



Te Rama

be prepared for new adventure

GirlGuiding New Zealand Magazine

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Statement of Purpose

We enable girls and young women to reach their full potential and make a difference in the world.

Our Vision

A dynamic values based organisation, valued by girls, leaders and the community, continually strengthened through:

- Investing in quality leadership and quality girl-centred programmes
- Effectively utilising all our available resources (knowledge, people and finances)
- Building partnerships with diverse communities and being responsive to changing needs.

Our Values

GirlGuiding New Zealand will incorporate these values and attributes in its policies, processes, investments, operations and decision making:

- Valuing and empowering girls
- Honesty and reliability
- A culture of friendliness and ambitious fun
- Connecting and working co-operatively with others and the community
- Responsible and accountable behaviour
- Respect and service to others
- Wise use of resources
- Accepting and providing challenges and learning from them
- Caring for the environment
- Cultural inclusiveness and understanding our global connections.



inside...

2. From the National President and Chief Executive ...

briefly

3. Guide biscuit season
4. Honour for Lone leader
www.improvements
5. Young leaders come up 'trumps'
Keeping the spirit alive
6. Enjoying the great outdoors



8. International Opportunites Abound
Australia, Denmark, Belgium and Korea, globetrotting GirlGuiding New Zealand members have been venturing far afield in the last 12 months.

12. Making a Difference!
GirlGuiding New Zealand, Wellington, has joined together as a region to work in a community service to help people from other countries who arrive as refugees in New Zealand's capital city.

14. Leadership Safari to Kenya
People smiling, despite living in poverty, is Heidi Moeller's lasting image from her time in Kenya.

18. All in a Day's Work
It has been said that if you pick the busiest person you can think of and then ask them to do one more thing, they will take it on.

20. Being a Girl Today!
Girls today are maturing earlier and appear older than they are. What is it really like to be one?

23. Spirit of New Zealand
Averil Read is completing her Queen's Guide Award and went on the Spirit of New Zealand to fulfil the award requirements for a Special Activity.

29. Coming Together at Sangam
India has gotten into the blood of Lynda Spittle, who has made six visits to Sangam, the WAGGGS centre in Pune, India.

31. Girls in Guiding: New Adventures
New adventures, lots of fun and an opportunity to see the real New Zealand are all ingredients of the Girls in Guiding tours.

Inside back cover
Guiding Things To Do

...the National President writes



Jenny Burrow

Kia Ora

As we fast approach the end of 2009, I can't help but reflect that while proud of our origins and long history, GirlGuiding NZ continues to be responsive to the ever changing needs of girls and young women in today's society.

Guiding is about relationships – our relationships with each

other and with our communities. GirlGuiding NZ is seen as a highly relevant organisation for girls, an organisation that is concerned about the whole girl, that fosters teamwork and develops leaders, that respects the individual whatever their culture or beliefs and supports community values. It is our purpose, our values, our culture and the people that are attracted to GirlGuiding NZ that make us a unique and special organisation. These, along with our single-gender status, are our point of difference and provide us with an entry into new areas to develop Guiding.

The last six months have been very encouraging for me. Our national conference was held in September which generated a lot of positive energy leading to some exciting growth initiatives. There are so many new and adventurous opportunities for girls and adults to participate in that I can't help but look forward to 2010 and beyond.

Volunteers continue to play a vital role in providing leadership and support across a wide variety of roles. It is humbling that people are prepared to be involved when there can be so much pressure on their time and lifestyles. The direct contribution they have in providing an environment where our girls can experience fun, friendship and adventure, makes a huge difference – and for this we are extremely grateful.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in GirlGuiding NZ. Our ability to draw on the skills and commitment of our Board, staff and volunteers is why GirlGuiding NZ is still a dynamic values-based organisation, valued by girls, leaders and the community.

May you all have a joyous Christmas surrounded by family and friends and may you have time for reflection, refreshment and renewal. See you all in 2010.

Jenny

...from the Chief Executive



Ruth Teasdale

Making a difference in the world is the key motivation of many people involved in Girl Guiding, as this issue of *Te Rama* clearly demonstrates. Our GirlGuiding community includes many people making a contribution and sharing their skills with people they live alongside in cities and

towns across New Zealand and with the rest of our world. It is exciting to see so many real life examples of our purpose in action.

In my first year with GirlGuiding NZ, I have really appreciated the broader view of our world that Guiding provides. It is exciting to be a part of the world's leading and biggest female organisation and have colleagues all around New Zealand and the world – who are friendly, skilled and helpful!

The global nature of GirlGuiding offers Guiding girls and women rich opportunities to connect with people from many other cultures and lifestyles. This greatly assists in developing our understanding and appreciation of diversity in our communities, thus enabling us to truly be part of our global community.

I was privileged last month to participate in the Asia Pacific Regional Summit of our World Association of GirlGuiding and Girl Scouts in the Philippines. A total of 99 girls and women from 16 countries took part. I am sure that Lord Baden-Powell would be amazed to know just how widely the influence of GirlGuiding has spread and what a profound and unifying experience it is for so many girls and women to be able to share the common values of Guiding, thus overcoming what could otherwise be barriers of difference. Certainly the well-established global nature of Guiding contributes meaningfully to the development of world peace, just as was the vision back in 1908 when New Zealand led the world in establishing Girl Peace Scouts who later became Girl Guides in the early 1920s.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Te Rama* which shows that the positive spirit of GirlGuiding is alive and well throughout New Zealand and the rest of our world. I look forward to working with you in 2010 to continue to support girls and young women of New Zealand to make a positive difference in our world.

Ruth

be prepared for new adventure

Guide Biscuit Season: On Sale in March

Our girls will be out and about in March selling the ever popular Guide biscuits.

Biscuits will be priced at \$3 per pack for the iconic Plain biscuit and \$3.50 per pack for Choc or Mini Chocolate, which are irresistible to some people. \$10 will buy you all three types!

Westpac, as our banker, will be a proud supporter in 2010. So wherever you see a Westpac branch, please look out for girls selling outside the bank or find more information about where you can buy one of New Zealand's favourite treats.

As a registered charity, funds raised are extremely important and make up more than 45 percent of GirlGuiding New Zealand's income.

We continue to be supported by businesses up and down the country, especially The Mad Butcher group of stores and Allied Farmers in Taranaki who will continue to support our girls by selling biscuits on our behalf.

This year, participating New World supermarkets in the lower North Island and South Island helped our girls to sell remaining stocks of biscuits after the main selling season. We are very appreciative of this support.



The "GirlGuideArmy" of former Guides will be helping too by selling to their colleagues, workmates, friends and families. Do you want to enlist? Check out Facebook or www.guidebiscuits.co.nz.

We welcome enquiries if you or your company or business would like to help support girls today – our women and leaders of the future!

Guiding champions

To help raise awareness of the Guide biscuit selling season in March 2010, our major fundraiser for the year, we're looking for stories from a range of former Girl Guides to highlight the upcoming biscuit campaign, and we're after women from all walks of life.

You may be or know a successful business woman, a sports person or coach, an artist, a lawyer, or a community leader – we'd love to hear their story and take the opportunity to inspire others.

More information at www.guidebiscuits.co.nz or call 0800 22 22 92 and speak to Maureen or Jane.



Why Guiding has helped me to become a champion (of cancer)

These words were received from Carla Werder, one of GirlGuiding NZ's current champions

Getting the news that I was going to be on the rollercoaster called cancer, straight away my mind drifted off to 'how am I going to tell my girls/leaders... who is going to take over my Brownies/the district contact role and the poor learning & development team will be down one more.' Alas, then I had to turn towards my hubby who was looking a little shell-shocked and a tear dropped from his eye which allowed me to remember the other people that this would effect.

Little did I know that it has been my Guiding life that kept me sane throughout the last 12 months. I never realised how much Guiding was part of my life until these wonderful women and girls gave me everything from groceries, baking, food, time, eggs, homemade Xmas decorations to decorate the house when I was bedridden, pride at seeing them achieve challenges, offers of housework, laughter when I've needed it, compliments at trainings when I've had less hair than a kiwifruit, and even the Regional Co-ordinator and Learning and Development Team Leader dyed their hair bright orange to visit me when I was going in for my second operation!

But the best thing is that they are my bosom buddies... even when I have none...

Guiding truly does produce champions and helped me 'prepare for my big adventure' of cancer.



Carla Werder

Honour for Lone leader

Margaret Morton, a Lone Guides leader based in Seddon, was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for her services to Guiding. Mrs Morton (70) has been involved with Guiding since 1953 when she started as a Guide in Tauranga

The Queen's Service Medal was a surprise to Mrs Morton but she says it reflects not just on her work but on GirlGuiding NZ as an organisation.

"I was absolutely delighted with the honour and it shows an appreciation of the role Guiding has in New Zealand."

She traveled to Wellington in September for the awards ceremony.

As a Guide, Ranger and now a Lone Guides Leader, Mrs Morton has been involved in the organisation for 56 years and does not plan to stop any time soon.

Working within GirlGuiding has provided Mrs Morton with opportunities along the way – providing both leadership skills and to educate young girls while also learning new skills herself.

Her recently acquired computer training has made it easier for her to communicate with her group of eight Pippins, Brownies and Guides scattered throughout the Marlborough region.

"I can now send them all information about our monthly activities at the same time and they can send me their badge work over the computer. It makes it much easier for us all to keep in touch," says Mrs Morton.

She describes working as a Leader with Lone Guiding as her "niche". With a large geographical spread (Kaikoura, Seddon, Havelock and Arapawa Island in the Marlborough Sounds), they all enjoy a chance to get together on activity days and meet in Blenheim as often as they can.

Being a girls-only and girls-focused organisation is a key advantage of the organisation, now and into the future, says Mrs Morton.

"There are so many activities, like sports, where boys and girls can be together. At

Guiding I enjoy seeing girls develop and come out of their shells – more so when there are just girls as they feel that they can just be themselves."

Mrs Morton plans to continue her role as a Lone Guide Leader for a few years to come.

"I enjoy it too much to stop now and, while I can still provide leadership to my Lone girls, I will continue to do so."



Margaret proudly displays her medal.



Lone Pippins, Brownies and Guides enjoying a Lones Day in Marlborough

WWW improvements...



Information technology moves at a very fast pace and GirlGuiding New Zealand's website is no exception. We are constantly making improvements and adding new features to make for a more user-friendly experience and to support members' needs.

GirlGuiding NZ news, items of interest, relevant information and upcoming events and activities are just some of the updated features. What's hot and our discussion forums, where our girls and leaders can have their say in a safe environment, have proven to be extremely successful.

Our online shop offers uniform, badges, certificates, blankets and a host of other resources to make it easy to purchase from the comfort of your own home. This also includes our ever popular Guide biscuits.

The newest feature is the Adult members sign in. We envisage that logging on with a personal ID number and password will revolutionise the way we can support our leaders in their Guiding role. Leaders will be able to go online to find resources and buy restricted items that are not available for general purchase. Having this option will also help provide a means of circulating information from the organisation to our leaders and volunteers in a secure area.

But it doesn't stop here. Over the next few months, we look forward to extending the range of activities you will be able to do online. It is a very exciting time for GirlGuiding New Zealand as we work together using the internet, website and revised database to expand the opportunities available to girls.

We hope you will recognise the benefits of these changes and enjoy everything our website has to offer. Visit www.girlguidingnz.org.nz and check it out for yourself.

Young leaders come up 'trumps' at Cracroft

In July, 22 young leaders from New Zealand and Australia converged on Cracroft Guiding Centre in Christchurch for the GirlGuiding NZ National Young Leaders event.

Based on the theme of 'The Apprentice', the event opened with a 'board-style' meeting on Friday evening and continued throughout the weekend with a variety of challenges for participants to complete. YWCA representative Margaret was the guest speaker for Saturday morning, giving food for thought around GirlGuiding NZ's approach to advocacy. Later in the day participants undertook volunteer work at the YWCA. Evening activities of Adrenalin Forest (the high ropes course) and dessert at the top of the gondola, a tourist attraction, proved a big hit.

Sunday was a chance to have a say on a range of consultation topics which included identifying leaders with potential, a possible youth programme and involving young leaders in decision making. An open forum on 'tell us about your world' was held before the group heard from GirlGuiding NZ National President, Jenny Burrow. These sessions reinforced the variety of young leaders in Guiding and gave useful direction for the regional young leader representatives who attended.



The event provides an opportunity to meet and network with other young leaders as well as identify promising individuals for future roles or opportunities within GirlGuiding New Zealand.

GirlGuiding NZ leaders, aged 30 or under, are invited to apply to attend the event. The next event will be in October 2010.



Keeping the spirit alive

Keeping the spirit of GirlGuiding NZ alive is just one of the reasons former Guides join the Trefoil Guild when they are no longer in active leadership roles. The Guild provides an opportunity to catch up with friends, develop new interests, go on outings and also help with GirlGuiding, including lending a hand when it is time to sell Guide biscuits and assisting at other events and activities.

There are over 900 Trefoil Guild members throughout New Zealand.

Hosting both national and international visitors is a role for the Trefoil Guild along with helping with the upkeep of Guiding properties and buildings, catering assistance as well as providing emergency relief

for unit leaders. Another advantage of belonging is the International Introduction Card which can be used to meet other Guild members while travelling overseas.

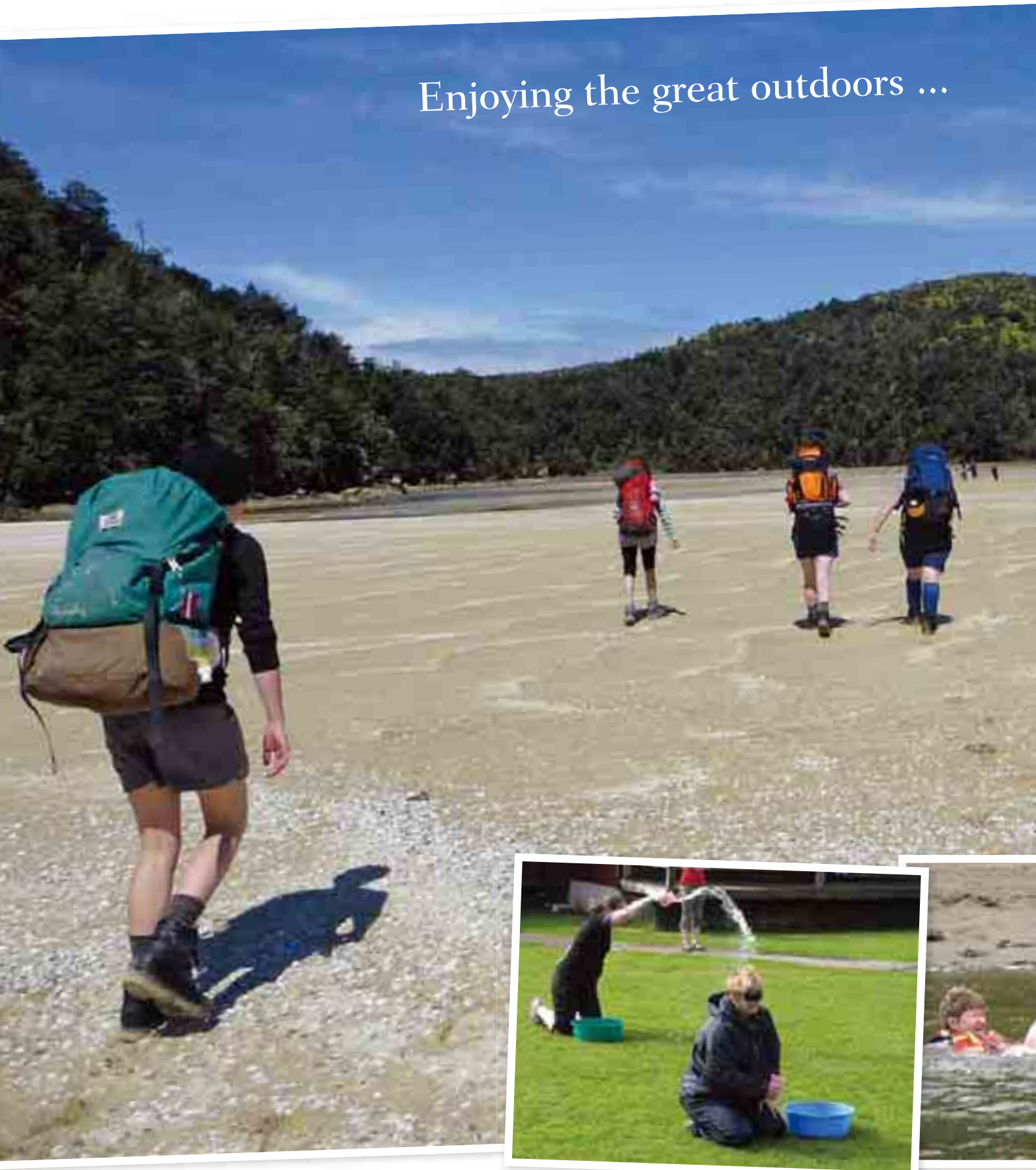
The Trefoil Guild is part of the GirlGuiding NZ family and proudly sports a new logo, pin and "uniform" of red or navy blue polo shirts for those who wish to wear it. Much more information is available on the web at www.girlguidingnz.org.nz/trefoil.

New members are warmly welcomed to continue to experience the fun, friendship and adventure of Guiding days. Carol Wallace, Trefoil Guild Co-ordinator, would love to hear from you. Phone National Office 03 366 8409



4 briefly

Enjoying the great outdoors ...



Many new and exciting opportunities for girls and adults are opening up in the outdoors through GirlGuiding New Zealand. From a specialised Outward Bound course for adults and "Discoveries" during the school holidays for girls, to regular outdoor activities at unit meetings, there is plenty to be involved in.

During the September break in 2009, 16 girls and four leaders took part in the Abel Tasman Discovery. They came from all over New Zealand, met in Nelson to stay the first night and on the second day a bus, then boat, dropped them at one end of the track. Over the next four days they made their way back to the track's other end. Filling the huts to the brim with "Girl Guides", they were easy to spot cooking, walking and working together. The girls raved about their adventure and due to popular demand, GirlGuiding NZ are looking to run one in Abel Tasman and another along the Queen Charlotte track next April.

October saw 24 leaders arrive at Waiwera, north of Auckland for an Aqua Challenge. Over the weekend they got to kayak, raft, practice river crossings, coasteering, learn and play water themed games and soak in the hot pools.

Having the leaders involved in outdoor activities helps to facilitate their learning and understanding of outdoor

activities and requirements and enables them to use these skills with their girls. With sessions on really wet games and a water Olympics, there were plenty of good ideas and H₂O getting tossed around. Guiding will look forward to running another in the future.

Continuing on the water theme are life saving workshops to be run around the country in February and March 2010. Leaders can achieve their Bronze Star or Bronze Medallion by attending a two day workshop and assessment run through the Royal Lifesaving Society of New Zealand. A huge thanks to Skills Active for supplying GirlGuiding with funding to allow these courses to go ahead.

Another organisation that has really stepped forward for GirlGuiding New Zealand is Outward Bound. With sponsorship coming from one of their major funders, Hubbards, Outward Bound is working with GirlGuiding to run two eight-day courses for GirlGuiding NZ adults. These courses will be physically, mentally and emotionally challenging and are renowned for yielding equally great rewards. Recognising and realising your full potential is an incredible experience that Outward Bound courses facilitate.





Aimee Gardner and Nicola de Buisson were the only internationals to attend Taking hte head 2009 in Sydney

Australia, Denmark, Belgium and Korea, globetrotting GirlGuiding New Zealand members have been venturing far afield in the last 12 months.



International opportunities abound

Fellowship, new experiences and having lots of fun were the main reasons these young women travelled such long distances to attend an international event. All came back with a renewed enthusiasm for Guiding and an increased sense of personal confidence.

The young women also discovered that many things about Guiding are international, such as making friends and having a good time, but each country has its own unique ways of doing things.

Leading the way in Oz

New Zealand's young leaders, Aimee Gardner and Nicola Roux de Buisson, were the only internationals to attend Taking the Lead 2009 in Sydney, Australia in January.

Aimed at young leaders, the event focussed on creating awareness of world issues and being able to teach these issues effectively to girls.

Emphasis was placed on ending poverty, and health and nutrition in developing countries. Aimee says while these issues are vast and can be overwhelming, the event was inspirational.

"It helped me realise that even though I am only one person in this large world, I can still make a contribution and a difference, whether I help and touch one life or 100 lives, I am still helping and that can be infectious."

Giving presentations was a major part of the event, which Aimee says could be a bit daunting at first.

"Getting up in front of everyone was a challenge, but I did it. The group made everyone feel comfortable and everything that everyone said was considered equally important, which helped a lot the second time around."

Along with attending leadership events, Aimee and Nicola were able to explore the surrounding areas, including seeing the set of the Home and Away television series and visiting local beaches.

"We loved taking walks around the site where we were staying and got to take lots of photos of the kookaburras that woke us up in the morning. We also saw kangaroos up close and the Australian girls were keen for us to see possums, but we had to explain that they were a pest in our country."

For anyone planning to attend a similar event Aimee's advice is simple, don't hesitate, just do it, you won't regret it.

"Overall it was a great, uplifting experience. There are only good things that can come from attending an event like this and it definitely helps you grow as an individual and also as a leader."

Flamboree in Belgium

Rangers Emily Wilkinson, Jessica Thompson and Marie Claire van Rouveroy were among the New Zealand contingent who attended the Flamboree 2009 at the De Kluis Scout Centre in Belgium.

Formerly a scouting event, this was the first time guides had been invited. As Emily says, this made it different from any other Guiding event she had attended because it was more unisex than they expected.

Making your own Flemish-style tables and cooking your own food was an experience that differed from other jamborees, says Marie Claire. She also found it more relaxed than other events she had attended. The relaxed management style also surprised Emily.

"Health and safety rules are not a big thing in Belgium," she says. "One activity was crowd surfing in blow up boats across an arena with eight boats trying to do it all at the same time. It almost gave us New Zealanders and Aussies a heart attack when we worked out what they were doing. You would never be able to do that in New Zealand, though the Belgians said that was mild and they usually had wilder activities at camps in Belgium."

Jessica describes the large events as organised chaos, but also found them to be one of the best experiences.

"Mass games was a great big competition, a lot like athletics day at school, but cooler. While the games were running there was also an obstacle course running, meaning running around the arena, up a ladder, down the slide into a great big pool and out with the rope, continuously. The games consisted of one great big water fight, with at least 1,000 balloons, a tug of war with four sides, a ball fight, and crowd surfing Belgium-style, with two people from each sub-camp in rubber inflatable boats crowd surfing from half of their sub camp group to another. This worked really well until you have eight people in the centre crowd surfing, which equals one big collision."

Although smaller than New Zealand jamborees, there was still a chance to meet guides and scouts from all over the world. Being from New Zealand made them a bit of a novelty, says Jessica.



Lisa, Emily, Jessica and Marie Claire on their way home after Flamboree, Belgium



Showing off New Zealand in the village outside Flamboree

9 “You would swap badges with some people and they’d be like, ‘hey, you’re from the bottom of the world, right? Can I get your email? New Zealand is so cool.’”

She says they made some really good friendships from places as far afield as Lesotho, Holland, Finland and the United Kingdom, many of whom have stayed in touch via Facebook.

Language did cause some problems but Jessica says most people spoke some English, even if it was in a simple form. Sometimes this meant becoming highly adaptive.

“You have to try and work out in your head exactly what they are talking about and help them in working out what they want to tell you. Body language also helped a lot.”

Emily spoke a few words of French before she arrived at the camp, but soon discovered, please, thank you and chocolate would only get her so far. She also found language difficulties came from some unexpected sources.

“We had bigger problems with the Australians, with the different terminology they used, like thongs and jandals, which caused a few laughs when we clicked on what they were on about.”

All three agree flying to the other side of the world and spending three weeks away from everyone they knew was a challenge which they say they had to overcome, and in doing so learnt about their own ability to cope.

“You could either make it the best three weeks of your life or the worst,” says Jessica. “The only way to do that was by letting everything go, not worrying about how people might judge you and just talk and get along with people. We were all there for the same reason, to have fun.”

Blå Sommer, Denmark

Rangers Victoria Reynolds and Alecia Osborne experienced Guiding Danish style when they attended the Blå Sommer jamboree in Denmark. Meaning Blue Summer in Danish, the jamboree was a combined scouting and guiding event attended by 20,000 people, 2,000 of whom were internationals from 49 countries.

For Victoria the size of the event presented a challenge in itself.

“Everything was on a much larger scale to the New Zealand jamborees. Finding my way around the site was probably the biggest challenge. The first day I had to walk about 30 minutes or so to get to my activity and because I was the only one from my group doing it, I got a little lost, but everyone was really friendly and they all helped me get there.”

The massive structures made of rope and wood constructed on the site also impressed Victoria and Alecia.

“Everybody helped tying them together and we put up tents for everyone, not just ourselves,” says Alecia. “We dug pits for the fire and a pit for the rubbish and built tables and chairs, and even a high chair because there was a baby there, all out of logs and ropes.”

Each campsite had its own open fire where the participants cooked their own meals. Alecia says rather than being a hardship this made the experience more enjoyable.

“Everyone helped cook for the whole group and I think you get more out of camping than you do in New Zealand because you have to do more.”

Being part of a friendship unit, the New Zealanders were able to meet people from around the world and many were intrigued to meet people from such a far away country as New Zealand.

“Because we were the only people from New Zealand everyone came to us and we met lots and lots of people. I made some really close friends and I’m still in touch with them,” says Alecia.

For Victoria hanging out with the other guides and scouts in her unit was probably the best part of the whole experience.

“They taught me some awesome games and we got along really well.”

They also passed on something of New Zealand culture to the unit, teaching them poi dances and Maori songs.

Language sometimes posed a problem, particularly with the younger children, although most of the adults could speak English. Victoria says they were also able to learn a few words of Danish.

Along with attending the jamboree they were able to visit sites around Copenhagen, including a Viking museum, a cathedral, and they took a canal tour. The history and culture had a real impact on Victoria.

“It was really interesting. I mean their history is so much larger than ours. Ours has just begun and theirs is hundreds of years old.”

They also took a train trip to Sweden.

“It was amazing to us that we could jump on a train and be in another country within an hour,” says Victoria.

Although it was a 36 hour flight to get to Blå Sommer, and they had to contend with jet lag, both say it was a once in a lifetime experience, an awesome event that they will never forget.



Sarah and Rachel loved the opportunity to make new friends

Korean experience

Sarah Wootton, a Ranger from Ashburton, and Rachel Paddison, a young leader from Dunedin, were the only New Zealanders to attend the 12th International Girl Guide and Scout camp in Incheon, South Korea.

Funded by Guiding Korea, they joined guides and scouts from around 40 different countries, some of whom they have remained in touch with via Facebook.

Many things were similar to camps run in New Zealand, but for Sarah it was the food that came as the biggest surprise, with much of it being traditional Korean dishes.

“The food was amazing but some of it I didn’t like that much, such as squid and octopus.”

Language also proved to be a major challenge. Sarah says many of the younger people learn English but the older people often only have a very basic grasp of the language. But this was a challenge she just had to rise to.

“Talking to people who didn’t know my language and performing in front of people who couldn’t understand what I was saying, helped boost my confidence.”

The camp focused strongly on Korean culture and Sarah acquired some unexpected skills, such as learning to play a Korean drum and how to perform some traditional dancing.

Volunteers did most of the work and unlike New Zealand events, the guides and scouts were not involved much in the day-to-day running of the camp.

“When we arrived, the tents were already set up for us,” says Sarah. “We didn’t have to do any cooking, cleaning and setting up or packing up.”

Sarah also took the opportunity to do some travelling in South Korea and became very conscious that she was a foreigner.

“Korea is not as multi-cultural as New Zealand and I could often go for a few days in the city without seeing another Westerner.”

Although challenging, she says, this increased her feelings of independence and confidence, because when you can find your way around in a city where people don’t speak your language, you learn you can overcome almost anything.

Sarah says just visiting another country, and one so different from her own as South Korea, was both the best and the most challenging aspect of her adventure.

“The biggest shock was just how different a lot of stuff was, how different I was to other people there. And it made me look at the world differently and wonder how all these places can exist simultaneously but still be so different.”



Party time at Flamboree – dressing up as the AB’s



Making a difference in your local community!



Members of GirlGuiding New Zealand, Wellington, have joined together as a region to work in community service to help people from other countries who arrive as former refugees in New Zealand's capital city and seat of government, Wellington.

The aim of this project is two fold. Firstly, the aim is to demonstrate to the girls already in the organisation the plight of other children their own age, in a manner that enables them to make a difference, and secondly, to encourage girls from minority ethnicities to join Guiding when they have settled into their new communities.

All former refugees who arrive in Wellington have fled their country, losing loved ones and all that is familiar to them. They go first to a country of refuge - at times for up to 20 years, before they are moved to a re-settlement country like New Zealand. GirlGuiding NZ, Wellington, is working with Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand (RSANZ) to make a difference to these families as they take the first steps in their new lives.

On arrival into New Zealand, former refugees spend six weeks at Mangere camp in Auckland where they receive a basic education assessment and further medical attention. They often have little choice about where they are sent for re-settlement. On arrival in Wellington, a volunteer from RSANZ will take them to their new homes.

Nationalities arriving in Wellington in 2009 have included Burmese, Eritreian, Rwandan, Iraqi, Butanese and Afghani families.

Pippins, Brownies, Guides and Rangers within the Wellington region, decided to provide these families with a range of items to welcome them to New Zealand and to help them adjust to life in this country.

Putting together welcome packs with basic toiletry items including soap, flannels, toothpaste and a hairbrush, is just one way Guiding help these families. Other Guiding units are knitting blankets, growing vegetable seedlings, making toy boxes and collecting new or near new clothing.

I started a square for each Pippin so they could concentrate on learning to knit. This was met with great enthusiasm. We had many mums and nanas with us on this day and I could tell for the nanas it was very special. Our blanket ended up with about 150 squares in it. Many willing hands made this project such a success."
Gillian, Johnsonville Pippins

“Even though the items were small and easyish to make it’s nice to know that they will bring a smile to someone’s face.” Laura Goodman, Tawa Rangers



Alphabet learning cards and word charts are created to help the children and their parents learn English. Pencil cases are also provided with pens and pencils.

“All of these items are to welcome these children to New Zealand,” says Christine Skinner, District Support Leader in the Whitby Mana District, Wellington region.

Some of the Districts have carried out knit-a-thons to make peggy squares for blankets and some have invited local members of the Trefoil Guild, former guides, to teach their girls this new skill. Others have made polar fleece scarves and hats as well as colourful cushions and pillows.

Special badges have been created and attached to the goods so the families know the items were made by GirlGuiding NZ Wellington.

“We have all learnt such a lot about these former refugees by undertaking this project,” says Christine, “and have enormous empathy for these families who have been through a range of experiences, even before they arrive in New Zealand.”

The work with RSANZ is a great example of combining a community service with an increased awareness of diversity both within and outside of Guiding.

“It has been a wonderful practical learning experience for girls to find out more about different cultural practices to our own and to appreciate the life experiences that some children have to endure who are often the same age as them.”

Working on parts of badges and themes has been one way of including this project into busy term programmes for girls – badges such as “Walk a mile in another girl’s shoes” and themes such as “Over There”.

“It’s all about raising awareness about other children, what we can do for them and teaching them about a different way of life,” says Christine Skinner.

“This project is a great example of helping other people who are less fortunate than ourselves and knowing that we have made a difference in these people’s lives.”



Refugee quota

New Zealand is one of only nine countries in the world that has an annual re-settlement quota of refugees, presently 750 places (as defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency.)

The agency’s primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees as they strive to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.

New Zealand has taken an annual quota since 1945, when 700 Polish children arrived by boat from post-war Europe.

Leadership safari *to Kenya*



People smiling, despite living in poverty, is Heidi Moeller's lasting image from her time in Kenya. "It was a very humbling experience because it was the basics of life," she says. "But even though they were living in extreme poverty, they were always laughing and having a good time."

Visiting Kenya on a Juliette Low scholarship, Heidi spent a few days in the capital, Nairobi, then a week in the village of Londiani, before attending the Juliette Low seminars at a conference facility, an hour out of Nairobi.

For Heidi, the experience was eye-opening from the moment she stepped off the plane. Even her host family in Nairobi had a lifestyle quite different from what she was used to. Constant power outages means electricity is unreliable in Nairobi, but her host family's power had been completely cut off as a result of the unpredictable grid. No running water and no flush toilet were also a challenge.

"You had to fill the cistern with a bucket to flush the toilet and have bucket showers. It was really interesting to be staying with a family very similar to my own who lived like that."

Her host family worked in embassies in Nairobi and had travelled the world with their work, so were relatively affluent compared to many in Kenya. In the next stage of her visit, Heidi was to discover how the majority of Kenyans lived and the hardships they face every day.

Friends of Londiani

As part of a group of 16 GirlGuiding leaders from throughout the world and five Kenyan volunteers, Heidi took part in Friends of Londiani projects. Established by the Irish Girl Guides in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the Friends of Londiani began in 2002. It followed on from a service project at the Bethel Children's Home, a Londiani orphanage. The Friends' prime goals are to improve access to clean water, health and education in Londiani and the surrounding district of Kipkelion.

Kipkelion is located in the north west of Kenya on the Ugandan border. Heidi says the village of Londiani is about the size of a small suburb in New Zealand but it has a density of population not seen even in the inner city areas of our bigger towns.

"Even though that little village was 10 minutes to walk across, it wouldn't be uncommon for 10,000 people to live in it. There were just people everywhere. I think that was the biggest thing that struck me, it was the people, the amount of people."

While the image of Africa is often of a dry, hot country, Heidi says Londiani was warm for most of the day, only getting hot at mid-day, and was very cold in the evenings. The surrounding area was also relatively lush and green, and Heidi was impressed to see crops of corn growing to head height. Located at an altitude of over 2,000 metres made the going tough at times and she had to take that into consideration.

"You had to pace yourself so you didn't suffer. You couldn't run around, you just had to plod along because you'd get tired and dizzy."



"That would be my dream to go back and help again. I think the Irish team of people that they have there are just amazing people and the Kenyans are amazing. The Friends of Londiani have created a little piece of paradise."

Most homes were made of mud with either a thatched or an iron roof. Iron roofs doubled as a means for collecting water. Sanitation was basic, consisting of pit latrines with squat toilets. One of the Friends of Londiani projects was to improve the conditions of the pit latrines by installing ventilation pipes to remove the fumes, making them less of a potential health hazard.

Like many areas of Africa, clean water is not always available in the Kipkelion region and this lack of clean water has a devastating effect on the health of the local people. Heidi spent one day working on a water tank programme. Eight new water tanks were put into a local village. Each water tank would service about 10 families. That meant 80 families had access to clean water for drinking and cooking.

She says the water tank project was typical of the work done by the Friends of Londiani.

"Their mission is to work in partnership with the people of Londiani and the surrounding areas to create sustainable community projects to enable people to improve the quality of their lives based on

their own values. It's giving the people the power to change their own lives."

The Bethel Children's Home is a home for orphaned and abandoned children, many of whom have families affected by AIDS/HIV. Heidi spent a day working in the home and her group painted furniture and walls, planted vegetables, did gardening and generally helped out in the home.

Her Guiding experience really came into play when she helped run a summer camp in the local school for boys and girls aged five to 16.

"That was lovely," she says.

"We taught them games and songs, the basic Girl Guide things."

Another day was spent surveying the people in the local area to ensure the Friends' projects were meeting the needs of the people and to ascertain what future projects were necessary.

"We would go to a little outlying village in the district and we would survey the families about

how many were living in the home, what were their ages and what kind of facilities they had. It went through health, how many children were born, deaths in the family, education, what their toilets were like, their water supply, what they grew and how they made their money."

She says this gave her an understanding of the way the people lived. "People would make gadgets for hand washing facilities and proper drainage for their dishes, the sort of things we would do in New Zealand on a camp for fun but they were doing it to better their lives."

She also got to meet many of the locals, an experience that she treasures. "When we visited the village the children would flock to you. We'd have 20 kids following us around."

Heidi soon became aware that the rat race meant nothing in Africa, but a health day gave her some insight into just how laid back things could be. "In Kenya there doesn't seem to be any stress or rushing or being on time. It's more, it will be done when it's done. The health day was classic, it was meant to start at 8 o'clock in the morning, we

16





15 opened the gates at 11 o'clock but people waited and they were happy to wait."

Stations were set up around a large field with information on malaria, nutrition, TB, AIDS, hygiene, de-worming, maternal and child health care and dental health. Between 500 and 1,000 villagers turned up for the health day. In groups of 20 they would go round each station. At this health day, malaria was a big focus, with the Friends of Londiani supplying simple means to combat the deadly disease, such as malaria nets.

A safari in leadership

After her week in Londiani, Heidi travelled back to the capital to attend the Juliette Low Seminar. Held at Brackenburts, a Christian camp with motel units and seminar rooms, Heidi joined 64 participants from 61 different countries. The biggest contingent was from Africa, with 29 African countries represented.

Juliette Low seminars focus on leadership development, and under the title A Safari in Leadership, the Kenyan event paid special attention to the newly-launched WAGGGS leadership development programme.

Participants were taken through a series of the modules, including: ourselves as leaders, our own personal development as leaders, advocacy, the position that WAGGGS is taking with advocacy, and diversity.

Heidi says they talked a lot about the service guides are doing, whether it is service or advocacy and how service projects can be turned into advocacy projects.

"When we do service projects, it is easy to speak out about things, to do the project and then to educate others about it as well. They were saying that if we just put a little bit more into our community service projects then they can turn into a bigger advocacy project and really get our message across."

As part of the seminar, the participants spent a day looking at a local advocacy project and Heidi visited the Kibera Girl Guides Centre. Kibera is the second largest slum in Africa, after Soweto in South Africa.

Kenyan guides established a centre in Kibera in 1997 to help girls who can't afford secondary school education.

Primary school education is free in Kenya but you have to pay for a secondary education and many parents in Kibera can't afford to send their daughters to school. The centre provides vocational training so the girls will be able earn money for themselves when they are older. Heidi says visiting the centre was inspirational.

"The Kenyan guides are really good at helping the community and this little centre is the oasis in this huge slum area."



The centre provides vocational training so the girls will be able earn money for themselves when they are older. Heidi says visiting the centre was inspirational.



She visited the homes of some of the girls from the centre and says this was a amazing experience.

“They live in a square hut made out of whatever material they can get hold of, usually wood, mud or corrugated iron. The shacks are lined with cardboard for warmth. They normally partition half the house off, with one side for living, the other for the bedroom and there could be up to eight people or more living in these shacks.”

She says theft is not an issue in the slum because there’s nothing to steal. The biggest fear for the girls is being raped.

“When night falls, they’re shut in the house. If they need to go to the toilet, even though it’s a short walk of 10 to 15 metres, they have to use a chamber pot or have a family member take them for protection.”

She says there were areas in the slum awash with mud and toilet waste and people often emptied their chamber pots straight into the street rather than the latrine.

“The smell was just out of this world. It was shocking, visiting these girls and seeing how they lived.”

Talking to the Kenyan guides, Heidi discovered the problems of Kibera are not easily fixed.

“The government were trying to fix it. They’d move out a section of people to build new homes, but meanwhile the people had problems getting to work or school. They couldn’t always afford the extra bus fares from where they had been relocated.”

For many this meant the difference between survival and sinking into extreme poverty.

After her visit to the Kibera slum, the Juliette Low participants spent time reflecting on what they had seen and discussing the issues of diversity, accepting others and the impact of their attitudes on other people. They then launched into goal setting and action projects for what they would do when they got home. For Heidi this means working with Project GOLD, a service project in Fiji (see Te Rama Autumn 2009, Issue 1).

Heidi has visited this project twice and is now its New Zealand co-ordinator.

Returning home

Heidi says her time in Kenya was a valuable experience and made her look at New Zealand life with new eyes. She is a teacher at a low decile school.

Many of her pupils come from relatively poor homes and have many family hardships, but after Africa she saw her children differently. She also came to appreciate her own relatively comfortable existence.

Along with some valuable experiences, she also enjoyed meeting guides from throughout the world and has stayed friends with many of them.

All the Juliette Low participants have set up a Facebook site so they can stay in touch.



Heidi hopes to return to Kenya soon and participate in another project in Londiani.



All in a *day's work*

It has been said that pick the busiest person you can think of and then ask them to do one more thing and they will take it on.

This is true of Tauranga's Sharon Barrett who combines bringing up her young son, a role as District Co-ordinator for Tauranga District - and then recently stepped up as the District's Outdoor Administrator.

Apart from this, Sharon was teaching full-time at Tauranga Boys' College before taking maternity leave. Her involvement with a boys-only school, after a long association with girls through Guiding, took a circuitous route overseas and a move from primary to secondary teaching.

Guiding highlights

Like many leaders, she started with a background in Guiding as Brownie, Guide and Ranger in both Waihi and Paeroa. Attending the 1998 Jamboree

in Paeroa and receiving the Chief Commissioner's Award were highlights during that time.

Top of the list however was travelling to Wellington to receive her Queen's Guide Award in 1997 which coincided with the death of Princess Diana.

"It was a huge weekend. We went to Government House and then to Parliament to sign the Princess's condolence book," says Sharon.

Japanese connections

She put Guiding on hold in Year 13 to travel to Japan as an Air New Zealand scholar to study Japanese at a high school in Osaka.

Following this year in Japan, she returned to Auckland University for a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Japanese and English, along with a qualification in teaching English as a second language.

Sharon then journeyed back to Tokyo for over two years, initially teaching and then as manager of a branch of an English language school.

(Above): Some of Tauranga Districts leaders get together. Pictured at the back are (left to right) Saasha Wright (Welcome Bay Brownies), Sharon, Michelle Gabriels (Welcome Bay Pippins and Brownies) and Hayley Beard (Tauranga Central Rangers). At the front are Jacinda Waihaki (Welcome Bay Guides), Lorraine Chisnall (Tauranga Central Guides) and Sonia Anderson (District Support and Welcome Bay Pippins).

She says teaching has always been her dream and this has carried through to her adult life and her involvement with Guides.

"I was teaching people aged two years to 80 years and it gave me a real perspective on how teaching changes its focus depending upon the age group," says Sharon.

On her return to New Zealand she felt naturally comfortable teaching English as a second language at English language schools and at a Korean after-school English academy.



Above: Sharon, husband Rick and Reece ready to walk around the Mount for the Regional volunteer torch light walk at dusk. About 150 leaders, girls and families took part in the walk.

The decision to make the change to teaching secondary school children came about through her experiences being involved with such a wide range of ages in Japan.

"I really enjoyed the older children and the opportunity to do more than teaching basic skills, such as reading, writing and mathematics.

Teenagers have their own opinions, she says, but teachers play more of a role in also developing their ideas and values before they move into adulthood.

A postgraduate diploma in secondary teaching was completed in Tauranga through Waikato University – which just happened to be where her future husband, Rick, lived.

Work experience was at Tauranga Girls' College and her old school, Waihi College, where many of her teachers remain.

In 2007 Sharon went to work at Tauranga Boys' College teaching English to Year 9 – 12 boys.

She also married Rick after the first term had ended.

Boys and girls differ

The difference between teaching boys and girls is significant, she says.

"With boys you can ask them to do something and, as long as they understand the reason behind it, they will go and do it.

"Girls, however, have to discuss everything."

She has found that girls tend to work in teams better and really enjoy praise.

Boys are more economical with their time and just "want to get the job done".

Boys tend to speak less but also say what they think, and often show a real caring side.

An emotional connection with girls, she says, is also important and they have to like you to make that happen.

"Girls need to work through the emotional side of an issue for some time whereas if there's some type of argument with a boy it's all done and dusted and forgotten the next day," says Sharon.

At the end of the day both girls and boys want to be treated with respect and to know that they matter and that you have an honest interest in them.

Although the transition to teaching boys has been a huge learning curve, Sharon says she is really enjoying the experience and working out what works best for them.

Guiding roles

As District Co-ordinator for Tauranga, Sharon covers central Tauranga, Greerton and Welcome Bay.

Acting as a link between leaders and the Region and Zone, overseeing the running of the District, recruiting new leaders, building unity, dealing with any issues that arise and getting Girl Guiding New Zealand seen in the community are all part of her job.

Sharon is also involved in developing projects that challenge the girls at district level.

Since July, Sharon has also become Outdoor Administrator when it became vacant.

In her administration role, she says, she co-ordinates the girl and adult camping qualifications in the region, organises assessors, records activities and keeps an eye on making sure the correct paperwork is completed.

As always combining so many roles – as mother and being involved in Guiding at a district level – is often a juggling act.

The thought of returning to full-time work at Tauranga Boys' College might seem daunting to some but Sharon will take it in her stride.

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Michelle Stronach-Marsh with two fellow Italian Girl Scouts earlier this year.

Girls today are maturing earlier and appear older than they are.

Being a Girl Today!

Girls today can feel pressured to behave more like “teens” than young girls, even though they don’t quite understand what that means and are often not emotionally ready. Girls are savvy, sassy and vulnerable.

Girl Guiding NZ has the opportunity to play a special role in these girls’ lives – providing a safe environment to be themselves along with support and a listening ear – something they may not be getting at school.

What We Know

Some of the things that we know about girls are that they:

- Have a natural desire for connection
- Have an innate ability to nurture
- Are sassy, savvy and vulnerable
- Have to be seen by their peers to do the right things
- Need to have a say in what they want

- Have an appreciation of more abstract forms of humour
- Love watching television and soak up what they see
- Lap up junk mail
- Have a natural affinity for co-operation
- Straddle both boys’ and girls’ ranges of activities

Girls’ development takes place across three stages – at a cognitive level (critical thinking skills), physically (growth and sexual maturity) and emotionally (social and psychological along with an understanding of family, peers, gender, sexual identity and self).

Physically, girls’ bodies are maturing earlier than ever before. As they often appear older than they are, they tend to adopt teenage social

behaviours. These girls, however, do not have the emotional maturity, or the information, to match their accelerated aspirations and expectations. That’s when stress and anxiety about relationships with peers, boys and family sets in.

Girls would like to be heard in a supportive and understanding environment that contains adults who will listen and help them get answers to personal questions.

They want accurate, detailed and appropriate information and want to be able to rely on their mothers and other family members as confidantes because they are still strongly attached to their families at this age.

Leaders' role in making girls feel special

GirlGuiding NZ is the only organisation in New Zealand that offers girls and women a total package of social, recreational and community action experiences.

We know that the work we do with girls in our communities is of value and, now more than ever, we want GirlGuiding NZ to be on the radar for parents as they discuss with their girls what leisure options they might like to take part in.

At Guiding, girls experience a safe environment where they can identify and connect with positive female role models.

Girls get to develop the confidence to express themselves in their own way and to use their voices, not just for themselves, but for others.

Girls have the opportunity to learn skills and try activities that are not limited by gender stereotypes, as well as being able to be themselves and to experience what girls can achieve together.

Leaders reaffirm that our girls are special, through providing a welcoming and supportive environment for them to be themselves and that we welcome - and encourage - their input and their individuality.

We provide a positive peer group for the girls and, when we layer this with our programme activities, it contributes to a girl's true sense of connection and self as well as a sense of the future.

Leaders are volunteers. They belong to GirlGuiding for a number of reasons, whether it is to be a role model in the girls' lives - or just by providing a listening ear when it is needed.

Collectively leaders are a group of women who bring their individual 'special-ness' to play a part in the future of young women.

What role could be more valuable?



Michelle's Story

Te Rama spoke to Wellington Guide leader and National Marketing and Advocacy Adviser Michelle Stronach-Marsh about her thoughts on what it is like to be a girl today.

I became a Guide Leader shortly after graduating as I felt impelled to give back to the organisation that helped shape me as an individual and largely due to my own Guide leader who gave me essential skills as a young girl.

I grew up in a strong Guiding family in Dunedin and Auckland where I was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger for a short time. I studied law and history at the University of Otago and marketing at Massey University. I have worked for a decade in the building industry in marketing, sales and management. I currently work for an independent plumbing merchant in Wellington and am newly married (in November 2009) to a secondary teacher.

TE RAMA

What does it mean to be a girl today?

MICHELLE

It means that you can be absolutely anything you want and do absolutely anything you desire in terms of a career whilst still being free to wear pink clothes, heels and lipstick!

TE RAMA

Who are the girls' role models?

MICHELLE

Depending on the age group, an ever increasing amount of young girls (i.e. under 10 years) are very influenced by pop stars such as Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus) in particular. Other role models include Paris Hilton and Brittany Spears. Some girls look up to sporting heroes such as Sarah Ulmer and Irene van Dyk. Many girls list teachers and their own mothers as role models until high school age when they start to become more aware of other role models such as scientists, inventors, politicians, authors etc.

I think girls are more likely to be influenced by pop culture until their teens. I watched an interesting piece on *60 Minutes* last year where girls were able to name pictures of female pop stars immediately and struggled to name prominent women such as world leaders.

TE RAMA

How do you think girls feel about themselves?

MICHELLE

Until they start moving into their teens - I think girls are fairly confident in themselves. When their bodies start to change, they start to become aware of things like fashion, and they change schools (i.e. starting at secondary school) and when they start to become interested in boys is when their confidence can be challenged. Girls can be reluctant, however, to try things that they might not be good at and need a lot of encouragement to try things outside of their comfort zone because of the risk of looking bad. ▶

TE RAMA *What careers are they thinking of?*

MICHELLE A lot of young girls I talk to want to be pop stars. I would say that this is largely due to the influence of personalities such as Hannah Montana and games like Playstation Sing Star. But I think if you ask the average girl under 10 years – her career wish list changes quite frequently depending on what she has learnt or who she has been influenced by on that particular day. Many teenagers I talk to have quite defined ideas about what career they want to pursue and many want to be savvy business women owning their own businesses. I have met many teenagers who have a passion for science or medical roles too.

TE RAMA *How important is their look eg what's on the outside rather than what's on the inside?*

MICHELLE Girls start to become aware of their look from quite an early age due to fashion, but I think ultimately this is not as important. Girls want to be accepted for who they are and whilst wearing the latest trainers and having the 'right' hair cut is important – I think girls care far more about what people think of them as a person rather than being judged on the clothing that they wear. First impressions count but what really matters is on the inside.

TE RAMA *What role do you think the media plays in shaping this image?*

MICHELLE Read any teen magazine (or women's magazine for that matter) and everything is to do with image. From the clothing that people wear, to what size or shape they are and the fact that they are measured by their relationship status – the media is responsible. Advertisements on television and billboards tell older women to use anti-wrinkle cream, dye their hair, buy underwear to make you look slimmer but also to munch on the latest chocolate bar! I think that media should have a social responsibility to our young people to promote images of smart educated people rather than purely basing their content/advertising on body image.

TE RAMA *What role does GirlGuiding New Zealand play in shaping this image?*

MICHELLE I think GirlGuiding New Zealand has an extremely important role to play in ensuring that we provide a safe environment for girls to develop life and personal skills whilst promoting confidence amongst young girls and women. It is a place where we encourage young women to develop into strong, confident people and to help them set goals and achieve milestones in their life. You only have to look at those girls who go on to achieve Queen's Guide to see shining examples of how our organisation works.

TE RAMA *What impact does peer pressure have on girls these days?*

MICHELLE I think peer pressure still has a strong impact on girls these days, particularly when it comes to decisions they make surrounding the clothing they wear and sometimes the activities they do. Girls are strongly influenced by the opinions of their friends and tend to want to follow the group and blend in, rather than standing out in a crowd. If being a Guide is considered uncool, many girls are not confident enough in themselves and will bow to peer pressure.

TE RAMA *What is their idea of being healthy?*

MICHELLE I think girls tend to have extremely healthy appetites and do not worry too much about what they eat. Just look at girls at a jamboree or camp! Most girls understand about making healthy eating choices thanks to programmes in schools and at Guiding. Fitness is something that starts to "give" as girls reach their teen years with their increased volume of study, more time spent on the computer, part-time jobs and obviously more time allocated to hanging out with friends/boyfriends.

However, I accept that studies show that children in areas of New Zealand do have problems with obesity and make poor choices regarding food and fitness. Overall, I think that children understand about making the right decisions when it comes to food, but I think it is to do with financial and time constraints in New Zealand households rather than being an education problem. Home cooking is still alive and well.

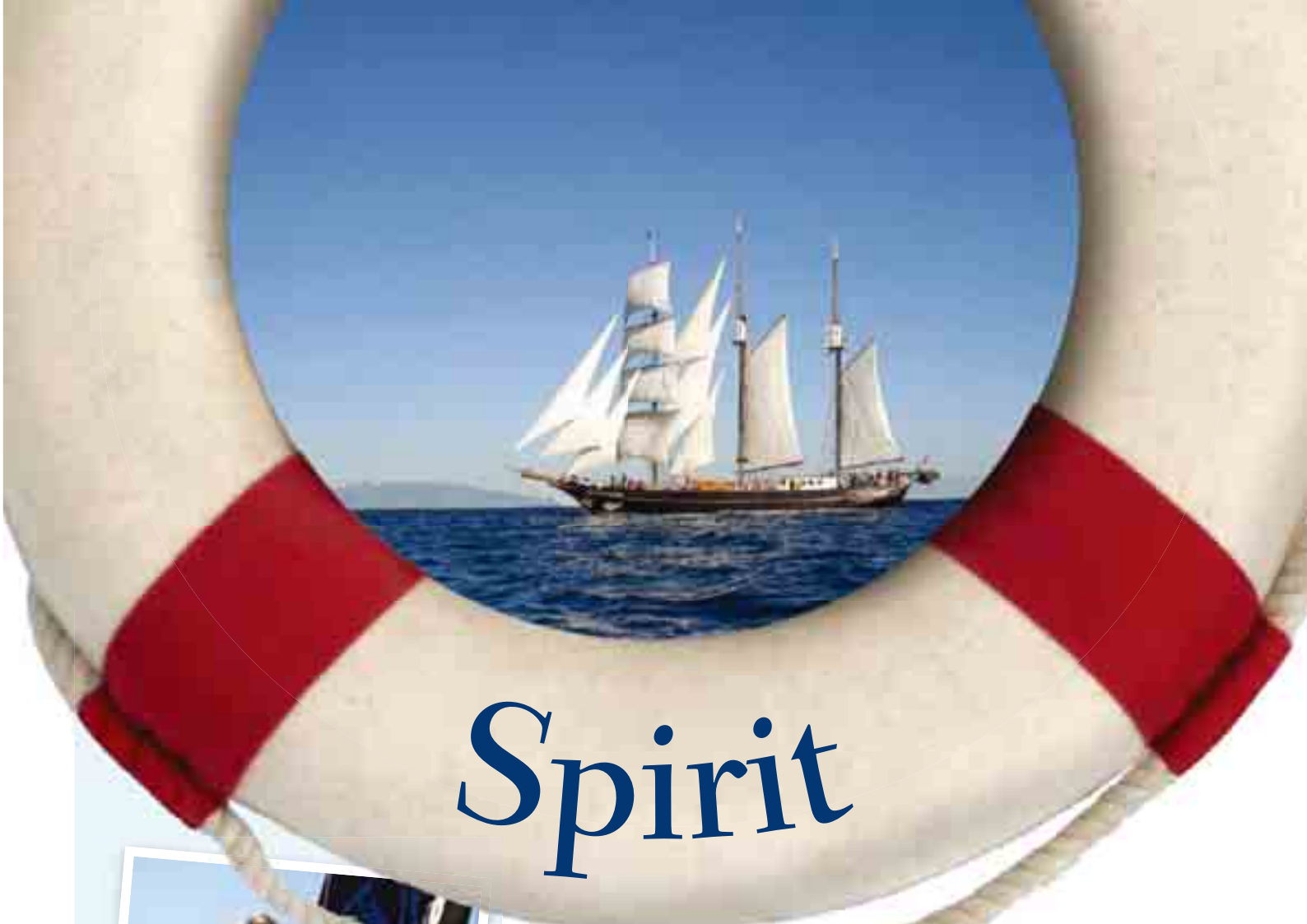
I do think parents need to be responsible for their children leading healthy lifestyles and that being healthy means that you eat the 'right' food and have some regular exercise and fitness activities.

TE RAMA *How important are friends?*

MICHELLE Girls I have spoken to place a lot of emphasis on their friends. Friends and relationships rate very highly for most teenage girls. Most would opt to spend time with their friends over their family. Social skills and personal development tend to be things that their parents want for them rather than something they desire themselves.

TE RAMA *What about your own personal experiences when you were growing up?*

MICHELLE I was raised in a family of four girls where self-confidence was an extremely important factor in our upbringing along with leading active lifestyles. Guiding helped me to gain the confidence I required later on in life such as public speaking and leading others. Despite going to a girls' high school, Guiding gave me more personal development opportunities and helped nurture my confidence and own self-worth. I spent a year abroad in Sweden as an exchange student during my final year of high school and I think the skills learnt through Guiding gave me the confidence to apply for a year-long exchange and then obviously many of the skills required throughout that period.




Spirit

of New Zealand

Has anyone ever thought about how hard it is to walk down steps, backwards, on a ship with a length of dried spaghetti balanced between your palm and someone else's? It is pretty near impossible. We were anchored off Devonport on the first of our 10 days aboard the Spirit of New Zealand.

For some years I had been waiting to turn 15 so that I would be able to be a trainee on *Spirit of New Zealand*. Finally I had my birthday and was nominated for one of the berths sponsored each year by Half Moon Bay Marina in Auckland. I was hoping like crazy that I would be selected as I would use this opportunity for my Special Activity for Queen's Guide. In April, my dad got a phone call from Half Moon Bay Marina saying that they had a berth available for me if I would like it? Did I ever!

So that is how on 15 June 2009 I ended up in the middle of Auckland Harbour balancing spaghetti. I had boarded the ship at 1000 hours and was shown my bunk. And my drawer! Everything you brought on the ship had to be packed into a 40cm x 60cm x 50cm drawer. Lots of us complained that no one had warned us about the drawer, so if you are planning to go on a voyage, do not say I didn't warn you. That first day we didn't do much, just safety, 'getting to know you' activities and general settling in. When we took the sail cover off for the first time I got to go right out on the end of the bowsprit which was amazing, a feeling I will never forget. That night we ended up near Brown's Island and discovered that once you got in the bunks, which are basically canvas hammocks, they are a lot more comfortable than they look. 



15 June – 24 June 2009
by Averil Read, Wakaaranga Rangers,
Manukau Region

Averil (pictured above) is a Ranger with Wakaaranga Rangers, Pakuranga Peninsula District in the Manukau Region. She is currently in Year 11 at Pakuranga College and has been a member of GirlGuiding New Zealand since 1999 when she joined as a Pippin.

Averil is completing her Queen's Guide Award and went on the Spirit of New Zealand to fulfil the award requirements for a Special Activity. To complete this most prestigious Guiding award, Averil will attend a Queen's Guide Residential Weekend, which is an "awesome" experience to quote her friends who have already completed their awards.



23 By morning, the bunks were really comfortable. But when the generator started we had to leave our nice warm sleeping bags and get into our togs and go on deck for the morning swim. It was still dark and freezing. Ok, not freezing, just 5 degrees above. Surprisingly, the water didn't feel that bad, but maybe that was because I was already too numb to feel it. By the end of the voyage I actually enjoyed morning swims. We sailed to Army Bay, Whangaparaoa Peninsula, our first proper sail.

The whole time on the Spirit, we worked in watches, groups of five girls and five boys, and each watch had a different section of the ship to look after each day. My watch, Port B, was on midships, so I found myself on the topgallant spar, the second highest square sail, untying the sail ties 20m above the sea. I loved it. That night I had my first night watch. In my opinion I got the best shift, last. So I just had a short sleep, not a disturbed one. It's actually quite fun walking round the deck at night when everybody is asleep. But it's very cold. The best bit is that you get to eat the leftovers from morning tea, which was always an extremely yummy slice. This night we had ginger slice. So good! Though as quoted from the trainee log book we had to fill in every hour "slice is nice, but sleep is better".

Every morning at 0800 we had colours – raising the flag, reading the weather report and receiving today's thought from 'Grandma', one of the watch leaders. During colours that morning there was a shout. FLARE!, followed by the thump of a machine gun. Took us awhile to realise it was the Navy practising.

That day we sailed to Mahurangi Harbour. Port B was on main, the heaviest sail to get up, but once up, the easiest. So we got to relax.

We started off day four in Mahurangi Harbour, but when we came on deck after breakfast we were almost at Moturekareka Island, looking at the wreck of the Rewa. We paddled ashore in our yellow rafts.

It's hard to get them to go where you want them to, especially when your watch doesn't co-operate too well. When we made it ashore, we were taught about navigation. I have been sailing round the Hauraki Gulf my whole life, so I know a bit about navigation already. None of the other members of my watch had any idea so they all thought I was amazing – I knew what all the numbers and funny squiggles actually meant! We had to paddle back to the ship for lunch. Well, that was the theory anyway. After going round in circles, backwards and drifting along the shore in the wrong direction we were given a tow, much to the envy of the other watch still paddling.

Once we had eaten our lunch, we did my favourite activity of the whole voyage – small boat sailing. I put on my life jacket and found myself at the tiller of Peter Blake, with the rest of my watch expecting sailing to be rather boring. I changed

their ideas. There was enough wind to really get her moving and my watch members were surprised at how fast you could actually go and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Apart from the one who was seasick...oops...

The next day we sailed to Great Barrier Island. I spent most of my time sitting on the bowsprit, falling asleep in the sun and watching dolphins. And to think I'm supposed to be at school...

We anchored in Port Fitzroy just before dark and watched as the last of the sun lit the side of Mt Hobson. Twelve hours later we were part way up Mt Hobson looking at the remains of one of the kauri dams. Back at the shore we collected firewood for a barbecue in Smoke House Bay, before paddling back out to the ship. While we were puttering over to Smoke House Bay the ship started turning around and there was a shout of "Man Overboard". I looked around wondering who



... or what? The first mate's hat had fallen overboard. It was rescued alive and well. As soon as we anchored everyone was in the rafts racing to be the first ashore to the swings. Dinner was cooked over the fire and, once the food was out of the way, we sat around it talking and singing. The most magical part of the night was paddling back out to the boat in the dark and the paddles all lit up with phosphorescence.

When everyone emerged after breakfast the next day, we were well on our way towards Coromandel Harbour. Heading straight into the wind and the swell meant we couldn't sail, but it got a bit roly. Throughout the day, the aft deck was littered with 'green' sailors, wrapped up in their lifejackets and harnesses. On the fore deck, there was a completely different atmosphere. A group of us were dancing and singing and as the deck was far from still, falling over and laughing.

As the day progressed, the swell died down and we were allowed to climb to the very top of the mast. I will never forget standing with my hand on the flagpole at the top and looking down on the deck.

The next day was our second to last full day and we were all getting rather tired, so after the 'deep clean', during which I ended up scrubbing almost everything in the galley, we didn't mind the hour of quiet time - an hour at least, one metre away from everyone else and no talking. We were sailing towards Waiheke Island at the time, so I sat on the aft deck and watched the waves and the wind in the sails. That evening we had our elections for positions as the next day was trainee day. I was elected navigator along with one of the boys, who I found out afterwards was a Scout. I went to bed excited and nervous, wondering if the ship would sail safely into harbour.

First thing after breakfast, the new captain, mates and navigators discussed where and when we were going. We plotted a course on the chart before programming it into the GPS for the captain to follow. Our course seemed to work well and it seemed no time before we had reached the first of the shipping channel marks at 1530, time for the regular crew to take over again. They took us right up the harbour and under the harbour bridge where we waved to people doing the Bridge Climb. We spent our last night aboard *Spirit of New Zealand* near the Chelsea Sugar Refinery with the city lights overwhelmingly close.

Soon it was 0530 hours and time to leave our bunks and cabin for the last time. On deck, going back under the bridge, we were all hugging and crying, wishing each other good luck for the future. We docked at first light and stepped ashore into the hustle and bustle of Auckland City.





Coming together at Sangam

Something about India gets into your blood. So says Lynda Spittle, a GirlGuiding New Zealand member who has made six visits to Sangam, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' (WAGGGS) centre in Pune, India.

"It's an intense and exciting experience and I've become really passionate about it. I've heard people who have visited India say they absolutely hated it. But the difference with us is we don't go to India as tourists. We go to Sangam and contribute to the local community, and that gives us an experience far beyond our expectations," says Lynda.

Margot Ferrier, GirlGuiding NZ's National Programme Adviser, who went to Sangam in August 2007 and plans to go again, agrees. "I've travelled a lot but India was somewhere I was scared to visit. I thought the poverty and the things I would see would be overwhelming, but it was such an awesome way to travel. You feel like you're giving something back. Instead of watching it from the outside, you're experiencing it from the inside.

I went to India thinking we were going to be doing a lot of giving, and we did, but we were also given a lot in return, smiles,

handshakes, hugs and understanding across language and cultural barriers that are worth even more than money can buy."

By giving something back and being part of the community, the Guiding members who visit Sangam have a chance to experience a side of India many other visitors don't see. It also provides an opportunity to learn about yourself and to appreciate the high standard of living that is often taken for granted.

"Until you see the poverty of India you have no real appreciation of how well off we are in New Zealand," says Cheryl Watson, Ranger Leader and Trainer (some of her roles). Cheryl has visited Sangam twice and plans to go again.

"You see people surviving in extreme poverty without the support of a welfare state and really making use of the resources they have. It's a real eye-opener."

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Sangam

Meaning Coming Together in Sanskrit, Sangam is one of four WAGGGS centres around the world. Members from throughout the world 'come together' at Sangam to share an international experience, to attend educational seminars and to forge lasting friendships.

Diverse topics are covered in the seminars from children's rights and women's issues, health and hygiene, to Bollywood movies and photography.

Meeting up with Guiding members from around the world is another highlight of visiting centres such as Sangam. As Cheryl says it's a reminder that being part of Guiding is being part of an extended family that reaches across countries and across cultures.

You meet new people and within a few minutes, it's as if you've been friends for years.

"Guiding members all seem to be able to have fun together, be silly together and be professional together. I don't usually use the word sisterhood, but that really is the best way to describe it."

Sangam is a safe place in the middle of a bustling, densely-populated area, but members are not isolated from the surrounding culture and everyday life of India. Once outside Sangam, they are immediately confronted with the sights, smells and noise of India, and the challenge of seeing people living in extreme poverty. This can be quite a culture shock, and as Margot says, being able to return to Sangam provides an oasis, where members can get some peace from the noise and bustle and have a chance to recharge themselves for the work ahead.

Sangam visitors wear identifying scarves and Cheryl says the locals realise they are in India to contribute and often treat them differently than they would other tourists.

"The locals know that you're helping and they really respect you for that."

Project Awhina

Community service is always an important part of the visit to Sangam. In 2005, Project Awhina was established as a GirlGuiding New Zealand initiative to involve members aged 18 years and over in a service project based in the Asia Pacific region. Partners and family members are also welcome to participate and Rangers aged 16 and over may be considered.

In 2005, the Awhina group undertook a service project to assist women and children in Pune, which involved painting a Muslim girls' orphanage. Lynda was disappointed they received some criticism over their choice of project, with people linking the Muslim religion with terrorism. But, as she says, Guiding is not about making judgements, it's about helping people in need and these young orphans were definitely in need.


In 2002, volunteers undertook a community project painting and rebuilding the Sangam courtyard, using recycled bricks and concrete. Unrest along the Kashmir border meant all but the New Zealand contingent pulled out of what was to be an international event.

Serena Smalley was only 18 when she attended this event and says it had a profound impact on her.

"The difference in culture changed my way of thinking. Seeing beggars broke my heart but made me thankful for what I had and spending time with Indian Girl Guides made me realise that Guides is the same no matter where you are in the world."

The latest Project Awhina saw the New Zealanders painting classrooms in a school at Anand Gram, a leprosy rehabilitation centre. People with leprosy and their families are ostracised in India, so centres such as Anand Gram provide them with refuge. Thanks to education and better health care, leprosy in India is declining but the centre still provides education for the children of the people with the disease and for the nearby villages.

New Zealand members painted the upstairs classrooms in the three-storey complex while school continued downstairs. For Margot, having the children's involvement made this time particularly delightful.

"The children helped sand and moved desks and mopped the floors. The kids were so excited that they had these beautiful new classrooms. Children in New Zealand probably wouldn't have cared but for them it was the best thing." 



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27 Resources for the project were all purchased locally. As Lynda says, while it might be cheaper to buy them in New Zealand buying the paint, brushes, buckets and other equipment puts much needed money into the local economy. Anything not used is left behind and the members know that in India nothing is wasted, so the equipment will be put to good use.

Treats, toys and spectacles

Once the project was completed the children did a dance presentation to show their appreciation and the members gave the children some brightly knitted jerseys made by people in New Zealand. The kids loved them, the brighter the better.

Each member brought 20kg of extra luggage when they travelled to India, full of necessities and treats for the children.

Along with the children's jerseys were crocheted rugs for the babies to lie on, made by people from all over New Zealand.

Pencils and pens, soft toys, McDonald's give-away toys, balloons and bubble makers for the children were all greatly appreciated. Lynda says the

bubble makers proved a challenge because liquid soap and detergent is hard to find in India so they had to improvise with shampoo.

"The kids loved it," she says. "Even things like the noise of a balloon deflating really made them laugh."

Old spectacles were especially appreciated by the people at Deep Griha. Meaning lighthouse, Deep Griha is a charitable organisation which supports around 40,000 people, mainly women and children, living in several slum areas around Pune.

Glasses no longer needed by New Zealanders are now being worn by appreciative people living in those slums.

Immersion in the culture

Along with work and study the members also had a chance to immerse themselves in the local culture. Visiting a local family for dinner was a highlight for Margot and Nicky Smith, a 16-year-old Ranger from Christchurch. Nicky was able to discuss the similarities and differences of her life with their teenage daughter.

The mother was a solo parent who was establishing her own tailoring business and they lived in a small apartment. Although not among the poorest in India, Margot says seeing the family's basic living conditions was a real eye-opener for Nicky and herself.

Guests speakers visited Sangam and members were allowed to ask them any questions they liked about Indian life. Of particular interest to many were the tradition of arranged marriages and the treatment of women in India, with the answers sometimes challenging pre-conceived ideas.

Saris were made for all the women so they would take home a personal reminder of their time in India and they all had time to shop in the local bazaars and markets, to visit temples and explore Pune. Many also spent a few extra days sightseeing across the rest of India.





Changing lives

Each time members of GirlGuiding New Zealand have visited Sangam they have noticed improvements in the living conditions of the people, sometimes subtle, sometimes major.

Cheryl says the changes resulting from the growing number of call centres located in the area really struck her during her last visit.

"It means more people have a higher income. This means more money in the local community which has resulted in more up-market shopping areas, and it's not just visitors who have money to spend in these shopping centres."

Lynda says the work done in community projects such as Awhina make a real contribution.

"The many places we visited, worked and played in were a constant reminder of the subtle changes happening for women and children. For me it was heartening to see that now there are many groups of women who have been empowered to help themselves and their peers to gain skills and education and from that build self respect and esteem."

Friends of Sangam

Since returning to New Zealand from India, Lynda Spittle has been actively involved in setting up a Friends of Sangam group in New Zealand.

Formed in 2008, this group is committed to increasing interest, participation and enthusiasm for Sangam.

Funds raised by the Friends from other countries has resulted in the building of a swimming pool at Sangam. As Lynda says, in the hot climate of Pune, this is welcomed by staff, visitors and the locals, and it has been used to give swimming lessons to local children.

They are now fundraising for a 20-seater bus for the centre.

One visit never enough

The next trip to Sangam is planned for January 2010, with future trips expected to take place every two years.

People interested in going to Sangam should be in excellent health, prepared to work hard, be flexible and able to cope with the heat and the environment.

Prior to going to India, a series of vaccinations are recommended and members are advised to take precautions to avoid sickness. Margot says no one got the notorious "Delhi belly" among the group she travelled with. In fact, she came back weighing more than when she left. "It's the wonderful food, those lovely spices and curries and all that rice and chapattis."

For many of the visitors, one trip to Sangam is not enough, and they return again and again. Lynda said her trip in 2007 would be her last visit to Sangam, but she now plans to go one last time. However, she is aware she's said that before, so who knows whether it really will be her last.

She's hoping more younger women will be encouraged to join the groups going to Sangam and take over the reins of leadership as she says it is a worthwhile and unforgettable experience.

"It has been an honour to be part of those teams and I am extremely proud of all that world Guiding has been able to achieve in breaking the cycle of poverty and lack of education by helping to empower women and children to build their self esteem and improve their lives."

Girls in Guiding: New Adventures

New adventures, lots of fun and an opportunity to see the real New Zealand are all ingredients of the Girls in Guiding tours.



Girls in Guiding which started out as a tour for Guides from overseas while they attended our jamborees, has grown to be a huge success – and a testament to the worldwide fellowship of Guiding.

Behind Girls in Guiding are two energetic women – Jennifer Mayer from Taupo and Jenny Garrett from Napier

“As far as I know we are the only country that provides these sorts of tours to our overseas sisters,” says Jennifer Mayer, who dreamed up the idea when she was Guides’ New Zealand international commissioner, and Jenny was her assistant.

The tours started in 1997 with a simple option of five days’ travel for the girls and leaders around New Zealand before or after an event or jamboree.

Alternate years were spent in either the South or North Islands. Guiding families from throughout the country would host the visitors either for an afternoon tea or overnight, providing them with an insight into life in “real” New Zealand.

Jennifer and Jenny also organised a tour for a group of Taiwanese Guides during this time.

“We were surprised by the success of the first tour. I thought it would be a one-off,” says Jennifer. “After the success of the first one we thought we’d look at what else we could do.”

From there, the tours grew and were custom-made depending on the interests of our international visitors, for example, patchwork or bird watching.

The new millennium provided another opportunity for Jennifer and Jenny.

“In 1999 we hatched up a scheme to promote an event to leaders as the first to see the sunrise at Mt Eden in Auckland on Thinking Day in 2000.”

The tour was named “Be the First to See the Sunrise on Thinking Day in the New Millennium” and it was a huge success attracting 180 women from the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, England and Australia. And yes everyone climbed Mt Eden at 6am to join with Auckland Guides to celebrate the Founders’ birthdays.

Seeing in the new millennium was not without its funny side when they discovered the booked accommodation at an outdoor pursuits centre on the Napier-Taupo road only slept 90, not the 180 people on the tour.

“Everyone rallied around and we managed to sleep the other 90 women at the Girl Guides campsite in Hawke’s Bay. There were people going in all directions!” Jennifer laughs.

The logistics could be daunting to anyone else – accommodation, food, transport, garden tours, trips to sheep stations, outdoor adventure and



making sure everyone is having fun. But it is part of the challenge for Jennifer and Jenny, and the feedback makes it all worthwhile.

“After the millennium tour we had a wonderful dinner in Auckland where everyone on the tour clapped and cheered and said it was the most magnificent trip they had ever been on.

“They insisted we run another tour in three years’ time in the South Island,” says Jennifer.

Three years down the track another 180 women many from the earlier tour took part in a trip around the South Island, staying this time in a combination of motels and home hospitality.

“Guiding families and friends opening their homes to us is key to providing a real New Zealand holiday for these women.”

The success of the tours, Jennifer says, is down to the whole philosophy of Guiding – be prepared for new adventure.

“Guides, as a rule, are very active and they have fun and just enjoy what they do – and they are prepared for anything, whether it’s going through caves or snow boarding for the first time.”

They are, therefore, an easy group to cater for as far as organising activities and adventure are concerned.

A lasting memory for Jennifer and Jenny is a 17-year-old American girl with spina bifida who took part in a North Island trip for girls only earlier this year.

“Her mother, who travelled with her, was determined that she wouldn’t miss out on any of the activities and physically carried her on and off the bus! The fact that the girl was in a wheelchair didn’t deter them one bit.”

The girl was piggybacked down the steps to Waitomo Caves and up Rangitoto. She also went on a jet boat – and everyone helped out to make sure she had the experience of a lifetime.

“She did absolutely everything. People were saying ‘Wow, this is amazing that she can do these things!’ It was a learning experience for all of us.”

Travelling with large groups of people is never without its dramas, particularly when it comes to illness or accidents. A viral infection in Rotorua and girls hurting themselves snowboarding or skiing are all part of the adventure.

One woman had to go to Invercargill Hospital with a gall bladder problem while in Queenstown. 

Thank you to all our volunteers and leaders



**GirlGuiding
New Zealand**
Ngā Kōwhiri Whakawāwhiri
O Aotearoa



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“National Office are also very supportive of what we do – and we regularly call on the regions to provide a meal, afternoon tea, campfire or help if needed.”



31 “It was at the end of the trip and we were heading back up north,” says Jennifer. She called on her Guiding network in Invercargill and the woman was visited in hospital and Jennifer’s fellow Guides organised her transport back home.

“National Office are also very supportive of what we do – and we regularly call on the regions to provide a meal, afternoon tea, campfire or help if needed.”

As an example they helped out with organising a wedding at Christchurch’s Crafcoft House during this February’s tour and even supplied the photographer and witness!

Is she tempted to arrange other tours around the country following their success?

“We will stay with organising tours for Guides because we have a great formula, we know what works and what doesn’t, and will keep going as long as people keep coming back and continue to have fun,” says Jennifer.

“It’s a lot of hard work but we really enjoy what we do – it’s a great holiday and no-one else in the world does anything quite like it.”





guiding things to do



Nestled in the bush, 15 minutes from central Wellington is Huntleigh GirlGuiding Centre. Built in the 1970's it is not the prettiest of buildings but it offers great opportunities for both guides in Wellington and visitors from out of town alike.

The Huntleigh bush is a valued pocket of conservation land full of native birds and the stream that meanders through the property makes it hard to believe you are so close to the central city.

Staying overnight at Huntleigh means either sleeping marae style indoors or camping on one of the two areas of flat ground. Local groups base their programmes around the bush, stream and Project Adventure ropes course. Visitors use Huntleigh as their base for a visit to the capital.

A ten minute walk to the railway station rewards you with a scenic trip into town where you arrive opposite Parliament or ready for a stroll around the harbour to Te Papa. To book contact huntleigh@guides.wellington.net.nz



Te Rama

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GirlGuiding New Zealand's magazine

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help us to grow girls



Leaders wanted...

We need fun, enthusiastic leaders from all backgrounds to help teach our girls a thing or two about life. If you're arty, sporty or just want to share your life skills to help girls and young women grow to become the best they can be, we'd love to hear from you.

...be prepared for new adventure...



GirlGuidingNZ

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Pippins 5 - 6 years | Brownies 7- 9½ years | Guides 9½ - Year 9 | Rangers Year 9 - 18 years