



Sleepover more than just pillow fights

A GROUP of guides from Garden Suburb joined more than 1000 others and their volunteer leaders for the Great Guide Sleepover at Taronga Zoo in Sydney recently.

The sleepover is an annual event which raises funds for Taronga Zoo conservation programs. This is a highlight on the Girl Guides NSW and ACT events calendar.

The girls arrived in fancy costumes, many dressed as frogs to fit in with this year's theme of "Frogs, Frills and Fun".

This year, money raised will go towards the southern corroboree frog, but since 1978 various guide units have sponsored other endangered animals (in addition to the one chosen for the sleepover) to help with research, veterinary care and conservation.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Garden Suburb girl guides, from left, Abigail Slater, Jacinta Pinkerton and Madeline Bent with zoo keeper Leanne Hayter and a "friend".

As well as being able to dance along to popular music with friends and enjoy the Sydney Harbour backdrop, the girls were treated to a zoo keeper talk about the animals and the zoo's operation.

Girl Guides NSW and ACT state commissioner Belinda Allen said the event was unique.

"The girls enjoy the rare novelty of sleeping under the stars amongst a thousand peers. It's a very special way to learn about Australian wildlife. Girl Guides uses fun and adventure to inspire girls to be their best."

She said the sleepover reinforced Girl Guides' commitment to the United Nations' millennium development goals, particularly the environmental sustainability goal.

"We're dynamic, relevant and constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of today's girls and young women."



BED TIME: Garden Suburb girl guides, from left back row, Jacinta Pinkerton, Meg Stevens and Abigail Slater and, front from left, Katie English, Clare Eley-Smith, Charlotte Gapps, Madeline Bent and Madeline Munro.