

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER – OCTOBER 2011

It is not very often that you get the opportunity to spend time with 150 amazing women from around the world on the sunny Gold Coast. That was my fortunate experience when I attended the OB-PS (The Olave Baden Powell Society) international event in late August. Congratulations to Janette Lockhart-Gibson and her hard working team for organising such a wonderful event. I have no doubt the participants left with many positive memories and a greater understanding of the role Girl Guiding plays in the development of girls and young women.

As you are aware Girl Guides Australia (GGA) has been through some major changes over the past two years culminating in the new Constitution and the (Memorandum of Understanding) MOU Part – One. The restructuring process has produced our National Strategic Plan and changes to our ways of work and continues to be reviewed by the Board. The latest review highlighted that adjustments were required at the National Office. In early September, we said farewell to our National Executive Officer, Fiona Krautil and thank her for her commitment and dedicated service to Guiding in Australia.

We are also said farewell to our National Communications and Marketing Manager, Sharyn Casey and wish her every success in her new position. Both Fiona and Sharyn have contributed to Guiding in Australia and on behalf of the GGA Board, Australian Management Team and the National Office we wish them well in their future endeavours.

The review of the wording used in the Australian Guide Promise and Law is continuing. A survey has been developed for all adult members, parents, volunteers and supporters to give you the opportunity to have your say. I would encourage you spend the few minutes required to complete the survey because we value your opinion and want to make sure we capture your thoughts. The link to the survey is <https://www.research.net/s/promiseandlaw> and it will close on 30 November 2011.

*Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.*  
Harriet Tubman

**Helen Geard**  
Chief Commissioner

