



NATIONAL TEAM REPORT MAY 2015

As the colours of autumn fill our lives, we are led to think about the red of the poppies which were worn by many of us as we marked the 100th Anniversary of the landing on the Gallipoli peninsula in 1915. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the leaders and girls who have so ably and proudly represented Girl Guides Australia at the ceremonies held in the many town and country venues across Australia.

We are looking forward to hearing how you or your patrol/unit represented this special day and the work you did in completing the ANZAC Centenary Challenge. What did you learn about the Guide International Service (GIS) or perhaps you had a cooking night and made some ANZAC Biscuits? Robinette shared a special and moving ceremony in the Victorian country town of Warragul. The Guides and Scouts held a joint ceremony with special guest speaker Michael Baden Powell who shared some of his stories of his grandfather and our founder Lord Baden Powell.

Following on the family tradition Susan marched in the Melbourne Anzac Day Parade, where Guides play an important part assisting with carrying name boards and banners. In many parts of the country Guides provided service to the 'diggers' cooking sausages and serving tea and coffee after the march.

All the members of all the National Department Teams (Outdoors, Program, International, Learning and Development and Olave Program) came together in Melbourne recently for a weekend of meetings, and we would like to thank all who attended for their dedication and commitment. The weekend meeting was a great success, the benefits of which will be seen in the States and nationally in the future. In particular, we hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to have your say in the AGP Review, whether by completing the survey, participating in a caravan or running the relevant youth member activity in your Guide unit.

Kit and Robinette headed off during April to a rather grey and chilly Pax Lodge in London, where they met with the Chief Guides and Chief Executive Officers of Girl Guiding in Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The 'WAGGGS Springboard Group' formed by these four countries, have many commonalities in the way they Guide and the sharing of the great things and the opportunities was most valuable for all. The long days of meetings were chaired and facilitated by WAGGGS Board Chair Nicola Grinstead and Acting CEO Katheryn Packer. The group was very excited to spend some time with the newly appointed CEO Anita Tiessen. Anita was looking forward to starting her role and interested to know how these Member Organisations believed WAGGGS could best support each of them in the future. A report of the outcomes of the meeting will be presented to the GGA Board at its May meeting.

Robinette also proudly represented GGA at a dinner at Admiralty House in Sydney, with the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove. The dinner recognised 10 of the leading youth organisations patronized by the Cosgroves and included the Royal Life Saving Society, the Young Endeavour Project and Life Education. Together, the Scouts Australia Chief Commissioner Chris Bates and Robinette represented the largest group of youth in Australia and were very humbled by the honour.

Robinette, Miranda and Susan