



girls worldwide say



Asia Pacific Region

World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts
Association mondiale des Guides et des Eclaireuses
Asociación Mundial de las Guías Scouts

Asia Pacific Link News

Spotlight on ...Young Woman from Australia

Olave Program Manager Catherine McKinnon, talks about her experiences as a Girl Guide over the past 19 years



Catherine, 27, has been in Guiding for almost 20 years and is now a leader for a group of Guides aged between 11 and 15. A mother with three daughters aged eight, six and four, she has a Bachelor of Legal Studies (BLS) degree as well as a BA Honours in History. She currently works part-time in an administrative capacity within the legal industry. She has held various appointments at a state level prior to being appointed the Olave Program Manager at national level.

"Over the last 18 months it has been my privilege to work with other young women in Guiding. I have been able to travel to different parts of Australia to meet some of these women in person but have also been able to make use of email to enable more frequent communication and sharing of ideas, problems and hopefully solutions. I have been given the opportunity to help develop the Olave Program as a relevant and exciting part of Guides Australia. It has had its challenges, but it has been an amazing experience to be involved in something so unique and which is still growing and creating its own distinct identity.

"Volunteering as Olave Program Manager means that I play a part in decision-making at national level. This opportunity has enabled me to gain practical experience as well as the chance to understand and develop strategic thinking skills. Skills learned at Board and Management level in Guides are used in my professional life. Guiding has given me the opportunity to develop the experience leading a team, working to deadlines, professional writing and speaking experience as well as many other skills that are essential in the paid work force. I have gained a much deeper understanding of people, how to interact with many people from a variety of backgrounds, personalities and experiences and to truly value the contributions that they make.

"I was also selected as one of the Australian representatives to attend the Asia Pacific Strategic Leadership Workshop in Cambodia in 2006. This was another incredible experience that allowed me to develop new skills, meet new people and broaden my understanding of the role and the importance of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in the world.

"Thanks to the flexibility of Guiding and the support of the other women I have worked with over the last nine years, I was able to find the balance of university, Guiding and babies. I am now supported in balancing the demands of part-time paid employment, my young school-

aged daughters and being a manager for Guides Australia. Many women in Guiding have been in the position of having young children and the support, encouragement and inspiration. The flexibility of Guiding means that meetings can be over the telephone and by email. In person meetings can be arranged at times that are convenient to everyone involved and can take into account individual needs. As a volunteer in a women's organization your colleagues understand if you need to bring your newborn baby to attend a meeting!"

"In Guiding people do not see having a young family as a barrier to challenging themselves. My professional path in the paid workforce may be a little unorthodox especially at first glance, but combined with the opportunities I have had through Guides, I certainly do not feel I am at a disadvantage to other young women my age. If anything, I think my Guiding experience gives me a distinct advantage. Girls and young women are the future not only of Guiding but of the world.

"I believe by developing leadership skills in girls and young women we are empowering them to make a difference. By enabling our girls and young women to develop these skills we are giving them not only the confidence to be able to make decisions and to expect the most out of life but also the tools to assist them in doing it. Through Guiding I have a wonderful support network not only of girls my own age but also of older women who have provided me so much advice and support both in "official" mentoring roles and also as friends.

"Guiding has given me a sense of being a part of something bigger that really makes a difference in the world. It has also shown me I have a responsibility to make a difference. Guiding really has taught me I can do anything and has allowed me to do it! I have been challenged and I have been able to make a difference. I can honestly say I would not be the person I am today if I had not been a Guide."

Public Bank Malaysia hands generous donation to GGAM

The Girl Guides Association of Malaysia (GGAM) received a donation of RM 50,000

from Public Bank of Malaysia to support hosting the 9th Asia Pacific Regional Conference and the 3rd Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS gathering in Kuala Lumpur in June. This donation is part of Public Bank's corporate social responsibility programme to assist in Malaysia's youth development.

The cheque was presented by Public Bank's Founder and Chairman Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow to the Chief Executive Officer of the GGAM Y. Bhg. Dato' Nik Faizah Mustapha on 25 May at Menara Public Bank.

Tan Sri Teh Hong Piow presenting the mock cheque of RM 50,000 to Dato' Nik Faizah Mustapha



Six Areas

Educational Programme

Cambodian Connections project run by Australia

A team of six young women from Australia were welcomed by their Cambodian Guiding sisters for two weeks last July. This was the second part of a bilateral connection developed between Guides Victoria (part of Guides Australia) and the Girl Guides Association of Cambodia.



The main focus of the visit was the 'Camp Rainbow', a joint venture initiated by Belinda James when working for Girl Guides Association Cambodia as an Australia Young Ambassador

Development Programme volunteer. The team spent one weekend camping, two nights in rural home stays and visited Guide units in three provinces. They shared activities, both teaching and learning, and visited tourist attractions in Phnom Penh and the Angkor Wat temple area. In that time, many strong friendships were made despite the language difficulties.

A second team of Australian Guides will visit Cambodia in January 2008 for a cultural exchange and to support a day activity programme.



opening ceremony to encourage the campers. The First Lady of Korea YangSuk Kwon conveyed a congratulatory video message.

Campers promoted international understanding while enjoying a range of camp activities, which were divided into six major areas: explore Korean culture, global activity, adventurous activity, rafting and swimming, visiting Bandi Land and adventurous rides.

The International Challenge Camp also provided participants with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the true Girl Scout spirit while practicing environmental protection. The Girl Scout Youth planning team was responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating the camp.



The next international camp will be held in Incheon in 2009. For more information please contact Girl Scouts of Korea at intl@girlscout.or.kr.

India holds Rally

More than 170 Guides, Scouts, Rovers and Rangers and contingent leaders from 34 States of India participated in the 41st to 45th Rashtrapati Scout and Guide Rally and the 32nd to 36th Rashtrapati Rover and Ranger Rally. The event was organized by the Bharat Scouts and Guides, national headquarters New Delhi, at National Youth Complex, Gdपुरi from 8 to 12 July 2007.

During the event, the prestigious Silver Elephant award was given to former Chief Minister of Uttaranachal Shri N.D.Tewari, former Chief Minister of Nagaland and now Governor of Goa Shri S.C.Jamir, and former Chief Minister of Chattisgarh Shri Ajit Jogi.

Japan-Korea 9th Exchange Programme

Ninety-two girls from Girl Scouts of Korea visited four prefectures in Japan. to promote friendship and cooperation between the two countries.



Japanese Senior and Ranger Girl Scouts aged 12 to 18 years old were on the planning committee. This programme has been running since 1999.

Korea holds International Challenge Camp 2007

More than 10,000 campers from 22 countries including the US, Thailand and Nepal attended the International Challenge Camp 2007 held at the Muju Resort, Mt. Deogyu, in Korea, from 23 to 27 July. The camp was sponsored by the Government Youth Commission, Republic of Korea with the theme 'Our Challenge for the Better World'.

The Chairperson of Government Youth Commission YoungHee Choi, the Mayor of Muju County NakPyo Hong, the President of National Council of Youth Organizations Dr. SukSan Kim and other distinguished guests attended the

Pakistan Scout Friendship Camp 'Sharing Youth Potential for Development'

The fifth SAF Scout Friendship camp was held in Ghora Gali from 3 to 11 June. Almost 350 Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts from eight SAF chapters including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated in this camp. Eleven senior Guides and four adult members represented the Pakistan Girl Guides Association.



Girl Guides from Pakistan with the Guides and Scouts of Bangladesh

The programme was divided into four core activities including youth forums, cultural programme and cultural exhibition, discoveries and educational visit. The next camp will be held in Bangladesh in 2008.

Two leadership camps held by Taiwan

Seventy-five girls aged 10 to 12-years-old from seven distinct councils took part in the juvenile Leadership Camp at the Girl Scouts Training Centre in Garden City, Shin-Tien, Taipei County, from 5 to 6 May. Participants enjoyed activities



such as exploring nature, creativity development and a substation activity called 'The Window of the World.' Each substation was designed as if it

was a different country with its own culture and participants could recognize them through the decoration of national flags and pictures of well-known landmarks. Cub Scouts were also invited to the camp.

Taiwan also held in the same venue a Senior and Ranger Girl Scouts Camp on 'Discover your Potential and Leadership' for 16 to 21-year-olds. From 6 to 8 July, the event focused on volunteerism and leadership by interacting with group members. They invited leaders who had participated in international events to share with Senior and Ranger Girl Scouts their experiences.

Taiwan launches Adolescent HIV/AIDS Curriculum

In line with the WAGGGS advocacy message, girls worldwide say "fight AIDS" Girl Scouts of Taiwan held an adolescent HIV/AIDS education workshop in Nan-Tou city on 20 May.

More than 50 participants including Girl Scouts, high school students, teachers and parents took part in the activity. Participants discussed HIV/AIDS infection and prevention and shared their opinions.



Girl Scouts of Taiwan hopes teenagers will reinforce their awareness to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS and publicize the concepts of prevention.

Adult Training

Japan holds standing committees training

The five standing committees of Girl Scouts of Japan (Training, Programme, Finance, Information and Structure) met for a training session on 17 June. Members learned about Girl Scouts of Japan's mission, vision, strategic plan and this year's policy on 'Increase the number of people who understand what is Girl Scouting.'

The secretariat of Girl Scouts of Japan's headquarters office also received training on 25 May. The president Naoko Ishii shared the experiences learned at the Strategic Leadership Workshop held in Cambodia in November 2006. Board members also held trainings in local councils and emphasized the importance of advocacy at all levels through their visits.

Relationship to Society

Malaysia attends Women's Summit 2007 round table

Members of the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia were among the 2,000 participants of the Women's Summit 2007 organized by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil. The one-day Summit discussed work-life balance and was held in Kuala Lumpur on 2 August. The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak delivered a keynote address entitled 'Putting women at the heart of development.' In his speech, he urged that women have to be given the opportunity to grow and excel.

Two members of the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia were among the 40 representatives selected from various NGOs to be part

of the NGO sector in the Women's Summit round table. Topics discussed included how to encourage more young adults to be involved in charitable organizations, how can government and NGOs optimize strengths to assist the issue of work-life balance through community-based activities, pooling capabilities, establishment of a bank of

volunteers, how can NGOs be engaged in helping Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes to be more targeted and flexible work options.



Two Young Leaders reading last year's Women's Summit report

The Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil listened to the recommendations of the round table, which are going to be compiled and presented to her Ministry after the Summit.

Increased media coverage for Girl Scouting in Nepal

The Chief Commissioner of Nepal Scouts, Shree Ram Lamichane, inaugurated the first regular radio programme for Girl Scouting and Scouting in Nepal on 19 April. This one hour programme is broadcasted twice a week through a Kathmandu-based radio station and allows them to promote Guiding and Scouting within the community and keep them updated on their programme and activities. It is hoped that this coverage will increase the numbers of Nepal Scouts supporters.

Girls Scouts of Japan speak with ministers about environment

A group of Girl Scouts of Japan discussed with cabinet ministers about their environmental activities on 1 June. Girl Scouts of Japan is a member of the national forum 'Grow a Beautiful Forest' which aims to preserve forests.



Pakistan promotes environmental protection

Seven young leaders from the local University of Punjab raised awareness at their community on the importance of recycling plastic glass and paper products during a service camp at Karbath from 5 to 11 June.

They trained approximately 300 village girls in the recycling of used soft drink plastic bottles and metal boxes for making dried flower arrangements, garbage baskets and other related vocational skills.



Structure and Management

Victoria Guides, Australia increase international awareness with Cambodia exchange

Ms Tan Chanphally was chosen by Girl Guides Association Cambodia to spend eight weeks in Victoria, Australia, studying administrative procedures and the Australian Guide Programme in operation throughout the state. As well as spending time with Guide



Centre personnel, Phally visited more than ten Guide units learning how Australian Guide units operate.

This visit was totally funded by donations from members of Guides Victoria.

Victorian Guides have fulfilled their goal of increasing international awareness by making connections with interesting people. Both organizations believe this mutual learning will be of great value in the future.

'Work Life Balance' camp run in Japan

Girl Scouts of Japan ran a camp on the 'Work life balance' from 1 to 2 September at Togakushi Girl Scout Centre as part of its educational activities. The aim of the camp was to promote Girl Scouting widely for non-member adults and to provide members an opportunity to interact with people in their communities.

The programme included a concert to promote Japanese culture and a symposium on 'Work Life Balance', which was organized in cooperation with the Cabinet Office. At the symposium participants discussed whether they were working too much and whether their lives were fulfilling.

The government promotes reviewing ways of work at the office for both women and men. This is also one of the areas Girl Scouts of Japan is focusing on to enable women to have a more equal life.

External Relations

Asia Pacific Region extends congratulations to UPS

Asia Pacific Development Executive Ching Ching Wee-Ong joined over 1,000 employees of Singapore UPS on 19 May during the centennial celebrations of the package delivery company. Participants enjoyed interactive displays, carnival games and cultural performances.

The UPS Foundation partnered with WAGGGS in the Signature Programme-Volunteerism (SPV). During Phase 1 of the partnership (2004-06), 16,000 new members and volunteers were recruited in Malaysia—a 22 per cent growth in participation. And in Hong Kong, Girl Guides began working with partners to promote volunteerism in China.

In Phase 2 (2007-09), the project will expand to Mexico, Malaysia and China.

Pakistan - Punjab region collaborates with UNESCO

Punjab Girl Guides inaugurated a Community Learning Centre on 18 July at Mohananwal, a village 50km outside Lahore, in collaboration with UNESCO Islamabad. This centre will promote literacy and adult education/vocational training skills. The aim is to give 100 children and adults basic literacy and post literacy with income generating skills and creating a learning society through reading and information.

The centre will also involve men from the area in getting information in agriculture and information technology.



Thailand invited to Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association's celebration

Representatives from the Girl Guides Association of Thailand attended the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association's (IAA) celebration of 50 years of youth achievement on 11 July.



Together with International Trustee and Asia Pacific Region Chairman John Pascoe, they shared future plans to progress the introduction of the Award Programme in Thailand.

The International Award Association offers challenges and opportunities to develop life skills, motivation, self-confidence and the benefit of building relationships through a global network. The Award is one of individual challenge and there are three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The participants have the flexibility to design their own programme, including activities of personal interest, setting their own goals and completing each level within a minimum of timeframe. Many Member Organizations have

integrated the Guiding programme with IAA challenges thus enabling our members to have a wider opportunity to develop themselves.

Further information can be obtained from the website: www.intaward.org or by email to the Asia Pacific Regional Office (Australia): sue.walker@intaward.org

Celebrations

India holds Sunrise Ceremony

The Bharat Scouts and Guides at Daya Basti celebrated the Scouting centenary with a photo



exhibition showing the life of Baden-Powell, the experimental camp at Brownsea Island and the growth of the Movement in India. Models of bridges and the towers were exhibited by the

Delhi State. During the event there was also a tree plantation and blood donation as part of community service activities.

Hong Kong celebrates 90th Anniversary

As part of the Girl Guides 90th Anniversary celebration activities, Hong Kong Girl Guides Youth Council organized the 90th Anniversary Service Project. There were about 800 Brownies, Guides and Rangers (including ten Brownie units, 11 Guide units and two Ranger units) involved in the Project.

All participating units were required to spread the message of environmental protection, reduction of wastage and anti-smoking via different service projects to at least 90 classmates, friends, relatives or the public. Overall, 9,000 persons received related messages. About 450 Girl Guides attended the Girl Guides Youth Forum on 7 July.



They shared their concerns on environmental protection and health with the Guest of Honour, Permanent Secretary for the Environment and

Director of Environmental Protection Ms Anissa Sean Yee Wong, JP; Chief Executive officer of Green Power Dr. Chisum Man, JP; Chairman of Tai Po Environmental Association Dr. Wingkwong Yau; and Professor of Clinical Oncology Dr. Tony Mok.

Australia celebrates 'Year of the Outdoors'

Guides Australia named 2007 the 'Year of the Outdoors' to provide further opportunities for Guides to enjoy and benefit from the outdoors. Guides also celebrated the centenary of Lord Baden-Powell's first experimental camp at Brownsea Island in 1907. Each state in Australia has been involved in holding a series of regional camps on islands. Often they have included traditional camping skills and old style tents to help recreate the atmosphere of 100 years ago. Some of the original activities have been modified for today's Guides.



There is a special challenge this year - the Outdoor Challenge, and the badge. To complete this badge, Guides are required to camp, take part in an adventurous activity, try a water based activity, help improve their local environment and earn a badge connected with the outdoors.

More information about the Brownsea Island Challenge and the Outdoor Badge can be found at www.guidesaus.org.au



'J '08 Guide Jamboree' in New Zealand

Planning for Guides New Zealand's international centennial jamboree in January 2008 is well underway. The jamboree will be the first major event in the centennial year and will be held in the Christchurch area, where New Zealand Guiding began in 1908.

A committee of volunteers, supported by staff from the national office, is developing an exciting programme for girls aged 9 to 18 year-olds. The younger girls will be in the main Guide camp and there is a separate Ranger sub-camp for 13 to 18 year-olds. Guides and Rangers will join in all the excitement of features such as the opening ceremony, all the fun of the open day and a Guide Gig rock concert on the last night of the event. January will see the launch of a refreshed brand, including a new uniform and a song composed by a young Guide in celebration of the centenary.

Further updates on the celebrations will be announced later in the year. Asia Pacific members are very welcome. Please email Jeannie Moeller at jeannie.moeller@guidesnz.org.nz if you have any queries.

Announcements

Outgoing Asia Pacific Region Chairman receives Award from the Scouts

Outgoing Chairman of the Asia Pacific Committee Cristina Lim-Yuson received the WOSM Chairman's Award for her outstanding work for young people and active cooperation with the Asia Pacific Region WOSM.

Cristina received the award from Mr Eric Khoo, the Asia Pacific Committee Chairman, WOSM during the Asia Pacific WOSM-WAGGGS fellowship held at the Commonwealth Club in Kuala Lumpur on 10 June.

She is the first person outside Asia Pacific WOSM to receive this award. Some members of both Asia Pacific WOSM and WAGGGS regional committees and leaders from the Scout association in Malaysia attended the fellowship.

New Patron for Nepal Scouts

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala received the Scout ordination as the patron of Nepal Scouts on 25 March during a convocation ceremony organized at his residence in Baluwatar.

Minister Manandhar noted that Nepal had received worldwide publicity with the naming of Baden-Powell Scout Peak. This had generated a lot of interest among the youth of the word to climb this scout Peak. The Baden-Powell Scout Peak was launched on 4 September. For more information contact: bpscoutpeak@mos.com.np.



Events, Grants and Scholarship

Advocacy seminar on HIV/AIDS. It will be held from 2 to 8 December at Sangam. Scholarships will be available to attend this event. Please use this opportunity to expand your members' international and leadership experience. Further information can be obtained from Sangam at info@sangamworldcentre.org.

Management skills seminar. This will be held from 17 to 23 January 2008 at Our Cabaña. The seminar will consider how a leader understands the difference between leading and managing, plans to achieve results, manages and evaluates projects, multiple priorities and risks.

Limited partial scholarships will be available on a first come first served basis. If you are interested please contact Our Cabaña for further details: ourcabana@prodigy.net.mx. The closing date for applications will be 30 November 2007.

Yolo Scholarship for 2007 and 2008. Our Cabaña has announced Yolo Scholarships for 2007 and 2008 with a value of US\$ 800 per person.

The money is specifically donated or raised from participants who attend sessions at Our Cabaña and who are interested in making the sessions more international as some countries may not be able to attend under normal circumstances.

The successful participants are welcome to attend any of the sessions held at the World Centre during 2007 and 2008. Two adult adventure sessions taking place later in the year which might be of particular interest are:

- Mexican Festivals and Traditions, from 29 October to 6 November
- Taste of Mexico, from 8 to 17 November

Two scholarships are available per region for 2008. Please see <http://www.ourcabana.org/en/activities/adultadventuresessions> for further information on the 2008 sessions.

For details contact Christine Cretchley, Deputy World Centre manager at ourcabana@prodigy.net.mx

Events for 2008

7 to 9 January - Australia - Optional expeditions

10 to 13 January - Australia - Australian Outdoor Convention, Brisbane, host Guides Queensland for adult members

3 to 9 February - Australia - National Olave Program Event, Britannia Park, Yarra Junction, host Guides Victoria for 18 to 30 years

19 to 23 February - Singapore - 39th Asia Pacific Committee meeting

22 to 24 February - Malaysia - Girls' Summit

9 to 12 April - Taiwan - The 2nd General Assembly of Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS

5 to 8 June - Malaysia - Young Leaders' Seminar

22 to 24 August - Malaysia - Friendship Trail

4 to 7 September - Malaysia - Brownies' Festival

10 to 14 December - Malaysia - Adult Leaders' Gathering

14 to 21 December - Sangam, India - Relentless Energy of Asia Pacific (REAP08)

Asia Pacific Focus - Regional Conference

The 9th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, themed 'Many but One', was held from 3 to 9 June at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel in Selangor, Malaysia.

Over 100 participants from 22 countries in the region gathered to discuss issues related to the

growth of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting and to take the region forward under the strategic directions of WAGGGS.



Interaction time

Committee members, staff and members from Solomon Islands



The conference promoted understanding of the Asia Pacific Operational Plan and provided a chance to each Member Organization to share its views on various issues, paving the way to working together more effectively in the future.

The participants elected the new Regional Committee for the next three years. The members are: June Cameron, Chairman (Australia); Dr Nighat Arshad, vice-Chairman (Pakistan); Mariko Asano, Japan; Normala Baharudin, Malaysia; Ruchira Harshanee Jayasinghe, Sri Lanka and Febe Marl Paat, Philippines.



Asia Pacific Committee 2007-2010

The 3rd gathering of the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS was also held simultaneously at the same venue with 79 participants attending. A total of 9,500 was raised from membership fees. Twenty-one new members joined the Friends at Silver Level, while 12 new



and upgraded members to Gold Level and three new and upgraded members at Diamond Level.

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS