

## Report 27<sup>th</sup> World Conference ISGF 11 – 15 October Sydney Olympic Park

Having the chance to attend this event as one of the NSAFFA delegation was a memorable one. The delegations and observers from over 40 countries around the world met in friendship and harmony.

So many different nationalities and beliefs keeping alive the spirit of the Promise and Law laid down by Baden-Powell was amazing.

The opening ceremony was very moving and the line-up of flags from the different countries was very impressive. The cast of one of the local Gang Shows entertained us. A harbour cruise and dinner was organised and in spite of the very spectacular storm over Sydney on the night the harbour lights were beautiful. Camp fire singing and fellowship each night was enjoyed by many.

The theme of the workshop I attended was Development “steps to the future”. Although a lot of the discussions did not seem relevant to Australia. But ideally behind every guiding and scouting district there should be a guild Trefoil, St George or BP.

There were interesting presentations from various countries of their work in their communities, visiting aged care homes, school for the blind and handicapped, organising toy drives for the refugee camps. I was surprised to learn that there are 60 million children under 6 in refuge camps around the world, how very disturbing as these children are our future. Australia is ‘the lucky country’ when you see pictures of problems in some countries.

The venue was adequate and the event well organised. There were little hiccups, but this is too expected in an event of this size. I am grateful given the opportunity to attend such a gathering.

Decima Miller

Fraser Coast Trefoil Guild

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