



National Team Report – April 2016

Harmony Day 2016, with the theme, “**our diversity is our strength**” was celebrated on 21 March across Australia. This theme is so apt in our Movement of 10 million members in 146 countries but also so important within our units and districts. Can we improve the Guiding we offer in each area so that it better reflects the diversity of each local community? One way of growing membership is to reach out and attract girls and young woman from all backgrounds. Let’s make diversity our strength.

Robinette and Kit were the guests of Their Excellencies, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC and Lady Cosgrove who hosted the Governor-General’s Long Lunch in recognition of Harmony Day at Government House, Yarralumla. Hundreds of people from many nationalities shared lunch on one extraordinarily long dining table on the ceremonial lawns of Government House as part of this historic event to promote the principles of respect, inclusiveness, harmony and eliminating racial discrimination.

The 12th Asia Pacific Regional Conference with the theme “Hamro Danphe” - Connect, Growth, Impact will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in late August. This regional governance event is held once every three years and is expected to be attended by 150 delegates from around the Asia Pacific Region. We are delighted to announce the Girl Guides Australia delegation of Robinette Emonson, Kate Moore, Dani Smith, Holly Bracken and Emily Milton Smith (with Kate Rumney as emergency substitute).

We would also like to congratulate Bronwyn Cole who has been appointed as the National International Manager. Bronwyn chairs the National International Committee and, as part of a new structure, will work closely with the Travel Coordinator Wendy Davis and the Assistant Chief Commissioner – International Susan Campbell. We recognise the significant contribution made by the outgoing National International Manager Joan Bunker, and thank her sincerely for her commitment and outstanding service throughout her term.

Our National Volunteer Manager Committees (Program, Olave Program, Learning & Development, Outdoors and International) play an important role in supporting Girl Guides Australia to achieve its mission and deliver outcomes aligned to the Strategic Plan. These committees recently came together in Sydney to plan, review and implement projects to ensure Girl Guiding across Australia goes from strength to strength.

The GGA National Office is in the process of undergoing a restructure to make better use of its resources, increase productivity and provide more targeted support for Guiding in Australia. The design of a new GGA website is underway, as well as additional support for marketing and communications.

We are also very excited for the launch of the new Girl Guide Biscuits this year. Our Girl Guides Biscuits website is up and running where everyone can find information about the biscuits, meet Ollie and Aggy (our newest Girl Guides) and view the winners of our promotional poster and video competitions. We loved seeing the sale of Girl Scout Cookies at the Oscars in March, and look forward to hearing about the creative ways that Girl Guides are selling biscuits in Australia in 2016.

Robinette, Susan and Miranda