



Travel

1931

Australia

Medal from 1931 visit
to Australia



Reverse side

Lady Baden-Powell had just been proclaimed World Chief Guide at the sixth World Conference, Foxlease, England, in 1930.

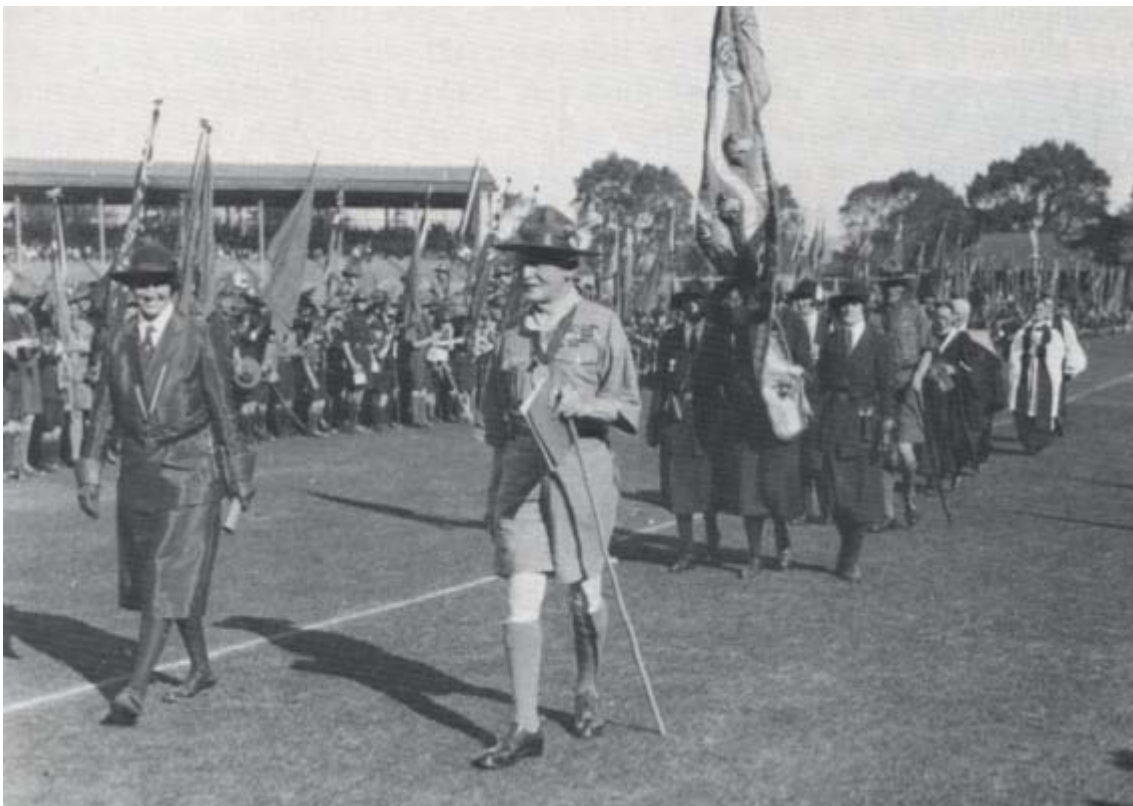
Lord and Lady Baden-Powell with the Governor of Queensland, Sir John Goodwin, and Lady Goodwin, during their visit in 1931.



The Chiefs first called at Port Morseby and Thursday Island, then sailed down the Coast to Brisbane. there a great rally was held for them at the Exhibition Grounds. Brownies formed an enormous kangaroo symbol on the ground and sang

Australian bush songs with the 2000 scouts and 1500 guides who had gathered. Anne Stone tells this story: Lord and Lady BP attended a function at Erapah, the Scout Training Camp in Victoria Point, Brisbane. All Leaders were invited but they arranged to have separate get-togethers in different areas. The Scouters had prepared a pit-cooked sucking pig for their Chief, and the Guides had brought sandwiches and cakes for Lady BP. and were sitting on rugs in a shady area a hundred or so yards away from the men. I was present as a small child with my parents, who retold the following remark by Lady BP, during a break in conversation when the aroma of the pig being carved wafted tantalisingly through the bush: "Aaah ladies, don't you think it's time we joined the gentlemen?" Needless to say, there was was a hurried packing-up and movement towards the ladies' source of temptation!

In New South Wales, a rally involving more than 10,000 Scouts and Guides was staged at Randwick Racecourse. Next day thousands attended a Thanksgiving Service at the Sydney Cricket Ground.



The Chiefs next visited Canberra, and then Melbourne to attend another huge rally (7000 Guides and Scouts) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. On the left, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell lead the colour party at the Scouts and Guides Own at the MCG. The Chief Guide was wearing a lightweight summer uniform.

After a brief holiday, the Chiefs continued their tour, next step Adelaide. Then on to Tasmania, and later by train to Western Australia. Receptions were held in all centres. The Chiefs were welcomed warmly, and were so well loved and respected that they stayed at Government House in each capital city.