Scouts Australia

Final Recommendation Report of the

4th Australian Rover Youth Forum

held at the 17th Australian Moot
Cataract Scout Park
8th January, 2008

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Contents

Introduction

This is the final report of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum held at "Aussiemoot", the 17th Australian Moot in January 2008.

There are three main parts to the report:

1. The findings and reports of the forum itself, as written by the delegates to the forum;
2. The comments received in the Rover Suggestion Boxes placed at the Moot site; and
3. Recommendations for future coordinators of the forum and Moot organising committees.

The Youth Forum was held in the large shed normally used as a shop for Jamborees, adjacent to the Anaconda store, between 9am and 4pm on Tuesday 8th January, 2008. It was attended by 24 delegates from each of the Rover Branches of Scouts Australia, except NT. Participation was regarded as the delegates' Service Activity for the Moot.

Thank You

I would like to thank the following people for their outstanding support in the organisation and running of the forum:

- Patrick McCormick – Chair, National Rover Council (for supporting me in the requests for delegates and topics from branches and for allowing me to hassle him about writing welcome letters and selecting topics.)
- Damian Ryan – Chair, 14th Australian Moot Committee (for providing everything I asked for.)
- Moot Committee and Teams (for being so welcoming during my time on site, providing lots of support, and picking me up from train stations!)
- Branch Rover Councils and Commissioners from across the country who supplied the forum with delegates and topics for discussion.
- Julie Creed – National Commissioner Youth Program (for promptly answering all my silly questions)
- John Ravenhall – Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia (for words of encouragement and contributions)
- Scott Sargant – previous Rover Forum Coordinator (for sharing his experience and allowing me to pinch some of his previous documentation)
- Greg Davies – Assistant Branch Commissioner, Rovers Victoria (for enormous help and advice on the day and the days leading up to the forum)
- Rodney Squires – Branch Commissioner, Rovers Tasmania (for his terrific help on the day)
- Nikketah McGrath – Chair, National Youth Council (for being our MC and for her help on the day)
- Simon Thompson – Assistant Chair, National Youth Council (for helping out in lots of little ways on the day)
- Michael Beelitz – Patrol Leader, National Youth Council (again, for his help with the little things on the day)
- Jade Elliot – Patrol Leader, National Youth Council (same again. Every little thing had to be done!)
- Jeff Rose – Branch Commissioner, Rovers NSW (for being a handy point of reference on site)
- Craig Whan – Branch Commissioner, Rovers Victoria (for some words of encouragement very early in the planning and organisation of the forum)

Delegates

A very big thank you to the 24 delegates to the youth forum who gave up a whole day of their Moot experience to represent their fellow Rovers:

Name	Contingent	Crew
Hannah Lord	ACT	Erindale Rover Crew
Kristy Van Putten	ACT	Lake Burley Griffin Rover Crew
Matt Rigter	ACT	Lake Burley Griffin Rover Crew
Adam Wakeling	NSW	Gosford Rover Crew
Amy Warwick	NSW	1st Blaxland Rover Crew
Erin Slaviero	NSW	Brush Park Rover Crew
Jacinta Thatcher	NSW	NSW Lone Rover Crew
Geoffrey Clark	QLD	Indooroopilly Rover Crew
James Cuneo	QLD	Indooroopilly Rover Crew
Peter Shield	QLD	Capalaba Rover Crew
Aly Macmichael	SA	Port Noarlunga Rover Crew
Cameron Roy	SA	Aesir Rover Crew
Chloe Stewart	SA	Pine Forest Rover Crew
Lauren Parham	SA	Bloo Rover Crew
Julie Claridge	TAS	Northern Area Rover Crew
Sam Stewart	TAS	Eastern Shore Rover Crew
Jessica Watling	VIC	Sugarloaf Rover Crew
Louise Pocock	VIC	Berembong Rover Crew
Nicole Simpson	VIC	Yarrimbak Rover Crew
Sarah Austin	VIC	Berembong Rover Crew
Elody Barugh	WA	Wanneroo Park Rover crew
Georgie Patchett	WA	North Beach Rover Crew
Lizzi Pennell	WA	Salterpoint Sea Rover Crew
Susan Lane	WA	Wanneroo Park Rover crew

Special Guests

Thanks to the following guests who attended the final presentations of recommendations at the forum:

John Ravenhall	Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia
Julie Creed	National Commissioner – Youth Program
Rodney Squires	Branch Commissioner – Rovers Tasmania
Paul Hutchins	Branch Commissioner – Rovers SA
Jeff Rose	Branch Commissioner – Rovers NSW
Greg Davies	Assistant Branch Commissioner – Rovers Victoria
Nikketah McGrath	Chair - National Youth Council
Simon Thompson	Assistant Chair - National Youth Council
Damian Ryan	Chairman - 17th Australian Moot
Charles McKenzie	Promotions - 17th Australian Moot
Wayne Villanova	Moot Chief - 18th Australian Moot, SA

Topic Recommendations

Following is the recommendations from the delegates to the Rover Youth Forum. Delegates considered six topics, four of which were determined in consultation with BRCs and NRC prior to the Moot and two were determined by the delegates on the day of the Moot.

Discussion groups (4-5 delegates per group) were free to tackle the topics in any order they chose. They were given no hierarchy of importance to the topics. It was also made clear that they weren't expected to be able to thoroughly tackle all of the topics in the allotted time.

On the following pages are a summary of discussions and the recommendations for each topic, as written by the delegates themselves in the afternoon of the forum.

Topic 4 (*The Beginning and The End*) turned out to be really two topics in one and delegates responsible for writing the final report decided to write it up as separate topics.

Topic 1 – Future Australian Moots

Background:
Planning for a moot starts many years in advance. It's important to consider all aspects of a moot such as communication, expeditions and activities. This will ensure that future moots continue to be successful and meet Rovers' needs.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:
- Aims of having a moot.
- Ways to ensure a successful moot.

Summary of Discussions:
Aims of having a moot
- social benefits
- service
- providing a challenge/personal development
- keeping people interested in the movement
  - promotion overseas
  - promotion to younger sections

Ways to ensure a successful Moot
The following areas were deemed very important to ensure a successful Rover Moot:
- communication – keep participants, staff, National Rover Council and Branches informed before, during and after the Moot
- expeditions and activities – ensure all activities and expeditions are well organized and are well budgeted
- management – clear and well structured chain of command, timeline of operations developed well in advance and adhered to
- site – plan the moot site to suit the environment but ensure it is "user friendly"

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum recommend that NRC tables our discussion and is passed onto the next moot chief for 2011. It is also recommended that the NRC looks at developing guidelines for running Australian Moots for the future.

Topic 1 Appendix

Communication:
- Clear chain of communication with a structured hierarchy.
- One stop notice board/info desk.
- Newspaper containing more information.
- Keep everyone in the loop.
- Website needs to be easy to read, navigate and updated regularly.
- Email confirmation followed by snail mail.
- Learn from previous moots.
- Online communication?
- Teleconferences a good option for contingents.
- Send receipts/confirmation of payment within two weeks of processing.
- Send confirmation "pack" via hardcopy.
- Structured invoicing of participants/staff.

Management:
- Clear positions outline for all moot staff.
- Staff being informed prior to moot.
- Timeline of operations.
- Budgeting- realistic costings.
- Don't be too ambitious.
- Reflect and evaluate- pre-moot, at moot and post-moot.
- Guidelines for expedition leaders.
- Online booking for onsite activities.
- More options for payment - credit/money order/electronic funds transfer.

Site:
- More lighting on site- fairy lights.
- Hygiene- soap in toilets, free washing facilities.
- Clear site outline- more directions.
- Wider selection of food for different tastes and dietary requirements.
- Late night café to serve food after bar closes.
- Security - car area, tent area during expeditions.
- First Aid - easy to locate.
- Lost property area.

Expeditions/Activities:
- Clear activity descriptions and program.
- Some activities need to be run by staff members- i.e. gourmet tour.
- Times to be outlined earlier than the day before.

Topic 2 – Growing The Rover Section

Background:
How to get young adults within and outside of scouting to join the Rover Section.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:
- Programming
- Promotion & Recruitment from outside the movement
- Retention/linking of existing scouting members
- Communications within & between sections

Summary of Discussions:
Programming
- Have a diverse, active and exciting program with activities that are both financially possible and easily accessible.
- Opportunities to do anything if desired
- Fundraising is incorporated into the programming
- More section orientated activities eg bring a friend nights and weekends.
- Crew participation at both crew and branch level
- Have a strong crew Exec.

Promotion & retention from outside the movement
- Ensure advertising campaigns cover all sections of scouting not just scouts
- Use actual rover events to promote rovers – for example, take the crew buggy to a sausage sizzle fundraiser
- Service activities outside scouting
- Use the term 'Rover Scouts' in promotions
- Promote in schools, UNI's, gyms, community notice boards, computer, camping and adventure stores.
- Promote certificates and qualifications you can get through Scouting
- Promote opportunities scouting can offer to the group and individual
- Easy Branch, National and Regional support for Promotional material.
- Have a draft standard sponsorship letter accessible on branch/national websites.

Retention/linking of existing scouting members
- Retention and linking of Venturers have events like Roventure, Dragon Skin, MI, Venturer/Rover Camps
- Finding a crew that suits you - go crew shopping
- Good relationships with local Scout groups, offer service.
- VLO's inform BVC what is happening in rovers.
- "I want to be a Rover" woggles great idea. Keep them going.
- Inter crew and inter unit activities with support from branch.
- Active and interested leaders within rovers
- Rovers as leaders in the younger sections

Communications within & between the sections
- Inter-crew, inter-region, inter-state support towards BPSA and Moots.
- Productive contact between groups
- Socialize with other crews
- Utilize Facebook, Myspace, and Youtube to promote rovers to the next generation.
- General communications to rovers about opportunities, events, training.
- Rover directory and scout info book

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum recommend that
- *Have a diverse, active and exciting program with activities that are both financially possible and easily accessible.*
- *Incorporate fundraising, inter-crew, inter-region and branch events into the program*
- *Ensure advertising campaigns cover all sections of scouting not just scouts*
- *Use the term 'Rover Scouts' in promotions, and rovers in the advertisements*
- *Promote certificates and qualifications you can get through Scouting to make the movement more inviting to the public*
- *Promote Scouting in schools, UNI's, gyms, community notice boards, computer, camping and adventure stores.*
- *Promotional Material is easily available at Branch level*
- *Continue running and improving events such as RoVenture, Dragon Skin, Hoadley Hide and MI for Venturers*
- *Encourage venturers to look at all crews and choose the one that is right for them not necessarily most accessible, or because of where their friends are going.*
- *Form good relationships between local groups*
- *Encourage rovers to be leaders in the younger sections*
- *Have a draft standard sponsorship letter accessible on branch/national websites.*
- *Promote Inter-crew, inter-region, inter-state support towards BPSA and Moots.*
- *Productive contact between groups*
- *Utilize Facebook, Myspace, and Youtube to promote rovers to the next generation.*
- *General communications to rovers about opportunities, events, training.*
- *Rover directory and scout info book*

Topic 3 – 90th Anniversary of Rovers (2008)

Background:
By November 1919 the rover scout section had been established by Lord Baden-Powell. 2008 will be a commemoration of the 90th anniversary of Rovering worldwide, with Australia celebrating 2009 as the 90th anniversary of Rovering in Australia.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:
- 2008 International / 2009 Australian
- Publicity
- Service
- Celebratory Events
- History

Discussions and Recommendations:

Publicity
- o Showcasing Rovering at events inside and outside Scouting
- o Within Scouting, produce 90th Anniversary woggle/pin/badge/scarf
- o Produce Rover 'YearBook' – a book with photos and stories from each crew across Australia
- o RoverScope at 2009 Australian Venture in WA

Celebratory Events
- o 90th Birthday Party type ideas – statewide celebration, synchronized across Australia
- o Formal Dinners – eg. Queensland Branch Dinner

Service
- o Implement the Scouts of the World Award nationwide
- o Do 90th Birthday Major Service Project from Rover branch (think big and long-lasting service such as building infrastructure)
- o Set a goal for an amount of time given by Rovers across Australia (a suggestion made – 90 hours for 90th Anniversary etc)

History
- o Re-evaluate the importance of traditional Rovering in Australia (a suggestion was made to reconsider knighting theme)
- o Formulate a rover history book

International Rovering
- o Implement Scouts of the world networks in Asia pacific
- o Visit each Rover scout association in the Asia pacific – represent Australia in the region

Topic 4a – The Beginning Of Rovers

Background:
Rovers experience 2 major transitions at the beginning and the end of their time in the section. Unlike other sections, the transition into Rovers can be very confusing and is still shrouded in myth. Conversely the transition out of Rovering is very unstructured and often does not involve a 'beginning' simply an 'end'. For many Rovers their time in the section and often more than a decade of Scouting simply ends. This leaves a major hole in people's lives and provides no structured way to continue on in the Scouting movement. These transitions have been identified as an area that needs attention and refinement. There is considerable opportunity for Rovering to increase its retention at the lower transition and a great opportunity for the movement as a whole to grow its skills, membership and ability if it is able to better utilise the skills of booted Rovers.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:
- Alcohol/Sex/Drugs
- Squires/Training
- Transition age
- School Leaving Certificates (eg HSC/VCE)/future studies/other life choices
- Resources available to Rovers to aid in recruitment of Venturers
- Making Venturers feel welcome in Crews
- Requirements for working with children
- Role of parents and parental responsibilities

Summary of Discussions:

Squires/Training
    The discussion was focused around a few main themes, the time limit within which a squire should be knighted, the ability to be accepted for themselves, and need for no restriction on activities because they are a squire. Rovers are often still squires for a number of years when, in reality, the process of training a squire for full knighthood should not take longer than a year. There was also felt to be some lingering stigma around being a squire and the partial slavery of squires that has featured in some crews in the past. Discussion moved to the lack of understanding squires had on what was required of them, something that was felt needed to be addressed across all states. This included the options for them to undertake training, fill event and committee positions or what they should expect in the later stages of their time in Rovers.

Transition Age
    Discussion centred around keeping the minimum age for Rovers at 17 or raising it to 18. It was generally felt that the transition age was suitable and coincided with the changing maturity level of young adults. However, young people of 17 years old are very focused on the completion of university entrance exams, high school exams and selecting a direction for their future life. Thus they were not focused on Rovering at the very time at which they will choose whether or not to progress on to the section. The raising of the age limit was also seen as an easy resolution to the issues surrounding liquor licensing laws.

Resources

Discussion centered on publications and resources being further and more readily available, to crews and regions. While many useful recruiting resources have been created over the years, it was felt that there resources were not readily available or were not known about in the wider rover community.

Welcoming Venturers and New Members

It was noted that there is a lack of knowledge of what to do with new members to make them feel welcome, particularly with introverted members. If some crew members don't immediately fit into the crew dynamic there is often little that a crew is able to do to rectify the problem. This owes mostly to a lack of experience or training in interpersonal skills. Often if crews could identify the problem, they often lacked the knowledge and/or skills to fix it.

Working With Children Requirements

Discussions were held regarding state legislative differences, the lack of knowledge as to responsibilities, consequences, liabilities and the complications that occur when persons under 18 years of age are present, when alcohol is served. There was also general lack of understanding of 'appropriate behaviour' in regards to policing underage alcohol consumption. It was noted that many Rovers also found it difficult to discuss or discourage risky alcohol or sexual practices amongst minors, often because of a lack of understanding of what is deemed as 'appropriate' and what could be constituted as 'inappropriate dealing'.

Parents

Who, what, why and how. What do parents need to know with young Rovers, and to what degree should parents become involved with issues? Rovers also needed a summary guide of required parental permissions for underage members particularly with adventurous activities.

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum recommend that on the topic of" the Beginning of Rovers':

- All Squires are to undertake Squire training within a year of going up.
  - This training should be cheap, quick and easily accessible to all Squires.
  - Training should include basic materials for later reference such as the Rover award scheme book and Rover structure document.
- All Rovers should be invested as full members of the Rover crew within a year of their going up to the crew.
- Continuing efforts should be made to reduce the lingering stigma of 'Squires as crew slaves'.
- That guidelines for parental involvement in under age Rovers, along with some general guidelines for all states to follow with the membership of under 18 year old Rovers be developed and distributed amongst all crews.
- That Rover resources be more prominently publicised, and promoted.
- That there is an explanation of reasons and consequences with regards to the Working With Children checks and legislation in each state, so that all Rovers understand why it is necessary. This should be formulated into a plain English guide so that it is available as a permanent reference for Rovers and for new members of the movement.

All states implement some form of the Working With Children Card, for their own members protection. (If there is not already a state legislated check or carding process in place).

Topic 4b – The End of Rovers

Background:

Rovers experience 2 major transitions at the beginning and the end of their time in the section. Unlike other sections, the transition into Rovers can be very confusing and is still shrouded in myth. Conversely the transition out of Rovering is very unstructured and often does not involve a 'beginning' simply an 'end'. For many Rovers their time in the section and often more than a decade of Scouting simply ends. This leaves a major hole in people's lives and provides no structured way to continue on in the Scouting movement. These transitions have been identified as an area that needs attention and refinement. There is considerable opportunity for Rovering to in crease its retention at the lower transition and a great opportunity for the movement as a whole to grow its skills, membership and ability if it is able to better utalise and coordinate the skills of booted Rovers.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Rovers just ends with no obvious progression to the next stage of Scouting
- Anguish and depression related to the transition out of the youth section of Scouts and into what is seen as 'the end of Scouts'
- Unclear expectations of what comes after Rovering
- Booted Rovers have lots of skills that could be used for events, activities or on training teams. Presently these skills just disappear out of the movement
- The pressure to become a section leader
- Conducting exit interviews with 26 year old Rovers
- Boot Moot/ Rover Reunion. A major annual event to keep booted Rovers in touch with Rovering and the Scout movement, and with friends
- What to do about Rovers who don't go
- Once a Rover, always a Rover. Currently this adage is not lived up to
- Encouraging older Rovers to enjoy themselves, not simply to take on all the roles of responsibility
- Booted Rover directory
- Health/ mental health issues related to booting, burnout and life upheaval and the effects this has on retention

Summary of Discussions:

It has long been tradition that Rovers who reach their 26th birthday are booted from the crew to which they have devoted much of their life, and left to 'paddle their own canoe' into the sunset and a new life without Rovers. There are a great many issues and opportunities surrounding this eventuality, but there has never been a successful effort to address the concerns of crews and the Rovers they are booting, nor has there been a coordinated effort to retain the skills and abilities of these booted Rovers. In the present climate of leader recruitment issues, skill shortages and dwindling support, this situation is a glaring omission that, through proper rectification, has the potential to greatly improve Scouting.

As the situation presently stands, Rovers who turn 26 can become section leaders, activity leaders, or can join any number of loosely defined fellowships or guilds. While some Rovers welcome these options and settle into their new Scouting roles well, many other booted Rovers find that these options do not suit there needs, circumstances or personal interests. Many 26 year olds are not in a position to become section leaders or are not able to devote the time needed to undertake the role successfully. Similarly, many booted Rovers do not wish to join a fellowship that often has a very narrow focus and consequently small membership base. In such cases, the Rover is lost to the Scout movement. In some instances these

people reenter the movement once their own children enter the youth sections, but in the intermediate years, the association has lost the skills, time and ability of the person.

In the past, the default solution for well meaning leaders and regional staff has been to push booted Rovers into section leader roles. While these actions are well meaning, this has often created great anguish for the Rover, as they often feel that they are obliged to take on the role even if they are not able or suitably prepared. This has often heightened the issues they are already facing at the time of their boot, and often prevents them from seeing the other options available to them. While suitable Rovers should be encouraged to take on leadership roles after their booting, leaders should not pressure booted Rovers into becoming leaders if this is not their choice. Rather, these Rovers should be directed to a 'fellowship' for booted Rovers. This fellowship should be structured to provide a group of skilled persons who are able to assist at major events and activities while still ensuring that the fellowship members are able to undertake both Scouting and social activities in much the same way as the would have in Rovers. Ideally this fellowship should have support from national and all state branches in order to ensure that the fellowship members can travel easily between states as the need or opportunity arises.

The other side to the booting story that is not covered by the romantic notion of 'sailing off into the sunset', is the anguish and loneliness experienced by many Rovers leading up to, and in the months after, their boot. Many Rovers have been 'Life Scouts', their friendship groups, activities and, in some cases, whole lives, have been devoted to the Scout movement. At the completion of Rovers all these things abruptly end, leaving many Rovers with an enormous hole in their lives that has, for decades, been filled by Scouting. There are numerous cases where recently booted Rovers have experienced depressions or even suicidal tendencies due to the rapid and total upheaval in their lives. This is not an acceptable situation in an association such as Scouting, especially as it is a problem that is easily rectified if proper options and information are provided in advance of a boot.

Rover burn out is another common problem associated with Rovers approaching booting age. Older Rovers have a tendency to take on many leadership roles, often more than they can reasonably manage, leading to immense stress and eventual burnout. By the time these Rovers reach their 26th birthday, they are glad to see the back of the work and responsibility and are not in a conducive state of mind to be recruited to a fellowship or leadership role. This situation often prevents the retention of many gifted Rovers who are, ironically enough, many of the most experienced Rovers. Younger Rovers should be encouraged to take on some of the leadership roles the section requires, thus removing much of the pressure felt by older Rovers. 24 and 25 year old Rovers should be in a position where they are able to enjoy the best years of their Rovering, not in a position where they are worrying about the future of the section.

Recommendations:
The delegates of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum recommend that on the topic of' the Beginning of Rovers':

- A database of booted Rovers is created in each branch to record contact details and skill sets of booted Rovers. This data base should be easily updatable by the booted Rovers to account for location and family changes later in life
- That an annual reunion is organized in each branch for booted Rovers with the aim of maintaining involvement in the movement and contact between booted Rovers
- Branches undertake 'formalisations' of fellowships and guilds. This process should aim to make guilds and fellowships more coordinated and structured with the aim of providing guild members with wider opportunities and less 'locality' restrictions.

- Efforts should also be made to provide more defined information and details on fellowships and guilds to older Rovers
- Establishment of a national fellowship of 'booted Rovers' with the aim of providing a continued commitment to service and Scouting ideals
- Branches need to provide more support for fellowships/guilds in a way that is similar to the youth sections, rather than viewing fellowships/guilds as fringe groups that are often ignored or considered as an after thought
- Provide some form of identification for fellowship members that can be worn on Scout uniforms to distinguish them from leaders or other uniformed adult members
- The conducting of exit interviews with 26 year old Rovers to establish their future direction in the movement and to ensure that they are supported through the transition. This interview would be best conducted by a District Commissioner or other leader with a solid knowledge of the post-boot options in particular areas
- Each branch (in coordination with national) create a summary document of the options available to Rovers nearing their boots and the relevant contact details for each option open to them
- Group Leaders (and leaders in similar positions) are to be discouraged from viewing **all** booted Rovers and 26 year old Rovers as potential leaders. GLs should be encouraged to be selective in the Rovers they approach in regards to leader roles.

Topic 5 – Expectations & Perceptions of Rovering Inside & Outside the Section

Background:

In the initial whole group discussion on possible topics, much concern was raised from the members of the forum about how the section is seen by those outside of Rovering and outside the movement. Delegates were also uneasy about the expectations placed on Rovers from within the section and from the rest of the movement.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Expectations of Rovers inside the Section
- Expectations of Rovers from outside the Section
- Perceptions of Rovers inside the Section
- Perceptions of Rovers from outside the Section

Summary of Discussions:

Expectations of Rovers inside the Section: Rovers expect a range of activities based on four criteria - Fun & Adventure, a Safe & Supportive Environment, Opportunities for Personal Development, and Service. There is an expectation that there is a structure and set of values based on Scouting. As young adults, we need to be aware of each other, especially new members, keep a look-out for each other as you expect them to do for you (mateship). Rovers need to be aware of new Rovers, don't be aloof, and ensure they are able to contribute. Many Rovers also expect to have access to formal training as part of their personal development. There was concern that the same Rovers are in many roles, risking burnout. Social needs are important, as are training opportunities that help with future employment. Although self governing, support in running our program is needed from Branch, Regions, interstate and overseas.

Expectations from outside the Section: Rovers are often called upon to provide assistance and jobs to other areas of the movement. Often this is with no prior consultation just simply 'expected' because its

"your job"… Rovers are not a "dial a leader" service. However, some felt there was a positive image to be felt when those outside Rovering follow appropriate channels in requesting assistance, including from the general community. Service is our motto.

Perceptions of Rovers within the Section: There is a perception from new recruits that they need to match or keep up with the existing Rovers & their alcohol intake. This is something Crews need to be aware of. New Rovers who are at uni may also worry about the cost of being a Rover – especially if their crew has many older crew members who are financially independent. Social diversity is an important aspect of the Rover section that members need to be aware of.

Perceptions of Rovers from Outside the Section: from other parts of the Movement are varied from "Stubbies On Legs", to efficient and helpful providers of Service when needed. This first perception doesn't sit well with all Rovers and often they are unable to address this until they prove it with the effective running of an event. Not having an RA was seen as making a negative impact on perceptions.

Recommendations:
The delegates of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum recommend that an effective training & development program specifically aimed at Rovers be established that does not duplicate with the Wood Badge, BP Award, & the various Adventurous Activities.

In order to improve Rover section image and expectations, the following recommendations are made:
- *Positive promotion to Venturers occur;*
- *Positive promotion also to Venturer Leaders and Venturer Parents;*
- *Good communication between BRCs and Branch Venturer Councils be established;*
- *National promotions for Rovers, highlighting Fun & Adventure, Safe and Supportive Environments, Opportunities for Personal Development, and Service;*
- *Encourage Rover councils to be prepared to ask for help or expertise from those in the movement, but outside of Rovers, who may have experience to contribute. (for instance, a Jamboree organiser might have useful knowledge to share with a Moot organising team)*
- *Include a component in the training of leaders of other sections and Group Leaders etc., about Rovers, how they are structured, and how Crews could be appropriately approached to provide Service.*
- *Crew Leader training should have a component on recognising and dealing with difficult situations such as a young member with financial limits, or feeling they have to keep up with drinking or other expectations of older members.*

Topic 6 – Standards across Australia for Training, Drugs and Alcohol and Award Scheme

Background:
Inconsistency of a number of aspects of Rovering across Australia was seen by the delegates as a serious problem that needed addressing. (This is issue is supported by some of the feedback received in the Rover Suggestions Box located at the Moot).

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:
- Training
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Award Scheme

Summary of Discussions:
TRAINING: The main focus of discussions on training was around formalising squire training, and making training inter-changeable between states and between sections. A general agreement were reached by all on the necessity for the Intro to Rovers course, along with the refurbishment of the Techniques and Skills for Committees course (TASC) allowing further possibilities for Rovers.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL: The general consensus between all states is that all policies currently in place, at Branch and National levels are suitable for the Rovering section. A large difference occurs from state to state in how the crews apply the policy, to their own members with punishment, and tolerance. Some further discussion occurred on alcohol and events and some recommendations have been made below.

AWARD SCHEME: This topic caused some confusion between states, however differences aside the groups have thought of some further safe guards to put in place to strengthen our Award Scheme.

Recommendations:
The delegates of the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum recommend that with regard to Training, all states adopt the Introduction to Rovering Course as the first level of Rover training, along with incorporating the course in to part of squire training, thus formalizing Squire training. The delegates would also like to recommend that the Techniques and Skills Course (TASC) currently being run in Victoria be refurbished and implemented in all states; thus providing more opportunities for Rover Development within and outside of the movement, not to mention providing the skills to members to run large scale events, at crew, region, branch and national levels.

In relation to the second sub category of Drugs and Alcohol, the delegates would like to recommend that rather than have a national policy for this issue, that the Policy is made on a Branch by Branch basis, mainly due to the differences in liquor licensing laws between states. The current Rover developed Responsible Alcohol Guidelines *allows flexibility for Rovers, Crews and Event Organisers to implement the most appropriate alcohol rules for the setting while encouraging a responsible attitude.*

Finally on the topic of the Award Scheme, the following recommendations are made by the delegates, that there be a database created of BP award ideas, tasks, rambles and other items chosen, to aid the younger members and many regions in assisting with ideas when asked for. The second recommendation is that the process, is featured more prominently within the movement, and that the process is the same within each State. The final recommendation is that each Branch look into appointing a Baden Powell Award person, who is able to advise all potential BP Award recipients when required.

The Rover Suggestion Boxes

Two **Youth Input Into Scouting** displays were set up at the moot site featuring, amongst other things, a *Rover Suggestion Box*. One was located at the **Internet Café** and one at **Joe's Café** where there was space for relaxation with DVDs, computer games, pool table, air hockey, couches, chairs and tables.

Below are comments, in verbatim, received in the suggestion boxes. Included is the date that the suggestions were collected and which box they came from.

Note that some authors chose to leave contact details for clarification.

7/1/08 – Internet Café
<u>Less Walking</u>

7/1/08 – Internet Café
Focus on building youth leadership, where it's needed. Most Scouts in Australia are white. Focus on starting Crew & sharing skills.
- Aboriginal people
- New immigrant groups e.g. Sudanese
- Other developing countries e.g. Expeditions

<u>AND ABOVE ALL</u> – Be willing to alter the format to accommodate new groups, don't expect them to conform to us…

Choose an objective for Rovering <u>through consultation with members</u> to give us some united direction.

Scouting is a movement; where are we going???

At the moment we are largely just maintaining what we have & have become sedentary, with only A FEW EXCEPTIONS…

Ideas include:
- Every Rover does 10 good turns in 2009
- Every Crew to do at least one night with an immigrant group
- Every Rover to do service at a homeless shelter / animal shelter / aged care facility etc for at least 2 weeks nationally
- Every Crew to be carbon neutral by 2010…

This will assist with recruitment % retention & give us a purpose & a reason to be proud to be a Rover!

G.V. ph: 0403 591 045

7/1/08 – Internet Café

RA's – Yes

National Project; e.g. cycle a Friendship Book around Australia.

Regional Project; e.g. build a School in Sri Lanka

Squire Training to start in Venturers

Definite Strategy Plans

Delegate from each BRC to the World Scout Conference (National HQ to pay)

7/1/08 – Internet Café

Rambler's Badge – Is it really necessary to have other Roves to accompany them on their expeditions???
Make it similar to the Expeditions 2 badge in BPSA…

Rovers may wish to travel interstate, overseas etc, which could involve the same difficulty of challenges e.g. a hike which this badge appears to be written for.

Or Rovers may wish to e.g. run an expedition for their Car Club.

In both of the above examples, requiring a Rover to take other Rovers with them can be an unnecessary obstacle as it's got nothing to do with basic & intended outcomes of the badge.

The BPSA is all about, amongst other things, challenging Rovers to explore the real world, and develop an understanding of others and the self.

Travelling is a great way of doing these & for a Rambler's Badge application to be rejected because other Scouts won't be about discourages travel. Travel is discouraged since Rovers wanting to do BPSA won't want to dedicate the time to going travelling if they can't do it for BPSA. BPSA Rovers tend to be heavily involved in Scouting as well as leading their own lives…

(Learning about yourself, tackling challenges, discovering the world.)

8/1/08 – Joe's Café

BP Award
Currently there is a lack of standards, transparency and virtually no 'natural justice' in the BP award process / approval etc.

Every Crew/region has their own Standards (therefore there are no standards).

There is no appeal process eltc chirely [sic] and crews can make decisions with no explanation to an individual rover. There is also an assumption that all rovers had 8 years in rovers and have come up through the younger sections. Not necessarily the case. There is a push to get Rovers from uni etc. Such people may be in their 20s. Such people may be unfairly disadvantaged by some regions deciding that all BP work must be approved prior to 26th birthday as apposed to work completed by 26th birthday.

Recommendations
Require crews to set out in writing what they require exactly.

Ensure consistent <u>rules</u> NOT just 'guidelines' which are wither selectively taken or ignored completely.

<u>Independent approval body</u>!! <u>NOT REGION</u>

Require crews to approve based on previously agreed criteria ie. Checklist <u>NO ARGUMENTS</u>

Remove barriers – some crews set restrictions that other crews do not. Again lack of consistency.

ph. 0415 931 761

8/1/08 – Joe's Café
Mootwise: Organisation (just a <u>suggestion</u>)

and

this suggestion thing is good.

and teamwork

peace love freedom beauty

> Hippie f____ rainbow
> Love Love Michelle

9/1/08 – Internet Café
BP- Woggle and B.P. 'Epaulette' badges -> diff. version of the smaller rover badges.

9/1/08 – Internet Café
Why state the age range as 17-26 if there's no 26 year olds in Rovers???

It's silly.

Organisation Recommendations

Format

The forum was held from 9am – 4pm on one day of the Moot. A one hour briefing was conducted in the evening prior to the forum to get introductions and house keeping out of the way and allow maximum time for topic discussion. Overall this worked well, although a few delegates had to leave the briefing session early as they were competitors in the Eastman Shield!

The outline of the forum day (refer Appendix 1), involved a morning of discussion time (about 3.5 hours), report writing time after lunch (about 1 ¼ hours), and a formal (in uniform) presentation of findings at the end of the day. Only half of the delegates were needed for the report writing period.

Delegates worked in teams of 4 – 5 (mixed Branches) to discuss and record their ideas. This worked well as it allowed to delegates to express a view to a small group. Ideas from all teams were put together into topic groups for the report writing phase.

It was always intended that six topics be covered by the forum. This proved to be difficult in the allotted time and some feedback from delegates suggested that more time was needed for discussion and report writing. It would perhaps be appropriate in the future to extend the forum to 5 or 5.30pm (although there would probably never be enough time!).

As for previous Rover forums, it was agreed with the Moot Chairman that attendance at the Forum count as the delegates' Moot Service activity. This was deemed to be entirely reasonable as delegates are giving up a day of their Moot experience to attend.

Recommendations
1. That future Rover forums retain this existing format.

2. That no more than six topics be covered and that consideration be given to extending the forum to later in the day.

3. That delegates' contribution to the forum continue to be considered as Moot Service.

Budget

An overall cost of approximately $260 was used for consumables and basic catering. This cost was included in the Moot budget. A breakdown of costs appears in Appendix 2. In addition, costs for post-forum essentials such as producing and posting the final report to delegates and branches needed to be included. This would amount to approximately $60 for 30 mail outs.

Recommendation
1. An amount of $350 is set aside in the Moot Budget for the future running of the youth forum. This should be formally negotiated with the Moot Organising Committee as early as possible.

(Note that travel expenses and Moot attendance fees for the Forum Coordinator were covered by the National Office out of the Youth Program budget.)

Delegate Selection

The countdown to the forum was kicked off at the National Rover Programming Meeting held in Chatswood NSW in June 2007. This meeting was attended by National Rover Council and Branch Rover Councils, Branch Commissioners for Rovers, and the National Commissioners. An outline of the plan for the forum was presented at this meeting and a request for branches to begin finding delegates was made.

The opportunity to speak at this meeting was an excellent opportunity to discuss the forum.

Despite this good start, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining delegate nominations from BRCs. Only Victoria and Western Australia had submitted delegates by the due date. With the support of Patrick McCormick (then NRC Chair), nominations were chased up for all contingents except NSW, by the start of the Moot. Unfortunately this is not acceptable as it does not provide enough time to communicate with delegates prior to the event. For the forum to be truly representative, the delegates need to have the opportunity to discuss the topics with other Rovers prior to the forum.

The concept of a youth forum is to allow members of the movement who would not otherwise have such an opportunity, to have a say in the future direction of Scouting and Rovering. Given that, it makes sense that delegates be people who do not currently hold a position at Branch or National level within the movement. Some contingents chose to send members of their Branch Rover Council to the forum.

Recommendations
1. That the Forum Coordinator attends the Rover Programming Meeting in the years prior to the Moot to ensure all BRCs understand the concept and expectations on them for the forum.

2. That Branch Rover Councils endeavour to cooperate in providing details of delegates well in advance of the Moot.

3. That Branch Rover Councils look to alternative ways of encouraging and selecting people to attend a National Youth Forum. One way might be to run a state youth forum and select delegates from that to attend the National forum.

Topic Selection

Also at the Rover Program Meeting in June 2007, a request to NRC and BRCs was put forward to submit ideas for topics of discussion at the Moot. A short brainstorming session was conducted at this meeting and a number of good quality topic ideas were listed. This was a useful activity.

By the due date, only Western Australia and Queensland had submitted topic ideas. Whilst this is not a problem, it was a small concern that perhaps BRCs hadn't considered this opportunity for valuable feedback on an issue they might be aware of.

There was a space for topic ideas on the delegate registration form. However, since Victoria was the only branch to actually use this form no ideas were received by this method.

Two topics were reserved to be decided on the night before the forum. This worked well as it gave ownership of topics to the forum delegates and allowed burning issues to be discussed. However, it is important to be sure that topics are not too broad. As it turned out, two topics were a little too open and delegates found it difficult to cover them adequately.

Recommendations

1. That the Forum Coordinator attend the Rover Program Meeting in the year prior to the Moot to begin collection of topic ideas.

2. That NRC and BRCs include forum topics as agenda items for future meetings prior to the Moot and that they endeavour to submit their ideas two months ahead of the Moot. Requests for topic ideas could be passed down to their Region or District councils for discussion with the wider Rover population.

3. That the Forum Coordinator be conscious of the potential size of any topic submitted so that they don't become problematic for delegates to discuss and report on.

Moot Support

The moot provided excellent support to the youth forum at all levels and a special thanks needs to be given to all members of the organising committee and their teams. All requests were seen to promptly.

Initial contact with the Moot Chairman was made at the June 2007 Programming Meeting, six months prior to the event..

Recommendation

1. Initial discussions to begin with the Moot Organising Committee within the year after the previous Moot and that a forum liaison be appointed from the committee. This could be the chairman if appropriate.

Yakkery

On advice from previous Moots where little quality input was provided, it was suggested that a Rover Suggestion Box be setup as an alternative. In two places (Internet Café and Joe's Café) a Youth Input Into Scouting display was setup featuring NYC application forms, NRC information, as well as the Suggestion Box. Not a great deal of suggestions were received, however the ones that were received were mostly of good quality. These displays were put together fairly hastily so were not particularly attractive for passers by.

Recommendation

1. Continue with the Youth Input display and Rover Suggestion Box concept however dress the display up with colour posters for NRC, NYC, and past youth forum photos, etc.

Survey

The Rover Survey did not eventuate at this Moot. Alyssa Pears, vice chair (at the time) of NRC, contacted me to take on responsibility of putting together such a survey, distributing and collecting it. Unfortunately, due to an email communication issue, the survey was unable to be finalised prior to the Moot.

Recommendations:

1. Future discussion by National Rover Council needs to occur to determine the value of conducting such a survey.

2. If NRC would like a survey to be managed by the Youth Forum Coordinator then NRC will need to appoint a liaison, such as the Vice Chair, to ensure that its content and method of distribution is in line with NRC's needs.

Appendix 1 – Forum Program

<u>**Monday 7th January (Moot Day 9)**</u>

7.30pm – 8.30pm   Pre-Forum Briefing Session for all delegates.
                      Explain the whys and history.
                      Discuss logistics, discussion topics & background, organise groups, how to facilitate, meet each other. Select one or two more topics.
                      Top 10 issues facing young people in the next 5+ years.
                      Plan for 30 delegates organised in to 6 groups of 5. Plan for 6 topics.

<u>**Tuesday 8th January (Moot Day 10)**</u>

8.45am   Registration.

9.00am   Welcome (National Team/NRC to speak)
                      Introduction of Guests (National/NRC/NYC/Branches/Moot/etc)

9.10am   Break off into facilitation groups for topic discussion.
                      Each group to tackle topics in their own choice of order.
                      Each group has 3½ hours to cover all 6 topics.

11.00am   All come together. How's it going?
                      Morning Tea Break

11.15am   Resume topic discussion.

12.45pm   Lunch Served. Facilitation stops.

1.30pm   Bring together groups for final discussion.
                      Assign pairs to each topic.
                      Requires only 12 delegates (1 pair on each topic). Others can have the afternoon off!
                      Need six laptops and a printer!!

1.45pm   Begin report writing. 1¼ hours to complete.

2.30pm   All delegates return in full uniform & help setup for presentation.
                      Afternoon tea served for all participants plus guests.

3.00pm   Final reports presented to National Team/NRC/NYC/Branches/Moot Team
                      Reply from NRC/National/Branches

4.00pm   Final thankyous. Certificate presentation.
                      Finish

Appendix 2 – Cost Breakdown

Rover Youth Forum @ Aussiemoot
  Jan-08

Expenses Claim for Stephen Tyas (Forum Coordinator)

Receipt	Date	Item	Cost
1	14/06/2007	Photocopying	$ 8.00
2	14/06/2007	Photocopying	$ 10.00
3	15/06/2007	Blue Document Wallets	$ 8.04
4	7/12/2007	Postage	$ 10.00
5	23/12/2007	2 x Pk 10 Red Document Wallets	$ 10.98
6	27/12/2007	Certificate Paper	$ 8.49
7	4/01/2008	Mints & Plates	$ 6.24
8	4/01/2008	Forum Materials	$ 100.79
	9/01/2008	Morning Tea	$ 99.00
9			
10			
11			
		TOTAL	**$ 261.54**