



Girl Guides Victoria Timeline

1914 - 1919

1914 - 1917

Guiding started in different States independently and companies were isolated and knew little about each other. The members had to use their initiative as they had to make or collect everything they needed for themselves.

The uniform was a long navy blue dress with a white "sailor" collar, a mushroom style felt hat and a 5ft long staff.

During the war the original Victorian Guide companies, like many other worldwide, joined the Red Cross and other services doing valuable war work and hence many companies disbanded.

Miss Gipps became Mrs Wheeler. 1st Melbourne kept on for a time and she kept some interest though not in charge.

Miss Kerr became Mrs Matthews and by the end of the war the company had ceased, though they kept up luncheon reunions each year for over 20 years and during the 1940s and 1950s several joined Trefoil Guilds in Geelong and Hawthorn.

1917

In May 1st Camberwell formed at Fintona School. Captain Miss Miller, a teacher from England who had little previous experience, but in full uniform, sent out an invitation to join. 130 girls responded with 100 appearing in a uniform of a blue one piece frock and belt the next week. The company was registered with London Headquarters and badges were obtained in due course.

Betty Potter was among the first recruits. She became Mrs Bridge and celebrated 50 years of continuous Guiding, in uniform activity in 1967. The Company continued until late 1920s.

1918

The title of Guider was chosen by BP instead of Officer or Mistress as a leader was there to 'guide' the girls.

Members were registered in England and had to buy books and badges from there.

Joyce Russell (Lady Pilditch) came from England to Skipton and though only 16 organised 1st Skipton Co. She had been a Patrol Leader in a school company in England. Her younger sister was lieutenant. She lead most enthusiastically until she was of age but at first was not fully recognised by London Headquarters. The Company has a continuous history from this time.

1919

States started to become organised administratively.