

M. C. Bush

Matilda



MAY, 1941.



Your next Best Friend...

FOR the friendship of a mother there is no substitute . . . but even a mother's love cannot be completely adequate unless it is based on something deeper than sentiment. In the difficult days to come, your child's "next best" friend will be a bank book . . . the tangible sign of your desire to safeguard the future. Whether you have much money or very little, weekly payments into a Savings Bank account quickly build up a shield which will protect your child against humiliation or complete dependence on others. Open a Savings Bank account this week. You will never regret it.

☆ COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK ☆
OF AUSTRALIA

OVER 4000 BRANCHES AND POST OFFICE AGENCIES IN AUSTRALIA

"Matilda"

An Official Treasure Bag of Guiders' Information for Guiders of Victoria, Australia.

Price: 3/- Per Year; 4/- Posted. Single Copies, 6d. each.

Editor: E. H. PURNELL, 10 Hermitage Road, Geelong.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of each month.

VOL. XVII.

MAY, 1941.

No. 9.

Lady Chauvel has received the following letters from the Chief Guide.

Paxtu,
Neyri,
Kenya Colony
East Africa

This is to bring you my warm thanks for your kind message of sympathy in my great loss.

I appreciate deeply all you say, and am most grateful for your generous thought for me in this overwhelming sorrow.

The fact of this being shared by countless numbers of Scouts and Guides and other friends the world over does however help quite a lot to lighten the burden of personal grief.

In the midst of this I am comforted by knowing that he was the happiest of men, and all his last messages point to his desire that we should be happy too.

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.

Paxtu,
Nyeri,
Kenya Colony

Dear Lady Chauvel,

I was deeply touched at receiving your friendly message, and whilst sending you this enclosed small letter of thanks, I feel I would like to add these few lines also, for you to make known to your Guides when opportunity occurs.

Will you please tell them from me that the Chief Scout cared as much about the Guides as he did about the Scouts, and he expected us to do great things in helping to make this a happier and better world.

All Guides everywhere have lost their best friend, but I trust that they will try and work with greater energy than ever before, for they can in that way show their thankfulness for what the Beloved Chief Scout did for them.

So while sending you my thanks, may I also send you my best wishes in the task that lies ahead of you.

Yours affectionately,

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.
Chief Guide.

A New Year Message received from the Federation Francaise Des Eclairceuses through America.

"This letter is a message for our sisters throughout the world with whom we are not able to communicate. Alas, they are numerous, and it is a blessing, thanks to you, that we can let them know we are thinking of them; and we wish for them and for their country that the New Year will bring peace. We ourselves suffer and work. We feel that the suffering of our

country will bring forth that which is best in us, and we work to that end with our whole strength. We uphold our Guide ideals to which we remain faithful as well as to our friendships.

The distress in our country is so great that we know it will take a long time to recover. We do not know whether we ourselves will see that recovery, but this does not deter us from giving towards that end, our faith and our ardour.

Many a time when we were gathered together at Our Chalet, we reasoned thus when speak of our World Movement, and if today we were only to look upon facts we might be tempted to doubt.

But there remain with us values which are of the spirit and imperishable, and so we believe always, and in spite of everything, that Scouting (and Guiding) has a message to give the world and that one day the world will hear it."

GUIDE WAR APPEAL

All of us are very glad indeed to know that Mrs Littlejohn is much better and we hope that she will be out and about again before long, and back at her work for the Guide War Appeal. She was the originator of the scheme for the Guide War Work, and has been its moving spirit, and we miss her very much indeed.

You may be interested to see, when you come into our room on the 4th floor that there are now two maps hanging there, one of Victoria on which is marked every District which is working for our Guide War Appeal, and one of England with every place marked to which we know the clothes from the Guide War Appeal have gone. Miss Russell is keeping these up-to-date, so if any of you should hear privately of some district to which our clothes have gone, I hope you will tell her. From someone in England who had seen a child dressed in our clothes we received recently a compliment not only on the appearance and quality of the outfit, but also on its extreme suitability for the purpose for which it was designed. We also got a very nice message from someone who had been most impressed with the contents of some of our cases for seamen which she had unpacked at Great Yarmouth.

The total number of garments packed, up to date is 49,599,—42,525 for children, and 7074 for seamen.

SIBYL CHAUVEL

"Have you ever thought what a world we could make if we put into peace endeavours the same energy, the same self-sacrifice and co-operation as we use in the wastefulness of war?"—(Sir Archibald Wavell).

GUIDE WEEK

The President's broadcast will open Guide Week. Our President, Lady Dugan, will open Guide Week with a broadcast over National Stations on Saturday, May 10, at 7.23 p.m. All Victorian Guides, Lones in far corners of the State, City Guides at their rallies, Posts perhaps in hospital wards will be united in the message for the week when each one rededicates herself to the best that Guiding can mean. Guide Week 1941—For God, my Country and my Neighbour.

G. H. SWINBURNE.

"GO TO IT TO WIN THE WAR."

—Chief Scout.

GUIDES' WAR WORK.

Daylesford Guides and Brownies are again doing splendid work, and the best of it is that it is the Guides themselves and not the grown-ups who are doing it.

They collect tinfoil, bottles, bones, any odd things they can and then sell them locally. Then also in the local shops they buy wool and materials and make articles for the Red Cross and Comforts Fund. They have made £50 altogether, and have divided it between the Guide Ambulance Appeal, a local Ambulance Appeal, Red Cross, Comforts Fund, etc. As well, each Daylesford man on active service has had a 5/- canteen order, and each nurse in the Middle East a present.

This Company also had a rally and fete, taking the idea of our Walkabout. They had a dairy where they sold all dairy produce, a farm, with all the buildings to scale, and a real kitchen for the cake stall. This is a really good record, don't you think?

In Preston the Rangers have themselves made enough money to send a £1 parcel to each of their relatives at the war. The Local Association here meets each Thursday and works all day at packing the parcels and sewing.

One of the Bendigo Companies bought vegetable seeds with Company funds. Individual Guides then took the seeds home and grew the vegetables, and as they became ready for market took them down to their Guide shop to be sold. Another excellent idea.

Have any of you thought of growing the herbs which are so much wanted for our troops abroad?

Mrs. Coutts, District Commissioner at Waubra tells us in one of her letters that the Local Association has invested £69 of its Building Fund in War Savings Certificates.

I have been reading in the "Council Fire" of the work of the Mobile Canteen in England bought with part of the £50,000 raised by the Guides of the Empire last year. Guiders have taken the canteen, a transformed horse box, the only large motor vehicle they could obtain, to serve a Pioneer Corps working at demolition in one of the most

bombed cities of eastern England. Local help was very scarce owing to the hazardous nature of the place.

In the middle of their hard work there they received an S.O.S. from a Guider Red Cross Commandant in Kent. Canteen help was urgently needed in the caves there, where 6000 people shelter every night. The Guide Canteen worked from 4 a.m. till lights-out at night, and gave a fortnight's rest to the local women who had quite worn themselves out at the job.

That is wonderful and thrilling work, but even if we have to stick to more hum-drum things like raising money and sewing it is all doing a little bit towards the Chief Scout's message to the Scouts and Guides: "Go to it and win the war."

N.M.

GUIDE HOUSE NEWS

The Caretakers' Cottage Fund has reached £232, so the building has been started, and by the time you read this will be well on the way. Up to the April 6, donations had been received from: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Blackwood, Miss L. M. Andrews, Brownie Guiders, Burwood and Hartwell Local Association, Miss Muriel Drury, Miss Margaret Moore, Miss Bush, Outer Eastern Division Guiders, 1st Kew Company, Mrs. M. R. Fairbairn, Miss D. Coles, Richmond and East Melbourne District, 1st Seymour Company, Miss M. Henderson, Victorian Brownie Guiders, Miss P. M. Russell, Carisbrook Company, Guiders and Rangers of Monivae, Miss D. Holtz, Miss E. Moran, 1st Carlton Guides, 1st Nyah Brownies, Mrs. J. P. Knight, Mrs. Howatson, Miss J. Brown, Miss M. L. Drury, Miss J. Ritchie, Fifteen Non-active Guiders, Swan Hill Local Association, Miss M. B. Fowler, Miss H. Carnegie, Yarraville District Guiders, Miss Barfus, Miss H. Purnell, Miss R. Purnell, Miss McKellar, 1st Curlwaa Company, Camberwell North, Nyah District Local Association and Twigs.

Next month we shall be able to tell you how the Painting Working Bee got on, one of the disadvantages of putting things in "Matilda" is that you often have to write your column before things have happened, but we can tell you that lots of people have applied and some are going on Anzac morning, and others at lunch hour Saturday—and we expect the painting to advance rapidly with all hands to the brushes!

—M.B.F.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- May 10-18.—Guide Week.
- May 10.—Broadcast by the State President, Lady Dugan (see Guide Week).
- May 10.—Rally, 1st Mount Eliza (see Extension Notes).
- May 10-11.—Working Bee, Gipton.
- May 10-11.—Working Bee, Guide House.
- May 30.—Working Bee, Brownie Cottage.

YARRAVILLE DISTRICT GUIDE CAMP.

The Guide House.

On 4th January 40 Girl Guides from Yarraville and Footscray set out by train for the Guide House at Britannia Creek near Warburton.

As soon as the Guides arrived at the camp they were shown round the camp site, and had the different duties explained to them.

Sunday, our first day in camp, dawned bright and sunny, so we all jumped up as soon as the whistle went at 6.45 a.m. At 7.45 a.m. the Colours were broken and we had prayers. Then followed breakfast.

Daily the tents were inspected and points were given. At Court of Honour each Patrol decided on a camp Patrol name—these were "Little Joe," "Wild Creek," "Kookaburra," "Busy Bee" and "Blue Wren."

At 3 o'clock the Blue Wren Patrol under the leadership of Misses Horsley and Roberts set out on an overnight hike. Each day a different Patrol went out and returned to camp the next morning in time for Court of Honour. These hikes proved to be very successful and enjoyable. They went some distance from the main camp and then pitched their tents, cooked their own tea and breakfast (mostly they hiked to the falls for their breakfast), and in the evening had a camp-fire where many new songs were learnt.

On Sunday night, instead of having a camp-fire, we held a Guides' Own. Afterwards the wood and water Patrol supplied the campers with hot baths. Then Q.M. had hot cocoa ready, and by 9 p.m. all were in bed, good nights said, and from each tent came softly sung "Taps."

Monday arrived and now the camp was in full swing, and every Guide doing her share. When orderly work and inspection were over came bathing in the lovely swimming pool and then free time until dinner. The cook Patrol with Q.M. to guide them always prepared a lovely meal; canteen each day did a good trade in fruit and sweets; then followed rest hour when everybody in camp had to completely rest. After the rest period came afternoon tea, and then there were either games, camp activities or hikes to the falls or up the timber tracks.

Tuesday dawned and everybody was up bright and early, ready to enjoy another day of work and fun, each day finishing up with a camp-fire, bath time, and it is a great thrill to bath in the big tin tubs, supper, then lights out and "Taps."

At the Court of Honour the Little Joe Patrol suggested that we should challenge the West Melbourne Guides, who were camping at the Guide House, to a sports afternoon, and the challenge was accepted for the Friday afternoon.

Wednesday was another glorious day, and it was decided to have swimming both in the

morning and afternoon. Some of the Guides who had slept on the ground without palliasses and only the ground sheet and blanket under them while on the overnight hike, decided to try and be true campers, and sleep on the ground for the rest of the week. On the last night six of the younger ones slept soundly and comfortably right out of doors with the bright stars above them.

On Thursday morning we learned the sad news that our Chief Scout, Lord Baden Powell, had died. We immediately changed from our camp overalls into full uniform and had a short ceremony when the flag was lowered to half-mast, and we stood with bowed heads for two minutes' silence.

Friday was again a lovely day, and all the camp was eager for the sports that were to be held in the afternoon. We had swimming as usual in the morning, and Guides were chosen for the swimming events. At 3 p.m. both camps met on the croquet green for the running events, and when these were over, West Melbourne were two points ahead. Everyone trooped down to the swimming pool, and again West Melbourne won by one point, and so won the sports with 37 points to Yarraville District's 33. The Captain of the West Melbourne team received a laurel wreath as the trophy.

There was still more fun to come as we decided to have stunts for camp-fire. The store tent, camp dump, and tents were well raided for suitable gear for the stunts. The staff gave a very good show and very funny "photographing the wedding party." Each Patrol gave a stunt and we sang Guide songs in between each one. Also the Guides who had shown themselves to be good campers in every way were given a Woodcraft Badge. The Wild Creek Patrol sang and acted "Sambo," the Busy Bee Patrol "Little Miss Muffett," the Blue Wren Patrol "Crocodile," and the Kookaburra Patrol sang "I've An 'Ole in My Bucket" The Little Joe Patrol gave an excellent charade. When the camp fire had died down to a mass of glowing embers, we sang "By the Blazing Firelight," then "Each Camp-fire Lights Anew," and then "Taps."

No one wanted to get up on Saturday morning, for we were striking camp at 11 a.m., and it meant the end of a perfect week, but the Guides did their work well and were out of their tents ready for the next camp to come in. After the packing was done and all the luggage labelled and in the garage, we had our last swim, then back for dinner and the final clearing up of the camp site. We went to the croquet green for our rest period, then afternoon tea, buns, biscuits, fruit and milk. At 3 p.m. the buses came for us and took us to the station. While waiting for the train some decided to walk down to the Yarra River. We sang all our camp songs as well as many others in the train.

We will all remember our most enjoyable and happy 1941 Yarraville District camp.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF RANGER CAMP

I think it was a good camp; there was a feeling about it of achievement—of setting the goal beyond the prize.

Long deliberations before hand as to where and how, but at last it was decided to camp in one place and go out for overnight camps; and the place was a week-end cottage at Panton Hill, which supplied the necessary requirements: (a) cheap to get to; (b) near enough for others to join at odd times; (c) ample water supply; (d) with easy catering facilities; (e) could be left without guard for days on end.

We set out with the idea of proving that we had some of the pioneering spirit of our early-colonist ancestors. We were proud of having inherited health and strength, and wanted to use them in some activity that required effort and tested our stamina.

Boxing Day was hot but we stood the first test of hiking up-hill for over three miles with rather heavy packs, which included hike tents, bedding, and some food. Pitching tents on convenient garden-beds or against helpful fences we got our bearings and settled in, and then rested while we planned the next day's overnight hike to Christmas Hills, working out distances and rations. Early to bed, and up distinctly "betimes" at 6.15, but even the pioneer spirit quailed a bit on hearing the roar of the north wind and feeling the heat of the sun, even so early. However, the spirit held, and an hour later than we meant to start, five laden Rangers (food seems far heavier than clothing) started out, on short stages, resting longer than we walked because of the force of the gale; fortunately the change came—the storm magnificent in its fury—and finally, an hour late, we reached St. Thomas', the Youth Hostel where Mrs. Burleigh made us welcome and comfortable. How good that all-over wash was; and the meal on the verandah with the rain pouring down; and finally the long long sleep in hike tents pitched in the garden, lulled by the singing of the rain.

The return journey next day was by a different route, and when the track just petered out, we lunched, worked up the pioneer spirit, and with map and compass plotted our course; and following a road that did not look like one except on the survey map, we reached home to find ourselves locked out by the others, who had gone for a walk!

Another day's rest, with more adequate preparations for the morrow, when the entire party of ten set out for St. Andrew's North, our objective being Clifden Farm, in the valley below Kinglake range. Mr. and Mrs. Langley were most kind, and permitted us to pitch our tents right away up the valley, in an old orchard, beside a stream that really did ripple! The camp looked picturesque in its setting of orchard trees, so close to tree-ferns and gully vegetation. An apple tree was the larder, a ford our bathing-place, and a pebbly shallow our cool store. That night we had a real camp fire, and retired early under the loveliest night-sky, "to listen to the stars singing."

Departure next day was delayed while we inspected a most interesting collection of butterflies and all kinds of insects, as well as varied "museum pieces." At last we started on that "short cut." "Just follow the fence", they said, "and you'll strike the road." But when the fence ravaged by bushfires, just lay down flat, we had to search among the leaves and sticks for the three rows of fencing wire! And then it gave out, and we map-lovers had recourse to the map, which again justified our faith in it, for through the trackless bush it led us finally to an almost invisible track, and later to some Youth Hostel signs that cheered us considerably, as the grade was getting so steep that one had to look long in order to find a foothold. However, even this had an ending, and after a mighty heave we found ourselves on a car road within a stone's throw of the Bald Spur Look-out, with tables, seats, a tank and a fireplace—and the most magnificent view!

It was rather late when we started for home, after some discussion as to how to reach the road "down there." Two map-readers led the way, where there was no sign of a track, and after traversing many elastic-sided miles, there, sure enough, we found ourselves between the fences indicating a Government one-chain road; and to make a very long hike sound shorter, we arrived safely, but really weary, at about half-past eight. The meal ended at about 10.30, and washing-up was not finished so very long before the New Year crept in to find most of us sleeping peacefully.

Tiring? Yes. Too much for a holiday?

I think not. Worth while? Decidedly, so we all thought; for had we not lived for a week together, sharing work and fun in the special way one someone does in Guide Camp? We had been healthy and happy; we had lived for days with the Earth and the Stars for friends, learning to listen to their voices. We had found that one can live comfortably, detached from conveniences of civilisation, with very little gear and a joyous elimination of "housework." We experienced some of the sensations of the explorers, and certainly appreciated their achievements in the light of our own small experiences.

And had we not acquired also in some measure the sense that we were masters of our fate? That we need not become the slaves of circumstance? That, with God in his heaven, we on His earth have a heritage which is also a challenge? In the words of one of our morning thoughts at prayers during the hike:

"When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light. Give thanks for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food and give thanks for the joy of living. And if perchance you see no reason for giving thanks, rest assured that the fault is in yourself."

—YABINGA.

Out of the foam I lurched and rode the wave,
Swimming hand over hand against the wind.
I felt the sea's vain pounding and I grinned,
Knowing I was its master, not its slave!

1st SANDRINGHAM.**Templestowe.**

The 1st Sandringham camp, which was held at Templestowe, was run on the Patrol system. It was an "Indian Camp," and each Guide chose an Indian name which appealed to her. A headband of hessian about 3in. wide and long enough to go round the hat and trail down the back, was issued to each Guide. Some Guides showed originality in working their names on headband, small twigs neatly sewn on, others worked in thread or wool, etc.

Decorations for headbands were awarded as follows:—

Grey triangle of felt with red bead in centre: For cooking one course of a meal satisfactorily.

Green feather: Had to observe and discover something of interest about a flower, bird and insect.

Square of blue beads: For making a firm and useful gadget.

White feather with blue spots: For helping to erect a tent and screening.

Triangle of red beads: For lighting fire satisfactorily and with one match.

White feather with red spots: Awarded to Guides who knew "what to do" and "what not to do in camp."

Circle of gold beads: Discovering constellation she had not previously seen.

This idea worked very well, as it encouraged the Guides with their orderly work, and trained them in observation and various branches of their Guide tests. —M.N.

MY IMPRESSION OF CAMP.**1st Sandringham.**

Our Company, 1st Sandringham, camped last month at Templestowe. It was my very first camping experience, and I had been looking forward to it for weeks, even counting the time between then and the time of our departure, in hours. At last we arrived at our camping site, singing merrily, "How We Rattled and Roared" as the van bumped along a very bad track. When the van pulled up, I gazed with wonder at the chosen site. Was it possible that tenting for a whole Company and staff could be erected (as well as the business of meal preparing, unpacking, etc., done) before dusk? (You see, I hadn't been to anything like a camp before.)

Imagine how surprised I was to see, in quite a twinkling of an eye, girls here—girls there—girls everywhere—helping with tent-erecting, and to see tents springing up like mushrooms. I hadn't much time to look upon this busy scene, however, as a veteran camper was already explaining the mysteries

of tent-erecting to me. Soon I found myself as busy as the rest.

What a time I had during that glorious week of camping! The laughter in the games we played, the fun of swimming, a closer understanding of all natural life, the merriment of camp-fire sing-songs, the beauty of the evenings, the peace of the nights, and the joy of the pleasant mornings—I will always have the memory of these things, for which I have to thank camp life.

I was very fortunate in having experienced campers as tent mates, who helped me to become used to camp ways. After having spent, without doubt, the happiest week of my life there, I no longer looked upon camp as a collection of tents, but as a place of wonderful fun and adventure. Is it any wonder that I have begun calculating the days to the next camp?

—Dorothy Munro, Guide.

A GUIDE'S IMPRESSION OF CAMP.**1st Sandringham.**

Our camp was held at Templestowe, and it was the best camp I have been to. We pretended to be an Indian camp and all had Indian headbands and names. To get a complete headband we had to pass tests in fire lighting, cooking, gadget making, nature, tenting and screenings, find a constellation of stars unknown to us, and know how to keep the law of the camp.

On cold days when we couldn't swim in the River Yarra we played Indian games. One day the victorious side in one of the games had a war dance around their captives, using an upturned tub and a mallet muffled in a hat for a tom-tom and drumstick.

On Monday afternoon we went for a hike to the top of a hill where we had a beautiful view of Dandenong, Baw-Baw and Plenty Ranges. We had our tea under some pine trees with all the world, as it seemed, stretched out at our feet. When we had a sing-song under the trees, after the sun had sunk, and the clouds above the ranges had turned pink, I am sure most of us felt the great link between Guides all over the world in peace and in war.

On Sunday evening we had Guides' Own on top of a hill, where we could see the sun sinking, the sky growing darker, and the stars coming out overhead.

On visitors' day it rained for the main part of the afternoon, but everyone just laughed and entertained their visitors in their tents, showing them round quickly if the rain showed signs of ceasing. After the visitors had gone the rain stopped, and we had a buffet tea.

At inspection each day a red ribbon was given for the best tent and a green ribbon for the next best. For orderly work, a yel-

low ribbon was given to the Patrol who worked best each day.

In the evenings after tea we had a camp-fire if the weather was fine enough. On New Year's Eve we had a stunt night at camp-fire, and each Patrol gave an item. There was a court scene, a mannequin parade, an action version of Waltzing Matilda, and the life history of a fictitious character. On New Year's Day we invited the owners of the property to our camp-fire, and sang them all our nicest songs. At this, our last night in camp, Captain read us a paragraph about leaving camp. After "Now our camp-fire fadeth" and "Taps" we had prayers around the camp-fire and then hurried off to bed.

The next day did not seem at all like the last day in camp because we didn't take the tents down as we were leaving them for another Company. As we went over the top of the hill we blew a rally whistle to those who were left.

Thinking back over the whole camp I am certain that it was the best camp I've been to; there was more Guide feeling about it, the Guiders were just like big sisters. When it rained or when things didn't go quite right, everyone set to with a will to help their neighbours. Everyone wishes to return again next year and have more work and fun in camp.

—Euralie Hill, Guide.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides Association, Victoria.

19th March: Present; Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Edmondson, Misses Harrison, Moran, Ritchie, Ross Russell, Swinburn and the Secretary.

Lady Chauvel welcomed Miss Ross as a new member of the Committee.

Agreed: That if necessary £50 should be advanced to the Caretaker's Cottage Fund; that the Association should make up the sum at present in the Capital Improvement Fund to the amount needed for painting the Guide House; that the tender of £266/10/0 of Mr. Harris for the new Cottage should be accepted.

That, as P.O.R. was not being reprinted during the war, new badges and major alterations to Tests which appear in the The Guider should be published in Matilda, that those wishing to do so could work on them at once, and that they should come into general use three months after publication.

Reported: That Area Commissioners were if possible to attend the April Meetings of the Committee. Lady Chauvel thanked Miss Coles and Miss Harrison, Commissioners' and Guiders' representatives, for their help as Committee members.

That Miss Alston had consented to continue as Commissioner for Extensions for 1941. That the files of the Women's Voluntary Register for National Service had been handed to the Authorities at the Town Hall. That Mrs. R. T. Robinson had agreed to be our delegate to the Central Council of the Victorian Baby Health Centres

Association. That a list of representatives to the Guiders' Committee had been received from the Secretary.

Routine and financial business was transacted.
3rd April: Present; Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Fairbairn, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Tate, Misses Butt, Moran, Purnell, Ritchie, Russell and the Secretary.

Lady Chauvel welcomed Mrs. Pearson and Miss Butt, Commissioners representing 3rd and 2nd Metropolitan Areas.

Agreed: That the Annual Report of the Federal Council be received.

That it should be left to Districts to decide District celebrations of the 21st Birthday of Guiding in Victoria.

That the Report of the Director of the World Bureau on the work undertaken in the U.S.A. from August 1940 to February 1941 be received.

That A.R.P. classes should be held at Headquarters.

Reported: That Lady Dugan would broadcast at 7.23 p.m. on the Saturday of Guide Week, 10th May, from National Stations.

M. E. BUSH.

BUSH LORE

Editor Ina Watson

Those of us who love the 'bush' would like to say thank-you to Matilda for the lovely prayer printed last month under the heading of Happy Days. It is in the hills or by the sea, surrounded by the bush and the things we love there, that we gather the strength to go back to our jobs "without faltering". This is the true bush lore.

Banksias

The end of this month finds us well on the way to the cold of winter, with its enforced rest for most plants. After all this is the period when energies are stored for the great burst of spring activity.

The problem of food over these months is a pressing one for many of our honey eating birds, and Nature has provided for this by the flowering of the Banksias. You can see their cylindrical yellow heads of bloom on the heath lands and in the bush. It may not be such a popular food as the eucalypt blossom, but is very welcome nevertheless.

The Banksia is named after Sir Joseph Banks, and is limited to Australia; Western Australia leads with 43 varieties; Victoria has 5.

Grey Thrush

Grey Thrush, whose 'proper' name Harmonica—is very fitting for one of our loveliest singers. Its pure clear notes are heard through most of our bushland, and the trim, quiet, friendly grey and brown bird is well known.

It nests in the bush on the top of a stump or similar place, and builds with bark, roots and grass.

In the winter it comes down and hunts for insects among our suburban gardens. It is particularly valuable because of its fondness for hard-shelled beetles of the borer kinds.

In the spring it has a longer, richer song,

This Month Watch For:—

Fungi: All the varieties from the mushroom to the 'earth star', the centre of which is a tiny ball which puffs out its ripe spores like curry powder when touched.

Fungi are of all sizes and colours, and many sorts can be found round the gardens. 'Wild Life' for April had a very good article, with photos of a number of varieties.

Mother of All Emus

During May, at 9 p.m. the Emu may be seen upright in the sky. This is what the aboriginals called the dark spaces in the sky which make up this form.

Look for the Coal Sack in the Milky Way, this is the head, from here the neck curves down into the stocky body and legs—remember to look for the dark patches.

Discovery

Smelly, black mud, hiding cravenly beneath green, clean weeds; water oozing in and out of your boots as you squelch up and down over the tussocks—but do you care? NO! Not if you see a new, rare bird as we did at Little River—the Marsh Sandpiper. Exactly similar to our old friend the Greenshank, but about only two-thirds its size. We weren't sure which it was until a spur-winged plover obligingly landed beside it. Then followed a feverish hunt through Leach to check on the measurements (Heaven help the man if he had fallen in the mud!)

We came home with stockings hung out of the window to dry. And you can't get the mud out of your toe nails for days, scrub how you will. But it was worth it.

1st MARNOO COMPANY SONG.

I promise on my honour
That I will do my best
To serve my God and Country
My King with all my zest.

To help all kinds of people
And to obey the law,
This is the pledge I vow to
All other pleas before.

My honour shall be trusted,
My loyalty is true.
A Guide must be most useful
In helping others too.

A friend to all who need me,
A Sister to the Guides.
Be cautious, be kindly
To animals besides.

I must obey all orders,
Through trouble I must sing;
No matter what the hardship,
A laugh must always ring.

I must in thrift be steady,
Be pure in thought and deed,
That all the words I utter
May show a true Guide's creed.

To God and King and Country,
A cheerful gift we bring;
A kindly word or action,
A heart to love and sing.
—By Marjorie Weatherly.

EXTENSIONS**Editor: Sydney Foott.**

Extension Guiders are, at the moment, busy with the Annual Training Week-end, which is being held on May 3rd and 4th. The subjects and speakers are as follows, and a full report will be given in next month's "Matilda":—

Patrol System and Court of Honour in Post Companies: Miss Jess Macdonald.

The Psychology of the Handicapped Child, and ways in which Guiding can help: Miss Jess U. Boyes.

Test Work for Post and Extension Guides: Miss Alston and Miss Foott.

Games for Post and Extension Companies: Miss Dorothy Coles.

The First Part of the Guide Promise: Miss Merle Bush.

2nd Heidelberg Company

The company at the Austin Hospital had a very successful birthday party in April, which was shared by Guides in Ward 13 (both upstairs and in the Respirator Ward) and in Ward 10. There are two patrols in Ward 13, to each of which two Guides from the Respirator Ward are attached. In addition to the Guides, the District Commissioner (Miss Maling) and the Acting Commissioner for Extensions (Miss Foott) were also present.

Various exciting games were played, including the Magic Ring, a film star competition, and a song titles game.

Two recruits were also enrolled.

1st Mount Eliza Company

The Guide Company at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Frankston, are holding their annual Rally on Saturday, May 10th, at the hospital. All Guides are invited to this rally, which gives the 1st Mount Eliza Company an opportunity of meeting and mixing with Guides from many active Companies.

The rally commences at 12.30, when everyone has lunch together—the Hospital supplies tea, milk, sugar and hot water—we take food and a mug each.

The March Past will be at 3 p.m.—the more Guides represented in the March, the more exciting it is for the hospital Guides, so do please note it down as an activity for Guide Week for your Company.

Guide Week

There will be no organised activity for Extensions as a body during Guide Week, as it is such a grand opportunity of mixing with Guides from active Companies. This can only happen, however, if Districts will invite Post and Extension Guides in their Districts to any "dos" which they may be having. It may involve a certain amount of transport—such as

pushing a wheel chair or a pram along to your camp fire or church parade—but if you only realised the joy which you could cause by letting Extensions join in with Guiding as whole, I am sure that you would always take the trouble to find out any Extensions in your District and let them share your joys.

If you know of an Extension, or would like to find out if there is one who could join you, please let me know.

The Magic Ring

A Game for Extensions or Posts at a party!
Ingredients:—A long piece of string, on which are strung two or three rings. Six or eight other rings, each with a folded slip of paper attached.

The string is joined in a circle, and each Guide or Brownie puts her hands on it. Then the rings are passed from one to another, until Captain blows her whistle. The slip of paper on a spare ring is opened, and the Guides holding the rings learn that—

(a) They gain five points, or (b) they are out of the game, or (c) those not holding the rings win five points! Or whatever your ingenuity devises.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

District Commissioner.—Sandringham, Miss A. Grey-Smith; Warburton, Mrs. C. J. Nash. Tawny Owl.—2nd Yallourn, Miss D. Fox.

Captain.—2nd Brighton, Miss E. Wigley; 1st East Malvern (Korowa), Miss V. G. Dobbie; 2nd Fitzroy, Miss J. U. Boyes; 7th St. Kilda (Christ Church), Miss N. White; 1st Swan Hill, Miss J. Read.

Ranger Captain.—Yarraville District Rangers, Miss C. Broadhurst.

Local Association.—Wentworth: Packs, 2nd Burwood (Kildonan). Companies: 7th St. Kilda (Christ Church); 1st Wentworth.

Cancellations.

District Commissioner.—Marnoo: Miss I. Weatherly; Sandringham: Mrs. G. Johnstone.

Captain.—1st Curlwaa: Miss N. Jerrom; 1st Marnoo: Miss I. Weatherly.

LONES

Plans are getting under way for the "Lone Gathering." It has been decided to hold it during the week-end of June 14th to 16th at the Guide House. From answers received from various Companies we are hopeful that it will be well attended.

It is open to Lone Guides, Rangers and Guiders. Its main object is to give to Guides and Rangers the joys of camping and companionship, and to Guiders the interest of meeting the members of their Companies. If this can be achieved it will help to do away with that isolated feeling which is the hardest thing to overcome in the Lone Branch. Those of you who have run Companies and only know your girls by name and by their letters, will realise what a stimulus it will give to both you and them to actually meet.

Therefore I hope that you will make every

effort to come, and to prevail upon your girls to come also. We want as many from each Company as can come, but in case this is difficult I would like every Company to make a point of sending at least one girl, who would be a delegate and who would be able to take back to her Company all that she had seen and heard and learnt. Opportunities will be given for the passing of practical tests, and the joys of active Guiding will be shown and practised. I need not point out to you that the result of this would be of such tangible value and inspiration that it would be worth a very real effort to achieve it.

I particularly urge every Guider therefore not to leave a stone unturned in her endeavour to stimulate in her Guides the wish to come. In the Budget following the Minutes which have just been circulated I hope you will all include the kit list required for indoor camps, and a letter explaining how they are run. It would be wise to explain this from the parents' point of view, as unless they have had experience of Guide camping standards, they are often nervous of letting their children loose into the lion's mouth as it were.

Finance is another subject that should be discussed, so that the parents know exactly the position. As already pointed out in the Minutes, the L. L. A. is willing to help to a very generous degree with the transport. Railway concessions of course would not be practicable as there would not be a sufficient number travelling from the one district to merit a reduction. As far as we can judge the expenses of the week-end itself should not be more than about 10/- a head dependent of course on how many attend. If a girl were sent as a delegate from her Company the Company—probably with the help of the L.L.A.—would be responsible for her expenses. Trains would be met so that the girls need not be nervous of arriving alone in Melbourne, and hospitality would be provided should a stay in Town be necessary either going to or returning from the camp. Even the problem of uniform could be overcome if the L.L.A. knows in time the size of the girl requiring one, as they are confident of being able to either borrow or by some other means produce the articles. If all these things were explained to the parents through the Budget I think we would find the applications exceed our highest hopes.

As it is absolutely necessary to have the applications in by the 24th May, Guiders are urged to proceed without delay. And please make a resolution to have one member at least from every Company represented.

It is hoped to have training sessions for Guiders during the week-end, also testing in any practical work desired, but it is important that all applications for test work should be sent in in time for suitable arrangements to be made, and time set apart for it. As all Guiders will realise what inestimable value a week-end like this could be, it is my earnest hope that they will co-operate in making it the success it deserves. But like everything else in Guiding it depends on how much we put into it, how much we get from it.

which the lyrebird loves to imitate. When tamed, it will stay in the same place for years.

Guide week is almost upon us, and by now you must all have formulated your plans as to how you are going to celebrate it, by attaining a standard in some subject which will fit you to be of some definite use to your country. I would be thrilled to be able to record in this page a list of those who have passed any test, or carried out any definite service during that period. I would be proud to know that Lones, although through circumstances deprived of the usual contacts with communities at large, have yet been able to prove that service to one's country is possible in unspectacular ways and in quiet places, wherever the will to succeed flourishes.

M. R. F.

BROWNIE PAGE

The last meeting of the Executive Committee expressed delight at the improvements which have been made to the Brownie Cottage. Everyone who has seen the cottage lately says how nice it looks, and the Executive Committee wishes the Brownie Guiders' Committee to know this, and they thank them all very much indeed.—V. TATE, Commissioner for Brownies.

The world is so full of a number of things
I'm sure we should all be as happy as Kings.

—Robert L. Stevenson.

TO TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT POST BROWNIES.

POST BROWNIES!! What are these folk? I have heard this question asked in the Movement quite often, sometimes with a vague feeling that it has been heard of somewhere before, and again, as a thing never before heard. I must confess it was to the second group I belonged, but have mended my ways to the extent of becoming Post Brown Owl.

If readers of "Matilda," apart from Owls and others interested in Brownie Page, ever get as far as this article, or do not pass over it, they'll perhaps begin to understand what Post Brownies are, and maybe "lend a hand." We'll let you know later on what you can do, so read on—

WELL—Post Brownies belong to the Extension Branch (this branch includes Guides and Rangers) and are so called because they are unable to attend active Pack meetings, due to a temporary or permanent physical disability, and therefore receive the meeting and tests by "Post," once a month. We are very widespread, and so depend on local Brown Owls and Brownies to give these folk some understanding of the active side of Brownie work. Just think how difficult it is to describe a Fairy Ring on paper! How much nicer to see it done! What is important, too, is that the visiting Owl will let Post Brown Owl know of the progress of the child being visited, and also of the test work that has been successfully passed. The

Brownies dearly love to know how the others are progressing, and to see the results of their own efforts written up. Some of the folk are linked with active Packs, but, alas, it is sad to relate, not all. A list of Districts where there is no record of Brownies having been linked up in this way is included in this page.

I wonder if it is realised how difficult it is to get information over to younger folk by writing, and perhaps a backward thought to the time of the "epidemic" when most Guiders had to resort to this method of communication with their Packs, will make them realise! I sincerely hope so!

AN IDEA HOW A BUDGET IS PLANNED

As you will read, an endeavour is made to keep Budget on the lines of a Pack meeting. Illustrations, of course, play a very big part in these pages. A different sketch, if possible, heads the first page each month, then the letter starts in the form of a pow-wow, which includes news of the Pack, answers to letters, and Brownie doings. A story is always included with illustrations and a poem, handcraft, and competitions are included as space permits. Competitions are based on test work when possible, and sometimes permits a pass in the particular item.

There was a mention earlier of ways to help. Now to tell you of a few, which would serve as "good turns" for active Brownies:—

- (1) Gathering pictures and pretty paper, suitable for use as covers.
- (2) There may be a budding poet in the Pack, and perhaps she would like to let the poem be published in the Budget, not forgetting competitions that might be collected, too.
- (3) And Guiders—do you feel you may have two or three hours to spare once a month? Well, there is a need for folk to colour illustrations drawn in the Budgets. So think it over and let me know.

HERE IS A COPY OF ONE OF THE TESTS FOR GOLDEN BAR WORK

Mary Learns About Her Teeth.

One night as Mary lay in bed, wishing her teeth wouldn't ache, she suddenly heard a voice from the washstand say, "Hello."

"Goodness me, who's that?" exclaimed Mary.

"Mr. Toothbrush," the voice answered. "I'd like a word with you. However do you expect your teeth not to ache when you never clean them?"

"I don't," Mary said meekly. "I haven't thought about it."

"Well, my child," said Mr. Toothbrush, "when you have eaten anything, little bits of it stay in and around your teeth, and if they are left, they go bad and Germs of disease are quite likely to come there. Soon, Tartar will make his appearance and make your

teeth yellow, and Decay will burrow into them and make holes. Later you will have toothache, and your teeth will need to be stopped, or perhaps they will have to be pulled out. Also, your food won't be chewed properly."

"Oh dear, whatever shall I do?" cried Mary tearfully.

"Use me, and a good tooth paste; if you can't get any paste still use ME with lots of clean water," continued Mr. Toothbrush. "Brush and wash these Germs out every morning and evening, and swill them out with mouthfuls of clean water. Do so after your midday meal, too, if you can, but anyway always in the morning and at bedtime, and **don't eat anything** after your bedtime clean, because it is very bad to sleep with bits of food in your teeth. All this will help to stop Tartar and Decay spoiling your teeth. This is the way—

"Brush your **upper teeth down** from the gums to the tips, and **your lower teeth up** from the gums to the tips. Do this both at the front of your teeth and behind them as well, and all the way round them, too. Do be careful not to miss the back ones. **Never brush towards your gums**, because that pushes them back, and encourages Mr. Decay. Don't hit your gums with your brush or they will become sore, and don't use too hard a toothbrush or you'll scratch your teeth and Mr. Decay will creep in. See that your brush is well rinsed out afterwards, and hung out to dry."

Can you remember all that, Brownie folk?

Well, Guiders, don't you think that with suitable illustrations this would be something constructive to hang in a Sixer corner, and save Owls very many precious minutes at meetings. Other tests could be treated the same way, don't you think.

I hope you have some glimmering about Post Brownies now.

And here are a list of Districts where Brownies are not connected with active Packs:—Flemington, Carlton, Coburg, Noble Park, Brunswick, Elsternwick, Port Melbourne.

A Brownie cheerio.

—A.D.S.

SIGN POST PAGE

Editor: MARJORIE NICHOLSON.

I cannot think but that the world would be better and brighter if our teachers would dwell on the Duty of Happiness as well as the Happiness of Duty.

—Sir John Lubbock.

Well! Guide Week is almost here! Have you helped your Guides to pass a test for Tenderfoot, Second or First Class, or a Proficiency Badge? If so, how proud you will feel when during Guide Week a Tenderfoot steps up to be enrolled, or a Guide to receive a Badge, to see the smile she gives when she has accomplished that for which she has been striving so hard during the past months.

"To see that smile makes Guiding worth while."

Do we take our Guides out of doors enough and play the game of Guiding as it should be? Meetings held in a hall during the winter months can still have a touch of the outdoor atmosphere brought in. Try this Woodcraft hike.

Woodcraft Hike

Note: Good for use in winter.

Space: Large room.

Equipment: Pictures of birds, constellations and blue prints of leaves, plants and twigs are placed around the room. Woodcraft signs should also be used and a real story may be prepared by bits of charred wood to resemble a deserted fire, tracks of animals, etc.

Procedure: The Captain explains that they are all to take a hike in the room; the Patrols then draw to see which one starts first; they set off at intervals, P.L.'s or Guides chosen by the Patrols armed with pencil and paper. Each Patrol is to make a yarn of what they see and note the various plants, constellations, twigs, birds, etc., passed on the way.

At the end of the hike, Patrols are given a few minutes to write the story. P.L.'s read their stories and the Company selects the best.—(From "Girl Scout Game Book").

—M.N.

GUIDERS AND RANGERS

HELP WANTED!

A Working Bee on the grounds of the Cottage has been arranged for the week-end, May 30-June 1, 1941. Come and assist to improve the outside appearance of the Cottage. Will those who can come to this Working Bee, please notify Miss D. Holtz, 25 Grange Road, Kew, E.4, by Tuesday, May 20, WITHOUT FAIL, enclosing 5/9 for train fare. Please state if coming on Friday evening or Saturday mid-day. If sufficient people are travelling, concession fares will be available. Approximate cost of board, 5/-, Fares extra.

—D. HOLTZ.

GUIDERS' DINNER

At the Guiders' Committee meeting held on 4th April, a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities and advisability of holding a Guiders' Dinner this year.

They duly enquired prices etc. from various cafes, and found that 3/- per head was the lowest quotation suitable to our needs. (We know from past experience the standard of catering we require.)

So much for the financial side of the question! However on the principle of "First Things First"—are we *justified*, during this time of extreme National Emergency, in arranging a function which after all is purely a social event? Therefore, unless the Committee receives some direction from those whom it represents, it will move no further in the matter.

O. G. M. KNIGHT,

Chairman

RANGER PAGE

Minutes of the Victorian Ranger Committee meeting held at Headquarters on Thursday, March 13, 1941, at 6.30 p.m.

Present.—Miss Bush, in the chair; Rangers: Joyce Bryant, Pamela Dyke, Peggy Edmondson, Isabel Low, Beryl McNee, Margaret Mellor, Ethel Preston, Greta Roach, Hazel Sampson, Margaret Shaw and Beatrice Wilson.

As Mrs. Faulkner and Miss Ross were unable to be present, Miss Bush acted as Chairman. An apology was received from Myra Farley.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

From four nominations received, Dorothy Preston, of 3rd Richmond, was elected to the Gipton Sub-committee.

No decision was made as to what will be done with profits made this year as only three Companies have sent in suggestions.

Four Committee members have received answers to their letters to country districts. The country Companies were interested and wished to continue to correspond.

A report on the Ranger swimming sports was read by the Convener, Pamela Dyke. This fixture was well attended and very successful. The Swimming Cup was presented by Miss Weikhardt to the winners, 3rd Melbourne Rangers.

Finance.

The balance in the bank is £25/9/11. As this balance in the bank has been built up over a number of years, it does not actually belong to the girls at present in Rangering. An effort was made to find some statement of the use for which it was intended, and although none could be found in the old minute or cash books it is thought that it was to be used to endow or furnish a room at the Guide House.

The Committee decided to suggest in the next circular that £15 be paid to the Guide House Endowment Fund or the Caretakers' Cottage Fund.

At the 1941 Conference it will be suggested that each Committee shall begin the year with a certain sum of money in the bank, which sum shall be left intact, if possible, at the end of the year.

The Treasurer reported that the Ranger branch is the only one which sends out circulars for its fixtures, all other branches use "Matilda" only. No decision was made on this matter.

Correspondence.

A letter was received from Miss Bush thanking the Committee for the donation of £1 given to Headquarters by the 1940 Committee.

The Gipton Committee asked if it would be possible for the Ranger Committee to supply Gipton with three palliasses and 2 ground-sheets. Greta Roach, Isabel Low and Ella Low each donated a palliasse, but the Committee decided that the money for the ground-sheets could not be given.

The next meeting will be held at Head-

quarters on Friday, April 4, at 6.45 p.m.

The meeting then closed.

MINUTES OF THE VICTORIAN RANGER COMMITTEE HELD AT H.Q. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1941.

Present.—Rangers: Pamela Dyke, Peggy Edmondson, Myra Farley, Isabel Low, Beryl McNee, Margaret Mellor, Ethel Preston, Greta Roach, Hazel Sampson, Margaret Shaw, and Beatrice Wilson.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Faulkner and Joyce Bryant. Greta Roach was elected to the chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

It was decided that profits made on fixtures this year will be given to the Guide War Appeal. Whether the Committee will continue to send out circulars or use "Matilda" only for certain fixtures was discussed, and it was decided that an experiment will be made in July when notice and arrangements for the Ranger dinner will be published in "Matilda" only.

Basket Ball.

Two basket ball teams, known as 1st Esendon Rangers and 4th Preston Rangers, have been entered in the Victorian Women's Basket Ball Association.

First Aid Box.

Hazel Sampson has been made responsible for the hiring out and replacing of kit in the Ranger First Aid Box.

Finance.

The balance in the bank is £25/9/11, which includes £1 of Thank You Fund subscriptions.

Correspondence.

A letter was received from Miss Jean Robertson on behalf of the Brownie Guiders' Committee asking for Ranger helpers at the working bee on the Brownie Cottage from May 26 to June 2 next. All Committee members are to get in touch with their Companies about this matter, and answers are to be sent to Miss Robertson before April 17.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 9, at 6.45 p.m.

The meeting then closed.

TO ALL VICTORIAN RANGERS.

The Victorian Ranger Committee wishes all Companies a happy Guiding year. Begin by making the Thank You Fund happy and sending along 2/6 donation on your Company birthday. You could enclose this donation with your ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION of 2/6, which is now due. Please make postal notes payable to M. Shaw, Collins Street, Melbourne. Unfinancial Companies cannot be circularised (remember the cost of stationery is going up and UP!)

CAMPING AND TRAINING

Elaine Moran

The Pioneer Camp

This was an experiment, the first time we have had a special Camp for testing the Pioneer Badge, in fact the first time we have run a Guide Camp on these lines.

For the greater part of last year hints on preparing for the Badge Test were published in MATILDA and the Guides of several Companies spent their Saturdays practising hard. 20 Guides and 6 Rangers from 13 Companies were present. There were four Patrols, two were "made up" Patrols, and two consisted of Guides who had applied en masse. Each Patrol was sent a Patrol Kit list beforehand and the Guides were asked to get in touch with one another before Camp—which they did, even if it could only be by letter—and to choose Leaders and Emblems.

As the train brings Guides to the Guide House at something after 8 p.m. it is too late to pitch Camp, so the first night was spent camped in rows on the verandah, in order to get the earliest possible start in the morning. On arrival at the Camp Site the Leaders were shown four sites for the Patrol Camps and four piles of camp gear. After Patrols had pegged claims for sites they started to erect Camp. Each Patrol had two sleeping tents and its own lat. and wash cubicle; the latter was erected with great ingenuity in the bush with the aid of much rope and the minimum use of poles! Fire-places were prepared, small grease-pits dug, and verp soon the first gadgets began to appear.

Testing began almost at once and Guiders were in great demand to "pass" tent pitching, screening and wood-piles. The weather was perfect and plans could not have worked out more smoothly. Each day the whole Camp met for Prayers and Colours. Patrols mixed for Scouting Games. The rest of the time was spent in caring for and improving Patrol Camps, cooking Patrol meals and tests for the different sections of the Badge syllabus. All this was entered into with great vim by all the campers who appeared to enjoy thoroughly every minute of the Camp. Rations for 24 hours were given out each day and stored in Patrol Larders; visitors to Patrol Camps were proudly shown the safes made from butter muslin and sticks, string bags for vegetables and ration bags for dry rations; the best use had been made of neighbouring trees on which these were hung, very neat and ship-shape. Many and various were the gadgets "without string or nails" as well as those requiring lashing, all were useful and well constructed. One section of the test requires the cooking of dumplings, bacon and stew and porridge. Poor Q.M.! She would be peacefully sitting at her own meal in the Guiders' Corner when there would be a rush of Guides with the results of their labours to be tasted and tested. One morning she tasted so much bacon and porridge in alternate layers that she really did not need her own breakfast!

At night all gathered around in the firelight for songs and stories and on Sunday evening the Guides' Own was held around the campfire. On the last day ten proud campers received their well-earned Pioneer Badges and ten others were

told that they might still earn the Badge if they completed the few remaining tests within a short time. One Guide who had to leave on the early morning train, received her Badge the night before; it was immediately sewn on to her uniform to be worn home, because "Captain" was going to meet the train!

The Camp broke up with many groans of regret and the determination to go on and "do" the Camcraft Badge next time!

Training Courses

Signalling Classes—So far there have not been sufficient applications to warrant forming this class. Will Rangers and Guiders who wish to join please write to Miss Macartney at the Guide Office by 31st May. The class will not commence before the beginning of July and applicants will be notified of place and date. Required of those attending is a thorough knowledge of the Morse Code including the phonetic alphabet, and signalling and reading at second class standard.

Woodcraft Week—A Guiders Woodcraft Camp will be held under canvas at the Guide House in the September Holidays, from 30th August to 6th September, if there are sufficient applications. If you are keen on any branch of woodcraft you should try and come; if you want to learn about woodcraft you should come, for Britannia Creek Valley provides unlimited opportunities for woodcraft of all kinds from fungi and ferns to Scouting Games.

Camp First Aid Test—The class for this test will not commence until July as our lecturer will not be available until then. The syllabus of the classes will be published in MATILDA and those wishing to renew their certificates may attend whichever classes they feel will help them most before the Test.

Refresher and First Class Training—Classes will be held at the Guide office on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th June at 7.35 p.m. sharp. The fee is 3d. per class. Equipment required is note-book and pencil, compass if available and sandshoes. The Field Day in connection with the course will be held on 21st June at Ivanhoe Bridge from 2.30 to 5.00 p.m.

Open Week-ends

These are being heavily booked in advance, and applications are accepted in the order in which they are received. Guiders who are planning to go with their Guides are advised to make plans well ahead, apply early and avoid disappointing the Guides.

The fee is 6/- per head including bus but not rail fare. The full week-end is from Friday evening to Sunday evening but parties may come for part time and will be charged accordingly. Guides must be accompanied by their Guider. Open to all Commissioners, Guiders, Rangers and Guides. Open week-ends will be held as follows: June 6-8, 20-22. July 4-6, 18-20. Aug. 1-3, 15-17. Sept., 19-21. Oct. 3-5, 17-19. Nov. 7-9, 21-23. Applications must reach the Camping Sec. Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, not later than two weeks before the week-end concerned, 2/6 deposit must be sent for each camper.

Camper's Licence

The following Guiders have passed the tests for Camper's Licence: Mrs. R. D. Bakewell, Benalla. Miss S. Morris, Hamilton.

GUIDE HOUSE GROUNDS AND GARDEN

If applications warrant it the Working Bee advertised in last "Matilda" for May 10 and 11 will still be held. Later Working Bees will be June 21 and 22 and July 12 and 13. All applications to be sent to Miss Broadhurst, c/o Guide Headquarters, at least a week beforehand, enclosing 5/9 for fare and stating whether you will be going on the morning or afternoon train on the Saturday.

—C. Broadhurst.

GUIDE SHOP

WHISTLES are no longer available. Companies will need to do some improvising or to make an effort to call in all whistles that have passed out of the Company.

There is a small book available called "Silent Drill," which can be used in the Company—price 1/-. This can be made interesting and calls for more observation and self-control from each individual. Very good training!

—C. Broadhurst.

Books are tools with which we work—without them we cease to grow.

In accepting the privilege may we not lose sight of the responsibility.

GIPTON WORKING BEE

You remember we told you to keep Saturday, May 10 (or the whole week-end) free for the Working Bee at Gipton, Frankston.

Now that Guide Week has been arranged to begin that week-end, some willing workers may find themselves unable to come. However, others who are free (and willing) are reminded to send in their application at once to Miss G. E. Onians, 13 Myamyn Street, Malvern, S.E.3. Tell her whether you are going for the day or the week-end, and whether you will go down in the morning or afternoon.

Have you been collecting sump oil for us? You remember we are going to paint the fence with it, and are counting on a goodly quantity. Can you bring any paint brushes with you, by the way? Tell Miss Onians this, too—and if you could bring some hedge shears. . . .!

A variety of jobs awaits you—and lots of fun, as usual.

—F. V. Barfus.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Adventuring" South Australia; "The Council Fire"; "The Girl Guide Courier" Western Australia; "The Girl Scout Leader" U.S.A.; "Te Rama" New Zealand; "The Waratah" N.S.W.

What the day holds for us, lies in the way we use our God-given opportunities.

"Quality you can TASTE!"

BROCKHOFF'S

"Oven-crisp" **BISCUITS**

B. 32 C

SHELTER

It is easy enough to take cover when it rains—if you happen to be near cover.

The best "cover" from life's rainy days is a bank account. **BE INDEPENDENT!** Build yours up in the—

STATE
SAVINGS BANK
OF VICTORIA

221 BRANCHES — 387 AGENCIES
Head Office, Elizabeth Street, Melb.
N. R. WILLIAMS, General Manager.

RED CROSS FETE

The Guide Emergency Company was very fortunate in having perfect weather for the fete in the garden of Mrs. C. P. Broadhurst.

The gross takings were £81/4/4, and nett total £80/10/9. This sum is specially good, when you consider we had no large and expensive goods for sale, and that entry for all competitions was a penny.

We feel our work has been rewarded; the groups did work hard for the different stalls and competitions, but, our work would have been useless, without people to buy, and, we were certainly loyally supported by our friends. The number of Guides and Brownies was quite impressive. From Lady Chauvel, to the smallest Brownie, we are very grateful to you all, and it is because of your generous interest and help, we have such a large sum to hand over to the Red Cross.

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Broadhurst. The lovely surroundings were an added attraction and we are very much in her debt for her personal interest and help.

M. MOORE
Superintendent

*Learn to live a day at a time
And within that compass be your best and
bravest.*

**YOUR CREDIT
IS GOOD—
USE IT AT**

Christies Pty.
Ltd.

- ★ FURNITURE ★ CARPETS
- ★ LINOLEUM ★ RADIO
- ★ PLAYERS ★ PIANOS
- ★ SPORTS GOODS

TRADE IN ■

Your old furniture, player piano or radio will be accepted at its full present day value as part payment on any new requirements. Trade in and save at Christies.

Christies Pty.
Ltd.

96 ELIZABETH STREET
Central 4526.

214-218 BOURKE STREET
Central 8022 (3 lines)