1955 - 1960 Sylvia Ringrose

A movement with a purpose!
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Since 1990, some terms have been altered - District Commissioners are now 'district leaders'. Local Associations are now 'girl guides support groups'.

After a five year term for State Commissioners was approved, Mrs. Gresham completed her nine year term and Mrs. Sylvia Daphne Ringrose was elected to the office.

Mrs. Ringrose (nee Pratt) was no stranger to Queensland guiding. She joined the Movement in Ipswich in 1920, eventually becoming warranted captain of the Ipswich Company in June, 1927.

After marriage, she later resumed guiding as a commissioner in the Bardon, Toowong, Milton and Rainworth districts.

She was appointed Commissioners' Representative on the Board of Management of the Guide Centre in 1947, to State Council in 1948 and later to the State Executive Committee.

On 1st January 1955, Mrs. Ringrose took office as State Commissioner and served in that capacity for five years. Ithaca Division was renamed Sylvia Ringrose Division in her honour in 1958.

Although she suffered the sad loss of her beloved husband, Professor E.C.D. Ringrose, during her term of office, she bravely continued as State Commissioner, visiting country as well as metropolitan divisions. As was the case with her predecessors, she made a wonderful contribution to the administration and development of Queensland guiding.

At the conclusion of her term of office as State Commissioner she was honoured by the Queen with the award of the O.B.E. for her service to the Girl Guides Association and other community interests.

Appointment as a VicePresident of the State Council of the Girl Guides Association followed and the guiding award of the Beaver was presented to her for outstanding service to the Movement.

In the midsixties, Mrs. Ringrose was appointed State International Representative, an office she held for five years. Other community interests, apart from guiding, included being President of the Staff Wives' Association of the University of Queensland and President of the Lyceum Club.

On 8th December 1982, her guiding friends attended a service in St. John's Cathedral to pay their last respects to a great leader remembered for her wisdom, charm, graciousness and dignity.

Special Events

Mrs. Sylvia Ringrose chose Mrs. K. Wilson as her Assistant when she took office as State Commissioner on 1st January 1955.

A Division Commissioners' Conference was held in March 1955.

Mrs. E.C.D. Ringrose, Mrs. K.J.G. Wilson, Mrs. R.B. Charlton (Acting State Treasurer) and Miss Z.M. Stormonth (State Secretary) attended the Federal Council Meeting held in South Australia. Until 1955 the Territory of Papua/New Guinea
was administered by Queensland on behalf of the Federal Council, but with the development of the Movement there, and the difficulties and problems which arose as a result of this expansion, it was agreed that the Chief Commissioner should take over (on behalf of the Federal Council) direct administration of the Territory.

Mrs. Ringrose's term as State Commissioner will have special memories. Several important events took place between 1955 and 1960.

The sun shone brilliantly and the guides of Queensland were especially honoured on the significant occasion when their very first own 'home' at 335 Boundary Street, Brisbane was opened by Her Excellency Lady Slim, Federal President of the Girl Guides Association of Australia. It was the first time Her Excellency had opened a guide building in Australia. Miss Eleanor Manning, Chief Commissioner for Australia was also present on her first official visit to Queensland. Lady Lavarack, our State President, chaired the official ceremony.

A Guard of Honour formed from most Divisions in Queensland, together with decorative banners and flags, made a very colourful scene. A brownie from a country centre presented Her Excellency with a silver key to unlock the door. In her address Her Excellency said "I am sure that this will be a home rather than a headquarters, and the girls who use it will be like a closely knit family with its ideals rooted in the Christian faith." More than 500 uniformed members were present, some of them travelling great distances.

A Girl Guide House Committee was formed, under the chairmanship of Mrs. C. Bayton, to assist with the development of facilities at 'Girl Guide House' particularly with relation to the kitchen and residential flat. While renovations were under way, Executive Meetings were held at the home of Mrs. K.J.G. Wilson, Assistant State Commissioner.

Mrs. Wilson undertook to revise the history of Guiding in Queensland with the assistance of Miss M. Grimes, the first leader appointed (also the first Hon. State Secretary). Old records supplied by Miss D. Hawthorn, formerly Deputy State Commissioner and Diploma 'd Trainer, greatly assisted with the project and the history sheet was duly completed.

During 1955 the Finance SubCommittee was reorganised and this contributed to smoother running of the administration. An Awards Committee was set up to deal with all applications within the State. State Executive members acted as liaison on other committees within the Association and other organisations. Mrs. W.R. Stephenson chaired the Hospitality Committee which was responsible for catering of many functions, raising of funds, entertainment of visiting guiding personalities and for increasing the interest of Local Association members.

The Thirtyfifth Annual Meeting of the Association was held on 9th June 1955 and chaired by the State President, Lady Lavarack. Miss Berit Bredersen, Norwegian Exchange Leader was guest speaker and showed colour slides of guiding in Norway.

Kindilan was the venue for the fifth Commissioners' Residential Training in September 1955, and was well attended by members from all parts of the State. A Division Commissioners' Conference was held preceding the Residential Training and several new Division Commissioners were welcomed. Miss Joan Stevenson, Guide Adviser for New South Wales, attended the training as guest speaker and her interesting sessions contributed greatly to the success of the weekend.

The fifth Biennial Conference of Local Associations followed the Residential Training and this was held for the first time at Girl Guide House. The conference was opened by the State President, Lady Lavarack, and delegates from 59 Local Associations participated. The theme of the conference was "Does guiding fill the needs of the girl of today?" Guest speaker was Miss Stevenson and other speakers were Miss E. Hill of the Creche & Kindergarten Association (brownie guide age group), Mrs. Drewe, Principal, Moreton Bay High School (guide age group) and Mr. M. Poulter, University of Queensland (ranger age group).

Mrs. E.M. Walmsley, Division Commissioner for Palmer, was appointed State representative on the Federal Committee to organise national celebrations for the Baden-Powell Centenary and a committee was formed within the State to plan statewide activities for 1957.

The Federal Council meeting in May 1956 was held in Hobart, and this year for the first time Division Commissioners...
were invited to attend as observers and fares were paid by Division or Local Association funds. Queensland delegates included the State Commissioner, the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. H.R. Hancock, and the Assistant State Commissioner, Mrs. K.J.G. Wilson.

The combined effort of the Trefoil Guilds enabled the second bedroom at Girl Guide House to be completed.

As was the case in 1955, members of the State Executive Committee were responsible for the raising of large sums towards our funds through the convening of functions.

At the Thirtysixth Annual Meeting an alteration to Section 13 of the Constitution was approved and in accordance with this the State Executive Committee was enlarged to include all branch and departmental advisers as ex-officio members. Our State President, Lady Lavarack, chaired the meeting held in All Saints' Hall, Ann Street on 5th July 1956. The guest speaker was Miss Yvonne Cuenod who was for many years the assistant guider in charge of 'Our Chalet'.

Plans for functions to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of our Founder, Lord BadenPowell, came to fruition when at the beginning of 1957 the first was held, a combined Scouts and Guides Own on Thinking Day, 22nd February, at the City Hall, Brisbane. The building was packed to the limit with scouts and guides surrounded by colour parties around the perimeter. Colour bearers carrying the flags of all nations marched on and formed an impressive background to the stage. A scout and guide choir, after having practised the preceding year, gave a special performance. It was a sincere and moving tribute. Similar services took place in many parts of Queensland.

As one of the worldwide celebrations in honour of B.P. four camps were held in various regions, in the Philippines, Switzerland, England and Canada. An Australian contingent, including six Queenslanders and led by the State Secretary of Queensland, attended the camp in the Philippines. Twenty-three countries were represented and lasting friendships made.

The itinerary of another contingent of 49 Australians, including six Queenslanders, participating in the second World Regional camp at Windsor Great Park, included visits to England and Scotland, a camp at Foxlease and a Ranger Adventure week at Our Chalet. Lively interest was created by participants at this camp when they returned home.

The Thirtyseventh Annual Meeting of the Association was held in All Saints Hall on 6th August 1957. The guest speaker was Senator Dame Annabelle Rankin, D.B.E.

A special display at the Royal Show, 1957, was arranged and metropolitan and near country areas of scouts and guides took part. This was one of many such functions held throughout Centenary Year in conjunction with the Boy Scout Association.

A guide insurance scheme was introduced and from the beginning of 1957 all uniformed members in Queensland were covered by a personal insurance policy.

The death of Professor E.C.D. Ringrose after a short illness shocked a wide circle of friends. The death also occurred of Miss Irene Nicoll following the presentation of the highest award yet won by a trainer.

A most important event was the visit of our Chief, Lady Baden-Powell, G.B.E. A rally held on Thinking Day 1958 was a grand experience. Later results from her visit throughout the State became apparent. The Chief endeared herself to all those privileged to meet her.

A voucher for 0100 was presented to Lady BadenPowell by the patrol leaders of Queensland, raised through a committee of Queen's Guides as a 'lifeline' to aid the building fund of the World Bureau. As the Chief's own letter to patrol leaders had been the spirit behind the appeal it was very fitting that she was there to receive the tribute.

The Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth, visited Queensland in February 1958, and members were privileged to take part in
her welcome at the State Parliamentary reception and the civil welcome.

Lady May Abel Smith consented to become the President of the Girl Guides Association in Queensland in 1958.

A handicraft display arranged jointly with the Boy Scouts Association was another important event. The display was held in the Brisbane City Hall and included articles from all over the State. Country centres in many cases sent down a fine collection of handmade goods, and a number of divisions organised a separate display beforehand, sending down to Brisbane only the winning entries. As a splendid symbol of this event, a beautifully illustrated copy of B.P.’s Last Message now hangs in Girl Guide House, and another at Kindilan, the winning entries in that section of the display.

On 6th April 1958, Queen's Guides and Scouts took part in the formal presentation of a joint message of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen from both Associations.

The sixth Local Association Biennial Conference was held and 80 Local Associations in the State attended. The theme for the Centenary Year was ‘Background for People in Guiding, Open Air, Happiness and Usefulness’. The Hospitality Committee convened the luncheon arrangements as well as entertaining the delegates.

The Thirtyeighth Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association Hall at Milton in the presence for the first time of our State President, Lady May Abel Smith. The Premier of Queensland, Mr. F. Nicklin, was a special guest.

Queensland was also represented at the Federal Council Meeting held in Melbourne. At the meeting, the Chief Commissioner for Australia, Miss Eleanor Manning, M.B.E., stated that the community felt guiding was worthwhile and that it could be the answer in some way to a great many present day problems.

Through the efforts of Mr. R. Ellacott, Honorary Advertising Officer of the Association, there was an upward trend in the amount of publicity offered to the Association both from press and radio. In the field of radio publicity, the manager of Broadcasting Station 4KQ allotted a regular weekly session during which members of the listening public were introduced to many aspects of our guiding programme and forthcoming functions.

A special feature in the plans for B.P. Centenary Year was a special project which would express our wish to mark 1957 as a year of thanksgiving to the Founder. A suggestion made by Mrs. H.S. Gresham was selected. There was a real need which could be undertaken by the State as a whole for Tatana Village, near Port Moresby in the Territory of Papua/New Guinea. Tatana Village was situated on very hard dry sandy flat land, and every drop of water during the seven months of the dry season had to be carried over the causeway linking the island of Tatana with the mainland. It was envisaged that a sum of money would be collected to help the village towards the establishment of some community amenity. However an idea came from the Chief Guide when she made the presentation on behalf of Queensland that the money be spent to set up a sure supply of fresh water which would benefit the whole village and it proved to be the most practical way of carrying out the Centenary Year theme of 'better and happier homes'.

The village council chairman was visibly affected when told of the gift. It was the interest in and thought for the village welfare by people they had never seen that amazed the councillors most of all. A beautiful carved table with three intertwining legs made from one piece of wood forming an amazingly intricate pattern was presented to the Chief Guide at Tatana Village as a gift for the guides of Queensland.

The end of the 1958/59 year marked the opening of the Queensland Centenary celebrations. The most significant function particularly in the metropolitan area was a joint Thinking Day/Founder's Day Service in the Brisbane City Hall. On this occasion the Association was delighted to have present His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Abel Smith and Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice.

The Thirtyninth Annual Meeting of the Association was held in All Saints Hall, Brisbane, with our State President, Lady May Abel Smith, in the chair and we were honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice.
The Australian Council meeting was held for the first time at the Australian Capital, Canberra, and Her Excellency, Lady Slim, our Australian President, honoured the State Commissioners attending by entertaining them as her guests at Government House.

1959 was one of exceptional activity in all branches and sections of the Movement in Queensland as it featured a large number of functions held to honour the Queensland Centenary Celebrations as well as in 1960 the first plans for the commemoration of the Jubilee Year of Guiding.

For several wonderful weeks members of the Girl Guides Association were privileged to take part in many royal occasions. One outstanding event was the visit of Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra of Kent.

A number of young uniformed members, both leaders and rangers, were guests at the Royal Balls attended by Her Royal Highness, either as representatives of the Association or nominated through their own districts. The Association was represented at all official functions and commissioners and leaders ensured a splendid rollup of guides and brownies at a youth rally at the Exhibition Grounds. In all of the centres visited by the Princess the Girl Guides were well to the fore in participating in welcomes to her.

Perhaps one of the functions which will always be remembered was the floral carpet made by women's organisations in Brisbane and opened by Princess Alexandra. The morning of the event, it was like a florist shop under Girl Guide House. The carpet which covered the footpath outside Parliament House literally used thousands and thousands of flowers. The street was transformed as if by magic into a wonderful colourful garden through which Her Royal Highness walked on her arrival at the Gundoo Garden Party. The carpet attracted hundreds of sightseers during the afternoon.

During Gundoo Week two displays were given in Brisbane with all sections, brownie, guide, ranger, leaders and commissioners joining in. The youth parade item arranged by a special committee for the function at the City Hall received a great deal of favourable comment also, and as a memento of the Association's participation in this, a special Centenary Certificate was presented to be hung at Girl Guide House.

Other functions in which guiding took part were the Gundoo Carnival, the Centenary Treeplanting ceremony at Gregory Terrace and the welcome to the Centenary Migrant Ship, s.s. "Orion", where rangers distributed fruit and flowers to the British migrants on their arrival at Hamilton wharf.

Special attention must be made of "A. Woman's World" where the Association set up two displays, one representing guiding in general and the other arranged by Trefoil Guilds. Both were interesting and attractive and received many compliments. At the Woman's Rally in the Festival Hall a large number of ushers in uniform were provided under the efficient direction of Mrs. Guthrie.

Scarcey had the Centenary Year ended when 1960, the Jubilee Year, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of guiding began. Our State Treasurer, Mrs. H.R. Hancock, was elected in 1959 as Jubilee Convenor for Australia, and was instrumental for the issue of a stamp to commemorate this great event.

The year began with a Thinking Day Pageant attended by more than 2000 members. This was held at the Festival Hall and members were joined on this occasion by parents and friends. Our State President, Lady May Abel Smith, delivered an inspiring Jubilee message to the guides of Queensland during the ceremony.

The Jubilee Guiders' and Commissioners' Dinner was enjoyed by 120 uniformed members from Brisbane and many country centres.

A special committee was convened and chaired by our State Jubilee Convenor, Miss Eleanor Chalmers, to plan and arrange all events for our Jubilee year.

The election of a special committee to draft amendments to the Constitution was a major event of the year. The chairman, Mrs. H.S. Gresham, together with four other committee members, spent a great deal of time and thought upon
this important task and the resulting draft was presented to members of the State Council at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Association.

The format suggested at the Sixth Local Association Biennial Conference was adopted for the seventh Conference. It included two days of training sessions and was well attended by members from throughout the State. It proved to be a most successful Conference.

Perhaps the most memorable event in 1960 was the Jubilee Rally held in Yeronga Park in June. For the first time in the history of the State, all Divisions in the metropolitan area, together with contingents from near country centres, took part in an inspiring March Past, led by Division Commissioners and with our State President, Lady May Abel Smith, taking the salute. Miss Godfrey and her committee members were congratulated upon the most successful rally in our history. At this rally the retiring State Commissioner presented the Jubilee Flag to the members of Sylvia Ringrose Division which attained the highest aggregate points for the competitive events.

At the Annual Meeting held in the Wesley Hall and attended by members of all sections and branches as well as the many interested friends of the Movement, an impressive handing over ceremony was included. The retiring State Commissioner, Mrs. E.C.C. Ringrose, presented her official badge to Mrs. C.A. Burcher, while at the same time the State Commissioner's Standard was passed from Mrs. Ringrose's Colour Party to that of Mrs. Burcher.

Lady May Abel Smith took the chair at that meeting. The guest speakers included Dame Annabelle Rankin. On that occasion also the amendments to the State Constitution, as presented by Mrs. H.S. Gresham on behalf of the Constitution Committee, were placed before the State Council and approved.

Goondiwindi, Yelarbon, Inglewood and Texas Scouts and Guides held a combined sports gathering which was a great success. Guides of this South Western Division were pleased to meet guides of the Margery Charlton Division (who were joining forces with them to meet furnishing a room at Koombanda), at the Rally in Brisbane. Highlight of the year's activities was a visit by the State and Deputy State Commissioners to each District in April entailing a car trip of 540 miles.

In May the Maranoa Division members had the honour of a visit from the State Commissioner, Mrs. Ringrose, and the Deputy State Commissioner, Mrs. Wilson, when they went out to open the Quilpie Hut. On that occasion the Commissioners visited Morven, Charleville and Cunnamulla before going on to Quilpie. The trip to Cunnamulla was quite hazardous over roads made slippery by rain, and the Division Commissioner was bogged on her way home from taking the State Commissioner to Charleville!

The Mavis Parkinson Shield Day and Brownie Revels were held at the commencement of Guide Week and a Handicraft Display was arranged, attended by the State Commissioner.

One highlight of the year was the establishment in October of the B.P. Memorial Training Centre, 'Bluewater'. Bluewater was regarded as a second training centre for Queensland and is situated about 40km north of Townsville. The local planning had been accepted by the Division of Townsville with the assistance of Mrs. E.M. Walmsly, Assistant Training Adviser for North Queensland.

Voluntary work made it all possible. The Lions Club erected a steel frame building after the land was cleared. A tank stand with tank was erected and water connected through the cooperation of Mr. Radden from the overflow from a tank on his adjoining property. Mrs. Ringrose unveiled a plaque in honour of this occasion.

The property adjoining Girl Guide House became available at a reasonable price. Serious consideration was given as to the advantages afforded by acquiring this property and it was purchased and put to use as the new Training Department with storage space available for all sections.
The largest ever statewide camp was held in Queensland at Kindilan to celebrate Queensland's Centenary Year. The camp, divided into six groups, had representatives from all Divisions in Queensland and four aboriginal girls from the Palm Island settlement.

The first report for the Commonwealth Grant Project was made in 1960. Queensland applied for assistance from the Commonwealth Grant for guiding in the outback of the State, with the object of establishing new centres, improving the standard of guiding where already established, obtaining and training leaders and enlisting more public support. The amount received from the Grant for this project was £750 of which £290 was spent on fares and travelling expenses during 1959.

The farewell to Their Excellencies, Sir William and Lady Slim, by the scouts and guides of Queensland took place in December 1959 on the lawns at Government House, Brisbane. Lady Slim moved among the guides and brownies and cheers echoes to very good friends of the guide and scout Movements as they departed.

OVERSEAS VISITORS.

Overseas visitors during 1955 were: Mrs. J. Steele, Texas, U.S.A., visiting Australia under the Juliette Low Friendship Scheme. Miss Berit Bredersen, exchange trainer from Norway.

1966 : Miss Mildred Mode, World Travelling Commissioner in the Pacific area for the World Bureau arrived for her third visit to Queensland. Mrs. Helen Means, Chairman of the World Committee. Miss Yvonne Cuenod, better known as 'Cigoyne' spent two months in Queensland and became our first overseas visitor to stay in the flat at Girl Guide House. She was for many years Assistant Guider in Charge of Our Chalet. Miss Getsie Samuel, exchange trainer from India, was in Queensland for three weeks.

1957 : The World Chief Guide, Lady Baden Powell G.B.E., visited Australia for the B.P. Centenary Year. The Association gained more leaders as a result of her wonderful visit to Queensland. The Hon. Gwenilian Philipp, Sea Ranger Adviser for Wales. Miss Daphne Colvin, trainer from Great Britain toured Queensland for five months as a full time trainer. Miss Colvin visited over 30 centres, mostly in distant country areas, and in many instances was able to return to follow up training given on her first tour.

1958 : Miss Nusrat Rauf from Peshawar, Pakistan was enrolled as a ranger. This was the first time in Queensland when a visiting guide from another country was enrolled. Miss Anasuya Karkare of Rajasthan, India. She was on the staff of the World Association as travelling commissioner for South East Asia. Mrs. Gordon Harris of Pocatello, Idaho, U.S.A., Juliette Lowe exchange leader. Mrs. Harris visited Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice.

1959 : Miss Margarita Otera from the Phillipines came to Queensland for six weeks to observe administrative methods in the Ranger Branch. Miss Otera visited Warwick, Toowoomba and Dalby, spent a weekend at Gympie and another at the Gold Coast. Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra of Kent. For several wonderful weeks members of the Girl Guides Association were privileged to take part in many royal occasions. Miss Mildred Mode, World Travelling Commissioner, Pacific Region was present at Thinking Day celebrations.

VISITORS TO QUEENSLAND.


1956 : Miss Eleanor Manning, Chief Commissioner for Australia, attended the 6th commissioners' residential training in North Queensland.

1958. Miss Eleanor Manning, Chief Commissioner for Australia, attended the third annual training week as guest ranger trainer. Miss L. Sharp, a Certificated Brownie Trainer from Victoria, attended the training week. Miss Claire Broadhurst, Training Adviser for Australia, opened the 7th Local Association Biennial Conference and attended a weekend training at Girl Guide House.

1959: Sir William and Lady Slim. Her Excellency Lady Slim was the Federal President of the Girl Guides Association of Australia. This was to farewell Their Excellencies as Sir William was retiring as Governor-General of Australia. Miss Mary Lambe, Diploma’d Guide Trainer from Victoria, attended training week at Kindilan.

GUIDING AWARDS.

The following awards to Queensland members were approved by the Australian Executive Committee.

1955: Certificate of Merit Miss Lilian Laidlaw.

1956: The Beaver Miss Irene Nicoll.

Medal of Merit Mrs. E.M. Walmsly.

Gilt Cross for Lifesaving Rosalind Gresham.

Certificate of Merit Miss Mildred Bliss.

1957: The Beaver Mrs. Vera Patten.

Medal of Merit Mrs. E. Grigg, Miss M. Jackson.

Certificate of Merit Mrs. H. Mills, Mrs. E. Stewart.

1959: The Beaver Mrs. R.B. Charlton.

Medal of Merit: Mrs. T.A.S. Dodds, Miss Z. Stormonth, Mrs. H.R. Hancock.

During 1955 an Awards SubCommittee was set up to deal with all applications within the State.

To mark the Centenary Year a special certificate was presented to members who had completed 20 years adult service. 19 of these were awarded.

QUEEN’S GUIDES.

1955/56. Judith Love, 2nd Bulimba; Jill Patterson, 1st Manly/Lota;

Margaret Adam, 1st St.Lucia; Suzanne Goodsr, 1st St.Lucia; Vicki Churven, 1st Indooroopilly.
1956/57. Desley Gilbert, 1st St.Lucia; Fay Senini, 2nd Proserpine;

Lynette Hardy, 2nd Windsor; Barbara Bell, Townsville; Margaret Harvison, Mackay.

1957/58. Joan Grant, 1st Enoggera.

1958/59. Beverley Clark, 2nd Stafford; Janet McCulloch, 1st Toowong; Linda Lewis, 1st Bardon; Judith MacKenzie, 1st Edge Hill.

1959/60. Maida Simmonds, 1st Balmoral; Norma Anderson, Toowoomba; Christine Mills, 1st St.Lucia; Judith Crooke, 1st Tarragindi; Gail Haigh, 1st Ravenshoe; Wendy Robinson, 1st Charters Towers.

GUIDE WEEK.

Guide Week was the source of many varied programmes of packs and companies throughout the State. Activities from 1955 through to 1960 included Church Parades, mother/daughter dinners, window displays, campfires, concerts, Guides Own services, and collection and distribution of gifts to the aged. The BadenPowell Memorial flag was flown from the Brisbane City Hall in 1955.

In 1957, as there were many special functions to mark B.P. Centenary Year, there was less emphasis on Guide Week. One special effort was radio broadcasts made by leaders in Toowoomba to bring guiding activities to the notice of the general public. Field days and brownie revels were reported.

Guide Week in Queensland and press reports proved to be good public relations during 1958.

In 1959 happenings included family picnic and grandmothers' party, fancy dress balls. These and other activities were a source of happiness.

SERVICE.

The most important service carried out by Association members in 1955 was the assistance given to Flood Relief in Northern New South Wales. Within hours of the disaster the Association was represented at a special meeting called by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to consider aid to the affected areas. Everyone helped from large groups in the metropolitan area to single companies and packs a thousand miles away. A large amount of clothing, food and money was dispatched through the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Lord Mayor Appeal. All throughout Queensland, Divisions reported that the importance of civic responsibility and service to the community in our Movement was really evident.

There were an amazing variety and number of tasks carried out to help other people with no thought of reward. Almost all charitable organisations in the State have been helped in some way by guides and in some cases service was carried out over a long period of time.

Service to the community had a very special place in B.P. Centenary Year. Almost every centre participated in the World Good Turn, but the selection of a special project expressed a year of thanksgiving to our Founder. The suggestion was made by Mrs. H.S. Gresham to raise money by the State as a whole to help Tatana Village near Port Moresby establish a community centre or any amenities that were lacking. This was a practical way to carry out the Centenary Year theme of 'better and happier homes'. Through Cooee, the State Magazine, the Queensland guides and brownies were told about Tatana and money poured in. 0135 was contributed and the Chief Guide presented a token to the villagers of Tatana when she visited Papua New Guinea. The village council chairman was visibly affected when told of the gift especially as the guides had never seen the people they were helping. The money was spent to set up a sure supply of fresh water which would benefit the whole village. A table was presented to Queensland as a gift from Tatana Village.
Many districts helped raise money for different organisations. Groups benefiting from company and district efforts included Flying Doctor Service, Red Cross, Bush Children's Homes, Salvation Army and Roper Mission, Queensland Country Women's Association, Returned Services League, Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, W.R. Black Home, SubNormal Children's Training School in Toowoomba, Children's Hospitals, Homes for the elderly, orphanages, Courier Mail Toy Appeal, Legacy Appeal, Child Care Centres, R.S.P.C.A., various churches and properties.

HUTS.

Great efforts were made throughout Mrs. Ringrose's term as State Commissioner to solve the housing problem. There was a great need for meeting places for companies and packs. The assets of the Association in respect of individual buildings in various centres represent a very large sum and below is how the situation improved.


Balmoral, Stafford, Moorooka, Kallangur given use of a but for an indefinite period. Improvements: East Brisbane, Rocklea, Mareeba, Ayr, Nambour.


NEW UNITS AND PACKS.


1957. Guides: 1st Kallangur, 1st White's Hill, 1st Cannon Hill, 1st Stephens, 3rd Mackay, 1st Seaforth, 1st Chinchilla, 7th


3rd Lones. Companies and packs reopened : 1st Miles Guides, 4th Mackay Guides, 1st Monto Guides, 2nd Indooroopilly Guides, 1st Mt.Isa Brownies, 1st Miles Brownies.


New Local Associations figures were : 1956 3; 1957 15; 1958 10.

INTERNATIONAL.

With the growing interest in international guiding and with the increased responsibility which Australia accepted to help with development in countries which are our near neighbours, visits and exchanges amongst our young members did much to bring us closer in World Guiding.

Many members travelled overseas and a large number of introduction cards were distributed, together with information to leaders, rangers and guides visiting the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, India, Pakistan and New Zealand during the 1955 year.

Miss Amy Melville, a Brisbane leader represented Australia at a camp in Sweden. Miss Nancy Harvey, a Brisbane leader, was chosen Camp Counsellor from Australia to visit the United States under the Juliette Low plan and spent three months as guest of the Girl Scouts of America. On her return Miss Harvey visited a number of centres and gave most interesting talks with slides in colour.

Badges and literature were sent to Grenada, British West Indies for a display at their thirtieth anniversary.

The International representative cooperated actively through the Association with United Nations Association and promoted support for U.N.I.C.E.F.

Members who travelled overseas during 195657 year passed on their guiding experiences. These included Miss Amy Shaw, a member of the State Executive Committee, Mrs. Wrench, Division Commissioner, Miss Logan, State Council member and Miss Palmer, leader, also leaders Misses D. Clelland and J. Allen who represented Australia at a gathering in Ireland.

During the Centenary Year of our founder an Australian contingent including six Queenslanders visited Europe and the World Camp at Windsor. Their presence brought a great deal of credit for Australia and Queensland.

Six Queenslanders were also among the Australians to participate in the World Regional Camp in the Phillipines. The spirit of the World Camp was passed on through talks, slide evenings and campfires.
Queensland sent representatives to attend three world functions, the Senior Girl Scout Round Up and two World Gatherings for young adults.

TRAINING.

The programmes of the Movement are possible because of the voluntary contributions by individuals and many trainers were assessed and certificated during Mrs. Ringrose's term of office.

The 1955 training year was an outstanding one under the guidance of Mrs. Vera Patten as Training Adviser. Two Training Certificates were awarded. Miss F. Watts, Camping Adviser for South Queensland, was awarded the Camp Training Certificate and Miss Clelland was presented with the Guide Training Certificate.

The first training week ever held in Queensland took place at Kindilan Training Centre with trainees coming from all over the State, as far north as Cairns, west to Mt. Isa, and south to the border. The majority slept under canvas for the first time which gave them practical camping experience.

A highlight of the year was the visit of Miss Berit Bredersen, Exchange Trainer from Norway. A tour of the State was arranged and all were impressed by the importance of the patrol system in Norway.

Other weekend trainings were held in country centres with good attendances. Some divisions arranged their own training programmes using leaders who had attended state or interstate training weeks. Trainings covering refresher courses for experienced leaders and practical training for the new commissioners and leaders, a brownie leader conference and P.L. training day for metropolitan and near metropolitan leaders were also held.

With ranging on the increase, ranger trainings were held at Girl Guide House. Correspondence Training Sections were very busy and a new set of ranger training letters was published.

The commissioners residential training and conference held at Kindilan was a most successful affair. Guest speaker was Miss Joan Stevenson, Guide Adviser for New South Wales.

In 1956 a visit by Miss Getsie Samuel, trainer from India, made to a number of country centres saw benefits flow from her trainings through her wide vision and deep understanding.

One Camp Training Certificate was awarded in 1956 to Mrs. Joyce Land, a camp recorder in the northern area.

Continued increased interest in annual campcraft training weekends during the years led to a campcraft training week held in conjunction with the general training and proved very successful.

A committee was appointed by the Training Council to consider annual reports submitted by guide companies for the award of the Pike and Mary Tregear Cups.

An investigation was made by the Guide Branch and a new syllabus for the Second Class Test was introduced. A conference of badge testers and badge secretaries was held at Girl Guide House and minutes were distributed and proved very fruitful to incoming secretaries and testers.

A feature of 1956 was the holding of the first residential commissioners’ training in North Queensland and distance did not result in fewer numbers. It was one of the most successful and enjoyable gatherings.

During 1957 an outstanding event was the visit to Queensland by Miss Daphne Colvin, trainer from Great Britain, for five months as a full time trainer. Her reports following trainings over thirty centres throughout the State helped considerably
in forming the training programme for the year and planning the annual training week. During Miss Colvin's visit, Miss Joan Williams became the first ranger leader to obtain the Ranger Training Certificate. Other certificates gained in 1957 were the Camp Training Certificate, Miss Audrey Lawrie, and Brownie Training Certificates to Mrs. G. HamlynHarris and Mrs. J. Cowie.

Brownie, Guide, Ranger and Commissioner training sessions were held at Girl Guide House. Correspondence trainings were decentralised, divisions being responsible in providing experienced leaders as trainers.

In 1958 Mrs. Grace Wrench took over from Mrs. Patten as Training Adviser. Mrs. Ringrose suggested a leadership night be held at the beginning of the year and anyone interested in leadership was encouraged to attend with the result that several undertook training.

The third annual training week was held at Kindilan with Miss Manning, Chief Commissioner for Australia, attending as guest ranger trainer. The inclusion of a campcraft group for the first time proved successful.

Monthly trainings for commissioners were held at Girl Guide House as well as trainings for the various branches. Tallebudgera was the venue for the Division Commissioners' Conference. The highlight of the week was the dinner held in honour of the State President, Lady May Abel Smith, to meet her in an atmosphere of such happy informality.

Two training days were held for Local Associations in conjunction with the Biennial Conference which was opened by Miss Claire Broadhurst, Training Adviser for Australia. Her experience was of inestimable help to training in Queensland.

The news that Queensland would receive a Commonwealth Grant was greeted with great enthusiasm. The grant was used during 1959 to develop guiding in the outback area of the State. Fares of leaders and travelling expenses of trainers were covered by this grant.

Miss Nancy Harvey and Miss Margaret Hale were awarded the Camp Training Certificate while Mrs. G. HamlynHarris obtained the Brownie Training Diploma.

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES.


1956. Camp Training Certificate  Mrs. Joyce Land


Ranger Training Certificate  Miss Joan Williams.

Brownie Training Certificate  Mrs. G. HamlynHarris, Mrs. J. Cowie.

1958.

1959. Camp Training Certificate  Miss Nancy Harvey, Miss Margaret Hale.

Diploma Brownie Training  Mrs. G. HamlynHarris.

TRAINING CENTRES.
Kindilan. During 1955 several working bofe s were held and considerable work accomplished in drainage, installation water piping from the reserve tank up to the second campsite.

A ramp was erected to Kindilan House in 1956 to enable wheelchairs to enter without difficulty.

In 1957 a verandah was added to the rear of the house. Foundations were laid for a new store room and a third campsite cleared and levelled by division working bees. Pipes and fittings were installed, enabling water to be carried to this area.

In 1958 plans for the commencement of Brownie Cottage were in hand.

Plans for the development of Kindilan received a great lift with the donation of 003 from the Courier Mail in 1959. Two extra campsites were cleared in preparation for the Centenary Camp and further progress was made on the new store room.

Bluewater. Approval had been given for the development of this beautiful camping ground as a training centre for North Queensland and so in 1958 the Lions Club cleared and pegged the site in readiness for the construction of a steel frame building.

In 1959 Bluewater was established and a plaque unveiled by the State Commissioner, Mrs. Ringrose. The floor was concreted and exterior walls sheeted to guard against cyclones. Lions Club members erected a tank stand and tank; and piping was laid from an adjoining property.

The highlight of 1960 was the official opening of Bluewater Campsite, officially known as the BadenPowell Memorial Training Centre, by the State Commissioner, Mrs. Ringrose, on 26th June, prior to her retirement. A wonderful gathering of members from as far away as Hughenden attended the opening and Oak Leaf Awards were presented to Miss Philp, Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Land.

CAMPING.

Throughout Mrs. Ringrose's term as State Commissioner, 1955 1960, the number of overall members camping increased.

1955 1843.

1956 2756.

1957 2700.

1958 2954.

1959 3205.

During 1955 Kindilan remained the most popular camping ground but new sites were found by districts. Companies were encouraged to bring their own equipment as Kindilan equipment could not cope with the numbers camping.

Trainings to qualify leaders in camping were carried out and the following qualifications were awarded

1 Camp Training Certificate 6 Camp Licences 1 Indoor Campers Licence 5 Guider Camp Permits 1 P.L. Camp Permit 2 Q.M. Bars 2 Junior Q.M. Certificates 3 Ranger/Cadet Campcraft Certificates 1 Camp First Aid Certificate.
In 1956 a third campsite was cleared at Kindilan and Camping Department arranged camps for districts where no licensed leader was available. A weekend campers’ conference was held at Kindilan with 42 attending from various parts of the State. This proved fruitful. Training camps were held in both north and south resulting in

1 Camp Training Certificate 4 Camp Licences 3 Guider Camp Permit 3 Cadet Camp Permits 1 Ranger Camp Permit 1 P.L. Camp Permit 2 Quartermaster Certificate 1 Camp First Aid Certificate

Training classes and camps during 1957 were held in Brisbane, Warwick, Mackay, Gumlu and Cairns and a series at Girl Guide House. The following certificates were awarded.

9 Camp Licences 6 Guider Camp Permits 2 Quartermaster Certificates 1 Ranger Camp Permit

Camping covered all facets with commissioners' and leaders' annual cruise on Moreton Bay, Sea Ranger cruises, division camps, ranger/rover camps, ranger overnight hikes, guide patrol camps, ranger adventure and the largest ever camp held in this State, the B.P. Boomerang Camp, to celebrate Centenary Year. Guides, rangers and cadets were also represented at the AllAustralia B.P. Corroboree Camp held at St. Ives, N.S.W.

In 1958 camping in the country centres became more active with 19 out of the 40 awards being gained by country leaders. For the first time a Campcraft training camp was held in conjunction with the general training at Kindilan.

Awards for 1958 were

8 Camp Licences 17 Guider Camp Permits 3 Q.M. Certificates 1 Camp First Aid Certificate 3 Pack Holiday Permits 2 Ranger/Cadet Permits 1 Cadet/Ranger Certificate 4 Junior Q.M. Certificates 1 P.L. Camp Permit

More brownies attended pack holidays than ever in the past 110.

1959 Camping qualifications were as follows

- 1 Camp Training Certificate
- 7 Camp Licences
- 13 Guider Camp Permits
- 4 Pack Holiday Permits
- 3 Q.M. Certificates
- 2 Junior Q.M. Certificates

Other camping functions for 1959 were the annual Trefoil Guild weekend camp, commissioners' and leaders' cruise on Moreton Bay, weekend camp for Extension guides at Tallebudgera, three patrol camps and a number of division camps. TROPHIES.

1955: Service and woodcraft played a role in judges decisions.

- Mary Tregear Cup 1st 1st Toowong
- Pike Cup 1st 1st Ravenshoe
- Hilda John Nature Cup  1st  Nellie Melba Patrol, 1st St.Lucia

1956: A committee appointed by the Training Council considered annual reports submitted by guide companies.

- Mary Tregear Cup  1st  1st St.Lucia
- Pike Cup  1st  1st Toowong
- No competition was arranged for the Hilda John Nature Cup.

1957

- Mary Tregear Cup  1st: 1st St.Lucia  2nd: 1st Toowong
- Pike Cup  1st 1st St.Lucia  2nd: 2nd Tarragindi
- Hilda John Nature Cup  1st:Edith Cavill Patrol, 1st St.Lucia  2nd: Thistle Patrol, 1st Sandgate  3rd: 1st Roma Company

1958

- Mary Tregear Cup  2nd Bulimba
- Pike Cup  1st Ipswich
- Hilda John Nature Cup  1st Roma Company

1959

- Mary Tregear Cup  1st Freshwater
- Pike Cup  1st Edge Hill tied with 1st Tarragindi
- Hilda John Nature Cup  1st 1st Edmonton  2nd 1st Indooroopilly

WILLING SHILLING DRIVE.

The Headquarters share of £834 in 1955 was paid into the building fund which meant that a much larger alterations and repairs plan could be carried out to the new building 'Girl Guide House'.

Altogether more than £2,500 was raised in Queensland by work done by guides and brownies. The result of a two year drive was that 2/3 of the cost of carrying out the entire plan for the conversion of the Lady Goodwin Kindergarten into 'Girl Guide House'.

In 1956 J C951 was paid into the building fund.  £2,800 was raised overall towards Pack, Company, Local Association and Division funds and assistance with the reduction of debt on Girl Guide House.

Other years amounts raised for the reduction of the debt on Girl Guide House were

1957  Â£ 817 ; 1958  Â£ 973 ; 1959  Â£ 930 .
COO-EE.
The circulation of Coo-ee increased each year, 560 copies in 1955, 620 in 1956 (the year Coo-ee achieved its tenth year), 700 in 1957 to 860 in 1959.

The Editor, Mrs. J.R. Kay (nee Coral Waters) the subeditor Miss Helen Sycamore and their volunteer team worked with dedication and regret was expressed when Mrs. John Kay, who had been associated with Cooee since the first year of publication, resigned.

Some of the people who assisted were Mesdames Lazarides, Burcher Sleath, Smith, Miss Bliss and Miss Laidlaw.

In 1958 a new printed cover was introduced.

An application to the Postal Department for the registration of Cooee as a newspaper at the G.P.O. was favourably considered. This was expected to result in a saving of postage costs.

**FILM LIBRARY.**

In 1956 a new venture was established in the form of a film library. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. C. Kappe, a sub-committee was formed. Mrs. Hancock donated a slide filing box to launch the scheme and films were donated by Miss G. Redman of Kingaroy.

The Centenary Year of our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, afforded a grand opportunity for the collection of an interesting and historical set of slides and films. Members donated slides of visits overseas during Centenary Year and slides of local interest were obtained. A film was made of the 1958 Thinking Day Ceremony for the Chief Guide.

During 1958 the library increased in size to 285 slides. Sections dealing with activities in each branch of the Movement were built up. The library supplied programmes totalling 400 slides and these were shown in country and metropolitan centres, while a selection was used at the U.N.E.S.C.O. Seminar in Sydney.

In 1959 the library continued to increase its slide selection and all requests received were dealt with on an organised basis.

**POST BOX.**

Leaders kept the international aspect of guiding before the guides by encouraging them to make pen friends in other lands.

380 links were made in 1955 with Canada, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Eire, South Africa, United States of America, France, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Italy, India, Brazil as well as the other States of Australia.

Nothing was reported by Post Box during 1956, 1957 and 1958.

1959 was the thirtieth year Post Box had been active and for the whole of that time was looked after by Miss Lilian Laidlaw. In that year, 334 links were made with British Isles, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, United States of America, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Germany, Pakistan, Phillipines and Malaya. Another feature was that Brownie Pack Links were made.

**EXHIBITION STALL.**

Members of the Exhibition Stall Committee, assisted by other members of the Association, made a steady contribution to guiding funds during Mrs. Ringrose's term of office. With Mrs. H.S. Gresham as Convenor, 0432 was raised in 1955, £461 in 1956, E547 in 1957 and 01000 in 1958.

In 1959 the stall was convened by coconvenors Mesdames Jones and Sleath. Takings were greater but the profit was
During the years alterations to stall fixtures and repainting of interior as well as a wooden floor in the kitchen and the laying of linoleum were improvements made.

The Training, Extension Section, Building and Development Fund, Kindilan and Bluewater Building Funds, Exhibition Stall Fund and the Jubilee Committee to assist with Thinking Day expenses all benefited from the profits of the Exhibition Stall.

As a matter of interest to future generations the quantities of food ordered and used were: 1416 small cakes, 5796 pies, 2300 bread rolls, 2751bs flour, which made 825 scones, 2424 frankfurts and 841b of peas during Exhibition Week, 1959.

Progress in the Extension Section was good. Companies cooperated in integrating extension companies into their activities.

An Extension Leaders’ Conference was held at Girl Guide House in 1955 and from this conference an Extension Section Committee was formed.

In 1956 all groups were attached to divisions to afford much greater progress by closer contact with active members. A but at the Spastic Centre was opened by the DirectorSecretary of the Queensland Spastic Children's League after having been painted by the girls and their parents. Outdoor activities were to the fore with many camps and hikes held.

Opportunities for service were never missed and scrapbooks, saving stamps and making sweets benefited hospitals, homes and the City Mission. All appeals for assistance initiated within the Movement were fully supported.

During B.-P. Centenary Year the Extension Section contributed excellent work to the handicraft display at the Brisbane City Hall and attended a special B.P. Camp at Tallebudgera. The generous support of the Welfare Committee helped achievements of the section.

During 1958 a contingent of 4 leaders, 2 rangers and 6 guides represented Queensland at the Extension Conference in Victoria. A Pan Pacific Conference of societies interested in the welfare of handicapped people was held in Australia and two delegates were sent from Queensland.

The Welfare Committee was dissolved in 1958 as groups became more involved and worked in liaison with divisions. The committee had been in operation for twelve years.

LONES.

At the beginning of Mrs. Ringrose's term of office there were 3 Lone Guide Companies and 1 Lone Ranger Company. Lone members took part in as many ordinary activities as possible including Willing Shilling, service and Guide Week.

In 1956 the section was reorganised so as to attach all members to the closest division for training purposes and the formation of a Tenderfoot Company improved the standards. A special camp was held and members met and saw others in uniform for the first time.

The Primary Correspondence School made broadcast time available to tell people about Lone Guiding.

1st and 3rd Lone Ranger Companies attended a Ranger Camp at Kindilan to meet Lady BadenPowell.
In 1959 the interstate Lone Camp was held in Victoria and a ranger and guide attended this while others camped with active districts.

Service was rendered to hospitals, homes and mission stations and members participated in Willing Shilling Drive.

TREFOIL GUILDS

In 1955 there were four Trefoil Guilds and these gave service to the guiding Movement as well as to many other associations including Red Cross, Kindercraft Civic Centre, World Refugee Appeal, Mt. Olivet Hospital, Bush Children's Appeal and Q.W.C.A.

A combined effort by all guilds was made to furnish and maintain the second bedroom at Girl Guide House.

Guilds showed keen interest in the activities of the Movement by having representatives on the Extensions Section Welfare Committee and the Hospitality Committee and assisted with the manning of the Guide Stall at the Royal National Show.

The contributions made by the guilds to the handicraft display at the Brisbane City Hall during B.P. Centenary Year showed their ingenuity. The theme was ‘I made it myself and it cost nothing’.

Conferences held biennially were fruitful and happy occasions.