



National Team Report – March 2016

We have been very pleased to hear about all the wonderful connections made by Guides across Australia on World Thinking Day this year. Robinette celebrated this special day with members of the new GOLD Project Planning Team from Australia and New Zealand in Tonga. The aim of this visit was to establish the parameters for a new partnership with Girl Guides Tonga. The first of the project teams made up of young women from Australia and New Zealand will arrive in Tonga in November this year (more information to follow about this fantastic opportunity for young women 18-30)

Susan and Robinette also connected with many leaders in Victoria attending Girls Rock, and shared the experience of hearing 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty speak. Along with her own story, Rosie encouraged us to recognise that violence against women happens in all sectors of society. Girl Guides Australia will this year be piloting the WAGGGS program 'Voices against Violence', and it is envisaged this will be available nationally in 2017.

CEO Kit McMahon has reported back from her attendance at the WAGGGS Growth Round Table, which confirmed that the Australian Strategic Plan 2020 closely aligns with the work and direction of WAGGGS. Australia, like many other WAGGGS member organisations, is focused on setting ourselves up for growth in order to ensure that we can connect with a wide variety of girls, young women and a broad section of the Australian community. Through this event, and many other projects, our relationship with Girlguiding NZ continues to grow and develop.

As we all know, there is a growing need to find new ways of connecting with our community in different and more flexible ways. Market research and our own internal research has shown us that many members who have left us would easily come back if we were to provide an experience that was at a time and place that met their needs. We would love to hear of stories and experiences demonstrating innovation and flexibility within Guiding.

Gone Home - Wendy Haspell. Wendy was a committed Guiding member and held many State and Australian positions, including NSW Outdoor Activities Adviser and Australian Outdoor Activities Adviser.

Robinette, Susan and Miranda