



NATIONAL TEAM REPORT OCTOBER 2015

The Great Bunya Gathering in Queensland was a fabulous opportunity for members of Girl Guiding Australia to reignite their passion for Girl Guiding and to enjoy many fabulous activities. We would like to sincerely thank the members of the organising committee for the many hours of hard work and dedication in bringing us this exceptional event. We are already looking forward to the next opportunity for girls and young women to connect nationally with each other in NSW in 2017.

In September 'Guiding at the House' took place in Canberra. Leaders of our movement, including young women from each state had the opportunity to showcase Girl Guiding to politicians for the purpose of raising the profile of the organisation and building relationships. Our aim was to connect each person that we spoke to with the mission and vision of our organisation and enable them to understand the valuable work that we do. The long term outcome of this initiative will enable us to be more closely connected with decision makers in the hope that the needs of girls and young women will be prioritised as we create partnerships for change.

Alongside 'Guiding in the House' many other activities took place which included a showcase of the Olave Program. Simultaneously events called "Spark!" were held in each state to celebrate and learn about the exciting possibilities in the new Olave Program. Also in Canberra, we reviewed and validated the recommendations of the Australian Guide Program Review. We are excited about the innovations and progress that this review will bring to our program delivery all around the country. Thank you to everyone who supported 'Guiding at the House' and made it possible to stage such a successful event.

Nationally we have committed to a new Australian biscuit company – Modern Baking Company. This will provide us with an opportunity to both support Australian business and increase our impact. The company is committed to supporting us with our marketing and raising the profile of Guiding in Australia through the campaign associated with biscuit sales. We are sure that the Australian public will be attracted to the new varieties of biscuits that will be available for sale.

To update you on global news, a number of members of Girl Guides Australia have recently returned from the Olave Baden Powell Society (OB-PS) event in Finland. The OB-PS society makes a significant contribution to the global work of WAGGGS, The society is always looking to grow its reach. The next gathering will be held at Sangam World Centre in India in November 2016. Many members of Girl Guides Australia contributed to the 'Save our Pool' project at Sangam World Centre. Sangam's transformation is complete and has only been possible with the support of members from around Australia. In other exciting global news WAGGGS will announce the name of the Fifth World Centre this month. Please watch the Fifth World Centre Facebook page.

Susan, Miranda, Robinette