



**GIRLS'  
BRIGADE**

*Western Australia*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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# STATE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

In 2017 the international theme for Girls' Brigade was 'Empowered'. It was a great opportunity to look at the different ways we can be empowered by Christ, and also how we can, through Christ, empower others.

**EMPOWERED**  
*with Purpose*

The challenge accepted, we tried to empower our valued leaders by changing some of our information distribution to be more electronic, providing captains with USBs full of useful information. We continued to roll out Childsafe training on-line, as well as nationally Office 365 was launched. With so many changes we will continue to support and encourage each other.

At both of our Senior Camp and Pioneer Leadership training camps we had the theme of Transforming Love. With the Love of Christ in our lives we can be empowered by Him to achieve great things for him. This theme was carried through with the glass to jewels workshop where girls transformed glass into some stunning jewellery.

One of our goals was to get wider exposure in community. This was achieved in many ways including girls participating in ANZAC day ceremonies, participation in Bike week, attending the Governors Prayer Breakfast with our Queens Award girls, being part of the 98five (Sonshine FM) diary with the glass to jewels workshop, as well as being able to support leaders attending the Global Leadership Summit.

Girls' Brigade WA would not exist without the dedicated work of our leaders. Thank you to each of you, and may God continue to empower you to do great things with him.

Nikola Lewis  
Girls' Brigade WA State Commissioner

# GBWA AT A GLANCE

## VISION

To see **girl's lives transformed** and **God's world enriched**.

## MISSION

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

## OUR COMPANIES

We have 17 companies in total - 15 in the Perth metropolitan region, and two regional companies. They are organised into four regions.

### NORTHERN REGION

Bassendean  
Greenwood  
Noranda  
North Beach  
Woodvale

### EASTERN REGION

Kalamunda  
Kalgoorlie  
Mundaring  
Roleystone

### WESTERN REGION

Bicton  
Bull Creek  
Narrogin  
North Lake  
Riverton

### SOUTHERN REGION

Canning Vale  
Gosnells  
Kenwick



## CORE VALUES



### LIVING

We live our lives with God at the centre. Our relationships are centred on Him and rely on His word and direction.



### COMMUNITY

We promote a sense of community and belonging within companies.



### PARTNERING

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



### UNIQUENESS

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



### SAFETY

We require safety for all girls and leaders.



### FUN

We have fun in everything we do!

Girls' Brigade Western Australia is a member of Girls' Brigade Australia, however it is independently incorporated and legally its own body. In turn, Girls' Brigade Australia is a member of, but a separate entity to, Girls' Brigade Worldwide. Girls' Brigade Western Australia has adopted the core values of Girls' Brigade Australia, and the mission and vision of Girls' Brigade Worldwide.

# IN 2017

## **NUMBER OF GIRLS IN GIRLS' BRIGADE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Cadets 113   Juniors 217  
Seniors 108   Pioneers 49

## **BADGES AWARDED**

961

## **NUMBER OF LEADERS**

117, including 18 chaplains

## **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP**

619

## **GIRLS WHO WENT TO PLT**

37

## **GIRLS WHO RECEIVED THEIR PIONEER PIN**

13

## **NUMBER OF BIBLE VERSES LEARNT (APPROXIMATION)**

924

As part of our funding through the Department of Communities we are required to seek feedback from participants and volunteers. Here's some of the things they had to say.

## GIRLS

### WHY DO YOU COME?

At first I didn't know much about [Girls' Brigade], but now I find it is such a fun experience. I have more faith in God now that I have joined

Becoming a better person. Making friends

The service has given me another community in which to be myself and has opened opportunities for me to serve my community

For the crafts and fun, also the service makes me feel safe

### PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDANTS THAT AGREED

Girls' Brigade has made a good difference in my life	88
At Girls' Brigade I met people I can talk to	95
At Girls' Brigade I learnt new things (e.g. how to be a leader)	93
Girls' Brigade helped me when I needed it	86
I am happy with this service	98

## LEADERS

### WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER WITH GIRLS' BRIGADE?

It has allowed me to get alongside some of its members who have problems and I am just a part in helping them through life's trials.

To spread the word of God and to show girls they matter

Because I was in Girls' Brigade as a young girl and appreciated it so I want to give back and help others enjoy Girls' Brigade too

I have become part of a wonderful community of girls and women, who I can turn to for support and encouragement.

Participant responses (n=42); Volunteer responses (n=35)

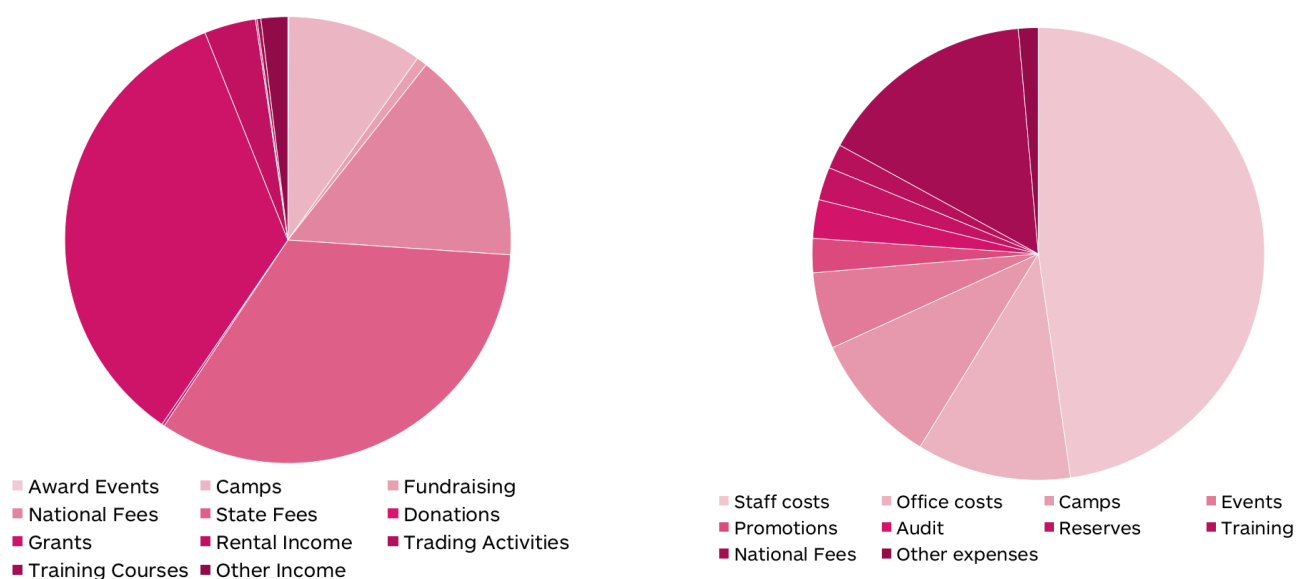
# FINANCE

2017/18 saw the implementation of a range of financial initiatives as State Council sought to answer the question of how best to empower our leaders with more than words.

These initiatives included the launch of the Girls' Brigade Western Australia Company Grant Fund, to support companies to run a promotional event or to support leaders or girls to grow spiritually, and part sponsoring attendance of leaders to the Global Leadership Summit. We were also fortunate to receive a bequest and a generous donation, the latter of which was used to support girls to attend Fonomarae held in Western Australia.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide further details in this report as there have been a number of unexpected delays in getting our audit completed. We would like to extend a thank you to the Department of Communities, without whose generous support we would not be able to operate as we do.

## 2017/18 OPERATIONAL BUDGET



Note the above figures are from the 2017/18 operational budget and may vary from actual income and expenditure.



# GOVERNANCE



Girls' Brigade Western Australia is managed by the State Council, which is comprised of the State Commissioner, Deputy State Commissioner, State Chaplain, State Treasurer, Regional Coordinators, and any appointed members, including the Youth Representative.

## 2017 STATE COUNCIL

State Commissioner	Nikola Lewis
Deputy State Commissioner	Irene Daniels
State Chaplain	Tamara Pilgrim
State Treasurer	Chris Morgan
Northern Region Coordinator	Coral Anderson
Southern Region Coordinator	Lydia Kuilenburg
Eastern Region Coordinator	Yvonne Waddell, Christine Farr
Western Region Coordinator	Kate Blockley
Youth Representative	Katie-Ann Peart
Minutes Secretary	Tabitha Lewis

During the 2017 AGM Nikola Lewis was reelected State Commissioner for a second three-year term. Lydia Kuilenburg was elected Deputy State Commissioner unchallenged. Glynis Turpin has stepped into the role of State Chaplain for a three year term. We are grateful to our outgoing State Council members - Irene Daniels, Tamara Pilgrim, Yvonne Waddell, Christine Farr and Kate Blockley - for their time, prayers and support while on State Council.



State Council met approximately every two months in 2017 for a total of five ordinary meetings in addition to the AGM.



# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

# 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations from everyone at Girls' Brigade to those who achieved the following awards in 2017.

## QUEEN'S AWARD



Cassandra Lardner from Greenwood and Mundaring companies being awarded the Queen's Award by the Honorable Kerry Sanderson AC.

The Queen's Award is the highest international award offered by Girls' Brigade. This is presented to girls who have gained their Pioneer Pin, completed 6 months Community service, completed two initiative tasks completed a major project in an area of interest, completed a spiritual challenge, and attended a Regional, State or National Girls' Brigade event. Service to Church and Company, two interviews, regular meetings with a mentor and an oral presentation are the other components of this two to four year program.



# PIONEER PIN

The Pioneer Pin is the highest national award offered in Girls' Brigade. This award recognises the perseverance of recipients to complete three years of the Pioneer program, two Pioneer Leadership Training courses, a formal interview, and six months of service to Company. Congratulations to all our 2017 recipients!



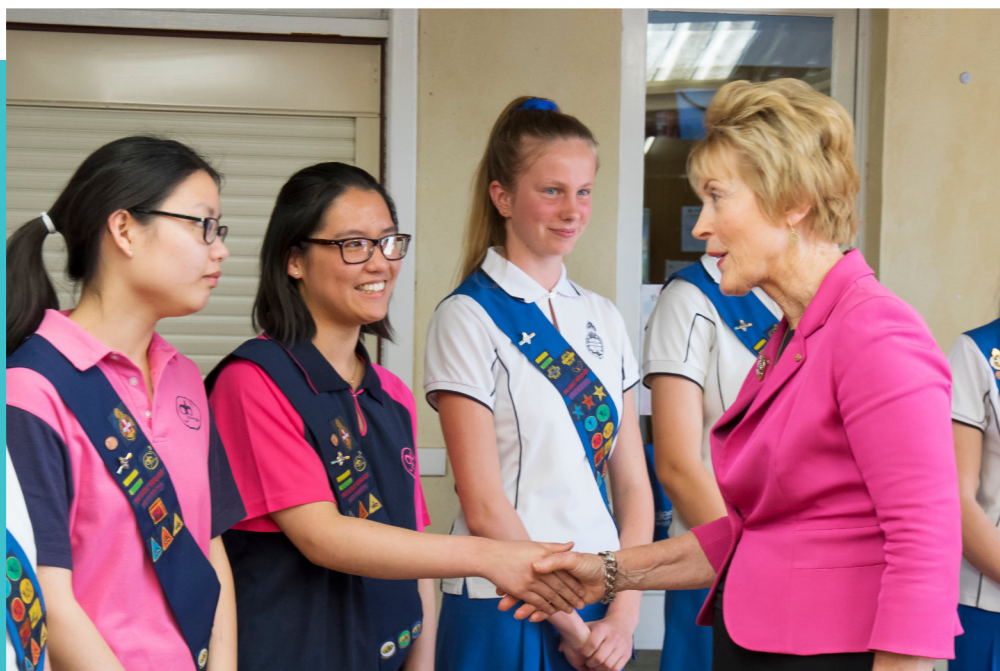
Left to right: Chloe Calvert (Riverton), Isabel Corvaia (Kalamunda), Tayla Crabtree (Gosnells), Chelsea Hanham (Riverton), Natasha Hill (Riverton)



Sabrina Homewood (North Lake)



Left to right: Lynette Lai  
(Canning Vale), Lydia Lai  
(Canning Vale), Kimberly  
Lardner (Greenwood)



Kaitlyn Leathard  
(Greenwood)



Left to right: Nikola Lewis  
(State Commissioner),  
Luritha Martens (Kenwick),  
Bianca Britz (Kenwick)





# OTHER AWARDS

Girls' Brigade Western Australia is a registered service provider for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. We also recognise the many hours of volunteer service our members contribute both in and out of company.

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD (BRONZE)

Ivy Chamberlain - Riverton



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD (BRONZE)

Suzanne Jamieson - Riverton



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD (SILVER)

Cassandra Lardner - Greenwood



## 100 HOURS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Suzanne Jamieson - Riverton



We were privileged to have Michelle Macormic, Executive Director of Living Alternatives Ltd and former Queen's Award recipient, speak at our 2017 State Awards Presentation Ceremony. Below is an excerpt of her speech.



I always felt like I got a bit of a late start at Girls Brigade - we had just moved to Perth and mum enrolled me at Whitfords as a first year senior. I remember feeling very anxious that I had to wear normal clothes for the first few weeks when everyone else was in uniform, that I stuck out and that it was obvious I was the new girl. I was thrilled when I was finally allowed to wear a uniform. I remember trying to figure out what the awards meant, and still feeling like the new girl because lots of the girls had rows of badges and I didn't have any yet. I really wanted to fit in, and I started making friends.

And I really felt like I had a community, because some of the other girls became my friends, and they are still my friends today. I remember lots of leadership braid camps, and some of us went to Fonomarae together in Adelaide. While we all did our Pioneer Pins together, I was the first to complete my Queens Award because I turned 16 a year sooner.

It was Year 12, and I remember drawing up a schedule so I could fit the Queens Award requirements in around my studies. My community service task was very memorable - on Saturday mornings, I would walk a few blocks away from my home to help a mother who had a 8 year old son with Downs Syndrome and a 5 year old daughter with autism. Their mum would go shopping or take a nap while I played with the kids. The experience really deepened my empathy for struggling mothers and I really enjoyed preparing activities for the kids and knowing that I was making a small difference in all their lives. It was more than just knowing that I was achieving a goal - I experienced the joy of showing kindness and compassion to someone in need. Little did I know that a seed was being planted for my adult life.

I can look back now and see so many valuable lessons learned through GB. GB taught me to count the cost of my goals, and to make a plan. I have a tendency to want to say yes to everything, but I am learning to have good boundaries so that I can choose the best opportunities out of the good ones. I've learned to under promise and over-deliver so that I leave space for grace and so that my yes means yes and my no means no.

My most important message for you today young ladies is that in everything you do, seek, serve and follow Christ. He wants to empower you to live a life that is pleasing to Him, a life that loves God first, and that loves your neighbour as yourself.



# QUEEN'S AWARD REPORT CORAL ANDERSON

# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD LEADER'S REPORT CHRISTINE FARR

In a positive change from 2016, 2017 saw 3 young ladies begin their Queen's Award journeys - Angela McEachan, Amy Lewis and Lydia Lai. We wish them well and pray they learn much about God and themselves as they complete the Award.

Sarah Mihic and Naomi Weickhardt continue to work on their awards, with Naomi due to finish during the beginning of 2018.

Congratulations to Cassandra Lardner for completion of her Queen's Award this year. It has been a pleasure to see her grow and step into new roles and challenges.

Queen's Award is the highest International award offered by the Girls' Brigade. Those who complete the award will have served at church, company and in the community, completed initiative tasks, and finished a major project among other requirements, all with the support of a spiritual mentor.

The Bronze Level Hikes were moved from April to the October school holidays.

Four girls from Mundaring Company attended the Compulsory Bronze Training Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The girls were Abigail Crombie, Annaliese Penrice, Jannah Shelton and Jemma Roberts.

They then participated in the 2 Bronze Level overnight Hikes on the Railway Reserve Heritage Trail over the 2 weekends of the school holidays, along with Leaders Sunu Rozario and Taylor Priest.

Bronze Hike 1 (Practice) – Saturday 30th September to Sunday 1st October

Bronze Hike 2 (Qualifying) – Friday 6th October to Saturday 7th October

The girls had great weather for the Bronze Hikes and enjoyed the experience.

Unfortunately, the Silver Level Hikes have had to be postponed until April 2018 as one of the girls was overseas during the proposed October Hike dates.

Girls' Brigade owns an extensive range of camping and hiking equipment. This has been hired out to Canning Vale Boys' Brigade Company, and Roleystone and Mundaring Companies.

I attended The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award WA 2017 Gold Award Ceremony, attended by Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia, on Tuesday 17 October 2017. The Award Ceremony was held at Government House Ballroom and commenced dramatically with a small pipe and drum band from Scotch College marching in and performing. Certificates and badges were awarded to those who had achieved the Gold Level, Certificates to Award Leaders, and 6 Special Recognition Medals. I was presented with a Long Service Medal by Mr Peter Kaye AM, CEO, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (Australia). I have been an Award Leader since 2005 and was very honoured to receive this Award. It was a very enjoyable and inspiring night.

I have now resigned as Captain of the Mundaring GB Company after 23 years. I will be continuing as The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Leader for GBWA, including the care and administration of the Camping equipment.





# 2017 EVENTS

Have a look at some of the exciting events we held in 2017!

## PLT

This year PLT was held during the last week of April in response to feedback that the timing was competing with sport and study commitments, and that girls did not have enough time to complete their braids. Initial feedback suggests this was a good choice - leaders reported that girls were less stressed about school work, and returning girls mentioned they enjoyed the warmer weather.

Camp started with a team building activity where groups had to make towers out of dry spaghetti, sticky tape and string. This was followed by devotions led by Alison Margetts based on the children's book Lass. Lass is the story of a border collie who learns to love, trust and obey her new master. The Saturday activities were a drumming workshop run by Human Rhythms and a notebook craft. Two Queen's Award interviews were also held during this time.



## SENIOR CAMP

Senior Camp is unquestionably our most popular event. This camp has consistently filled to capacity (60) and then some. This is wonderful, particularly when we know that the transition from Juniors to Seniors is where we experience an elevated rate of losing girls.

Special thanks to Marilyn Louwen and Michelle Ward for once again organising with Southern Hills Christian College to host us and run the main Saturday rotations. Thanks also to Nikola Lewis for handling so much of this camp, including devotions, tents and food, and to all the other leaders who generously gave their time to help with the activities.

This year we ran four rotations instead of the usual three. These were the flying fox, the high ropes, archery, and a more relaxed games rotation, which some groups turned into exploring the bush around the school. It was great to see the girls conquer their fears, get to know each other, and hear about God's love for them.





## BIKE WEEK

GBWA held a bike ride on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 in celebration of Bike Week, a Department of Transport initiative to promote bike riding. The funds for this event were \$600 from the Department of Transport, and our aims were to hold a family-friendly bike ride for our girls and to outreach into the community.

The activities on offer on the day included bike ride (2km, 4km and 8km); free bike check from a bike specialist; treasure hunt; and free sausage sizzle and drinks. We had approximately 60 people in attendance, not including volunteers. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturdays to help out.



## NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

GBWA received a \$1,000 grant from the Department of Youth and Communities to run an event during Youth Week this year. Feedback from last year's PL indicated girls were wanting time to be social with girls from other companies, so we applied to hold a high tea on April 1<sup>st</sup>. 29 girls and leaders attended the event, including 8 girls from Narrogin.

The event kicked off with praise and worship led by Caitlyn Johnson, head of worship at Lifeway Church in Wellard. She shared some of her journey to becoming a worship leader and then afternoon tea was served. As the theme of National Youth Week 2017 was "Eco-Futures", Shirley Brindley, did a short talk and quiz about litter and the work Keep Australia Beautiful does to prevent littering. This was followed by two speakers from Esther House, Hayley and Caitlyn, who shared about how God had transformed their lives through the Esther House program. The event finished with an upcycling art activity – turning wire coat hangers and aluminium cans into flowers.



## GLASS TO JEWELS

On the recommendation of Shirley Brindley, GBWA applied to the City of Belmont for money to run a workshop focused on making jewellery with beach glass from Christmas Island. It was held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the State Office and 17 girls attended, 7 of whom were non-GB.

The girls were extremely engaged within minutes and chatted lots to the others on their tables. This was followed by a video and discussion on plastic by Shirley, after which the girls were given plastic-free lunch (including a keep cup, reusable sandwich wrap and food serving bucket). After lunch the girls were lead through making glass bottle keepsakes and allowed to creatively use the materials to make their own necklaces and trinkets. It was amazing to see what some of the girls came up with!





# REPORTS

# SOUTHERN REGION REPORT

## LYDIA KUILENBURG

### CANNING VALE

We are grateful that God has answered our prayer for more cadets and leaders and for the steady numbers over the last few years, with 25 girls regularly attending Girls' Brigade throughout 2017.

Sunu Rozario and Lydia Lai (one of our ex-pioneers) led the Cadets, Joanna Yong and Taylor Priest led the Juniors and Lydia Kuilenburg and Chelsey Volmink led the Seniors and Pioneers. Chelsey switched over to the Kenwick Girls' Brigade Company during the second half of the year as they were in need of more leaders. We are also very grateful to Shona Teune who came on board as our Company Chaplain for 2017, to Ai-Leen Yong (our Company Treasurer) and Evelyn Yong (assistance in the kitchen) what a big help to us this year!

Activities this year included 'MasterChef Bring-a-friend Night', excursions to Laser Tag and Bounce and Christian Apologetics. I wanted to help the girls answer questions such as: 'How do we know the Bible is true?' and 'Why do we believe that God is real?' The Seniors and Pioneers completed 'God Quest' by Sean McDowell and the Juniors completed 'Cold Case Christianity for Kids' by J. Warner Wallace.

There will be a few changes next year as I will be stepping down as Captain to focus on my first year of teaching. Sunu Rozario has kindly volunteered to take over as Captain in January 2018. Lynette Lai will be taking Sunu's place as cadet leader and Annette Kong will be joining us as Senior leader so that Chelsey can continue to serve at Kenwick. We are yet to determine who will be Chaplain in 2018. The uniform will also be changing from pink/navy shirts to white polo shirts. I have really enjoyed serving as Captain over the last four years and am grateful to have been involved in an organisation that shares the gospel with young women and helps them develop their relationship with Jesus. Thank God for this wonderful ministry and pray for a smooth transition into 2018.

### GOSNELLS

We praise God for the 3 Young leaders (Danielle, Karlee and Brittney) who took on the role of Junior Leaders under the Leadership of Brittany Taylor. We feel empowered by the support and encouragement we received from families who are thankful for our caring for their daughters and teaching new things. The girls continue to bring friends along to GB because they are enjoying it so much, and this greatly encourages us. We thank God for the opportunities, the families, girls and leaders that He has brought together each term. We look to always keep God in the centre of our regular evenings and other activities. As leaders

we continue to be a living example to each girl and her family in the way we act, speak, interact with each other and by the activities we plan for our girls. During our devotions led by our Chaplain, we looked at the theme of water in the Bible and designed our activities for the year around it. This year we have looked at various topics including emergency, environment, love, working together, taking responsible risks, sewing, cooking and resilience, co-operation, humility, thankfulness and how to cope with life.

Our year has seen us give our Mums foot and hand massages then spoil them with a High Tea, play crazy golf on greens constructed with our Dads, visit Bounce, fundraise for Fono and catch up with our Prayer Partners. We have promoted a sense of community and belonging within our company and church. A small group of parents are in the habit of staying for a cuppa and fellowship which often includes some crocheting or sewing. The end of the year Presentation evening took the form of an internal Family Quiz evening.

### KENWICK

The year started with many challenges - a steady decline in the number of girls attending each week, the absence of a captain and Chelsey Volmink helped at both Canning Vale and Kenwick. We are grateful to Amanda Jacobs and Madi Heaysman who helped with the Cadets and to Tanya Orchard (and her helpers) for leading the Juniors. Tanya also graciously took over much of the administrative and leadership aspects when I was unable to help.

Emily Taylor created beautiful flyers (including a promo by one of the pioneers), and these were distributed at Rehoboth (targeting the younger girls). Then in Term 4, the numbers grew weekly and the year finished with 26 girls. Our "pioneering pioneers" (the first from Kenwick company), Bianca Britz and Luritha Martens were awarded their Pioneer Pins at the State Awards Presentation.

In Term 4, the girls enjoyed all of the fun facts, food, games and craft from Asian countries. Lydia spoke about life in Malaysia and taught a bible verse in Tamil. Kashaca taught a Bollywood dance. This was shown as a video presentation at the joint Canning Vale and Kenwick Awards Presentation along with an Auslan song (taught by the Pioneers).

In 2018 Shona Teune has graciously agreed to take over the Captaincy of Kenwick. Sheela Nathan is stepping down as Chaplain to take on other roles within GB and elsewhere. We are looking for a chaplain and for some of the young ladies to return as leaders in 2018. I pray that these will be the only leadership changes, but we are as always open to God's leading in this area and all others.

### SOUTHERN REGION

Southern region members enjoyed their time of fellowship over supper/breakfast, State and Southern Region AGM. The leaders and girls of the Southern region had an enjoyable time at the Western Region's Fono Fund-raiser event at Lollipop's Playland. We had a Mary Kay 'Creamathon' as our Fono Fund-raiser. It was wonderful to celebrate the achievements of the girls at the State Awards.



# EASTERN REGION REPORT

## CHRISTINE FARR

Regional meetings were held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, on the 10<sup>th</sup> June following a luncheon at Kalamunda Dôme, and our AGM on the 24<sup>th</sup> November following a fellowship meal. Meetings were all held at Kalamunda Uniting Church.

Leaders and girls within our Region have been involved in all Regional and State level activities including: Leaders' Day; State Senior Camp; Bike Week State Family Cycling Event; Youth Week Beautiful You High Tea (Seniors and Pioneers); PLT Camp; The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Hike Training, and two overnight Hikes (Bronze Level); Fundraising Movie sessions; Glass to Jewels recycling workshop; State Conference; and State Awards Presentation afternoon. All Companies sold boxes of chocolates for the Fonomarae Fundraiser as well as giving a Company donation.

Six girls will be attending National Fonomarae in Perth in January 2018.

**KALAMUNDA COMPANY** had a really good year with their 30 girls, however it was a difficult year for their busy Leaders. Highlights included activities in the park, followed by a very successful Company sleepover on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. Their Church Celebration Service followed the next day after the sleepover. The Pioneers enjoyed a music and art workshop. The Kalamunda Awards night was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**KALGOORLIE COMPANY** numbers continued around 50. Highlights included: a combined BB/GB Church Parade; attending the Dawn March; handing out chocolates for Mother's Day and Father's Day at Church; doing Operation Reachout (Europe) at a cattle/sheep station in October; and their Awards Night on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**MUNDARING COMPANY** continued with around 50 girls. 26 girls and 6 Leaders marched in the Mundaring ANZAC Day Parade and participated in the Memorial Service. In September, their Company Camp was held on a farm, sleeping in tents. It was a very successful Adventure Camp and a great team effort, with assistance given by Andrew Bailey (BB Mundaring Captain). The Company was successful in receiving 2 more \$500 Grants from the Shire of Mundaring. The money was used to purchase floor cushions, hiking ponchos, HDMI cables, sport cones, cooking equipment and painting smocks. The Company really appreciate the support of the Mundaring Shire through their Grants. Mundaring GB Display and Awards Night was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November. On this night I announced that both Corinna Farr, Leader of the Seniors group & Second-in-Charge, and myself, would be finishing our time in Girls' Brigade after 23 years as Girls' Brigade Captain, and 26 years in GB for Corinna (10 years as a girl then 16 years in Leadership).

**ROLEYSTONE COMPANY** had relatively low numbers but lots of enthusiasm. Highlights of the year were: a pool party; Pancake Night; the March Company camp in Busselton for Operation Reachout (focusing on Africa); doing craft at the Church Fair; serving morning and afternoon teas at the Kelmscott Show; and their Presentation Night in November.

Throughout the year all Companies have had interesting programs for their girls and special activities including Bring a Friend nights; Easter, Pentecost and Christmas activities; and Mother's and Fathers' Day activities. They have all participated in Community Events. Most importantly the girls have learnt about Jesus with many coming to know Him and learning how to follow Him.

It has been a very challenging year for all our Companies in many different ways. Each Company has had a great leadership team. We were all very grateful to God for His faithfulness, strength and guidance and His enabling for each Company to continue to share Jesus with the girls and their families. All praise and glory to His name!

God is our refuge  
and strength, a  
very present  
help in trouble.  
Psalm 46:1 (NKJV)





# NORTHERN REGION REPORT

## CORAL ANDERSON

2017, the year of Be Empowered, the year we were delighted to see the young women in our Region stepping up into Regional roles. Briony has been a great support in her role as Assistant Regional Coordinator, and together with Greta, Company Coordinator, they have been available to support and encourage companies when they needed an extra pair of hands. Briony has also attended State Council meetings when I have been away. Katie-Ann continues to be on the State Council in her role as WA Events Coordinator, and provides a report after each meeting to ensure that information is passed onto all leaders in a timely manner. Sarah Mihic, Michaela Brouwer and Khaleela Meotti, join Briony, Greta and Katie-Ann on the Fono 2018 committee and all have taken on big roles in ensuring the national Fono is carefully planned and that all attending will have an amazing week. It has been wonderful to watch these young women grow through their involvement on this committee.

Our meetings continue to be fun times, sharing life together and encouraging each other to trust the Holy Spirit to give us the power He promised in Acts 1:8.

We started the year with a Morning Tea at my home. We shared together about the word Empower and what it meant. Jo challenged us at the start of the year to make sure we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as we share the Gospel not only with our girls but also with those we do life with day by day. Our second meeting has become a bit of a tradition of sharing over Soup and Dessert. A warm atmosphere and delicious food was shared as we listened to Lucy Twinning, a former GB Leader from our Region. Lucy has spent a number of years teaching in China with Global Interaction, an organisation committed to empowering communities to develop their own unique strategies to follow God. Lucy shared of her time in China and reminded us that God will empower that which honours Him. Once again our third get together for the year was held during our Walkathon/Cyclethon fundraiser to raise monies for the Girls' Brigade International fund, Give a Girl a Hope and Fono. We also ran a Bunnings BBQ and helped with a number of Movie Nights to assist with fundraising for Fono. A huge thank you to everyone involved in planning and running these events.

This year we have seen God at work in our Region - We praise Him for the transforming work we see in ourselves, our girls and the leaders we serve with.



We thank Him for His power that gives us all we need to serve Him. We look forward to another year of the unexpected from a God who is more than we can imagine. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless each Leader in our Region as they serve Him faithfully and as, together, we work to extend the work of GB in the Northern Suburbs.

# WESTERN REGION REPORT

## BRENDA MARTIN

Throughout the year our leaders, girls and parents have joined in on the various Fonomarae fundraising activities and state run events. The Bike Family Fun Day everyone participated in decorating their bikes, riding the different length riding routes and competing in the Scavenger Hunt competition. A good number of Leaders and girls from Western and Southern regions participated in our Regional Fonomarae fundraiser at Lollipops. A good number of our Seniors and Pioneers girls attended the state High Tea event and they had a lot of fun!

Kate Blockley promoted GB WA at three Fetes run by the Cockburn Council and Yangebup Progress Association, she ran an Information booth, plus free games and activities.

### **BICTON COMPANY**

Girls have been very engaged during the devotional time, asking a variety of questions which has been great because not all of the girls attend Church. Bicton has run special theme nights each term for the GB girls and their families to enjoy. Their Mother and Father Night had the girls making sandwiches, funny face biscuits and playing word and fun games. The year's GB program has covered Puppets, Cool Clothing, GB knowledge, and Samaritan's Purse-'Love in a Shoebox'

### **BULLCREEK COMPANY**

Has 50+ girls spread over the 4 unit groups attended over the year and all seems to be going well within the various units.

### **NARROGIN COMPANY**

Continues to be a multi-cultural place with diverse spiritual backgrounds. The Senior girls worked on the 'Self-esteem' achievement and used an old tyre to make an ottoman. The Pioneer girls did 'Art' and worked on preparing a play for their end of year Presentation night. Narrogin GB is very grateful for the continued supported of their local church in many ways, one being the church member's assistance with and support of their GB fundraising stall at the local Spring Festival.

### **NORTH LAKE COMPANY**

Partnered with their church when they assembled 18 Operation Christmas child shoe boxes during the year and generous church folk assisted with the freight costs. Some leaders and girls promoted GB in local community events and primary schools during the year. The company continued to run lots of fun activities each week, one being making large kites.

### **RIVERTON COMPANY**

Two of their Pioneers were positively influenced after participating in Mission Trips during the year.

The Senior and Pioneer girls invited friends to experience 'The Passover Family Event Seder Meal', gave out Easter tracts and invited them to attend local church Easter services. The campfire devotion at their Company camp was led by a Pioneer sharing a personal testimony using a song that had challenged her life.

Numbers of girls has been consistent throughout the year and the girls have had lots of fun activities to enjoy.





# STATE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

**TABITHA LEWIS**

## STAFFING

Katie-Ann Peart joined the office team as our State Events Coordinator. Her role involves planning events, organising promotional material and completing the paper work for these events, including risk assessments. This has kept Katie-Ann extremely busy and she has done a magnificent job organising our events.

Shirley Brindley continues as our Promotions and Development Officer working 1 day a week. Her role consists of searching and applying for Grants so that we can provide new opportunities for our girls; promotion of Girls Brigade so that our brand is more recognisable in the community; updating The Girls' Brigade WA Facebook page and our website, [www.girlsbrigadewa.org.au](http://www.girlsbrigadewa.org.au); and communicating with and updating our Church Partners. We really appreciate Shirley's quiet confidence in what she does and her ability to get the job done.

Tabitha Lewis continues to fill in for the role of State Administrator. Her primary role is to provide support to the Executive, liaise with government and provides general book-keeping, administration and maintenance. Tabitha does a fantastic job and should especially be recognised for her work securing and reporting for our major funding provided through the Department of Communities.

## STATE SUMMARY - STATISTICS AS AT SEPTEMBER 2017

Armadale continues to be in recess, prayerfully waiting for more leaders so that they can resume their program. There was a minimal total decrease in the number of girls. This was offset by an increase in leaders which will put us in a great position to grow in the future.

REGION	NO. OF COMPANIES	PIONEERS/ YNG LDERS	SENIORS	JUNIORS	CADETS	TOTAL GIRLS	LEADERS	ASSISTANT LEADERS	CHAPLAINS	TOTAL
WESTERN	4	16	27	47	22	112	16	4	4	136
SOUTHERN	3	11	14	34	11	70	12	1	3	86
NORTHERN	5	14	36	63	49	162	22	8	5	197
EASTERN	5	17	31	73	31	152	19	8	6	185
TOTAL SEP 2017	17	58	108	217	113	496	69	21	18	604
SEP 2016	17	58	109	212	126	505	62	20	16	603
SEP 2015	19	63	119	205	147	534	66	30	18	648



# COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER REPORT **SHIRLEY BRINDLEY**

Companies were supported by individual promotional leaflets, school mail outs and event promotions. The Little Aussie Directory continued to support GBWA companies with free marketing twice in this year for north and south companies.

The website was updated with events and news stories and was linked to from Facebook mentions. The GB facebook page had 478 likes and several companies now have their own Facebook pages.

Helping to strengthen church partnerships took place by regular news and stories in 6 bulletins throughout the year.

Successful grant applications enabled events – Beautiful You (Youth Week), Family Bike Fun and Glass to Jewels workshop to take place. The events were widely promoted through local community newspaper mentions as well as Facebook and website presence. Photographs and videos taken at the State Awards event were used for publicity in Facebook, leaflets and the website.

# STATE EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT **KATIE-ANN PEART**

2017 was a big and extremely fun year to be involved in events. In addition to the usual Leader's Day, AGM, State Awards Ceremony, Senior Camp and PLT Camp, we fundraised for Fono, ran three grant-funded events, and helped out at the Perth Special Children's Christmas Party. It was also the first year we sent girls and leaders from WA to attend Leadership in Queensland, with a view to eventually bring the camp here.

While these events have been a lot of fun, overall attendance has been a little disappointing (with the notable exception of Senior Camp). One contributing factor is almost certainly not enough notice and poor explanation of the events, especially for leader's events. This is an area I continue to grow in, and am grateful for the feedback that has allowed me to identify this issue. Whatever the reasons, it is something I am aiming to see improve across all events in 2018.

It has been a pleasure to operate in this role over the past year. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has helped me find my feet, and to everyone who generously gave from their valuable time to volunteer at one or more events. It is not an understatement to say that without volunteers these events don't happen!

