



National Team Report – February 2016

Welcome everyone to 2016! What a joy it is to have a whole year of Guiding possibilities, challenges and adventures stretching out ahead of us. A big welcome to everyone, particularly those who are new to Guiding or who are taking on a new role or responsibility this year.

A new year is a great opportunity to take some time to reflect on the previous year, to identify what worked well and where there is room for improvement. In Guiding, we are all striving to do our best. Do you have a goal for 2016 for your unit, committee, region or state?

In 2016, the National Team is focused on providing new and diverse opportunities within Guiding, to ensure the right person in the right role. We are particularly interested in encouraging younger women in Guiding to consider alternative Guiding volunteer opportunities which they may not have traditionally been involved in, but which can provide such a fantastic learning experience and enable a broader mix of perspectives and views to be shared for the benefit of all. We have a commitment at the GGA Board level to involve young women under 30 in our Board Committees. For more information about opportunities at this level, check out www.girlguides.org.au > Get Involved > Positions Available.

Do you have exciting activities planned yourselves or your Guides in 2016? It is often tempting to get so carried away planning great ideas ourselves that we forget to allow the girls to also show their excitement and be involved in planning. To truly empower girls to be their best, we need to ensure they have the right tools and knowledge to be equally as involved in planning activities and carrying them out.

There are some great upcoming events and resources to explore in 2016 – for example, the Year of the Pulse program will be available this month, and Leading Edge, our national leadership camp for young women 16-20, is taking place in July in Alice Springs. At state level, we have heard about arts camps, regattas, Olave Program conferences and so much more! And of course there are two World Centres celebrating anniversaries this year – Pax Lodge is turning 25 in March, and Sangam is turning 50 in October.

Already in 2016, Guides have been involved in various Australia Day activities and ceremonies across Australia. Congratulations to all those members and supporters who have been recognised by civil awards in their local area, state, or at national level.

Coming up, we are looking forward to World Thinking Day on 22 February. This year, the WAGGGS theme is “Connect” and there is a great pack available via the WAGGGS website which invites you and your Guides to explore and celebrate the meaningful connections that make our lives better, whether to the people closest to us, to a place we care about, or to a Girl Guide or Girl Scout friend on the other side of the world.

Robinette, Susan and Miranda