



Orbost Marching Girls - *'Back-to-Orbost'* - March 1963







# MARCHING GIRLS AN ASSET TO ORBOST

Carnival and parade organisers throughout the State are clamouring for the services of marching girls, and Gippsland lending as much support as any province

From Warragul to Bairnsdale, and in only three years, 35 marching girls teams have come into operation and Warragul in particular leads the state.

Now, Orbost is becoming the centre of a projected team of marching girls. But, the move will mainly have to come within the township itself, and officials from Gippsland towns only too eager to help with the initial organisation.

Actually, interest in noting this new type of entertainment in Orbost goes back several months when the Orbost team was in the throes of being established to obtainable strength once

when the "S.R. Mail" reported that a marching girls squad would be a profitable and worthwhile asset to Orbost.

Mr. Harry Clements (Bairnsdale) secretary of the Gippsland Marching Girls' Association, which started with 15 teams 3½ years ago, has said that he would be only too pleased to assist with formation of a team at Orbost.

If Delegate can unearth such a fine squad of marchers in the female ranks, why can't Orbost do the same? It is well worth a try!

And if our local girls want inspiration, take Bairnsdale Red as an example. Recently at Traralgon they won their first medal — and ended with three — when dominating B. grade competitions.

They've been practicing and competing for nearly three years, and now they're sitting pretty on top of the world.

(See special Marching Girls story on Page 10.)



# Marching Onwards and Into New, Brighter Laurels

Many Gippsland and Latrobe Valley towns are literally marching into the horizons of fame and color because of short-skirted, tanned legged and high-stepping girls . . . .



Pretty Colleen Burke relaxes after a victorious parade. Colleen, from Coldstream Guards (NSW) team, "marched" off the initial display for Bairnsdale to form its marching girls teams.

. . . . and consequently throughout Victoria 4000 girls in their bright uniforms are catching the public's eye and admiration. In many instances, a marching girls' squad is short cut to town promotion. Just ask Warragul and its five teams. (Terry Bourke)

The gateway to Gippsland township boasts two of the State's best marching teams — if not two of the finest in Australia. And month by month towns further east are issuing stronger challenges on the parade ground.

Gippsland's most publicised marching girl is former Miss Victoria finalist Sandra Cottrell, an 18-year-old receptioniste at her father's hotel in Warragul.

In three years Sandra has risen from just a team member to leader of the precision-moving Warragul Whip-o-Wills, whose duels with fellow town team The Maroons are becoming legendary in the ranks of marching girls.

### Matter of Time

At the moment the 'Whips' are ranking second to the Maroons, led by ace marcher Shirley Walters, but Sandra's team is hovering consistently . . . and claim it's just a matter of time.

Sandra Cottrell's story is a saga in its own, and certainly an inspiration to any girl aspiring to join the ranks of princesses on parade. For her, achieving success after success as a marching girl the battle has been a personal one.

Cottrell, a staunch supporter and advocate of this comparatively new sport to Gippsland, as her keenest fan, and critic.

Family ties are prominent in Gippsland Marching Girls Association ranks and perhaps she most unique partnership can be found at Bairnsdale — in the Clements household at Lucknow, on the fringe of the City of the Lakes.

### Three on Parade

Mr. Harry Clements, hard working secretary of the association, has a hard time breaking away from official duties to watch his three daughters Rosemary (19), Pearl (16) and Cynthia (14) step it out before the judges.

"It gets you in alright", says Harry "and with the whole family marching around — including Mum — we're always on the go."

Rosemary, a telephoniste at the Bairnsdale exchange, claims that marching girls become "wrapped up" in the sport and as a result train to no uncertain end.

### Hard Work

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**In Plaster Case**

With her right leg shorter than her left, due to an ailment as a toddler. Sandra was early in life, in Prince Henry's Hospital (Melbourne) for 18 months in a plaster case.

For nine years after that long stay in hospital, and while a student at Hawthorne Kindergarten and Warragul State, she battled on gamely . . . despite the presence of leg calipers.

Sandra Cottrell's feats are even more remarkable when one learns she has ran up a string of belle of the ball victories in and around Warragul and she is the current Miss Latrobe Valley.

**Dad's Support**

Fair headed Sandra is 5ft. 7in. and has always had father, Mr. Neville

uncertain end.

**Hard Work**

Sandra Cottrell, who has a doctor's certificate for judges at displays (she cannot align her boots perfectly as required), is the voice of Gippsland marching girls when she says "Hours and hours of hard work have to be devoted to marching practice. Planning new formations and keeping colorful uniforms at their gleaming best."

"The girls at Warragul practice an average of seven hours a week. Most of us have to start training at 6 a.m., before going to work — it's the only time we can get together with an instructor."

Her Bairnsdale counterpart, Rosemary, adds, "You can never practice too much, as one little error or wrong step on the parade ground by one girl — and that's the end of victory hopes for everyone."

As well as practice there's the cost of uniforms and the hours spent keeping them neat and tidy.

(My younger sister Leonie is a member of elated Bairnsdale Reds, and she seems to be cleaning shin high boots every night of the week).

What of the costs of uniforms. Marilyn Lane, leader of Reds team tells "It varies . . . but with most clubs the girls supply their own boots — which cost about £5 — and the blouse, skirt, jacket and cap are either provided by the club, or the cost subsidised."

And Sandra, "Uniforms can cost up to £20, but usually it's about £15".

They all say "Money is not the slightest worry to even the younger girls . . . particularly when they know they're high stepping it to fame, and their town is going with them."

**MARCHING GIRLS**

**MEETING** to form a squad at Orbost will be held in the Cookery Centre, Mechanics Hall, on **THURSDAY, MAY 31st**, at 8 p.m. Mr. H. Clements president of the GMGA, will be in attendance. Parents of all girls interested cordially invited to attend.

uesday, June 6, 1962

**ORBOST LASSIES TO STEP OUT!**

**Orbost should soon see its girls on the march — if parents will band together to form a committee to handle the affairs of a Marching Girls' Squad.**

On Thursday evening last nearly 40 girls attended the meeting to get the marchers under way.

Mr. H. Clements, secretary of Gippsland Marching Girls Assn. was present, as well as a number of parents of the girls.

The proposed Orbost squad will be included in a zone extending eastward from Pakenham.

Age groups are Midgets to 12 years; Juniors 12-15 years and Seniors from 15 years.

It is expected that a demonstration will be given in the near future at Orbost by teams of marching girls from Bairnsdale and Warragul.

It is hoped to have the Orbost squad fully trained and in readiness for the opening of the 1962-63 season.

Approximately £120 will be needed to equip the squad and much depends upon the outcome of a meeting to be called to form the committee, this Monday evening. — (See advt.)



## 75 GIRLS READY TO MARCH!

Seventy-five Orbost and district girls have joined the Orbost Marching Girls' Assn. and are eager to begin practice.

On Monday evening, officers and committee were elected at a meeting attended by 55 parents and girl supporters.

Elected were President, Mrs. J. Trewin; vice,

Mrs. C. Hofen; secretary Bev. Coulton and treasurer, Mr. G. Mehlert.

Committee: Mesdames M. Sexton, J. Cardas, Voight, Monk, W. Cooney, I. Geer, Stevens, S. Dickens, D. Hilyear, Bennett, M. Herbert, Robinson, M. Baker, M. Brumley and Messrs M. Herbert, G. Mehlert and Jim Trewin.

Practice commences tomorrow after school in the Recreation Reserve, at 4 p.m.

It is expected that demonstrations will be given by visiting teams in the near future.

## Band and Marching Girls Popular

One of the highlights at Saturday's football fixture on Lochiel Park was the appearance of the Orbost Municipal Band and a squad of marching girls.

This is the second appearance of the band since its recent reformation and the first for the girls.

The band went into recess about 20 years ago.

Selections by the band and the parade of girls at half time earned much applause from the large crowd.

A tarpaulin muster for funds for the marching girls yielded over £20.



# Orbest Marching Girls Are Formed

Orbest Marching and the Orbest Municipal Band appear again at the football match on Lochiel on Saturday.

The endeavour is to be to present the girls in a new movement with appearance. It will that the girls will participate in a marching band, notwithstanding the number of instructors and the winter the girls are progressing well.

Last Monday night's Orbest girls' white tennis dress.

names were chosen for the various squads. These are:  
 Seniors: Orbest Waratahs.  
 Junior: Gemstones.  
 Midgets: Pixies.  
 Chaperones appointed were:  
 Senior chaperone: Miss Bev. Coulton.  
 Junior: Mrs. Hofen.  
 Midgets: Mrs. J. Trewin.  
 Reserve chaperones: — Mrs. Voight, Mrs. Sexton.  
 Enquiries have been made re uniforms and models of an air-line type hostess cap, and another style will be in Miss Coulton's possession for girls to view.  
 Girls are asked to note that short socks must be worn on Saturday.

Wednesday, July 18, 1962

# ORBOST LIKES THE MARCHING GIRLS

Orbest's newly - formed Marching Girls Association has really made a favourable impression on the public of Orbest.

The energetic committee has got down to work and has raised £117/15/8 in five weeks. In addition to this the grand total of £25 from Mr. Weston, also £1 from Moorhouse, makes a total on July 14th at £118/15/8.

Already sufficient funds are on hand to outfit one team.

Orbest will have at least three teams.

The president, Mr. Clements and daughter, in Bairnsdale Marching Girls Assn., visited Orbest at the week-end, and Miss Clements gave a demonstration of marching last night (Wednesday).

Next delegates will attend a meeting at Bairnsdale to form an area association, extending from Inverloch to Orbest.

The idea is to have all inter-town competitions to gain experience and save expenses of attending big competitions where the girls are not ready.

On Sunday, July 29th, Bairnsdale will bring three teams to Orbest and give a full afternoon's demonstration.

Their leaders and instructors will take over the girls and advise them in every way.

Practice for Midgets will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and for juniors and seniors, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays.



## Visiting Marching Girls at Orbost

On Sunday next, the Bairnsdale Marching Girls will be visiting Orbost.

The girls will arrive about 11 a.m. and have a picnic lunch at Lochiel Park.

Commencing at 1 p.m. display of marching will take place.

The visit of the Bairnsdale girls has been arranged so as to assist the newly formed Orbost marching girls.

Orbost girls are asked to be at the football ground no later than 1 p.m. and if possible, to have a picnic lunch.

They are to wear white tennis dress, socks and shoes.

Members of the public are welcome.

## Orbost Marching Girls Choose Uniforms

Monday last was an important night for Orbost Marching Girls — uniforms for the three proposed teams were chosen as well as the girls to represent Orbost in Sydney over the coming school holidays.

The girls had to be juniors (13 to 15 years) and instructors, after an unenviable task, chose Heather Devlin, Eleanor Voight and Judith Plumridge.

The club knows these girls will be a credit to their team and Orbost.

Orbost representatives will be part of a contingent of 40 girls from Pakenham eastward, and over 85 girls have applied. The lucky ones will be known today.

### THE UNIFORMS

Uniforms chosen for the three Orbost teams are:

All teams: White pleated skirts.

Seniors: Tangerine jacket with gold trimmings.

Juniors: Red jacket with gold trimmings.

Midgets (under 12):

Green jacket, with white sleeves, green cuffs, white gloves, topped by a green and white hostess cap.

However, suitable material has to be found, and mothers can get further details from Mrs. E. Hofen.

### COMMITTEE CHANGES

Several committee changes were made. Mrs. Hofen takes over as secretary, Mrs. M. Sexton as junior girls chaperone and Mrs. Voight senior.

The club advises that as uniforms, insurances, etc. cost a considerable amount of money, any help and assistance would be appreciated.

Old car or lighting batteries brought in and left at Massey's Service Station, will help swell funds.

Two Brodribb Road farmers, have already each given 16 old batteries.



# Junior Marching Girls Get the Message

(By the Press Secretary)

Learning to march is like any other sport (golf, swimming, etc). After weeks of floundering around, something falls into place and you've got it.

This happened to Orbost junior marching girls last Saturday.

A very rough day, with a few minutes instruction in the shed, then a few minutes outside trying right and left turns on the march.

Suddenly all girls were moving like veterans, coming out of the turns in step and making the instructors proud of them.

With only one more movement of basic drill to master, juniors are ready to go on to precision drill.

Girls are warned that attendance is now a must, for as improvement comes a new movement can be taught.

A letter from Mr. Alf Dickeson (president of

Bairnsdale Blues) advises he is trying to arrange a visit to Orbost in the very near future, with his team for an instruction day on the 1962/63 march plan.

Now that days are getting longer, instructors intend to recommend at the next committee meeting that Midgets train after school. This will leave their week-ends free, also give instructors one day of the week-end free.

With boot type chosen for juniors and a model of their practice uniform on display they are ready to become a team.

It is up to girls to get into that team.

### ANOTHER INSTRUCTOR

Another instructor, Mr. Kevin Baulch of Hydro Motors, has offered to assist the present instructors. This will be greatly appreciated.

### FIRST SPONSORS

Sederians and Westons, of Orbost Bakeries Pty. Ltd. have agreed to sponsor Orbost Juniors.

This is a lead for others to follow.

# Marching Girls Seek Practice Ground

(By the Press Secretary)

Orbost Marching Girls are looking for a suitable ground to enable practices to continue.

Cricket executives have notified instructors that cricket season starts this Saturday, with a match on the recreation reserve, also that with two Orbost teams, the Rec. will be used every evening for practice, which means the girls will have to move, but to where?

If the use of Lochiel Park can be obtained it will mean a long walk for girls, after school, as quite a number attend Orbost North.

If something more central cannot be found it looks as if transport will have to be arranged for the girls to train.

Juniors will meet outside the Rec. oval at 4.15

p.m. or as soon as possible after school each Thursday afternoon.

Midgets, same time and place each Tuesday afternoon.

There will be no training this week-end or any week-end in future until further notice.



## Inter-Town Trip for Orbost Marching Girls

A team of Orbost Marching Girls (the Junior Gemstones) will be included in a street march and demonstration at Bairnsdale as part of the annual show festivities. Orbost Band will also be present.

Instructors have agreed the Gemstones can go providing free transport can be arranged, and that all girls have marching boots and their practice uniforms. The latter is a must.

Members of Orbost municipal band will also make the trip and help in providing the music.

Already Orbost girls have a list of 19 contests allotted to Vic. towns for this season's State championships at Kardinia Park, Geelong next year.

This is without inter-zone competitions.

As girls improve it is intended to enter competitions for experience.

A competition within the Orbost zone is being arranged for late Janu-

ary, to be held at Maffra.

To encourage new teams from Orbost and Maffra a novice event is on the programme — so hard work for all during the next three months to see if juniors and a team of midgets can win their first medal.

Orbost lost two key girls when Heather and Joy Devlin moved to Eden.

Murella Spadaro is being challenged as the most improved Midget, by Denise Lyons. This girl, only 7, has a style girls twice her age could copy.

Eleanor Voigt has three girls in Sue Savory, Lynn Robinson and Lorraine Mehlert, keeping her on her toes.

## PRAISE FOR ORBOST MARCHING GIRLS

"I am amazed at the progress you have made", Orbost Marching girls were told at Bairnsdale on Friday evening last.

The tribute was paid by Senior Constable Jock Bowman, instructor of Warragul Emeralds.

He first contacted one of Orbost's instructors (Mr. Jim Trewin) and then addressed the girls:

"I have been told by the announcer that without anyone in your district with previous experience of marching girls you formed this team a few months ago," he said.

"I am amazed at the progress you have made. I am very impressed with your arm swing."

This is very high praise as Warragul Emeralds were last season's junior champions of Victoria.

The girls were so elated that they refused transport and marched back down to Bairnsdale fire station.

To thank their instructor they increased their rate of step to about 160 a minute.

The Orbost team arrived at Bairnsdale thanks to the generosity of Mr. M. Sexton and Mrs. T. Voight, who made transport available.

The parade consisted of police band, police troopers with lances, eight teams of marching girls, combined Bairnsdale and Orbost bands and approximately 150 youth club girls and boys in that order.

Orbost girls had a bad position between two bands, which caused some confusion as to step.

The girls received applause at all strongpoints as they passed.

A big crowd watched five teams of girls give demonstrations, plus exercises by Youth Club girls and boys.

As a finale the "serpentine" by all teams — 80 girls in all — was a real spectacle. — Contributed.



## BACK TO ORBOST PROCESSION MARCH PLAN

All Marching Groups and Princess Float to assemble in Munro street, under supervision of J. Trewin and G. Mehlert.

All Floats to assemble in Raymond and Browning Streets, under supervision of F. Morriss.

All Floats and Groups must be at the assembly points at 1.30 p.m.

Procession will proceed to Rec. Reserve, via Nicholson and Salisbury Streets.

## BACK TO WEEK PROCESSION

All taking part in the procession are please asked to take note :

Marching Groups and Princess Float to assemble in Munro Street.

Other Groups and Floats to assemble in Raymond and Browning Streets.

## Marching Girls Honour Promise

Over the past three years, the late Mr. Jim Trewin and Mrs Trewin spent many hours, acting as instructor and chaperon, and travelling to various competitions with the Orbost Waratahs Marching Girls team.

Owing to ill health, Mrs. Thewin was unable to make the trips to Yarram and Morwell with the team in March and April and another team chaperon was asked to take over.

### PLACED SECOND

To the delight of all, the team was placed second in the semi final of the Gippsland Girls Marching Zone Premiership at Morwell.

All the girls called on Mrs. Trewin that night and during the evening the girls promised Mr. Trewin that they would go all out to get a place and help Helen Kelly get 'best leader' at Yallourn North on May 2.

During the following week the girls practised under Mr. Trewin's instructions but on 21st April, Mr. Trewin, while working on his farm, suffered a heart attack and was admitted to Orbost hospital. Mr. C. Mehlert was asked to keep his eye on the team whilst they trained.

### CALLED TO SEE INSTRUCTOR

On the afternoon of Saturday 24th, the girls called at the hospital with a basket of flowers and a card for their instructor, but as visitors were limited, only one girl, Julieanne Dooley, was allowed in for a few minutes.

Mr. Trewin asked Julieanne to tell the girls to come to see him tomorrow as he would be allowed visitors then.

Later that night, Mr. Trewin's condition became suddenly worse and he passed away soon after.

The high esteem which the girls held for their instructor was

shown on 26th April when the team, in full uniform, formed a guard of honour outside St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church, as the cortege moved off to the Orbost cemetery.

On Sunday, May 2nd the team travelled to Yallourn North and competed in the G.G.M. Zone Premiership final. **SECOND AGAIN**

The girls came second in the aggregate and Helen Kelly received best leader of the day. Thus the Orbost Waratah Marching girls honoured their promise to their late instructor.

Last season Mr. Trewin travelled many extra miles helping to train Bairnsdale RSL Blues, who won the premiership last year, and he would have been proud of his own team in gaining second place at Yallourn North.

During the afternoon at Yallourn North, two minutes' silence was observed, in respect to the late Mr. Trewin, who was vice president of East Gippsland Marching Girls zone.