



## NATIONAL TEAM REPORT FEBRUARY 2015

Happy New Year!

Before we launch into our new year, it is a great pleasure to report on the huge success of the Asia Pacific Region, Leader of Girls event “Anything’s Possible” which was held in Melbourne in December. Overwhelmingly the 161 participants from 22 Asia Pacific Region countries reported having learnt a great deal from the event and girls in units all over the Region will benefit from these opportunities. A special feature of this event was the friendships and sharing which occurred in the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere nurtured by the Host team. We were very proud of the young women who led this team and the results reflect the enormous amount of work done during the two years leading up and during the event. We were also very grateful for the work of the International Program Team which included representatives from WAGGGS who ensured engagement of all the participants. The program was interesting and challenging at times, providing the sort of information that is most valuable for this special group of leaders working specifically in units.

We were also delighted to welcome more than one hundred members of the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGS (FAPW) who shared some of the special activities held during the event.

Our last report mentioned that Robinette was travelling on holidays to Myanmar and during her time there she shared a wonderful morning with the Guides as they spent a morning after their second camp with the Guides from Osaka Japan. They asked Robinette to say a big thank you to everyone in Australia who has helped them so much as they continue to build up their skills and enjoy the training they are receiving from GGA.

As 2015 begins, the National Team is looking forward to the opportunity to meet many of you as we make our way around Australia. We have a lot of great events on our calendar already which include the Regatta in Tasmania, the official centenary celebration in Western Australia and of course the international jamboree, the Great Bunya Gathering, being held in Queensland in September.

Once again 22 February gives us a chance to celebrate so many of the things which make this organisation so unique. World Thinking Day inspires us to focus our attention on the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). We think about our membership of a movement that is active in 146 countries, providing us with 10 million sisters across the globe, all of whom are working, like us, to make our world a better place.

This year’s World Thinking Day (WTD) Theme is based on MDG8: Develop a global partnership for development. This is the last in a series of WTD themes focusing on the Millennium Development

Goals and the last element of our Global Action Theme, 'together we can change our world'. Around the world Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have worked in broad ranging partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels, so this year's theme further develops that work. Your challenge this year is to see how far you can expand those partnerships in your unit, district or region.

This year WAGGGS has developed a very special board game for us all to play. It can be played in your unit or at a larger event and will teach us all a little more about what makes Guiding so special. You will learn more about our history, the five World Centres, WAGGGS and WTD and the MDGs. It can be as hard or as easy as you want to make it and you will have lots of fun with the activities you are challenged to do. Don't forget to take pictures and post them on the WAGGGS WTD Facebook page and share them with other members all around the world. We look forward to seeing them and hearing about all the fun you have playing the game.

On behalf of the National Team – Miranda, Susan, Kit and Robinette – Happy World Thinking Day!