



AUSTRALIAN FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Number 4, July 2007

The National Joint Council met on July 1. News from Brussels has highlighted the excitement of the "Spirit Flame", which is now travelling through Europe towards Brownsea Island where it will arrive on July 31.

You can follow the journey on www.spirit-flame.com and I recommend you take time to read of the journey through the African countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Martine (President of ISGF) reports on her excitement as she followed the flame through these countries and of special interest in her newsletter was the description of the history of Scouting in Ethiopia.

"Scouting was first introduced in Ethiopia in 1933 by a Canadian living in Addis Ababa ... it has always welcomes boys and girls and ... it can be found in schools without being governmental.

Scouting enjoyed happy days until 1938, after the invasion of the country by Italy. In 1948, the activities restarted in the schools teaching the children to become good citizens. But, in the late 1960s the Marxist regime dissolved the association and confiscated all its properties. The reason being that the religious values in the Scout Promise were incompatible with the philosophy of the regime.

After 20 years of untiring effort and with the emergence of the democratic system, the scout movement was re-established in 1995, and it was only in 2002, during the WOSM World Conference in Greece, that the Association was re-admitted to the World Association of the Scout Movement.

Today, the Ethiopia Scout Association has more than 8000 Scouts (70% boys and 30% girls). In spite of the everlasting efforts of each one, the Association still faces many difficulties."

The journey of the Spirit Flame has brought us closer to Guiding and Scouting in Africa and, during her visit, Martine was able to ask about concrete projects in which the Fellowship may participate to help these struggling Associations. She proposes listing a "Catalogue of Projects" and the NJC will watch for these to circulate same to States so Guilds can decide whether they wish to help.

Twining.

The up to date list of Australian Guilds who are 'Twinned' has been sent to ISGF HQ.

Any new "twining" from this date on is to be notified on a form obtainable through your State Adviser/Guildmaster.

NJC term.

The National Joint Council currently rotates between States for a 4 year term. It has been recommended that this be shortened to a 3 year term.

State Advisers/Guildmasters have been asked to present opinion to their Australian Adviser/Guildmaster so the decision can be made in October.

Stamp Bank

Following the decision that the Stamp Bank funds be used for Guide/Scout projects in Australia (as notified in Fellowship News 3) decision on how this would be done will involve State representatives at coming National meetings.

World Gazette

Following discussion, it was felt that some articles from Australia may be more representative if the project were described as having been carried out by "Australian Fellowship" rather than refer specifically to Trefoil or BP Guilds.

It has been asked that articles be forwarded via the appropriate Australian Adviser/Guildmaster, and these office bearers will consult before the article is forwarded.

AFOFSAG/NJC Annual Meeting will be held at Guides Queensland 17 Gould Road, Herston QLD 4006, on Sunday 28 October 2007, 2.00pm.

All members are invited to attend.

Yvonne James (President)

Jenny Nelson (Vice President)