

National Team Newsletter - November

During this month Assistant Chief Commissioner Susan and Chief Commissioner Robinette had the privilege of attending the National Training for Trainers, hosted by Girl Guides Tasmania. The 56 trainers from all over Australia were joined by trainers from New Zealand and Singapore and were excited and stimulated by the interesting and varied topics covered over the weekend. The Trainers were challenged to think about their use of technology through e-learning and the WAGGGS iLead and Glow platforms, and also learnt about and developed their own webinars. Best use of social media and 'Food Miles' along with geocaching also captured the imagination of those who attended. The work of the Learning and Development Committee continues to support leaders across Australia and emphasizes the importance of Girl Guides Australia continuing to be an organisation which supports ongoing adult learning.

WAGGGS Trainer Maia Faulkner, after presenting some statistics on volunteering, asked the trainers to consider how they would best engage and support the host of different personality types, cleverly represented by a box of crayons, in their trainings. Some interesting statistics – 38% of volunteers are women; more people who live outside the capital cities volunteer; sport and recreation sees the highest percentage of volunteers (38%) and those who volunteer in sport often also volunteer in other areas. Interestingly 43% of adult volunteers had some voluntary work in their childhood, compared to 27%. Of significant relevance to us is that young women today want to volunteer in an 'event' or 'project based' way and that people are more inclined to volunteer for a cause and not an organisation. Guiding in Australia can learn important lessons from these statistics as we consider our future approach.

With that in mind, at the Girl Guides Australia Board meeting in September, discussion was commenced on the 2017 business plan. Interim CEO Paul Giles reported back to the Board on discussions he had with the States and the Board re-affirmed its focus on membership growth and relevance in today's society. During October Paul and Robinette have been linking with the States to garner their input into these areas to inform the 2017 business plan.

A number of members of GGA have travelled to Sangam, our World Centre in India, to help celebrate its 50th Birthday. On 16 October a wonderful celebration took place in the grounds to mark this special milestone. There are many other fantastic opportunities at Sangam and the other WAGGGS World Centres for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017 and we look forward to hearing accounts of those adventures.

UN International Day of the Girl Child was marked on 11 October by many exciting celebrations happening around Australia and around the world. At the international level, WAGGGS launched its #TeamGirl initiative, including recognition of some amazing work that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are doing in their communities. You may also have seen the 'new look' of WAGGGS, which was launched on 11 October – if not, check it out on the WAGGGS website!