

# National Team Report from the Chief Commissioner

## June 2018

What a month May has been! Definitely a month of Guiding awareness for our communities. Lots of Guides out and about sharing in many different activities. Many Victorian Guides had great fun at SNOOZEFEST - a sleepover with a touch of magic and medieval fun, NSW and ACT Guides shared in outdoor fun at their gathering at Centennial Park in Sydney, Western Australian Guides held a dance party, there has been Jamboree preparation for Sydney Jamboree in October, the opportunity to be apart of the ABC world record Star Gazing event, and so much more in units and regions around Australia.

AND - there has been lots of Guide Biscuit activity for the Diamond anniversary of Girl Guide Biscuits in Australia. I hope you have had success selling your biscuits. This year we have had a challenge on social media asking #whatbiscuitareyou? So what biscuit are you? Are you the Traditional – reliable, easy-going and kind? Maybe the Mini Choc-Chip – bringing the colour to everyday life, with an adventurous spirit and cheeky nature? Or maybe the Buttery Shortbread -the mature one, wise, warm, loving and caring.

I am a combination (is that allowed?) – Traditional with some hints of the Buttery Shortbread! It's not too late – consider what biscuit are you and share with us on social media using the hashtag - #whatbiscuitareyou.

What we do need to ensure though with whatever biscuit we are is that we are committed to providing amazing and relevant Guiding opportunities for girls and young women. We need to retain a focus on the Girl Guide Method whereby there is learning by doing in small groups where members support each other, negotiate, make democratic decisions, assert their needs, solve problems together and take the lead.

It was my privilege to spend time at the Trefoil Guild Gathering in Hobart where more than 250 Trefoil Guild members met together to share fun and friendship. The Gathering provided Trefoil Guild members the opportunity to celebrate and renew Guiding friendships, share a love of Guiding and explore how Trefoil Guilds can continue to strengthen Girl Guiding in Australia. Congratulations to members from Tasmania who organised such a wonderful event. The next Gathering will be held in Western Australia in September 2020.

Participants at the Trefoil Guild Gathering welcomed the next Australian Trefoil Guild Adviser, Marcia Andrews. Marcia will commence in the role in September this year when Barbara Fairbairn completes her term. We wish them both well as they commence the handover process. Many thanks to Barbara for her commitment to the role for the last three years.

National Volunteer Week was also celebrated during May. Girl Guiding is filled with amazing volunteers who so willingly give their time and talents and who demonstrate commitment and dedication to the mission of Girl Guides Australia: *empowering girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members*. On behalf of the leadership of Girl Guides Australia, our members and the communities in which you work - to each of you, I say a huge THANKYOU.

**Rosemary Derwin**

**Acting Chief Commissioner**