

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER – APRIL 2011

I attended my first Thinking Day function at the Girl Guides Australia offices in Sydney. The function was enjoyable and a good chance to meet a number of Guiding people for the first time. It was also an opportunity to focus on the role Guiding can play to empower women across the world. I have heard that there were successful events held in all States and I hope you had the opportunity to participate.

The GGA Board held a workshop in Sydney at the end of February. It was a good opportunity to listen to a range of guest speakers talking in detail about governance, risk management, values within an organisation, marketing and a range of other topics. There was also good discussion about the GGA repositioning process and the priorities for 2011.

On 8 March 2011, I spent a magic day in Canberra celebrating the centenary of International Women's Day. Each year, International Women's Day allows us to reflect on the progress women have made and look towards the future. I was invited to a morning tea function and evening reception at Government House. I also spent the afternoon at Parliament House listening to a panel of prominent women sharing their journey and insights. All the events were a great opportunity to talk with other women about what Guiding is doing within the community.

Are you immersed in the world of social networking, do you occasionally dabble, or are Facebook, Twitter, blogging part of a foreign language? Regardless of how you answered that question Girl Guides Australia has a small challenge for you! We are seeking 10,000 'friends' for the GGA Facebook page (that means hitting the 'like' button on the page) and by helping us there is a chance to win great prizes. If you have never been onto Facebook why not ask someone for help? There are many people who would be genuinely pleased to show you how to be part of it all.

As part of an overall communication strategy, I am interested to hear feedback about the Chief Commissioner's report that appears in state newsletters. What would you and others like to read in my report or different national reports? I am open to suggestions - it could be anything from reporting, personal thoughts, highlights from different states to telling people's stories. You can email me on cc@girlguides.org.au or send me a letter c/- GGA, PO Box 6, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012.

Helen Geard
Chief Commissioner

