



National Team Report – May 2016

The diversity of opportunities and challenges within Guiding is one of our greatest strengths. We acknowledged last month our dedication to diversity in Guiding membership, and this month we recognise the diversity of experiences that Guiding offers.

Guiding provides opportunities in the outdoors. Created by Ally Hooper (2015 Juliette Lowe Seminar participant), the GUIDES GO OUTDOORS syllabus and badge are now available for both adult and youth members to enhance their skills and challenge themselves in the outdoors. Robinette is currently completing this badge, drawing upon some exciting experiences at the Girl Guides Tasmania Scout and Guide Regatta earlier this year. More information, including the syllabus, is on the GGA website.

Guiding facilitates exploration of the Arts. Susan has recently returned from Sangam's Arts4Change event where participants from around the world (including strong representation from Australia), explored the power of the arts to effect change in society and within themselves. You can learn more about the community art projects at: <http://www.sangamarts4change.com/> And the song "When We Shine" which was written and recorded during the event is certainly worth sharing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCkkV8YcJMI>

Guiding provides for recognition of our history. We look forward to hearing stories from across Australia of Guides and Units who participated in ANZAC Day services, marches and activities. The Saluting their Service 2016 ANZAC Challenge badge and syllabus reflected the Department of Veterans Affairs' focus on the service of indigenous Australians.

Guiding offers a voice in international affairs. Last month, Hannah Woodward (GGWA) represented Girl Guides Australia at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Her role as part of the WAGGGS delegation was to advocate, lobby, and ensure that girls and young women (and their priorities) were included in the agenda. WAGGGS demonstrated to the UN, governments and civil society that girls and young women are informed and capable, have something vital to contribute and deserve a seat at the table.

Guiding provides practical business and project skills. Our 2016 Biscuit Campaign is about to get underway – it's designed by the Guides, and has the Guides as our key salespeople of Girl Guide Biscuits. We can't wait to hear about the different activities and events that are being organised to celebrate and share our exciting new range. All the information is on the Girl Guide Biscuit website: <http://www.girlguidebiscuits.com.au/>

Gone Home: We note with great sadness the passing of Joie Dwyer from Girl Guides Queensland, who served in many roles including State Commissioner (1986-1991) and National Trainer. Joie's commitment to and passion for Guiding was recognised with awards including the Emu, the Red Kangaroo and the Silver Fish.

Robinette, Susan and Miranda