

Friends of the World Centres

Newsletter 17

February 2011

Welcome

Welcome to the first Australian Friends of the World Centres newsletter for 2011! We hope that you will enjoy following the latest events at our four World Centres, and the reports from our members who visit them throughout 2011 – the second of the official Centenary celebration years!



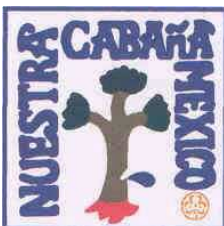
Our Chalet
Adelboden Switzerland

The focus World Centre for Term 1 2011 is Pax Lodge. We encourage you to raise awareness of, and funds for, all four World Centres all year round, but perhaps this term you might like to consider a Pax Lodge night!

Pax Lodge

News from Pax Lodge

Pax Lodge has had an exciting start to the year, as can be seen from the following report from **Mary-Anne Hourigan**, Marketing and Communications Volunteer.



Christmas 2010

The staff and volunteers would like to wish all the Friends a very Happy New Year. We had a number of volunteers and staff stay at Pax Lodge when we closed to celebrate Christmas. It was the first Christmas away from family for many of the volunteers, and for some it was their first Christmas. Here, Seung-Min, our Resident Volunteer from South Korea, shares her experience.



Pax Lodge was closed at 23 December 2010 and that evening we went to the shops for Christmas shopping. We bought a lot of food and snacks, because during the Christmas holiday, we rotated who made food for meals.



On Christmas Eve, I made some food for lunch. When I was in Korea, I never made the Dak-Bok-Um-Tang, which used chicken, potatoes, vegetables and hot sauce. It was special lunch to me. At midnight, we went to Catholic church for the mass. When Christmas time was

coming, we whispered 'Merry Christmas' to each other.

On Christmas morning when I opened my door, I saw the Christmas stocking in front of my door! At midnight Santa Claus had come to Pax Lodge. After brunch, we had



opening presents time in the Conference Room. Lots of presents were under the Christmas tree and many cards were between the Christmas tree's leaves. Two Santas, Brooke and Morgan (other Resident Volunteers from America and Canada), delivered presents. We opened our many presents progressively. I wrote a card for everyone. When they read my card, they said thank you to me and Morgan gave me a big hug. I was almost crying, because I was very happy! I received many presents and had a great time at the front of the big Christmas tree with my family in my computer.



Dinner was traditional western Christmas food made by Tirian. It was awesome! We ate a big turkey and delicious side dishes. During the Christmas holiday, we ate many delicious foods, and watched movies every evening. This is the first time that I spend Christmas in a Western country, and I had the most happy Christmas in my life with my Pax Lodge Family.

Pax Lodge's 20th birthday

We have just seen the end of the Girlguiding UK Centenary in October, but the celebrations don't end there for Pax Lodge! We will be continuing the WAGGGS Centenary celebrations and adding our own – 2011 is 20 years since Pax Lodge was officially opened.



The celebrations during this year will include a fundraising dinner on 15 March, our official birthday, and a Staff and Volunteer Reunion in April. The reunion will include visits down memory lane, Pax Lodge challenges – Can you still remember how to fold a fitted sheet the 'Pax Lodge way'? And how many can you do in 2 minutes? – and much, much more!

We encourage all previous staff and volunteers to join our Facebook group aptly named: Past and Present Staff and Volunteers, to keep up to date on what is happening during our 20th year and to make contact with lost friends.

If you can't make it to the 20th birthday celebrations, please consider there will be a 21st birthday in 2012!

Friends of Pax Lodge on Facebook

Pax Lodge has also extended our Facebook community to include a special group for the Friends of Pax Lodge. This group includes all the various Friends of Pax Lodge from around the world and allows you to keep up to date on what is happening and hear timely Friends information.

To join this group, please send a message to us via Facebook so that we can add you to the group.

Improvements at Pax Lodge

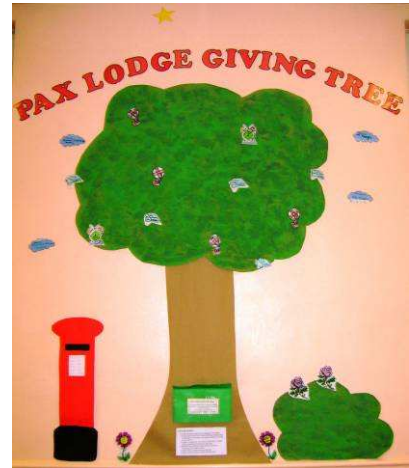
We have been busy completing the upgrade of reception which is including environmentally friendly lighting and modernising its appearance.

Our future improvements will include installing environmentally friendly lighting throughout the rest of the building, renovating the bathrooms, installing ceiling mounted projectors and improving our WiFi system.

Giving Tree

Each volunteer is given a project to work on during their time here, that uses the volunteer's skills to improve Pax Lodge. It can be anything from translating check-in information, to producing artwork for the building or assisting in large projects.

Recently, Amanda (Resident Volunteer from USA) updated our Gift Wall into a Giving Tree. This tree, located in the Dining Room, allows guests to make a donation towards a particular item. For example, new fans, travel scholarships for volunteers who can't afford flights, and maintenance of the Rose Room. The latest addition to the Giving Tree is a large red post box. We would like to purchase a traditional English post box to go with our phone box.



If you would like purchase anything from our Giving Tree or contribute towards travel scholarships or post box, please email office@paxlodge.org.

Volunteers

Just after Christmas, we welcomed four new volunteers to the Pax Lodge family. Chaymaa from Egypt will be our Guest Services Volunteer and Lindsay from the USA, Anette from Norway and Micaela from Argentina are Resident Volunteers.



They join the rest of our volunteer team:

Mary-Anne (Marketing and Communications Volunteer, Australia), Katie (Guest Services Volunteer: Office, United Kingdom), Morgan (Resident Volunteer, Canada), Brooke (Resident Volunteer, USA), Amanda (Resident Volunteer, USA), Seung-Min (Resident Volunteer, South Korea), Andrea (Resident Volunteer, Austria).

Our Chalet

Winter Adventures at Our Chalet

Winter has been a busy time at Our Chalet! Following is a report from **Sally Thornton**, World Centre Manager.



Winter Greetings from Our Chalet, Switzerland!

Winter is here high up, high in the mountains and the beauty of deep snow is all around.

The Young Women's World Forum 2011

The Young Women's World Forum 2011 is taking shape. This exciting event to be held from 19-26 March is the second in a series of events which are part of the global centenary celebrations of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. The first [Young Women's World Forum 2010](#) was organized by Girl Guiding UK and the final event will be organized with Girl Scouts of the USA in 2012.



The focus for all three events will be the WAGGGS' Global Action Theme, girls worldwide say "together we can change our world" which addresses the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#).

The four WAGGGS World Centres (Sangam, India; Our Chalet, Switzerland; Our Cabaña, Mexico; Pax Lodge, UK) will work together on a programme that will focus on three of the MDGs: [MDG 1: "End poverty and hunger"](#), [MDG 3: "Promote gender equality and empower women"](#) and [MDG 7: "Environmental sustainability"](#), topics selected in consultation with young women. The programme will include the opportunity to develop advocacy skills, the design of a process plan for change by each delegate, and field visits with partners and UN agencies.

The opening ceremony will be held simultaneously in all four World Centres and mark an official beginning of the event. The ceremony will be broadcast on the Internet so people around the world can also witness it. Look out for more information on the WAGGGS and World Centres' websites.

Our Chalet takes YoFuGe-action in conjunction with the world Climate Change Conference in Cancun Mexico - December 2010

Our Assistant Programme Manager Katie Scales attended the Conference in Mexico as part of the WAGGGS Delegation. She inspired the team here to participate in the YoFuGe-action. This important issue was given a Swiss touch from the snowy Alps of Adelboden where the newly arrived Winter 2010 volunteers performed the YoFuGe song. You can watch the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuSIb3sfNE>.

Christmas at Our Chalet!

Christmas was celebrated in style with staff and guests enjoying the traditional Chalet Neighborhood Christmas party and this year for the first time 17 of the local children stayed overnight in the Main Chalet attic. Much fun and games, but not too much sleep!



The 2011 World Cup experience, as written by our Winter Volunteers

Usually, the peaceful and relaxing village of Adelboden nestles into the dramatic landscape of the Bernese Oberland. For a weekend in January it played host to a fantastic sporting spectacle - the FIS World Cup in slalom and giant slalom for men! Long-term staff and Winter Volunteers were there to witness it all!

From a distance, the track was fully visible, the weather couldn't be better and the sounds of the eager spectators echoed around the valley, and we all agreed Our Chalet had the best seat. As we got closer, the sea of red flags hit us, the sounds became more defined and the sheer atmosphere blew us all away; this was the place to be.

As the races got underway we watched in awe as the tiny men came hurtling down the scarily steep mountain, accompanied by the jubilant cheers of the crowd. Although we couldn't understand what was being said, we knew when a fellow Swiss man was on his way, for the Swiss flags went up, the cow bells rang out and the alpine horn sounded.



On Saturday evening, the ski party began in full vigor led by the French and Norwegians who jointly won the Giant Slalom race. The winner of the Slalom race on Sunday was a skier from Croatia – exciting for Koka our Programme Manager!

People flooded into the Ski village and we were squashed from all sides like little sardines, glad to be at this highlight of the 2011 skiing calendar. The experience will stay with us at our time at Our Chalet and every time we look over to the track we will remember this amazing experience.



New Deputy World Centre Manager

Femke Bos arrived in early January. Femke is from Groningen, the Netherlands, and joined Scouting in her early teens. She has also been a Guides and Scouts Team Leader for several years. Our Chalet offers her long sought after opportunities to experience global Guiding and Scouting and work in an international environment. She has previously been a nature guide out on the Dutch Wadden Sea, and she is keen to explore the Swiss outdoors and learn all about the history and culture of Switzerland, Adelboden and, of course, Our Chalet.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES AT OUR CHALET

My name is Amina from Kenya and I am a Winter Volunteer.



Coming to Our Chalet was a dream for many years. I faced a lot of challenges which made me think I was not going to make it but I rose to the challenges and am glad to be at Our Chalet. I chose Our Chalet because I wanted to experience Guiding at an international level and during winter because the very thought of seeing snow excited me. Volunteering at an international level, I faced the difference in culture but I have learnt to appreciate what the drastic changes of different cultures have done to me - the Christmas traditions that are non existent in my family are just some of the many beautiful things I will carry with me throughout my life. The experience has shaped my whole view of life. Long Live Guiding!

My name is Claire and I am currently a Winter Volunteer at Our Chalet.

After a holiday to Our Cabaña, I decided that I would like to volunteer at a WAGGGS World Centre. After looking at all the World Centres on the WAGGGS website I choose Our Chalet as the centre I would like to volunteer at as I wanted to learn new skills such as skiing and have fun in the snow too.

Since coming to Our Chalet I have almost reached my goal of learning to ski. I have also learned a lot about WAGGGS and that WAGGGS helps to give a voice to young women all over the world, as well as working with the UN to help women in difficult situations like poverty.

As a person, I feel that I am now more confident and more able to talk to and get to know new people, which I know will be of great benefit to me when I return home. I also hope to teach my Guide unit in Scotland more about WAGGGS and let them know that Guiding truly is worldwide.



UPCOMING EVENTS

High Adventure Weeks:

'Challenge your way': 1 - 8 June 2011

'I have done things I never imagined I could do!' – Would you like to hear yourself say this? Then this event is made for you. The focus will be on positive self development and self-esteem building through physical activities. Enjoy challenging hikes, abseiling, climbing, fun evening programmes and much more! Join us for adventures high up in the Swiss mountains!

'Lead your way': 2 - 10 September 2011

Everyone can be a leader! Don't believe that? We do! So come and try for yourself. Join the opportunity to develop your leadership skills through learning by doing. Guide hikes, lead programme activities, learn about orienteering and see how outdoors and leadership go hand in hand.

<http://www.ourchalet.ch/en/resources/document/view/21068>

Events for Youth Members (12-18 years + Adult leaders)

Summer Youth 'Swiss Challenge' Events (June, July, August 2011)

For Summer 2011 we have created fun, adventurous and affordable 'Swiss Challenge' package for Guides and Scouts aged 12 - 18 years and their adult leaders. There are spaces still available on some events, with the option of being indoors or camping out. <http://www.ourchalet.ch/en/Programme/Internationalevents/2011>

2012 now also OPEN for BOOKINGS!

Our Chalet has spent the holiday season working on the programme for 2012 and we are now happy to announce that 2012 is open for bookings. New options are on offer for Summer 2012 with both indoor and outdoor packages and Swiss Experience or Swiss Challenge options. Read more in the package information brochure at: <http://www.ourchalet.ch/en/Programme/Internationalevents/2012SummerYouthEvents>

Contact info@ourchalet.ch for further information.

Our Chalet - your place for Summer & Winter Adventure in the Swiss Alps

Our Cabaña

The Staff members at Our Cabaña have been enjoying the chance to share the international Guiding spirit with very diverse groups of guests! A report from **Vicky Gagliano**, Deputy World Centre Manager, follows.

GUIAS WEEKENDS



Do you wonder what we do at Our Cabaña when we don't have any event going on? The answer is "Guías weekends". These weekends are held in Our Cabaña almost every week during the months of October, November and December, and the Mexican Guides have the opportunity to use the Our Cabaña facilities when they come camping or for meetings. Sometimes the Our Cabaña volunteers prepare special activities for the groups and share with them the new initiatives of WAGGGS.

NEW KITCHEN

In Our Cabaña, a few changes are being made and many more to come. The house of our Event Administrator needed a new kitchen and thanks to the support of the Friends of Our Cabaña, we were able to provide one that looks lovely. It has made cooking very easy for her and now she prepares more delicious meals than ever before. Following the Mexican Tradition that you need to buy tacos when you get something new, she organised a special morning for all the staff to celebrate her new cocina (kitchen).



NEW YEAR EVENT



This was a fascinating event because it was the very first time that Our Cabaña welcomed four boys from Norway to enjoy our programme of activities. They complemented the mixture of countries and nationalities that we had during this eight-night event: USA, Canada, Norway, Mexico and of course the international staff/ volunteer team from UK, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, Australia, Denmark and Costa Rica.

The program had a good combination of activities which include the Opening Ceremony, Mexican Traditions, Secret Scorpion Meeting, International festivals, Celebrating 100 years of WAGGGS, Service Project, Three Kings celebration, trips to places like Taxco, Tepoztlan, Xochicalco and fun like the salsa lesson and not forgetting the New Year Celebration and the breaking of the piñata.

During the New Year Celebration we said goodbye to 2010 and we welcomed 2011 by wearing symbolic yellow or red underwear according to what you wanted to have in the upcoming year; red for love or yellow for money. Of course some of us wore both!!!! At midnight we all ate 12 grapes at the sound of the bell and made a wish for 2011 as we ate each grape.



The final activity of the night was the breaking of confetti eggs on the head of someone and jumping into the pool after midnight to have good luck during the New Year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



THE HAMMOCK

When you walk around the craft markets in Mexico, a traditional item that you always find is the Hammock, and now you are able to try it and enjoy it during your free time at Our Cabaña.

This new Cabaña acquisition has been placed in the garden by the pool and it is easily accessible by all. What are you waiting for? Come and try it!

YOLOS

2010 was a great year for many Girl Guides and Girl Scouts who were able to enjoy an event at Our Cabaña thanks to the Yolo Fund.

You can also support the project by purchasing one of our Yolo pins or by making an online donation through our website. If you do this, please make sure you email Our Cabaña (ourcabana@ourcabana.org.mx) to advise the staff of the date and amount of your donation.



AUTUMN EVENTS 2011

The Mexican flavour is stronger during the Autumn months as we join together with our participants to celebrate different local traditions. You can join us for Mexican Independence Day and commemorate this special day with a special show of fireworks in downtown, you could also be part of the Day of the Dead Celebration and visit with us houses of local families to be part of their celebration. Another option is to be part of our International Seminar to learn more about WAGGGS, or you could help us organise a Guides Weekend for a Mexican Group. For further information, see: <http://www.ourcabana.org/en/events>.



Cale @ Our Cabaña

Hola! My name is Cale, I am an Australian from The Blue Mountains, NSW, volunteering at Our Cabaña throughout the Winter and Spring Season.

Before leaving Australia to come to Our Cabaña in Mexico I thought a lot about what I would experience and what I



Working with the community organisation Vamos.

would learn but I couldn't have possibly imagined how incredible it would be. Despite my nerves about leaving my family and friends for such a long time, the volunteers, staff and participants of Our Cabaña have become my foster family and have truly made this an unforgettable and enjoyable experience.

Everyday at the Cabaña I am laughing and smiling and although sometimes it seems as if there are not enough hours in

the day, this challenge is very rewarding.

I like getting up in the morning to prepare the daily notice board and set the tables for breakfast. I enjoy setting off in the buses for trips and having to test my self control and try not to buy too much silver at Taxco, or try too many flavours of icecream in Tepoztlan and ofcourse sweeter in the sun in Xochicalco. The Mexican Fiesta is fun with the piñata, salsa dancing and mariachi band and sharing songs and dances from all over the world at the campfire is very enjoyable. I like making the rounds of the dormitories at lights out and wishing everyone sweet dreams. From start to finish, I enjoy the day.

I love that the events are bilingual and I can laugh with the Latin-American participants as I hopelessly practice my Spanish! I like more and more about this experience each day. In addition to the Cabaña events and programs, I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to be involved in



Volunteers visiting the pyramids at Xochicalco. Adri from Costa Rica, Chris from Denmark, Rach from England and me on the right.

service work with community organisations and projects in the local area; meeting, teaching and playing with young Mexican children and seniors is incredibly special.

I would like to thank everyone inside and outside of Guiding who helped me to obtain this opportunity and everyone at Cabaña who has made it such a successful experience for me.



New Year's Event Campfire

If you would like to know more about my experience at Our Cabaña and in Mexico please find me on Facebook or email me at calemj@bigpond.net.au. Unfortunately, I am not tech savvy enough to start an internet blog but I'm regularly letting my friends and family know what I'm up to via email and I'd love to share those experiences with you too if you're interested.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



"Arriving at the Cabaña was scary and daunting. Here I am in a new country, new culture and new language, how scary! Well, a month in, I could not feel more at home! I am very much enjoying this experience of new people, new friends and new ideas. My perspective of the world has changed so dramatically and I have learnt so much already. This is truly an unforgettable and rewarding

experience that I know will help me further in life inside and outside of Guiding."
Cale Johnstone, Program Volunteer (Australia)

Our Cabaña like the other World Centers gives young women the opportunity to volunteer in an international environment whilst developing their leadership and personal skills. There are different volunteer roles at Our Cabaña and we are sure that one of them could suit your personality. You could be a Program Volunteer and prepare activities for our guests and participants. You could support us in the administration by being the Event Administrator and helping people to get to the Centre or you could promote Our Cabaña and what we do here by being the Marketing and Communication Volunteer.

"I am most excited to be part of the international team here and my exposure to the service project remains one of the remarkable things here, and most of all learning Spanish and studying music locally. I love Our Cabaña." *Sophia Tolor Saronwiyo, (Nigeria) Event Administrator*

"I am absolutely loving my time here at Our Cabaña. Working alongside a staff of women from all over the world is so exciting, and is giving me lots of new ideas which I can take back to my units at home. I am especially enjoying working on the service projects with the children from VAMOS. They are so full of energy and smiles and seem to enjoy our activities! I am looking forward to meeting lots more Guides from all over the world over the next few months and hopefully making some lifelong friendships." *Rachel Hesselwood, Program Volunteer (UK)*

Sangam

New Staff

At the end of 2010, Sangam welcomed a new Programme Manager and a new Interim Deputy World Centre Manager.

Jen Barron from Tasmania, Australia, is the new Programme Manager, and she will be well-known to many Friends. She has been active in Guiding for many years, and also has a long history of association with Sangam – even composing (or co-composing) a number of the Sangam songs! During an event at Sangam, you can often hear the sound of Jen's voice and guitar in the evening, and Jen is busy planning all sorts of new initiatives, including environmental camps for Bharat Scouts and Guides from Mumbai.



Moushira Saleh from Egypt joined the Sangam team in December 2010 as Interim Deputy World Centre Manager. Moushira has a strong history of Guiding, and worked as the Office Assistant at Our Chalet for 12 months in 2009-2010. Unfortunately for Sangam, Moushira has now returned to Egypt to support her family during the current very troubled times in Egypt. We wish Moushira well, and hope that Egypt will see more peaceful times very soon!



At the beginning of January, Sangam also welcomed five new Tares. "Tares" is the new name for the participants in the three-month Community Volunteer Programme, and it is Hindi for "stars". The current Tare are from Canada, the UK and, for the first time, Argentina! Find out more about the Tare here: <http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/programmes/cp01/cp05>.

Maintenance Projects

Improvements are constantly underway at Sangam, and a recent highlight has been the work on the campsite ablution block, funded primarily by the World Foundation. The surrounding path has been replaced, new windows have been installed, water storage capacity has increased to 2,500 litres, hot water systems have been installed, and each bathroom (males and females) now has a hot shower and hot water tap for bucket baths. Once a leak in the roof is repaired and the walls are re-painted, work will be complete. In the meantime, campers are already enjoying the new facilities!



Sangam is currently finalising an updated wish list, to include items ranging from hot water solar pipes upstairs in the main house, to a heavy duty laminator and a PC for Aruna. Donations to Sangam's "Sow a Seed" Fund are also very welcome. This Fund provides scholarships of £500 to support young women from around the World to take part in Sangam's Community Programme (Tare). To make a donation, please contact World Centre Manager Donna Lednický (wcm@sangamworldcentre.org).

Christmas at Sangam

During Christmas, the Sangam staff members were joined by a very special group of Canadian guests – a group of six women in their 30s, and their former Guide leader. When the young women were girls, they went to their first World Centre, Our Cabaña. Unfortunately, their leader could not join them because of family commitments, so they promised her that when they turned 30, they would take her to Sangam after her retirement – and in 2010, they did! What an amazing story – and one that shows that it is never



too early to start planning your next trip to a World Centre... dreams do become reality!

On Christmas Day itself, after a traditional Christmas dinner and exchange of gifts, Sangam staff spent a memorable evening carol singing in the local neighbourhood, at the homes of local staff.

Time to visit Sangam...

In January, a group of ten Australians (5 from SA, 4 from NSW and one from Victoria) took part in the Essence of India and Children's Camp event at Sangam. They had a wonderful time, and we hope to include a report from them in the next newsletter. In the meantime, why not start making plans for your own trip to Sangam? You would be especially welcome to join in the fun of Sangam's 45th birthday (and second World Sangam Day) in October this year!



Celebrate our Centenary II at Sangam's 45th Birthday!

8-17 October 2011, 10 days

EVENT FEE £420

ARE YOU COMING?

Celebrate Our Centenary...at a special centenary dinner, be part of the 100 photo collage at Sangam, receive and send 'grow' messages to your sister Guides and Scouts around the world.

Be Part of the Local Community...Run a kids' birthday party for children from one of our community partner organisations. See performances by local children, visit our community partners and take part in a birthday treasure hunt outside the gates of Sangam.

Explore India Then and Now...Camp out in the camp ground with the Nevidita Guides on Kojagiri Pornima festival night Oct 11th and be part of other cultural programmes and activities.

Sangam Then and Now...Prepare and display your personal history with Sangam!

Sangam Community...Be part of a special 'secret friend' tradition and give your friend a birthday gift on the 16th of October. Learn about birthday traditions from different countries.

World Sangam Day...There will be cake, big screen movies, rides in the driveway, English and Marathi tours and lots of celebrating, dancing, singing and good food with your local friends and family!

To register email ea@sangamworldcentre.org

It won't be the same without you!

Diversity at Sangam

During the recent Sangam Centre Team meeting and Friends of Sangam Gathering, all five WAGGGS Regions were represented at Sangam by the staff volunteers and guests! The photo to the right shows Ana Paula (Tare, Argentina, Western Hemisphere Region), Malin (Sangam Volunteer, Sweden, Europe



Region), Miriam (Friends of Sangam, Kenya, Africa Region), Moushira (Career Staff, Egypt, Arab Region) and Roma (Sangam Centre Team, India, Asia Pacific Region).

Friends of Sangam Australia

On 14 November 2010, Friends of Sangam Australia held their annual meeting in Victoria. Following is a report from **Vicki Callaway**. If you would like to join Friends of Sangam, please contact Jane Pennington – fosi@sangamworldcentre.org.

The Friends of Sangam Australia AGM on November 14th was held at the Punjab Sweet Centre in Dandenong, where we were served with Chai and delicious Indian snacks.

Following the meeting, two FOSA members hosted a guided walking tour to experience the wonderful smells, colourful sights and tantalising flavours of Little India in Dandenong. We were led on a journey through this fast growing Indian precinct to reveal the rich Indian culture through clothing, jewellery, film, music and food. We visited exotic shops, had an introduction to Bollywood film and music, authentic spices and ingredients and colourful sari fashions. The tour was completed at one of Little India's restaurants, where we all shared a delicious Indian vegetarian meal together. An enjoyable and interesting day!

Volunteering at the World Centres

Being a WAGGGS World Centre volunteer provides rewarding training, learning and development opportunities, and the chance to experience the magic of international Guiding amongst new friends from around the World! Don't miss the chance to be one of the next World Centre volunteers!

Our Chalet http://www.ourchalet.ch/en/people/volunteering_opportunities

Season	Dates	Closing date for application
Autumn 2011 **	1 September – 15 October 2011	1 March 2011
Winter	1 December – 1 March 2011	1 June 2011

** Autumn 2011 is a shorter season due to building projects at that time at Our Chalet.

Our Cabaña <http://www.ourcabana.org/en/jobs/volunteers>

Season	Closing date for application
6 – 10 weeks during October 2011 – April 2012	15 April 2011

Pax Lodge <http://www.paxlodge.org/en/people/volunteeropportunities>

Season	Closing date for application
2-5 months during Nov. 2011 – April 2012 (Resident Volunteer)	15 April 2011
Min. 5-6 months from May 2011 (Marketing and Communications Volunteer)	31 March 2011

Sangam <http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/jobs/volunteer/sangamvolunteers>

Season	Closing date for application
Range of dates, 3.5 – 5.5 months (Sangam Volunteer)	31 December each year
31 August – 25 November 2011 (Community Programme – Tare)	1 April 2011

Upcoming Events at the World Centres

There are many exciting events coming up at the World Centres, and you can also visit the Centres as an independent guest during your overseas travels; you do not have to attend a specific event! Allow yourself to be tempted... visit the World Centres websites and choose which Centre you will visit to celebrate our Guiding Centenary in a very special and memorable way!

Please note that groups visiting a World Centre (for example, leaders taking Guides overseas) need to obtain approval from their State Organisation and the Australian International Manager. Make sure you organise your trip well in advance, as many sessions (particularly the mid-year sessions) fill up quickly.

Let's focus on... Pax Lodge!

Last year our "focus" sections provided information about the exciting opportunities you have if you visit the Centres. This year, in honour of Pax Lodge's special birthday, we will look at the history of Pax Lodge.

- ♣ Our Chalet was the first World Centre to be opened, in 1932. Following its success, the World Committee decided that a second World Centre should be built, in London. Many Guides had asked for a place to stay when visiting London, and the World Bureau also needed more space. It was decided to build a Centre to accommodate both.
- ♣ World Thinking Day donations in 1938 provided funds to convert two adjoining buildings on Palace Street (near Buckingham Palace!) to form "Our Ark". The name was chosen because the Ark is a symbol of peace and refuge in both the Christian and Jewish faiths.
- ♣ On 2 May 1939, Our Ark was opened by the Lady Mayoress of London. To mark the occasion the Danish Girl Guides donated a set of flags for each country of the World. The flags are still in use today!
- ♣ In 1958, a special Our Ark badge was introduced, available for members who had slept at Our Ark. In 1959, Our Ark was moved to a different building, as more space was needed, and new laws required business premises to be separate from sleeping accommodation.
- ♣ In 1963, to mark Our Ark's 25th birthday and in honour of the World Chief Guide, Lady Olave Baden-Powell, Our Ark was renamed Olave House.
- ♣ By 1978, space was running short again, so at the World Conference in Iran, it was decided that new premises should be sought, and that the World Centre and World Bureau should again be united under the name of the Olave Centre.
- ♣ The World Bureau moved to Hampstead in 1984, but it was not until 1990 that the newly re-named World Centre, Pax Lodge, opened to guests.
- ♣ On 29 September 1990, Natasha King, granddaughter of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, performed the door opening ceremony, and Pax Lodge was officially opened by her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark on 15 March 1991. On opening day, the Guider in Charge and staff walked across London from Olave House to Pax Lodge carrying the World Flag, and collecting sponsorship donations of more than £500!

- ♣ The new Pax Lodge logo was a winning design submitted by Girl Guides Australia! International Guiding is represented by the Trefoil, while the dove bears an olive branch representing peace. The dove is in the shape of an Ark and together with the water, this echoes the original symbol for Our Ark.

Programme and Fundraising Ideas

- ♣ One of the services projects in which Pax Lodge's staff and guests have taken part is collecting litter on Hampstead Heath. Take part in Clean Up Australia Day, then organise some fun activities in the park afterwards, and ask each guest to bring a gold coin donation as a gift for Pax Lodge.
- ♣ Have an Easter Egg treasure hunt. Turn it into a wide game, with clues and activities based on Pax Lodge. Make a jigsaw puzzle out of a copy of the Pax Lodge logo, have the girls collect a puzzle piece at each clue/check point, then ask the girls to put all the pieces together correctly to collect their chocolate!
- ♣ Pax Lodge has many activities planned to celebrate the Guiding Centenary! Challenge each patrol to look at Pax Lodge's website to find out how the Centenary will be celebrated at Pax Lodge, and challenge each patrol to collect 100 coins, or even \$100, as a Centenary birthday gift for Pax Lodge.
- ♣ Have a look at the Pax Lodge website to see what countries the current staff represent. Find out how they might celebrate Easter in their own countries, and use those ideas to plan an international Easter night for your Guide unit.
- ♣ A traditional cream tea is a feature of many Pax Lodge events. Teach the girls how to make scones and cups of tea (on a campfire for an extra challenge!) and serve scones, jam and cream (and tea) to guests for a gold coin donation, then give the money to Pax Lodge as a 20th birthday present.

Thank You and Acknowledgments

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We also acknowledge the following website from which information was sourced for this newsletter: www.paxlodge.org.

Next Newsletter

Do you have any fundraising ideas or program ideas? Have you recently visited a World Centre? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please provide all contributions to Judy Harris, Australian Friends of the World Centres Liaison, by no later than Saturday **30 April 2011**. Contributions can be provided by email (judyharris@bigpond.com) or through your State International Adviser.