

## **National Team Report – April 2017**

Although it seems like 2017 has only just begun, we are nearing the end of the first school term and April is shaping up to be a big month for Guiding in Australia.

At GGA National Office in Sydney we have welcomed our new CEO, Karen Bevan, who started in mid-March. Karen, formerly CEO of Playgroup NSW, has vast experience in the non-profit sector and a great passion for the wellbeing and engagement of young people. We are very much looking forward to working with Karen. Thank you to Paul Giles for his work as Interim CEO and we wish him best of luck in his future role.

Our National Volunteer Committees (Program, Olave Program, Learning & Development, Outdoors and International) play an important role in supporting the work of Girl Guides Australia. These committees gathered together in mid-March to plan, review and implement projects to grow Girl Guiding in Australia. Our thanks to the National Volunteer Managers and their teams for their enthusiasm and commitment to Guiding.

Our thanks also to Mary Laing, who recently resigned as State Commissioner of Girl Guides Tasmania. Jane Dent, immediate past State Commissioner, is leading Tasmania in an acting capacity until a new State Commissioner is appointed.

April is of course the month to commemorate Anzac Day. The 2017 Anzac Challenge is themed “Animals in War” and the full badge syllabus can be found on the GGA website: <http://www.girlguides.org.au/news-events/news-coverage/saluting-their-service-challenge-2017.html> For Anzac Day, Girl Guides are encouraged to conduct research or undertake activities to increase understanding of the sacrifice and service of Australian veterans and the involvement of animals in times of conflict.

We are also looking forward to enjoying some Girl Guide Biscuits during April – especially trying out the new Mini Chocolate Chip version! Entries for the Girl Guide Biscuits Video Competition close on 10 April 2017. Remember, we are looking for videos at least 20 seconds in length but no longer than 45 seconds please. They can be quirky, serious, fun... We want to see the activities and fun that girls have at Guiding with their friends. “Let us know what Guiding means to you!”

The online financial literacy program for Olaves – Independence – has now been launched. It looks amazing and we can't wait to have a look to gain some tips and tricks for a range of money related issues including budgeting, super and borrowing. Although designed for 18-30s, it has useful information for all adults –visit <http://www.guideyourmoney.org.au> One of the three aspects of the Olave Program is “self-development” and this important program (supported by Financial Literacy Australia) provides our young women with confidence and skills for financial independence.

The WAGGGS World Conference is coming up in September this year and it's being held in Delhi, India. WAGGGS has 10 opportunities for young women aged 18-30 who would like to join the World Conference Service Team. Check out the WAGGGS website for more information about this fantastic opportunity to experience first-hand the international nature of Guiding.

Helen Geard, Acting Chief Commissioner

Miranda Cummings, Assistant Chief Commissioner