



BADEN-POWELL GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Guild Master's Report – 2014

It is my great pleasure to present this my third and final report as the Australian Guild Master, and to warmly welcome you all here to Queensland, for the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Baden Powell Guild of Australia.

During this past 12 months members of your national team were able to attend the annual meetings in Queensland, SA, WA and Victoria, as well as the ISGF World Conference in Sydney. We have had the opportunity to meet with many members and hear about many of the varied activities and services undertaken by the many Guild branches. Also through the individual state reports presented we have heard that Guiding throughout Australia is continuing to provide a wide range of social and service activities for our members, and I would like to congratulate and thank the various State Executives and support teams for the roles that they have carried out over the past 12 months.

On behalf of everyone, our congratulations to both Edna Valerie Chiverton from Queensland, and June Bradbury from NSW, on being worthy recipients of The Baden Powell Star.

During the past three years your national team have been meeting regularly whilst trying to follow up queries and provide support to all states where requested. The ongoing issues of membership numbers, updating the website, insurance coverage, financial reports and better communications, both from the national executive, and also from the individual states, kept us quite busy at times.

On an international note, Richard Stuart Smith and I were fortunate enough to attend the recent 27th International Scout & Guide Fellowship World Conference in Sydney last month, as part of your NSGFA delegation. What a wonderful experience – the opportunity to again meet and renew friendships with international friends and of course those from around our own country, to hear what is happening within our world fellowship from all parts of the compass, to discuss and be part of future directions, to learn so much more about our own AsPac region member countries and development plans, and of course to also meet and make so many new friends.

To our dedicated conference organising team - Brian Jackson, Keith Perry, Ann Ryan, Chesne Jones, Bev Lapacek, Margaret Worthington, John Booth, Ulrike Eichmeyer, David McNeice, and to the many other Trefoil / Baden Powell / St. George Guild members who contributed and volunteered in making the world conference such a success and fantastic experience, we say **THANK YOU.**

We should also take this opportunity to thank your BPGA representatives on the National Scout & Guide Fellowship Australia (NSGFA) committee over the past three years. Richard Stuart-Smith has been in the role of Treasurer, as well as our Australian delegate to the newly formed Asia-Pacific (AsPac) Region Council, along with his tireless work in regards incorporation matters. Our International Secretary was initially Irene Kerry, and for the last 16 months Aram Joukadjian.

Whilst talking about the NSGFA I would also need to thank our hard working Chairperson, Barbara Dean (Australian Trefoil Guild Adviser), for her leadership and direction, for the numerous trips to Melbourne and Sydney to attend meetings, for her commitment to detail and following us all up (so many emails) to ensure things are completed.

Finally, my sincere thanks also go to Roanne Stickland, Matt Thomas, and Kaye Gibson (and husband Peter in the background) for their ongoing support over the past three year as members of your National BPGA Executive. Not sure they knew what they were in for when I suggested to them what a 'great opportunity' it was three years ago, however I am sure that we have all learnt something along the way, and we have all met and made Guilding friends around Australia.

Looking forward, we all need to work to recruit and increase our membership numbers across all states, to better promote our aims and purpose, as well as promoting all the many various activities (both service and social) we are actually engaged in. On the international level, after experiencing the wonderful Fellowship in Sydney, we would encourage everyone to consider attending the next AsPac ISGF Gathering in Bangalore, India (12-17 September 2015), or even start thinking about the next World Conference scheduled for Bali, Indonesia (2017).

We pass on our warm congratulations and best wishes to the incoming BPGA executive from Queensland – John Laverty, Joyce McGahey, Jim Pascoe, Jill Field – and are confident that your national body is in good hands moving forward.

Thank you.

Yours in Fun, Food & Fellowship

Greg Davies
Guild Master - 2011 / 2014
Baden Powell Guild of Australia