Entry type: Organisation
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Girl Guides Australia

(1926 -)

Born 19260101, Australia

Summary

The first meeting of the Girl Guides Association of Australia Incorporated was held in Melbourne in 1926. The formation of this national body came over a decade after the first guides group was formed in Tasmania, the Girl Peace Scouts. Other states quickly followed and by the time a national body was established, all states in Australia had guides groups.

The Association celebrated their seventy-fifth birthday in 1985 and at that time had approximately 100,000 members.

Details

In Tasmania Girl Peace Scouts, corresponding with the organisation of the same name in New Zealand, were formed as early as 1909-10, while in New South Wales the Australian League of Girl Aids, recognised in affiliation with the Boy Scouts Association, was formed at the same time. In Victoria, the Florence Nightingale Girl Aids were established in 1909, and recognised as Baden-Powell Girl Guides in 1911. Guiding in Western Australia began in 1915 at a public meeting in Perth Town Hall under the sponsorship of the Women's Service Guild.

Some of these groups were later disbanded with the outbreak of World War I in 1914, but many reformed and were then officially registered as branches of the British association. In the early days these separate groups did not know of each other's existence, because of our great distances and the scarcity of detailed records. Few of these were kept because the pioneers of Guiding did not realise the significance of what they were establishing, nor what a vast movement it would become.

Eventually each state became organised, setting up a headquarters, forming a state executive and appointing a state commissioner. Tasmania was first in 1911 followed by South Australia in 1913, Western Australia in 1915, Queensland in 1919, New South Wales in 1920 and Victoria in 1921.

In 2004, Guides Australia described its mission as: 'Helping girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community member.'

All Australian Guides, youth and adults, make the same Promise, use the same Laws, and wear the same badge. (The words on the badge say Guides Australia)

Guide Promise
I promise that I will do my best,
to do my duty to God,
to serve the Queen and my Country,
to help other people and to keep the Guide Law.
The Guide Laws

A Guide is loyal and can be trusted

A Guide is helpful

A Guide is polite and considerate

A Guide is friendly and a sister to all Guides

A Guide is kind to animals and respects all living things

A Guide is obedient

A Guides has courage and is cheerful in all difficulties

A Guide makes good use of her time

A Guide takes care of her own possessions and those of other people

A Guide is self-controlled in all she thinks says and does

Published resources

Newsletter
Communicating, Guides Victoria, 1996

Guiding in Australia/Gia: Guiding in Australia, 1980-1994

The Scout & Guide Courier, 1931-1938

Guide lines / Girl Guide Association, Western Australia, Sylvia Perry Division, 1983-

Focus on Guiding / Girl Guides, 1991-

Matilda: An official treasure bag of guiders' information for Guiders of Victoria, Australia, 1923-

Book
Among the first people, 1908-1936: The Baden-Powell Girl Guide Movement in Australia, Swinburne, G.H., 1978

Guiding in Nowra, the First 60 Years, Clark, Helen and Alan Clark, 1985

Blue and gold, the story told: A brief history of the Girl Guides Association in Australia, Coleman, Margaret and Honor Darling, 1986

Guiding in W.A., Wilson, Winifred, [1963?]

Goldfields Girl Guides: A history of the movement in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder district, Quartermaine, Mavis, 1989

Mrs Sylvia Ringrose, O.B.E., State Commissioner, 1955-1960: A movement with a purpose, Bagster, Mary, 1992

Mrs Janette Gibson, A.M., State Commissioner, 1981-1986 :building for the future /researched by Jean Percy ; compiled by Nola Warneke., Warneke, Nola, 1992

Mrs Joan Guthrie, State Commissioner, 1965-1970 :the challenging sixties /researched by Margaret Sycamore ; compiled by Nola Warneke., Warneke, Nola, 1992

Mrs Honour Burcher, M.B.E., State Commissioner, 1960-1965 :the challenging sixties /researched by Margaret Sycamore ; compiled by Mavis Holland., Holland, Mavis, 1992

Mrs Joie Dwyer, State Commissioner, 1986-1991 :challenge and achievement /researched by Meta Williams ; compiled by Meta Williams., Williams, Meta, 1992

Mrs Mary Moore, M.B.E., State Commissioner, 1971-1976 :the progressive seventies /researched by Margaret Sycamore ; compiled by Wilma Torney. Publication Details [Herston, Qld.] :Girl Guides Association (Queensland, Australia),1992., Torney, Wilma, 1992

Mrs Lilian Gresham, M.B.E., State Commissioner, 1945-1954 :the post-war reconstruction era /researched by Meta Williams ; compiled by Meta Williams., Williams, Meta, 1992

Promises Made & Promises Kept: A History of Guiding in Western Australia, Miller, Joy, 2000

Guiding on the Goldfields: A history of the movement in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder district, Quartermaine, Mavis, 1997

Index [to] Guiding in W.A., Milesi, A. J., 1963?

Memories of guiding and scouting days: Northampton & elsewhere, Lowrie, Jessie, 1995

Mrs Meta Williams, OBE, State Commissioner, 1976-1981: the progressive seventies, Williams, Meta (researched and compiled by), 1992

From a flicker to a flame : the story of the Girl Guides in Australia, Coleman, Margaret and Darling Honor, 1989

Report
Annual Report, Girl Guides Association of Western Australia/Guides Western Australia Inc., 1936-

Annual Report, Girl Guides Association of Australia, 1965-

Annual Report, The Girl Guides Association South Australia/Guides South Australia., 1923-

Annual report and balance sheet / Girl Guides Thrift Campaign, Girl Guides Association of South Australia. Thrift Campaign., 1939-1945

Magazine
Adventuring: Official organ of the Girl Guides Association of South Australia, 1939-1979

The South Australian Girl Guide Magazine, 1926-?

The State magazine for Girl Guides of South Australia, 1924

The Waratah: The official magazine of the Girl Guides Association (New South Wales), 1926?-1980

Newspaper
The Woozle: The South Australian Girl Guides' own newspaper, 1929-1932

Edited Book
A story of scouting in Western Australia, 1908-1930: With a short account of guiding in the same period, Gough, K.R. and G. Beal, 1931

Booklet
A history of guiding in the Geraldton area, 1917-1986, Leach, Sheila A., 1986

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Papers of Nancy Lutton, 1918-2007 (bulk 1960-2007) [manuscript]

State Library of New South Wales
You can't help liking them [motion picture]

Cutler family - papers, 1909-1995

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection
Margaret Curtis-Otter interviewed by Hazel de Berg in the Hazel de Berg collection [sound recording]

State Library of Western Australia
[Interview with Marjorie Blythe] [sound recording] / [interviewed by W. Kay]

[Interview with Rev. Lee Edwards] [sound recording] / [interview conducted by 1st Huntingdale Guides]

[Interview with Kathleen Baird] [sound recording] / [interviewed by Wyn Kay]

[Interview with Daphne Foulkes-Taylor] [sound recording] / [interviewed by Gwen Mellowship]

[Interview with Alison Cairns] [sound recording] / [interviewed by W. Kay]

[Interview with Lorna Cooper] [sound recording] / [interviewed by G. Loughton]

[Recording of an interview with the Kendenup LV Oborne Guides and Brownies] [sound recording] / [interviewed by F. Beech]

[Interview with Ethel Moore] [sound recording] / [interviewed by Margaret Luckett]

[Interview with Gwen Mellowship] [sound recording] / [interviewed by Wyn Kay]

[Interview with Joan McLean] [sound recording] / [interviewed by Win Kay]

[Interview with Pamela McGregor] [sound recording] / [interviewed by Wyn Kay]

Girl Guides Association of Western Australia : collection of ephemera material

[Interview with Kathleen Brockway] [sound recording] / [interviewed by W. Kay]

Records, 1960-1991 [manuscript]

Archives Office of Tasmania
Girl Guides Association of Tasmania

Geelong Heritage Centre
Geelong Kindergarten Girl Guides Company

Girl Guides Association of Victoria. Aberdeen Street, Geelong, Vic. Branch

Girl Guides Association of Victoria. St John's Branch

Australian Historic Records Register
Girl Guides Association, WA (Inc.)

Ajana Girl Guides and Brownies: community organisation records

Girl Guides Association, Gympie District: community organisation records

Girl Guides Association (NSW) ACT: community organisation records

Girl Guides Association of Australia Incorporated: community organisation records

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Eleanor Manning, former Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Members of the Girl Guides Association (South Australia) working in the depot during their thrift campaign to raise funds for organisations such as the Red Cross

State Library of South Australia
Grace Margaret Lewis : SUMMARY RECORD

Guides SA Oral History Project: SUMMARY RECORD [sound recording] Interviewers: Sally Hopton, June Rees, Jeff Medwell, Peggy Buttfield and Joyce Raggatt

Interview with Lorna Adams [sound recording] Interviewer: Neil Baron

Recording of the Forty-fifth Anniversary Meeting of the Adelaide Trefoil Guild [sound recording]

Marion Sinclair : SUMMARY RECORD

Interview with Elsie Haselgrove [sound recording] Interviewer: Yvonne Abbott

Interview with Aileen Bond [sound recording] Interviewer: Yvonne Abbott

Papers relating to Girl Guides

George Woodroffe Goyder : SUMMARY RECORD

Girl Guides South Australia : SUMMARY RECORD

Wemyss family : SUMMARY RECORD

Interview with Elma Sandford-Morgan [sound recording] Interviewer: Aileen Bond

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