

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 2011

In my first report I would like to acknowledge the leadership and dedication of Lynne Price and her Assistants Miriam Holmes and Natasha Hendrick. Guiding in Australia has been on a positive journey of change and they have all played an integral role along that journey. In December 2010, a new constitution and MoU was signed by members of the Girl Guides Australia (GGA) Board. The signing of these documents marked the end of one journey stage and the start of another.

It is an honour to be Chief Commissioner and I am looking forward to the role and being part of the Guiding journey in Australia. GGA has developed a strategic plan that clearly outlines where we want Guiding to be. I am thrilled about the plan because it captures the huge potential for Guiding and the outcomes can be achieved. There will be challenges and disappointments making parts of the journey difficult. Our girls, Guiding people and our supporters are amazing, talented and resourceful people and working together we can convert the plan into a reality.

In 2010, we celebrated 100 years and the Year of the Girl Guide. Events and activities allowed us to acknowledge our wonderful past and understand why we have such a strong foundation for the future. This year, marks the second year of the WAGGGS centenary celebrations and WAGGGS have produced a range of resources to promote the celebration. I know there are a number of exciting activities being planned for the Centenary Celebration Day on 10 April 2011.

Congratulations to Anna Baulderstone, Alison Bennett and Michelle Price they have been selected to attend the Young Women's World Forums. The Forums are being held in March simultaneously at the four World Centres and are also part of the WAGGGS celebrations.

Well done to Karen Chatto she has volunteered to support a facilitators' training event to be held in Londiani, Kenya in February. The training event will allow learning and the sharing of experiences as well as providing much needed capacity building among young women in rural Kenya. The selection of Karen is a tribute to her skill and ability and we know that she will contribute a great deal.

I would like to take this opportunity to promote fanTAStic - the international Guide camp Tasmania is organising for 2013. Put January 2013 in your diaries because the event is going to be huge and great fun. The organising team are seeking people who may like to assist in the lead up and during the event. All you need to do is email [fantastic@guidestas.org.au](mailto:fantastic@guidestas.org.au) to find out more information.

As the weeks pass our thoughts and prayers are with the people in Queensland and other States as they come to terms with the devastating impact of the flooding in their communities.

**Helen Geard**  
**Chief Commissioner**

