

CHIEF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

MAY 2021



Hello Guiding Sisters all around Australia,

There is so much happening in the world of Girl Guiding in Australia.

It is also wonderful that there are so many activities for our volunteers – strong connections amongst our volunteers is an important contributor to enthused, positive Leaders who facilitate exciting programs for our members. Volunteers are such a vital part of the fabric of Australia AND integral to Girl Guiding in Australia.

National Volunteering Week provided an opportunity for us to pause and RECOGNISE all the many volunteers who give so generously to support others and enrich their communities. I am always pleased to RECOGNISE and acknowledge the thousands of volunteers in Girl Guiding who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of girls and young women. YOU make our communities stronger. Your versatility, enthusiasm, energy, compassion and resilience are endless. It takes energy and commitment to keep giving. **Well Done, Bravo and Thankyou.**

State **Annual General Meetings** have all been held it was encouraging but not surprising that in a year that had many challenges Guiding shone. The leadership of our State organisations are to be commended for their leadership through the challenges of the global pandemic.

Congratulations to the many leaders who were acknowledged with Guiding awards at AGMs for their commitment to empowering girls and young women. In particular congratulations is extended to **Kate Alcorso** (Girl Guides Tasmania) and **Sarah Neill** (Girl Guides NSW ACT & NT) on being awarded a **Red Kangaroo** for their sustained intensive service to Girl Guiding within their State and nationally. Sarah and Kate have made a substantial contribution to the governance of Girl Guides Australia whilst directors on the GGA Board. During their time on the Board they have also been in key leadership roles within their State organisations.

National and State Appointments ...

Congratulations to Sarah Neill on the completion of a five-year term as State Commissioner for Girl Guides NSW ACT & NT. Welcome to Emily Milton Smith as the 20th State Commissioner for Girl Guides NSW ACT & NT. Emily commenced in the role on 22 May 2021.

Welcome and congratulations to Linda Durran on her appointment as State Commissioner of Girl Guides Tasmania as of 1 June 2021. Thankyou to Kate Alcorso for acting as State Commissioner of Girl Guides Tasmania for the first half of this year.

Welcome to Sarah Neill who is joining the National Coordinator team as the National Coordinator- Adult. Sarah will commence in this role on 1 July 2021 and will work closely with State Girl Guide organisations to coordinate and support leader development in Girl Guiding in Australia. Sarah brings a solid understanding of the important role adult volunteers play in Girl Guiding.

There have also been some changes to the Girl Guides Australia Board – welcome Kate Alcorso as an Appointed Director and Joanne Muller (GG NSW ACT & NT) and Georgina Gaffney (GG TAS) as organisational appointed directors.

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A few Guiding Updates....

JAMBOREE 2023 - I am excited to share the name of the next Australian Jamboree is **Kani-Karrung!**

Kani-Karrung is pronounced Kar-nee Ka-rung and means women camping together in local Ballarat Wadawurrung language. Thanks to Girl Guides Victoria for all the planning you have underway for the next Australian Jamboree which will be in Ballarat in January 2023! **Have you started planning to attend?**

In many parts of Australia, it is **Gang Show** season. Given the terrible disappointment of having to cancel performances in 2020, there are many excited Guides who are preparing to share in the excitement of a stage show. For the seasoned performers and those joining for their first show – enjoy this year's Gang Show! The adventures you share at Gang Shows form lifelong memories and friendships. I am looking forward to some Gang Show entertainment and reconnecting with my lifelong Gang Show friends. If there is a Gang Show near you – organise some Guiding friends and family and treat yourself.

LEGO® - More than 60% of our youth members shared in LEGO® adventures with Mia, Stephanie, Olivia, Emma and Andrea! Thanks to Leaders for your enthusiasm in supporting this program and for your feedback which will be valuable as we consider future opportunities. Badges are available through State Retail Outlets and these may be worn on the sash.

Have you seen there have been some changes to **First Aid** requirements for Leaders and Managers? The changes are available on [Guide Lines for Girl Guides and Girl Guide Volunteers](#).

This week is **Reconciliation Action Week**. Congratulations to Girl Guides Victoria who, after being on the journey for some time launched their Reconciliation Action Plan at their AGM. Girl Guides Australia respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future. May each of us take time to reflect, have conversations and work together as a community.

Happy Girl Guiding!

Rosemary Derwin
Chief Commissioner