

The girls have now been billeted in over 300 white marching girls' homes without one bad report—naturally enough something of which I am very proud, and which reflects great credit to the girls and their families.

I will send you cuttings from local papers regularly so that you may know what they are doing. I hope to be able to take the team to New Zealand during the Christmas school holidays.

When these girls go away on tour it is just not a trip for marching or for fun, but a very seriously planned tour. For example, while the girls were in Melbourne they were given various vocational tests at the many factories and offices we visited.

The team visited the head office of Ansett-ANA Airlines, where the girls were taught to use Telex machines, and were soon sending messages all over Australia. At the head office of B.H.P., the girls were instructed in modern comptometers and electronic equipment used in big business. They visited Coca Cola and Cottees' factories and were tested in jobs done by women, such as checking bottles under fluorescent light.

At the Red Tulip chocolate factory, the girls were taught to dip chocolates and wrap Easter eggs.

To get to Melbourne, the B.H.P. donated \$100 to pay the rail fares to Sydney from Taree, and Mr Reg Ansett, of Ansett-ANA, gave the team free travel by air from Sydney to Melbourne and back, while General Motors Holden supplied vehicles for transport while in Melbourne. What wonderful gestures!

The manager of the Royal George Hotel, Prahan, Victoria, entertained the team to a seven-course dinner after he saw them in the Moomba Parade, and invited the Mayor of Prahan, Cr. Martin Smith, and Mr Sam Loxton, M.L.A., Rev. Vivian Roberts, and Mr and Mrs Harold Blair to be privileged guests.

The Mayor was so impressed with the girls that he declared the City of Prahan open to the team the following day—and what a day to be remembered by the team.

The Chamber of Commerce gave each girl \$2 to go shopping in Prahan's main street; they bought presents for their mothers. After a visit to the Tulip Chocolate factory at Prahan they had lunch with the Mayor who took them for a swim in the city's modern swimming pool, after which they finally returned to the main street where they marched through the city in full uniform, receiving a tremendous ovation from the crowd.

They then visited Walton's store where Mr J. Murphy, the manager, gave each girl a further \$1 pocket money and let them loose in his store before entertaining them to a bumper afternoon tea.

Every day of the tour was packed with experiences for the girls that will live in their memory for the rest of their lives.

These little girls are not forced to go anywhere or do anything. They hold their own team meetings and decide themselves where they will go or what they will do. They hold these meetings before practice, generally once a week, so the team is doing what they want to do and are therefore very contented.

They are proud of their activities and are now at a stage where they are appreciating what has been done for them, and it is now that I feel that all the effort and work I have put into this team has been worthwhile.

Once again thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
A. G. de Voogd

Bush Hospitality

*A tiny speck moves on the plains—through rain haze.
After four and getting late
You go and peg the house yard gate.*

*Pen-up the milkers—feed the ducks and hens.
Look towards that speck again—
Now it's a waggon on the plain.*

*Homestead-bound bullocks—ploughing through mud
they make.
The teamster and his dog—
That flounders through the greasy bog.*

*Go up to the kitchen—tell the wife some extra chow.
An extra bed tonight—
And get the kero light.*

*The team pulls up—near the old bush shack and
windmill gear.
You yell a "Hullo mate"
Then unpeg the house yard gate.*

Laurie Wells