

Hub Bush

Matilda

Sends you Christmas Greetings

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

Published by the Girl Guides Association, Victoria,
60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1.

Price: 3/- per Year (4/6 posted).

Acting Editor: Miss M. WATSON, Brompton, Mountain Road, Kilsyth.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 9th of each month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Guiders are reminded that subscriptions should be sent to Headquarters.
PLEASE DON'T SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR.

Vol. XXIV.

DECEMBER, 1947.

No. 5.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COMMISSIONER

10th November, 1947.

I have just been reminded that next month's "Matilda" has to go to the printer now. It is hard to realise that it is time to write a Christmas message, at the beginning of November, particularly when our minds are full of the welcome which we are waiting to give our Chief Guide—that warm and affectionate welcome in which we hope that almost every Guide and Brownie will be able to take part in some way.

But by the time you read this the Rally and all the activities connected with her visit will be over, and Christmas will be almost upon us. And so I want to wish you all—Commissioners and Guiders, and through you the Guides—a happy Christmas and a happy and fortunate New Year.

While I am writing this letter, I think I will take the opportunity of telling you that, much as I shall miss you all, and the pleasant times we have enjoyed together, I have decided that next year is to be my last as State Commissioner. So will you read into this message just those extra good wishes that I should like the last of my Christmas messages to take from me to you?

After Christmas comes the New Year, the camps, Miss Cobham's visit, in which so many of you will take part, so I'll wish you also good camping and successful training.

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM BALMORAL CASTLE

5th September, 1947.

Dear Mrs. Fairbairn,

I am desired by the Princess Elizabeth to write and ask you to convey to the Girl Guides of Australia Her Royal Highness' most grateful thanks for their magnificent wedding gift of ingredients for The Princess' wedding cake.

Her Royal Highness wishes those concerned to know how very deeply she appreciated the thought which prompted the offer of this most generous and acceptable gift.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Egerton
Lady in Waiting.

COMMISSIONER FOR TESTS AND BADGES

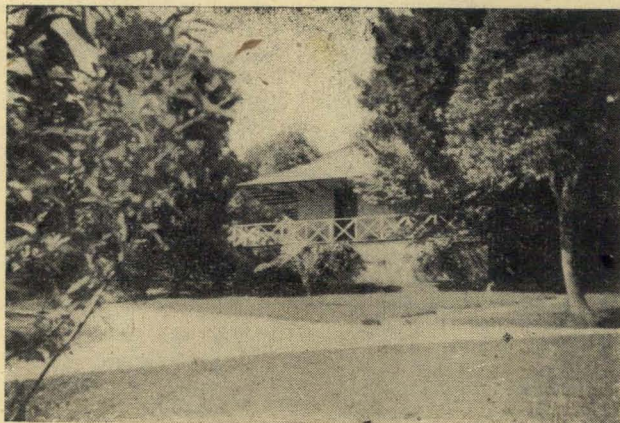
The Executive Committee have accepted with very sincere regret the resignation of Miss Margaret Moore as Commissioner for Tests and Badges, to take effect at the end of the year. Miss Moore has for many years given valuable service in this capacity, and on behalf of all members of the Movement I desire to thank her most warmly.

We are glad to announce that Miss Alison Howgate has agreed to carry on Miss Moore's work, and her appointment will take effect from 31st December, 1947.

SIBYL CHAUVEL.

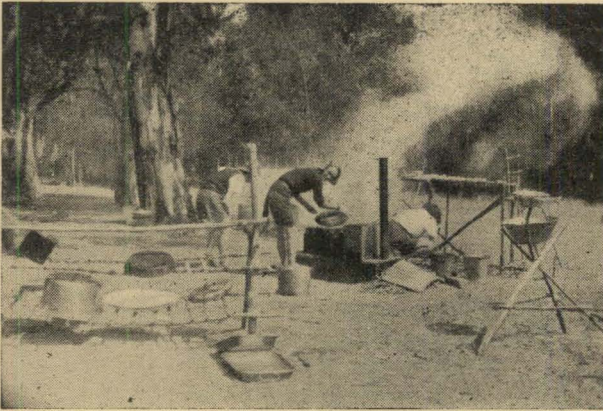


The Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, and the Chief Guide,
Lady Baden-Powell, during their last visit to Australia.



The Guide House and the Brownie Cottage, Britannia Creek, where many Guides will be spending the summer holidays. May you all have happy camps.





TRAINING

NON-RESIDENTIAL TRAININGS DURING MISS COBHAM'S VISIT.

1. **Field Day and Camp Fire**, at Cheltenham, on Saturday, 10th January, for Commissioners and Guiders. It will be held in the grounds round the Scout Hall (opposite the railway station), commencing at 3 p.m. Tea will be at 6, and there will be a break to enable individual Guiders to meet Miss Cobham. This will be followed by a camp fire. No cooking can be done. Guiders should bring their own evening meal, afternoon tea (if required), groundsheet, cup, milk, sugar and tea ration. Tea will be made for the evening meal. Those wishing to attend should notify Miss D. Cooper, 179 Point Nepean Road, Aspendale, by 3rd January. Fee for day, 6d. Local Guiders, advise those attending this training to come supplied with citronella or some similar remedy for mosquitoes.

2. **Brownie Guiders' Training Night**.—Wednesday, 28th January.

3. **Guide Guiders' Training Night**.—Friday, 30th January.

Commissioners welcome at either of these trainings. They will both be held at Christ Church Hall, corner of Punt and Toorak Roads, South Yarra. Catch Toorak tram, No. 8, to Punt Road; or electric train to South Yarra Station and walk west along Toorak Road to Punt Road; or travel by Clifton Hill-Point Ormond bus to Toorak Road. Trainings will be from 8 to 10 p.m.; fee, 6d. a night. Names of those wishing to attend should be sent to Miss Howgate, 9 Church Street, Toorak, by 12th January.

Training Classes for 1948.

Elementary Training Course for Brownie and Guide Guiders will commence at the Girl Guide Office early in March. Details of these will be published in the next "Matilda." Guiders wishing to attend who have a preference for any particular night of the week, or find any night specially unsuitable, are asked to notify the Hon. Training Secretary as soon as possible.

CAMPING

Easter Campcraft Week.

NEWS!!! It has been decided to hold a Campcraft Training Week at Easter, 1948, from Friday morning to Tuesday evening. The proposed site is at Woomi Yallock, and further details will be arranged as soon as possible.

This is the first time for many years that a Campcraft Training has been held other than during the summer holidays, and it is an opportunity for Guiders who are unable to get holidays in January. Tests will be arranged for Camper's Licences, Guider's Permits or any other camping qualifications.

Will Guiders who are interested and wish to attend please send a deposit of 10/- to Miss M. McDonald, 46 Snowdon Avenue, Caulfield, S.E.8, not later than 31st January, 1948.

Campcraft Certificate.

Applications for the 1948 course for this certificate close on 30th November, but it may be possible to accept late entries if sent immediately to Miss M. McDonald.

Guiders who hope later to have a Guider's Permit, and Rangers who have ideas of a Ranger Camp Permit, and others interested—don't miss this course. Full particulars appeared in October "Matilda."

Campers.

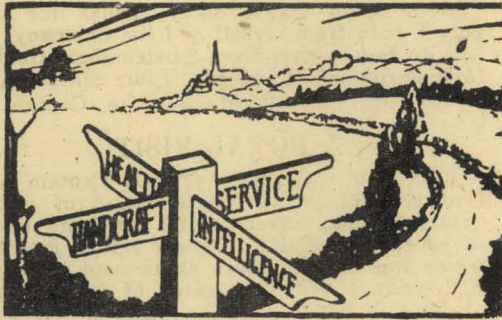
Shortly after this issue of "Matilda" is received many Guiders will be leaving for camp. Are all your preparations complete and as satisfactory as possible? On the thought and planning beforehand depends the success or otherwise of your camp. Aim high for your Guides.

Recipe.

For Tea at Camp.—Savoury Eggs: Hard-boiled eggs; remove yolks and mix with anchovy, tomato sauce or mayonnaise; then return to the half whites and join together.

CAN YOU HELP?

Have you any old copies of "THE GUIDE" or "THE GUIDER" which you have finished with? If so, you would be helping the Post Guides if you left them at Headquarters addressed to Miss Shirley Luke for distribution. The Guides are so thrilled when an old copy of "The Guide" is given to them to read that we would like to have more for them, and "The Guider" contains pictures and illustrations useful for decorating the monthly Post Guide meetings. If you can help, DO IT NOW, please.



THE SIGN POST

THE FIRST CLASS TEST

"Be prepared to treat for shock following accident; arrest bleeding; treat a patient unconscious from accident, fit or fainting; resuscitate the drowning, using Schafer's method of artificial respiration. Know how to deal with fire and ice accident. Prepare a bed for a stretcher case. Change the sheets of a bed with patient in it. Show how to prevent bed sores. Use a clinical thermometer. Dress a wound."

These clauses remain unaltered, except for wording and the substitution of "dress a wound" for "make and apply a fomentation." Although we are familiar with this test, many of us fail to make very much of it for our Guides; we teach them in too theoretical a manner, so that their natural interest in first aid and nursing is diminished rather than increased. Really practical teaching and testing make really practical first aiders. We want to be sure that any Guide who professes to know some first aid can really render it with skill and common sense.

Training.—For details of how to teach each part of these clauses, Guiders should study *THE GIRL GUIDE BOOK OF FIRST AID AND RESCUE WORK* (published by the Girl Guides' Association, 7/6). This book gives all the information we need, but in passing it on to the Guides we must remember to be practical. It is little use being able to recite "treat for shock" if we ourselves have never practised getting a rug under, as well as over, a patient, and if we are unable to produce a hot drink quickly and without fuss. Many people are afraid of treating severe bleeding, yet this is something which must be carried out quickly by the first-aiders. The Guides will gain enormously in skill and confidence if they learn to deal with patients who have been made to look as though they were really hurt. Some dark red poster-paint, thinned with tap water, makes good "blood," and the cut flesh at the side of a wound can be built up in pink dough. If the patient can act her

part well, a very realistic practice will result. Burns and scalds can be simulated by reddening the skin with water colour or rouge, with a little candle wax superimposed for blisters. Ash and dirt can be applied as occasion demands. The Guides enjoy these realistic practices, and do not easily forget what they learn this way.

Fire rescue should be practised too—not just learnt theoretically. Bedmaking should preferably be taught on a real single bed, although it is possible to get good practice with a camp bed, provided there is adequate bedding. The whole of this clause should be practised at a "hospital" meeting, where sheets are changed, patients put to bed, temperatures taken, wounds dressed, etc. The clause "dress a wound" needs very practical training with bowls, water, cotton wool or clean rag, and an opportunity for the Guide to wash her hands before she begins. It is not until the Guide has practised dressing a wound that she really learns not to put the used swabs back in the water, and so forth. If all our training is given in a practical way, not forgetting that accidents frequently occur out of doors, our Guides will enjoy learning first aid, and we need not fear the result when they take the First Class Test.

Testing.—Much valuable advice on testing is given in the *GIRL GUIDE BOOK OF FIRST AID AND RESCUE WORK*, and stress is laid on two important points. First, the Guide taking these clauses of First Class is not expected to be an advanced first-aiders, but is expected to be able to do everything stated in the clauses really well. Thoroughness is essential.

In first aid it is absolutely vital that a high standard should be maintained; at the same time it must be remembered that the girl taking the test is young, and it is better that she should know when to call grown-up help and what to do while that help is coming, than to try to give advanced first aid herself. Second, the test should be practical. The Guide is asked to "do," not to "know how to do," in almost every part of these clauses (ice and fire accidents are the only exceptions). It will therefore be necessary to prepare carefully for this test, making sure that all necessary equipment, including a bed, is available. Only so can the test be a satisfactory one for both tester and candidate, and be taken under conditions which allow the Guide to do her best.

In testing these clauses, the self-control and common sense shown by the Guide should be taken into consideration, as these qualities are very important in a first-aiders. At the same time, it must be remembered that some Guides are very self-conscious at a test, and will need encouragement if they are to show their best work.

—From "The Guider."

AN IDEA TO BE COPIED . . .

8th November.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I thought might be of some interest to "Matilda." The Guide Companies and Ranger Company of Sandringham District sent a parcel of food to each of the Patrol Leaders and the Captain of the Sandringham Guide Company in England. As we had hoped, the parcels arrived in time for camp, and the enclosed letter is the one received by our Rangers from the Captain of the Guide Company in England. The Sandringham Guides have distributed for us the food collected by our District and sent to Sandringham in England. As most of the food was given to old people of the district, we thought the Guides themselves deserved some also. Some of the Companies are sending their Rally parcels to the Guides.

Yours sincerely,
Lena Cornell, Captain,
Sandringham District Ranger Co.

The Rectory,
Wolferton, King's Lynn, Norfolk,
4th August, 1947.

Dear Rangers,

I must ask you to forgive me for not writing before to thank you for the lovely parcel of food, but since returning from camp I have been ill. Your parcel and four others arrived a day or so before camp, which was very thrilling. I just don't know what we should have done without them, as rations go nowhere in camp. It was very amusing to hear the envious remarks made by the visitors on reading our camp menu for the week.

We had marvellous weather, and a very nice little camp, but it was a bit hectic, because at the last moment we had to change all our plans for health reasons. Instead of going with another company who were providing all the necessary equipment except our tents, we had to go on our own. The Guides were so disappointed at the thought of no camp, so I decided this was the only thing to do. We had only two days in which to collect all the necessary stuff together.

We had an unexpected visit from H.M. Queen Mary, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and the Princess Royal. . . [Description of the Royal visit is given by one of the Guides.]

There is to be a Ranger Day at Norwich on the 21st, with a march past and a service taken by the Bishop, as well as talks, and, of course, a camp fire. The Ranger Captain is unable to go, but I have promised to take some of them by car, as there are no trains or buses to Norwich on a Sunday. The petrol rationing is a big blow, as it is such a job getting about in the country.

Some Guides and their tester have just arrived to do their 1st class hike in our paddock, so I must go and see that the goats aren't butting them!!!

With again many, many thanks for the parcel, both from myself and the Company.

With best wishes from Sandringham Guides to Sandringham Rangers,—Yours sincerely,
E. Musselwhite, Captain.

A ROYAL VISIT

Rest hour was just over, and Captain had sent each of us to get a bucket of water before tidying ourselves and our tents (both of which needed it!). On our return journey, which was causing much amusement since we had made a very fine catch of fresh water shrimps in addition to the water in our buckets, we saw a large car coming along the farm road. We shouted to Captain, who was in the midst of sorting the stores, but she did not take much notice, as we had been making such a row. We arrived with the water just as H.M. Queen Mary, T.R.H. the Princess Royal and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were alighting from the car. The royal party asked us if we were enjoying ourselves, what we were going to have for tea, and many other questions. Captain then took them round the camp, starting from the store tent. Here she told Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses about the marvellous food you had sent us. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester spoke about the camping they had seen in your country. We were very thrilled that the Princess Royal was among our visitors, as it was in this Company that she first took an interest in the Guides. On our return home from camp H.M. Queen Mary sent us a lovely illustrated book on the life of Princess Elizabeth. We heard afterwards Princess Elizabeth. We heard afterwards that our Royal visitors were glad that we were not all lined up waiting for them, since then they would not have seen the actual life of the camp. Captain says that she wishes our tents had been a little more tidy, and that she had been rather more clean. Still our motto is: "Be Prepared."

GUIDE HOUSE "WORKING BEE"

The last "Working Bee" for 1947 at the Guide House will be on the 20th and 21st December. Those who wish to come and help tidy the grounds before the camping season begins should write to Miss Jill Welshman, 82 St. George's Road, Elsterwick, before 13th December. Please say if travelling in the morning or afternoon. The fee is 10/- covering food and transport.

STAMPS

Thanks are extended this month to the following:—

Kew Local Association.
4th South Yarra Company.
Mrs. Barclay.

Please keep up the good work, Guiders and other friends. It takes a lot of stamps to make even a few shillings, but we hope to show a profit soon.

L. CUZENS, Hon. Organiser.



INTERSTATE CAMP

Here are your representatives for the Interstate Camp in N.S.W. next Christmas:—Miss Owen, Skipper S.R.S. Invincible—Camper's Licence.

Peggy Armstrong, Yarraville District Rangers—Enrolled Guide, 1941; Ranger, 1946; aged 17. Part I Ranger Service Star.

Marlis Benfey, Malvern District—Enrolled Guide, 1942; Ranger, 1946; aged 18. Present Interstate Camp, Victoria, 1947.

Gwen Corrie, Kew District—Enrolled Guide, 1942; Ranger, 1946; aged 17. Interstate Camp, 1947. Service Star Part I.

Wilma Cregan, 1st Hawthorn—Enrolled Guide, 1940; Ranger, 1947; aged 18. Service Star Part I.

Joan Drew, 1st Mildura—Enrolled Guide, 1941; Ranger, 1946; aged 18. Interstate Camp, 1947. Campcraft Certificate. Service Star Part I, 11.

Joan Goodwin, Caulfield District—Enrolled Guide, 1940; Ranger, 1945; aged 19. Interstate Camp, 1947. Campcraft Certificate. Service Star Part I.

Margaret Hough, Toorak and Armadale; aged 17. Interstate Camp, 1947.

Nanette Neville, Kew District—Enrolled Guide, 1940; Ranger, 1946; aged 18. Interstate Camp, 1947. Service Star Part I. (Only Service Star Parts which have been completed are included.)

Our best wishes go with them. May they return with a new knowledge to enrich our Guiding.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that a souvenir brochure will be printed for Ranger Week next July? If you have any photos of Ranger activities which would be suitable for inclusion as Australia's contribution, hunt through your snaps, choose the best, and hand them to a member of the Ranger Committee.

CAN YOU TYPE?

You can! Good! The Lone Captains really need your help! Each month Budgets must be sent out to their Patrols, and each Budget means five or six pages of typing. Even an hour's work each month will go a long way towards assisting this fine Branch of Guiding. A typewriter is available for your use. Please write to Mrs. F. W. Faulkner, 7 Como Avenue, South Yarra, S.E.1, or ring BJ 2855.

RANGER-ROVER BALL

Where were you on the night of 25th October?

Well, most of us were having a grand time at the Port Melbourne Town Hall—even though there weren't enough Rovers to go round. The band was exhausted long before we were, and at supper the plates disappeared almost as soon as they were put on the table (the Rovers, of course!).

We thank the organisers for arranging such a happy evening for us.

RANGER ATHLETIC SPORTS

On Saturday, 18th October, the first thought of Rangers in Melbourne as they hopped out of bed was "the weather." Why? Because the Ranger Athletic Sports were being held that afternoon at Korowa C.E.G.G.S.

As soon as Rangers arrived at Korowa, they began "limbering up" for the events to follow. Shortly after 2.30 p.m. the first event, the slow bicycle race, took place, and the sports were off to a great start.

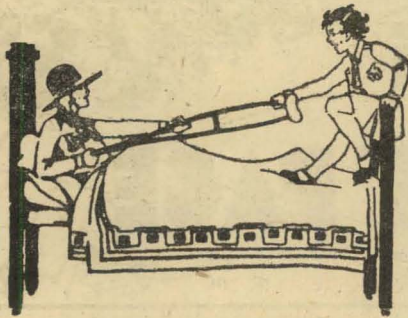
Most of the events were of a novel nature, and provided plenty of scope for the energetic and, in a few cases, skilful Rangers who participated. It was amazing how potatoes seemed to jump out of buckets during the potato race, and how laughter caused many "wheelbarrows" to collapse. However, the contestants in the flower-pot race showed greater skill. Another event worthy of note was the "honeymoon" race. How I wish there had been a few mirrors handy!

The day continued, packed full of laughter, and it was noticed that among the spectators were several "old Rangers," to whom we were very pleased to say "hello." Excitement grew to a great height when it was announced that 3rd East Malvern and Caulfield District Rangers had scored equally, and it was unanimously agreed that a relay between the two Companies would decide the issue.

The relay was most exciting; then Caulfield met with bad luck, and East Malvern were victorious.

Rangers gathered on the arena while the winning token was presented. Thus the sports ended, and I feel sure that all present will join in saying to the Convener, Valma Pitman, "Well done! We had a great day!"

—"Willie."



EXTENSIONS

EAST LONDON, ILFORD AND KENT (ENGLAND) POST CAMP

28th August to 4th September, 1947.

'It was a lucky day for eight Kent people when we were asked if we would like to camp with London and Ilford people at "Woodlarks." We had heard about "Woodlarks," but none of us had been there.

At last the big day arrived, when we were to make our journey, some by ambulance and trains, others by car. The weather was lovely and was grand all the week.

We arrived in the afternoon. Some of us knew each other, but had not been able to meet since before the war, and we were able to meet many new people, so our tongues were busy, and we were all glad when time came for us to have a cup of tea.

"Woodlarks" is a permanent camp for handicapped people. It is surrounded by lovely country at Farnham, in Surrey. Colonel and Mrs. Storer live in the grounds, near the camp. They have worked hard for years to get this place for us, and are still working, as they now want to manage a training centre.

They have been working since 1930. There were all sorts of big difficulties to be overcome, first about getting the land, then the building, electricity, water, and how to get the money required. Different counties and individual people had subscribed. There is a big dormitory, with about a dozen beds with spring mattresses, for people who must sleep indoors—this has windows which open along one side. Through a door there is a line of wash basins, with running water, bathrooms and lavatories, all large enough and easy for people who must go in their chairs. Outside this camp were about a dozen tents.

In one part of the grounds are some lovely pine trees, which form nearly a circle. This has some rails made across and a little altar, and is known as the Chapel.

Quite a few of us had been to camp before, but not to one like this. After arriving and chatting and having tea, we seemed to know each other already. Captain met us all when we arrived. With her was her mother, who

was at the camp all the time; three nurses and many other Guiders, who had all very kindly given up their time to look after us; also Q.M., who arranged all the meals for her big family. My word, and did we eat!

Friday we were awakened with a cup of tea in bed—really spoilt, weren't we?—but everyone enjoyed it. After this we washed and dressed, as breakfast was at 8.30. After this Captain used to give out letters, etc., for the lucky ones; then she gave out notices for the day.

One day she told us that some food parcels from Australia had arrived for us—and what lovely parcels they were. The contents were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Many, many thanks, Guides and Rangers of Australia, from everyone at "Woodlarks."

Then those who could help took it in turn to wash up, prepare vegetables for dinner or help in any way they could. At 10.15 we used to have a nice little service in the Chapel, conducted by our Captain. Then we could write or read or do anything we liked until dinner time.

After dinner was rest hour, then tea, and high supper about 7.

Saturday evening we had a lovely camp-fire and sang all sorts of songs until it was time for bed. Sunday was visitors' day. We had quite a few extra people for tea, and another lady and gentleman who often came to see us. They both work ever so hard for "Woodlarks." The lady brought us a lovely treat for tea—some lovely apple turnovers that she had made herself.

On Sunday afternoon we had a service in the little Chapel, conducted by the clergyman from one of the churches in Farnham. Monday, after the usual jobs were done, the Kent people had a group of our own, and the London and Ilford people made their own little circle. At our group, one of the active helpers, who is a teacher and very clever at nature study, gave us a talk about trees, wild flowers, etc. This we thoroughly enjoyed.

After rest hour and tea on Monday, "sports" was the highlight. One was a sack race, in which Guiders and helpers took part, much to the amusement of us onlookers. Another one, in which we all took part, was guessing the contents of about ten different mugs, each containing white powder. Some people tasted them—you should have seen their faces when they were told what the different things were! Some were washing powder, salt, Epsom salts, sugar, flour, etc. Another game we were given matches on a tray, and the one who got nearest to making the word "Woodlarks" in a given time was the winner. Another game was real fun for people in wheel chairs. Four Guiders stood in a row, with a chair complete with occupant, at one end of the ground. At about centre course was a scarf, hat, coat and lipstick. When the

(Continued on page 15.)

CIRCULAR
GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA

SUPPLEMENT TO "MATILDA"

60 Market Street,
Melbourne, C.1,
5th December, 1947.

RALLY PROGRAMS AND BUTTONS

The Rally Committee is anxious to finalize the financial statement and this cannot be done until all programs and buttons distributed are either returned or paid for. Will all Guiders treat this matter as URGENT and send buttons, programs or cash to Mrs. Barclay, C/- Girl Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, Melbourne NOT LATER THAN Friday, 19th December.

Companies who have not yet paid for their red scarves could enclose cash for these also.

AUTOGRAPHED PROGRAMS.

A limited number of programs autographed by the World Chief Guide is available at Headquarters.

Price 5/-d. per copy.

M. McL. BURNS

State Secretary.

The Guide International Service

VICTORIA SENDS TWO MORE G.I.S. VOLUNTEERS

Four more Australians—two of them Victorians—left last month on the Orion for England and G.I.S. work in Germany.

They were Mrs. Gwen Mann, better known to Guiders as Gwen Eades, who has been doing farming since her discharge from the A.W.A.S., and Miss M. Taylor, a Geelong Guider, who during the war was with the Air Force Nursing Service. The Victorian G.I.S. Committee's parting gift to each was an attractive shoulder-strap leather bag. The other Australians were Miss Atkinson, of Tasmania, and Miss Couper, from Western Australia.

Miss Hayman, recently back from a tour of England and G.I.S. Camps in Germany, said that Australians have won the admiration of British Guiders for the way they have backed up the G.I.S. venture with money and volunteers. Miss Ward, Chairman of G.I.S. (B), thought Australians were "just wonderful."

Miss Hayman, who talked to the Victorian G.I.S. Committee about conditions in Germany, and of the many difficulties and unexpected problems that faced Volunteers, said it was essential that team leaders had to be capable of taking great responsibility. Tasmania's Gwen Hesketh had proved herself to be an ideal leader.

Teams consisted of seven Guide members and three paid Englishmen, who act as mechanics, storemen and general helpers; drivers and maids, who were usually Germans or D.P.'s., and to keep this unit happy called for great wisdom and tact on the part of the leader.

NO "OFFICIAL EXISTENCE . . ."

The work most sought after by Volunteers—and also the most urgently needed, she said, was welfare work among German refugees from the eastern areas, many of whom had lost their papers, and therefore had no "official existence."

Their plight was really tragic, because they had no hope, Miss Hayman thought, of ever being usefully absorbed into the already overcrowded Germany. Their presence was resented by most Germans. One of the jobs Volunteers had to do was to arrange for accommodation for these people in German households, and not unnaturally Germans objected to, say, a mother with four children being thrust upon them.

Volunteers are, of course, forbidden to use cigarettes, worth about 6/7 each to Germans, as a means of barter, but in certain circumstances they might be offered as tips. She related how on one journey, when her truck broke down eleven times in one day (they are worn out and break down all the time, she

said), it was repaired nine times by Germans for the tip of one cigarette, and twice, when a tow was necessary, three cigarettes were accepted. The cigarettes are rarely smoked, she said, but once or twice she did see men light them up with deep satisfaction.

She was delighted to see in a Ukrainian-Polish D.P. camp an altar cloth for their chapel, which had been most beautifully embroidered with materials given by Semco, and sent in a parcel from Victorian G.I.S. These people, she said, have a passion for this kind of work, and will even do it on pieces of hesian—if they can get it.

"THE POSTMAN BEAMED."

Miss Barfus, now in Germany in Miss Hesketh's team, in a letter from London describes how the office staff was surprised to find an Australian parcel on each of their chairs when they came to work one morning. . .

Many other friends of the Australians received one, too—including the caretaker and the postman, who has been burdened so often with our parcels. He beamed all over, said Miss Barfus, and they were all overcome with Australia's marvellous generosity.

Other Christmas parcels have been sent to Dr. Meredith Ross (now Physician to the Guides), Miss Barfus, Miss Thomas, and also a special one to the team in the Ruhr, which has no Australian in the team.

Writing from the Guide Chalet at Adelpboden (Switzerland) in September, where she is spending her leave, Miss L. Thomas describes the contrast between the dreary life in Germany and the picturesque and quaint landscape of Switzerland, with chalets dofted here and there, and everything looking so clean and fresh. There are 50 Guiders of various nationalities with her, and there is a good deal of hilarity over the languages, she said.

She has seen a glacier and a huge waterfall, which is right inside a mountain. It made a terrific noise. She has seen the wonderously beautiful lake at Interlaken, and she has visited Berne, where there are two pits, which have performing bears in them. She said the bears were so cold and wet. . .

3AW BROADCASTS

Would you like your Company or Pack to take part in one of our sessions? Think this well over, and let Guide Headquarters know if you could arrange a 12 minutes' programme for some time in the New Year. The sessions are on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m.



Christmas Greeting and Best Wishes
for the New Year
to all Brownies and Brownie Guiders.
—Commissioner for Brownies.

CHERRY APPLES

Once upon a time there was a Gnome, a cheery little man with a long white beard, rosy cheeks and two blue eyes brimful of laughter. He had built a little house in a dell all among the ivy and ferns. Just below it there ran a mountain stream. Softly it sang to him all the summer, and he loved to sit and listen after his day's work was done. For many years he had lived alone, a busy, useful life, but he wanted to find a wife and settle down.

He thought about her a great deal. She must be small as himself, with rosy cheeks to match his. He hoped she would wear a stiff white apron and a white cap with frilly bits round her face.

The dell where the Gnome had his house was on the direct air route, between the palace and the town. When he wanted stores he would hang out a little red lantern, and the dragon-fly would hover for a minute as it flew over, take the message and bring the order on the return flight. Sometimes he did jobs for the palace; mended umbrellas, soled shoes, threaded beads, and even fetched magic potions from the wise-woman-who-lived-further-up-the-dell. The dragon-fly left the job as he passed, and when it was ready he would hang out the lantern.

Now sometimes there were passengers on the air-mail! So, as soon as he had decided to look for a wife, the Gnome put out his red lantern and waited. When the dragon-fly arrived he hurried out to look at the passengers, but the first day there were none, so he gave a small order and went in again. Day after day he stopped the mail to look for a wife, but, although he saw many fairy folk, none of them were for him. This made him feel very sad.

At last he went, on his own account, to the wise-woman-who-lived-further-up-the-dell. She was very pleased to see him, and listened to his tale of woe. Not one word did

she say, but went to a dark corner and opened a cupboard and brought him one small pip.

"Plant this, three paces to the south of your house," she said. "Then think no more about it. Occupy your mind and hands in other matters. Remember, never let anything lie wasting."

The Gnome took the pip and thanked her very much, and went home exceedingly puzzled. Of course, he planted the pip at once, just as he had been told to do, "three paces to the south of the house," and then he couldn't think what to do with himself. His eyes kept wandering to the spot where the pip was planted. He went to bed at his usual hour, but could not sleep. As he lay awake he made up his mind that he would paint the whole of his house, inside and out, so that it should be ready for his wife, and he fell asleep, thinking out his order for the air-mail.

Very early next morning the Gnome was up. He wrote out an order for paint and brushes, lighted his lantern and put it out. It was then he noticed a little seedling where he had planted the pip. All that morning the Gnome found it very hard not to watch the seedling, as he had nothing to do until the paints arrived. At lunch he decided to wash down the woodwork before he put on the new paint. He was soon busy, and was quite surprised when the mail arrived with his order. It was then that he noticed that the seedling had grown into a tiny tree, with buds on it nearly ready to open. Long before the sun was up next day, the Gnome had started on his painting, and the inside was nearly done before he stopped for something to eat. It was then that he noticed the tree was a mass of lovely pink flowers. He finished the indoor painting and went to bed and slept very well.

Next morning he took all the painting things outside to do the doors and windows. It was then that he noticed that the trees had lost all the pink flowers and was covered with little round cherry-apples.

The Gnome worked hard with the outside painting, and it was all finished by tea-time. So he took in the tins and cleaned the brushes, and put all the things away neatly. Then he put on the kettle for a cup of tea. It was

then that he noticed all the lovely little red cherry-apples lying on the ground at the foot of the tree. He was terribly distressed, as he had hoped that his wife would have seen them. Then he remembered the wise-woman had said: "Never let anything lie wasting." So he took a basin from the shelf, and picked up all the little apples and brought them in, saying to himself, "I will make some cherry-apple jelly for my wife."

As the kettle was boiling, he put the basin of apples on the table, made his tea, and then pulled up one of the big arm-chairs to the fire, filled and lighted his pipe, and very soon dropped off to sleep!

Nobody knows how long he slept. He woke up from a beautiful dream to find the fire crackling merrily in the grate, the lamp lighted on the table, and the dearest little old woman, with rosy cheeks and a stiff white apron, and a white cap with frilly bits round her face, asking him if he was ready for his supper. He was so pleased that he jumped up and gave her two big kisses, one for each rosy cheek. Then they sat down to supper, and have lived happily ever since.

They had to buy a new basin, because the one with the apples had vanished away, and the wise-woman-who-lived-further-up-the-dell has never been seen up there since.

—From "The Guider," December, 1935.

RANGERS (continued from page 7).

MINUTES OF THE VICTORIAN RANGER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Held at Headquarters, Tuesday, 14th October, and Tuesday, 21st October.

Present—Miss Moran (in the chair), Gwen Corrie, Nanette Neville, Marjorie Knight, Evelyn King, Margaret Wallace, Norma Carroll, and Valma Pitman.

Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

We have been presented with a roll of hesian, with which we shall make wash-screening.

A letter of thanks was received from the National Fitness Council for the Rangers' part in the Rally at the Showgrounds, also a letter from the Commissioner for Lones (see elsewhere on this page).

Balance in the bank, £10/2/9.

The eight Victorian Rangers were chosen to attend the N.S.W. camp at Christmas.

Twelve Companies took part in the athletic sports, which were won by East Malvern. A profit of 17/6 was made.

The C.E.B.S. camp site is to be booked for the week-end camp and conference next July.

Publicity Meeting—28th November, in the Assembly Hall. Thirteen Rangers are to be chosen as ushers.

Next Meeting—Monday, 17th November.

—V. Pitman (Secretary).

LADY BADEN-POWELL'S VISIT TO ALBURY

Nothing can dampen a Guide or a Scout's spirit, as was shown during Lady Baden-Powell's visit to Albury on 4th November, 1947.

The day began by two L.A. members motoring to Henty to bring Lady Baden-Powell, Lady Julius, and Miss Attwater back to Albury, where she met L.A. members from the Southern Riverina and North-Eastern Victoria at a luncheon given in her honour. After the luncheon a civic reception was tendered Lady Baden-Powell by the Mayor of Albury, Alderman Bunton.

Rain again marred another Rally, so we just had to go inside with our plans. About six hundred Rangers, Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs attended the Rally. In the foyer of the hall thirty Colour-Bearers formed a guard of honour, with a representative of a Brownie and Guide Scout and Cub behind each district, through which the Chief Guide and the other two visitors walked, preceded by the Chief Guide's own Standard. A most impressive march past then took place, with Lady Baden-Powell taking the salute.

The Chief Guide gave a very enjoyable address. A picnic tea prepared by the Albury L.A. members was served to the three hundred Guides and Brownies. This again had to be held indoors.

The happy day closed with an indoors camp fire, and Lady Baden-Powell held the interest of the children with a short story about her little pet animal—a hyraux.

Not only did Lady Baden-Powell have a few hours with us here, but she had her rest period of three days. Wednesday and Thursday she rested, and on Friday she came out of her retirement to be the guest of honour of the Albury and Wodonga Guides at dinner. In the evening the Chief Guide enrolled seven Albury Rangers, this being her first enrolment in Australia, which thrilled her very much.

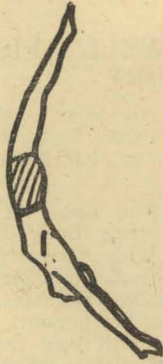
Lady Baden-Powell then gave up her time to address a public meeting in the Albury Town Hall on Guiding. Here again she had an enthusiastic audience, and even got Albury two new Guiders.

Lady Baden-Powell said good-bye to all the Guides and Guiders, and then had supper with the L.A. members.

What a surprise when she got to the station on Saturday morning to see a Guard of Honour of smiling Guide faces. Lady Baden-Powell was ever so pleased, and said, "What a good thing I wore my world uniform." We then said a sorry good-bye as the Spirit of Progress took her on her way to the other States.

So, you see, Albury has some very happy memories for 4th November, 1947, which I am sure no Guide will ever forget.

—L. G. & E. B.



PATROL LEADERS' PAGE

THE BLACKBIRD'S MESSAGE

Margaret stirred, opened her eyes, and then sat up very quickly, for it was Christmas Day. Would it be a fine day, suitable for swimming? The early sun, smiling on the garden from a clear sky, reassured her, and she lay back and wondered whether any of the Patrol were awake.

"I know just what they'll be doing to-day," she thought, "but I wonder what Noelle will be doing?" Noelle was P.L. of a London Company, and Margaret had been corresponding with her for several years.

"Would you really like to know?" asked a musical voice.

Margaret was startled, then, on the window sill she saw a blackbird, with his head cocked on one side, watching her.

"Yes, please," she said, when she had pulled herself together; "but who are you?"

"I am the Spirit of Friendship," said the blackbird. "No doubt you are surprised to see me like this, but this is a very convenient disguise for me. I just happened to be passing when I heard your thoughts, and as I know you are a Guide I thought you really meant them."

"I certainly did, and would be very grateful if you could tell me," replied Margaret.

"I'll do better than tell you," said the blackbird. "Just place a finger on my wing and close your eyes."

Margaret did as she was told, and then suddenly she saw a group of people singing outside a house. The street and house were covered in snow, and the singers were very warmly wrapped, but Margaret could see they were Guides.

The house had lighted candles in the window, and Margaret remembered Noelle telling her last year of a very old custom, which some householders still carried out, of decorating the house with holly, the leaves of which are a symbol of the Crown of Thorns, and the berries of the blood which Christ shed on Calvary, and of placing lighted candles in the window as an invitation to carol singers; but the legend is that the Christ-child wanders the fields and the streets at Christmas, and that He will go where the welcoming candle shows the way.

"There is your friend, singing with the rest," said the blackbird.

Slowly the picture commenced to fade, and Margaret said: "Please, blackbird, could we visit some other Guides. I would so like to know what is happening in other countries."

"Very well," said blackbird, "let's go to Poland." Here they found a group of Guides and Brownies making final preparation for their evening celebrations, which would include the enacting of the Nativity and the singing of songs which celebrate Christ's birth, as Christmas in every town and hamlet in Poland centres round the birth of Christ.

From Poland the scene changed to France, and here they saw a whole family, from father to the youngest child, engaged in bringing home a yule log.

"Someone there must be a Guide or Scout," thought Margaret. "Look at that sensible knot."

"Quite right," said blackbird, reading her thoughts, "both the older girls are Guides and the boys are Scouts."

Once more the picture changed, and this time the locality was one with a warmer climate, but very different to her own home, as the vegetation was lush and green, and the homes were built for coolness in the shade of palms. Then a girl appeared wearing a gilt badge similar to Margaret's own, except that it rested on a bar. "Why she's an Indian Guide," said Margaret.

"Yes," said blackbird, "and there's her young sister with a very shiny Bluebird badge. See, like your Patrol at home, they intend to swim."

"Let us just visit Canada before I go," said blackbird. And so the scene changed back to a white Christmas. Peeping through a window, Margaret saw three very excited children opening parcels and emptying their stockings.

"They aren't old enough to be Guides or even Brownies," she thought.

"No," replied blackbird, once again answering her thoughts, "but their happy Christmas was made possible by the local Guide Company. Their father was recently injured in an accident at the timber mill where he works, and their parents just couldn't afford toys and all the extras which help to make Christmas so thrilling for all; but the Guides heard about it, and made those toys and sweets for the children."

As this picture faded blackbird said: "I must go now, Margaret, but remember what you have seen, and remember that it is the Spirit of Friendship which brings people together, and that the Movement to which you, and those Guides we have just seen, belong is a very strong link in the Chain of Friendship."

"I'll remember, and thank you, blackbird," cried Margaret as he flew away.

And, P.L.'s., I hope you'll remember the blackbird's message too. This is the last time I shall be writing to you, and I wish you all every success and Good Guiding in the future. A Merry Christmas to you all.

—Gayardaree.



"THE SINGING MASONS"

Ask half-a-dozen people what they know about bees, and they will answer: "Bees? Oh, they sting!" And so the "worker" bee does, but in doing so it loses its life, for the whole end of its abdomen comes away with the sting. The queen bee has a sword-like sting, which can be used again and again, and, should two queens hatch at the same time, there is a battle royal!

Bees have many more interesting characteristics than stinging, though. For instance, they always leave the hive for cleansing flights; only the drones scatter excrement about the hive. Dying bees will use their last remnants of strength to leave the hive, so that the workers will not have to remove their bodies.

We all know that bees fertilise many flowers by carrying pollen, but may not realise that they visit only one kind of plant while it is in flower, possibly passing by other varieties which also may have good supplies of nectar. It has been estimated that 100,000 species of plants would disappear from the earth if bees did not fertilise them.

Bees often are blamed for damaging the skins of fruits, but, as they have jaws which bite inwards from the sides of their heads, it is impossible for them to do so. They merely suck the juice of the fruit after the skin has been broken by some other agent.

The eyes of a bee have no mechanism for focusing, so that they do not see clearly. They are colour-blind, too, to the extent that they see all reds and greens as grey. However, they can see ultra-violet rays, which are invisible to humans, so that bees, for instance, can see a pattern at the tips of petals of the Black-eyed Susan.

How a bee spreads the news of a nectar find was once a mystery, but scientists have discovered that when it returns to the hive it does a "honey dance," turning round and round, and stepping to right and left. Other bees press closely round and pick up the scent of the particular flower by their antennae.

Bees have poor hearing, but are sensitive to vibrations, as some birds have learnt. They tap on the hive, which brings the guards rushing out, only to be snapped up by the birds.

We have not mentioned the life of a worker bee, and how its duties change every few days as it grows older, nor many other points of interest about these fascinating insects.

"So work the honey bees,

Creatures that by a rule in nature teach
The art of order to a peopled kingdom."
(Shakespeare).

—Ruth Denny.

DUCKS!

November and December are the flowering months of an orchid, which would give you a thrill to find—that is, the Duck Orchid or *Caleana*. This orchid family has only four species, and in Victoria three species can be found. I have seen two species at a wild-flower show—*Caleana Major* and *Minor*—but I have only found one species, *Caleana Major*, or *Large Duck Orchid*.

Seeing the Flying Ducks at the exhibition, I was very intrigued, but when I actually found them I was thrilled—and now the *Caleana Major* is one of my first favourites amongst our terrestrial orchids.

The Duck Orchid has been found in many districts of Victoria, but when my friends or I have found it the locality has been a sandy one, with various wild grasses growing abundantly among the ti-tree, small eucalypts, and various native shrubs. These districts were as distant from one another as Frankston, Mallacoota Inlet and Chapple Vale, in the Otways.

It is a difficult orchid to find, as its colouring is dull (until one looks at it through the magnifying glass), and it prefers to nestle amongst feathery grasses, which make it sometimes very difficult to distinguish, even when you know it is in a certain spot.

My first find happened one sunny day, when a friend and I were driving with a horse and jinker along the Chapple Vale road, and, knowing we were in a "*Caleana*" district, we hopefully imagined every tip of brown grass was a "duck." One "duck" had poked its head out too far from its sheltering lattice of grass, and I was the lucky one to see it. We immediately stopped, tied up the horse, and went exploring. Good fortune was with us that day, and we found many of them, some two and three on a stem.

The leaf is narrow and only about two inches in length; the stem is wiry, and both are usually purplish in colour. The stem may be from six to twelve inches in length, carrying 1, 2, 3 or more flowers. When the flower is fully out, it truly resembles a duck in flight, the labellum forming the head and bill, and the broad column wings forming the body. The head is very irritable, and, if the bill is lightly touched, the labellum springs inward, folding itself between the column wings. When an insect alights on the head it is immediately trapped between the head and the body, and in this way fertilisation is carried out.

If you are fortunate in finding some "ducks," take some home and study them through the glass—with a light behind. The glowing colour of *Caleana Major* will amaze you, and you will be completely fascinated by this delightful orchid.

—M.D.

