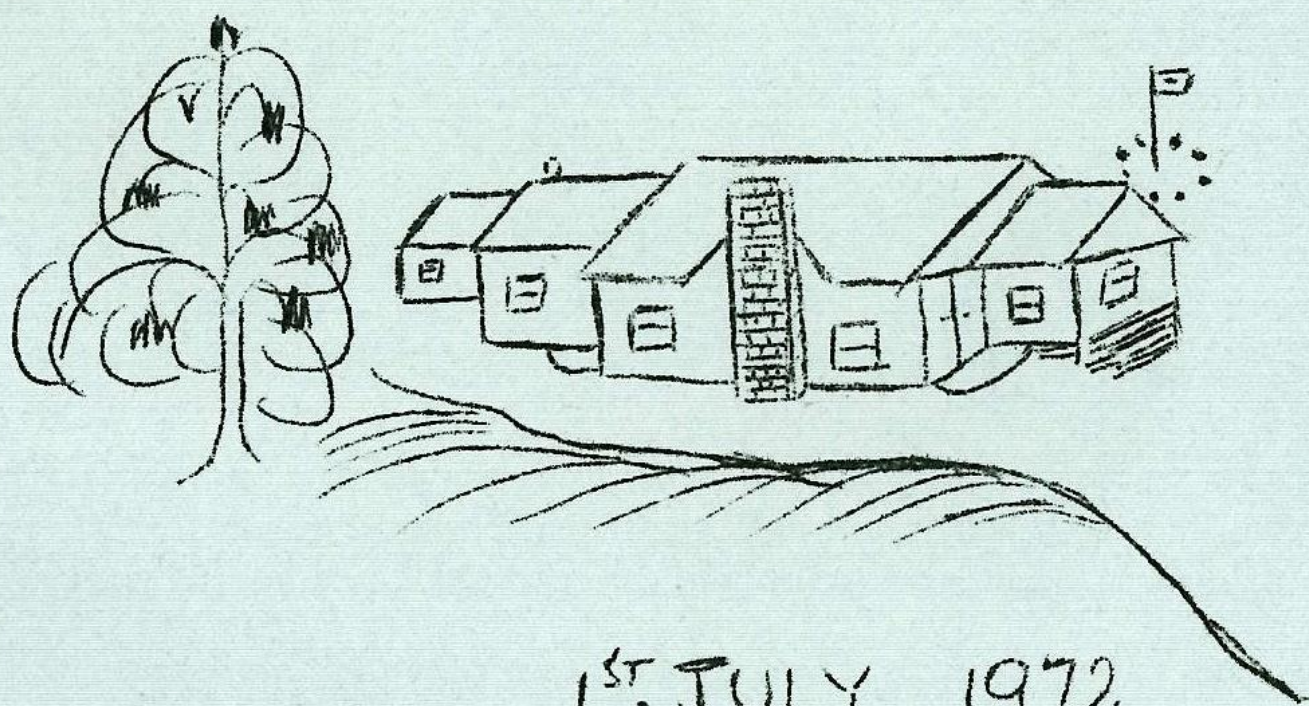


GUIDE HOUSE

BALLAN



1ST. JULY 1972

A SOUVENIER

TO MARK THE OFFICIAL OPENING

OF

“GUIDE HOUSE” BALLAN

BY

THE STATE COMMISSIONER OF GIRL GUIDES

MRS. R. RENSHAW JONES

SATURDAY 1st JULY 1972

Road to Success –

“Take a dream –

Let it simmer.

Add a delicious golden opportunity,

and a slurp of imagination.

Stir vigorously –

With enthusiasm and leadership.”

THE TALE OF AN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BALLAN GUIDING FAMILY.

In the beginning – it was a dream!

Mrs. R. A. Stirling, Guide Captain, some ten years ago realised what Guiding in Ballan could achieve if the girls had a home of their very own.

Unlike most dreams, the opportunity of realisation did come – but not until 1970. At a meeting in May of that year, of the Local Association of Guides and Brownie Guides – which is the supporting Committee of Local Guiding – the attention of Mrs. Stirling was drawn to the possibility of purchasing an old Railways house, unoccupied for some 18 months, for a Guide Hall. Mrs Stirling, now the District Commissioner, seized the opportunity. Correspondence with the Railways Commissioners resulted in the house being offered to the L.A. for \$50; for removal from the site in Atkinson Street. Letters were written to the parents of the Guides by the District Commissioner, arranging a meeting on July 6th, to discuss the proposal.

A plan for conversion was drawn up by Mr. J. Tingate, who offered to effect the necessary alterations for \$180. Cost of transport was estimated to be \$430.

These proposals, and the need for such a hall, were presented with such enthusiasm by Mrs. Stirling, that the meeting agreed to proceed with the proposal.

Funds of the L.A. being at a low ebb at that time, Mrs. M. Mackay and Mrs. R. Young agreed to buy the house and most parents present made cash donations towards the cost of the enterprise. Discussion of the site took place, and Mr. and Mrs. T. Jones offered a 1 acre block in Inglis Street, if required. After investigation of an alternative site, it was later decided to gratefully accept this generous offer. Avenues of finance were then looked into, and finally, a loan of \$700 was obtained from the Girl Guide Association Building Pool Fund.

Much time was spent by the L.A. executive in arranging the legal details. The weather then took a hand and delayed the removal of the house to its new site. Finally on the 23rd February, 1971, the move was successfully completed.

Really hard work by parents and Mr. Tingate at the old site, and preparations at the new, enabled the transfer to be made without a hitch. At this stage, Mr. Tingate was forced to delay the actual start on conversion while undergoing, and recovering from, an operation. It was not until October of 1971 that he was able to begin work in earnest. Working on his own and with material at least 70 years old, the task was arduous, and progress slow.

About this time, two decisions were made by the L.A. which plan, which later proved to be very significant in the successful conclusion of the project.

Firstly, a Building Committee was formed; the personnel of which comprised – Mr R. Stirling, Chairman; Mrs. M. Mackay, Secretary; Mrs. R. Young, Messrs. M. Mackay, G. Platt, R. Young, J. Laney, the District Commissioner, Mrs. R. Stirling, Mrs. W. Hoddinott, President of the Local Association, and the builder, Mr John Tingate.

At their first meeting, a comprehensive and far – reaching plan conceived by Mrs. Stirling, drawing on her wide experience in Guiding, was accepted by the Committee, and later, the L.A.

The plan, making full use of the 1 acre site, provide for a campsite large enough to enable a full Company, i.e. 36 girls to live under canvas. It was envisaged that the site should be surrounded by native trees which would provide shade and at the same time assist in the work of conservation of our natural flora. The importance of the girls' safety in attending and leaving meetings was given careful consideration, and therefore a roundabout was thought necessary to provide parents with easy access and the avoidance of congestion on meeting nights. Looking to the future, and the use of the site for Brownie Pack Holidays, it was suggested that the provision of a fully – equipped bathroom and separate toilet would be more easily constructed while the conversion of the house was taking place.

The hall itself was to be 33 feet by 18 feet, achieved by shifting out one wall and removing interior walls. One room was left to serve as a Guiders' room. This would serve as a sick bay as well as a place to leave records and equipment used at Brownie and Guide meetings.

The kitchen, with wood stove and stainless steel sink to be retained for the use of the L.A. – the girls, no doubt, would obtain experience in the culinary arts. Looking even further ahead, the plan, if completed, would enable travelling Guides and Guiders for over-night accommodation, and even weary Guiders seeking quiet relaxation in an inexpensive manner, could find it useful. Further, it was believed that the Western Suburbs in particular might find this site more convenient to enable city Guides to put into practice, the basic conception of their Founder, Lord Baden Powell who truly believed in boys and girls learning to live and enjoy the out-door life.

This formidable plan might have daunted many stout hearts, but the L.A. and the Committee accepted the challenge cheerfully and optimistically.

Money was a scarce commodity but Mr. and Mrs. Young had already begun to devise a scheme for the collection and sale of bottles. Mr. Jim Leeding agreed to carry out the details of such an operation. The L.A. then decided to adopt this method on a systematically large scale. Results have proved the immense importance of this decision.

It was felt that the bathroom and amenities could be financed in this manner. Despite some doubts on the practicalities of such a method of finance; as with all the work undertaken, everyone thought positively and "Money for nothing" became the working motto. The success of this effort can be gauged by reference to the report of finance.

As the Committee settled down to the task of making the plan a reality, Mr. M. Mackay gave the project a real "shot in the arm" by donating \$50 to enable a bulldozer to do the landscaping and levelling required. The size of this undertaking was fully revealed when the dozer encountered and uncovered vast quantities of stone.

However, by no means discouraged, the Committee tackled each section of the plan systematically, and guided by Mr. Tingate, began to make headway. The parents, in turn, responded nobly when called upon by Mrs. Stirling. When it came to the more technical aspect of some of the work, an enthusiastic perfectionist in the person of Mr. Graeme Platt, a Guide parent as well as a "Guide Widower" (husband of a Guider), worked in close harmony with Mr. Tingate. Fully supported by members of the Committee, it was possible to use the talents of the fathers to the utmost.

The team spirit engendered, made it possible to turn apparently insurmountable obstacles into successful undertakings. In turn, by this method, a brick chimney was built, the wood stove bricked in position, a concrete floor laid for the bathroom, a patio giving access to the bathroom and the outside area constructed.

As the plan took shape, support from the many friends of Guiding throughout the community became more evident. Timber for the framework of the bathroom, masonite for the floor, weatherboards, the flagpole, the standard for the sign, sheets of roofing iron, fittings and furniture, were freely and cheerfully offered from workshops, homes and farms.

The L.A. was unable to cope with the expensive electrical installation required by Public Health Standards. This means that the hall can only be used for Guiding activities and not public entertainment. However, in all other respects, the hall has been converted to suit the Department's requirements.

Some 35 cubic yards of soil was donated and delivered without charge, gravel for the pathway was donated, transported and laid, metal for the track and round – a – bout amounted to some 40 cub. yards, 30 of which was donated. Mr. Stirling was available to co-ordinate the work of helpers who had time to spare during the day or night. As a result, almost every day, at some time or another, willing parents and friends were to be found on the site. It has been estimated that about 80% of parents worked on the project for varying periods, during the eight months the actual conversion took to accomplish.

The girls themselves played quite a significant role, planting trees, painting, cleaning up the grounds, laying and cleaning bricks, cleaning windows and other jobs that would help make their "home" attractive as well as practicable for their many and varied activities.

For these reasons, the girls themselves asked that the site be known as "GUIDE HOUSE." Thus, the name was adopted!

"What a difference it makes when you work

For love of the thing."

Baden – Powell

WHAT THE FIGURES SAY!

No such tale would be complete without reference to finance – an integral part of any similar undertaking. Available figures relate from July 1970, to 15th June 1972. Final costs may take some time to collate. However, some interesting facts are worthy of note:-

- Of monies raised since the scheme began in 1970 –
 - 28% of the total came by way of Direct Cash Donations.
 - 39% came from Special Efforts.
 - 33% came from sale of Waste Materials.
- Details of income received since 1970 show:-

○ Direct Giving by Parents, Brownie Guides & Guides	\$ 72.20	
○ Cash Donations	\$258.99	
○ Two Street Stalls	\$ 62.76	
○ Two Coffee Parties	\$ 74.10	
○ Sale of Recipe Books (424)	\$212.00	
Less Cost	\$ 39.00	\$173.00
○ One Luncheon		\$115.06
○ “Trash & Treasure” sales		\$ 70.09
○ Sale of Bottles		\$409.50
○ Sale of Scrap Metal	<u>\$ 16.89</u>	\$1,252.59
- Material Gifts Donated – at known cost or valuation \$1,395.00
- Monies paid for rejuvenation of the building – including such items as

○ Builder	\$215.00
○ Vent pipe, stove chimney, ventilator ridging outlet	\$ 56.77
○ Septic Tank System – complete	\$ 99.00
○ Exterior Paint (incomplete)	\$208.52
○ Interior Paint (incomplete)	<u>\$ 40.50</u>
- Total paid for Building alterations to 15 / 6 / '72. \$1,357.02

A Statement of Resources as at 15th June, 1972

– Without adjustment or closing entries –

Liquid Assets

Cash at Bank \$ 292.00

Liabilities

Loan, Girl Guides Association \$ 600.00

Fixed Assets

Furniture & Fittings \$ 90.10
(Purchased & Donated)

Land & Improvements \$ 917.00
(All donated)

Building – Donations \$1,883.02
in Cash & in Kind

Surplus

Assets over Liabilities \$2,582.12

Total Assets \$3,182.12

\$3,182.12

Revenue Statement for the period 6th July, 1970 to 15th June, 1972.

Received

Donations of Cash \$ 331.19

Donations of Kind \$1,456.00

Special Efforts \$ 495.21

Waste Sold \$ 426.19

Bank Interest \$ 8.80

Expended

Insurance Premiums (2 years) \$ 35.16

Legal Fees \$ 21.00

Building & Water Permits (4) \$ 10.20

Loan Interest \$ 35.00

Workers' Compensation Insurance \$ 15.41

Water Rates (2 years) \$ 7.50

Shire Rates \$ 4.00

Cartage of Soil \$ 7.00

\$ 135.27

Surplus

- In Cash & Kind \$2,582.12

\$2,717.39

NOTE:

Figures for Hall A/c. ONLY

(General A/c. Excluded.)

\$2,717.39

T H A N K S.

The successful completion of such a comprehensive and difficult undertaking for amateurs could only have been achieved by the willing co-operation and help of so many talented parents and friends.

To record the many acts of practical and sacrificial assistance received, far more space than that available would be required. Nevertheless, we are indeed very grateful to each one of these indefatigable friends and helpers.

We would like to thank the Shire Council, Engineer and his staff for their help while installing the crossing at the entrance to "Guide House".

The generous gestures of the Vestry of St. John's Church of England and the Session of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in allowing Guides and Brownie Guides the use of their halls for so many years is gratefully acknowledged.

We trust what the Guiding Family in Ballan has achieved by self-help, perseverance and cheerful enthusiasm may inspire others to devise and utilise such talents to bring to fruition some other worthwhile community project.

TO-DAY THE DREAM OF A GUIDER BECAME A REALITY!