



NATIONAL TEAM REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

The National Team, along with some 1400 other members of Guiding, had a wonderful experience attending the Great Bunya Gathering in Queensland. We saw the Guides enjoying a variety of activities on the beautiful Lake Somerset campsite - from abseiling to zorbing – as well as a youth forum and learning about the Free Being Me program. The offsite activities included trips to Southbank, Australia Zoo, Dreamworld, and many other adventures.

We observed Guides, Olaves and Leaders making new friends, learning by doing and connecting with other Guides from Australia and overseas. We were delighted to welcome international participants from New Zealand, Canada, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, England, USA and Sri Lanka to the Great Bunya Gathering. Many thanks to all those involved in the organisation of our national jamboree and we are all invited to the next one in NSW in September 2018!

The Girl Guides Australia Board has welcomed two new appointed directors at its most recent meeting. Rocio 'Chio' Verastegui and Paul Giles bring a wealth of skills in strategy, change management, funds management, budgeting and sponsorship connections.

In international news, International Day of the Girl was celebrated on 11 October 2015. Did you use the resource pack available via WAGGGS which also introduces the Global Goals for Sustainable Development? Its activities are still relevant at any time of year: <https://www.wagggs.org/en/resources/international-day-girl-10-million-voices/> We have also been hearing wonderful stories from the recent Australian trip to the four World Centres, led by Sally Thornton. We hope that everyone has also heard about the naming of the Fifth World Centre in Africa. The name "Kusafiri" is Swahili for 'to go on a journey' and is accompanied by a fabulous logo – look for it on the WAGGGS website.

Our Guiding at the House event in Canberra continues to provide opportunities and results. We could not have chosen a more eventful day in politics to attend Parliament House, as it was the day of Malcolm Turnbull's successful challenge for Prime Minister. Girl Guides Australia hosted a large morning tea at Parliament House to showcase the Olave Program, joined by HAAs, members of the Olave Baden-Powell Society, local Guides and their families as well as parliamentarians.

Throughout the day state and national Guiding leadership attended some 33 meetings with parliamentarians from a variety of political parties. We raised the issues of the importance of the girl child, the importance and value of non-formal education and highlighted the work that Guiding was doing through programs such as Free Being Me, Voices Against Violence and GOLD and exploring options for Guiding in remote communities. Girl Guides Australia received a very positive reception from everyone and certainly raised the profile of Guiding in Canberra.

Minister Michaelia Cash hosted a private dinner for Girl Guides Australia that evening, which was attended by a number of female MPs including Senator Claire Moore. The next day, Senator Moore gave a wonderful speech in the Senate about the work of Girl Guides Australia. You can see it at: https://youtu.be/_GAK2Kb8drU

Susan, Miranda, Robinette