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## The Girls' Brigade NSW

Our Vision: Girls' lives transformed; God's world enriched



# Queen's Award Stories

The following articles are stories from Girls' Brigade members, past and present about their Queen's Award journey's. The Queen's Award is the Highest International Award, that girls can achieve in Girls' Brigade.

### My Queen's Award Story.

Kim came to Blacktown Company as a shy Junior and seeing her grow to achieve the Queen's Award has been amazing. For Kim this journey to complete her International Award was a very big task. Kim has with Asperger's, ADD, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, but with support from her company, she has been able to complete her Queen's Award journey.

She has work on one aspect at a time. With every achievement, she worked on she knew that it was a step closer to her major goal in Girls' Brigade.

Kim loves animals especially horses, so her project was Horses. Kim attended the Riding for the Disabled organisation and her goal was to ride in the Sydney Royal Easter Show, with her families support she not only achieved this, but also won some ribbons in some of her events.

Kim learnt computer skills when she did one of her tasks, making name tags for a Regional Camp as well as organising the orderly groups. For her other task in the community she collected tin food for a Food Drive at Christmas time for a needy family. She also designed flyers and posters asking families at the Church to bring in non-perishable food, then she filled a basket and a large box with food and presented it to the Church for distribution to families.

Kim's Christian life grew while doing her Church Service. She volunteered as a Steward and continues to do so after her award has been completed.

Kim was presented with this award by Mrs Linda Hurley at Government House – Sydney on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, with family and friends in attendance. She was so excited and proud on that day, as she celebrated her Award.

The Company is very proud of Kim achievements and she is a credit to her family and the leaders, who have worked with her, developing her skills and passions in life. She is working on become a Leader and this year started by attending Leader Training. She likes to work with younger girls and encourages them while at company.

On behalf of Kim by the Leaders of the Blacktown Company.



This my experience on receiving my Queens Award.

It was excited in 1989 to receive my Queens Award at Government house. My dad came with me as we could only have 1 guest. I had the day off school as the presentation was during the week. I remember arriving at the gate and waiting to go in, it was very excited to see this wonderful building and to receive this Highest International Award. I can not remember to much of the presentation but remember the gardens that were very beautiful.

On Saturday 26th November 2016 I was able to go back to Government house for the first time in 27 years to see 1 of the girls in my company receive her Queens award. It bought back memories of my special day when I receive my Queens Award. I wore my Queens award with pride and was so proud to see Kim Kirkman receive her award after years working towards this goal. The garden are still beautiful and it was more relaxing for the girls compare to the day I receive mind. It was fun day and wonderful experience . I felt proud when you see girls from your company achieve this award.

Lisa Neale - Blacktown Company Coordinator



### My Queens Award Journey

When I was a Cadet, there was a girl (most likely a pioneer/ young leader) in my company that received her Queens Award and I thought to myself 'that is so cool!' From then I always thought to myself 'I want it!' Fast forward 10 years, and I was asked by my leader if myself and another pioneer in my company wanted to do the Queens Award program, we said yes.

In October 2011 I had to have major surgery. This was about 6 months into my Queens Award and due to the surgery, I had to stop the physical part of my Queens Award for 6 Months. I had an extension approved and I was back into it. Even through it was it was not easy to get going again. The mental side of getting back into the Queens Award was harder than the physical part I was trying to complete and it was with Gods help that I was able to finish with A LOT of help from my leaders and family with my spelling for my report. The presentation was in September 2013 and it was one of the best day of my life. The feeling you get when accomplishing something this big and special is Amazing! I'm telling you my struggle with the Queens Award not to discourage you, but to tell you that the hard work this award askses of you is worth it. It's to tell you that God is by your side every step of the way. So, if you're thinking of completing this award, or know anyone who you think is ready to take on the responsibility, I encourage you to talk to your leaders, Kylie or anyone who has done it but most importantly, pray for God to be with you on this journey. Getting my Queens Award Badge was one of the best experiences of my life and I hope that you will be able to do it too.

Lenore Gurney - East Hills Girls Brigade Company



### My Queens Award Story.

My story starts when I was young girl in GB where I saw both my sister achieve their Queen's Award and I thought that one day, I would also achieve my Queen's Award. Then it came the time I could apply to start the Queen's Award program. I had already decided on what project I would do and where I would do my volunteer service, and I was so excited to start. After I was accepted in 1995, I had the support from my family and my GB leaders at Blacktown Company, to help me to complete the award.

Over the two years that I was part of the Queen's Award program, I had to do tasks that I thought that I could not achieve, but with the support from family and God's help, I was able to get through it. There were hard times and times of joy.

As part of the program we had to an exam, and this scared me. The night we had to do the exam, I said a pray to help get through the exam. During the exam, I notice when the other girls finish, they left. Then I was the only one left in the room, but I got through it with the support of Mrs Lupton, and I pass the exam.

One of the major parts of my Queen's Award was my writing project, and I really enjoyed completing this. My project was about the life of Mary Mackillop (Australia's First Saint). This women was amazing, as I discovered while researching her life and family, an inspiration to me. Mary did so much for the women and children by developing schools and helping the poor. Mary was a strong Christian women and she inspired women of her time to grow in God's love and to help others in need.

Many years later after receiving my Queen's Award, I continue my interest of the life of Mary, I have travelled to places where she started a school Penola, South Australia and New Zealand, where she also established the Order of St Joseph. Mary's commitment to others and to God love has encouraged me that I can do anything with God's help and I love to share this with others.

I was presented with my Queens Award in 1997, at St Andrews Cathedral, Sydney by Mrs Pamela Goodhew. It was a wonderful time to share with my family.

Since completed my Queens Award, I have become a leader at Blacktown Company and taking various positions in GB and now I work for Girls' Brigade NSW as the Company Liaison and I feel that the Queens Award has helped me to achieve things throughout my life. Now I get to be a mentor to the girls in my company who are on their own Queen's Award journey.

Elizabeth Neale – Blacktown Company



### My Queens Award.

My name is Michelle Santika (nee Rheuban) and I received my Queens Award in 1983 and it was one of the best things I have ever achieved. The support that I received from my Captain Mrs Marion Morrison OAM at 7<sup>th</sup> Sydney Waverley Company while achieving my award is something I am will always be grateful for.

Unfortunate my Queens Award badge and certificate was lost and I was quite upset, but my parents enquired about re-placing them, and with the help of the staff at GB NSW, they were able to get a replacement badge and my parents represented the badge to me at my father's birthday, which was a surprise.

The Queens Award has been a major part of my life since 1983, as I feel that it has help me to secure my current position of work at a private school. Michelle Santika (nee Rheuban)

