

MATILDA



JULY 1973

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NUMBER 1



MATILDA

PUBLISHED BY THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
20 RUSSELL STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, 3000

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May 22nd 1973

Dear Matilda

I send you my congratulations on reaching your 50th birthday, and I am so pleased to be invited to add my thoughts in this way, to add to all those which will be winging their way to you in July.

I read you from cover to cover whenever you land on my desk here, and every time I gloat over the good news that you contain, and appreciate fully all that you do for the advancement and the good of the Guides in Victoria.

All your contents have an important part to play in the running of the Guides in the State of Victoria, and the records of work accomplished are stirring and wonderful.

You can well feel satisfied with the great contribution you have made during all these years for the progress and advancement of our Movement; and may you go on inspiring Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Guiders with your writings for years to come, crowning your first fifty years with still further splendid contributions and happy good news year by year.

My loving thoughts are with you always.

Olave Baden-Powell

Matilda.



AN OFFICIAL TREASURE BAG OF GUIDERS' INFORMATION FOR

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

HEADQUARTERS VICTORIA . . . STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MALVERN
OFFICE AND SHOP 37 SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE

MATILDA

EDITORIAL — JULY, 1923

Dear Fellow-Guiders,

For a long time we have felt at Headquarters that we badly need some little leaflet to take the place of the "circulars" and notices we had to send out from time to time, and for that reason "Matilda" has started on the "Wallaby Track". "Matilda" is to be, as you will see by the cover, "A Treasure Bag of Guide Information for Victoria", and it is with that aim that the leaflet has been started — not to rival or take the place of the "Guide Gazette", the official organ of the Girl Guide Association, and a paper which every Guider should take, but to just bind together every quarter all the circulars which were so necessary before to let every Guider know what was going on, and what was coming in the near future.

We are keeping the cost especially low, and only editing "Matilda" every quarter, so that it will in no way hinder us all from taking "The Gazette".

The next thing you will all be wondering is why "Matilda"? Well, after thinking of several names, we have decided that "Matilda" rather fits, because it is a "treasure bag" of information. I think that the following explanation that was given to Miss Robinson and myself when we first came to Victoria is rather a good one, and it was in the back of our minds when we chose "Matilda" — when a bush worker is on the tramp he is "on the wallaby track", and his swag, or bundle containing his belongings is called "Matilda".

The first number I am sending to all the Commissioners and Captains we have the names and addresses of at Headquarters, and I hope you will, if you think "Matilda" worth while, pass it on — and back us up. The next number will be dated September, and may be had on application to the Girl Guide Office, 37 Spring Street, Melbourne, and spare copies of this number too.

Please send your subscription and name and address if you wish to have the next number. Year's subscription (beginning from the date the order is sent in), 9d post extra. No circulars of Guide information will be sent out from Headquarters in future (except in exceptional cases); all information will be found in "Matilda".

I do hope, if all my fellow-Guiders feel that this little paper is worth while, and it is quite a new venture we are making in the hope of helping you all, you will "back up" and help us pay our way — not with a profit, but with "Guide news and information".

With Guide greetings to you all,

Yours sincerely,

JOAN W. HOGARTH,

Hon. State Sec., Vic.

DECEMBER, 1926

"Matilda's" Future

Several letters written by Guiders have expressed the need for the more frequent appearance of "Matilda", and it is very much hoped that in 1927 this will be possible. To make it so, it will really be incumbent on all of our Guiders that they become subscribers to our State Magazine. It will be seen from the report figures published in this issue that the number of Guiders in the State is now 392, and the number of subscribers to "Matilda" (and this includes some members of Local Associations, etc.) is 255, so let us hasten to make good the discrepancy, and so ensure that "Matilda" will appear each month.



It is a great personal pleasure to me having enjoyed "Matilda" for these past 19 years of my adult involvement in Guiding to have the privilege as Chief Commissioner of sending a message from Australia on this very special occasion.

Dear "Matilda", please accept our congratulations on achieving your Golden Jubilee — our thanks for your inter-State and international, as well as intra-State, contribution to Guiding over these past 50 years — and our best wishes for your future through many more jubilees.

Joyce E. Price

for the Girl Guides' Association
of Australia

Many happy returns to "Matilda" and congratulations to her Editors and helpers for their cheerful and helpful contribution to Guiding.

With such happy memories of Guiding in Victoria and every good wish to old friends—

FINOLA SOMERS
(State Commissioner, 1926-1931)

For many years now I have read "Matilda" with interest. I would like to send my congratulations for the 50th birthday of this magazine which has done so much towards keeping Guiding alive and vital in your State.

My congratulations also to all editors, past and present, and contributors, without whom the production of "Matilda" would not have been possible.

As "Matilda" begins the second half-century may it continue to grow from strength to strength and play its important role of encouraging and stimulating members for many years to come.

Congratulations on a job well done!

MARY LAMBIE
Chief Commissioner-elect, Australia

Congratulations "Matilda"! A very happy 50th birthday to you.

It is most exciting to think that our State

magazine is now 50 years old and I know we have all been eagerly awaiting this special edition.

"Matilda" is a very vital part of Guiding within this State. Through the pages of our magazine we make many new friends, we are given new ideas to help us with our Guide activities and we are able to share in the fun and experiences of our world-wide family.

Over the last 50 years "Matilda" has given us a very clear picture of the history of the Guide Movement. As a relative newcomer to Guiding, how fascinating it is to read of those early days.

Our thanks must go to all those who have edited "Matilda" and helped in her production over the years. May there always be people willing to do this.

To "Matilda", and to each of you I send my love and very best wishes for many more happy and successful years as a part of the Girl Guides Association of Victoria.

JOAN E. GRIMWADE

TO MATILDA

Many congratulations on your Golden Jubilee.

Your life has been long and healthy, due to a perfect diet advised and given by those who know. You have nourished and been of great help to all of us.

Thank you and bless you, "Matilda", for everything. Long may you live.

Gene Farbarer

SOUND THE TRUMPETS FOR MATILDA'S JUBILEE — you started waltzing half a century ago and, with admirable adaptability, have kept in step with each new generation.

The diligence and concentrated efforts of your loyal Editors and contributors down the years have given Victorian Guiding help and inspiration.

As a privileged writer of a page each month for five years, meeting the deadline was sometimes taxing but I greatly value the bond forged with your readers.

CARRY ON WALTZING "MATILDA" — through changes, frustrations, difficulties and successes — you are an integral part of Guiding in our State.

Charlotte Renshaw Jones.

FROM OUR STATE COMMISSIONER

Dear Members and Friends,

The house seems so quiet. The boys went back to school yesterday and we are all missing them very much.

May was a very hectic month, although I do not seem to have been taking part in as many Guide activities as I would like. The first fortnight I gave up everything else to help Fred as he had a very busy programme and I felt my first responsibility lay towards him — even if all I did was to share the driving.

School holidays I try to keep as free as possible so I can spend my time with the family, so most of our work has been done by phone and mail. However, it is back to work today.

As I am not in town every day we tend to find the days I am at Headquarters are rather marathons. 2nd May was one of these days. We started at 10 a.m. with an Advisers' meeting. I enjoy these meetings — there is not as much time to get to know the Advisers as I would like and I like to know what is happening in each of the Sections.

We barely finished this in time for our Finance meeting. Our financial state at this stage looks healthy, and I am sure Mr. Colhoun will endeavour to keep it this way although costs are rising all the time.

From here we went to our weekly meeting and then down to the Seminar for Publicity Secretaries and their District Commissioners where the "Headquarters Team" was introduced. I had been asked to talk to them about "Guiding through Fresh Eyes", although the eyes were rather weary by that time I am afraid. It was good to meet everyone and talk to them, as Public Relations plays such a large part in our Movement these days.

I returned home via my mother-in-law's cocktail party — feeling that I had done a full day's work.

The monthly Executive Meeting was held on 10th May, and finished fairly early, owing to a shorter agenda . . .

Items carried over from Australian Executive were discussed;

It was decided that the interest from the Challenge Fund for 1973-74 should be used towards promoting an interest in camping and helping those girls camp who may not otherwise have the opportunity;

The appointment of Mrs. Turnbull as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for New



Commissioners and Boundaries was ratified;

Public Relations Committee suggested that a presentation for the Annual Meeting could be based on "Know Your Australia" depicting Australian History.

The Committee also commented on the lack of care shown by many Guiders when wearing their uniform.

Uniform does seem to be something which causes continued problems and it is up to us to make sure our uniform is correct and neat. We can hardly expect a high standard from our girls if we do not set them a good example.

The Moomba display resulted in a surplus of \$400, which was marvellous as it did not aim to make money. It is the wish of the Organising Committee that this should go to Shoreham Campsite, which will be greatly appreciated.

A plan of Shoreham development is now on display in the Camping Department, for those who wish to view it.

Mrs. J. F. Williams has agreed to become a member of State Executive following the casual vacancy created by Mrs. Turnbull's appointment as Assistant State Commissioner.

I was delighted to be able to call on our President, Lady Delacombe, and introduce my two assistants.

The month finished on a purely social and enjoyable note with the South Eastern Region Luncheon. It was great fun to meet so many of our members and I enjoyed it very much.

Love and best wishes,

Joan E. Grimwade

It was good to have a letter from the Secretary, Girl Guides Association, Australia (Miss Lillian Mitchell) sending greetings to "Matilda" for her 50 golden years.

from Matilda's Editors

From the time that Miss Joan Hogarth first produced "Matilda", in 1923, until June, 1929, it appeared quarterly and was edited by the State Secretary.

During 1927 there were murmurs from Guiders that it should come out monthly — the answer was that it would be necessary to find an editor. About September, 1928, the question was asked at an Eastern Suburbs Guiders' conference at it was said that the State Secretary had "someone in mind" who might be the Editor. I don't know if I was the "someone" or just the end result of "shopping around", but a few weeks later I was asked to edit "Matilda". I was a very young, raw Guider with a background of school magazine and journalistic leanings, and I'm not sure if Sybil Irving realised the risk she took. An Editorial committee was appointed — the Editor, the State Secretary, Miss Christina Brown and, some time later, Miss Joan Harper. We agreed that it should be a monthly publication. It then cost ninepence a copy and it was felt unlikely that Guiders would spend almost ten shillings a year on a Victorian magazine, so we must try to reduce the price.

I read how to correct proofs in "Girl Guide Badges and How to Win Them" and "Matilda" was launched on the second phase of her life. At first it was hectic filling the pages each issue — how thankful I was for those delightful articles from the late Mr. J. G. Mann of Frankston on the birds of his garden. At last we built up a stockpile and even some overmatter (items set up by the printer but held over to be used later). If the overmatter was held too long the printer would ask that it be used or discarded — by the committee this was referred to as "the printer running short of e's". Someone overhearing this remark said "I don't think they do it that way now" — but we knew just what we meant.

Like Guiding, "Matilda" was usually fun and always seemed to come out on time — though sometimes the pasted up "dummy" was slipped under the printer's door at midnight.* Our aim was to give some news and training, but also to record the important happenings in the growing movement — and

in recent years the members of the Archives sub-committee have found it a valuable source of history.

I resigned in mid-1933 before going to Darwin to live, and whilst there shared my copy with a young aboriginal girl who had been a Guide in the company on Groote Island.

"Matilda" is middle aged now but flourishing — may she enjoy perennial youth.

Helena Wilson (nee Dunne)

(*History repeats itself — "Matilda", 1973, still gets slipped under the printer's door at midnight!)

* * * *

JUBILATIONS "MATILDA"

For five years a trio — Gwen Swinburne, Olga Knight and Dorothy Cooper enjoyed the privilege of editing you. Congratulations to you on reaching your Golden Jubilee, and to all editors who have so successfully plotted your course through all contingencies.

Long may you continue to be the bond between all members of our Movement.

Dorothy Cooper and Co.

* * * *

When I look back it is with feelings of gratitude to so many who helped me while Editor. Lady Chauvel, Miss Irving, McKellars the printer and our small committee were wonderful.

Committee meetings were great fun, partly because, so often, we had to solve unforeseen problems.

Edith Purnell

* * * *

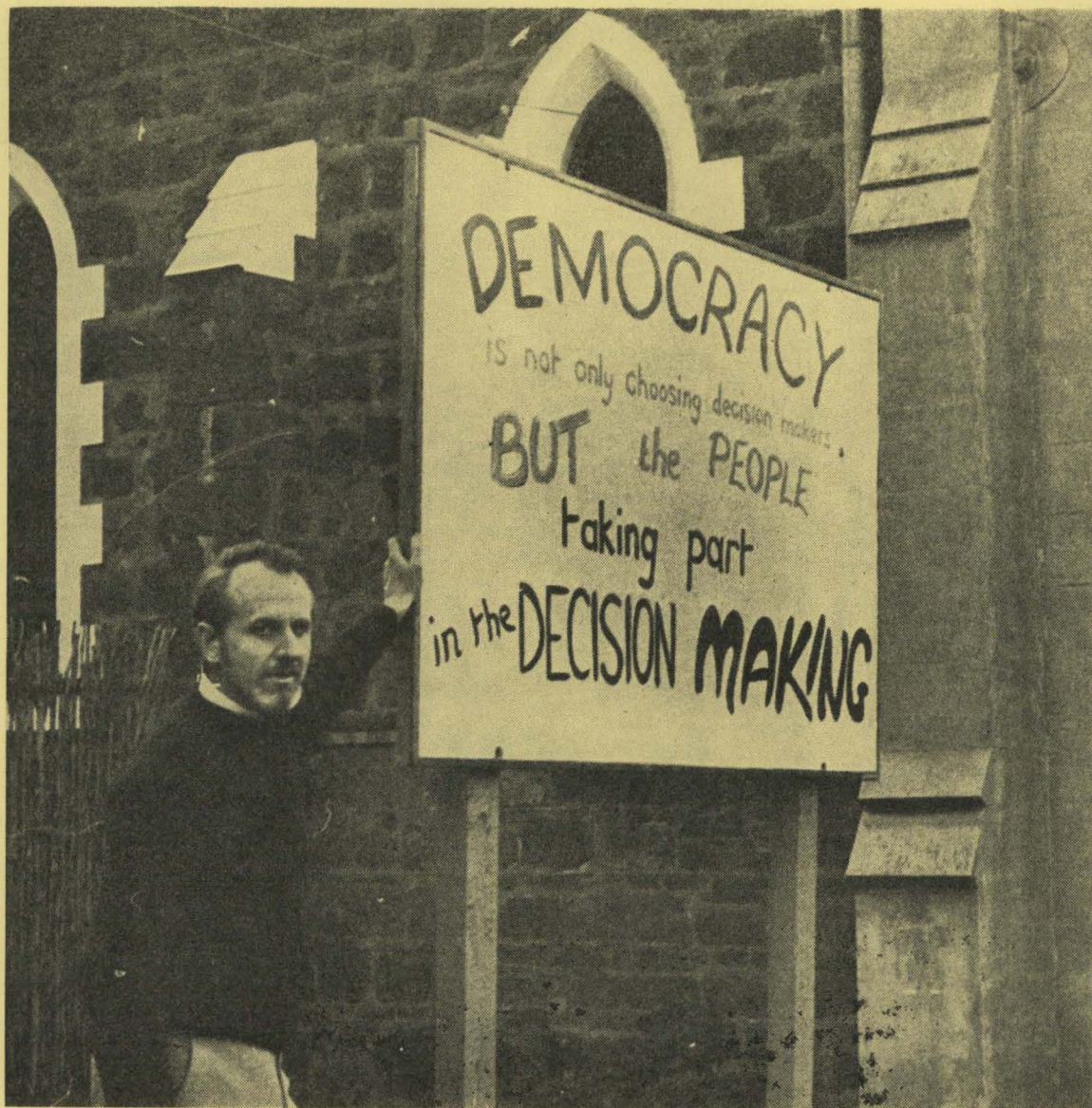
Congratulations and best wishes "Matilda" on reaching the half-century mark.

May you continue to flourish and meet the demands of everybody in the Guiding world.

Fairlie Darby

Greetings have also been received from former State Commissioners, Mrs. Beverley Orr and Mrs. Margaret Curtis-Otter.

TRAINING PAGES



DELEGATING
ELECTING EFFECTIVELY
MAINAINING MUTUAL MEDIATING
OVERCOMING OBLIGATORY ORGANISING
COVETING CAREFUL CONSIDERATIONS
REACHING RIGHTFUL REASONING
ABANDONING AUTHORITARIAN AUTOCRACY
CONSTRUCTIVE CREATIVE COMMUNICATION
YIELDING

—N.D.

A Ranger Unit that functions as it should is a truly democratic society. How do we make democracy in the unit?

Each Ranger Unit is free to choose the method by which it is organised — as long as these five factors are kept in mind—

1. that each member of the Unit will have an equal opportunity to discuss the matters that will affect the Unit, and herself.
2. that each Ranger will have the right and opportunity to vote on such matters.
3. that each Ranger will have the opportunity to assist in the organisation of any Unit activity.
4. that decisions will be made on the majority vote.
5. that the opinions of minority groups will be considered and respected.

Rangers elect, from amongst themselves, office-bearers who will have specific duties and responsibilities decided upon by the Unit. The titles given to the office-bearers may vary from Unit to Unit, but there should be the equivalent of — a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Other office-bearers may also be elected when there is a need for them e.g. a log-book keeper, a social secretary, equipment officer.

The governing body of a Ranger Unit is the Unit itself.

A business meeting in which all the Rangers meet to take council together is referred to as the Unit Council. The Council meets under the chairmanship of the elected Chairman (**not** the Ranger Leader, unless the Unit is **very** new) who conducts the meeting

along the usual lines of other business meetings, observing as far as possible correct procedures, this depends upon the experience and confidence of the Chairman and the other Rangers. An agenda should be drawn up by the Chairman and the Secretary, and perhaps a Leader, and circulated to every Ranger so that she will know the topics to be discussed — this gives her time to form opinions and produce ideas!

The Council should meet at regular intervals, set according to the needs and conditions of each Unit. Each Ranger should have prior notice of the dates set.

During the Council meeting, reports from the Treasurer, committees and the Leaders will probably be given. This is the Leaders' opportunity to "have their say" — not during the meeting. It is often very difficult indeed for a Leader not to take over a discussion; to help the development of true democracy the Leaders must know when to speak, and to make suggestions. This sensitivity to the needs and interests of the Unit as a whole and the Rangers as individual young adults, is vital to the happiness of everyone. **However** it is important for the Rangers to know that their Leaders are there — for advice, for ideas and to rescue them from any potential disasters!

When the time comes for a vote to be taken each Ranger must have the opportunity to cast her vote. The Leaders do not vote.

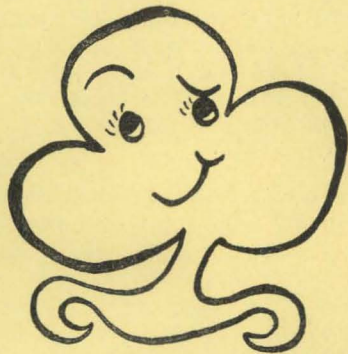
At the time that best suits the Unit, an Annual Meeting should be held at which annual reports and financial statements are presented, and office-bearers are elected. **At**

this meeting the Rangers may decide to form an Executive Council made up of the office-bearers and perhaps one or two other Rangers. A Leader should also be included in the Executive Council, but with no voting rights. This Council would deal with business that might arise between meetings of the Unit in Council — **but it is always responsible to the Unit Council.**

Much of the organising and planning carried out in a Ranger Unit is done through committees, these are responsible to the Rangers through the Unit Council. The committees may be permanent and serve for a year e.g. sevice, camp and hospitality, or they may be formed to deal with some particular activity and dissolved when the work is completed e.g. a party committee. In a small Unit a committee may consist of one or two Rangers who may co-opt others when the need arises.

Each Ranger must realise that her opinions are important and that they will be considered by the Unit.

Democracy in a Ranger Unit is essential if the Rangers are to grow within themselves, to learn to live and work with other people and to enjoy themselves at the same time!



... Sue speculates why the foregoing was just for the Ranger unit. She asks "If the factors listed at the beginning of the article are the basis for a democratic unit, wouldn't they apply to Packs, Companies and adult leaders' meetings?"

Let us go back and think about the five factors and what has been written for the Ranger unit, how much applies to the other groups?

Firstly, how do we get our leaders?

Adult Leadership is imposed upon the girls, that is, they have no say in our appointment.

COMMISSIONERS how careful are you in choosing the right person for the job? Do you believe that it might be better to close a unit rather than have a second rate leader?

GUIDE GUIDERS Did the members of the patrols elect their own leaders? Were the members given help beforehand in thinking of the qualities they wanted in their P.L. and what they expected of her? When the P.L. elections take place are you ever tempted to "fiddle" the vote? How do you help your P.L.'s?

do you — give encouragement, make yourself available and approachable to talk with them, help them develop new skills and gain new knowledge, help them understand their role?

What is the term of office for your P.L.'s? Who decided? Who elected the secretary of the P.L. Council?

BROWNIE GUIDERS when you appoint the Sixers and Seconds are you sure that the girls you choose will be respected by the others? Do you **help** them understand what is expected of them? When a representative is needed for a particular task, do the Brownies choose her? Before calling for nominations do the Brownies discuss the sort of person they would want for the task?

How do we conduct our meetings?

ADULT MEETINGS Are **all** members encouraged to join in discussion? Are members consulted over the things that concern them and their unit at District/Division/Region/State level? Are reports received by the group? e.g. are unit reports **read out** at Guiders' meetings?

GUIDERS do you report the true opinions and requests of the girls?

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS do you report unit happenings to the L.A. and the Division meetings?

(In Packs and Companies it is usual for Guiders to act as chairman and unit treasurer.)

Is P.L. Council held regularly? Do patrols have opportunity before council meetings to discuss the agenda? Do patrols receive a report from their P.L. soon after the council meeting? Is Pow Wow held regularly? Do Brownies have opportunity to think and talk things over sufficiently before making decisions? Is it easy for each Brownie to have **her** say?

How are decisions reached?

Do the P.L.'s only vote? If so, is it what they personally want or have they found out what the members of their patrol want? Is there ever an occasion when every member of the company should have a vote? In Brownies are all suggestions put to the vote? Is there a secret voting system? Are the full results of voting always given to the Pack? (Perhaps you have good reasons for not doing so?) At adult leaders' meetings are there issues which require formal motions and votings? Do you ever rely on the "feeling" of general agreement? Do you ensure that the right people are voting?

(. . . Sue says "Sometimes a very bright idea, say for example District inter-company swimming sports, is first voiced at a Guiders' meeting and . . . shame on us . . . is decided then and there. And . . . dare I say it? Sometimes the Commissioner condones this." Sue asks, "Where are our democratic principles then?")

Who does the organising for

- Guide field days
- P.L. Conferences
- Brownie Revels
- Ranger Fixtures
- Guides Own Services
- Adult leaders conferences?

Do you have mysterious groups called "THEY" who have all the fun organising?

* * * *

The decisions made —

Are they carried out as the majority wishes them to be? Do you ever allow a decision to be altered by one or two who have had second thoughts? In your unit if the vote is even, can the chairman have a casting vote? Who said so?

Are the opinions of the **minority considered and respected?**

Do you make an effort to help the girls to understand this aspect of democracy? Are any attempts made to include suggestions from the minority group? Is there a tendency to listen only to the loudest voices and the girls who have the ability to express themselves well?

* * * *

Sue said that most of my questions are loaded, she is right, I am fighting for democracy! We can take pleasure and pride in the fact that some of the great things in Guiding have started with an idea or comment from one of the girls. It is **their**

Movement. It is our privilege to help them, to train and encourage them, to run the necessary adult administration side of Guiding on their behalf but **not** to run for them the affairs they can run for themselves.

—T.C.O.

A LETTER FROM MARGOT

"At our District meeting our Commissioner suggested that I attend a Stage 11 Training. I have two children and find attending training difficult, how much time should we be expected to give to Guiding?"

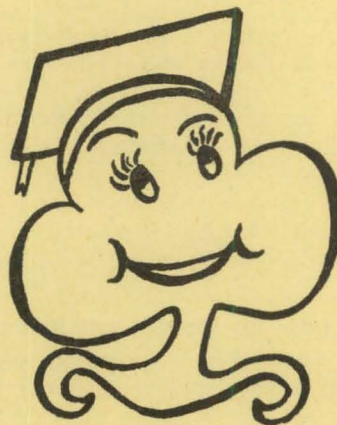
Dear Margot,

I appreciate your problem but when we take on the responsibility of leading young people we must surely accept the responsibility to develop ourselves so as to become the **best** leaders possible. The attendance of training courses helps us to do this. Obviously you need practical help to get to the training. Could someone, e.g. an L.A. member, baby sit with your children? Is training being held at a time to suit you? If not, make a request for it through your Commissioner, check the training calendar first, a neighbouring region may be holding a course at a suitable time. Do you need transport? I am sure that with some help from your District you could manage to attend training and I hope feel it is not just an extra burden but a worthwhile experience for the sake of the girls who look to you for leadership.

By the way, remember to tell the trainers of any special topic you would like included.

Yours,

Sue



FROM PEN TO PRESS TO YOU

It seems a long time since McKellar Press first took "Matilda" to press. In fact the publication at that time consisted of only 12 pages, had a small circulation and was one of many jobs.

Over the years it has been an ever-increasing delight to work in co-operation with the editors and the feeling between the printing staff and the editors has matured to a degree of complete mutual satisfaction and no item on the printer's agenda is held in greater respect than "Matilda".

The circulation and presentation has improved with the years and McKellar Press feels that any special efforts that may have been necessary from time to time have been amply rewarded by the satisfaction gained by the Guides and Guiders who look forward each month to receiving their own publication.

We feel confident that "Matilda" can only go forward and increase the value of its contribution to the Guiding movement.

It remains the wish of the management and staff to maintain the co-operation of all concerned and wish the Girl Guides of Victoria success in all endeavours.



Mrs. M. A. Buntine (second from right), Chief Commissioner, Australia, 1963-68, with Victorian State Commissioners (l. to r.) — Mrs. R. G. Orr, 1947-53; Lady Chauvel, 1931-34 (acting), 1934-47; Lady Somers, 1926-31; Mrs. J. R. Price, 1963-68.

Other State Commissioners: Lady Stradbroke, 1921-26; Mrs. D. Curtis-Otter, 1953-58; Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn, 1958-63; Mrs. R. Renshaw-Jones, 1968-73.

THE COLOURS OF LIGHT

by Dorothea MacKellar

This is not easy to understand
For you that come from a distant land
Where all the colours are low in pitch,
Deep purples, emeralds, deep and rich;
Where autumn's flaming, and summer green,
Here is a beauty you have not seen.

All is pitched in a higher key,—
Lilac, topaz and ivory.
Palest jade-green and pale clear blue,
Like aquamarines that the sun shines through.
Golds and silvers we have at will—
Silver and gold on each plain and hill.
Silver green of the myall leaves,
Tawny gold of the garnered sheaves;
Silver rivers that silent slide,
Golden sands by the waterside;
Golden wattle and golden broom,
Silver stars of the rosewood bloom;
Amber sunshine and smoke-blue shade,
Opal colours, that glow and fade;
On the gold of the upland grass,
Blue cloud shadows that swiftly pass;
Wood-smoke blown in an azure mist,
Hills of tenuous amethyst.

Oft the colours are pitched so high
That the deepest note is the cobalt sky.
We have to wait till sunset comes
For shades that feel like the beat of drums
Or like organ notes as they rise and fall . . .
Purple and orange and cardinal,
Or the peacock green that turns soft and slow
To peacock blue as the great stars show.

Sugar-gum boles flushed to peach blow pink,
Blue-gums tall at the clearing's brink,
Ivory pillars, their fine smooth slope
Dappled with delicate heliotrope;
Grey of the twisted mulga roots;
Golden bronze of the budding shoots;
Tints of the lichens that cling and spread,
Nile green, primrose and palest red . . .
Sheen of the bronze-wing; blue of the crane;
Fawn and pearl of the lyre bird's train;
Cream of the plover; grey of the dove;—
These are the hues of the land I love.

(Printed by permission of the author)

MATILDA NOTICES

CHANGE IN TYNONG NORTH BOOKINGS

Bookings for "Alcheringa" (the house), "Noonameena" and "Karingal" (the campsites) are now open to all members of the Association **five** months ahead.

(Units in South Eastern and South Metropolitan Regions may still book six months ahead.)

The campsite is approximately 48 miles east of Melbourne along the Princes Highway. The house is fully equipped for 24 persons, except for bedding; full equipment for two camps is also on the site.

Information from the Booking Secretary, Mrs. S. (Kit) Williamson, 6 Haines Street, Cheltenham, 3192. Telephone 93 2467, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Initial booking should be made by telephone.

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July means . . .

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We are looking forward to meeting YOU and your friends on 14th.

Just in case you lent last month's "Matilda" to a friend, it's at

South Melbourne Town Hall
Saturday, 14th July
10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
SEE YOU THERE!

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Tomkins on gaining her Campcraft Training Certificate, and to the following on becoming members of the Dandenong Region Training Team.

Mrs. Helen Crichton — Guide.
Mrs. Lyn Parker — Guide.
Mrs. Una Simmonds — Guide.
Mrs. Phyl Thiele — Commissioner.

TO ALL READERS OF "MATILDA"

"Matilda" is 50 years old this month — and we are delighted to have messages from many of the State Commissioners for Victoria and the Editors who worked with "Matilda". You will find their messages as you read through — we thank them and everyone who has contributed to this special issue of "Matilda" and to all who have contributed over the years.

As Editor I would like to say a special "Thank you" to Miss Ella Low and Mrs. Jenny de Nijs (nee Schulof) who have worked with me on "Matilda" for the past 11 years — to Headquarters for their help and advice — and to McKellar Press, printers extraordinary, who can (usually) make sense of our paste-ups of each issue of "Matilda".

"Matilda" looks forward to greeting you again in August on her first steps towards the next 50 years.

Margaret Shaw

MY FIRST TWELVE MONTHS AS A DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

No one was more surprised than I when asked by our Division Commissioner to take over as District Commissioner. Having been an L.A. member for some years I realised more or very much less the requirements of this position. I would like to thank the Guider who nominated me and hope I am living up to her expectations.

The first few months I was all at sea, with meetings, reports, visiting units, meeting parents and if there was any time left meeting people from other organisations. Then I read the Commissioner's Handbook? Well, I wondered where I could possibly find time to fulfill one quarter of the duties listed. With the friendship, co-operation and loyal support of my Division Commissioner, Guiders and a few wonderful L.A. mothers things started falling into place, and I have managed to get through the first twelve months.

My greatest enemy was time — one pair of hands couldn't possibly get through the many challenges — so I asked a mother from each pack and company to be a "contact mother" for me. Now I had seven pairs of hands and the number is steadily increasing. It took some time for my mothers to understand my suggestions and for them to come forward with their own ideas. The first idea was for an evening at the home of one of our mothers who came to our country from Indonesia — this will be held on 16th June and from the interest shown it will be a most successful night, proceeds to be given to the Shoreham Campsite Appeal.

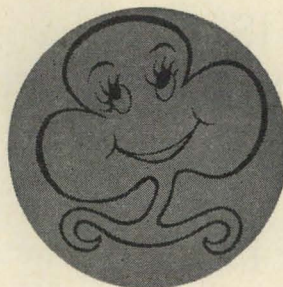
Then a few of us will attend the Lones Annual Meeting — this will let us find out more about another section of our movement.

I have been very frustrated at the small attendances of L.A. meetings, notices that weren't delivered, etc. — but yesterday I sat down and took stock of myself and my District.

How fortunate I am with my splendid Guiders, interested parents, enthusiastic girls and from now on will be a more confident, less complaining district commissioner. I look forward to Talkorroboree and the Commissioners' Conference, knowing I will renew friendships made last year.

Happy Birthday.

—Bernice Jenkins



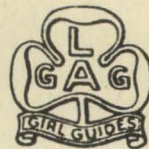
MOOMBA WEEKEND — 1973

I went to the Box Hill Guide Hall to meet the two Brownies from Traralgon who were coming to stay with me for the Moomba weekend. We just had time to go home and have a quick lunch before we went by train to the Badminton Centre in Albert Park where there was an exhibition of Brownie and Guide activities. One of the activities was a parade of Brownies dressed up as Brownies from all over the world. There were games like knocking down skittles with a ball, etc., and some very good models of nursery rhymes and a display of things made by some Victorian packs. We were exhausted when we arrived home as it was a very hot day and we had walked a lot. On Sunday I took the two Brownies staying with me to church, for a walk to my school and to the Doncaster Baths for a swim.

On Monday morning we had an early start as we went into the city to see the Moomba procession. When we arrived at Flinders Street station we walked along to Princes Bridge to take up our positions ready for the procession. We had a long wait but when the floats passed by we had a good view of them. We had lots of enjoyment listening to the bands playing, watching the beautifully decorated floats go past, watching people in coloured cars drive along and laughing at characters walking past, shaking hands with us. After the procession we walked to Guide Headquarters where we had lunch and a sing-song together. We arrived back home safely but rather tired. At 4 p.m. the buses and cars came for the Traralgon Brownies and Guides and we said "Goodbye" to them at the Box Hill Guide Hall. It was an exhausting weekend but it was great fun.

—Heather Whitney,
4th Box Hill Brownie Pack

THIS IS THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION SECTION



Please send contributions to Mrs. D. O. Oldfield, 4 Embling Road, Malvern, 3144.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH —

“Happy memories link the past and the present”.

THE BEGINNING OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

On behalf of all Local Association members, we join with other sections of the Movement in congratulating “Matilda” on her 50th anniversary. It is also the 50th anniversary of some of our L.A.s so we have gathered a few historical facts about the early beginnings of our section of the Movement.

We are told in the Local Association Handbook — “The Why and How of Local Associations” — that one of the functions of the L.A. is “. . . to give Guiding the benefit of the backing of interested people in each District”. The recognition of this need on a State-wide basis is shown by the fact that Victoria’s very first Executive minutes dated 3rd March, 1922, report that a Public Meeting in the Melbourne Town Hall was called by the Chief Commissioner, the Countess of Stradbroke. It is noted that as well as an Executive Committee being formed, a President — Mrs. Alfred Deakin — and 53 Vice-Presidents were appointed. It is of interest to note that in the minutes for 22nd September, 1922, it is reported that a meeting of interested citizens had been held at Lilydale in August with Dame Nellie Melba in the chair, and that a group of girls were already meeting in the Church of England hall.

A number of companies were already registered, more were being formed and enquiries were being received from many parts of the State. The early twenties were not affluent days and in many cases groups of women interested in individual companies bought one uniform from which they could copy, so that the girls would be saved some expense. In those days Guides wore a navy blue pleated skirt with a navy blue belted over-b blouse — it may not have been high fashion but it was very practical.

The Victorian Archives Sub-committee has, as yet, collected very little information on

Local Associations. There was not a great number registered in 1923, but among early registrations we find are—

Hamilton, Coleraine and District — registered 13th April, 1923.

Beaufort and Skipton (Secretary of Skipton, Mrs. O. Fairbairn) — registered 24th April, 1923.

Bendigo — registered 30th July, 1923.

Early L.A. members may have personal recollections which they would like to share with us.

Best wishes to “Matilda” for her second half-century and also to our early Local Associations.

L.A. CONFERENCE

By the time you read this article, your State Local Association Conference will be over, but you must all have a better understanding of the functions of Local Associations, and of Guiding generally, from the Open Forum discussions and the questions answered by the Advisers during the Conference. Quoting from the theme of the Conference, don’t forget those “Natural Resources” in your area — the People in your District — they have so much to offer and many of them are just waiting to be asked to do something for Guiding. Look around and see!

In this section next month, a report of the Conference will be printed, so please see that those of your members who could not attend the Conference read it, or perhaps it could be read at one of your monthly meetings for all to hear.

EAST METROPOLITAN REGION LUNCHEON

A luncheon arranged by this Region will be held at Toole Pate Lodge, Launching Place, on Wednesday, 12th September, 1973, at noon. The speaker will be Mrs. Laurel Willis. Cost is \$1. Contact for tickets—

Mrs. Cynthia Ardley, 32 Scarlet Ash Drive, Lower Templestowe, 3107.

If unfamiliar with the location of Toole Pate Lodge, Mrs. Ardley will give directions when you contact her for tickets.

(Continued on page 17)

BRITANNIA PARK

At the end of May we saw some changes at Britannia Park. The "Thursday Girls" farewelled Mr. and Mrs. Gard with an afternoon tea party, thanking them for their loyal service and made a presentation from the committee to commemorate this.

On Sunday, 3rd June, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser arrived. Mr. Fraser is our new Warden, and neither he nor his wife are new to Guiding. Mrs. Fraser has been a Brownie Guider and more recently an Assistant District Commissioner. They are both country people and already love our Britannia Park. We issue them a warm welcome, and hope they have many happy years with us.

In my absence during May, Mrs. Bette Wright, of our committee, was able to attend to all the "ups and downs" of farewelling, and welcoming, a very time consuming task, which she assures me she loved doing and for this I thank her.

We will be replacing the photograph of Guide House, which hangs in the shop at Headquarters, with a group of photographs, taken by our Mr. Bates, showing different views of the whole property. The system of acknowledging your gifts to the Maintenance Fund, which we cannot do without, and for which we are extremely grateful, will be revised and we hope be kept up-to-date around the new frame. We will no longer be acknowledging the donations in "Matilda".

—Margaret Tucker,
Convenor, Britannia Park

LOCAL ASSOCIATION — Cont. from page 16

TRAVEL THE V.I.P. WAY

Have any L.A.s ever thought of hiring a special train for a District or Division outing, or perhaps for a Christmas Break-up outing. It will pick you up at your suburban station and take you to your chosen destination, without the bother of changing trains.

For more information ring the Victorian Railways on 63 0141, Extensions 1676 or 1147.

If any of our readers have had experience in this different type of outing, please send in the details to pass on to other L.A.s.

Fifty years of Guiding in Canterbury! **Everyone** associated with Guiding in the District is warmly invited to a Golden Jubilee Luncheon at the Guide Hall, Faversham Road, Canterbury, 12 noon Saturday, 15th September, 1973. Can you lend any photographs or souvenirs for our display?

R.S.V.P. 15th August — Miss D. Holtz, 82 4661; Mrs. M. Clucas, 83 4945; Mrs. C. Macdonald, 83 3023.

GANG SHOW

Rehearsals for Gang Show's twenty-first are now well under way. The cast of 125, all members of the Scout or Guide movements, have been meeting weekly since the beginning of June and, in early July, spent a weekend working on the Show.

In the meantime, at Ormond Hall the office departments churn out reams of paper.

The properties department can be found in a corner constructing hand props for the Show, while the stage hands are busy setting basic scenery. There are musicians of course and a personnel team to keep the cast in the right place at the right time.

At the Gang's costume store in St. Kilda, others are at work manufacturing the hundreds of garments required. Over at Richmond the scenery construction crew are putting together the many pieces of scenery used.

Several hundred people take part in this weekly ritual — over thirteen weeks, and of course that's in addition to their normal Scouting or Guiding activities.

Coming to the Show at the Palais, St. Kilda on Friday, 31st August, Saturday, 1st September (matinee and evening), Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th or Saturday 8th (matinee and evening)? Use the booking form in this issue and join the celebration as Gang Show Comes of Age.

CONGRATULATIONS to the recipients of the following:—

GUIDERS' LONG SERVICE:

15 years — Mrs. B. Gale (Hawthorn); Mrs. J. E. Richardson (Mont Albert).

LOCAL ASSOCIATION LONG SERVICE:

Mrs. J. Stevens (Noorat); Mrs. J. McSween (Noorat); Mrs. P. McSween (Noorat).

APPOINTMENTS AND WARRANTS

A warm welcome is extended to the following:—

REGION COMMISSIONER:

Mrs. W. P. Baker, Assistant, Sunraysia.

DIVISION COMMISSIONERS:

Mrs. A. J. Ward, Broadmeadows North; Mrs. B. M. Weaver, McKay; Mrs. S. T. Rawlings, Assistant, Far Western.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

Mrs. F. T. Gedye, East Doncaster; Mrs. C. G. Highett, Springvale South/Dingley; Mrs. I. W. Johnson, Hampton Park; Miss O. Little, Red Cliffs; Mrs. D. G. McQuitty, Blackburn South; Mrs. R. D. Oliver, Ballarat Central; Mrs. N. W. C. Pascoe, Dandenong; Mrs. J. J. Robertson, Yallourn; Mrs. W. Talsma, Herne Hill; Mrs. K. C. Thibou, Bacchus Marsh; Mrs. J. B. Trimble, West Croydon; Mrs. R. W. S. Toy, Donvale; Miss E. A. Tune, Elliminyt.

RANGER GUIDERS:

Mrs. M. H. Browne, Mortlake Rangers; Mrs. D. N. Hawksworth, Gisborne Rangers; Mrs. D. Carthy, Bayswater Rangers.

ASSISTANT RANGER GUIDER:

Miss W. R. Hawker, Warrnambool Rangers.

GUIDE GUIDERS:

Mrs. L. A. North, 2nd Cohuna; Miss K. C. Williams, 1st Elwood; Mrs. F. Mullins, 1st Diamond Creek; Mrs. W. R. Smart, 1st Devon Meadows; Mrs. A. Wicks, 1st Belgrave; Mrs. N. A. Barnes, 1st Kyneton; Mrs. D. Morris, 1st Blackburn South; Mrs. G. A. Neely, 1st Glenroy; Mrs. L. J. Andrews, 1st Waaia; Mrs. L. G. Pearson, 1st Beecac; Mrs. B. C. Fennin, 3rd Coburg; Mrs. R. E. Wilkes, 1st Templestowe; Mrs. A. Izett, 2nd Croydon West; Mrs. M. Roberts, 2nd Heywood; Mrs. A. M. Fowler, 2nd Greythorn; Mrs. N. P. Summers, 1st Somerville; Mrs. D. Scarlett, 3rd Swan Hill; Mrs. K. Huxtable, 4th Glen Waverley.

ASSISTANT GUIDE GUIDERS:

Miss J. M. Ferguson, 1st Carlton; Miss J. M. Lewis, 1st Castlemaine; Mrs. A. P. Dunn, 2nd Sale; Miss M. L. Elkins, 1st North Fawkner; Mrs. L. Jarick, 3rd Herne Hill; Mrs. J. A. Cole, 2nd Vermont; Mrs. J. Parsons, 2nd Golden Square; Miss M. Brown, 1st Canterbury; Miss O. Streader, 1st Boort; Mrs. K. A. Ferguson, 1st Paynesville; Mrs. H. J. Lardner, 4th Doncaster; Miss H. Penman, 1st Euroa; Mrs. A. C. Crosbie, 1st Winchelsea; Miss G. Cornelias, 2nd Aberfieldie; Miss J. L. Dann, 2nd Ocean Grove; Mrs. C. G. Jensen, 1st Numurkah; Mrs. R. J. Crabtree, 1st Mt. Eliza.

BROWNIE GUIDERS:

Mrs. G. I. Allen, 1st Cranbourne; Mrs. D. F. Lang, 1st Beecac; Mrs. G. J. Bray, 1st Swan Hill; Mrs. J. T. Derham, 1st Camberwell; Mrs. W. H. Carter, 2nd Thomastown; Mrs. T. W. Webster, 2nd Golden Square; Mrs. A. Neumann, 1st Trentham; Miss S. Bissett, 4th Coburg; Mrs. R. Del Basco, 3rd North Cheltenham; Mrs. I. Saunders,

2nd Heywood; Mrs. R. E. Parsons, 1st Mossfield; Mrs. P. W. Greenwood, 2nd Greythorn; Mrs. H. Keltie, 1st Wonthaggi; Mrs. S. Goldhoorn, 2nd Euroa; Miss M. K. McKean, 7th Kew; Mrs. E. M. Stradwick, 2nd Kew.

ASSISTANT BROWNIE GUIDERS:

Mrs. J. L. Routledge, 1st Devon Meadows; E. R. Dyer, 1st Yallourn North; Mrs. R. Smith, 1st Tanjil Valley; Miss E. McCann, 1st Eaglehawk; Miss S. Collier, 1st Golden Square; Mrs. M. K. Jones, 2nd Golden Square; Mrs. J. L. Jacobson, 5th Mt. Waverley; Mrs. R. Hamblin, 1st Heywood; Mrs. D. Owen, 2nd Heywood; Mrs. J. Johnson, 2nd Scoresby; Mrs. L. J. Wright, 1st Chadstone; Mrs. D. R. Sellar, 1st Tyabb; Miss D. Horlock, 2nd Strathmore.

REGISTRATIONS:

1st Elwood Pack; 2nd Hallam Pack; 1st Broadmeadows West Coy.; 1st Cann Valley Coy.; 1st Fitzroy Coy.; 1st Mossfield Coy.; 2nd Heywood Coy.; 1st Noorat Coy.; 2nd Red Hill Coy.; 1st Rowville Coy.; 2nd Wodonga Coy.

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

We acknowledge with gratitude the services given by the following whose Warrants have been returned:—

DIVISION COMMISSIONER:

Mrs. E. V. Grigg, McKay.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

Mrs. K. H. Day, Stanhope; Mrs. P. R. Hetherington, Cohuna; Mrs. J. McCance, Springvale South/Dingley; Mrs. R. V. Sellwood, Elliminyt; Mrs. D. B. Snadden, Upper Ferntree Gully; Mrs. I. Wallace, Herne Hill; Mrs. P. L. Wilson, Croydon West; Mrs. J. H. Wisewould, Tanjil Valley; Mrs. P. J. Wrigglesworth, Blackburn South; Mrs. C. Fraser, Assistant, Colac.

ASSISTANT RANGER GUIDER:

Mrs. S. M. Rowley, 5th Victorian Lones.

GUIDE GUIDERS:

Mrs. L. Yeomans, 1st Greensborough; Mrs. G. Fraser, 1st Scoresby; Mrs. F. L. Malcolm, 1st Dromana; Mrs. J. Haywood, 1st Nhill; Mrs. G. Morgan, 2nd Sunbury; Miss L. Amor, 1st Canterbury; Mrs. J. Hull, 2nd Cohuna; Miss M. H. Cheong, 1st Stanhope; Miss J. Buckland, 7th Geelong.

ASSISTANT GUIDE GUIDERS:

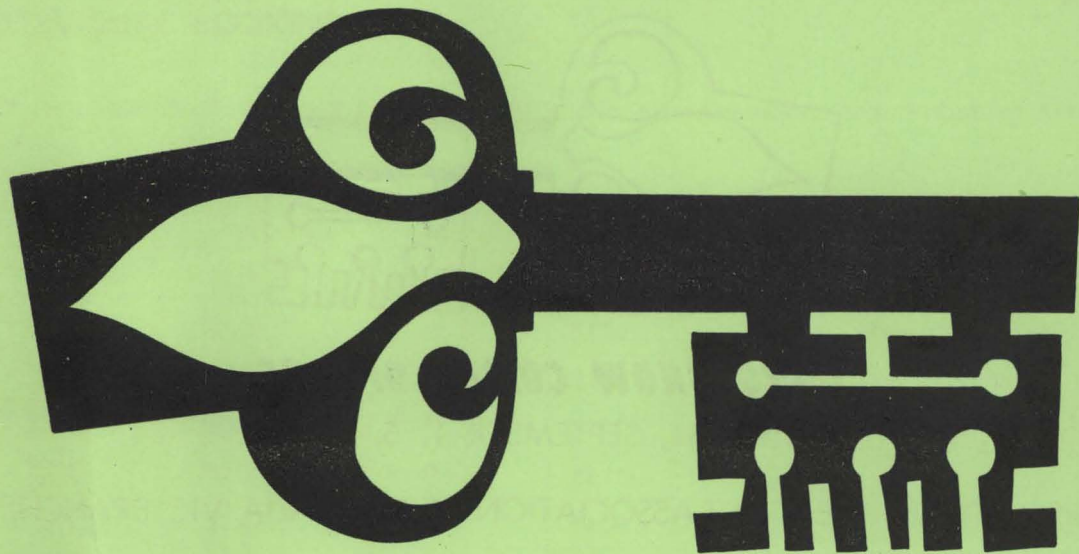
Mrs. R. G. Baillee, 1st Dingley; Miss J. Reed, 1st Boort; Mrs. L. G. Pearson, 1st Beecac.

BROWNIE GUIDERS:

Mrs. R. M. Preston, 1st Lake Bolac; Mrs. A. Cole, 1st Apollo Bay; Mrs. J. E. Tobin, 1st Mossfield; Mrs. B. F. Woodhall, 1st Rainbow; Mrs. E. G. Cameron, 1st Brighton; Mrs. K. Driscoll, 3rd Rosebud; Miss L. Fowler, 3rd Richmond; Miss C. McGrath, 2nd Richmond; Mrs. L. Nichol, 1st Gunbower; Miss M. J. Laing, 1st Donald; Miss J. Powell, 5th Camberwell; Mrs. H. Webb, 3rd Brighton; Mrs. E. E. Campbell, 1st Newtown; Mrs. B. Ryan, 1st Strathmore.

ASSISTANT BROWNIE GUIDERS:

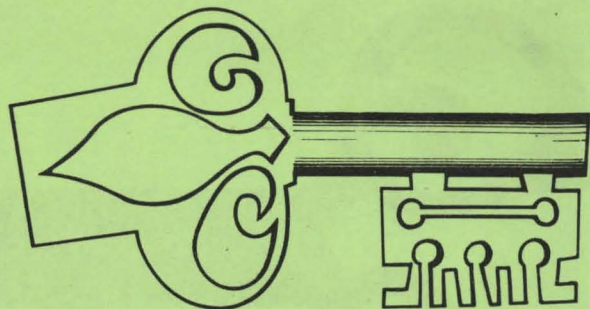
Mrs. E. M. Learey, 4th Colac; Mrs. R. McL. Moller, 3rd Rosebud; Mrs. R. Keir, 1st Gunbower; Mrs. M. Moate, 1st Mossfield; Miss M. Mallisa, 2nd Richmond; Miss S. Bissett, 4th Coburg; Mrs. C. J. Hallam, 1st Tyabb; Miss R. Rutherford, 5th Camberwell; Mrs. D. S. Gillard, 1st Nar Nar Goon; Mrs. N. Dunn, 2nd Strathmore; Mrs. P. T. Wheatley, 4th North Waverley.



GANG SHOW COMES OF AGE

AUGUST 31/SEPTEMBER 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

BOOKING FORM



GANG SHOW COMES OF AGE

AUGUST 31, SEPTEMBER 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

PRESENTED BY THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (VIC. BRANCH)

We're all keyed up for Gang Show's incredible twenty-first at the Palais Theatre, The Esplanade, St. Kilda. Gang Show Comes Of Age with a program that has something for everyone—something old, something new, something different and something—well, not exactly blue but certainly very funny!

In living/singing/laughing colour, Gang Show's cast of 125 are bubbling over with talent and enthusiasm. Be there to help celebrate as Gang Show Comes Of Age.

There are two matinees and six evening performances to choose from, including a special extra night on Wednesday, September 5. Scout Groups, Guide Units and social clubs can make money on the side by purchasing blocks of ten seats at the special low rate and reselling them at the regular price.

Mail bookings through the Melbourne Sports Depot are accepted right now. From July 19 you can purchase individual tickets over the counter from the M.S.D. and blocks of ten from the M.S.D., all Scout Shops and the Guide Office. Check the booking forms opposite.

Join the celebration when Gang Show Comes Of Age!

INDIVIDUAL BOOKING

TO : MELBOURNE SPORTS DEPOT, 121 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE, 3000, PHONE 60 1911

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING TICKETS :

	FRONT STALLS		BACK STALLS		LOUNGE		DRESS CIRCLE		UPPER CIRCLE	
FRIDAY, 31 EVENING	\$2.20		\$1.80		\$2.50		[Patterned Area]			
SATURDAY, 1 MATINEE	\$1.30		\$1.00		\$1.50					
SATURDAY, 1 EVENING	\$2.00		\$1.60		\$2.20		\$1.60		\$1.00	
WEDNESDAY, 5 EVENING	\$2.00		\$1.60		\$2.20		[Patterned Area]			
THURSDAY, 6 EVENING	\$2.00		\$1.60		\$2.20					
FRIDAY, 7 EVENING	\$2.20		\$1.80		\$2.50		[Patterned Area]			
SATURDAY, 8 MATINEE	\$1.30		\$1.00		\$1.50					
SATURDAY, 8 EVENING	\$2.30		\$1.80		\$3.50		\$2.00		\$1.00	

If seats are not available as requested above, alternative dates are :

Note : Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Cheques payable to M.S.D. No returns accepted. Children under 8 years half price. Evening performances at 8 p.m. Matinees at 2 p.m.

NAME :

ADDRESS :

TEL. No. : SCOUT GROUP TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED : \$

**INDIVIDUAL BOOKINGS BY MAIL NOW
PERSONAL BOOKINGS AT M.S.D. FROM JULY 19
FOR BLOCK BOOKINGS SEE OVER**

BLOCK BOOKING

TO : MELBOURNE SPORTS DEPOT, 121 ELIZABETH STREET, MELB., 3000, PHONE 60 1911

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF BLOCKS (10 TICKETS IN EACH BLOCK) :

	FRONT STALLS	BACK STALLS	DRESS CIRCLE	UPPER CIRCLE
FRIDAY, 31 EVENING	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$9.00
SATURDAY, 1 MATINEE	\$13.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$9.00
SATURDAY, 1 EVENING	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$9.00
WEDNESDAY, 5 EVENING	\$14.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$8.00
THURSDAY, 6 EVENING	\$14.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$8.00
FRIDAY, 7 EVENING	\$17.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$11.00
SATURDAY, 8 MATINEE	\$13.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$9.00
SATURDAY, 8 EVENING	\$18.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$11.00

Note : Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Cheques payable to M.S.D. No returns accepted.
Evening performances at 8 p.m. Matinees at 2 p.m.

NAME :

ADDRESS :

TEL. No. : SCOUT GROUP TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED : \$

BLOCK BOOKINGS BY MAIL NOW
PERSONAL BLOCK BOOKINGS FROM M.S.D., ALL SCOUT SHOPS AND THE GUIDE OFFICE FROM JULY 19
FOR INDIVIDUAL BOOKINGS SEE OVER

WATLAND

50