

15 December 2021

To my Guiding sisters all around Australia,

It is hard to believe 2021 is winding up and we will soon be welcoming 2022. Could we have IMAGINED all the events that 2021 has brought us!

Whilst there have been many challenges, frustrations and disappointments with border closures, lockdowns, travel cancellations and everything else that COVID-19 has set upon us - I hope there has been some personal joy for each of you.

Girl Guiding, of course, has risen to the challenge yet again. Although there have been many camps and activities cancelled, changes to how Guides meet given face-to-face restrictions, Leaders across Australia continue to demonstrate their commitment to facilitating girl-led programs championing fun, friendship and adventure enabling girls to discover, achieve, explore and create.

Thankyou to each of you for all you have done to support girls and young women to enjoy Girl Guiding. Empowering girls and young women to find their voice, discover their potential, explore possibilities, and make a genuine difference in their world, is at the heart of everything you do.

At the last GGA Board meeting of 2021 Janet Torney completed her term as Chair of GGA. Thanks is extended to Janet for her leadership and her considerable contribution to Girl Guiding in Australia. I was pleased to present Janet with a Red Kangaroo Award for her sustained and significant service. Janet's contribution to the strategic and governance level of Girl Guiding in Australia has been substantial. Her collaborative, consultative and considered approach to leadership will have lasting impact on all those she has worked with.

Girl Guides Australia is in good hands as we welcome Kate Alcorso (Tas) as the new Chair of GGA. Kate is a Senior Associate Lawyer for a Launceston law firm and is a Leader of the Rainbow Star Guides, a Unit for girls between the ages of 5 and 10. Kate is passionate about Guiding and seeing the development of the girls in her own Unit as well as contributing to the governance of Guiding in Australia, as a member of the Girl Guides Australia Board.

As 2021 draws to a close I wish you all well. Please take time to relax, refresh and recharge.

May the Christmas period bring you more joy than you could IMAGINE!

With every best wish,



Rosemary Derwin  
Chief Commissioner