

National Team Report – November 2017

For this report, we would like to adopt a different format and share our top 10 learnings from the 36th World Conference, held in India in September:

1. Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting is **growing around the world!** There are now 150 Member Organisations of WAGGGS – the new countries include Syria, Aruba, Palestine, Azerbaijan (with Niger and Albania as new Associate Members).
2. WAGGGS has carefully considered what it offers to Member Organisations such as Girl Guides Australia. **WAGGGS provides tools, connections and the global voice that Member Organisations need to keep their Organisations thriving, united and growing.** WAGGGS has three roles as the central body of the Girl Guide / Girl Scout Movement – to act as a bridge, to help the Movement grow, and to keep the flame of the Movement burning brightly.
3. The issue of involvement by **young women in governance** is an important issue at the global level (as well as many other countries). This highlights the importance of the work that Girl Guides Australia is doing with its Getting Into Governance Program (see <https://www.girlguides.org.au/programs/getting-into-governance/>) In particular, WAGGGS is investigating means by which to involve more young women in the World Board and WAGGGS Committees and Working Groups.
4. There was a great deal of **interest in the new Olave Program** from GirlguidingUK, Girl Guides of Canada and GirlguidingNZ, all of which are reviewing the nature of the involvement of young women in their organisations.
5. WAGGGS is moving forward in the leadership development space and looking to focus on **‘leadership mindsets’** which create effective leaders, regardless of the nature of their role and the context in which they are operating.
6. Girl Guides Victoria was awarded an **Olave Award Certificate of Recognition** at the Conference for its “For all Girls” community cohesion project.
7. GirlguidingUK provides an interesting and relevant success story in promoting **youth-led social action**. Girls and young women are achieving change in their communities through the skills learned in, and the support provided by, Guiding.
8. **U-Report** is a social media tool developed in collaboration between WAGGGS and UNICEF, which enables the voices of girls and young women around the world to be directly heard by WAGGGS so that they can be amplified on a global scale.
9. The strategic priorities of GGA are in alignment with the three key aspects of the **WAGGGS Strategic Plan** for 2018-2020 which are:
 - a. More Opportunities for More Girls
 - b. Greater Global Influence
 - c. Strong and Vibrant Movement

10. Spending a week sharing discussions, learnings and challenges with representatives from 119 countries is an **amazing experience!**

The Girl Guides Australia delegation to the World Conference consisted of Helen Geard, Miranda Cummings, Micheala Collins, Bronwyn Cole and Rosemary Derwin. The GGA CEO, Karen Bevan, also attended the World Conference as a guest. Australians Natasha Hendrick, Jen Barron, Susan Campbell and Bronwyn Hughes played important roles at the World Conference on behalf of WAGGGS.

Helen Geard, Acting Chief Commissioner

Miranda Cummings, Assistant Chief Commissioner