbs or eyes as above provided) £250

8. Medical, surgical, hospital, ambulance and similar expenses (including the supply of dental, surgical, and optical appliances necessitated as a result of accident, but excluding loss or damage to existing appliances) incurred with the consent of the Guider or authorised official by or on behalf of any one individual following an accident sustained whilst under the control of any Guider or other authorised official £20

9. Total disablement by accident from engaging in or attending to usual profession, business or occupation. (Limited to 26 weeks and to those engaged in employment, profession or paid occupation. No liability shall attach to the Company in respect of weekly disablement benefits for accident unless each separate period of such disablement shall exceed seven days and then only from the expiration of such period.) Limit for any one individual — per week £1

10. Medical, surgical, hospital, ambulance and similar expenses incurred with the consent of the Guider or authorised official by or on behalf of any one individual by reason of sickness contracted during participation of any recognised or official camp, but excluding medical expenses for any treatment given by officials of the respective Associations at such camp. Provided always that the sickness is diagnosed, or indisposition be such as to require initial treatment, during period of camp, but in no case shall the benefit extend to infectious and contagious diseases developed after the individual concerned has left the scene of the camp. Limit for any one individual £10

EXPENSES

11. Out-of-pocket travelling or personal expenses necessarily incurred by or on behalf of any one individual for attendance at hospital or place of treatment or by reason of being left behind at scene of accident or ill-

ness as defined in Benefits Nos. 8 and 10. Limit for any one individual £5

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

In respect of any one individual £250
 In respect of any one year of Insurance £1000

EXCLUSIONS

The Policy does not cover—
 (a) Travel by air, or air training involving flying and/or gliding.
 (b) The individual use of motor vehicles except when used by Guiders for the transmission of members of the Unit on authorised Guide activities.

PREMIUM

1. Fourpence per head per annum on the estimated numbers of members of the Unit during the period of indemnity, and is subject to adjustment at the end of such period according to the numbers actually enrolled in accordance with the annual District Census Return.
2. Sea Rangers: Sixpence per member per annum.
3. To extend the policy to include coverage whilst travelling to and from Guiding activities an additional premium of eightpence per head per annum is chargeable.
4. Minimum premium on any policy taken out — ten shillings (10/-).

The Policy can be arranged by Companies, Local Associations, Districts, etc., direct with the Mercantile Mutual Insurance Company Limited, 106 Queen Street, Melbourne, C.1.

This Company has agreed to accept the risk and has already effected insurance covers in other States.

(Continued from page 146.)
 to grow into a really nice person if you remember it."

"I'll remember," said Betty.
 As Betty ran home she was feeling very happy. The picnic had been as much fun as a party, in her pocket was a little parcel with her name on it, as there had been one for each Brownie at the end of a nature trail. She had passed eight sections of her Golden Bar, learnt how she might do a tremendous good turn and grow into a nice person. Safely hidden at home was the hankie sachet she had made and some hankies she had bought for her mother, and it was nearly Christmas.

EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT

OPEN—Week days: 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Saturdays: 9.5 a.m. to 12 noon. Holiday weekends 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
Guide Handkerchiefs, with Trefoil The New Record—Camp Fire Song, sung by Girl Guide As- sociation Choir, now obtainable only at Guide Shop (45 r.p.m.) (words of songs included)	17/6
Girl Guide and Brownie 1963 Annuals now available at the Shop	13/6

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/-
Brownie Handkerchiefs	3/6
Brownie and Guide Christmas Cards	6d.
Victorian Christmas Cards	1/-

GUIDERS

Jackets, all sizes	£5
Skirts, state waist measure	60/-
Blouse, fused or soft collar	29/11
Tie, Brown or Blue	5/9
Beret, state size	14/9
Belt	7/-
Swivel	1/-
Knife	12/3
Whistle	5/-
Metal State Badge	3/-
Guide Badge	1/6
World Badge	2/-
Brown Owl or Captain Patch	1/-
Junior Navy Pullover — 32, 44/6; 34, 46/6; 36, 48/6; 38, 50/6; 40, 52/6; 42	54/6
Guider's Shoulder Bag	42/-
Guider's Overnight Bag	25/6
Commissioner's Berets	50/-
P.O.R.	3/9
P.C.R. Covers	3/3

SLEEPING BAG WITH HOODS

Standard Wool	72/6
Special Wool	92/6
Special Orlon	120/-
Superior Orlon	130/-
Wool Bag, ground sheet attached	105/-
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
Canteen	14/6
Brownie Tea Towels	6/11
Guide Tea Towels	6/11
Brownie Toadstools	47/6
Flag Trefoil	45/-