



NSGFA news

National Scout & Guide Fellowship Australia

Autumn/Winter Edition 2020

No 2.

Hello members,

Well, what an unprecedented time we are going through around the World!

I started this Newsletter in March after returning from a wonderful Thinking Day in the Cook Islands. Kaye and I and 14 other Trefoil Guild members attended this special day and celebrated with Cook Island Girl Guides. A report from Jill Jeffreys Barwon Trefoil Guild, our Contingent leader is attached along with a few photographs.

A HAPPY THINKING DAY AND FOUNDERS DAY TO ALL!!

A Happy and Safe Easter to everyone with the hope that better days are ahead!

This will be our second edition for 2020 and as mentioned in our Xmas Edition a year of significance for both Scouting and Guiding Australia.

We celebrate Australia wide 75 years of Trefoil Guild in Australia and as each State enjoys there own form of celebrations it is good for us to remember the many challenges and triumphs associated within those 75 years. Many, many service hours as well as fun, food and fellowship will have taken place. As well as CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS OF FUNCTIONS AND GET TOGETHERS. HOWEVER SAYING THAT THE SPANISH FLU CAUSED A SIMILAR DISRUPTION TO NORMAL LIFE BACK IN 1919. Many deaths were recorded within our country and around the world. History also recorded our recovery from this disaster and future history will record the same recovery from COVID 19. It is up to all of us to do our best to do our duty to assist in the recovery however we can. Stay well, stay connected to family, friends and loved ones and above all remain positive!!!

Since our February meeting here in Wangaratta the world situation has undergone a significant health Pandemic with the CORONAVIRUS. This has impacted many planned functions.

FAPW/WAGGGS General Assembly which was to be held in Brisbane from 26 to 31 March has been POSTPONED until further notice. Secretary Kaye Reeves and myself were to attend and have been fortunate to receive refunds of accommodation and flights. A great disappointment to all involved! News of the 2021 dates will be available shortly.

VICTORIAN Trefoil Guild AGM which was to be held April 18 was POSTPONED until later this year. Possibly early November. To be confirmed.

NATIONAL TREFOIL GUILD GATHERING in PERTH " WALKING ON THE WEST SIDE" September 2020. Sadly the organisers have been forced to CANCEL the Gathering due to the COVID 19 PANDEMIC. The very difficult process of refunds is currently underway. Please be patient as the Committee are doing everything they can and as quickly as they can!We

will bring more news as it becomes available. The organising committees could do no less than what has been done to keep everyone safe.

2. INTERNATIONAL

In February 16 Victorian Trefoil Guild members flew to the COOK ISLANDS to celebrate THINKING DAY Island style!



BARWON TREFOIL GUILD – VISIT TO THE COOK ISLANDS – 19-27 February 2020

“Kia Orana” – Means “Welcome” in Cook Island language.

On the 19 February 16 Trefoil Guild members, 13 from Barwon and 3 from Ovens Valley TG set off for a holiday to Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Ngara Katuke (National President of the Cook Islands GG) and Guide Leaders met our plane on arrival, a very wet and dark night, and surprised and delighted us by presenting each Contingent member with a flowered head lei, a neck lei and a very welcome bottle of cold water.

The trip was organised to take in World Thinking Day and arrangements were made through Ngara to attend the Rarotonga Island World Thinking Day celebration. The celebration was held in the Arorongi Calvary Church hall.

Each of the local Girl Guide Units were allocated a World Guide region to represent. Considerable research had gone into each Region, with the girls dressing in costume of that country, performing both song and dance and some even speaking the language of their allotted country. It was colourful and included plenty of movement.

Barwon TG contribution, included a Thinking Day message and information about how Trefoil Guilds support Guiding in Australia. Contingent members formed a choir singing two songs “Sisters in Guiding” and “On my Honour.” The Australian flag was also displayed.

At the WTD celebration we had the opportunity to present to the Cook Island Guides, 5 “older” World flags, 4 sets of poles, 5 holsters and a camp World flag. This followed a request from Ngara to use the flags for training purposes. It was

pleasing and very well received by the contingent when Virgin airlines at the time of checking us in decided the bag of flags would travel free of charge!!

Ngara involved us in many other aspects of Guiding on the island. We had the privilege to meet the Queen of the area and sit on the palace veranda and talk with her before attending the local Church service. We were also introduced to the Patron of Cook Island Guides, Lady Masters (the wife of the Government representative on the Island.) Both of these ladies were former Girl Guides. Lady Masters also attended an Island themed dinner at our resort, which gave us the opportunity to talk to her about forming a Trefoil Guild something Ngara is trying to encourage. To engage the islands senior Ladies and reconnect them with Guiding.

Ngara, also arranged for 3 of us to speak on the islands radio station. Which was a total surprise to us, and once again an honour to represent ATG.

We also attended the opening of a Women's clinic. The clinic will be used for maternal and child welfare. Officially opening the clinic was the Ambassador for Japan. It was interesting to learn Japan had funded the new building and also some large outdoor equipment such as ride on mowers.

Many of members also had the opportunity to attend a Guide Unit meeting. Seeing first hand the girls in action and having fun. Once again returning with leis, sarongs and other gifts.

All special occasions include a meal. The Cook Islanders certainly know how to cater, and food was always delicious and plentiful.

With not much free time, we did manage to attend the market day. Purchase pink T shirts which were later screen printed with the GG Cook Islands logo. Another highlight was a "Culture night" with dinner and entertainment. The big surprise before we left the resort for the dinner was the arrival of fresh flower head leis, one for each of us from our local Flight Centre staff member Joel Evans. To think he remembered the night we were booked in for the dinner and arranged for this special delivery, we were certainly chuffed. Judy often talks about "her Joel" and now we know why. The Culture night island dancers and music were awe inspiring. We were introduced to the crowd of approx. 300 people as the Girl Guides from Australia and later that evening as the "Golden Oldies." Such a fun night. On other occasions we were named "The young ladies with grey hair" and then yet another title of "The National Treasures from Australia." We thought their terminology was being elevated each time!!!

Another day was spent aboard a glass bottom boat to another smaller island. Sailing on the prettiest of clear green sea of the lagoon. Stopping off for snorkelling and swimming, a beach bbq and entertainment.

Edgewater resort and spa where we stayed was a haven for many a relaxing cool drink, a swim in the pool or retreating to the air conditioned comfort of our rooms.

All in all, we certainly had a fantastic insight into Guiding on a small remote island, learning about a different culture and spending quality time holidaying together with very good friends from Trefoil Guild.

What more could you wish for?

Jill Jeffery – Contingent Leader



3. The NSGFA Executive meeting in May was by ZOOM and was a most interesting experience for us all. Reports were presented and discussed and the decision to also hold the July meeting as a Zoom meeting was made. Due to the uncertainty of the COVID 19 ongoing issues we are not certain when the Celebration of the 60 years and the AGM and Handover to NSW will take place. It is proposed to occur 22/26 October, 2020 in Sydney.

No doubt more details will be available after the July meeting. Here they are hard at work!



NSGFA MEMBERSHIP

From the Achives.....

Recently Whilst going through old paperwork to hand on to the new STGA Susan Viney I was interested to find this information regarding our first recorder OF A.F.O.F.S.A.G. This is only a snippet!

Miss Edith Purcell was appointed the first National Recorder of the Australian Trefoil Guild in 1960, and on the formation of the Australian Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides in 1961, she became the first President of the National Joint Council.There is much more within this document of which I will pass on to STGA Susan Viney for her consideration.

During my years of involvement within the NSGFA we, the Executive have received many queries and questions on its purpose and significance. There is plenty of information available to members regarding this issue but we have put together a few very relevant important details.

Benefits

1. Allows members to attend International Scouting and Guiding Events
2. Publicises Projects by other Guilds Worldwide
3. Contributes to Training for Scouts and Guides (Including SANGAM)
4. Provides the opportunity for global fellowship.
5. Co-ordinates the donation of monies, and their subsequent distribution (i.e global disasters such as the earthquake in Nepal).
6. (If Australia was not a member of ISGF, we would have no voice at the World Table).

What the WORLD BUREAU DOES WITH THE FUNDS.....it includes

1. Administration of Guilds world-wide
2. Administration of Regions world-wide
3. Assistance with co-ordination of World Conferences
4. Maintaining the ISGF website ([http://www.isgf.org/index.php/en/.](http://www.isgf.org/index.php/en/))
5. Facilitating Twinning
6. Updating Guild Publications
7. Translating Guild Publications into various languages(I.e Spanish & French).
8. Co-ordinating the International Development Fund (including Stamp Bank).
9. Co-ordinating with WAGGGS and WOSM
10. Co-ordinating the partnership with UNHCR
11. Monitoring the International Ambassadors Guild

IN CONCLUSION ..

Basically if we want a vote at the World level we need to be members and maintain a seat at the table!

Thank you to those who made the time to share this information and pass it on.

Another positive reason is acknowledged in a letter regarding the recent assistance in UGANDA with the “ Building shelters Project” which has been achieved over the last three years. We have all contributed in a small way towards the success of this Project. Be proud of the input!

ISGF WORLD COMMITTEE MEETING held 12-14 March 2020

The latest minutes of the ISGF World Committee were circulated by ATGA Marcia Andrews out to all STGA Advisers recently so I do hope you have had the opportunity to read them at your leisure. They will not be attached to our Newsletter. STGA Victoria Susan Viney posted the Minutes on the Victorian Trefoil Guild Facebook page for all the members.

Latest News from the WORLD COMMITTEE,

The 29th ISGF WORLD CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD FROM THE 17-22 AUGUST 2021 in MADRID, SPAIN!!

ISGF

International Scout and Guide Fellowship
(An organization for adults)



AISG

Amitié Internationale Scoute et Guide
(Une organisation pour adultes)

Brussels, 22nd May 2020

To all ISGF members,

On behalf of ISGF World Committee and World Bureau, I would like to thank you for your donations and support on the IMVEPI Shelter Project in Uganda. Your generous contribution in this project has helped to achieve our goal : to built 50 huts for the refugees in the IMVEPI settlement. Your support has made a significant contribution to the success of this ISGF Global Project. Your support is invaluable to us, thank you again. I also would like to thank Mathius Lukwago, former Chairman, for the time and energy devoted to this project.

Martine Levy, ISGF UNHCR representative, proposed to write a few words as she initiated the project in 2017. I let her close the chapter of one of the ISGF global projects.

An article on ISGF activity in Uganda, in partnership with UNHCR, has just been posted on the ISGF website. This article tells the story, which lasted 3 years, of ISGF at the IMVEPI refugee settlement in Uganda; this settlement which received thousands and thousands of South Sudanese refugees fleeing their country (war, climate, famine) and, as the translation progressed, my feelings were very mixed. A certain satisfaction to have launched, as the official representative of ISGF to the UNHCR, this project in 2017 on the proposal of the Representative of the UNHCR in Paris, to have worked in July 2017 on a document which could be presented at the World Conference in Bali, Indonesia, to have seen delegates vote for the continuation of the project.

Many thanks to the representatives of ISGF and UNHCR in Uganda who were able to carry out this project in collaboration with the administration of IMVEPI settlement.

It is a great pride to represent a World Organization whose members are so generous. The target was 25,000 euros; it was exceeded by 3% and the sum of 25,803 euros was reached. But it is not just a question of money; it goes far beyond; listen and understand the suffering of others. I also give thanks to the NSGF UK, some members of which have gone to show to the "ISGF village" of IMVEPI that in ISGF are people concerned with the well-being of others. I would have so much loved to be on this trip!!

And finally, a certain sadness; indeed, I knew that the operation should end one day, or another and this day arrived. We must deal with it although many people are left behind. But the important thing is that, thanks to the members of ISGF, around fifty huts have been built for around 200 people who can live with their families, cultivate their plot of land, in short live.

Martine Levy
UNHCR ISGF representative

With deepest gratitude and warmest wishes.

Zalillah Mohd Taib
Chairman
ISGF World Committee
International Scouts and Guide Fellowship

ISGF

International Scout and Guide Fellowship
(An organization for adults)



AISG

Amitié Internationale Scoute et Guide
(Une organisation pour adultes)

Brussels, 18th May 2020

**To: Presidents and International secretaries.
Copy to Regional Presidents and Regional Committees**

We are pleased that 44 NSGF's (from an overall membership of 66) sent their vote before midnight on the 15 May to the postal referendum which included the postponement of the 29th World Conference to 2021, the postponement of the 30th World Conference to 2024 and the prolongation by one year of the term of office of all present members of the World Committee. The result is a unanimous yes with one exception as one NSGF abstained.

As a result of the decision, please note the following information:

At world level, the timeline of the documents linked with the 29th World Conference will be updated and you will receive a new timeline with comments when it is completed by the World Committee after consultation with the Host Committee at the end of June.

At regional level, some regions have their Conference traditionally the year before the World Conference. It is up to the regions themselves to decide whether they want to postpone their Conference to 2023. Similarly, in Sub-Regions where events are planned, once a decision is made concerning the Region events, it is considered that the Sub Region Committee will decide whether they wish to postpone their meetings and gatherings and extend the mandate of Committee members using the advice given to Regions. Some of you have already informed the World Bureau of the changes planned, for the others as soon as decisions have been taken on these possible postponements, please inform the World Bureau so that the calendar published on the ISGF site is adjusted

Therefore, the World Committee and the Host Committee are taking this opportunity to announce to you the new dates for the 29th ISGF World Conference, which will be held from the 17th to 22nd August 2021 in Madrid, Spain. I invite you to check on a regular basis our ISGF web site as new updates and new information will become available : www.isgf.org .

On behalf of the World Committee,

Nathalie Henrard
Secretary General
ISGF World bureau

Please check regularly on the ISGF website for new updates and new information.

REPORT IMVEPI PROJECT UGANDA

By Mathius Lukwago, WCom member



General

Since its creation in the 1950s, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has helped millions of people of concern—refugees, returnees, internally displaced people, and stateless persons—to rebuild their lives by safeguarding their rights and providing protection, lifesaving assistance and seeking solutions.

None of this has been possible without partners, and without a strong and enduring sense of partnership.



ISGF has a partnership as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) since 2012. Martine Lévy, former chairman of ISGF World Committee, is the official representative for ISGF at UNHCR. The partnership with UNHCR will enable ISGF to strengthen the preparedness and capacity of the National Scout and Guide Fellowships for humanitarian response.

Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda

In 2013, a conflict broke out in South Sudan, leading to a complex and dangerous situation of armed conflict, economic decline, disease and hunger. The total of about 2.5 million South Sudanese refugees fled to nearby countries such as Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of the Congo, and over 60% of them are children under 18 years old.

With thousands of new arrivals fleeing to Uganda every day, Africa's largest refugee crisis started. More than 1.5 million South Sudanese refugees fled to neighboring countries in the region, around half of which were in Uganda.



Upon arrival, refugees received a plot of land on which to build their new homes and grow crops. Uganda hosts most refugees from South Sudan and as of March 2018, over 1,000,000 South Sudanese refugees had fled into the country. The IMVEPI Refugee Settlement, which was opened in 2017 had, in April 2020, 65,796 refugees.

Project description

It was when ISGF was asked by UNHCR to support the IMVEPI Refugee settlement providing temporary shelters that ISGF stepped into this project.

During the 28th ISGF World Conference in Bali, Indonesia, 2017 the project was announced and launched on 20 June 2018 on World Refugee Day.

REPORT IMVEPI PROJECT UGANDA

By Mathius Lukwago, WCom member



Each year on June 20 the UNHCR around the world host World Refugee Day events in order to draw the public's attention to the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, conflict and persecution.



Initially ISGF wanted to raise money in order to provide canvas tents, each twenty-five (25) euros, for the refugees. However, the camp administration advised not to have canvas tents as these would last only six (6) months. The settlement had to deal with longer stays, from several months to years.

After discussion within the World Committee and the camp administration it was unanimously agreed to construct fifty (50) semi-permanent huts for 4 persons of 3 x 3 meters that would last much longer. So, the goal was to have built fifty (50) huts. The more permanent accommodation was more expensive, and the huts were constructed for five hundred euros fourteen (514) each.



Fundraising

After ISGF announced the project to their members they put a goal of twenty-five thousand (25.000) euros. The income of the fundraising could be followed via a thermometer on the ISGF website.

Many NSGFs, Central Branch groups and individuals donated for this project up to twenty-five thousand eight hundred and three (25.803) euros.

WE DID IT!!! Together we raised the amount. THANK YOU for giving back and bringing hope to these refugees.

Visit of UK team in December 2019



The IMVEPI Refugee settlement was visited from 15 till 17 November 2019 by ISGF team members from the United Kingdom. Jane Wardropper, Dave Mowbray and Audrey Mc Naughton who have seen with their own eyes what has been accomplished. The team also brought with them some scholastic material and sports material which they collected to handover to children in the settlement. The UK Team also provided transport for the local Fellowship and three members joined them. This Fellowship covered their

REPORT IMVEPI PROJECT UGANDA

By Mathius Lukwago, WCom member



accommodation and meals. The camp administration was incredibly grateful for the contribution and the visit of the UK Team.

The team also supported a rabbit project which included building a large hutch and buying seven rabbits (1 male and 6 female) for breeding and developing a micro enterprise.

Completion of the IMVEPI project

There was communication with UNHCR Uganda, Kampala office, that once the huts were completed there would be an official hand-over. However, the final construction work of 15 huts to make a total of 50 huts ended during the COVID-19 pandemic and it was not possible to do the official handover to the representative of the UNHCR.

What were the challenges

- Not doing all the construction work at the same time because the funds were not raised at once.
- Travel time from Kampala (capital of Uganda) to the settlement which is over 1000 kilometers to and from the camp. It takes over 6 hours on tarmac roads plus approximately a further 4 hours on dirt roads to reach the camp from the capital.
- There were no Scouts, Guides or local Fellowship members living near the settlement who could give support to the construction.
- The needs of the refugees were very complex and the selection of the beneficiaries by the camp administration was difficult.
- The weather was very harsh and the working conditions for the team was difficult.
- Some refugees were not friendly and took the material to use for their own shelter or disrupted the construction work.
- During the final stage of construction, the Corona virus outbreak started, and the transport was suspended which affected the travel back to Kampala.
- Out of the 35 constructed huts six (6) of them were damaged as the roofs were blown away during a storm.





Happy 90th Birthday to Fay Hall

Fay Hall celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday, 2 May 2020. Fay commenced her Scouting life in 1st Wembley Floreat Park in 1971 after meeting the late Milton Boyce, as a Cub Scout Leader, in 1985 to 1988. Fay was scouting in New Guinea whilst her husband was working there. She has held many and various appointments since her return to Scouts WA.

Fay has been a Branch Commissioner, District Commissioner is an active member of the Baden Powell Guild and a very active researcher in the Scout Heritage Centre (SHC). Her very enquiring mind has led to some fascinating facts for various Scout Groups when they make enquires to the SHC to establish information about their Group. This is followed up with a very comprehensive report to the Groups concerned.

For the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War Armistice, Fay was instrumentally in Peter Mitchell taking on the massive task of establishing how many Scout Leaders joined the AIF. Some 342 names were found, and their stories recorded.

Fay considers one of her most enjoyable Branch appointments was working with the late Pat Tomkin on the Branch Extension Team at Princess Margaret Children's Hospital, where through Pat's contact at the Perth Zoo, they were able to take a lion cub into the hospital wards. Fay has never forgotten the look on the children's faces something she really treasures.

Throughout Fay's scouting journey she has always had the Youth Member's foremost in her endeavours and these efforts have been acknowledge with the award of the Silver Kangaroo in 2004 and being made a Life Member of Scouts WA 2009.

Fay has also received the highest Award for her work for the BP Guild the Order of the Southern Cross in 1996.

Congratulation Fay on reaching this wonderful milestone and a big 'virtual hug' from the Administration Team for our 'living treasure'.

Don't forget to send any News Items through for the next Newsletter to myself or Kaye please.

With best wishes to all, stay safe and well

Yours in Fellowship,

Rhonda