

GiA

GUIDING IN AUSTRALIA



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GUIDES AUSTRALIA

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Guiding —
the
Adventure
shop





Welcome

I HAVE just returned from overseas, having been to both the Commonwealth Chief Commissioners' Conference, Victoria University, Vancouver and the 29th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. A wonderful holiday in the United Kingdom and France with our daughter (who is now living in London) followed. What an exciting, stimulating and finally relaxing time it has been.

Commonwealth Chief Commissioners' Conference

At the Commonwealth Chief Commissioners' Conference, time was spent training for the roles we fill in our countries. There were sessions on *Employment Issues*, *Managing Change* and the *Role of the Chief Commissioner*. Workshops were also conducted on *Management*, *Public Relations* and *Behavioural Issues* to name just a few.

In the smaller forum of this conference we had the opportunity to share what is happening in our countries with one another. The program changes we are undertaking in Australia were a

huge topic of discussion. People are most interested in the outcome, and believe the way we are going will be followed by many countries. One Chief Commissioner said it was the most exciting new idea she had heard. Australia was congratulated for being far-sighted, inventive and showing initiative in facing the challenges with which we had been presented.

The theme for this conference was 'Sowing Seeds, Reaping Rewards': a very appropriate theme for Australia at the present time.

"Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

This quotation was used by one of the keynote speakers, and I thought it was most appropriate for us at this exciting time in our Association.

29th World Conference

It is truly amazing to be part of such a large, vibrant group of women, all of whom are working for the same purpose—to enable girls and young women to develop their full potential as responsible citizens. It does not matter that we come from different cultures, speak different languages, come from large or small countries, our purpose is the same.

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Artarmon Guides, Jacqueline Thorp and Caitlin Burgess make friends with a possum from Taronga Zoo at the Sydney City Winter Sleepout. Photo: Courtesy Sydney City Mission.



L-R: Janette Lockhart Gibson, Liz Moore and Mandy Macky.

Language is difficult for some who attend this conference. All documents are printed in the three official languages of WAGGGS: English, French and Spanish, and simultaneous translation takes place. However, for some women, none of these languages is their first language. They often have to translate from the official language into their own tongue. One needs to be very considerate and understand the difficulties which arise in this situation.

Everyone helps one another. Australia sat between Aruba (if you don't know where it is, look it up in your Atlas) and Austria. In front of us were Canada, Chile and China Taipei. Can you imagine the mix of languages in that group? This wonderful blend of different people makes our Association special. I have been fortunate to be part of these conferences and I urge you to take opportunities to be part of international gatherings.

Wolfville

Imagine a charming university town with a population of 3,475 people, which was originally settled in 1760; the streets are lined with stately elms and many beautiful Victorian homes. This is Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where the 29th World Conference of WAGGGS was held from 14-24 July 1996. The whole

town was excited to be hosting this event and the local people were extremely friendly and supportive of us all.

Every shop in the main street had a guiding display in their window. The picture framer had a fantastic display of guide badges beautifully framed, the book-store had a huge display of guiding books and the shoe store had a hiking scene. Many owners and employees had produced their own memorabilia or the Guide Association had provided material for the displays.

The Prime Minister of Canada opened the conference, causing great excitement as this was the first time a Prime Minister had been to Wolfville.

High flyer

The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr Roberta Bondar. In January 1992, Dr Bondar, a former member and now an honorary life member of Girl Guides Canada was part of an international team of astronauts aboard the space shuttle Discovery. She took with her a box of Girl Guide cookies, a gold embroidered Girl Guide logo, the World Flag and her Brownie Wings. What an inspiration she was to us. Dressed in her flying suit, Dr Bondar showed us photographs of the new perspectives she saw from way above the earth.

Festivities

The conference was a blend of working sessions, workshops, presentations and relaxation. Excellent presentations of the World Centres, Thinking Day and the Olave Baden-Powell Society were given. Parties followed the regional gatherings. The Asia Pacific Region members wore their national dress and we provided ginger, dried fruit and nuts which are typical of Australia.

Prior to the World Market, we had a barbecue with members of the Canadian Association which gave them the opportunity to purchase goods from all over the world. Australia and New Zealand combined and we sold everything we had taken. Over \$1,350 Canadian was raised from our stall. Our very sincere thanks to all those, especially the trefoil guilds, who provided goods for sale.

After a superb closing dinner, all those present including girls attending a camp not far from the conference and the Canadian guide helpers left the conference hall behind a brass band and marched through the town to the beach for a fireworks display. I don't think there was one person left at home. They all came to be part of the celebration, a fitting finale to a superb conference.

These are just some of the festive parts of the conference but much consultation and hard work took place during the long hours in the conference hall. On one occasion we were over an hour and a half late for a meal because we had to finish the project we were working on!

Helping hands

The Girl Guides Canada were wonderful hosts. Their arrangements added greatly to our comfort and productivity at the conference. Members came from all over Canada to help in the day-to-day running of the conference and this enabled them to meet with people from all around the world.

The World Committee and the World Bureau staff also worked tirelessly to ensure that the program ran to schedule.

The World Conference was a wonderful experience and one which I appreciate having had the opportunity to attend.

Janette Lockhart Gibson

The of Guiding

THE district is the heart of guiding. Girls work with leaders to have fun and make new friends. Leaders, in turn work with parents in the support group to have fun and make new friends.

The district is then full of people having fun and doing great things together. It is this atmosphere of good times and mutual support which ensures the district team provides security to a large number of women and girls. New skills are acquired by involvement in guiding, and nowhere is the spirit of guiding more clearly observed. It is this 'spirit' that keeps girls and women together in guiding.

At a recent Australian training weekend, 20 trainers tried to find a way to keep the spirit in guiding. It is not possible to bottle it and post it to new and existing members to drink; it can't be faxed, E-mailed or put on the worldwide web. Perhaps, we thought, it came closer when dispatched down the phone network, or when sent with someone on a plane, bus or car. Finally, it was decided that the spirit of guiding was best administered in a group of girls and women, who came together for a purpose. This purpose could be for an enormous number of reasons. It really didn't seem to matter. It was the gathering of happy people who were friends old or new, who dispensed the spirit of guiding.

The district team is one of these groups. It is the meeting ground where

girls and women have their first 'dose' of spirit. The warm, friendly approach of the district where the individual's needs and opinions matter is the first impression for a new member. Accepting each person for who and what they are, is one of the best ways to strengthen the district team.

It is imperative to give as much information as possible to new leaders, support group members, girls and parents and to make them feel welcome to the family of Guiding. This is an important role for each member of the district team.

Communicate clearly and often, avoid misunderstandings and keep meetings short, friendly and open. Allow all members to have a say and hand decision making to the group. Provide support and training to the group in how to reach a decision and how to understand the working of groups. Talk

to each other often and share good, and not so good experiences. Be tolerant of each other's weaknesses and build on strengths. Avoid being overly critical of each other and share the workload. Do activities together and involve families at every opportunity.

It is this spirit of guiding, the togetherness, the friendship, the empathy and the honesty, which is the essence of the district and the heart of guiding.

The district is the lifeblood for this heart. Girl ownership and the focus on the needs of the girl, along with the spirit of guiding, will ensure that the heart keeps on pumping.

Lynne Foley
Queensland



Invitation

The Annual General Meeting of Guides Australia will be held on Monday 11 November 1996 at 4.30pm. Keep this date free in your diary and watch for the venue in the next issue of GiA.

Resignation

Unfortunately for Guides Australia, Nadine Cattell, National Communications Manager has resigned to take up a new position with American Express.

The national office thanks Nadine for the tremendous task she undertook in her role and for the enthusiasm and dedication she gave. We wish her every success in her new position.

Positions Vacant New South Wales

These positions will be vacant in 1997.

- **State Post Box Secretary**, vacant from 1 May 1997. For information please contact Mary Carey, State Post Box Secretary or the State Executive Officer at Guide House.
- **State Lone Adviser**, vacant from 1 July 1997. For information please contact Margaret Groenewegen or the State Executive Officer at Guide House.

Nominations close 1 December 1996 and forms are available from Guide House, tel: (02) 9698 3322.

Apology

Refer August issue of GiA. Mary Cabrera's term on the Procedures Committee doesn't end until May 1997.

Survey

Thank you

What a wonderful response we have had to the Try-It Kits and the GiA surveys! Thanks to everyone who has responded, your comments are invaluable. A summary of the results will be printed in the November issue of GiA.

Avon basket winners

Four adult winners of the Avon baskets drawn from the evaluation forms of the Try-it Kits are:

- ★ Josie Fry, Queensland.
- ★ M Rankin, South Australia.
- ★ Sarah-Jane Benstead, Queensland.
- ★ Margaret Brooks, Victoria.

Guides Australia would like to thank Avon for providing these fabulous baskets.

Computer software winners

The two guides who won the educational computer software packages are:

- ★ Fiona Templar, Tasmania.
- ★ Tamra Bridges, South Australia.

Guides Australia would like to thank Ashton Scholastic for providing these exciting educational computer games.

National Trust Guide Book and Map winner

Spot the difference, National Trust competition, July issue of GiA, has been won by Elizabeth Henson from Victoria. Elizabeth received a Guide Book and Map of the National Trust properties around Australia.

Guides Australia thanks the National Trust for providing the Guide Book and Map.

Guides Victoria

An invitation is extended to interstate friends of Jill Johnstone, OAM, to attend a farewell gathering on Sunday 24 November 1996 to be held at the Melbourne Town Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm.

We are coming together to thank Jill as State Executive Officer and wish her well in her retirement. Please contact Denise Palmer, Guides Victoria, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne 3000 for further details.

Help for young people

In January this year the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) launched a new issue of *The Info Book—Help for young people*, in print and on the Internet.

The Info Book is a simple but comprehensive guide for young people, with information and advice about a range of issues that may affect their lives. It covers issues like how to get a job, options in education and training, help with housing, income support and health matters.

For those people who have access to the Internet, *The Info Book* can be found under the DEETYA home page. The Internet address is <http://www.deet.gov.au>

If you would like a copy of *The Info Book* write to The Info Book, Youth Bureau, Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, GPO Box 9880, Canberra ACT 2601.



Enthusiasm Far and Wide

LAST August I had a story published in GiA. At the time when guide numbers were decreasing in many areas of Australia, the only drought we were experiencing in Heathcote, Victoria was the rural drought. I didn't feel that we were any different to other districts and was pleased to be able to share our enthusiasm.

After the article appeared we were staggered by the response. Within a few hours several people telephoned to say, "Read your article and I think it is great that the numbers are going up in Heathcote". Within a few days I received letters and cards from other leaders and fellow district leaders.

A new leader in our area told me her previous district leader had read the article and was able to give her some of the details.

With notes and letters from many states we were eager to read about other districts. Some districts were thriving like ours, while sadly others were losing units. There were stories about leaders moving from districts looking for employment, large numbers of girls leaving areas because the major industry of the area had ceased operations and of course stories about girls finding other interests.

From a fellow district leader came a letter with a link to our district. This particular lady had fond memories of our

area as her husband's family had come from this part of Victoria.

Like other district leaders, she was having difficulty finding enough leaders to keep all units open. I wrote to her and we exchanged a couple of letters. An invitation was extended from her district for us to visit and stay with them. Unfortunately, we were unable to organise a definite date for this year and I thought that would be the end of it.

It was a pleasant surprise to meet my correspondent at the District Leader's day held in March. We chatted over lunch and arranged a time for our much hoped for visit. Both of us pencilled in March 1997 when we thought the weather would be promising and our guide calendars not too full. I came back excited and fired with enthusiasm to take some of our girls and leaders.

The idea soon grew to take all our four units of girls and make this a whole district event. Of course many details are still to be finalised but the enthusiasm is continuing to grow. Parents are asking to join us and our support group is taking on the task of fund raising to keep the cost to the girls to a minimum.

At our annual general meeting we mentioned that we were fund raising and keeping aside funds to pay for our big trip down south. Several days later, I received a letter from the Merle Bush Trefoil Guild Secretary. We are always delighted when these ladies travel from Bendigo to visit us and had enjoyed the company of several of the members at our AGM. To our delight, a cheque was

enclosed towards the cost of our proposed trip.

The trefoil guilds everywhere are a wonderful testimony to the guiding spirit. Their enthusiasm for the principles of guiding are as strong as ever and these ladies are usually very willing to share their ideas, time and expertise. Not only can the girls benefit from their involvement, but so can the leaders. Keep up the good work ladies and please districts don't forget to tap into these rich resources.

To district leaders who often feel overloaded and weighed down by the endless tasks and concerns, take heart. Talk to someone else and share your concerns, ideas and hopes. If we get into the habit of sharing best practices then the benefits will be immense for the girls as well as ourselves.

As always, we would like to invite you to call on us if you are ever passing through our town. Our guide hall is right in the middle of a very long main street.

Pauline Kubat
Heathcote District Leader
Victoria

competent approach

1997 introduces the Australian Adult Leadership Program (AALP) which replaces the current Australian Leadership Training Program (ALTP). This new leadership development program is a competency based training program.

by Sylvia Le Marquand
Australian Training Adviser

What is competency?

You are competent when you can demonstrate that you have the skills and knowledge to enable you to carry out a specific role.

What is competency based training?

Competency based training places emphasis on what a person can do. In other words emphasis is placed on output rather than input. Content is based directly on the skills and abilities to do a specific job.

It has flexible delivery modes to suit individual learners' pace and style of learning.

It takes place in a variety of settings

- on the job.
- in simulated job environment.
- in the training room.
- by distance education.

It takes into account the existing level of competency through recognition of prior learning.

How will competencies be measured?

Competencies will be measured at the level appropriate to the task being performed.

How will leaders keep a record of competencies?

Leaders will have a personal journal for this purpose.

What are the benefits?

Leaders will have their achievements recognised both inside and outside Guides Australia.

There will be a consistency of approach with a unified method of assessment across Australia.

Those being assessed will know what they are required to do.

Various methods of assessment will be available including:

- observation.
- personal records.
- feedback from others.
- discussion.

Leaders will be able to measure their progress and select learning experiences from a range of options to meet identified needs.

Where a number of competencies are common to more than one role there will be no need to repeat them.

Prior achievements (inside and outside Guiding) will be recognised.

Leaders will work towards qualifications at their own pace.

Time for training may be shortened accordingly.

Competency based learning is not new. Guides have always had to demonstrate competence when taking interest badges and adults are required to prove their competency in first aid and outdoor qualifications. For instance, if you wish to gain a camping certificate, you do this by proving you can run a camp.

To gain a qualification you will demonstrate your competencies whether it be to work with girls, adults or as a resource leader.

How will it work?

The November issue of GiA will have a full outline of the Australian Adult Leadership Program (AALP).

Snippets from the States

Chocolate brownies



Even the keenest chocoholic at Guide House Western Australia couldn't believe their eyes! All jaws hit the floor as a 10kg block of chocolate arrived.

The staff at Guide House had unknowingly entered a competition to win one of ten Cadbury blocks Australia-wide when they purchased Easter eggs to sell as a fund raiser for the staff amenities fund.

After a suggestion of "Let's all grab a corner and start nibbling" was over-ruled, it was decided to raffle the big block.

Mrs Dentith, a mum outfitting her new brownie guide twins, let her girls buy a ticket. They were the winners but it came with instructions from their mum to share the big block with their brownie guide unit.

Western Australia

Bravo!

The service given by leaders to Melton District, Victoria for the past 50 years, totals 200 years. Margaret Barrie opened the 1st Melton Brownie Guide Unit in 1947 and is still actively leading the unit. With her daughter's 27 years of service the Barries have served guiding for 76 years. Guide Leader, Beth McDonald has chalked up 30 years. Can any other districts tote up this number of guiding service years?

Victoria



1st Katandra West Brownie Guides, pictured with Clara Drew of Acacia House, Shepparton, Victoria, have been regularly visiting the elderly residents' home and have learnt some of the 'old' songs. They have taken homemade chocolates, cards and flowers, and the girls enjoy the visits as much as the elderly folk. It's wonderful to see the interaction between them.

Linda Henderson

Victoria

6 in 96 Gumnut Guide Gathering

Paxwold, Western Australia's state campsite was the venue for *6 in 96 Gumnut Guide Gathering*—the theme Teddy Bears Picnic. Western Australia's State Commissioner, Janis Wittber, attended the gathering acting as judge for two competitions. One was a colouring competition, the other was 'build a bear' which produced some wonderful creative bears—cuddly, big, small, fat, hard, flowers and even an edible bear!

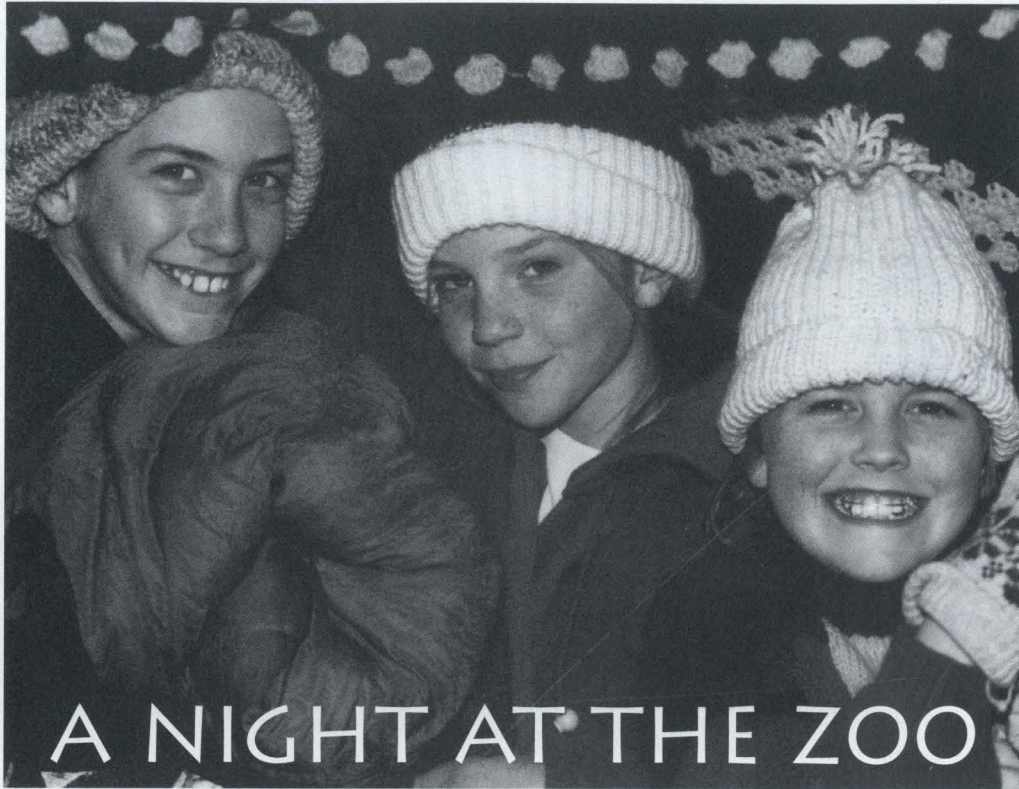
After morning tea, the round robin of activities began. Guides visited Paddington Station, Pooh Bear Corner, Care Bear Forest and Teddy Commando Post. At these a lot of different activities were undertaken. These included exploring the bush environment, following a variety of trails, making a parachuting bear, crossing rope bridges and climbing scramble nets. These activities helped to challenge and extend the Guides.

Special visitor, My Bear, presented prizes and was mobbed by 200 enthusiastic gumnut guides wanting a hug before he left.

Then, like in the song, "At 3 o'clock their mummies and daddies took them home to bed because they were tired little gumnut guides".

Leaders were also exhausted but everyone had a marvellous time. Thanks are due to everyone involved who helped make *6 in 96 Gumnut Guide Gathering* a memorable and exciting day.

Western Australia



L-R: Martha Tattersall, Rebecca Whalley and Emma Shelston, Guides from Artarmon, New South Wales. Photo: A M Lange.

A NIGHT AT THE ZOO

"BUT WHERE WILL THE ANIMALS SLEEP?" WAS THE RESPONSE OF ONE SIX-YEAR-OLD AS HER LEADER TALKED TO THE UNIT ABOUT THE GIANT SYDNEY CITY MISSION WINTER SLEEPOUT AT TARONGA ZOO, SYDNEY.

Would we be able to organise a giant sleepout under the stars at Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo for 600-800 girls and their leaders? Without more than a flicker of reflection the answer was "Of course, what a great idea!" The inevitable questions arose over the next 12 hours. But what about the gumnut guide age group? Are there enough toilets? What will they eat? Can parents and families join in? Does that mean brothers and fathers? What if it rains?

The animals were almost the least of the concerns as Guides New South Wales worked steadily over 12 weeks to arrange this event. It was a first, not only for us, but also for Taronga Zoo and the Sydney City Mission. It quickly became

clear that this was an exciting prospect for many young people as the registrations for the night rose to 1,560 people. Organisational challenges abounded. State Emergency Services were on hand to deal with tarpaulins should the weather turn nasty. Deputy State Commissioner, Robin Hill parboiled 1,600 sausages and recruited a team of people to cook and serve the masses.

THE SYDNEY CITY MISSION IS ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK FOR THE HOMELESS, THANKS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE BEING COLD AND HOMELESS FOR ONE NIGHT.

Shortly before 6.00pm on 9 August 96 eager guides of all ages, well rugged carrying their bedding arrived at the zoo by bus, ferry and private transport.

A steady river of girls with cellophane reddened torches made their way through the dark zoo to the entertainment and sleeping area. People from the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Newcastle, Goulbourn and all around the metropolitan area had come to experience this night to remember.

Sleeping areas were chosen and bedding laid out. Some of the younger ones had to try out their sleeping bags just for a minute before eating their sausage sandwich!

The evening's entertainment started with a young band and dancers, followed by a giant campfire projected onto a screen and Guide Karaoke led by young leaders and rangers. The sound of 1,600 young voices in the open air was spectacular. The younger girls settled early for the night, while others watched an outdoor screening of *The Jungle Book*.

By 1.00am almost everybody had bedded down on the ground with a

minimum of fuss. The temperature had dropped to just below four degrees, and continued to fall. Those of us who were still awake marvelled at the sight of row upon row of various sized cocoons spread across the lawns under the moonlight.

The animals, perhaps stunned by the earlier noise, were remarkably quiet. Dingoes howled, the elephant banded and the odd eerie noise of the gibbons howl were the only sound until the kookaburras and roosters heralded the sunrise. They started at 4.30am.

With the morning, came the inevitable queues for the toilets, managed in an extraordinarily cooperative guiding way. After breakfast the girls packed their belongings and cleared away the debris of their late night snacks. In true guide fashion, it was only a short time until the area was better than we had found it and the pied piper early zoo walk started. Geoff Kidd, the night manager, led the way through the zoo at 7.30am.

As everybody made their cold and tired way home, the people from the Sydney City Mission started to calculate the total funds raised by sponsorship. The amount is still not finalised, but will be in the vicinity of \$40,000–\$50,000.

As organisers of a new event we have learned so many ways to improve, should we be able to participate again. Our young people have shown, yet again, that they behave differently from so many other groups. The Sydney City Mission is able to continue its work for the homeless and disadvantaged youth, thanks to our young people being cold and homeless for just one night.

Well done to all of the guides and their leaders. You are all very special people!

Bronwyn Portek, Public Relations Adviser, **New South Wales**

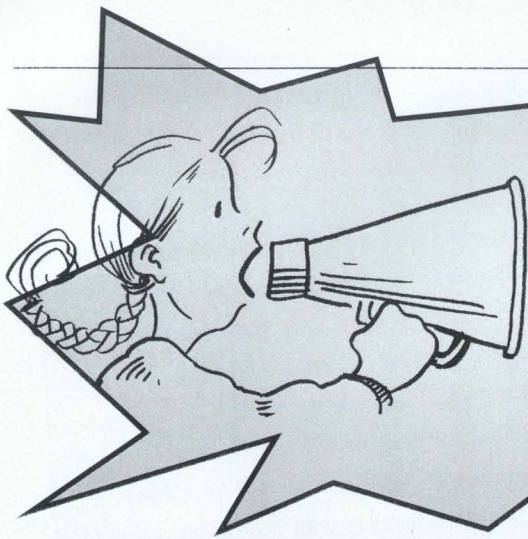
I chatted with a 14-year-old with a problem—how could she do the right thing and stay with her own leader and still be with her new ranger guide friends (probably only met that evening)? I handed out chocolate to heaps of sleeping bag-clad bundles and hot drinks to others who hadn't quite made it to 'bed' yet. No-one forgot to say thank you! I couldn't keep a straight face when told of a group being a bit noisy in the toilets at 3.00am—but hey, how can you paint your friends' fingernails black and dry them under the hand driers in the middle of the night in silence!

I was so impressed with the behaviour of everyone involved—and by the sense of fun and adventure displayed by the girls and leaders alike. A deputy state commissioner and state public relations adviser were among the many who stayed awake the entire night and ensured everyone's safety and well-being. It was really something very special. I wonder how many netball teams had players falling asleep on the court last Saturday? I will admit to being a tad exhausted the next day but it was well worth it! Those 1,200 plus guides aged from 6–66 or so have come away with another great memory, part of the magic that makes guiding so unique and worthwhile.

Margil Heath
District Leader
Northern Tablelands



Artarmon Guides, L–R: Jacqui Thorp and Caitlin Burgess preparing for the Sydney City Mission Sleepout. Photo: courtesy Sydney City Mission.



A CALL to ALL LEADERS!

ON the 13 July 1982, as a very small girl, I made the biggest step of my life. It was the day I made my Promise:

To do my best,

To do my duty to God, to serve the Queen, help other people and

To keep the brownie guide Law.

I had just joined the ranks of the largest women's organisation in the world at the tender age of seven years and nine months.

I was a very quiet child, painfully quiet some would say, and even when I progressed to guides when I was 11 years, I was not often heard. I was an observer.

My love of the arts prompted me to do something quite out of character in 1988. In February of that year, I auditioned for our local Show Time. During rehearsals I often sat alone, memorising the lyrics to each song of the show and tending to turn a bright shade of red should anyone approach me for conversation.

In 1989, our Show Time became a Gang Show under the expert eye of our sole director. By the time the show had gone to stage, I was a very apt patrol leader in my guide unit, working towards my patrol camp permit and planning to attend an international guide camp in England. I had not yet noticed the changes that had occurred in my outlook on life, but my guide leaders, family and friends certainly had.

By 1992 I had performed in seven Gang Shows, each year my role increased to include several vocal solos and characters in skits. I had become both a junior leader and venturer. My skills in organisation and motivation were reaching new highs as I studied for my HSC.



Rebecca Thomson.

As a rover, I participated in Gang Show 1993 and 1994 and by 1995 I was also an assistant leader at my old guide unit. 1995 was a big year for our Gang Show, our director of nine years stepped back for our new, younger production team, of which I was a part. The show was a great success and I carried my position through to Gang Show 1996. This will be the last year I perform in my guide uniform for some years as I have

resigned from my position as guide leader for personal reasons (although I still attend meetings regularly and hope that I will be called upon should I ever be needed).

This is a call to all leaders. Performing in a Show Time, Gang Show or Review is a commitment of time and energy for all concerned but please encourage your girls to audition. The rewards are too numerous to mention. I have not only seen my own development (which I do largely attribute to being a part of the show), but that of many others, whether it be social, artistic or whatever. Scout and Guide Shows encourage participants to 'have a go', to learn new skills and show that Guiding and Scouting extends beyond their own units. Long and fulfilling friendships are to be made by backstage and support crew as well as the actors. So have a go!

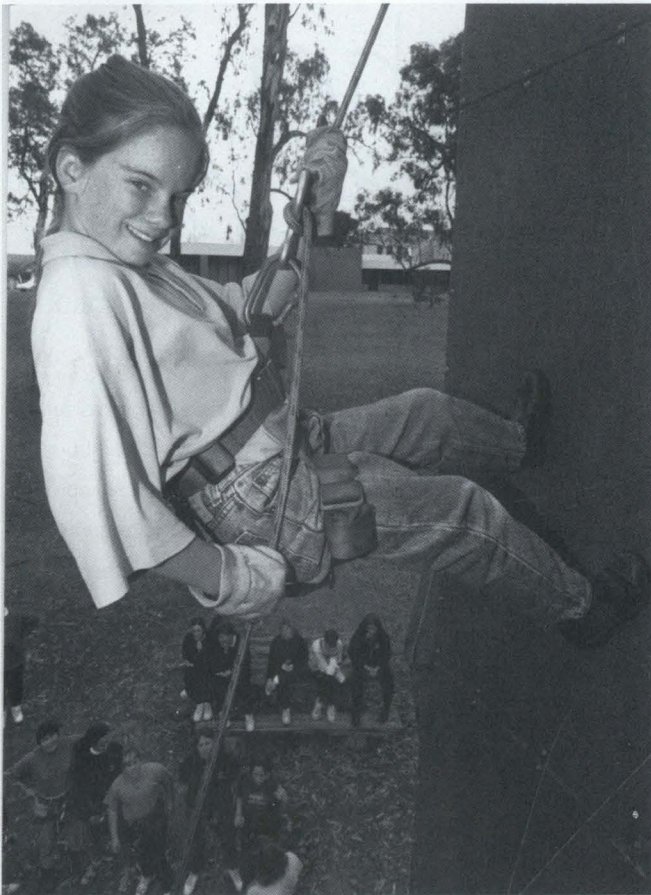
Rebecca Thomson
1A Terrigal Guides
New South Wales

Guides fly for fun

ECHUCA guides came to grips with their fear of heights when they literally stepped off a high tower and walked their way to the ground holding a thin rope. The thrill of abseiling had them lining up again and again for another turn.

Campaspe Capers was an outdoor activities day which gave 44 guides from nearby Rochester, Lockington, Elmore and Kerang the chance to try this sport. After being fitted with safety harness and gloves and accepting the challenge to climb an eight metre ladder, the rest was easy! Justine Whiting had to stay at the six metre mark while the photographer abseiled his way into position for the photo. As soon as the picture was taken, she was off down the rope to join the lengthy queue. Volunteers from the Victorian Abseiling Council provided the equipment and instructors held on the Aquatic Reserve, Echuca.

Sjanie Smith, District Leader, Echuca, **Victoria**



Justine Whiting. Photo: Victoria.

Is the glass half full or half empty?

Is the glass half full or half empty? How you see it really reflects your attitude to life. How many of us dismiss eternal optimists as though they are Pollyannas being in a state of continual hope. If you watch these people closely, you will see that they usually get so much out of life. They are sometimes disappointed when they set their sights too high, but they have such a positive attitude to life that they feel the challenge was worth the effort and learn from the experience.

Our girls need to be taught by our example to have a positive outlook on life. We live in a wonderful country without war and strife. Those less fortunate than ourselves deserve our help and encouragement.

A positive attitude to life does wonders for our self-esteem and forms a buffer against difficulties and disappointments. It replenishes our reserves of strength and resiliency and gives us courage to embrace life to the fullest.

"I will take advantage of the good and be patient with the bad. Things will always get better" is well worth remembering.

Elizabeth Gilchrist, State Commissioner, **Queensland**



TASSIE TOGETHER EASTER 1997

Who: All leaders are invited

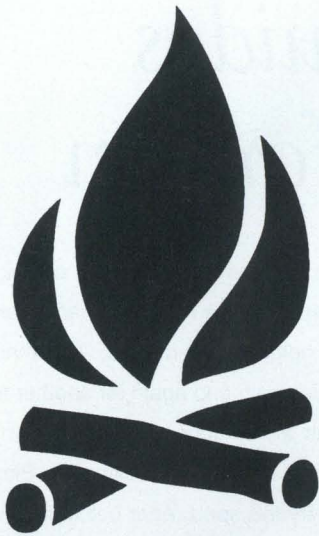
When: 28 March to 6 April 1997

Where: The very best places in Tasmania

What: Opportunities for sight-seeing, rafting, bushwalking, history trails, abseiling, trail-riding, four wheel drives, flying, exploring, river cruising, wine tasting, craft shopping, mountain climbing, jet boating, cycling, deep sea fishing and scuba diving.

Cost: About \$480 plus activity costs.

Application forms from your state headquarters



Another flaming story

Martyn Robinson

WHEN the 1994 bushfires raged through New South Wales, ash fell on our house each afternoon and the flames got closer and closer. Not that we were in any immediate danger, unlike some unfortunate people who lost everything, but I did get a few painful burns. They weren't from the fire, they were from a scorching hot 'clip-lock' roof as I climbed over it to block the gutters and fill them with water.

Is it all doom and gloom?

What of the inhabitants of the bush who can't always leave even if there seems to be ample warning? Is fire bad for them? Some of the results might surprise you.

The larger animals like possums, koalas, and wallabies often do very badly. It doesn't do you much good climbing a tree to escape a fire and if caught between a 'control burn' on one side and the bushfire on the other your survival chances are slim. WIRES (Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service) get surprisingly few casualties after a bushfire because most victims perish. Those that survive often have nowhere to live and little to eat in

the surrounding ash and scorched tree trunks. A friend at Bundeena told me of finding wren bodies some days after the fire, not burnt but apparently starved to death. This can also happen with kangaroos and wallabies who can often dodge through the fire but can't escape the lack of food which follows.

Sounds pretty grim doesn't it? Well, actually many plants and animals can't live without fires! We've probably all seen the sudden flush of new growth in all the Eucalypts after a fire. The blooming of wildflowers is usually particularly diverse and abundant in the season following a fire. The reason is many Australian plants depend on fires to reproduce.

Look at Banksia cones after a fire. They may have been on a tree for years with their capsule 'mouths' shut but now they are open to scatter the seed onto the ash covered ground. Other plant seeds, such as some Acacias, lie dormant in the ground until a fire has passed through the area. The advantage of course is that all the competing plants and weeds are temporarily burnt away and the new seedlings have all the resources to themselves. Ground orchids too are usually noticed at this time, they were there all along but almost invisible as they struggled amongst the other plants.

As the plants tend to affect the animals they too take advantage of the abundant food and lack of competition. The larger animals being more mobile

trickle back in from the creek-lines and secluded valleys that didn't get burnt. Although some fires destroy some hollows they help to create others by killing the odd branch or tree and burning in access points into tree bases for termites to hollow out. In time, the hollows return and with the hollow dwelling animals.

Speaking of termites, there are of course many animals which weren't affected by the fire to any great extent, it was only a minor inconvenience. Ants and termites survive in their nests underground as do most other burrowing animals, and they have the surviving plants and seeds (and other survivors in the case of predatory animals) all to themselves for a while. Needless to say, many increase in both number and girth. Unfortunately in the case of predators, most feral animals fit into this category and are often faster breeders than native animals. There is evidence to suggest their presence can slow the recovery of some species.

Fire intensity

So fire is a good thing! Should we have more? Here's where it starts getting very complicated. Different species have different fire season frequency, and intensity requirements. The Mountain Ash Trees (*Eucalyptus regnans*) require infrequent (so the trees can grow to maturity and flower) but very hot fires (so all the competition, including many

FIRE

of the adult Mountain Ash, is killed off) to successfully breed. The endangered Swamp Parrot likes frequent low intensity fires to maintain the low grassy swamps where it feeds and breeds, while the Bristle Bird likes far less frequent fires to produce the dense heathland it prefers. The grasslands (and native grassland flora and fauna are amongst the most neglected and threatened vegetation types in Australia) prefer very frequent burns so they don't get shaded out by longer lived, but slower to reach flowering age, shrubs and trees. Rainforests on the other hand are very intolerant of fire, even around their edges, and take a long time to recover from fires. The timing of the fire matters too, a fire during the nesting season of a bird for instance is a disaster for the eggs and fledglings.

Into all of this we have to consider the human requirements. You don't want

intense bushfires burning down houses and killing people, you don't want the forestry industry burnt out, and you don't want unsightly charcoal covered National Parks all the time.

Is controlled burning necessary?

The answer seems to be a mosaic of different burn frequencies so everything gets catered for. This however, isn't easy and there will always be conflict, compromise, and differing opinions. Not the least of which is that none of us living today has seen the Australia of 208 years ago. In many places it has changed quite dramatically. The Aborigines all over Australia had a practice of regular mosaic burns creating more grasslands for kangaroos and other game and reducing the often prickly understory. With European

settlement, this system stopped or was changed and some areas of grassland turned into heathland or forest. The first emu to be scientifically recorded, a bird usually found in grassland or woodland, came from Redfern in Sydney! If Redfern still had any bush today it would have changed to dense heath or Eucalypt forest by now and would no longer be suitable for emus. The little fragments of many bush areas and reserves are quite small and support several endangered species each with a different fire requirement. It calls for a very accurate fire management to cater for everything here.

So the long and the short of it is: bushfires, all types and intensities, are a natural part of Australia. It is something that many species of plant and animal depend on. The jury, however, is still out on how to best manage it to Australia's advantage.

ALL FIRED UP!

🔥 DO report all bushfires—they may be planned ones but they might not and you could save lives and property.

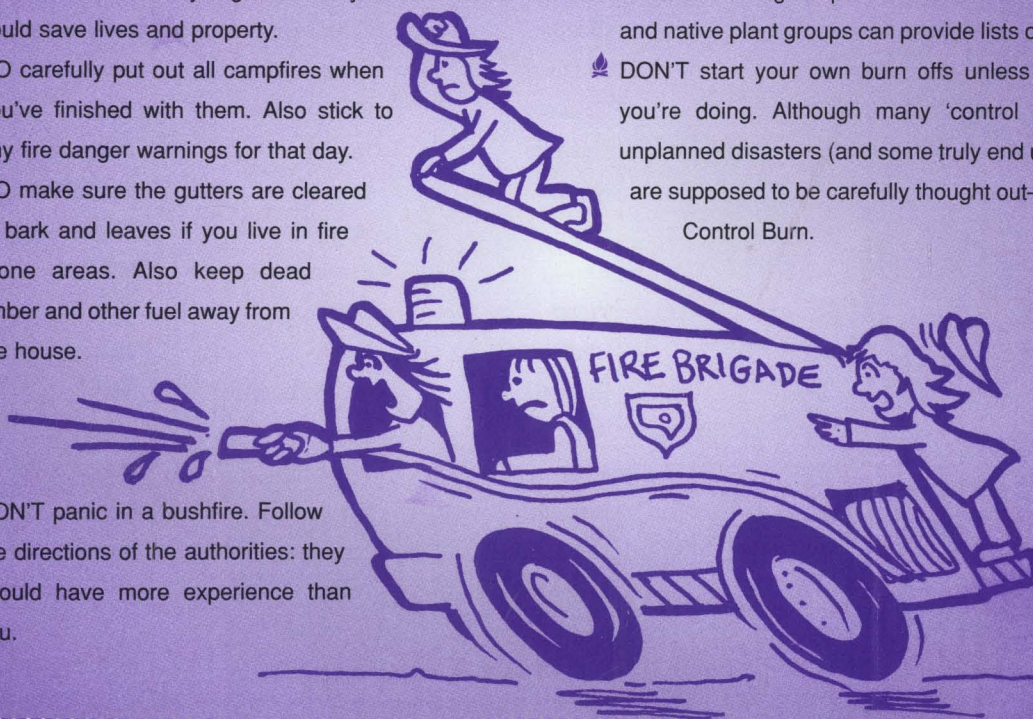
🔥 DO carefully put out all campfires when you've finished with them. Also stick to any fire danger warnings for that day.

🔥 DO make sure the gutters are cleared of bark and leaves if you live in fire prone areas. Also keep dead timber and other fuel away from the house.

🔥 DON'T panic in a bushfire. Follow the directions of the authorities: they should have more experience than you.

🔥 DON'T plant lots of 'flammable' trees and shrubs around your home in fire prone areas. Some plants are geared towards burning as part of their survival. Most councils and native plant groups can provide lists of plants to avoid.

🔥 DON'T start your own burn offs unless you know what you're doing. Although many 'control burns' look like unplanned disasters (and some truly end up that way) they are supposed to be carefully thought out—hence the term Control Burn.



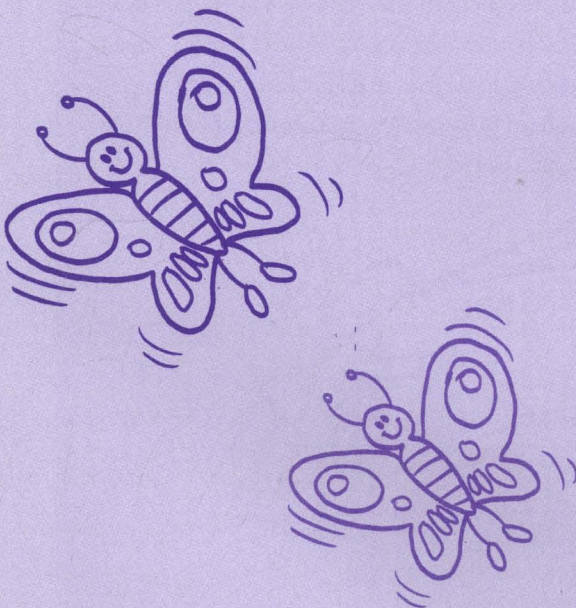
The wonderful world of insects

TO 'Discover the wonderful world of insects', hang a white sheet up and shine a torch on it. The insects will be attracted by the torch. Try and identify them using books and magnifying glasses. You could put a mosquito in a paper cup, cover with greaseproof paper and place to the ear to hear its noise!

While waiting for the insects to gather, why not play the following games:

- **Insect or butterfly net (fruit salad).** In pairs, girls choose an insect, such as silver fish, butterfly or moth and form two teams. When the name of their insect is called they race to the end of the team and back to their place, the first back wins a point for their team. When the word 'insect' is called everyone runs.
- **Noughts and crosses.** Prepare a list of insect questions. Ask the girls to divide into two teams—noughts and crosses. As the girls answer the questions correctly they choose where they want to place the nought or cross.
- **Complete the insect word search opposite.**

Yvonne Orchard
Guide Leader, **Victoria**



Insect word search

Find the insects or words associated with insects.

Some appear twice or more.

D	C	T	P	R	E	Y	I	N	G	M	E	M	P	E	R	O	R
U	R	N	S	R	E	L	E	E	S	A	O	N	E	M	O	D	G
N	I	A	H	O	U	S	E	F	A	N	T	S	X	B	A	B	U
G	C	S	G	U	B	A	S	L	F	T	S	I	Q	D	S	A	M
Y	K	E	S	O	L	A	D	Y	B	I	R	D	S	U	I	T	O
L	E	T	N	A	N	T	L	E	C	S	S	G	U	B	L	T	T
F	T	I	A	E	L	F	E	S	I	E	G	N	D	S	V	O	H
R	O	M	M	S	R	L	L	A	C	E	W	I	N	G	E	R	W
E	N	R	O	E	Y	E	S	Y	A	B	H	W	Y	H	R	E	A
T	E	E	T	G	N	A	T	S	D	P	I	S	M	E	F	P	N
T	B	T	H	N	B	U	L	L	A	N	T	I	P	A	I	P	D
U	U	N	T	A	Z	M	I	T	E	A	R	X	H	D	S	O	E
B	L	A	O	T	F	I	C	O	C	K	R	O	A	C	H	R	
E	L	S	O	L	D	I	E	R	B	E	E	T	L	E	T	S	E
E	A	T	E	W	J	A	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	M	O	S	R
S	N	A	I	E	A	R	W	I	G	S	I	X	S	O	U	A	S
A	T	N	A	T	Z	S	S	T	H	O	R	A	N	T	M	R	I
W	G	G	L	E	G	S	P	S	M	O	N	A	C	H	S	G	X

Cicada	Grasshopper	Emperor gum
Dragonfly	Cricket	Dung
Housefly	Flea	Head
Ladybird	Termite	Thorax
Nymph	Gnat	Abdomen
Egg	Mosquito	Feelers
Earwig	Preying Mantis	Mouth
Wasp	Cockroach	Eyes
Bee	Aphid	Jaws
Bull ant	Soldier beetle	Six
Ant	Monach*	Legs
Moth	Wanderer	Bug
Butterfly	Cabbage moth	Ear
Lice	Lacewing	Saw
Silverfish	Wing	

Ed. *Monach is actually spelt Monarch

YES! — a Bus for Kiribati

Island puts 2000 dawn in new light

Q. In which country is it officially today and tomorrow at the same time?

A. Kiribati, it straddles the international dateline!

A recent article appeared in *The Weekend Australian* pointing out that a wind-swept island 860 kilometres east of New Zealand is the place to see the first sunrise of the new millennium.

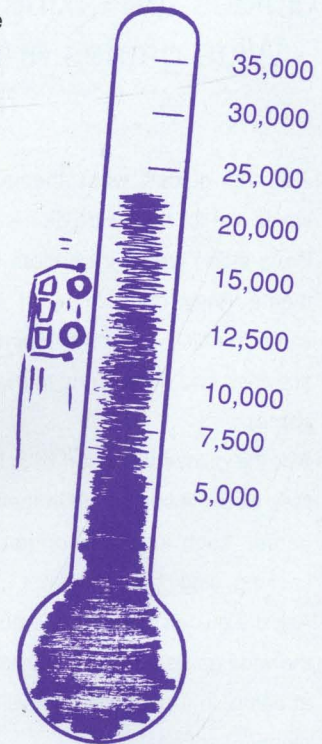
Kiribati recently invoked a clause in the dateline convention to bring all of its islands into the same day. The result is a kink to end all kinks in the dateline and gives the virtually uninhabited, easterly Caroline Island the earliest official sunrise each day.

WOW! Look at the barometer reading

Fantastic, only \$12, 587.82 to go and the guides of Kiribati will have their much needed bus. What a fabulous effort! To date, **\$22,412.18** has been raised, a **HUGE** thank you to all those who have been involved.

The Bus for Kiribati project closed on 30 September 1996, so please send any funds raised to your state office as soon as possible so that the Bus can be bought and shipped to Kiribati.

Attractive cloth and metal badges are available from your Guide Shop as well as the polo shirts available from Guides Victoria. (See May 1996 issue of GiA for the order form).



BRAVO!

Multicultural dates for OCTOBER

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 1 | Nigeria—National Day | 16 | World Food Day |
| | Tuvalu—Independence Day | 17 | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty |
| | People's Republic of China—National Day | 20 | Baha'i—Birth of the Bab |
| 3 | Germany—National Day | 22 | Universal Children's Day |
| 6 | Jewish—Simchat Torah | 24 | United Nations Day |
| 7 | World Habitat Day | 26 | Austria—National Day |
| 9 | World Post Day | 27 | Buddhist—Kathin Festival |
| | Uganda—Independence Day | 28 | Czech Republic—National Day |
| 10 | Fiji—National Day | | Greece—National Day |
| | Taiwan—National Day | | |
| 12 | Spain—National Day | 29 | Turkey—Republic Day |

WIDE GAMES ARE FUN

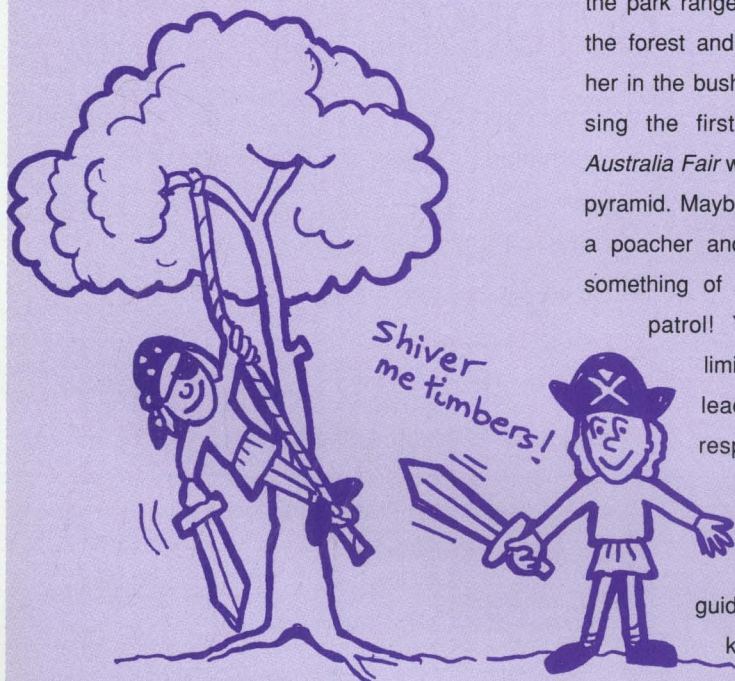
... ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE ADEQUATELY PREPARED.

Guides are taking on more and more responsibility for their activities.

Wide games are very popular with the 10–14 year old age group.

The following hints may be helpful.

- ✓ Ask the guides what theme they would like for their wide game.
- ✓ Brain storm words that relate to the theme (they may come in handy when naming different characters, activities and homelands in the wide game).
- ✓ Ask the guides what sort of activities they would like included in their wide game, such as pioneering skills, cooking, singing and so on.
- ✓ Ask the guides where they would like the wide game to be held. Guide hall, at camp, in a park; the girls will have plenty of suggestions.
- ✓ Choose three or four guides to create the wide game.
- ✓ Now guides have a theme, a site and some requested activities—how long is the wide game to last?
- ✓ Try writing a story and fitting the wide game around this subject such as *The Wild and Stormy Seas*—for a wide game near the beach. If you don't feel creative, make your wide game a series of activities, where patrols complete one activity and then move onto another without a linking story.
- ✓ If you are writing a story, relate back to the activities and fit them into the tale along the way—don't be afraid to add a few surprise activities of your own! Check that the activities will fit into your time frame.
- ✓ Now it's time for some fun! Ask your leaders to take part by being the goodies or the baddies in the wide game. For example, in the theme of *Forest Adventures*, a leader could be the park ranger who is checking on the forest and when a patrol spies her in the bushes they are asked to sing the first verse of *Advance Australia Fair* while forming a human pyramid. Maybe the leader could be a poacher and must try to poach something of importance from the patrol! Your imagination is limitless! Older guides or leaders could be responsible for each activity and can help out when required—especially if younger guides are finding those knots a bit tricky!
- ✓ One of the most important points to remember with a wide game is the equipment needed to make a complete success of your efforts. Read your story over and over making sure you note each activity and the equipment required. Remember if you wish each patrol to make a mascot—they need materials to use—don't forget the glue! If your wide game is in the outdoors it is a good idea to provide each patrol with a rubbish bag for scraps.
- ✓ If you are planning to cook your lunch during the wide game remember that it takes some patrols longer than others to prepare the food, light their fire and actually cook their meal so a starting time for this activity might be advisable.
- ✓ A reward on completion of the wide game is always popular but not absolutely necessary. It could be a necklace bead for each activity successfully completed, a blanket badge or a special certificate.
- ✓ Finally evaluate your wide game and make a note of areas which need to be refined for next time. I'm sure that with these hints you will have fun creating your own wide game and enjoy the enthusiasm that the guides show in being involved in their own program idea!



Joan Bunker
Tasmania

Craft

for all ages

IN a district saturated with fund raising due to the desire and necessity to build a new hut, it is difficult to come up with ideas that will involve the girls (they are the ones who will benefit from the new hut) and also to raise funds for other causes. The idea of a craft day seemed like a good idea—most girls like craft—the idea was not original as another district in the region had done something similar prior to Christmas and made a good profit.

Our day was planned prior to Mother's Day with a promise of at least three crafts suitable for gifts. The guidelines were as follows:

- Ensure that everybody had fun.
- Provide crafts for all ages.
- Encourage leaders and parents to act as supervisors on the the day.
- Encourage parents and friends to donate as much of the raw materials as possible.
- Charge \$8 for the day with a promise of a minimum of eight crafts.
- Divide the profit equally between the hut building fund and the state good turn.

We fulfilled all of these aims and with 51 girls taking part, made a profit of over \$277.

Crafts varied from tiny pet rocks to beautiful painted boxes decorated with dried flowers and many varieties of gum nuts and seed pods. Many of the crafts were made from recycled goods. Some examples are:

Bathroom accessories

Soak labels from glass baby food jars; paint lids; glue lace around edge of lid; fill one jar with coloured cotton wool balls and a second jar with bath salts (made with washing soda coloured with



powdered food colouring). Decorate lids with whatever you have, for example small shells, sand, seed pods, gum nuts, dried flowers or beads.

Potpourri holders

Cut the plastic base from soft drink bottles (the larger the bottle the more potpourri you will need); fill with potpourri, cut a circle of tulle slightly larger than the opening of the container; place tulle over container and glue down edges; glue a lace skirt around container and decorate as you wish with ribbon, lace applique or beads (if you plan in advance, making your own potpourri helps to cut costs).

Julianne Raymond
Jindalee, Queensland

Observation

Ask one of the girls to bring a small object to the unit meeting and pass it around the group. As each person holds the object, they have to say one thing about it (that someone else hasn't already said). The more people or the more times it is passed around the circle, the more difficult it becomes to observe something new and the girls begin to notice fine details.

Jennifer Ingham
South Australia

Make a tree climbing monkey

You need:

- 1 green chenille bump pipe cleaner (may need an extra green pipe cleaner)
- 1 black pipe cleaner
- 1 wooden skewer
- a small piece of hat elastic
- craft glue
- scissors

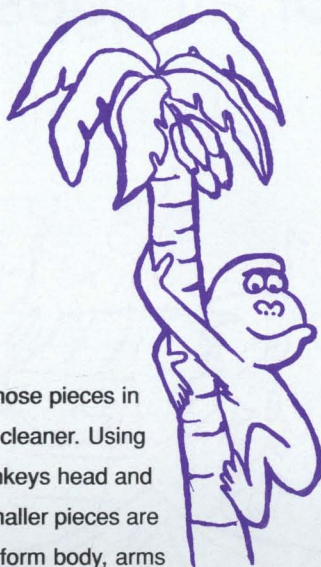
Monkey

Cut the black pipe cleaner in half. Cut one of those pieces in half; you now have three black pieces of pipe cleaner. Using the longest piece, coil one end to form the monkey's head and bend the other end to make his tail. The two smaller pieces are each twisted twice around the pipe cleaner to form body, arms and legs. Place the monkey on the tree by twisting his bottom legs around the skewer. Tie the elastic around one arm before twisting the arms onto the tree.

Tree

Cut the green chenille bump into pieces—one bump per piece! Use three pieces to make the fronds of a palm tree and attach to the top of the skewer with a small blob of craft glue. Use any left over piece of green chenille bump (or a small piece of another green pipe cleaner) to wrap around the palm fronds and tree trunk to hold firmly in place. Before completing the wrap around, tie the other end of the elastic onto the pipe cleaner, so your monkey can run up the tree!

Sara Darnedde, South Australia



Pin cushion

Materials:

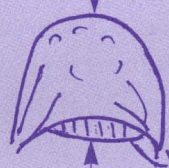
- spray can lid or large orange juice lid
- soft scraps for stuffing
- material and lace or ribbon
- glue

Instructions:

Place the stuffing inside the lid



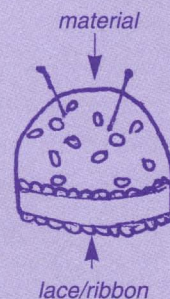
material (stuffing underneath)



Cover with material and glue under lid

glue material under here

Glue lace around bottom edge to cover rough edges.



Demi Riley, Lone Numbat Ranger Guides, South Australia

Musical games with new variations

Statues

The players move about to music. They can dance, skip, crawl, or walk like different kinds of animals, such as cats, snakes, giraffes, frogs; or they could be different kinds of people, such as royalty, elderly or the vision impaired. They can also use different parts of their body to lead with. Anyone moving when the music stops is out.

As a variation to the above game, why not hug one another when the music stops, or the players could drop to the floor with a bump (the last one to sit is out)

Musical chairs

Put out one less chair than the number of players. When the music stops, the person not on a chair is out. A chair is taken away and this is repeated until there is one player left.

Islands

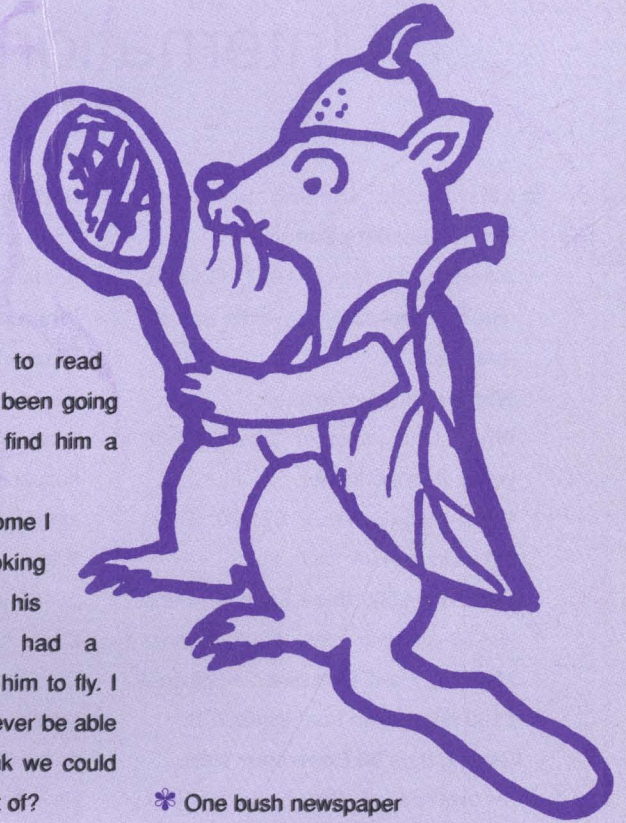
Pieces of paper are at random on the floor. When the music ceases, children dash to islands where they must be securely on the paper. Others are out. Remove pieces of paper until the last few players are left huddling on one piece. This may then be folded to reduce the size.

Poisoned paper

A piece of paper is placed on the floor. While the music plays, the girls walk around in a circle, stepping on the paper when it is their turn. If they are on the paper when the music stops, they are out. Keep going until there is one left.

Demi Riley
Lone Numbat Ranger Guides
South Australia

A bushland treasure hunt



WHILE walking through the bush the other day, some of my friends, the bushland creatures, asked me if I could help them with their problems. They all seemed to have lost something or to have been looking for that special something new. Can you help them?

Firstly, I ran into a little gumnut baby who found he had grown and was finding it hard to get to sleep in his old bed. He was looking for a new bed, or something comfortable he could sleep in until he got a new bigger bed.

Next, I bumped into a kangaroo who was hungry and wanted something to eat.

Mrs Koala has lost her favourite piece of jewellery. Have you seen it?

Further on I came across a little bush baby who had been invited to a party, but she didn't have anything nice to wear. What can you suggest?

Did you know wombats wear hats? I didn't until I ran into a wombat who was looking for a new hat. What style do you think suits a wombat?

Mrs Lizard was doing the family shopping, but when you run on all your legs, it can be very hard to carry everything. She wanted a carry bag to put all her purchases in.

Mrs Owl's birthday is coming up, and one of her friends was looking for a sunshade. What do you think he should use?

The snake family have been doing renovations, and Mrs Snake asked me what I could suggest to put on her new parlour floor.

Mr Kookaburra loves to read anything amusing that has been going on in the bush. Can you find him a newspaper to read?

Just as I was heading home I saw a small possum looking most disgruntled. He said his friend the sugar glider had a wonderful jacket that helps him to fly. I don't think the possum will ever be able to fly, but what do you think we could make him a fancy jacket out of?

- * One gumnut babies bedding
- * One kangaroo snack
- * One piece of koala jewellery
- * One bush babies outfit
- * One wombat's hat (any size)
- * One lizard's carry bag
- * One owl's sunshade
- * Something Mrs Snake can use for her new parlour floor.

- * One bush newspaper
- * A possum's jacket (or something to make one out of)

PS: Can you think of any reasons why an owl would need a sunshade?

Helen Burgess
1st Burton Guides
South Australia



400 mile relay race

OUR unit recently ran an Olympic Relay Race. Nothing unusual about that I guess except that our unit is a Lone Unit!

The girls were divided into four teams representing countries participating in the Olympic Games (hopefully with an equal amount of postage time and distance to each team). Each team had an ice cream stick baton and their instructions were as follows:

Can your team beat the other teams?

In relay races the runners pass on a baton to the next runner. Well to win your race you have to write a 'fact' about your country, attach it to the baton and post it to the next person on your team list. The last person on the list must post it back to a leader. First team with their baton back to a leader wins a prize.

But remember the batons must have a 'fact' attached for each team member.

Carol Bockman, Lone Numbat Ranger Guides
South Australia

International Opportunities

➔ **Asia Pacific Training for Youth Service Leaders Sangam**

When: 6–31 March 1997. Optional nine-day tour of North India can be arranged.

Where: Sangam, India.

Who: One member aged 18–30 years and one trainer.

Cost: Approximately \$2,000. Does not include North India tour.

Funding: \$500 Irene Fairbairn Fund for 18–30 year olds. \$500 Eleanor Manning Fund for trainer. Additional \$500 per person from WAGGGS. Closing date **30 November 1996**.

➔ **Footsteps of the Founder Pax Lodge, London**

When: 9–19 August 1997.

Where: Pax Lodge, Brownsea Island, Foxlease.

Who: Active members, 18–23 years.

Cost: Approximately \$3,500.

Closing date **10 January 1997**.

➔ **National Jamboree YWCA Girl Guides Denmark**

When: 15 July to 4 August.

Where: Sundstrup, Northern Denmark.

Who: Ten girls aged 14–18 years and two leaders.

Cost: Approximately \$4,500.

Closing date **31 January 1997**.

➔ **Glow '97 Guide Leaders are Outstanding Women, New Zealand**

When: 22–27 April 1997.

Where: Central Institute of Technology Conference Centre, Wellington.

Who: Four leaders working with girls 10–15 years of age.

Cost: Approximately \$1,600.

Closing date **31 January 1997**.

➔ **Northern Discovery Tour Cultural Exchange North Island, New Zealand**

When: 6–20 July 1997, tour.

Where: Around New Zealand's North Island.

Accommodation: Guiding home hospitality, national guiding centres, lodges.

Who: Ten participants between 16–25 years.

Cost: Approximately \$2,200.

Closing date **31 January 1997**.

➔ **Down under in the super south cultural exchange South Island, New Zealand**

When: 6–20 July 1997, tour.

Where: Sightseeing and adventure throughout the South Island, the Southern Alps, Glaciers, hanging valleys of untouched rainforests, and lakes that cascade over cliffs.

Accommodation: Guiding home hospitality, national guiding centres, lodge.

Who: Ten participants aged 16–25.

Cost: Approximately \$2,300.

Closing date **31 January 1997**.

➔ **The Spiritual Dimension of guiding, Waddow, England**

When: 12–23 May 1997.

Where: Waddow, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Who: Two participants aged between 18–30 years at time of event.

Cost: Approximately \$4,200.

Closing date **31 January 1997**.

➔ **Bonanza '97 International Guide Camp, Guide Association, UK**

When: 31 July–24 August 1997.

Where: Blackwell Court International Scouting Centre, Bromsgrove near Birmingham.

Who: Ten girls aged 14–16 years and two leaders.

Cost: Approximately \$4,500.

Closing date **31 January 1997**

➔ **Olave '97 International Guide and Scout camp, England**

When: 13 July to 9 August 1997.

Where: Plumpton Race Course, near Lewes, East Sussex.

Who: 12 girls aged 14–16 years, two leaders.

Cost: Approximately \$4,500.

Closing date **31 January 1997**.

➔ **Oceans, Guide camp in Portugal**

When: 13 July to 9 August 1997.

Where: Outskirts of Lisbon, Portugal.

Who: Ten members 14–16 years of age and two adult members.

Cost: \$4,500.

Closing date **28 February 1997**.

Previously advertised

➔ **80 Years of Girl Guiding in Singapore** is now being held

from 5–9 June 1997. Home hospitality 3–5 and 9–12 June 1997.

Closing date **30 November 1996**.

➔ **Let's Talk About Us**

Closing date **31 October 1996**.

Interested? Apply to your state international adviser today!

Susan Wakefield

Australian International

Commissioner

NOTE: If selected as contingent leader, you will be expected to travel with the group.

Note
change
of date

A good deed goes around the world

At the 28th European Forum in GroBarl in January 1996, the topic of the panel discussion was *SOS Children's Villages* —where do they stand today?

Even 47 years after the foundation of the first SOS Children's Village in Tyrol, the idea of Hermann Gmeiner, the founder, has lost nothing of its actuality. More and more children are living without a protective home, because their parents are not able to take care of them for sociological, social or economic reasons. The reason for the suffering and worries of children are multiple, but the conclusion is clear: they need our help.

We can help these children by either contributing financially to their education or work as a SOS Children's Village Mother. A 'Mother' lives with several children as a 'family'. Candidates get a 1fi year training, a fixed contract with holiday allowance, a set income and other benefits.

For further information write to SOS Patenschaften, Weiberfelderweg 70, A-8054 Graz.

World Gazette Mondiale



Jennifer Harrington shows her classmates, Paddy McNally, Kristie Ivone, Meg Hamilton and Leigh McPherson the letter from Atrons.

From Djibouti

Whorouly South Brownie Guide, Jennifer Harrington, received a letter from Atrons Abate of Djibouti Republic in Africa. Jennifer and the rest of her brownie guide unit sent Peace Pack parcels to children in refugee camps in Africa late last year and Jennifer is the only one to-date to receive a response.

"Hello! Dear Jennifer

I have received your letter and parcel with great pleasure.

Let me introduce myself. I am 13 age year old. I live with my mother, my father is dead during my age seven. I am grown up in Assab. I have one brother only. He is my elder.

Dear Jennifer. We left my birth place because of political conflict. So I and my family came refugee in Djibouti. The life of refugee is very very bad. The place where we live is desert. No water sufficiently. No enough food. No school according to our ability. We are force to dimot our grade. This is very minor influence, even we are convinced to learn their language rather than ours. I am Ethiopian we have our letter and language. If you are interested about our history of my home land I will try to write you next time.

Dear friend to inform you everything about the refugee camp and the life you put question. I will try to answer."

Photograph and article appeared in the Independent Weekly, Myrtleford Edition, Victoria.



Q. DO YOU HAVE TO WEAR A GUIDE HAT WHEN RAISING THE FLAG?

A No, but if the colour party choose to wear hats, they may.

National Guides Recycling Cork Awareness Day

THE inaugural National Guides Recycling Cork Awareness Day was held on 5 June 1996 to coincide with World Environment Day.

The theme, *From Acorns to Corks* was adopted and program ideas were published in the World Environment Day program pages of GiA.

As a result, there was a wide spread internal awareness of NGRCAD, with states and units making a conscious decision to participate.

In **Western Australia** gumnut guides planted two cork oak seedlings in a park in Karrinyup, at a ceremony attended by the environmental representative on the local council. An article was published in the *Sunday Times*, Western Australia as a result of the national media release.

Guides in **Northern Territory** began preparations for a cork promotion at this year's Darwin Show. Through the media the public have been invited to bring corks to the guide recycling cork display, qualifying for free entry into a 'guess the number of corks' competition.

Guides Victoria held a display of their environmental activities in the City Square, which included information on recycling cork. Twenty cork oak trees were planted at Donvale Guide campsite.

New South Wales was well represented by the events held at the ACT. A 'guides recycling cork launch' was held at Woden Plaza shopping centre. ACT State Forests allowed guides to collect small cork oak trees,

acorns and seedlings from their cork oak plantation in Stromlo. Their generosity extended to a 1.5 metre trunk of cork wood (bark), hand turned cork wood items and framed photos of cork trees in a variety of climatic conditions. The Body Shop added their recycling products to the display. Mr John Turner, State Executive Officer of ACT Urban Services spoke at the launch followed by a brownie guide, a ranger and Jan from The Body Shop. Fun with cork games were held at the centre by guides as an after school activity. Media reports were seen in the local newspaper, Prime TV and radio.

Tasmania—activities were held at Port Arthur and a cork oak tree was donated and placed in their nursery until a decision is made where to plant it. Cork displays were held in many libraries, Anne Wilson set up a wonderful display in Burnie. Guides took a pocketful of corks to unit meetings. State public relations adviser and state cork coordinator attended the opening of The Body Shop's Tasmanian branch.

South Australia—a cork recycling display, with wonderful material supplied by ACL Comcork, was set up as part of a guiding display at the Family Environment Fair. A seed planting activity attracted members of the public and many queries were asked about cork recycling and guiding. Recycling cork was also promoted in a display at the School Environment Parade and Showcase held in the city on World



Photo: Sue Brocklehurst, New South Wales.

Environment Day. Enquiries came from schools to become involved in the guides recycling cork scheme.

Official plantings of cork oak seedlings were organised in four districts. South Australia's Guide marketing officer contacted guide units and celebrities such as the mayor of the relevant councils. Media coverage was arranged and seedlings acquired. One local council requested a mature cork oak, which was duly supplied through a local nursery. The tree planting generated lots of community goodwill and participation. A photograph was published in *The Messenger*, South Australia. This state hopes to participate again next year.

Although World Environment Day was not a public holiday, limiting activities on the actual day, the overall participation in National Guide Cork Recycling Awareness Day was very good and shows potential to continue the Guides World Environment Day focus on recycling corks.

Merrill Cole
**Australian Public Relations
Adviser**



Photo: Gloria Wright, South Australia.

Sea to Summit

THE tide was out. The sand was free of footprints except for those of the early morning health devotees and the pattern of dog prints on the freshly washed sand.

The sun began to warm what promised to be a perfect day. As a beach umbrella pierced the sand, two deck chairs and a picnic table laden with 'odds and ends' were territorially roped off.

Guides and scouts were all agog when two figures who looked as though they had taken up long term residence busied themselves with paper, and cups of coffee from the kettle bubbling on the gas burner. Yes, King Neptune and Mrs Neptune (Phil Coates and Rhonda Rungie) were ready to receive their humble subjects. With encouraging words and comic ceremony, guides and scouts were off on a challenge to take the precious sea water elixir from sea level (Henley Beach) to Mt Lofty—the highest point in South Australia. Before leaving, each patrol was given maps and kits were checked to ensure the relevant 'be prepared' essentials were included.

This was the start of an overnight hike, punctuated with strategically placed check points where the organising leaders, with thermos handy, waited for each patrol to come through. It was an unexpectedly good PR exercise as many motorists tooted as they passed and leaders responded with a friendly wave.

This two-day event was coordinated by the Hills scouting groups and three guide units—Onkaparinga, Mt Lofty and Mt Barker. The plan was to walk along the Torrens Linear Park from Henley Beach South to Adelaide, through the Botanic Gardens, Victoria Park racecourse and ending the first day with a huge meal at the Beaumont Scout Hall.

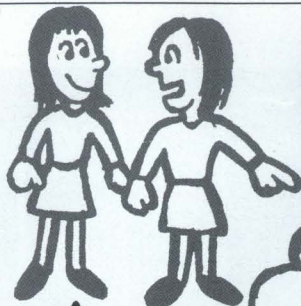
After tea and Guides/Scouts Own, videos quietened the hikers and a supper of freshly cooked doughnuts staved off midnight hunger pangs. Girls were taken to Linden Park Guide Hall and boys settled at Beaumont, all reunited for breakfast before setting off on the last leg of the hike.

On Sunday the gradient increased as the group walked through Chambers Gully into the Cleland Conservation

Reserve and on to Mt Lofty, meeting at St Michael's Monastery which had been burnt out by bushfire. And who was there to greet them? You guessed it, Mrs Neptune and King Neptune, ready once again to add a comic touch to the event. King Neptune reclaimed his sea water elixir and after a few well chosen words, cast it aloft to be carried by the four winds back to his watery kingdom.

Formal acknowledgments and pennant presentations by Henry Rymill for the Scouts and State Commissioner, Dorothy Price for the Guides ended two perfect days of physical challenge, friendship and fun. Leaders agreed it was a successful hike and hope to work together on a similar event. The value and sense of sharing expertise, equipment and facilities between the Guides and Scouts can result in a reduced workload for unit leaders.

Gloria Wright
South Australia



DINOSAURS IN THE PARK



A

fter hearing of a father brave enough to attend a brownie guide camp—brownie guides of 2nd Traralgon Pack decided to see if their fathers would survive a weekend in the Australian Wilderness.

Saturday morning saw brownie guides undertake 30 challenges to test their general knowledge, skills and imagination. Tribes were sent on a mission to find a stone in the shape of a dinosaur—one team assuring us they had discovered a new species of dinosaur—a 'Stonasaurus'! Other challenges included designing a dinosaur on your hand; making a mask to scare away hungry dinosaurs, and for the very brave—a challenge to walk over hot lava with specially constructed brownie guide stilts.

After morning tea, brownie guides assembled to put their survival skills through the rigours of prehistory. Modern technology was forbidden and girls needed all their brownie guide knowledge to complete each challenge. Brownie guides lit fires using flints, constructed dinosaur traps from natural materials and even had time to make stone age jewellery! All tribes worked hard on their challenges, gaining a badge on completion of each task. By evening, brownie guides had badges dangling from woggles, name tags and even ear rings!

Campfire Corroboree saw group talents combine to produce an unforgettable evening of entertainment. Dads and girls joined in for a sing and dance around the fire and a skit from the challenge book, 'Kenasorus' had us all rolling around with laughter. Later, the Quartermasters entertained us with amusing songs and everyone joined in for *My Boomerang Won't Come Back*.

More fun followed on Sunday as tribes competed in the Prehistoric

Olympics. The T-Rex Marathon saw Dads piggy-backing their daughters on a race through the wilderness. All entrants received a 'medal'—a twig tied to a gold pin.

As a leader I am pleased to say that team spirit, not competitiveness, dominated all of our prehistoric activities.

The spirit of friendship and togetherness which began at brownie guide meetings continued to grow at camp. All too quickly it was time to farewell this dinotopia and return to the present.

This leader is glad to have been part of a wonderful outdoor adventure. Having Dads along for the weekend was a great success—now mums are queuing up for the next camp!

Di Watson
Leader,
2nd Traralgon Pack
Victoria

To equip them for the expedition, these brave men attended a camp preparation meeting. Leaders, girls and dads decided the theme for the outdoor adventure would be 'Dinosaurs In The Park.' Dads and daughters became members of different 'tribes' swapping weekday identities for prehistoric alter egos of 'Bedrock' and 'Flintstone'.

Keen to become cavemen for the weekend, dads tackled camp preparation activities enthusiastically, helping plan menus, prepare duty rosters and also received instruction in the art of woggle making.

The first night of camp saw everyone put their survival skills to good use—building shelters, making fires and cooking up bush chocolate. In recognition of their efforts, Dads were invited to become honorary unit members in a special Promise ceremony.

The rest of the evening saw a determined search for some very elusive dinosaurs. Despite great effort, we could not find one! Perhaps these creatures knew of brownie guide tracking skills and had fled to safer ground!



YOUNG ENDEAVOUR
ADVENTURE AT SEA FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Calling young Australians with a spirit of adventure

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR, Australia's sail training ship is launching a nationwide search for crew this month. Applications are now invited from young Australians aged 16 to 23 with a sense of adventure to join a ten-day sail training voyage in 1997.

No previous sailing experience is required, but applicants should be in good health and able to swim at least 50 metres. There will be 17 voyages off the Australian coast and there are berths for 24 young Australians (12 male and 12 female) on each voyage. During the voyage, the youth will work with the staff crew and become involved in all aspects of sailing the tall ship including climbing aloft, setting and furling sails, keeping watch, and assisting with navigation and the preparation of meals.

The all inclusive voyage fee is \$860 but if money is a problem, financial assistance is available through the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. The closing date for applications is:

31 October 1996

Tel: 1800 267 909 or

Sydney (02) 9368 1800

Fax: (02) 9368 0183

Email:

yngendvr@ozemail.com.au

Old treasures for new treasures

Thinking Day 1997 (Saturday 22 February) will be celebrated with a memorabilia day at Queensland State Office from 9.00am to 4.00pm. The Honorary Australian Associates (guiding personnel who have held an Australian appointment) are organising the event to raise funds for the Queensland Association.

This will be a fun day with all sorts of memorabilia on display. Guiding memorabilia of all descriptions including badges, books, spoons, scarves, bags and mugs will be for sale. Country members will be given the opportunity to order prior to the day.

We will be relying on material by donations from former guiding members or those who no longer wish to retain their collection. If you know of someone who would like to make a donation, please approach them or forward their name and address to us so that we can contact them direct. All donated material will be referred to our Archives Committee to ensure important items remain with the Association.

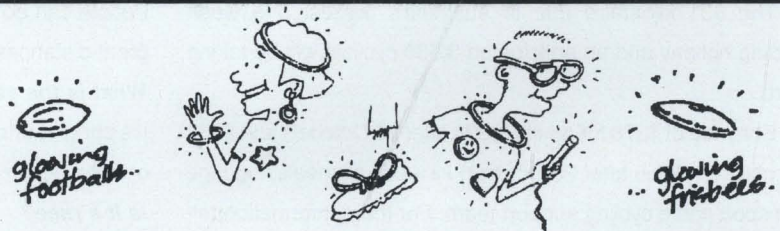
If you have something special you would like to share with others, let us know soon so that arrangements can be made to have adequate tables available and people on hand to ensure safety requirements are met.

An excellent way to pass on *old treasures* to the new generation (our *new treasures*).

Contact Pat Dryden, Queensland State Office Tel: 07 3252 3061.

GLOWIES

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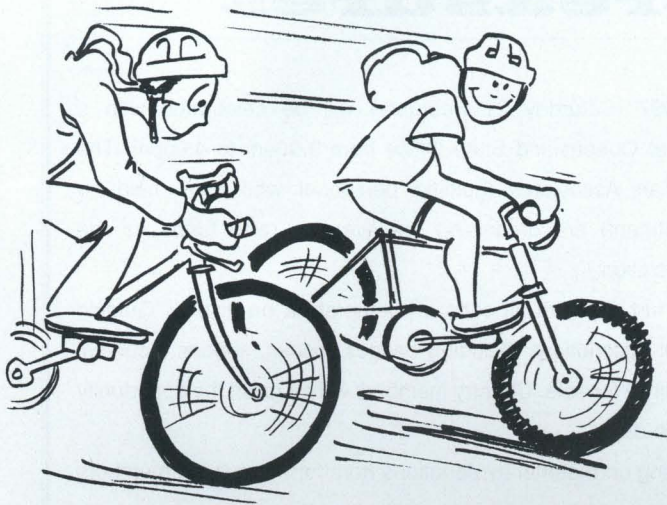
Phone: (03) 9589 4300

Fax: (03) 9589 4322 Pager 016 372441

Mobile: 0414 78 1933



Great bike rides



Victoria

The Great Ocean Road in south-western Victoria is the world's most inspiring coastal experience, but it's not until you get on a bike that you can fully appreciate its greatness.

The Great Ocean Road is one of Australia's top tourist attractions. The ride starts in the shadow of the Grampians in Dunkeld and meanders through wool country on the way to Portland. It follows the coastline to Torquay passing historic Port Fairy, the dramatic rock formations of the Twelve Apostles, through the Otway Ranges forests, and classic beaches like Apollo Bay and Lorne. Whether you ride as an individual, or with friends, this is The Great Ride organised by Bicycle Victoria, and it is on from 30 November to 8 December 1996.

The 631 kilometre ride is Australia's biggest one week cycling holiday and an anticipated 3,500 cyclists will be taking part.

Entry fee of \$378 for adults (\$398 after 26 October) and \$333 for children (\$355 after 26 October) includes all meals, luggage transport and a cycling support team. For more information tel: 1 800 639 634.

Tasmania

The Great Rides, organised by Bicycle Victoria, is offering a special holiday in January 1997—the chance to get on a bike, and pedal through some of Tasmania's most inspiring natural tourist attractions and have an unsurpassed outdoor experience.

The Great Tasmanian Bike Ride starts in Devonport on 18 January 1997. The cycling extravaganza will head for the World Heritage Cradle Mountain, from where the ride will wind its way down the west coast to the idyllic and historic township of Strahan an ideal spot for a rest day. From Strahan the ride heads east through the rugged Queenstown lunar landscape and onto Lake Burbury. The route follows the Derwent River with overnight stops at Derwent Bridge and Ouse before ending in New Norfolk on Saturday 25 January, just outside Hobart. The 502 kilometre ride offers a good variety of natural beauty, mountains and history. It is a relatively challenging route, with quite a few hills to climb. Over 1,000 people from all over Australia and international visitors will take part in the ride.

Entry fee of \$445 for adults (\$470 after 13 December) and \$370 for children (\$395 after 13 December) includes all meals and there is extensive back up for holiday makers. For more information tel: 1 800 639 634.

Questions answered

How fit do I need to be to go on a Great Bike Ride?

A moderate degree of fitness will ensure you enjoy the ride.

What is the food like?

Three large, delicious, and nutritious meals are provided each day (except for the rest day when no lunch is provided).

If there are 3,500 riders on the road, how crowded is it?

People can go as slow or as fast as they like, there are often great distances between the riders.

What is the accommodation like?

It's bring your own tent, but a few people book their own motel or hotel accommodation.

Is it a race?

No, this is a holiday not a race.

What do I need to bring?

Once you register you will be sent a handbook with everything you need to know, including clothing. Items such as a helmet, cycling shorts and wet weather gear are essential.

What happens if the bicycle (or me) breaks down?

The 'sag wagon' picks up the weary and fallen. The route support team includes marshals, medical, mobile intensive care ambulance, mechanical, radio, police and water supplies.

Youth Service Team

IN May, 1996 I attended a meeting at Sangam, India, to help plan a Youth Service Team Leader (YSTL) Training for the Asia Pacific Region. This is a joint project between Sangam and the Asia Pacific Committee with the aim of providing encouragement and skills to young leaders in guiding to enable them to carry out community development or service projects in their own countries.

Twelve other countries including Australia have been invited to send a trainer and a leader (one under 30 years) each to Sangam in March 1997 (more details through the international department soon).

The planning meeting was fantastic. There were four of us: Teresa, who is currently the Program Director at Sangam; Priyanthi, who works for the Girl Guides Association in Sri Lanka as a Community Development Officer; Letty, an ex-trainer for the Philippines who is currently Executive for the Asia Pacific Region based at the World Bureau in London and yours truly. My role, in retrospect, was somewhat flexible, combining the outlook of a unit leader from an industrialised country with a public relations/ promotions and training perspective, and throwing in a bit of background as an Australian Volunteer Abroad in the Pacific.

It was a pleasure to work with people from such diverse backgrounds who also shared so much; a sense of fun, friendship and cooperation and a real

understanding of guiding. We think the YSTL training is an exciting project with potential to emphasise and encourage the service and community development aspect of guiding throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

Highlights

- The incredible efficiency of Singapore: as a tourist you are colour coded with a stick-on tag at the hotel, shunted off to the bus depot, rearranged onto colour coded tour buses and shown the perfection of this neat, tidy and very conformist nation before being parcelled back to the hotel or airport. In contrast, the hustle and bustle of India—the noise, dust, traffic and sheer number of people makes Australia seem like an under-populated backwater.
- Three young men behind me on the Singapore Delhi flight loudly thumping their tray tables to the beat of the music from their headphones, objecting to me using a cushion to try to sleep, as it obscured their vision of the screen!
- A small Indian Muslim boy at the mosque inside Fotephur Sikra explaining how to place a thread on the window for good luck. He was learning the Koran in Arabic and his English was not bad either!
- Relief at being able to shop in Pune and catch the rickshaw of my choice

back to Sangam without being harassed as a western tourist, as in Agra or Delhi where all foreigners are fair game.

- The gruelling 4fi hour non-stop drive from Pune to Bombay—beautiful scenery through the mountains, but so much grime and pollution on the roads that the hot towel provided by the Singapore Airlines attendant, turned an embarrassing shade of grey after use.
- A full size Indian style meal at 2.00am served on the overnight flight from Bombay to Singapore.
- A 'Singapore Sling' cocktail in the luxurious Changi Airport transit lounge settled a squeamish tummy just nicely.
- Standing on top of the water tower at Sangam at 6.00am watching the sunrise and then going for a swim before breakfast.

I enjoyed myself even though it was a rush trip, and I am certainly looking forward to going back in March 1997 for the actual YSTL Training.

Jane Boroky
South Australia

A SMILE SAYS IT ALL

DOES your town have a sister city in another part of the world? Launceston in Tasmania has the privilege of teaming up with Ikeda, near Osaka in Japan. As a part of the 30th anniversary of the link of these two cities, 19 members of the Ikeda Girl Scouts visited Launceston to share their culture with the local guide units.

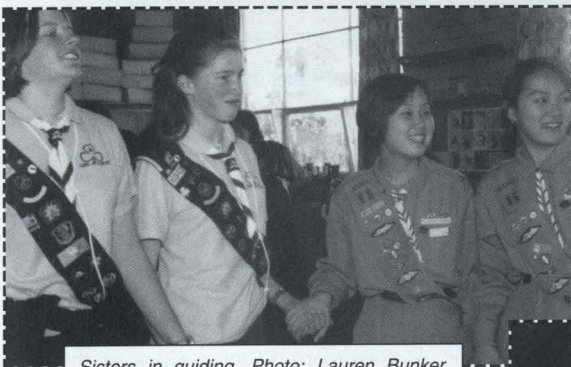
ceremony! However, they tasted the sugary treats and looked in awe, as the Japanese girls knelt before them and ceremoniously handed over a bowl of green tea. The guides politely sipped the strange liquid—their faces told many a story as the bowl was passed on to the next recipient.

Following such a formal occasion it was time to loosen up with some traditional Japanese dancing before exchanging this delicate form of expression for the Aussie Bush Dance which had our visitors laughing uproariously as they tried to kick their heels up while wearing the traditional Japanese kimono. The activity which proved to be the best for communication

The following day the Australians showed the Japanese girls what fun we have out of doors. We invaded a forest area on the outskirts of Launceston where we provided a wide game full of activity. The girls were introduced to the changes of a forest by actually walking through the different stages of growth along a forestry education track. They were challenged to climb trees using rope ladders, make boats and sail them on the lake, construct stretchers and relay their patrol to safety and the biggest challenge of all was to cook lunch out of doors. All through the forest area we could hear laughter, chattering and singing. Each group was asked to make up a name, a mascot and a song for their patrol—it was thought that they would choose something with a forest connection. They did, but each group included an aspect of Japanese in their choice, for example, one patrol made a Japanese iris for their mascot, another named their patrol 'friends together' in Japanese, another included Japanese language in their song—communication was no longer a problem for this group of girls!

An exciting aspect of this Japanese exchange is the prospect of a return visit in 1997 between the guides of Launceston and the girl scouts of Ikeda in Japan. Something this visit has taught us all is that a smile says it all!

Joan Bunker
Tasmania



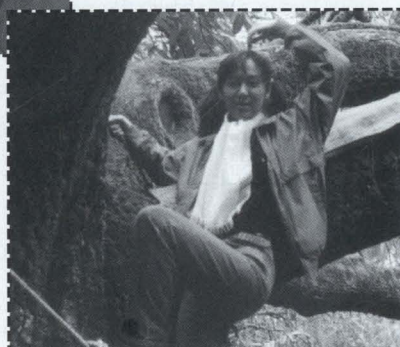
Sisters in guiding. Photo: Lauren Bunker, Tasmania.

"How do I welcome them in Japanese?" "I hope they like cornflakes!" "How do I ask them if they want to come with me while I do my paper round?"

These and many more questions were asked by the apprehensive would-be-billeting families prior to the arrival of their guests. They soon learned that a smile was all they needed to communicate with their non-English speaking guiding sisters.

After a whistlestop sightseeing tour of our city, the Japanese girl scouts arrived with much hustle and bustle at the guide hall to demonstrate the Japanese Tea Ceremony with 50 Australian guides, who wondered how drinking tea could be classed as a

was the paper craft, origami, where each Japanese girl scout gathered a group of guides around her to teach the art of making cranes from paper. During this session the girls talked together, laughed a lot and exchanged small gifts and badges. Attached to many of the gifts was the name and address of the girl who presented the item, which has now introduced many of the guides to the idea of guiding pen friends.



Akiko faces the challenge of tree climbing. Photo: Lauren Bunker, Tasmania.

Post Box News

T

HE world of Post Box has many windows of opportunity! In May 1996, I received a letter from Christine Gordon, a Brown Owl

in Scotland. Christine was coming to Australia to see friends in Brisbane and wanted to visit a unit while she was here. Of course an invitation was issued and eagerly accepted.

On the night Christine was to visit the unit, two English leaders were also visiting. One of them, Yvonne Westwood, had come to meet her pen pal Margaret Reynolds, our district leader. We had a wonderful meeting and thoroughly enjoyed the traditional English singing games Yvonne and her friend Helen shared with us. Gifts were exchanged and the girls were delighted by the whole experience.

In the week which followed Christine's visit to the unit, my husband and I were able to show her and her son Ewan a little of country Queensland with a visit to Jondaryan Woolshed. There they enjoyed billy tea and damper; listened to an old bush man tell of life on the station in the 1800s; saw a horseshoe made; watched a very large horse turning old mill stones to grind corn and saw a sheep sheared—a new experience for both of them. The round trip was over 500 kilometres, quite a journey for someone from Britain.

So what has this got to do with Post Box? Well, none of it would have happened if Christine had not been aware of the Post Box network and I would never have opened that window



L-R: Pat James and Christine Gordon.

of opportunity. Meeting Christine was delightful, a thoroughly pleasant experience. You may be able to experience something similar yourself one day. In this day and age people travel more than they ever did before. To travel and meet a fellow guide whom you have been writing to for years would be wonderful wouldn't it?

Open a window of opportunity for yourself and the girls you work with, apply for Post Box links today. Contact your own state post box secretary, she will be delighted to help you.

Pat James

Australian Post Box Secretary

Invitation

Blacktown district guides will be holding a reunion for everyone who has been a brownie guide, guide, ranger guide, ranger, leader or parent.

When? Saturday 1 March 1997

Where? Blacktown Guide Hall, Corner Gribble Place and Kildare Road, Blacktown.

Time: From 2.00pm.

Celebrations will include the opening of extensions to the guide hall. Any memorabilia you can lend us would be appreciated.

Contact Jean Gorman tel: (02) 9671 2544, 177 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown 2148 or June McDowell tel: (02) 9621 2802.



Letters Please!

SHARE your views and opinions by sending your letters to *Your Say*, Guides Australia, PO Box 6, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012.

Your Say Winner

Don't forget that a stylish gold presentation brooch, featuring a trefoil and map of Australia, will be given away each month to the best 'Your Say' letter published.

Congratulations to *Nola Hawkins*, New South Wales, September's winner.

The smells of Guiding

- ◆ The aroma of chocolate and coconut that still hasn't worn off two days after the lamington drive.
- ◆ The first whiff of wood smoke from a camp breakfast fire on a chilly dawn.
- ◆ The smell of the bush on a hot December hike, crunching bark underfoot.
- ◆ Burnt steamed pudding in the bottom of the billy.
- ◆ Dusty, musty, old community halls, where ten minutes after you sweep the floor it looks just as bad again.
- ◆ McDonald's or Kentucky Fried on the way home from camp.
- ◆ The dry smell of canvas with the sun beating down on it in the middle of the day.
- ◆ Working out whose jogger trod in something unpleasant.
- ◆ The delight of travelling to a venue in someone-else's car that is new and still smells that way.
- ◆ The restless aroma of coffee pervading the meeting where you've sat still for two hours.

Helen McClelland, Hunter Valley Region
New South Wales

A camp in sunny weather Our tents are pitched amidst the heather

RECENTLY my belief was confirmed that Guiding's greatest appeal relates to the out-of-doors and camping in particular. A cousin told me that his granddaughter had her first experience of camping under canvas. On her return, she rang her grandmother and talked for an hour! She was thrilled! She had a wonderful time. It reminded me of my eldest niece's enrolment as a brownie guide. Immediately the ceremony was over she said, "Only three years and I can go to camp".

A guide at camp once told me she had never noticed the quiet before—at home the radio was on all the time. She had never appreciated the bush sounds. How much greater is the need today for children to experience such basic things!

There is nothing to compare with the unit camp in which the girls have been involved in the planning. Musters have their place, but they are for the few. The unit camp is the right of every girl. When I say 'camp' I don't mean one night!

What is in it for the adult? Getting to know each girl in a way not possible in a weekly meeting is just one of the benefits. This leads to better Guiding as leaders, through close daily contact, learn where each individual needs encouragement—her strengths and weaknesses.

It all began with a camp; the unit camp is *Guiding in action!*

MLD, New South Wales

A reflection on change

There is a tendency to think of change as the enemy; many of us are suspicious of change and often fight and resist it before we have discovered what the actual effects will be.

When change is thought through carefully it can produce the most rewarding and profound experience in life.

Marvin J Ashton
Victoria

ATLANTA 96



You may like to invite one of the athletes in your state to be a guest speaker at your next guiding event or annual general meeting!

A letter of support and congratulations was sent to the Olympic and Paralympic teams in Atlanta from Guides Australia. To our delight, quite a few athletes have written and thanked us for our support. So far we've heard from:

- Carla Boyd, Tasmania, member of *Opals*, the Australian women's basketball team.
- Kylie Risk, Tasmania, athletics.
- Michelle Chandler, Victoria, member of *Opals*, the Australian women's basketball team.
- Danielle Woodward, Victoria, canoeing.
- Lara Sullivan, Victoria, judo.
- Robyn Stephens (nee Bousie), Victoria. Para Olympian, goal ball for the visually impaired. Robyn was a *brownie guide, guide, ranger and leader*.
- Natalie Cook, Western Australia. Beach volleyball bronze medallist.
- Kate Starre, member of the *Hockeroos*. Kate was a *brownie guide* in Western Australia.
- Natalie Galea, member of the Australian judo team. Natalie was a *guide* in New South Wales during 1985.
- Heidi Burnett, nee Zahn 1A *Cabramatta*, New South Wales, judo.
- Melinda Gainsford-Taylor, New South Wales, athletics.
- Rebecca Joyce, New South Wales. Rowing bronze medallist.
- Lisa Llorens, Para Olympian. Lisa won gold in the long jump and bronze in the 200 metres. Lisa was a *brownie guide* in ACT.
- Kaylynn Hick, ACT, member of the Australian rowing W8 team.
- Carmen Klomp, rowing. Carmen was a *brownie guide and guide* in South Australia.
- Wendy Schoeffer, South Australia. Equestrian gold medallist.

MY family and I are moving to a new house in a few months time. The other day, I was doing some major cleaning, preparing for this move, when I came across a scatty folded piece of paper. With one glance at the appearance of the folded up scrap, I went to throw it in my santa sack looking rubbish bag, but curiosity made me decide to open it to see what I was throwing away.

I would like to thank God for making us inherently curious, because in my hand I was holding something so special to me that if I had thrown it away, I would never have been to live with myself.

In front of me sat a hand written letter which I have been in search for years. It was a poem written for me from my best friend Becky in my first year of guides.

She had left guides due to sporting commitments and on her last night she gave me the letter with the following poem:

"To Sarah,

I know that I am leaving and there's one thing you should know.

I will not forget you, no matter whereabouts I go.

So if you're feeling lonely, don't be afraid to ring.

The happiness and laughter, that one call will bring.

When you need me I'll be there, to listen to everything you say.

You know I'm here to help you, go along your way.

I never get a friend, and drop them just like that.

Although I'm leaving guides, I'm still a friend, let's chat.

This is a poem just for you, to keep with you all the time.

Because when you are lonely, this poem will ring the chime.

I miss you already, and I haven't even left yet.

And I will never forget ... that first guide night, when we met.

From your friend, Rebecca."

In the letter she also left her details so we could stay in touch after she left. Unfortunately, I was unable to do so as I lost the letter. Finding this letter brought back great memories of the friendship we created and the fun we had together. Now that I have found it I am going in search to find my past guiding friend who I lost ages ago.

Guiding really brings girls together, and many friendships, both short and long term, are formed.

I am glad, happy and proud to be a guide, for I belong to a world wide family.

Sarah Connell, Junior Leader, **Victoria**

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Inside front and inside back cover photographs

Front top left: L–R: Martha Tattersall and Emma Shelston, Artarmon Guides snuggle up at the Sydney City Mission Winter Sleepout, Taronga Zoo, New South Wales. Photo: A M Lange, New South Wales.

Front top right: Unit sleepover, Newtown, Tasmania. Photo: Sue Brocklehurst, Tasmania.

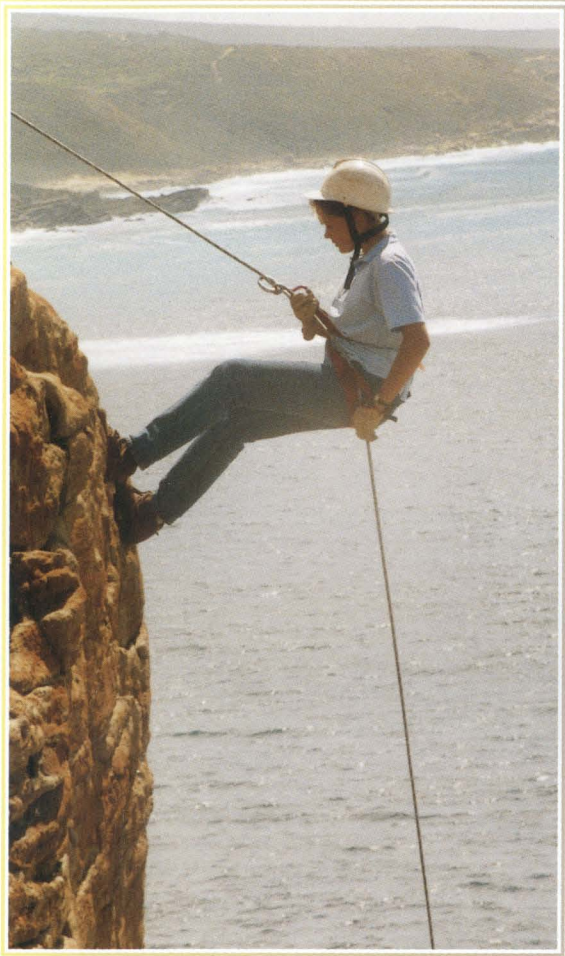
Front bottom: Eloise Tilbrook, Alex Yardley and Grace Darby, doing the sniff test during an environmental game at 6 in '96 Gumnut Guide Gathering. Photo: Julie Townsend, Western Australia.

Back top left: Adelle Gardiner of 1st Bullcreek Guides. Photo: Western Australia.

Back top right: Gumnut guides cork scramble, Upper Derwent Division. Photo: Jan Allan, Tasmania.

Back bottom: Caving is great in the Gloop Caves. Photo: Jane Boroky, South Australia.





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