



**THE GIRLS' BRIGADE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

CONTENTS

- GBWA at a Glance!
- Who We Are: State Council 2015
- Regional Structure 2015

Reports

1. State Chaplain
2. State Commissioner
3. State Administrator
4. Promotions
5. Training
6. Western Region
7. Southern Region
8. Northern Region
9. Eastern Region
10. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
11. Pioneer Leadership Training
12. State Senior Camp
13. Queen's Award & Pioneer Pin
2015
14. Friends of Brigade
15. Photography Event
16. High Tea Event



**THE GIRLS' BRIGADE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.**

2015

GBWA 2016 at a glance!

1 Amazing God
4 Divisions
6 Core Values
19 Companies
139 Adult Volunteers
534 Girls aged 5-18 years

State Council Meetings

Feb; 22 March; 17 May; 10 Aug; 20 Sep;
Saturday 19 Oct (AGM);
22 Nov.

Who We Are - State 2015

State Commissioner:

Nikola Lewis

Deputy State Commissioner:

Irene Daniels

State Treasurer:

Chris Morgan

State Chaplain:

Tamara Pilgrim

State Admin/Events Coordinator:

Nanette White, Amy Munro

Communications Officer:

Shirley Brindley

Western Regional Coordinator:

Brenda Martin

Southern Regional Coordinator:

Lydia Kuilenburg

Northern Regional Coordinator:

Louise Dillon, Irene Daniels

Eastern Regional Coordinator:

Yvonne Waddell

Queen's Award Coordinator:

Coral Anderson

Regional Structure 2015

Western Region

Riverton
Bicton
North Lake
Bull Creek
Narrogin

Southern Region

Canning Vale
Gosnells
Kenwick
Armadale
Kwinana

Northern Region

Noranda
Greenwood
Bassendean
Woodvale
North Beach

Eastern Region

Mundaring
Roleystone
Kalamunda
Kalgoorlie

1. State Chaplain's Report

Annual reports can be great to read. We read of all that others have done in the year gone by; who went where, did what, what achievements were earned, what mountains were scaled, how many attended this event and how many were at that camp.

But as we read these reports, I think that it is important to read the silences between the lines. In those silences there are many other stories; the stories of the girls who attended camp for their very first time, the stories of girls who first heard that God loves them, the stories of the "aha" moments, the joy experienced by both leader and Pioneer the first time that Pioneer stands and leads a group by herself, the story of that girl who never felt welcome anywhere else being a part of a loving group. These stories (and many more) that so often in GB we take for granted. We expect them. And we expect them so much that at times we almost don't even see them. We expect them so much that we forget to celebrate them.

We started off 2015 thinking about our International theme of "Expectant".

As we tie up 2015 into a nice neat annual report, we acknowledge that the year was not "nice and neat" for most. There were ups and downs, there were things hoped for that were realised, and some disappointments along the way too. But... whatever 2015 was, let's not forget those between the lines silent stories that we expect all too much.

As we long to see girls lives transformed, let us not forget the transforming power of a girl finally feeling safe amongst a group, or a young woman realising her worth, or a girl experiencing the joy of achievement, or that incredible gift of Jesus received. It's in these expected stories, the spaces between the words, that our vision will be fulfilled. Because it's in the spaces of what we do, that the Spirit of the Living God moves in powerful ways.

So, let's celebrate the unexpected expected, and let's expect it 10, 100, 1000 times more. Because, we serve a God who "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or

think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

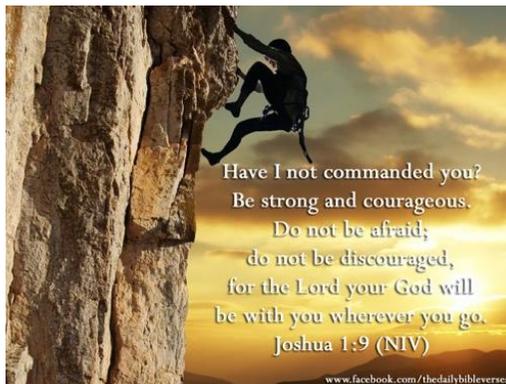
As we celebrate all that was 2015, I pray that the seeds that were planted will be watered and continue to grow that they may produce a harvest beyond all that we could ever expect.

Blessings

Tamara Pilgrim
State Chaplain

2. State Commissioner's Report

It has been a great honour, challenge and learning curve to lead GBWA in 2015. As my first year as State Commissioner I have been tested, I have grown, and I have been blessed by the love and support of people in GBWA and GBA. In 2015 our theme was *expectant*, focusing on how we can expect God to be working in GBWA. Last year was my first year as State Commissioner and many times through the year different people gave me the verse Joshua 1.9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." The whole experience of taking on this new role has shown how essential it is to have **God central to our lives**.



A sense of **Community** and belonging has been developed at all levels, through the support of the office, State Council, Regions and Companies. To be a part of an organisation that encourages and supports each other is delightful. It was great to see relationships develop at the events we held during the year (NYW High tea, Senior Camp, PLT and Photography Course)

It is encouraging to see growth in our **partnership with Churches** as they reach their local communities, and how we can do this together. It is exciting to see the **uniqueness** of the girls as they accept different tasks, and an honour to hear about them when they are interviewed for their Pioneer Pin and Queens Award. In October we celebrated their achievements at the Awards Afternoon, and Honorable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of WA presented eleven girls with their Pioneer Pins and four girls with their Queens Awards. Miss Kashaca Rozario was our guest speaker and she wrote a wonderful poem

It is wonderful to hear from the girls that one of the reasons they like coming to GB is that it is a **Safe** place to be. As

part of keeping it safe we investigated **partnering** with Scripture Union and Childsafe. At State council we liked it so much that we went to National with the idea, and it is great to see that we will be using Childsafe to look after our leaders and our girls.



Hearing reports from the different companies it is great to know that everyone in GB has **FUN!** In summary GB WA meeting our Core Values.

In the middle of the year we had a change in State Administrator when Nanette White left to care for an Aunt in Canada, and we welcomed Amy Munro into the role. Amy brings youthfulness and enthusiasm into the role, and we look forward to working with her.

In October we had our National Conference in Newcastle NSW. We would like to welcome the new leadership of GBA: Mrs Marian Ashford - National Commissioner, Mrs Jenny McWilliam - Deputy National Commissioner, Mrs Natalie Koutsos - National Chaplain, Ms Jen Jesurajah - National Treasurer, Mrs Rochelle Fussell - National Administrator. We would like to acknowledge and say thank you for all the work and leadership of the previous team, Mrs Coral Anderson, Miss Michele Black, Mrs Leonie Watson, Alan Gibson and Mrs Ruth Ebell. Thank you for helping us to stay focused on our *vision* – to see **Girls' Lives Transformed, God's World enriched.**

Nikola Lewis
WA State Commissioner

3. State Administrator's Report

Staffing

2015 saw changes in staff in the State Office. Previous State Administrator Nanette White (37.5 hours per week) and Shirley Brindley (Promotions and Development Officer, 1 day/week). In July I took on the new role of State Events Coordinator and also Administrator at 25 hours per week. In late November we added a casual admin assistant Angela McEachan at a day per week.

The State Administrator provides support to the Executive, liaises with government and provides general book-keeping, administration and maintenance.

Administration

- Met all government reporting requirements.
- Maintained the building and grounds.

Major Events

Coordinated the following major events:

- The State Awards Ceremony (27 Oct) was attended by Her Excellency, The Honorable Kerry Sanderson attended. Four girls received the Queen's Award and eleven achieved the Pioneer Pin.
- Coordinated financial arrangements and registrations for the Pioneer Leadership Training Camp (June) and the Senior camp (May).
- Assisted in the liaising and preparation for FONO 2016 for Canberra as well as begun preparations for FONO 2018 in Perth.
- Attended National Conference.

Finance

Our accounts continued in good shape and the 2014/15 financial year again ended with a small net surplus.

Our major funding is provided via the State Government, through the Department for Local Government and Communities. GBWA is accepted as a service provider of Youth Development Services and we are grateful for the ongoing financial support.

State Summary – Statistics as at September 2015

<i>Region</i>	<i>No. of Companies</i>	<i>Pioneers/ Yng Ldrs</i>	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Juniors</i>	<i>Cadets</i>	<i>Total Girls</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Assistant Leaders</i>	<i>Chaplains</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Western	5	17	43	63	33	156	25	6	5	192
Southern	5	16	20	28	26	90	15	4	5	114
Northern	5	21	34	64	52	171	15	14	4	204
Eastern	4	9	22	50	36	117	11	6	4	138
Sep 2015	19	63	119	205	147	534	66	30	18	648
Sep 2014	20	61	71	278	156	566	60	27	18	671
Sep 2013	22	73	66	258	160	557	60	37	20	674

We are blessed to have all these wonderful volunteers and dedicated Chaplains, who provide such faithful service in continuing the mission outreach work of The Girls' Brigade in WA. The table above contains data supplied by each Company on the number of girls and Leaders in their Company as at 1 September 2015. Key points (compared to previous years):

- Girls: total number of girls decreased to 557 (compared to 623 in 2012). Most of this loss

was in the younger age groups, although these remain by far the largest groups. It is encouraging to see the numbers of older girls remaining steady.

- Leaders: The reason for the apparent decrease in Assistant Leader numbers is probably due to the shift in classification this year. Previously, non-uniformed leaders were classified as “Auxiliary Workers” and included all regular helpers. In 2013 this

category was changed to “Assistant Leaders”, with a focus on ensuring all our Leaders have a minimum of some basic training about the mission and principles of GB. Inevitably there was some confusion about how to classify leaders.

In total we had 19 Companies meeting in 2015, two of which are regional (Kalgoorlie and Narrogin).

4. Promotions Officer's Report

Publicity and Company Support

Communication with church partners was targeted with the purpose to increase contact and make aware the bigger picture of GB in Western Australia. Throughout the year six ebulletins were emailed to church leaders informing them of GB statistics, activities, events.

- Each GB Company received tear off posters
- Individual GB Company trifold flyers are available to all companies
- Flyers made - Senior Camp, Tea Party
- Tear off flyers put up in public places

Little Aussie Directory - South

GB South companies were placed in The Little Aussie Directory April - Bicton, Canningvale, Gosnells, Kalamunda, North Lake, Bull Creek and Riverton. The value for each 1/2 page advert was \$450.

Grants

Successful City of Belmont Grant for \$4700 - to run a Photography Event in September and purchase two cameras and laptops.

Advertised through Sonshine, Belmont Library, facebook and Koorong.

Website and facebook

A new GB website contract was placed with *Fijura* but mid year *Fijura* were not able to fulfil their part and returned all monies. *Red Licorice* were contracted to design a new website and progression was made throughout the last six months of 2015 and is due to be launched in 2016. The current GB site was not editable during this time but remained visible to members of the public. Facebook was regularly updated.

Shirley Brindley ***Communications Officer***

5. Training Report

Saturday 31st January was Leaders' Day held at Riverton.'

Following challenges to "Be expectant", our world-wide GB theme for this year, leaders were updated on plans for the year. In the afternoon all Units had sessions on the new Explore program.

Saturday 7th March was a training day at the GB Office. In the morning ladies were led through Duty of Care training as well as Level 1 Training for Assistant Leaders. In the afternoon several ladies did Unit training to complete Level 2. Sessions were conducted by Nikola Lewis and Yvonne Waddell.

Training was conducted though the year at various companies to bring ladies up to Level 1.

Throughout the year a team of leaders worked on reviewing Captains' training as well as checking the rewritten Leader Training. We now have Level 1 for Assistant Leaders, Level 2 for Leaders, Level 3 for Captains and Level 4 for Executive level. All the work on training was presented at National Conference in October in Newcastle, NSW.

Yvonne Waddell.
WA Training Coordinator

6. Western Regional Report

Regional Executive

Regional Coordinator: *Brenda Martin*
A/Regional Coordinator: *Jeanette Knight*
Chaplain: *Carolyn Axtens*
Secretary: *Michelle Batt*
Treasurer: *Chris Soutar*

Companies

5th Perth (Riverton): *Brenda Martin*
12th Perth (Bicton): *Carol Bray*
15th Perth (North Lake): *Jeanette Knight*
21st Perth (Bull Creek): *Ka-ren Chew*
1st Narrogin: *Bertha Meyer*

It has been a good experience for our local captains to share the local Company Visits. Enabling each to see the different ways companies run their program and how much fun the girls have. It is evident that each GB Company has a unique mix of girls and leaders, unique choice of achievements and program to suit their group. Each leader works to the best of their ability to teach skills and impart knowledge to the girls in their care in a fun way.

In October it was wonderful to see three of our young ladies receive their Pioneer Pins- Amy Ullrich (Bull Creek), Ruth

Fernandez and Angelica Lacsina (Riverton).

As well as acknowledging all the hard work done by Chloe Yaw and Cassia Harding-Chew (Bull Creek) who received their Queen's Award.

5th Perth (Riverton)

During the year Riverton has partnered with their church to reach out to the local community through their Easter Party and Easter Reflections Bring-A-Friend Night, Celebration of Brigades service and helping with the children's activities at the Springfest Fete.

Most Leaders worked on implementing the EXPLORE program, most enjoyed teaching memory verses through song, helping keep God at the centre of what they teach. Two Year 8 girls were baptized along with 14 other young people in June, which was tremendous to witness.

When the girls are asked what they enjoy most about GB, they usually say the fun time and friends they have made.

12th Perth (Bicton)

Bicton had an action packed year of baking, fun and musical family evenings, partnering with their church's 'Bible in Story-Form' theme, along with creative, educational and physical challenging activities. They sing, do crafts, learning new skills and things about God. Bicton made me feel warmly welcome during my visit, it was a very enjoyable evening spent getting to know the girls better. Lin does a great job organising the fun program to suite the particular needs of their group of girls and leaders!

15th Perth (North Lake)

North Lake held a special 'High Tea' event to celebrate their companies 25th Anniversary. The Pioneers designed invitations, decorated the room and tables, plus prepared food for the girls, mums and guests. They displayed GB uniforms of yester year and photos of the company's past. It was great to see how well the older girls worked with their leaders to make it a fun time for all. North Lake has held Safari Night (for Operation Reachout) as well as a Travel

Night which they prepared passports for. As well as collecting items for Operation Christmas Child.

The company has done an admirable job to work on fundraising to enable a number of Pioneers to attend Fonomarae in January 2016.

21st Perth (Bull Creek)

Ka-ren and her team of leaders are very welcoming of visitors. Bull Creek GB joined with their Boys' Brigade company to run a Car Wash to raise funds for their sister GB company in Vanuatu. Early in the year the Seniors and Pioneer really enjoyed the special High Tea run by GBWA for Youth Week.

1st Narrogin

Narrogin is another busy company, providing many interesting and fun achievements for the various age groups. The girls and leaders made produce to sell, to fundraise in support of their company camp during the year. A good number of girls to joined in with a State Senior Camp as well as the 'Give a Girl a Hope' fund walk-a-thon held by the Northern GB Region.

It's great to see how this GB company seems to have great support from their local church, even helping them with a Stall at the Spring Show raising needed funds for their company.

Brenda Martin
Western Regional Coordinator

7. Southern Regional Report

Divisional Executive

Regional Coordinator: *Lydia Kuilenburg*

Secretary: *Tanya Orchard*

Chaplain: *Teresa Bailey*

Companies

14th Perth (Canning Vale): *Kashaca Rozario*

19th Perth (Gosnells): *Marilyn Louwen*

26th Perth (Kenwick): *Laverne Volmink*

41st Perth (Armadale): *Robyn Hofstra*

45th Perth (Kwinana): *Elyce Joseph*

Armadale

With new people added to their team, a few women working behind the scenes and new girls joining, the company enjoyed various activities ranging from church parade, camp, high tea and Mother and Father's Day celebrations, joining the school fete and the Anzac parade. Their desire was that the girls would know that God is good and all that He does is good. Sadly they will be in recess in 2016. Robyn and her husband had a baby boy (Ethan) and they seem well.

Canning Vale

They continued to share God's word and felt Him working through the leadership team to reach out to the girls. Chelsey Volmink was commissioned as Leader and Steph Nathan as Chaplain. They enjoyed having 'Our Brigade' together as a company, "Bring a Friend Night", crafts and devotions as a Company regularly, involving their church by praying for each girl regularly. At the Presentation night the girls danced to an African song that they learned and sang.

Gosnells

Activities included Prayer Partner evening (making an Easter bonnet), Mothers' Night (role of women in times of war) and Fathers' Night (Glow in the Dark). The leaders (past ones too!), the girls and their families celebrated their 21st Birthday with an evening of presentations and memories of God's goodness. They continue to look to God for all the opportunities to continue to share His love. Congratulations to Danielle Timmers and Kaylee on receiving their Pioneer Pin.

Kenwick

They were expectant of great things, and they received great blessings in abundance. Sheela Nathan was commissioned as company chaplain and Laverne Volmink was commissioned as captain. They ran a sausage sizzle event with Canning Vale company to raise funds for young leaders (to make use of all of the opportunities that are open to them as part of brigades). A joint awards evening with Canning Vale company was held where the girls presented their song.

Kwinana

In 2015 45th Kwinana had a new home Church, with a new team focused on community, relationship building and





hope for girls to come to trust God. Some of the girls would have never stepped foot in a Church if it was not for GB and gradually GB came to feel like family to everyone. Sadly the company is in recess and the prayer is that the girls will continue on in community. Congratulations to Naomi Weickhardt on receiving their Pioneer Pin.

We held a Divisional/Regional Junior Sleepover and Cadet Afternoon. It was nice to see the girls from the various companies interact together and some Pioneers even leading. The leaders also seemed to have a nice time of running games and crafts, eating and sharing the Gospel with the girls!

The girls and leaders of our division/region have enjoyed various opportunities during the year to interact with other companies ranging from the Seniors and Pioneers High Tea, State Senior Camp to Pioneer Leadership Training.

In July the leaders met for Southern Division/Regional Breakfast for fellowship and encouragement. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to spur us on and share His love with those around us!

Lydia Kuilenburg
Southern Regional Coordinator



8. Northern Regional Report

2015 started off positively with a very well attended Breakfast for Leaders at Taylor's in the Swan Valley. We were excited to have our newly elected Northern Region Coordinator Louise Dillon and have her attend some of the company's events. Her presence was greatly appreciated.



Our second get together was another Saturday morning breakfast on 2nd May at Toscanini's Restaurant Hillarys which was not so well attended. As Netball had started this was given as a reason some didn't attend. The 'old faithfuls' who were there did enjoy the catch up though. We decided on our Walkathon event.

On Sunday 21st June 2-4pm was our Regional Walkathon and Prayerwave from Edgewater to Neil Hawkins Park in Joondalup. Any Seniors were also invited and we were pleased that a group came all the way from Narrogin. It turned out to be a very rainy day but we had all captains and a few leaders and 40 girls. The younger leaders seemed keener to attend this activity and be with the girls. We raised \$1100 for GBI's GiveagirlaHOPE fund. A great time of fellowship and fun was had – an answer to prayer.

Unfortunately for the region, Louis is having another baby, and had to step down as Regional coordinator.

When I have visited North Beach and Greenwood companies I have

endeavoured to get to know some other leaders who I have rarely seen at a State (or Regional) Events.

Specifically, we need to continue to pray for the Morley Baptist Company who have had a challenging year moving from the Ballajura Community Hall to the new church building in Bassendean, which they have to share with The Boys' Brigade.

As the year ends there is the challenge as some leaders resign. My Woodvale company has 20 Juniors and their leader Renee Venter has resigned. I know the need for more leaders is always there with every company, so please pray for this. Rita Peachey and Karen Howson from North Beach are probably having their last year ahead, so we'll need to pray for their replacements.

My hope is that during the January holidays people may feel more relaxed and motivated to get together as a Region to cast a vision for 2016 I know the need for more leaders is always there with every company, so please pray for this. Rita Peachey and Karen Howson from North Beach are probably having their last year ahead, so we'll need to pray for their replacements.

My hope is that during the January holidays people may feel more relaxed and motivated to get together as a Region to cast a vision for 2016.

Irene Daniels
Northern Region
Assistant Coordinator



9. Eastern Regional Annual Report

Regional Coordinator: *Yvonne Waddell*
Regional Chaplain: *Glynis Turpin*
Kalgoorlie Captain: *Marie Hollis*
Kalamunda Captain: *Carolyn Ebell-Taylor*
Mundaring Captain: *Christine Farr*
Roleystone Captain: *Yvonne Waddell*

Writing our report for the first time as the Eastern Region, formerly 4th WA Division, we have based it on our Girls' Brigade Australia Core Values.

1. **Living: We live our lives with God at the centre. Our relationships are centred on Him and we rely on His Word for teaching and directions.** With our Leaders and girls, we endeavour to learn about Jesus through God's Word. At each Leaders' meeting Glynis, our Chaplain, encourages us to listen to and rely on God to lead us where he has placed us. She always has powerful examples of God's leading and protection in her life or the lives of members of our local community. This year we were particularly challenged to listen to God personally and to answer his call (Jeremiah 33:3). In company our

Devotion times give opportunities to think about God's Word. Through Achievements girls learn practical aspects of Christian living. Through "Our Brigade" program we learn memory verses and create opportunities for our older girls to take part in community projects.

Five Pioneers (3 from Kalgoorlie and 2 from Roleystone) and leaders Michelle Bunn (Administration Course leader), Carolyn Taylor (Housekeeping) and Yvonne Waddell (Recreational Course) attended Pioneer Leadership Training at Serpentine on 7th to 9th August where they were challenged about the way we approach the "Adventure of Life" in addition to training sessions. Kalamunda Company also worked on developing their girls' knowledge of books of the Bible.

2. **Community: We promote a sense of community and belonging within our companies and churches.** Companies share church activities and issue invitations to church members to participate in GB activities:- Mundaring celebrated their 25th Birthday with a church service and shared a large cake; Kalamunda

enjoyed a church celebration in Term 2; Kalgoorlie combined with their BB company for a joint Parade night with Senior Pastor Eliot Vlatko as guest speaker and were thrilled to welcome ten new girls into GB membership; Roleystone and Kalgoorlie are also sharing in Operation Reachout activities learning about GB in other Fellowships; Kalamunda, Roleystone and Kalgoorlie used Company camps to build relationships, learn specific skills and give training opportunities; Roleystone hosted a community High Tea jointly with the church serving over 80 folk, and the girls enjoyed making floral posies to give to the ladies of the church on Mothers' Day; they also enjoyed making decorations for Pentecost and placing them around the church. Kalgoorlie and Mundaring girls made wreaths and participated in the Anzac Day Memorial Service. Mundaring also assisted with craft stalls at Mundaring and Parkerville. Companies made and collected items for Operation Christmas Child with several families also packing and donating boxes and sharing the joy of giving.

3. **Partnering: We partner with churches to reach local communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.** Companies ran "Bring a Friend" nights and have all had new girls visit and several stay. Mother's and Father's Days were celebrated with many lovely gifts such as painted pots, chocolates and flowers. Mundaring Company enjoyed a "Super Hero" night with Dads and daughters playing Super Hero games and sharing gifts and hearing from Pastor Keith Ford.

4. **Uniqueness: We accept the uniqueness of each girl and leader using our individual talents to serve others as we grow together.** We accept the challenge that all our girls are unique as we acknowledge that some are home schooled while others attend school, some are from Christian families, some have some spiritual understanding and some have no family church background. Our programmes are varied to suit our particular girls and leaders and we are using a mix of the original Discover

and the new Explore programmes. With topics such as Friendship, Generosity, Drama, Gardening, Floral Art, Working Together, Obedience, Camping, Prayer, Colour My World and Fun with Food we are catering for many interests, teaching many skills and growing together!

5. **Safety: We require safety for all our girls and leaders.** All requirements are met and shared Divisional visits assist in monitoring regulations. New leaders have been trained and Duty of Care regulations are observed.

6. **Fun: We have fun in everything we do.** Every night in Company has elements of fun! An example of specific fun nights would be an Adventure night with water relays, 'goop' relays, slime activities and obstacle courses; Pancake nights with pancake tossing and relays; Bring a Friend theme nights. In June our Leaders met for a Divisional lunch and shared fellowship with a devotion led by Glynis - good food, good teaching and good fun! Even Kalamunda's "Really Serious

Night" to finish the year was a lot of fun because that is what we do!

We give thanks to God for all our wonderful leaders, for new girls who have joined companies, and for a return of health for those who have been unwell. As some companies experience growth we pray for more leaders to enable us to cater for the needs of these young people.

Yvonne Waddell
Eastern Regional Coordinator

10. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Report 2015



Two overnight Bronze Level Hikes were held in the holidays on Thursday 9th to Friday 10th April and Monday 13th to Tuesday 14th April. The compulsory Training Day was held on Saturday 21st March, where all necessary gear was supplied. Eight girls participated in the Hikes. The Practice Hike was quite damp, but the weather was much nicer for the Qualifying Hike. Both Hikes were held on the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail in the Mundaring area. Mrs Sharon Masters was the Supervisor of both Hikes, assisted by 2 other Leaders, one on each Hike.

Two 3-day Hikes for the Silver Level of the Award were held in the October holidays and 3 girls participated. It is 3 years since we have had girls wanting to do this Level. The Practice Hike was held on Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October and the Qualifying Hike was held on Friday 9th to Sunday 11th October. A Training morning was held on 5th September at the State Office.

The Supervisor was Mrs Ka-ren Chew, assisted by 2 other Leaders, one on each Hike. The Silver Hikes are more challenging and used the Bibbulmun Track. The Practice Hike was held from



Kalamunda to Mundaring Weir (and then the Kep Track to Mundaring), and

the Qualifying Hike was held in the Dwellingup area.

Finances gained from the hiring of gear for the Hikes helps offset the cost of GBWA being registered to run the Award for our girls.

At the State Awards afternoon on 25th October, Cassandra Lardner from 3rd Perth (Greenwood) received her Bronze Award and Lauren Hickford from 40th Perth (Kalamunda) was acknowledged for gaining her Bronze Award.

A number of other girls are working steadily on their Awards and nearing completion.

A big thank you to the Roleystone Company for using some of their Lotterywest Grant money to buy sleeping bag liners, ponchos, hydration packs and extra compasses to add to our camping equipment kept at the State Office. Camping and Hiking gear has been lent to various Companies throughout the year for teaching purposes and Hikes. There is a large quantity of equipment available.

I attended a Level 2 Training Day to keep up to date with changes to the Online Record Book and requirements for the Award. The latest change is that a Physical activity can no longer be used for a Skill (such as Soccer Skills).

The D of E in WA now has its own website. www.dukeofedwa.org.au

Costs to do the Awards will increase from the start of 2016 to \$125 for **Bronze**, \$145 for **Silver** and \$170 for **Gold** Level. This is still below the recommendation from the National body.

Christine Farr
Award Leader for GBWA for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

11. Pioneer Leadership Training Camp

Expecting great things, we had 37 girls and 20 leaders attend the PLT camp. All courses were offered. There were registrations for all courses except for Spiritual, this was mostly likely due to a Spiritual leadership course being run during the school holidays and 7 girls attended and completed the course.

The breakdown:

Preliminary	19	Green
Recreation	9	Yellow
Girls Brigade	5	Blue
Administration	3	Purple
Indoor Camping	2	Brown
Total Girls	38	

Our State Chaplain led devotions during the Camp matching in with the theme Courageous. Feedback from the girls said they learnt about Adventure and how we can all climb the highest mountain if we tried, That God will provide for all our needs, He will protect us and always be there for us.

There was also a session on The Amour of God and Spiritual Battles that was really well received.

On the Saturday night we played a great game called Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We had leaders hiding with balloons & some out as "Oompa Loompas" asking the girls questions & taking half their balloons or more for wrong answers. It was a great night & a lot of fun. The girls answered a variation of questions from the Oompa Loompas who were hiding in the dark, including some GB knowledge & general trivia questions.

12. Senior Camp

15th to 17th May 2015

This year we changed the style of Senior Camp to camping in tents. We were fortunate to be able to use the wonderful facilities at Southern Hills Christian College in Bedforddale. It was an incredibly successful camp, despite the rain. The team of 10 leaders were fearless and carried on with enthusiasm despite the wet weather and the 50 girls all followed the positive attitude. Camp started Friday night with a sausage sizzle and waffle cones filled with strawberries, chocolate chips and marshmallows toasted in the fire pit. This was followed up with



games in the gymnasium to burn off the extra energy. Saturday was filled with activities, including Canoeing, Giant Swing and high ropes course. Sunday was more relaxed with a craft activity and clean up and pack up.

Overseeing all of this Sheela Nathan came in to lead devotions, and the girls developed a deeper understanding of the different characters involved in the parable of the Good Samaritan.



I would like to say a huge thank you to Marilyn Louwen who with Michelle Ward were a great assistance to the smooth planning and running of the camp.

Nikola Lewis



13. The Queen's Award & Pioneer Pin

Eleven girls participated in the Queen's Award program in 2015, at different stages. Four completed the program and received the Queen's Award, our highest international award, this year.

We say thank you to Chris Soutar who has continued to support and encourage the girls in the QA program for GBWA. Chris stepped down from this position during the year and Coral Anderson has taken on this role with the aim of developing a QAWA committee to handle the program here in WA.



QA Recipients 2015

Kathleen Peart	Woodvale
Michaela Brouwer	Woodvale
Cassia Chew	Bull Creek
Chloe Yaw	Bull Creek

Current QA Participants

2013 Entrants

Tash Bunn	Kalamunda
-----------	-----------



2014 Entrants

Grace Sobey	North Beach
Joshlynn Tjandra	Bull Creek
Amy Ullrich	Bull Creek
Naomi Weickhardt	Kwinana

2015 Entrants

Cassandra Lardner	Greenwood
Sarah Menaglio	Greenwood

Pioneer Pin Recipients 2015

The following girls were acknowledged for their ongoing commitment and service to The Girls' Brigade by being presented with the Pioneer Pin (our highest national award), by Her Excellency the Honorable Kerry Sanderson at the State Awards Presentation.

Ruth Fernandez	Riverton
Jenna Gallon	North Beach
Sarah Kubitza	Bassendean
Angelica Lacsina	Riverton
Eemali-Anne McDonald	North Beach
Danielle Timmers	Gosnells
Amy Ullrich	Bull Creek
Karlee Walsh	Gosnells
Naomi Weickhart	Kwinana

14. Friends of Brigade

Our Annual General Meeting/Fellowship Day was held on Saturday 13th June 2015 at the GBWA State Office. Twenty-two ladies were present, including the State Commissioner, Nikola Lewis, and we received apologies from 6 ladies, some with words of encouragement for the meeting.

During this meeting we agreed to make a donation of \$450 to the GBWA State Council, to be used in an area of need in Girls' Brigade WA as determined by State Council.

Our membership stood at 36 at the time of the last AGM. Joyce Barnsley agreed to continue in her position as Treasurer. Graham and Val Underhill agreed to continue in their roles of Auditor and Card Secretary and we appreciate the service they render to Friends of Brigade.

Judy Pascoe had indicated that she wished to relinquish her role as Secretary. Judy was thanked with a gift for her many years in the role of

Secretary. Janis Rooke was appointed Secretary at the AGM.

Five issues of our Friendly Messenger newsletter have been sent out over the past twelve months, either by mail or email to members and to FoB in Queensland.

We met for Prayer and Coffee Mornings in August and March. Members were also on hand to help at the State Awards Presentation in October, helping to serve and clear away afternoon tea. A meeting was held on 28th January to discuss current and future arrangements between Girls' Brigade and Friends of Brigade, including discussion about fundraising ideas and assistance with craft etc.

Our end-of-year get together was a lovely breakfast at Miss Maud's Restaurant in November.

Janis Rooke
Secretary

15. Photography Event

On 26th September 2015 from 1.00 – 5.00pm we ran a Photography skills event for girls ages 12-18 years at our GBWA Office. This course was open to all girls, not just GB. We had several girls who came as they had heard about the course on Sonshine FM.

The workshop was split into two parts with instruction on how to operate SLR Camera and practice of using the camera in a variety of settings.

Some came with a very limited knowledge, and that cameras “just have a button.”

The girls learnt a variety of ways to take photos, teaching different skills (shutter speed, lighting etc.), including “levitation” photography & water bomb photography which was a hit.

In the second part, girls were taught how to edit and manipulate their photos. The event was a fun and engaging experience for the girls involved and

feedback demonstrated that the girls had a great time and learnt a lot!

We were able to purchase suitable equipment for the event using the City of Belmont grant to run a photography skills course.



16. National Youth Week – High Tea

On Saturday 19th April 2015, 54 Seniors and Pioneers along with 10 leaders joined together to enjoy a lovely high tea that was lovingly prepared by Michelle and Melissa Batt at the Canning River Eco Education Centre, as part of National Youth Week celebrations.



While we enjoyed the scrumptious food, Miss Rose Daniels shared how being a member of GB had given her leadership skills that she was then able to apply to her job, and also how she had gained confidence through the skills that she had learnt, and she encouraged the girls to make the most of all the opportunities that come their way. This was followed

by a message from Tamara Pilgrim, our state chaplain, who challenged the girls to think about how there are things in their lives that they may not like, but change starts with them, and encouraged them to bring people alongside them as they make positive changes in our world.



There were lovely topiary ribbon trees that some of girls had constructed decorating tables, girls connected with nature by creating nametags from leaves, and had a great time talking and connecting with each other. It was also

great to have the assistance of the girls setting up tables and decorations, making punch, put mineral water into jugs, and place the food on the tables. At the end of the event the girls helped clean up and pack away everything.

Nikola Lewis
State Commissioner