



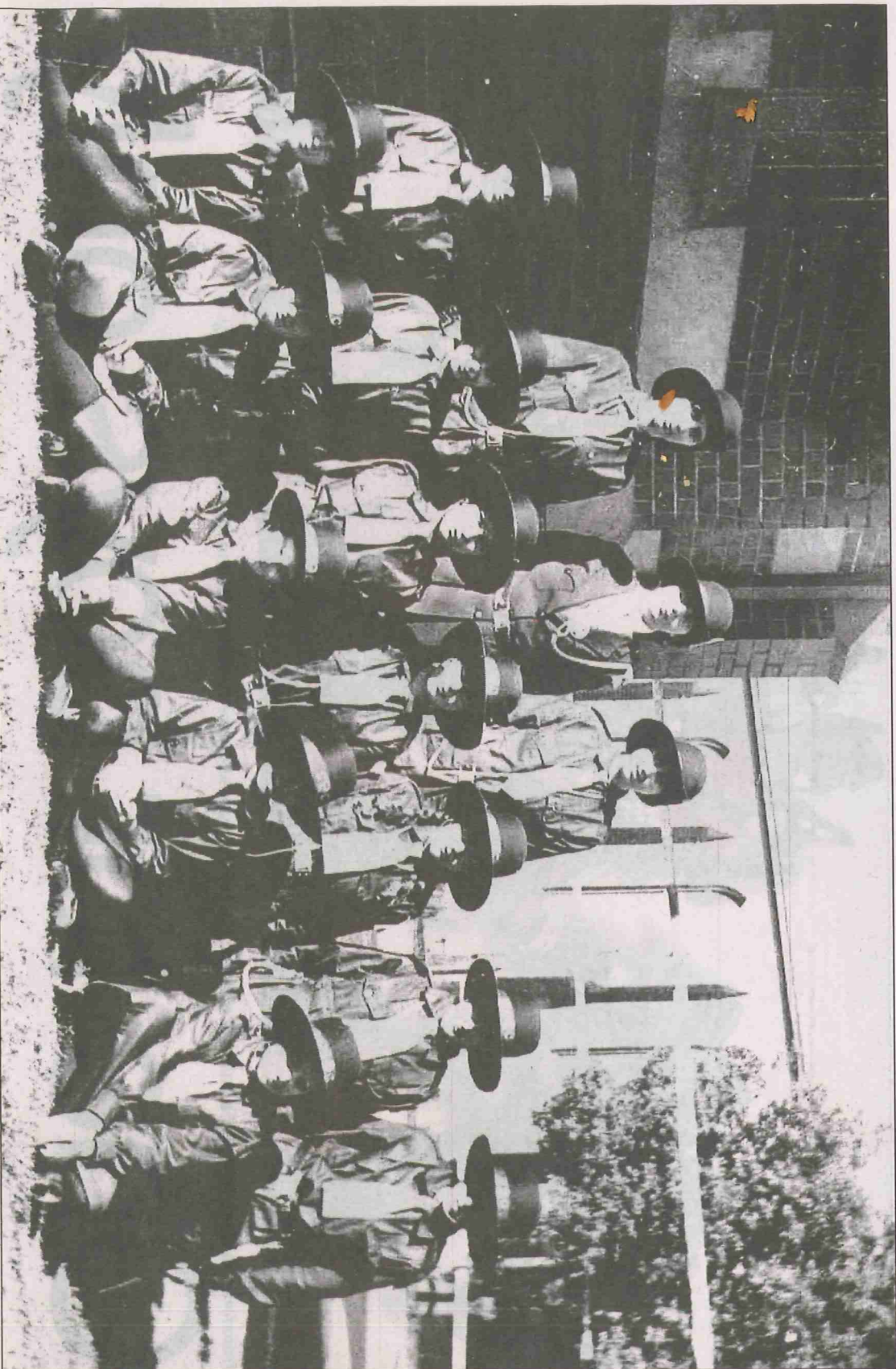
at the
archives
Wayne
Doubleday

What you should know

The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building at the South Campus of the university. Access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour, including copying and postage.

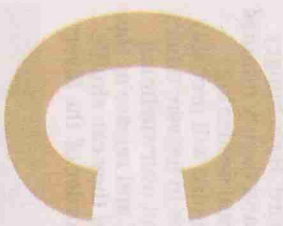
For further information, phone 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au or visit the website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



3rd Wagga Brownies on enrolment day in November 1932.

Guiding light

Riverina Girl Guides are captured in history at archives



SU Regional Archives is fortunate in having a large collection of Wagga and Riverina Girl Guides records.

Many local women would have fond memories of their Brownie and Girl Guide days and the friendships they made through the association.

The Girl Guide movement began in England in 1910, instigated by Lord Robert Baden-Powell's sister, Agnes.

The Sisterhood of Guiding developed quickly all over the world, and came to Australia in 1911.

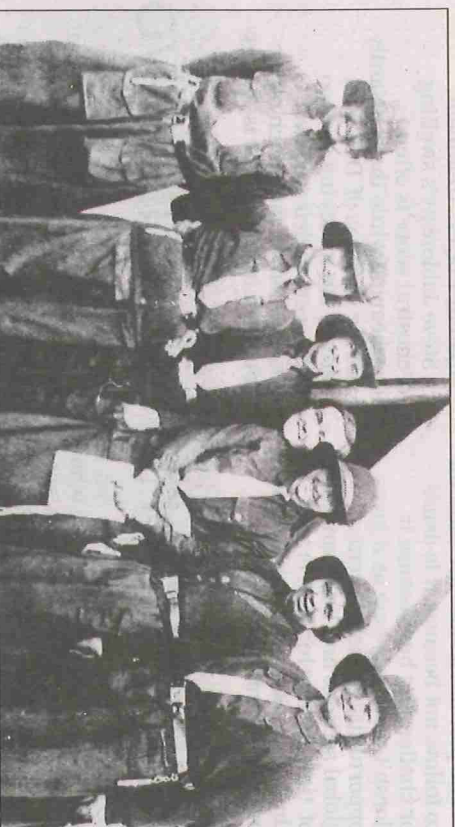
A public meeting was held in Wagga on September 25, 1929, resulting in a local association being formed.

Prospective leader, Miss Jean Garling, completed the training course and Miss Kath Cussen commenced training.

They were supported by a strong committee headed by Mrs EE Collins as President, Mrs D Welch and Mrs Stewart as secretaries and Mrs Bishop as treasurer. Committee members were Mesdames Lusher, Cussen, West, Bellair, Morrison, Gillman and Truelove.

The 1st Wagga Guide Company was formed in December 1930.

The enthusiastic girls were Elizabeth Garland, Edna Buckman, Edna Thomas, Patricia Davies, Marjorie Gordon, Millicent



Wagga Guiders J Sanger, Dunlop, T Read, E Hall, J Rentoul and E Buckman.

Hubbard, Valma Daley, Hilda Blamey, Elizabeth Savage and Audrey Brett.

Prominent Wagga women have been involved in the Girl Guide movement as leaders, district commissioners, trefoil members, local association members, rangers, Guides and Brownies.

Many prominent Wagga women have been involved in the Girl Guide movement in many capacities. One in particular, Miss Trixie Read, became a Girl Guide when at boarding school.

Miss Read and her sister, Margaret, held a lifelong interest in the Girl Guide movement.

Some of the original transcripts of 2WG wireless broadcasts which Miss Read made fortnightly from 1937 to 1944 are held at the archives.

These transcripts created interest for the Guides and Brownies and they looked forward to hearing local

and overseas Guide news. 2WG broadcast transcript c1942 - extract:

"Tonight I thought I would tell you a few of the jobs Guides are tackling in England. You know that our Princess Guides were evacuated like so many of their sister Guides, but they are carrying on their Guiding and doing just the same kind of war work as all the others are doing.

"Here is a little piece from a letter Princess Elizabeth wrote to her Guide Captain - 'We are busy knitting for the Red Cross, the evacuees, the soldiers and sailors. We are also collecting sphagnum moss. Guides and Brownies all over England are doing these things.'"

In the following broadcast Miss Read spoke of the many ways of using the motto "Be Prepared".

2WG broadcast transcript, September 5, 1942 - extract:

"Disappointments, difficulties, victories, defeats emergencies of various kinds, which all go to make us more prepared to play our part as useful citizens. Know how to make the best of things... What about the rationing - clothes, sugar, tea. Are you making the best of those and really practicing the ninth law? ... We were going to have a big tuckshop today but we couldn't get the sugar to make the sweets... The Guides of the whole Empire are raising money to lend to the government until after war..."

On other occasions Miss Read spoke of the Lone Guides, Guides in Poland who had to meet in secret as it was against the law to have a Guide group, and Guides of NSW who raised money to "enable the government" to make parachutes for our airmen.

The above broadcasts came from a different era and it is not known when the wireless programs ceased; however, the archives hold some transcripts which belonged to Mrs Amy Hurd, dated 1959. Mrs Joyce Holmes also broadcasted to the girls on several occasions.

Miss Read retired from her position as district commissioner in June 1962 but for the rest of her life she remained interested in and supported the movement.

The Guide Collection contains her photographs of camps, training sessions and activities in the 1920s and 1930s.

Compiled by June Dietrich
References: *The Daily Advertiser* June 23, 1962; *Wagga Wagga Golden Jubilee of Guiding Publication - 50 Years of Guiding 1929-1979*; Girl Guide Collection, CSURA, RW2028



Trixie Read