

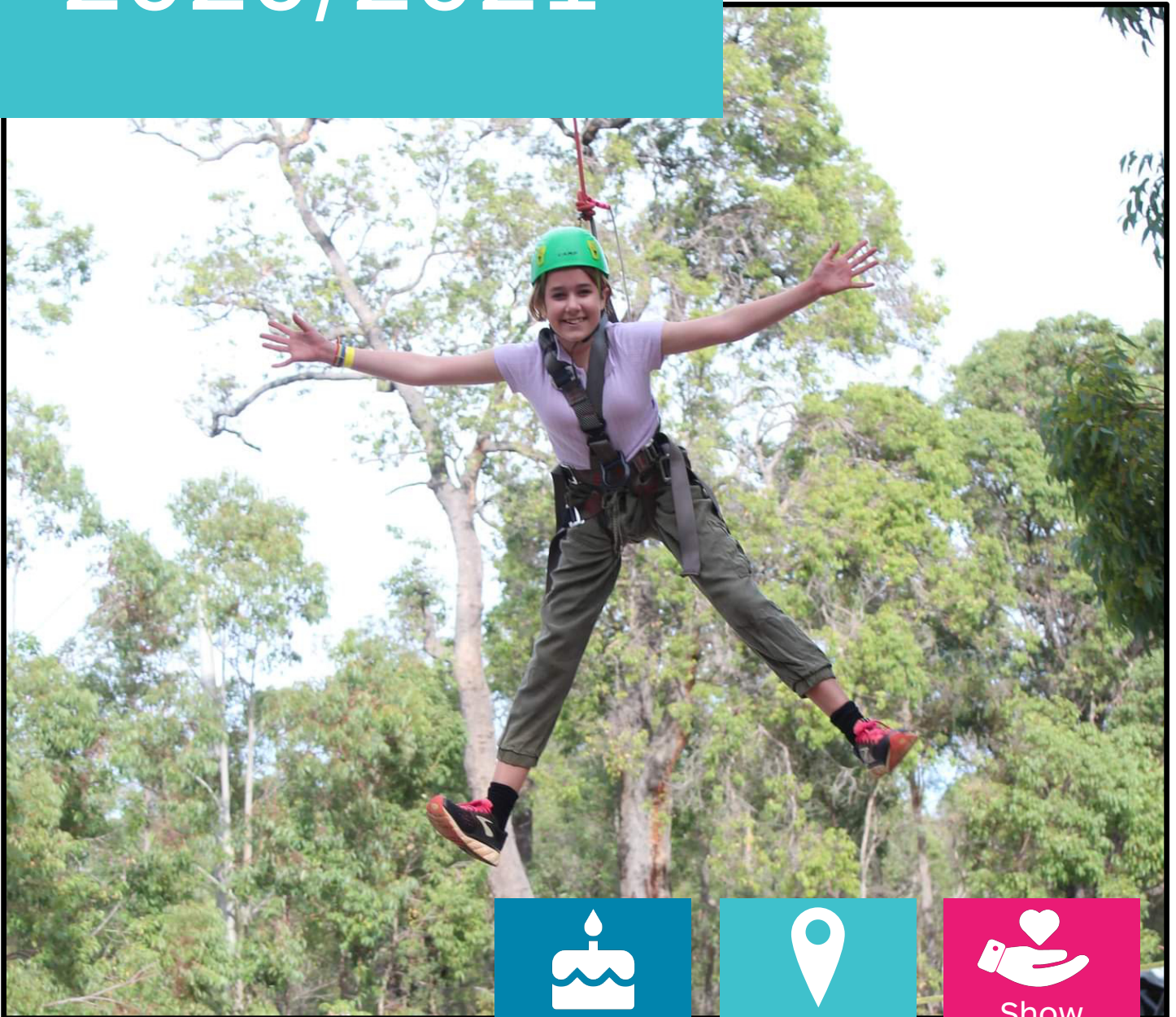
ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



**GIRLS'
BRIGADE**

Western Australia



94 yrs of
serving in
WA



14
local
companies



Show
Kindness
Be Faithful

*Girls' lives
transformed*

OUR MISSION

The Girls' Brigade is a vibrant International community providing activities for girls of all ages around the globe. Girls' Brigade has been impacting girls lives for over 125 years.

Girls' Brigade is a relationship building program which has been developed especially for girls, incorporating physical, social, educational and spiritual aspects.

With a motto of **seek, serve and follow Christ** the leaders aim to show Christ's love to the girls.

Aim: To help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through self control, reverence and a sense of responsibility find true enrichment of life.

Girls' Brigade Australia is built on six core values:



Community: We promote a sense of community and belonging within our companies and churches.



Fun: We have fun in everything we do!



Living: We live our lives with God as the centre. Our relationships are centred on Him and we rely on His word for teaching and direction.



Partnering: We partner with churches to reach local communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.



Safety: We require safety for all our girls and leaders.



Uniqueness: We accept the uniqueness of each girl and leader, using our individual talents to serve others as we grow together.

CONTENTS

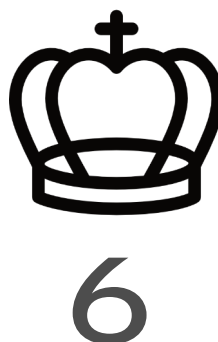
GBWA Snapshot	4-5
State Commissioner	6-7
The State Board	8-9
Finance	10
Your Feedback	11
Awards Celebration	12-13
Queen's Award	14
Duke of Edinburgh's International Award	14
Around the Office	15
Events	16-18
Friends of Brigade	19
Our Companies	20-27

*Girls' lives
transformed*

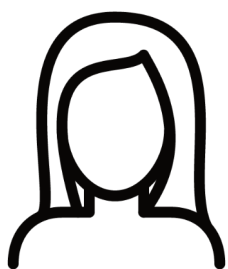
GB WA SNAPSHOT



7
New
Captains



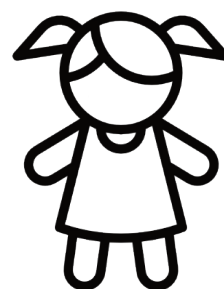
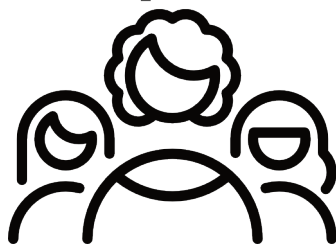
6
Queen's Awards
presented



34
Friends
of
Brigade

126

Leaders &
Chaplains



434
Girls in
companies



147km hiked




DE
27
 Girls in
 Duke of
 Edinburgh
 Program


69
 girls
 attend
 Senior
 Camp


9 PLT
 sessions
76
 Pioneers
 trained

WHAT A YEAR!

STATE COMMISSIONER

NIKOLA LEWIS 2015–2020

MARILYN LOUWEN 2021 →



Nikola Lewis was elected to the role of State Commissioner in 2014 and officially started her term in 2015. She has completed 2 terms and now serves on the Board in the Social Media Portfolio.

After 6 years of undertaking the role of State Commissioner of GBWA, I was happy to be in my final semester. Over my time in the role we have implemented the current board structure, renovated the office, been to International conference and Fono, grown through a pandemic, seen countless girls lives transformed and shared many memories with all members across the State.

It has been a huge blessing to be able to lead WA into the next season of ministry amongst the families we have been trusted to work with. God has been with us through all the trials and has shown us the way forward as we look to Him for guidance.

I want to thank my family for their patience and support in this time consuming role. Without their love and encouragement I could not have completed my term. They spurred me on and kept me going.

I would like to congratulate Marilyn Louwen on being successfully elected as our next State Commissioner to commence on 1st January 2021. I wish her all the best in her term and pray for God's guidance and grace to be with her and her family.

Thank you to the members for allowing me the opportunity to serve as State Commissioner. It has been a pleasure to get to know you all and support you as you work with the girls.



13
Companies
visited in
semester 1



Marilyn Louwen was elected State Commissioner in 2020 to officially start in 2021.

Marilyn has a wealth of knowledge as she has been a Captain for 17 Years and is currently a high school principal.

January 2021 saw me take on the role of GBWA State Commissioner. It is a privilege that I agreed to be nominated for as I followed God's leading after prayer and consultation with my family.

During the first half of 2021, I have visited all Companies except Kalgoorlie, although we have been in touch over Teams. I have been blessed to see dedicated Leaders following God's call to share His love, knowledge of His Word and model to girls how to live for Him. It has been wonderful to see all our girls having fun, learning and sharing with friends through weekly Company activities, Community events, PLT courses, and Senior Camp. I have been encouraged by our Chaplains meeting together, sharing lunch with 'Friends of Brigade' and completing a

First Aid course with fellow Leaders as well as getting to know our State Board who are an amazing group of talented ladies.

God's Faithfulness has been evident in my life this year as He has sustained me to be His daughter in my family, through GB and in my Principal role.

My goal for the year ahead is to spend time developing the role of our Regional Coordinators and continuing to grow our WA Leaders, finding ways to encourage them as they are vital members of GB.

THE STATE BOARD



Marilyn Louwen: State Commissioner

Marilyn started her term in January 2021 and is also Captain at Gosnells company.



Nikola Lewis : Social Media

Nikola is filling a casual vacancy until our 2021 AGM and will develop our Social Media policy during this year. Nikola is our previous State Commissioner.



Glynis Turpin: Chaplain and Missions

Glynis commenced her second term in January 2021 and brings a passion to connect with churches to share our mission.

My role as State Commissioner asks me to provide Godly Leadership and strategic direction to GBWA as I lead, support and empower the Board to implement the GB mission and vision. Together we set the strategic plan for WA in line with GBA vision and strategic plan. I represent WA on the GB National Advisory Council, GB at State events and work with Boys' Brigade to see that families have opportunities for their boys and girls. I want to get to know our Leaders more so that I can help out where they need me. I also work alongside our Operations Manager and Training Coordinator as they complete their roles in the GB WA Office.

I have seen God's faithfulness as He has guided us through the change of SC and the kindness of the Board as I learn my new role in GB.

This year I have been filling a casual vacancy position on the Board. My role has included understanding social media and the impacts it can have on promotion of our organisation in order to develop our social media policy.

I have been able to attend some webinars and gain insight into the positive way social media can be used. We also need to be mindful of the bad parts of it too.

I have been working on a video to recruit leaders and build up our partnerships within the Churches.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to work in this area on the Board.

This past year has been unprecedented for all of us. I would like to thank all our GB leaders for their perseverance and commitment. It has given me more time to pray for all our companies and also to pray for an increase in our numbers.

A few highlights for me were the Board retreat and also being able to attend the Senior Camp. I love seeing how much the girls enjoy it.

I hope to visit companies in Semester 2 to encourage the leaders and the girls.

I am very thankful for the privilege of being State Chaplain of GB WA.

The GB WA Board Members work tirelessly to follow God's leading for the ministry of Girls' Brigade. These ladies are dedicated to working through issues, innovating new ideas, supporting the members and keeping everyone safe. They meet regularly to discuss current business, policies, finances, safety, promotions, potential new companies and so much more. Please continue to pray for them as they lead WA into the future.



Chris Morgan: Finance

Chris commenced her second term January 2021 and brings an understanding of finance that she is always willing to share.



Sarah Mihic: Risk Management Officer (RMO)

Sarah commenced January 2019 and has a passion to develop a culture of safety in GB.



Coral Anderson: Governance

Coral commenced January 2019 and comes with a wide knowledge of Girls' Brigade and governance having served as GBWA State Commissioner and GBA National Commissioner.

This year has been another challenging one with COVID-19 still at the forefront of our lives. While COVID was hard to manage, it also gave us time to complete our new GBWA Finance Procedures and Policy Handbook. This has been approved by our board and is now in use for Staff and GBWA members to refer to and use.

Even though this year brought many more challenges, we have learnt to be more flexible and think "outside the box" to keep our organisation running and most importantly give our Girls and Leaders the support and tools to be able to find, and follow in Christ.

My role as the Risk Management Officer for GBWA has been both challenging and rewarding in the 2020/2021 Financial Year. The beginning of the year saw the easing of COVID restrictions and the return of leaders and participants to Companies. My main focus, along with the Board, during this time was to ensure that we maintained a safe and compliant environment. I have learned a lot about crisis management throughout this time!

Throughout the last year I have shown faithfulness from our Board, leaders and families in their commitment to Girls' Brigade. We are so thankful for every member that made the decision to re-commence GB after the pandemic and for trusting us to keep you safe!

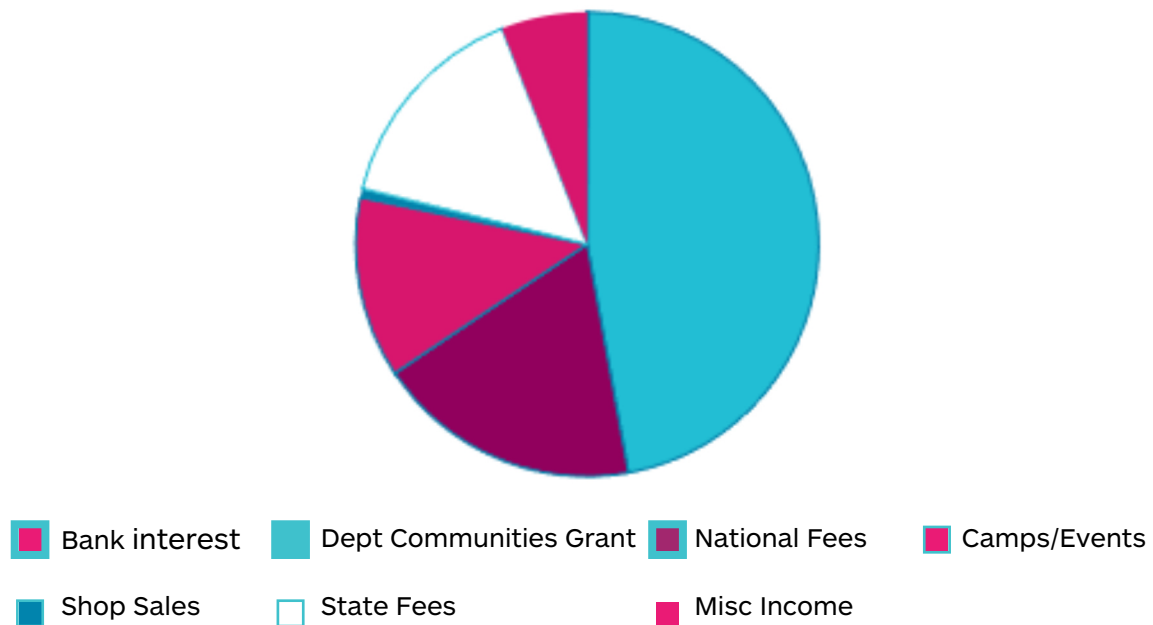
Jesus said "I am the Vine". Recently I watched some workers prune their grapevines. As all this season's growth was removed, the trellis supporting the vine was exposed. Although some maintenance work was needed, this was done and the trellis was quickly restored, ready to support next year's growth and harvest. GB is all about growing the Vine, telling girls the good news of Jesus and seeing them grow into disciples of Him.

My role on the Board is to make sure our trellis is supporting not replacing, our Vine work. The policies and procedures are what makes up the framework that supports us and helps us be compliant all as we seek to grow the Vine.

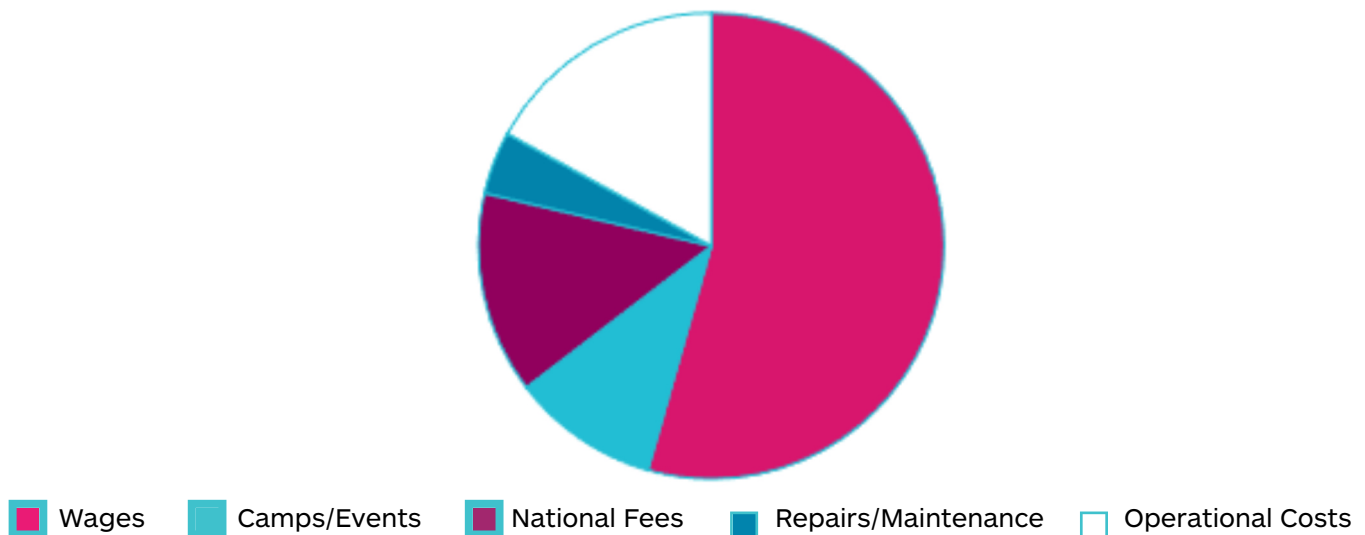
I am often reminded that the role of governance is not just about organisational compliance but also about releasing the leaders in GB to grow the Vine, to help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

FINANCE

The Girls' Brigade WA Income 2020-2021



The Girls' Brigade WA Expenses 2020-2021



Due to GBWA having strong cash reserves, and the Federal Government's COVID-19 payments, the GBWA Board were able to make the decision to waive the invoicing of all our State Company Fees for the entire 20/21 Financial Year. This was a sum of over \$37000.00.

We also managed to keep progressing on our office renovations and insurance claim for our 'car in the office' claim. At the end of the financial year, most of the renovations and repairs are now completed. The home of GBWA now has a user friendly, workable, vibrant, and modern premises to operate from. It has become a venue for hosting various meetings and training events for all GBWA Board and Personnel.

FEEDBACK = GROWTH



"I love Girls' Brigade because you make lifelong friends, good Christian friends."

Pioneer aged 16

"Girls' Brigade is my happy place!"

Junior aged 10

"Girls' Brigade is my lifeline, it gets me through the week. Knowing that I have somewhere safe to hang out with my friends gets me through the school day."

Pioneer aged 16

"Girls' Brigade has helped me become a better person. It has given me confidence and helped me communicate with others."

Young Leader aged 17

"I love Girls' Brigade!"

Cadet aged 6

Supported by



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

We are so thankful to be supported financially by the Department of Communities. Thank you for partnering with us in impacting girl's lives.



"We were given the opportunity to attend our companies leaders meeting. It was a very humbling experience to see how much time and effort our leaders put in to being there for us each week with great activities. "

Pioneer aged 15

"I love working with the girls and seeing how God works in their lives even through the most simple activities."

Leader aged 37

AWARDS CELEBRATION

31ST OCTOBER 2020

BULL CREEK WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We were so thankful to be able to hold our awards service this year. While parts may have looked a bit different we still had a joyous celebration and a socially distanced cupcake afterwards.

A huge thank you to our special guests and congratulations to our recipients.



Our wonderful MC's

Cassie Lardner
and Lydia Lai



An amazing group
of young ladies
being recognised
for their hard work!



Hon. Nick
Goiran ,
MLC



Guest
speaker
Mim
Hosking



Sean
Moring



Colour Party

Darcy Pearson
Amberley Sow
Aliza Merlo
Isabella Tjandra
Kiona Lee



Queen's Award Recipients

Lydia Lai
Melissa Howell
Angela McEachan
Jemma Roberts
Kimberly Lardner
Amy Lewis

12
Pioneer
Pins

6
Queen's
Awards

11
Duke of
Edinburgh's
Awards

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Recipients

Bronze Award

Renee Appleton

Jemimah Fok

Micaela Hill

Hayley Mell

Sarah Naylor

Darcy Pearson

Jewel Roberts

Shayley Webb

Silver Award

Suzanne Jamieson

Amy Lewis

Gold Award

Natasha Bunn



Pioneer Pin Recipients

Cheyanne Arnott	Tegan King
Kristina Chang	Rebecca Lange
Jemimah Fok	Hayley Mell
Samantha Gebhard	Iris Mouchemore
Traci Grimes	Jewel Roberts
Micaela Hill	Layla Zhubayeva

QUEEN'S AWARD



"This is a polaroid of some friends I made volunteering at the Willetton Salvos. I was fortunate enough to spend many months working the till, sorting and pricing donations and enjoying the company of regular customers and volunteers. This experience has allowed me to develop my communication and leadership skills and has enabled me to show God's love to the local community."

Kristi Chang

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

I have worked hard promoting these Awards to companies and girls across WA and finding ways to encourage them into taking up this rewarding challenge. As at 30 June 2021 there are 15 GBWA girls enrolled in the Duke of Ed program.

In November 2020 I was thrilled to be part of presenting many girls with their Awards during the GBWA State Awards Presentation. GBWA was honoured to have Sean Moring, from Awards WA, attend to both present the awards and speak about the program.



In addition to monitoring the online logbooks that each girl must complete, I have organised and led several hikes for the Adventurous Journey component. Highlights included roasting marshmallows on a campfire, mushroom hunting, beautiful views, and new friendships. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the girls persevere and accomplish their goals and I look forward to the program growing even more!

Tash Bunn
Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Coordinator

AROUND THE OFFICE



Michelle Ward: Operations Manager

Michelle started this role in January 2021. She has been in GB since she was a girl and brings a wide variety of skills to this role and in running State events.



Tash Bunn: State Training Coordinator

Tash started in this role in 2019. She has been involved in GB since she was a girl and is passionate about training the girls and leaders in the state.

Tabitha Lewis finished up in her role as administrator at the beginning of 2021. She spent time doing handover with me. This was an invaluable time as I learnt the office management role. We farewelled her with a lovely lunch and wish her well in her future endeavours.

I feel so blessed to be able to work in the ministry of Girls' Brigade here in WA. I love to be able to connect with each company and assist them with whatever they need. Hearing the stories and feedback from leaders, girls and families is uplifting and encouraging.

A highlight from my year has been the awards ceremony. It was amazing to celebrate so many achievements with the girls and their families.

This year has been great for Training- we have had multiple new Captains and Leaders starting. It has been a pleasure getting to know the new ladies as they attended the relevant introductory training courses in the GBWA Office. I especially enjoyed visiting Narrogin (one of our rural companies) and training the leaders there.

PLT took off with a bang with 6 courses running in the Office before Christmas, and another 3 by June 2021. Over 75 pioneers attended and we received great feedback. We will continue to run these courses in the GBWA Office as one day programs, rather than as a camp, as this suits the girls' busy lives better.

The role of Training Co-ordinator for WA continues to be incredibly rewarding as the relationships and friendships built with our leaders continues to inspire and encourage me. Girls' Brigade is very clearly empowering the lives of girls and leaders, and I thank God for this wonderful opportunity.

EVENTS

AGM, PLT & SENIOR CAMP



AGM

17TH OCTOBER 2020

SALTER POINT SEA SCOUT HALL

The theme for 2020 was *Show Kindness*. There could not have been a more appropriate theme as we navigated Covid and all it meant for us as a society and organisation.

Nikola Lewis updated the members on the year and all that had been happening. 2020 was also a voting year. The leaders attended in uniform and voted in a new State Commissioner; Marilyn Louwen.

With new beginnings always comes farewells. Nikola Lewis was recognised for her 6yrs of service as the WA State Commissioner. Chris Morgan, Glynis Turpin, Tabitha Lewis, Sheela Nathan and Lydia Kuilenburg were also recognised for their time on the Board.

Afternoon tea was a lovely time for fellowship, enjoyed on the lawn overlooking the river.





By far our biggest group of enthusiastic new Pioneers attending their first braid.

Deep finishes with a celebration meal and a time of reflection. What a blessed time it was hearing the girls reflect on their PLT memories and what they have learnt.



"I'm so excited to get back to company and run my event. It is going to be so fun!"



During the community service activity the girls were able to collect 4 bags worth of rubbish. They enjoyed that this braid was more low key and worked well together as a team to collect rubbish.

PLT

FOUNDATIONS: 3 SESSIONS
LEAD: 1 SESSION
TEAM: 1 SESSION
EVENTS: 2 SESSIONS
COMMUNITY: 1 SESSION
DEEP: 1 SESSION

Pioneer Leadership Training is aimed at giving the yr 9+ girls a chance to learn and develop a broad range of leadership skills.

All the courses now take place over one day and are held at our State office in Redcliffe. The newly renovated premises work well for main group sessions and also allow for smaller break out groups.

A huge thank you to all the leaders who have shared their wisdom with the 76 Pioneers who attended over these 9 courses. The girls greatly appreciate all your time and effort as you guide them to grow into their leadership potential.

Thank you to Lydia Kuilenburg, Nikola Lewis, Tash Bunn, Katie-Ann Peart, Michelle Bunn, Carolyn Ebell, Glynis Turpin, Sheela Nathan, Anne-Marie Taylor, Lydia Lai and Michelle Ward.



SENIOR CAMP

21ST–23RD MAY 2021

MANJEDAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

Senior camp is an adventurous camp that the Yr6-8 girls can attend to help them grow their friendships and experience new challenges

The camp was well attended by most companies across the state. Only Kalgoorlie and Kenwick were not in attendance. The girls were enthusiastic and excited about the new location and activities on offer. The standouts were the crate climb and the tunnels.

Despite the afternoon rain the girls were warm, safe and eager for adventure. They listened respectfully during devotions on Faithfulness and joined in the worship.

It was so lovely to have some new leaders on camp! The team worked well together to make it an enjoyable weekend.

Many thanks to Khaleela Meotti, Briony Barabas, Natalie Leita, Irene Daniels, Stacey Hewson, Ilse Boekholt, Heather Lange, Jacqueline Nel, Nicole Thatcher, Marilyn Louwen, Glynis Turpin, Effi Spallarossa, Doreen Teng, Tash Bunn and Michelle Ward.

Overall it was a fantastic camp enjoyed by all.

"I loved meeting other Godly women".
camp leader



"The tunnels were so cool!"

Yr 6 Senior

"My favourite activity was the crate climb. It was so scary, but fun."

Yr 8 Senior



"Camp was awesome!"

Yr 7 Senior

FRIENDS OF BRIGADE

Friends of Brigade is an association instituted in 1994 by the WA State Council of The Girls' Brigade to enable past members and friends to continue their interest in the work of Brigade, enjoy times of fellowship and contribute to the on-going GB activities with prayerful, practical and financial support.

During the last six months of 2020 we were not able to meet due to the changing requirements for Covid safety. However, an effort was made to either telephone or visit some of the older members. This was our way of serving out the theme of being Kind and Faithful. We were able to meet in March and were able to create some craft for one of the companies.

We currently have 36 members. Several of our older members have had to go into care and have been unable to meet with us. Newsletters are emailed or posted every few months in order to keep in touch and a revised membership list was distributed in June 2021. A letter was sent to each Company Captain with an application form to be handed to any Leaders recently retired encouraging them to join the Friends.

Our Annual Meeting was held in June at the State Office and the ladies were delighted with the renovations. Although only a small number of ladies were able to be present, we were joined by Mrs Marilyn Louwen, State Commissioner, Mrs Michelle Ward, State Operations Manager and Miss Natasha Bunn, Training Co-ordinator and the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Leader. These ladies brought us up to date with the happenings of GB in our State and we were encouraged by the number of girls taking part in the D of E adventures. We made promises to pray for each girl participating in the Adventure. We were thrilled to hear that leadership training included seven new Captains. Following our meeting we shared in fellowship over lunch. Our books were audited by Mrs Helen Fraser and our Treasurer Miss Joyce

Barnsley presented a financial statement. We were pleased to be able to donate \$500 towards the renovations of the outside area of the office. Mrs Robyn Higgins continued to send birthday cards and this task has now been taken over by Miss Lucy Twining. We look forward to being able to meet regularly in the future and continue to assist in any way we are able.

Lucy shares her thoughts about belonging to Friends of Brigade:

Faithfulness

While not too many of us like to be reminded of the rapid pace in which our birthdays roll round (and few of us still 'count the days' until the next birthday arrives), all of us have been lovingly remembered by a hand-written birthday card being delivered in the post. On behalf of all recipients, a huge 'Thank You' to Robyn for her faithful role of preparing these cards, and penning beautiful words of care.

To see the joy on Glynis' face when she shares about visiting companies, and the delight in seeing young lives being influenced by the Gospel of Jesus, is of special significance for us all. We love hearing of how churches are supporting the leaders and girls, providing much-appreciated opportunities to include people from the church fellowships to encourage the growth of Girls Brigade. The captain of the Narrogin Company recently told of how, at the commissioning service of new leaders, every girl attended the church service. Praise God for His Hand upon the companies, and the faithfulness of those who serve.



Fellowship
and
friendship



Wealth of
GB
experience



Faithful
prayer
warriors

NORTHERN REGION

Northern Region Coordinators

Khaleela Meotti & Nicole Thatcher

Captains

Noranda: Sue Boker

Greenwood: Sarah Mihic & Katie Hourston

Woodvale: Irene Daniels

North Beach: Rita Peachy & Linda Millar

I have really enjoyed the experience of 'co-regional coordinator' so far. It's been wonderful to visit other companies and see what they are doing on their company nights. We have so many creative leaders at Girls' Brigade, and I love getting ideas for new activities and games.

Khaleela Meotti

As the co-regional coordinator, I've been encouraged by the enthusiasm and passion of our leaders to see girls' lives transformed for Christ, both at the company level, as they faithfully serve week-to-week, and at the regional level, as they give up their time to discuss and plan ways to further serve and support the girls of Brigade

Nicole Thatcher

NORTH BEACH



Our programs started off with a big splash! A fun water activity night hosted by Maryanne and Terry Greenhill which included, water guns, water buckets and tug of war, was exciting, very wet, but full of fun! Our Junior girls enjoyed a programme on Scorpions brought to them by Michael Lun, (Boys Brigadier). Pioneers have hosted a fun P.J. party games night for our senior girls, and they have also planned a movie night to show ("Little Women"). Money raised will go to the Baptist World Aid's for vulnerable children. Eighteen of our Senior girls enjoyed the Sate senior camp, making new friends. A games night by the Boys Brigade was organized for our combined GB - BB Mothers night.

Each week our leaders are dedicated in bringing God's word along with fun and exciting programs to their girls. It was my pleasure to run the "Our Brigade" program. We enjoyed singing hymns, who wrote them and when they were written including Bible verses as our devotions. During the singing of one of the hymns I asked the girls if they would like to accept Jesus into their hearts, thirty girls came forward, two girls are attending baptismal classes, all praise and glory to our loving God.

This year we are delighted to have one Queens Award recipient, four Pioneer Pin recipients, and two D of E bronze awards. God has blessed me in many ways and through many years of GB, it is with a heavy heart that I report of my retiring at the end of this year. I'm delighted to report Linda Millar will be commissioned as the new Captain for 2020 at our combined GB-BB church parade to be held on 31st October. To God be the glory!

"To God Be The Glory"

Great things He hath taught us,
great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing
thro' Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher,
and greater will be
Our wonder, our vic'ry,
when Jesus we see.

GREENWOOD

This year I took on the role of being co- Captain at our company as I wanted to expand the role I had within the company. So far I am enjoying this role a lot. I enjoy seeing the girls come to company each week to see their friends and learn about God. It is wonderful knowing that we play such a part in their lives.

This year when looking at the theme of faithfulness we have had some of our girls learn about God for the first time and it has been a pleasure to see them grow and ask questions to learn more.

WOODVALE

This is my tenth year in which I have had the joy of being Captain of our company. I have been involved in some capacity since we began over 30 years ago. What has kept me hanging in there? Well, there's an array of reasons. I believe it's God's will for me as my way to serve Him in ministry as part of my church.

This is the GBA core value of Partnering to reach local communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.



I believe in the value of girls being together (without the boys) for positive Godly mentoring as they formulate their identity as Christian women. We have 22 girls in our Seniors and Pioneers group, which is such a crucial age for girls in so many dimensions. I know I am blessed in our company to have outstanding leaders who fulfill this role. I see the GB Australia core value of Living reflected in them and what we do: We Live our lives with God at the centre. Our relationships are centred on Him and we rely on His Word for teaching and direction. It gives me a feeling of satisfaction and fulfillment to witness this happening.

I work with our leaders to build community in our company. Together we learn and grow and share experiences and have Fun. Just this week there was such a buzz of excitement and fun as we had our Pop Up Op Shop. It was wonderful to enjoy the support of our church and parents

too. The ultimate purpose was raising funds for our Compassion child's sponsorship, but so many other valuable benefits were gained too. It's after a night like that, although exhausted physically, I feel very blessed to be involved in GB ministry and the Woodvale company captain.



NORANDA

2021 started early, as Captain I received a message late one night on our Facebook page asking if we needed any leaders. I responded immediately saying yes. Natalie introduced herself as a previous girls brigade member and leader, who after a long stint on maternity leave (20plus years) had been looking for a new challenge and felt called to return to Girls' Brigade. We have been truly blessed with Natalie joining our company. She has experience with youth ministry, a history of teaching and will get involved in all the silliness, games, dancing, and devotions. It has been a perfect fit for our company with leaders and girls growing with her knowledge and enthusiasm.

Without a chaplain, our minister has helped out with devotions along with leaders taking a turn. We have welcomed many new girls to our company and 5 have decided to stay. We are supported by our church and the girl's parents and value the opportunity we have to meet every Monday and share God's love with each other. The girls have enjoyed topics such as celebrations, staying healthy, home decorating, DIY and Operation Reachout. We studied Africa which was quite special for one of our girls who's family had arrived from Ethiopia. Each evening there is a shared meal prepared by a volunteer family. This is a time where we all sit together relaxing, chatting about our week, challenges and support each other.

EASTERN REGION

Eastern Region Coordinator

Cassie Lardner

Captains

Kalamunda: Carolyn Taylor

Kalgoorlie: Marie Hollis

Roleystone: Yvonne Waddell, Ilse Boekholt, Carolyn Horton

Mundaring: Bronwyn Blackwell

I had the pleasure of being the regional Coordinator for the Eastern Region again. It's been a privilege to assist the companies and to learn and grow into the role of regional coordinator. I'm very grateful for Yvonne Waddell for the encouragement she's given me in this role.

End of 2020 came quickly with all the companies going back after being in lockdown. They had a bit to catch up on with the many activities they were doing. They also reconnected with the girls in company each week. At our annual regional meeting I feel that we all showed kindness by sharing how we did things during term 2 lockdown. Learning and growing together as a region about how to continue girls Brigade in different circumstances.

We had challenges early in the year 2021 with the lockdowns and not being able to do GB like usual. I'm grateful and impressed for the Captains and Leaders in the Region who adjusted to changes quite rapidly. The Leaders faithfully stuck by not only Girls Brigade during these times but continued to be advocates of strong Christian Women to our Girls in Brigade.

Cassie Lardner

KALAMUNDA

Why am I a Captain? The simple answer is I can't walk away. One of the things GB does best is be there for the girls who don't fit well, who struggle for a whole range of reasons, who need a place to fit in and be successful.

Last term we had a girl join us who has a complex medical issue. She is different. She is behind at school due to this. I can't even begin to tell you the look on her and her mother's face when they found out her daughter's group leader has also had lots of complex problems and did not do well at school. This child has somewhere to fit now and it will change their lives. That particular Group leader (will not identify which group for privacy) also came to Brigade as a teenager and loves it. She moved over east and could not attend for a few years as there was no company near here. Now she is back in Perth and a committed leader and so excited to be back in GB where she is incredible.

I think about one of my older GB girls who is battling depression, we have come up with plans for her, she is doing better and I have been mentoring her, GB is providing access to support and strong leaders for her to be able to change her life.

I think about the 20 year old who lived with me since she was 15. She knows me mostly through her coming to GB when she was younger. We lost contact but regained it via a chaplain after her suicide attempt in desperation due to her circumstances. She has found life and hope and GOD via me and GB.

I think about the girl we have with autism. She has learnt to be part of a group at Brigade so she can fit in and have a chance to make friends and be ready for adult life in the future. I am a Captain, not because I have time or need the extra work, but because it is a life enhancing place where people find identity, grow strong and develop leadership skills. It is a place where God is present and visible in myself and my leaders. It is a place where the LOVE of CHRIST is present.

KALGOORLIE

God has been very good to us in Girls Brigade and we give HIM all the praise and glory for all He has done in and through us. Our Pioneers, Seniors and Juniors have been having a lot of fun in their weekly activities. The girls are all glad to be back together in Third Term learning more about how Jesus wants us to shine for Him. Our Awards Night will look a little different again this year, and we will once again have parents and friends sitting at their own table, as there is only 12 girls in Company.

My thanks go to our current leader, Dawn Hadfield, for all the hard work she and Jenny Conway prepare programs each week. I would also like to thank Hannah Kuilenburg for her help with the Seniors and Juniors, when she is not working at the hospital. We have an ever increasing number of girls who are from non church backgrounds and this gives us a great opportunity to reach these girls and their families for God. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to serve Him in this way. Dawn and I are wanting to step down at the end of this year. We are praying that God will bring in others to take the lead. We know that God is faithful and that it is His work, so we are leaving it in His more than capable hands.

ROLEYSTONE

As we look back over 2020-2021 we are grateful for the fact that our Girls' Brigade Company has been able to continue to meet despite various lock downs. We are quite aware that this has not been the case in other places around Australia and the world. So with our new Covid 19 protocols we have had an interesting journey, with much to be joyful about!

We are very grateful for the support and practical help throughout the year. With a theme of Kindness there have been many opportunities to be blessed and to bless others as we continually see chances to demonstrate kindness to each other and in our community. Our home church, Roleystone Community Church, continues to be most supportive and we thank God for a joyful and blessed year!

MUNDARING

Many moons ago my little 5 year old came home from school very excited wanting to join this group called GB where apparently you got to wear pink! I have to admit I had no real idea what it was all about but thought why not? So the following Monday we decided to give it a try. We entered the building into a sea of girls dressed in pink, playing & laughing. After my daughter was settled a few weeks in, I asked how I could be part of this ministry and stayed on to take over from the Cadet leader. My daughter would joke about me being Captain but I had no intention of filling that role.



After the Captain of 22 years retired, we as a company prayed but even though every bible reading I read would point me in the direction of being obedient & trusting I was not going to become the captain. In fact it was not until the very last minute, just weeks before we were to start our company up for the new year that I finally listened to God & said yes.

Saying yes has been wonderful. God has surrounded me with an amazing team of God fearing women would make this company what it is. I had the blessing of being mentored by the previous Captain & the most amazing thing is the relationships that God has allowed to develop with myself and the families that make up this Company.

I think the most amazing realisation that I had was that I was never going to be doing this on my own. Not on my own merit. Not with my own abilities. God has been there at every step & he has provided for this Company again & again. Provided skills, provided wisdom, provided hope, provided support. And the blessing of being the Captain of the ministry has not been lost on me.

SOUTHERN REGION

Southern Region Coordinator

Lydia Lai

Captains

Gosnells : Marilyn Louwen

Kenwick: Serina Abraham

Canning Vale: Lydia Kuilenburg

I am currently a leader in the Canning Vale company and after being “closed” for most of last year due to COVID, we “lost” a number of girls when we reopened. We had a few come back but essentially, it was almost like restarting from the beginning. A huge encouragement is our Captain and leaders faithfully serving in their roles and being there for the girls who come. Looking beyond the numbers and still giving their time and effort so the girls can continue to come and learn about Jesus and have fun.

Lydia Lai

GOSNELLS

Fulfilling the role of Captain at Gosnells GB is a true blessing. I love leading alongside other ladies called to share God's love with our girls encouraging them to build a relationship with Him. I enjoy being able to interact with each family, getting to know each girl and the praying for them in their growth.

I really enjoy the variety of activities my leaders run in their Units and on our whole Company nights, involving everyone in fun and fellowship - Mothers' Soup and Dessert evening, COVID packs for GB at home, Movie and Sundae night and GB Knowledge evenings.

Gosnells Company has seen God's kindness and faithfulness through His provision of a new Chaplain after He called Judith Beck, who had been our Chaplain for many years with a long history in GB, home to be with Him earlier this year. While small in number, we are seeing growth in confidence for our girls, new members, friendships developing and appreciation for our Church facilities.

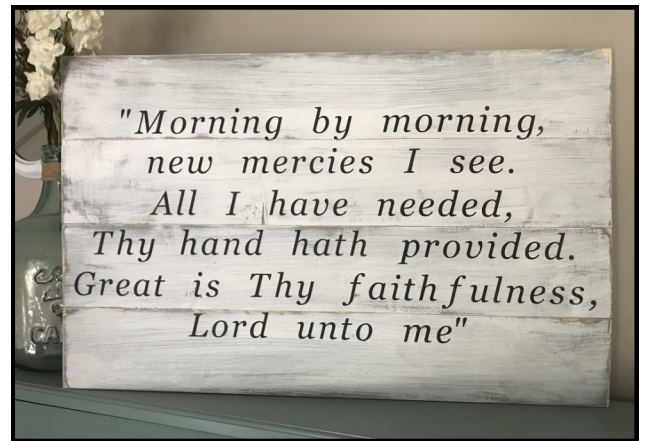


KENWICK

"Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me"

The words of this famous hymn certainly rings true for Girls Brigade Kenwick and for me personally as a Captain. I was given the privilege of being the Captain for Kenwick in February 2020. Little did I know at the time that my first year as the Captain would also be the first of many other things (Covid, lockdown, etc.). My tumultuous first year, trying to find my feet in GB coupled with adapting to a dynamic environment, was marked by constant change. Throughout this time, we had changes in leaders and girls. But through the changes, God's faithfulness towards me and Kenwick remained a constant crutch that kept Kenwick pushing forward successfully.

My desire for GB Kenwick in 2021 was to be 'established'. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines 'establish' as to make stable/permanent; and/or grow and multiply. This year we had the joy of celebrating Kenwick's 10th anniversary, a celebration of faithfulness, a celebration of establishment. God also brought the girls in and we were able to double in size from the start of 2021. We also have a group of wonderful leaders from different churches whose passion and enthusiasm is evident in their teaching and interaction with our girls. I also want to acknowledge all my GB sisters (State Chaplain, fellow captains, and the Senior Leadership team) who have supported me and GB Kenwick in this journey. I am excited for what this year will bring as I know with my Faithful God and the supportive GB family, Kenwick will move from strength to strength to greater heights.



CANNING VALE

This year I stepped into the role of Captain and have been blessed with ladies willing to lead these girls. We had a drop in numbers but the girls we have, come joyfully and faithfully every week and engage in the various activities, even with masks.

They have enjoyed the usual games, cooking and crafts as well as considering Missions, Relationship matters in company and at a state level; attending camps and leadership braids. The girls planned the end of term nights with celebration of Mothers in term 2.

Once more, God has shown Himself to be faithful as we serve in this ministry.



WESTERN REGION

Western Region Coordinator

Lydia Lai

Captains

Bull Creek: Lesley Dunn

Riverton: Corina Brown

Narrogin: Heather Lange

I really love what GB stands for and its strong Christian principles. It goes beyond just having fun and teaching life skills, but the organisation and I think its leaders also have a heart to see girls and young women have a relationship with God. Being the regional coordinator also helped me stay connected to GB at a time when I wasn't able to be a leader in my company due to uni activities. But I was still able to meet up with the leaders at our catch-ups and/or AGMs.

Lydia Lai

BULL CREEK

At the end of last year I was asked to consider becoming Captain at Bull Creek Girls Brigade. There was a group of committed Leaders and some new Leaders joining but a Captain and Chaplain was required for the company to continue operating. I attended Bull Creek as a girl when the company first started in 1985 and had previously been a Leader. I had many special memories, learning and continuing friendships from my time at Girls Brigade and strongly felt that I was called at this time to take on the Captain role. It is an important ministry and provides many benefits to both the girls and Leaders

It has been a challenging time learning about Girls Brigade and the many changes in the years since I was previously involved and what was required of me in this position. I have enjoyed getting to know the Bull Creek Leaders and the girls; which is still continuing. It has been encouraging seeing the girls who have been attending for many years and the friendships they enjoy, as well as new girls who have started attending throughout the year and how they heard about Girls Brigade (a number whose mother's attended when they were girls). Pray for continuing awareness and support from the church for this ministry, the dedicated Leaders and for the girls attending and growing.

RIVERTON



In late July the majority of our girls returned with much eagerness to meet face-to-face with their GB leaders. The leaders came up with covid-19 restriction compliant activities for our GB Birthday Party, and helped the girls make Shrinkys for the mums and dads. A high schooler suffering with depression was referred to us by a counsellor/GB parent. At first she was very shy but before long she was smiling and at ease. This girl completed the Pioneer first year requirements along with her Foundations braid-work and met with a mentor. This all helped her see she had good friends at her church and GB, plus saw the value of having a mentor.

The Seniors and Pioneers performed a skit at our end of year awards night, telling the stories of the miracles of Jesus, and we ended 2020 by saying goodbye to both our long-serving Captain, Mrs Brenda Martin, and Cadet Leader, Mrs Karen Hodson. The new year brought with it a new Captain, a leader who has been with us for over ten years stepping up at the last minute to keep Riverton Girls' Brigade running. It's a steep learning curve, but the support has been so helpful while adjusting to the new role.

After a difficult year last year in which many events had been unable to go ahead, we adapted by staggering Bring Your Mum to GB nights amongst our groups, which has been a highlight for the year. Cadets did chocolate science projects with their mums, and Juniors got to spend one-on-one time playing games and dressing up in a photo booth with their mums. The Seniors played some classic GB games and made flower wreaths with their mums, and the Pioneers invited their mums to bring along special items and memories from their weddings to share with the group. Each group shared bible devotions and memory verses with their mums.

This year we have been delighted to watch our new Pioneer leave the Seniors group behind after some reluctance and join the other Pioneers in a variety of activities, as well as completing two PLT braids. She and the other Pioneers helped to plan a GB Birthday party for the Seniors



NARROGIN

We started the year with 17 girls, four leaders and one assistant leader. Girls attend quite regularly, and all enjoy our nights together.

Mother / Daughter was celebrated with a little pampering, craft activities and lasagne. We were fortunate to have a past leader come and take photos for us that went in the frames the girls made on the night. Our Pioneer and Senior made the dessert of cakes and slice.

Unfortunately, after the Mother / Daughter Night, we 'lost' our second Pioneer and our one Senior is leaving for boarding school at the end of Term 3. However, like all other Companies we take the view that God sends us the girls and we use the time given to us to 'plant the seed'.

Our Church Parade was well supported by the Church and every girl attended! Marilyn Louwen and family coming down was well received and a bonus for us. We enrolled our new girls and, along with leaders, a couple that missed out last year due to Covid cancelling our service. I have been able to present GB 'updates' at regular church services and aim to keep the church informed about ways they can help us and things to pray for.

So small in number but 'mighty' in His name.

Girls' lives
transformed