



TALKABOUT

**GIRLS'
BRIGADE**

New South Wales



From Jenny's Desk

Welcome to a new year of Girls' Brigade, a year of celebration for 125 years of this great organisation worldwide. Did you know that it is only 10 short years until we celebrate 100 years of Girls' Brigade in Australia! That means that Girls' Brigade worldwide was only 25 years old when it came to this great country.

2018 is the year we celebrate Abundance! The abundance of God, and His love and care for us. Sometimes it is hard to see where the abundance is. In 2017 we were blessed to see a year where no Companies closed or went into recess in NSW, something that hasn't happened for many, many years now. We were certainly happy with that result, however before our year even started we got the sad news that Glenorie Company is not starting this year, very sad. I just want to say thank you to Jenni Hoogesteger and her team for all her hard work, and all the Leaders that have been with the Company over the years.

Where is the abundance of God's blessing on Girls' Brigade NSW at the moment? Our Companies are closing, our membership numbers are dropping, four of our Regions are in Caretaker Mode – so many things that are not showing abundance one would think.



However, our God is the god of so much more. Even in a time of drought the abundance of His provision is still evident. I have added this picture for you – this is the front of our church at the moment – as you know most of the East Coast and further inland NSW is in the grip of a drought – it has been months since we have had rain – and all the grass is dying and everywhere is dry and brown. But when we get rain it will come back to life and be green again. (Watch

future issues for an update picture of it green and beautiful). We just have to keep on trusting God for His plan for us.

At State Council a few weeks ago we watched a Global Leadership Summit session with Albert Tate on Leading with Leftovers. It was a brilliant message about handing what we have to God, asking him to bless it and then getting out of the way so He can do the miracles. Miracles that will see what we have given overflowing. He used the parable of the 2 Fish and 5 Loaves. It is a great message – available for free on Youtube – I recommend it to you all.



So what we have to do in Girls' Brigade is give what we have – our time, our skills, our love for the girls in our care, our mission, ask God to bless what we do and then stand back and be amazed at what happens.

I say that we are in a time of drought in Girls' Brigade NSW, but even so we are experiencing the abundance of past blessings. We have been brave enough to start using the money in our Term Deposits to bless, encourage and empower our girls and Leaders by starting the Future Fund. We have allowed \$10K this year to bless you in your mission of Girls' Brigade. Please take the opportunity we are giving you to use what God has provided. Do you want to go to National Conference but money is a problem – 20% of your conference fee is already paid for you! Do you want to do a course, attend a conference, book into a seminar that will help you in your leadership role – send an email to the office and we will see what we can do to assist you. This is not just for leaders, but older girls and Pioneers also – let us continue to encourage and empower you.

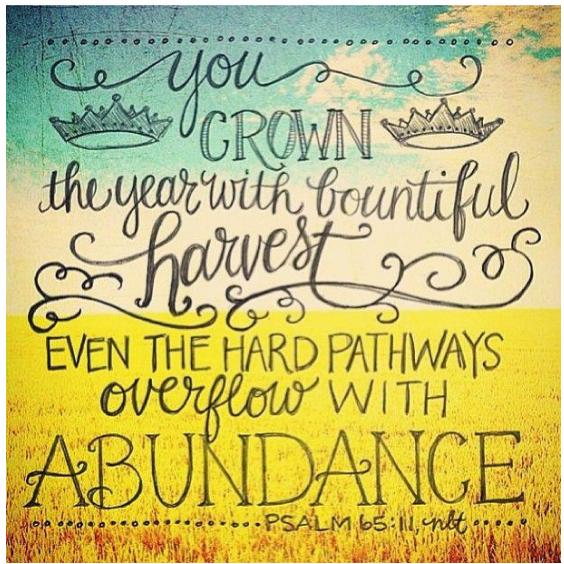
As we look to the future, we are very aware of the issue of our Regions in crisis and what to do now. Motions were passed at the last State Council, which was a Special General Meeting, that all Council meetings between now and conference 2019 will be Special General Meetings giving all Companies a vote and allowing Proxy votes for those who cannot attend. Further to this; all Regional votes have been suspended to allow a more even spread of votes across the State. But we need to look further than 2019, a Discussion Paper on A State without Regions has been issued, it is

printed in this issue and is also available in Sharepoint. Please read, discuss, pray and give your thoughts on the ideas contained within.

Be blessed, and look around for God's abundance – it is everywhere.

Jenny Fayth

NSW State Coordinator



Linda's Letter

Greetings for 2018,

I hope your break was fun filled and had a few moments of relaxation. I am looking forward to meeting with you and hearing how God is working in you and through you as we share His mission of Girls' Brigade

As I shared with those who attended State Council in February a number of us on the Executive have been led to read similar verses in Isaiah.

In particular we have decided as a team that we would trust that the words in Isaiah 58:11-12 are for us in 2018.

Although we really have no clear vision of what that means we would like to invite you to share the journey with us.

Isaiah 58:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

11 The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;

you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

I personally have been starting to unpack these verses in my quiet times and am being challenged in many ways.

“And the Lord shall guide you always”

By his counsel, by his word, and by his Spirit, during the night and day; just as He guided the Israelites through the wilderness with the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night:

Am I fully relying on the Lord in all areas of my life? Allowing Him the freedom to direct me or am I listening doing what I think He wants?

Do I press in during the dry times or when I’m struggling, letting Him satisfy me in times of drought. Do I thirst after Christ, more knowledge of Him allowing His presence to restore me

“You will be like a well-watered garden”

Watered by the Lord himself, and His grace, and by the ministry of the word; whereby the plants that are planted in it thrive and flourish, lift up their heads, shoot up and grow, and bring forth fruit:

“like a spring whose waters never fail”

I believe there is a well of living water springing up in all of us, not of ourselves, but from Christ, and which is very abundant, and never fails.

Every garden needs rain. And in the new covenant, we have the opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit – the rain of heaven. I want to encourage you to seek God wholeheartedly for this. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to have every area of your life under the control of the Holy Spirit. Open yourself to Heaven’s rain, every day of your life. Then your life will be like a watered garden.

Yours in Christ,

Linda

**You Will
Be Like A
Watered
Garden**

Isaiah 58:11



Knowing-Jesus.com

PIONEER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

PUZZLED BY THE NEW PLT NAMES, CURIOUS ABOUT WHERE YOU GO NEXT AND WHAT EACH PLT IS...

START HERE...

HAVE YOU BEEN TO A PLT BEFORE?

NO

If you haven't been to a PLT before you need to start here

FOUNDATIONS aims to give girls a strong foundation in Girls' Brigade as an organisation and the role that they have within it. In this module, girls will develop an understanding of the core values and mission of Girls' Brigade, while practicing leadership skills in a Girls' Brigade context

DEEP aims to introduce girls to different ways to worship and provide space for deeper exploration of their own worship and faith.

WITH THE NEW SYSTEM, DEEP HAS BEEN MADE THE FINAL MODULE FOR THE PIONEER LEADERSHIP TRAINING. OTHER STATES ARE RUNNING THIS COURSE FOR ALL LEADERS.

YES

If you've already completed the Preliminary PLT, or any other PLT, you can complete these in any order based on interest or preferences... (NOTE: Except for DEEP)

LEAD aims to develop girls' awareness of their own strengths and abilities, in both a personal and leadership context.

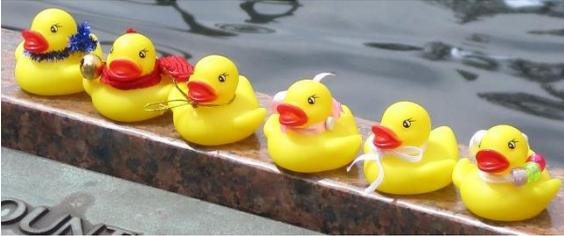
COMMUNITY aims to provide opportunities for girls to interact meaningfully with their community and reflect on their experience, making links with their leadership within Girls' Brigade and their faith.

EVENTS is highly practical, as the girls take on the role of event planners. They are to plan and implement an event for their Company.

TEAM aims to explore what it means to work as part of a team, while also considering how to lead and contribute meaningfully to both informal and formal team meetings.

Whilst 3 Girls from West Wollongong Company were exploring Sydney in January, as part of a recent Duke of Edinburgh Exploration, they celebrated Rubber Duckie Day with some new friends.

Meet Pablo, The Duck, Webster, Quackers, Hector and Bernice



We explored Hyde Park, though were disappointed that the Anzac Memorial was closed for renovations.



We enjoyed morning tea and had a lovely time playing in the bubbler we found, though we might have given a lady a fright (then a giggle) when she came by for a drink. We



also found the Archibald fountain – see us all posing!!



We then ventured into the wondrous place that is the Hyde Park Barracks. It was so much fun; we found lots to do there!



We climbed the stairs

Played with some tools



We saved ourselves (just) from falling in the pot and bucket.



We got shackled



And Webster played dress ups
(though the outfit was a bit big!)



We marvelled at how they used to sleep

And Quackers had a nap!



Pablo took a ride on the
camera, encouraging
others to smile pretty.



We found a lake to swim in but got
frightened when we realised it was
someone's drink! But phew, we survived!

In the
Domain walkway we got really excited
when we found some new friends, they
didn't say much though!



We had some fun at
the Art Gallery where we
"improved" this painting. See
us perching on top!



We played at the kids table

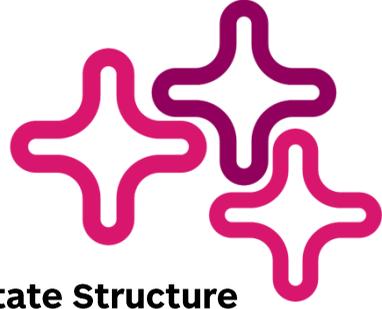


Marvelled at all those egg shells

And found a picture of Toongabbie
as it used to be

Such an awesome time. Quack, Quack!





Discussion Paper - Governance and State Structure

Preamble:

Ladies, the time has come to seriously look at how our State operates. It has become very clear that our current system of Regions is no longer viable. This includes Regional operations and representation. The Regions currently in Caretaker mode do not appear to be able to reform and recommence operating as functional entities, leaving half of our Companies in the State without a voice/representation on State Council. If I am wrong in this assumption, please contradict me.

Many have said to me if the change is needed, just do it and let the chips fall where they may, however I do not feel this is the right way to go. I want to see GB NSW move forward in unity. One of my very first talks to you as State Coordinator was about seeing Unity with Diversity in our State. If we are then to grow and continue in our mission we need to be unified with one mind, one plan and with the assurance that this is God's will for us.

Therefore I,(along with the support of your Exec Team,) are issuing this discussion paper on a proposal for a State without Regions. How the State Governance would operate and the role of Companies within the State.

I understand the emotions that are contained in the idea that Regions will disappear. I was proud to be part of a strong, supportive and well-functioning Region for the whole of my Brigade life. A Region with a long history. But times are changing, Girls' Brigade is changing, the world we work in is changing – all too quickly. So, we must also look at change, and I know change is always hard, but we can't survive without change.

Please read and digest the following proposal. Please discuss it with other Leaders and others outside of our GB family. PRAY about it. Ask questions, PLEASE ask questions.

Bring your concerns, your ideas, your alternative suggestions to State Conference this year. Let's REALLY talk about this. It is major change and will affect many, so we need to get it right.

The decision will not be made immediately, this will form part of a Constitution update which will more than likely happen at our State Conference in 2019.

God has laid this verse before me no less than 5 times in the past week so perhaps I need to pay attention.

Isaiah 43:19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Proposed Governance Change.

1. Regions are dissolved, and State Council is reorganised.

Questions:

- How will that work?
- How will my Company be represented within the State?
- Do I, as a Leader get a say in what happens within GB NSW?
- How do I find out what is going on?

Proposed Constitution change:

State Council is dissolved.

Regions are dissolved.

A Governing Board is established to make the legal and financial decisions for GB NSW.

Current State Council meetings are reduced to two per year

- These then become State Conferences where all Companies have voting rights just as our current annual conference operates. One in May, and one in September/October. (We could call them our Autumn and Spring conference)
- Our Conference in May would incorporate the AGM.
- Companies would be required to be represented at one of the conferences each year.
- Other meetings (Catch up meetings) would be run in various areas of the State to allow Leaders to come together for discussions, training and support. These would be run by the State. Included in these catch up meetings could be:
 - Training
 - Information sessions on any changes within GB
 - Informal discussions on any concerns Leaders may have
 - A meal to allow time for fellowship with other Leaders
 - Pioneer Pin interviews could be run at these meetings

- In remote areas – possibly Queens Award interviews

How would the board members be elected?

Elections would continue as currently happens – board members would be nominated and elected on a triennial basis.

The board would consist of:

- Elected members:
 - a. State Coordinator
 - b. Assistant State Coordinators x 3? 2?
 - c. Events Coordinator
 - d. Development Coordinator
 - e. Communications Coordinator
- Appointed members:
 - a. State Chaplain
 - b. Training Coordinator
 - c. Company Liaison worker (would not have a vote)
 - d. State Office Manager – (would hold the position of State Secretary on the board – would not have a vote)
- The board would also be able to bring in other members from time to time if the need arose. This is not really a change as the Executive has this option in the current constitution.

If the board has the responsibility of any legal and financial decisions within the State, how do Leaders have their say?

It would be proposed that any major decisions that would affect the Companies and Leaders of GB NSW would be proposed and discussed at the 'Catch up meetings' and the bi annual conferences. This could include things like our annual budget or other major financial decisions – just like we did last year with the establishment of our Future Fund.

What about our committees?

Our sub committees would still operate:

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Queens Award
- Training Committee
- Finance Committee

These committees would continue to oversee their areas of responsibility within the State and would be required to report at each conference. Their coordinators would not be required to vote at the conferences.

Questions:

- How will Companies connect if there are no Regions?
- How will girls experience the wider world of GB?
- How can Leaders get and give support to other Leaders?

Proposed Policy

Policy:

That Girls' Brigade NSW encourages Companies to work together in small groups to enable girls to experience the wider world of Girls' Brigade.

Procedures:

- These groups will be known as Clusters
- Clusters will have no formal boundaries
- Companies can choose to work with more than one Cluster
- Leaders will be encouraged to meet on an informal basis for support, fellowship, sharing of ideas, planning and spiritual growth
- Clusters may, and are encouraged to appoint a Chaplain
- There will be no formal leadership of these groups
- Clusters will not operate bank accounts, finances for events can be managed by a chosen Company within the Cluster or by the State Office.
- Activities where the Companies can join together are encouraged, these could include but are not limited to:
 - Fun Days
 - Games days or nights
 - Camps
 - Canoeing
 - Abseiling
 - Hikes
 - Outings
- The Exec Team and staff will assist Clusters by providing support and information days from time to time on an informal basis. These days would include Companies from more than one Cluster
- Leaders from all Companies are encouraged (or do we say required!) to attend at least one State Meeting per year, including State Conference (if we propose the two conference per year model – delete the words State Meeting and just leave State Conference)

Handprint Wreath

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com>



Materials:

- glue,
- scissors,
- string or ribbon
- three colours of pastel paint or construction paper.
- Optionally, a photo can be glued into the center of the wreath.

Instructions:

- There are two ways to do this craft. One is to trace the child's hand onto paper and cut out the prints. The second is to make paint handprints on the paper and cut those out.
- Make nine handprints (3 of each colour).
- Cut out the prints and glue to form a wreath.
- You can decorate the wreath further with pictures (like daffodils or tulips). These can be:
 - stickers!
 - hand drawn artwork by the children.
 - pictures from colouring books, magazines or fliers

Sign Language I Heart You

<https://www.freekidscrafts.com>

Materials

- Foam
- Trim
- Scissors
- Foamy hearts
- Handprint



Instructions

- Fold a piece of paper in half and cut out heart to use as a pattern. Lay on a piece of foam and trace around the pattern. Cut out the heart.
- Lay your left hand on a flesh coloured piece of foam and trace around. Cut out hand print and fold down two fingers and glue using the picture as a reference. Glue handprint to heart.
- Glue trim around heart and add foamy hearts or make some of your own.
- Let dry and present to Mum or someone you love.

Hands That Help

<https://www.freekidscrafts.com>

Have the girls make a tree, a bouquet or a potted plant of Hands That Help that can be redeemed for help around the house and yard.



Materials

- 2 Shades of Pink and/or Green Paper
- Scissors
- Tacky Glue
- Straws or a Stick (optional)
- Plastic Flower Pot (optional)
- Styrofoam

Instructions

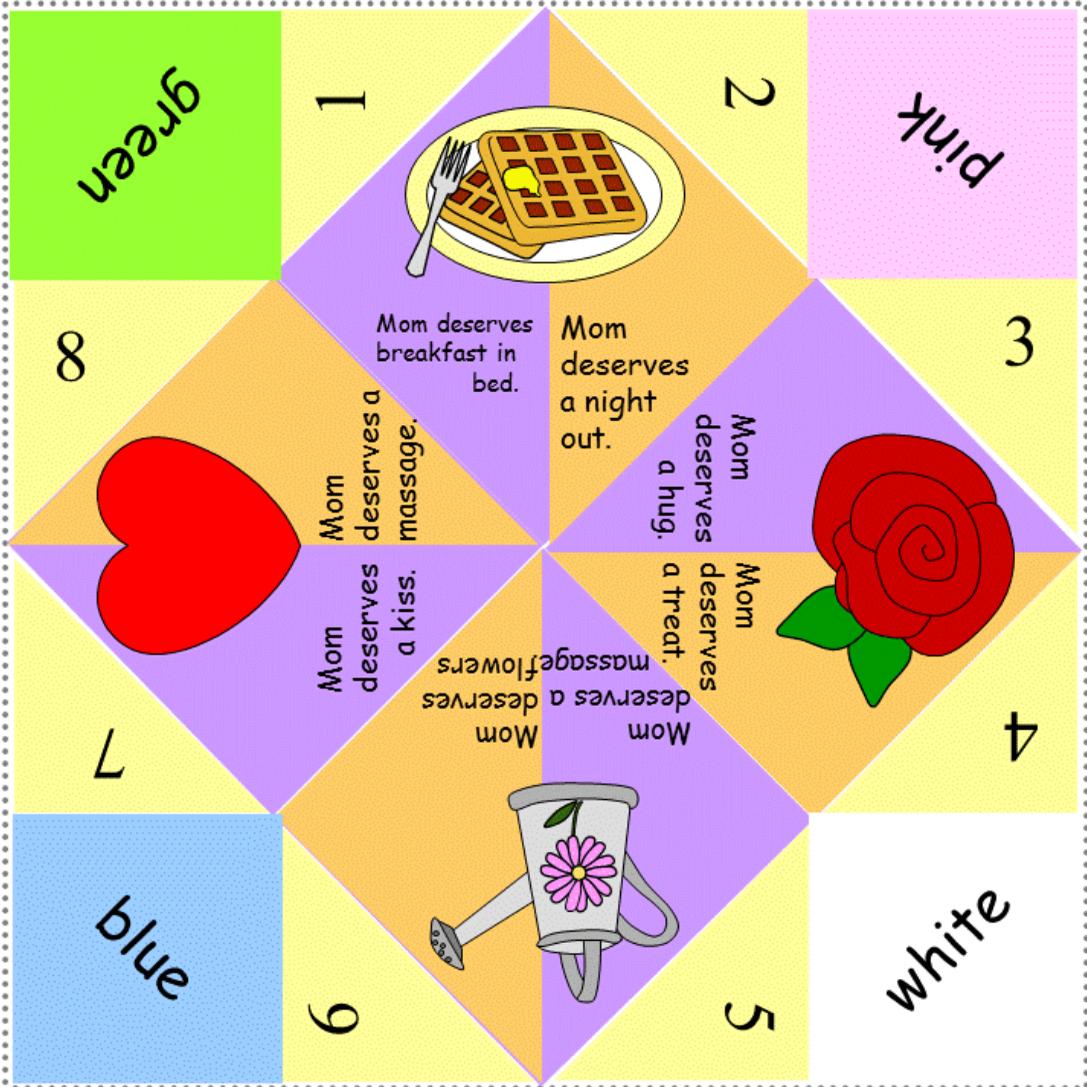
- For bouquet also make 6 leaves on green card stock.
- Print and cut out hands and chores.
- Have child select 6 chores and glue them on the helping hands.
- Glue hands to straws or tree branch. Add leaves.
- Place Styrofoam in flower pot. Poke in straw stems of flowers to create your bouquet of promises for Mum.



Mother's Day Chatterbox

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com>

Use the template below
or have the girls create their own



Mother's Day Handprint Poem

<https://www.freekidscrafts.com>

Materials

- Paper Plates
- Poem templates
- Skin Tone Paper (Optional)
- Pink Card Stock
- Washable Paint
- Assorted Ribbon, Lace and Silk Flowers
- Glue
- Scissors



Instructions

- Paint hand and make impression on plate. Alternatively trace, cut and glue a handprint.
- Print poem on pink card stock inside the heart outline. Cut out.
- Decorate the edge of the paper plate with flowers, ribbon and/or lace.
- Cut a 30" piece of ribbon make a loop in one end. Glue to the back of the plate with a loop at the top for a hanger.
- Glue the heart poem to the bottom of the ribbon under the handprint as shown in photo.
- Add a bow to decorate.



How have you been inspired, encouraged or challenged?
Let's connect with one another and share our stories with each other.

Please send your stories for Talkabout or anything else you may
like to share to talkabout@brigadeaustralia.org
Items for Issue 2, 2018 need to be to the editor by the 5th of May 2018