



NATIONAL TEAM REPORT MARCH 2015

It is exciting to hear and read about the plans girls, leaders and State Organisations have for the Guiding year ahead. The array of activities and breadth of opportunities provided to Girl Guides across the nation is a testament to the work that you, our volunteers, do in providing innovative, fun, relevant and high quality non-formal learning for girls. The year has got off to wonderful start with leaders coming together at events such as 'Let's Shine' and 'Girls Rock'.

"Great people, good governance and a commitment to evolve" are the foundations of the newly adopted Girl Guides Australia Strategic Plan 2015 -2020. With the vision "To be Australia's leading organization for girls and young woman in leadership and personal development" and with agreement from across the membership, we are well positioned to deliver on our strategic initiatives in the months and years ahead. Engagement with the development process has been very high and we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved.

Australia Day saw Guides out and about, joining in and in some cases taking the lead in the celebrations. Our profile was certainly raised through this involvement and it was exciting to see Guides featured in local and state media. The fun and pride of participating also clearly came through in the numerous social media posts. We were delighted to have many of our members recognized in their local community by being named "Citizen" or "Young Citizen" of the year. "Bravo" to you all. Our heartfelt congratulations also go to our leaders who were nationally and formally recognised for the significant difference they have made to their communities through receiving an Australia Day Honour.

We are also very proud of Emily Milton Smith who is one of two young Australian to be awarded the 'Queen's Young Leader' Award. The Award recognises exceptional people aged 18-29, who are taking a lead in their communities. Emily will be presented with her award by Her Majesty the Queen whilst she is in London where she will also attend leadership training and mentoring.

Along with ten million Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting sisters around the world we hope you enjoyed your Thinking Day activities many of which revolved around changing our world through MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development. If your Guides were creative, innovative or inspired on Thinking Day or if they played the WAGGGS board game we would love them to share what they learnt and did through pictures and posts.

International Woman's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's. Now recognized across the globe, with some countries even declaring a national holiday, March 8 will see countless events being held to

inspire woman and celebrate achievements. This year's theme "Make it happen" is a timely opportunity to focus on MDG 3 Promote gender equality and the empowerment of woman.

And finally for this month we leave you with the words of Erin Atalla (Guiding Stories GGV):

"I am eleven years old and have been a Girl Guide for six years. It is my most treasured activity as it allows me to follow my deepest passion, which is to make world a better place. Since I can remember I have wanted to help other people and make a difference. Guides gives me the skills, support and ongoing inspiration to do this."

Miranda, Susan, Kit and Robinette