

Girl Guides

Sue Gunton, Billee Bester
and Betty Maclaine

Grant, O Lord, we pray Thee, that Thy blessing may rest upon us and all other Guides. Help us with Thy grace to serve our country and keep our Guide Law and Promise. Make us humble and friendly, eager for adventure, alert and prepared for service. Give us courage to dare to do right, make us both strong to fight and steadfast to endure, and may our lives be filled with the joy that spreads happiness everywhere. Grant this we pray Thee for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Tarooma Guide Company was formed by Mrs G. Tenniswood on the 4th June 1957, because the Brownies of the pack that was started by Mrs Gangell in 1955 were ready to go on to Guides. Mrs Tenniswood's assistants were Lorraine Volk and Annette Bolton in 1957 and Ann Gangell in 1959. Both Ann Gangell and her sister Clare have become leaders in Victoria. The meetings were in the Ex-Servicemen's Hall in Jenkins Street. This Hall has since been demolished.

The Company had to go into recess during the 1960s because of the lack of leadership. On the 24th September 1968 the Company was reformed by Mrs G.S. Maclaine, with Miss Jean Newnham as Lieutenant. Eighteen enthusiastic girls were present at the first meeting. As interest in the Company grew so did the membership, and a total of 36 were finally enrolled, with several on a waiting list.

In July 1970 the Guides and Brownies moved to the Scout Hall in Tarooma Park where there was more space for activities. Mrs Betty Cole from Sandy Bay helped Mrs Maclaine when needed.

In 1972 Mrs Maclaine resigned and Mrs B. Bester took over, with the help of Mrs Haight. Janelle Baker and Sue Gunton were warranted as assistant leaders, both being very competent. Janelle was a valued leader and is to be commended on the twelve years of service she gave to the Tarooma Guide movement.

The principal part of Girl Guiding is the symbol of "Thinking Day" commemorating the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Olave, the founders of Scouting and

Guiding. This is traditionally commemorated with a church parade. It is a pleasing factor these days that the Guiding movement is still an active leader in supporting church parades, which are held regularly in full uniform and colours.

The Guide training and discipline in the Tarooma Company has been noticeably apparent by the development of the girls in many ways, such as school prefects, leaders of youth groups, in particular Guiding, and further ahead, with nursing and teaching, medicine and other professions dealing with people.

The Tarooma Guide Company is to be congratulated on the Guides who have completed their Queen's Guide awards: Siobhan Gaskell, Janelle Baker and Tracy Jones.

Over the years Guides have excelled themselves by making toys for the Clarendon Home at Kingston, providing afternoon tea and entertaining people at Mary's Grange Home, and helping clean up the grounds at the Top of the World swimming pool in Dynnyrne. They have been engaged in working bees cleaning up the Channel Highway and Shopping Centre, helping mothers with young children at the University creche and locally, supporting charities for children worldwide, and making and distributing chocolates at Easter and shortbread at Christmas to recipients of Meals on Wheels. We had a thank you card from Miss Mabel King, a resident of Seaview Avenue, signed "Patrol Leader Cairo 1916".

The Guides have planted native trees in areas in Tarooma, including the State High School, St. Luke's Church ground and surrounding the Scout Hall. At present the Guides are engaged in a very important project which it is hoped that all Tarooma residents will take to heart. This is the ridding of our foreshores and reserves of the dreaded African bone seed plant.

In the field of the arts Tarooma Guides have always participated in music and drama festivals. A familiar sight each May is Guides selling biscuits door to door. In 1986 our Guides sold over 1200 packets. The proceeds from these biscuits go to Headquarters for the running of the Association.

Guide meetings are held once a week, and are fun. The most enjoyable part of Guiding

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is camping, especially under canvas. The Guides have had many interesting and exciting camps. We well remember the whole camp being blown out by a northerly wind (havoc!), also camping at Orana when the Tasman Bridge was demolished and having to go home the long way round. At Ringrove, a summer camp, we went in at 100 degrees Farenheit, but it poured with rain and we came out with mud, being towed by tractors. Skiing at lake Dobson, (oh what fun!), especially for a Captain on skis. A falling branch at Sherwood caused concussion and a visit to hospital.

Some girls have reached the ultimate in guiding and have attended international camps. Along with Scouting, Guiding is the biggest international youth movement. Links are made through penfriends and visiting international guests. These have included Japanese, Nepalese, Canadian, Finnish Guides and a British Guide Leader and a Queen's Guide from New Zealand.

With all these activities a large company of girls need extra assistance and guidance, and this has been given by many interested people over the years.

A long association with the Guiding movement in Taroona ended sadly with the sudden death of Ann Ellison. Ann will be remembered by many Guides and Brownies, particularly by the girls learning mothercraft when she brought her baby daughter, Jenny, along and demonstrated bathing.

It is very satisfying to know that the Guide Company in Taroona has been, and still is, a very active and integral part of our community. May it always be so. We close this brief history as we close our meetings, with Taps.

*Day is gone, Gone the sun,
From the sea, from the hills, from the sky,
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.*



Taroona Guides tree planting at "Orana", Roches Beach, 1971.

*Back, L to R: Anne Maclaine, Anne Levett, Elaine Shreeve (holding spade), Joanne Dean.
Front, L to R: Kimbra Bester, Jill Levett, Anna Chandler (all kneeling), Jennifer Balfe (standing).*

PHOTO "THE MERCURY".