

GIRL GUIDES AUSTRALIA NEWS



GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA



FROM THE
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

12 December 2023

Hello to all in Guiding around Australia as we come to the end of Term 4!

Looking back on the year, it seems so long ago that we had the fun of getting together for the Kani-Karrung Jamboree in January, yet it feels like just last week when I began the role of Chief Commissioner in March. What an amazing year it has been for Guiding in Australia.

Congratulations to Girl Guides WA Unit Leader, Robynne Mummery

Robynne was selected to take part in the Expert Facilitation Training for the [#FreeBeingMe](#) & [#ActionOnBodyConfidence](#) programs in [Sangam World Centre](#) in India. 18 participants from 11 countries came together in our World Centre in [#Pune](#) for intensive 5-day in-person training.

WAGGGS World Conference

The [WAGGGS world conference](#) was held in Cyprus in July. Cassie Talbot, one of the young women representing Australia this year, shares her thoughts in this newsletter about the impact of Girl Guides on her life. As a lifetime Girl Guide myself, I could not agree more with her sentiments!

Generous donations to the [Young Women in Leadership Fund](#) supported the travel and attendance costs of the young women in the Australian delegation to the conference. So, thank you very much if you were one of those who donated. You have helped invest in programs that really do empower young women like Cassie to develop their leadership skills and help cultivate the next generation of changemakers.

Olave Program

The inspirational young women involved in the Olave Program launched their Period Poverty campaign in November. They set their sights on donating 600 bags to the [@sharethedignityaustralia](#) ['It's in the Bag'](#) campaign. Since November they have collected bags from people in their community to ensure fewer women experience period poverty in Australia.

'I Go Places' Awareness Campaign

This campaign was launched on the International Day of the Girl in October to increase the amount of female role models available to girls and young women. I Go Places campaign had a reach of 450K+ people, with professionals independently creating their own content via LinkedIn and talking openly about the importance of the topic. At the beginning of this month, Careflight in NT created a video sharing the importance of female pilots and a Unit in Geelong took part in a pilot STEM program in collaboration with CSIRO.

I was thrilled to see Girl Guides taking the lead on this issue and our members and non-members engaging so positively with the campaign. Leaders from law, mining, football, research and more, both male and female engaged with the project. Follow us on LinkedIn and Instagram for ongoing updates.

Surprise your friends and family and raise money for local Guide Units

I'm excited to tell you about the Unit Fundraiser that is now live and runs until March 2024. This is a fabulous way for you to help our Girl Guides to raise money for their local units.

We've created a great selection of personalised gifts including lunch bags, backpacks and boxes and more. We have some Girl Guide designs and other unbranded contemporary designs too. Perfect for school and sports! All you do is select your item, choose a design, then add the name you'd like to see incorporated.

By buying one of these products, you will be supporting Girl Guides in your community. Have a look at the selection here.

What I'm looking forward to in 2024

I'm hoping to have a chance to catch my breath in early January before diving into an exciting new year of Guiding. I am already seeing advertisements for events for both Guides and volunteers in Term 1, including adult events in Victoria and Queensland, the Scout Guide Regatta in Tasmania and Summer Sailing School in New South Wales, which is so exciting to see.

Wishing everyone a happy festive season and joyous new year. Please enjoy some time for yourself, and with family and friends and I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2024.

Yours in Guiding

Helen Reid Chief Commissioner



The WAGGGS world conference was held in Cyprus in July. This event brought together over 100 countries from around the world together to collaborate and make decisions on how WAGGGS will continue their vital work to continue advocating for girls and young women.

This opportunity included the attendance at the 'Get into Governance' program hosted and generously funded by the Olave Baden-Powell Society that focused on allowing young delegates under 30 to get a better understanding of governance and collaborate together to create change and have a meaningful impact on the World Conference.

Cassie Talbot, one of the young women representing Australia at this year's world conference, shares her thoughts on the impact of Girl Guides on her life;

"I can easily say that I would not be at the stage in my professional career without being a member of Guides. It built #confidence, #communication skills and the ability to understand, share and acknowledge differencing of opinions, experiences and skills amongst people from around the world. It allowed me to #grow and challenge others respectfully whilst empowering me to #advocate for the things I am passionate about. I have been lucky enough to grow this experience and journey through representing Girl Guides Australia at the 38th WAGGGS World Conference in Cyprus."



**8/10 girls are so concerned with the way they look
that they opt out of important activities***

Imagine a world where no-one felt this pressure. Since 2014, WAGGGS and Dove have been working towards this incredible vision; we want everyone to feel free to be themselves – to feel Free Being Me! The campaign has reached over 6.5 million young people with body confidence and self-esteem activities over 125 countries so far. *

Source: Dove Global Girls Beauty and Confidence Report, 2017.



[Find out more about the 'Free Being Me' campaign](#)



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"It was an absolutely fabulous training experience & I can't wait to bring Free Being Me & Action On Body Confidence to leaders in Australia. It was wonderful to work with such a diverse range of Girl Guide & Girl Scout Leaders from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines as well as the volunteers from UK, USA, Madagascar & Singapore" - Robynne Mummery

IT'S IN THE BAG



The inspirational young women involved in the Olave Program have set their sights on an important goal this year: to donate 600 bags to the [@sharethedignityaustralia](https://www.sharethedignity.org.au) 'It's in the Bag' campaign. Since November they have collected bags across the nation to ensure more women experiencing hardship do not need to experience period poverty too.

[Find out how you can get involved here](#)



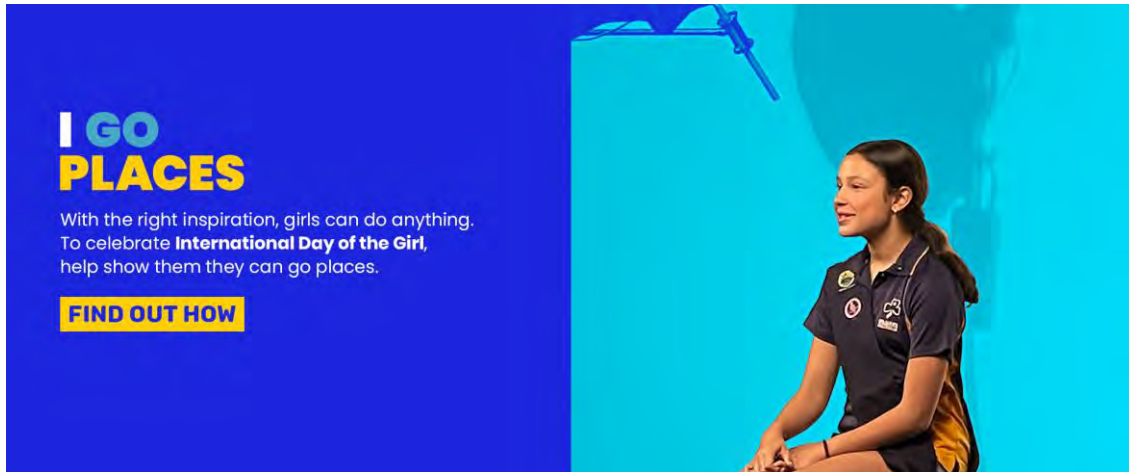


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By buying one of these products, you will be supporting Girl Guides in your community. Shop [here](#).

[Shop now](#)





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[Watch the campaign video](#)



NATIONAL TRAINING



Calling all Leaders and Managers in Training. Register now to take the next step in your qualification journey - [ALQP Training - Girl Guides Australia](#). You will meet Girl Guide volunteers from all over Australia and gain valuable knowledge and skills necessary for your role.

The regular one-day training offerings for both the Leader Qualification and Manager Qualification Training are facilitated online by experienced Trainers and Leaders from each State Girl Guide Organisation.

[Register for ALQP Training here](#)

WAGGGS
Resource Pool



WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL GUIDES
AND GIRL SCOUTS

Volunteering with WAGGGS provides opportunities to impact the lives of millions of girls and young women in the world.

If you are keen to join the WAGGGS Resource Pool but unsure about the process you will find an application process map on the main international page.

[Volunteer with WAGGGS](#)

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Support our projects and help make a bigger impact



Help girls achieve their potential with the Young Women in Leadership Fund

This fund supports leadership programs for young women - provided online and in person with both mentor and peer support.

Give girls the chance to go places with the Girl Guides Go Places Fund

This fund supports new units and travel opportunities for girls and young women as well as membership for girls experiencing hardship.

Enable girls to be heard with the Girl-Focused Research Fund

This fund supports research into what girls want for their happiness, wellbeing and future. This research elevates the voices of girls and young women.

[Support us here](#)

EMPOWERING GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN
to discover their potential as leaders of their world



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