



National Team Report – September

As you read this, the Girl Guides Australia contingent will be at the 12th Asia Pacific Region Conference in Nepal working with representatives from the other 25 countries in the Region to formulate the plans for 2017-2020. The experience at this conference will be one of international friendship and mutual learning much like the experience at the recent Rio Olympics (which we know a lot of Units were taking inspiration from to create their own mini Olympics).

Being a member of a movement which reaches into 146 countries around the world and touches the lives of more than 10 million girls and young women enables each Guide to gain a better understanding of the different lives and cultures, and actually help develop a world of greater peace. Along with the chance to actually meet and work closely with people from so many diverse cultures through international travel for our older Guides and Leaders, our program offers our younger members a chance to grow in understanding through activities based on different cultures and experiences

Earlier this year two young Australians Emma Sheard (SA) and Kate Rumney (Tas) were selected by WAGGGS to attend the Juliette Low Seminar (JLS) held this year at Kusafari, in Ghana. This is WAGGGS' leadership development flagship programme for young women, which provides wonderful opportunities for young women to develop their leadership skills in a creative and supportive environment. We recently learned from former Senator Kay Patterson, a Life Member of Girl Guides Victoria and great advocate for Girl Guiding, that she was heading off to New York to attend a reunion of her JLS group. They get together regularly since they first met more than 40 years ago, demonstrating the special nature of the opportunities to develop lifelong friendships Guiding offers.

In one month alone this northern summer we see fifty one members at such exciting and interesting places as 'Guiding Mosaic' in Canada, 'Finn Jamboree' in Finland, the 'Our Chalet Swiss Challenge' in Switzerland and others attending a number of Jamborees in the UK. When will it be your turn?

One great upcoming international opportunity for 17-19 year old school leavers is 'Schoolies at Sangam'. Imagine spending a week in the warmth of India, where you have the opportunity to experience leadership, amazing culture, help celebrate Sangam's 50th birthday, and find out what's new on the global agenda of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scout. Or just kick back, relax after a hard couple of years' study and enjoy the pool.

It has also been Gang Show season again and we have been enjoying the wonderful entertainment provided through this very special part of Guiding. Across Australia there are hundreds of Guides and Scouts building confidence whilst developing their thespian skills in a wide variety of shows written, produced and directed by themselves. A perfect example of the patrol system, Gang members work in small groups and learn by doing. With set design, lighting, stage management, music, directing, production and much more on offer, the opportunities are endless and we acknowledge and commend all those who volunteer their time and enormous amounts of energy to ensure the success of every Gang Show.

Robinette, Susan and Miranda