

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

I know there is great excitement looming as the date gets nearer to when we start to return to meeting together and sharing in outdoor adventures. I know for some of you this date has already come!

Together we can do this was a focus of the last few months **AND TOGETHER YOU DID!** Your resilience, determination, initiative and boundless energy - not to mention your passion for Girl Guiding - enabled girls and young women all around Australia to continue their Guiding connections and enjoy time with their friends.

Congratulations and well done to all.

GGA AGM

Girl Guides Australia has just held its Annual General meeting using an on-line platform and it was wonderful to be able to welcome so many Guiding friends from around Australia. I think we mastered the technology ok! Lots of new learnings for all. We have all adjusted to some new ways of sharing in Girl Guiding. And maybe it has given you some new ideas on how to meet the needs of the girls in your Units, Districts, Regions and States?

I was pleased to announce some very special awards at the GGA AGM:

Congratulations to Natasha Hendrick on being awarded the Silver Kangaroo for significant service to Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting globally. Natasha who has been a member of the WAGGGS Board for the last six years and who has given extensively to Girl Guiding in Australia is an exceptional leader, role model and mentor.

Congratulations to Anne Crummy and Linda Elezovich on being awarded a Red Kangaroo for the significant good service they have given to Girl Guiding in Australia. Their commitment, dedication and passion for Girl Guiding has made a difference in the lives of many girls and young women.



At the GGA AGM we gained further insights into JLS 2019 from two JLS participants Sally Woodhouse and Claire-Marie Pepper and Bronwyn Hughes who was a JLS facilitator. A requirement of the JLS program is that the young women who attended develop a 100 Girl Project to share their leadership learnings with 100 girls aged 12+. There are some exciting programs being planned. Keep your eyes open for opportunities for Guides in your area to experience a 100 Girl Project. There is a special badge for those who attend.

I was absolutely delighted to present Janet Torney with an Asia Pacific Leadership award for her service to Girl Guides Australia - and to Girl Guiding in Australia. Janet joined the Board of Girl Guides Australia as Treasurer in 2012 she served six years as Treasurer before being appointed to the role of Chair. Girl Guides have benefited from Janet's passion and professionalism, she has mentored many of us in organisational management and governance. Bravo Janet!



New National Roles

Girl Guides Australia is excited to be advertising four new roles and are looking for four Adult members to join the National Volunteer Team. The roles are: National Coordinator – Youth, National Coordinator – Adult, National Coordinator – International and National Travel Coordinator.

If you are keen to share your passion and Guiding experience collaborating with Guiding members in all States to support and co-ordinate Leaders delivering and facilitating a high-quality, inclusive, girl-led Australian Guide Program (AGP) – one of these roles might be for you!

All details can be found by clicking [here](#) to visit our website.

A reminder – applications for grants from the GGA Bushfire Emergency Relief Fund are now open. More information can be found on our [website](#).

Biscuits 2020

Girl Guide biscuits go online in July and we will be selling them direct to the public via the Girl Guides Australia biscuit website. Buy your biscuits in either single flavour boxes of 16 biscuits including: Triple Choc, ANZAC or Coeliac Australia approved Gluten Free Lemon, Lime and Coconut or a combination box of Triple Choc and ANZAC. Boxes can also be sent as gifts to loved ones across Australia. More details to follow in the coming weeks.



And finally, Girl Guides will be in the July Nat Geo Kids magazine so make sure to keep an eye out for this two page spread and more on their website too!

And for those of you who may have missed it, Girl Guides also appeared in a Total Girl EDM that was sent out to all their subscribers in Australia on the 9th May. Girl Guides had an activity that was in a downloadable activity book circulated to 240,000 subscribers in their readership network.

As we look to enjoy more great Girl Guiding – please stay well, stay connected and stay Girl Guiding.

Rosemary Derwin

Chief Commissioner