



*Report to the
National Rover Council
from the*

3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum

*held at Tassiemoot, Lake Barrington
8th January 2005*



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National Adviser
Youth Forums*

Delegation Listing

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Guests

| | | |
|-------|-----------|---|
| John | RAVENHALL | National Chief Commissioner |
| Peter | BLATCH | National Commissioner Adult Training and Development |
| Julie | CREED | National Commissioner Youth Program |
| Rod | ABSON | National Rover Council Chairman |
| Ian | ALSTON | Moot Chairman - Tassiemoot |
| Scott | SARGANT | National Adviser – Youth Forums (Facilitator) |
| Greg | DAVIES | Assistant Branch Commissioner Rovers – Victoria (Facilitator) |



Youth Forum Format

The Youth Forum was held at the facilities building at Lake Barrington on Saturday January 8 2005 between 1pm and 6pm. It was attended by a total of 21 delegates representing each of the Rovering Branches in Scouts Australia.

In line with recommendations from the 2nd Australian Rover Youth Forum, attendance at the youth forum was contributed as the delegates' service activity for the Moot.

Both this factor, provision of comfortable facilities and holding the youth forum on one day only provided an environment that was conducive to developing good outcomes from the meeting for both the Forum and the individuals concerned.

Recommendation:

The 4th Australian Youth Forum retain the format utilized at this Moot, ensuring adequate facilities are available, the forum is conducted on a single day and the attendance of Moot participants is contributed as their Service activity for the Moot.

Budget

An overall budget of approximately \$500 was used for catering, refreshments and consumables. This cost was included in the Moot Activities budget, and was adequate to conduct the event. Thanks must go to the caterers for their excellent support.

Moot Support

Thanks must go to the Moot Committee for their support in conducting the Youth Forum – in particular Mike Patten, Tina Hughes, Ian Alston and David Chalk.

Delegate Selection

Submission of delegates to the Youth Forum took a great deal of time and organisation, despite repeated requests for Branch Rover Councils to nominate their delegates in advance.

Prior to the Moot, only Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had submitted the names of their delegates. The remaining branches submitted their delegations at varying points during the beginning of the Moot, but this meant the responsibility was transferred to the various Contingent Leaders to arrange the attendees.

The Youth Forum is conducted to provide feedback and ideas for the National Rover Council, National Youth Program Committee and Branch Rover Councils. With this in mind, BRCs should recognise the nomination of delegates as their responsibility, and endeavour to nominate delegates in advance. This point was raised in the report on the 2nd Australian Rover Youth Forum also.

Recommendation:

Branch Rover Councils endeavour to cooperate in providing details of delegates in advance of the Moot at which the Youth Forum is to be held.

Contribution by Delegates

The contribution and attitude of the delegates to the meeting was highly commendable. They each were motivated and enthusiastic to contribute, making the conduct of the Youth Forum a great deal easier.

Recommendation:

National Rover Council give formal thanks and recognition to all the delegates who contributed to the outcomes of the Youth Forum

Discussion Topic Selection

In similar theme to the above statement, the outcomes of the Youth Forum are presented for the benefit of Rovering, to the various governance Councils of the Rover Section. Therefore, the topics of discussion should have particular relevance to the issues currently facing the Rover Section. Only one discussion topic included in the roster for the Forum was submitted by a Branch Rover Council. The remaining discussion topics were agreed between the National Adviser and the NRC Chairman

Recommendation:

Branch Rover Councils, National Rover Council and the National Rover Youth Program Committee recognise the significance of contribution to discussion topics for the Youth Forum and endeavour to make it a priority for the 4th Australian Rover Youth Forum.

Yakkery

Following discussions regarding the Yakkery at the 15th Australian Rover Moot in 2002, a decision was made to attempt a less formal format for the Yakkery this year. A discussion topic board was erected at the bar for notation of opinions on various topics. This was held under the title of The Grill.

The actual structure of The Grill was limited by the availability of space in the entertainment area, leading to a less prominent display and limiting the exposure of the idea. Through discussions with participants, and through feedback with various organisers, it was agreed the location of the Yakkery was not conducive to purposeful outcomes. It was agreed that the concept had merit, though its implementation was not really successful. With some strategic review of its conduct, the outcomes could be improved for future Moots.

Most of the feedback received was in regards to the conduct of this moot, and was passed on to the relevant Directors as it was received.

The conduct of the National Rover Survey on behalf of NRC was a success however, and was a great opportunity to encourage contribution of ideas – particularly with the opportunity to win bar cards by submitting completed surveys. A number of participants made comment that the structure of the survey made it difficult to complete, and it was longer than they felt was reasonable. An opinion given repeatedly was they would prefer answers on a check box or scale format, with a section for comments on particular areas at the end of the survey.

Recommendation:

The Yakkery be conducted more prominently in the evening entertainment area at the next Moot, with a more formalized area and greater publicity through the event.

A National Rover Survey be utilised in a similar fashion at the next Moot, with a review of its design.

Work Remaining

Certificates and copies of the outcomes are yet to be distributed to delegates. The intention is to have this completed by the end of January.

3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum
8 January 2005
Tassiemoot- Lake Barrington, Tasmania

Topic: Risk Management in the Rover Section

Background:

In these litigious and high insurance premium focused times, taking proper precautions in caring for our members is of major importance to Scouts Australia. Being an adventure based organization, there is some compromise between providing activities with an element of adventure, unknown and inherent risk – and conducting these activities in a safe, well planned and properly risk managed environment.

Consider in your experience in Rovering, does this push for documented risk management procedures actually happen? Is it realistically achievable? Is there ways to make it achievable and easy for the Rover section to responsibly and continuously participate in? What happens in your Crew / Region / Branch now? What do you need as Rovers to make this idea a reality in everyday Rovering?

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Distinction between those activities that need forms filled in and those that don't – suggest adventurous activities as those that do and others as those that don't
- Finding resources (training and specialised people)
- Website for submitting risk management assessments online
- Risk register online (a list of risks commonly associated with given activities)
- Need a person at a Branch level to go to for help
- Need to include more risk management in Rover training
- Develop basic tick box forms that are self explanatory
- There are already too many forms – not sure of which forms or when to use them
- Too much hassle associated with it / culture of too much effort for no apparent reason
- Who accepts the responsibility – the activity leader, crew leader or individual?
- How long does any given indemnity run for?

Summary of Discussions:

- It's difficult for untrained people to fill out complicated forms, to identify risks and hazards
- Time frame for getting forms in via the Group Leader and then the Branch means the lead time is too great.
- Online form submission could get around this
- Standard guidelines (pro-forma, check list, database) of previous risk assessments be made available.
- More training on risk management to be undertaken for those in Crew committees
- Promotion of the need to use risk management principles and forms in general
- Online risk form submission – draws from a risk register and advises of compulsory components to be addressed
- Advice of mitigation strategies (linked to the risk register)
- Use the K.I.S.S. principle

- Shouldn't need forms signed weeks in advance
- Need more people to run activities that are qualified
- Make sure people are trained properly and made aware of risk management responsibilities
- Highlight the importance of coverage with forms
- Educate RAs
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) that are constantly evolving, outlining potential risks and management of risk.
- Utilise web based activity documentation
- Use a national database to distribute risk information wider
- Acknowledge the different legal/insurance requirements in each state

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum recommends that:

- Use of forms should be promoted to Rover Crews
- Crews should be made aware of the importance of participating in proper risk management and have an understanding of how the forms are handled, and why they are handled that way, once they are submitted.
- Forms should be able to be submitted online, reducing lead time before events.
- A set of SOPs should be developed for all adventurous activities, and made available online in the form of a risk register as a checklist (tick the box assessment form) This form should also suggest mitigation strategies for commonly identified risks.
- Crews / Rovers should be made aware of the consequences of not participating in risk management
- Risk management training should be promoted as desirable for all Rovers
- Adventurous activities training should be more accessible to Rovers.

3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum
8 January 2005
Tassiemoot- Lake Barrington, Tasmania

Topic: Centenary of Scouting Celebrations

Background:

The World will celebrate 100 years of Scouting in 2007, marking the date of the first Scout Camp at Brownsea Island in August 1907. Scouts Australia will be marking 100 years of Scouting in Australia in 2008. There are already major international and national projects underway and in planning stages for these Celebrations. But Scouting is for the people who are members of the organisation. How can we get every member of Scouts Australia involved? Is there things you would like to see happen? Can we apply these across the Nation? How do we make sure that Groups, Districts, Regions and Branches are all involved? What would make Australia stand up and take notice of this momentous occasion? – especially given how many people in our community have been a member of this organization at some point in their lives.

Summary of Discussions / Ideas suggested:

| | |
|--|---|
| Road tour | Re-enactment of Brownsea Island |
| Helicopter tour | Beer / Coke can promotions |
| Radio shows – JJJ, Talkback | Virgin / QANTAS paint one of their planes |
| Rovers Exposed | Get Dick Smith to do something big |
| Lapel badges for 1 st august for current and ex-scouts | Sponsor and AFL Grand Final |
| World's biggest BBQ | Sponsor a Rugby match |
| Celebrity ex-scouts | Approach big corporations for signage on their packaging |
| Local band competition | Scout action figures |
| Music festival | Easter show bags |
| TV Shows | Involve schools |
| Blow something up | After school scouts |
| Sections of scouting insert history into their weekly program meetings | Scout Fete days |
| Carnival / mini jamboree in each branch/area/district | Ex Scout Day – reunions, www.scoutfriends.com |
| News promotions | Get Bert Newton to do something |
| “Harmony Day” style event to cover public buildings with scout logos | CD Launch |
| Happy meal toys | Scout Calendar |
| McScout Day at McDonalds | Competition inside/outside movement |
| Camping day | Advertising of current Scout members biggest achievements |

Ex – members invited back for a dinner or camp
Scout expo's
Big fires
Venturers to be involved in an organizational capacity
Sky-writers
Video competition / possible TV exposure

Significant 100 year expedition or re-enactment
Harry Potter as a scout
Torch relay
Peter Garret to make a speech
Merrick and Rosso
Dave O'Neill
Commemorative badge or pin

Memorial statue or plaque to go to branches or groups
Scout flags hoisted everywhere on the same day
Scout logo in large crop circles with aerial photos
Scout Boat in the Sydney to Hobart race
Walk scouts over the harbour bridge
“fun park” day for all sections
World’s biggest campfire – branch vs branch
Naming and creation of a BP walk trail
JOTA/JOTI chat room

Commemorative scarf
Rovers – free beer, Venturers – free coke, Scouts – free OJ, Cubs – free fun size mars bar, Joeys – free slice of banana
Commemorative scout chocolate
Concert with popular artist (not Nicky Webster)
Publications of Scouting History
Old fashioned camping
Rover specific service
Find very famous people and invest them as Scouts

Bob-a-job 2007 version
Help old ladies across the road
Take over a public landmark
Utilise famous ex-scouts in their old uniforms
Progression of uniforms display
Telethon for charity
Open day (really, really big ones)
Dawn on the 1st August 2007 – public affirmations of promise for Scouts across Australia in capital cities etc
Public holiday for anyone who ever was a Scout
Local street parades
Old style scout camp

Documentary on TV
Publish a book – launch on August 1
Find oldest scout in your local area / branch to present a yarn
Gang shows to use historical themes
Gang shows to use one specific skit in each
Gang show around the world so it is being performed somewhere in the world every night of the year
Rope around Australia – how long can we make it
Abseil off landmarks
Scouts on every corner in cities
Build bridges across major water bodies
Constructions in public places

Street parades similar to ANZAC Day – started by old Scouts, famous scouts, followed by family and friends, past Scouts, people who have helped Scouts,
Commemorative membership card
Book of discount vouchers
Commemorative Scarf / Badge
National competition for media coverage
Guinness world record – every scout in Australia pitch a tent on the same day
Commemorative book
Construct a tent city in a major park in each city
Lots of recruiting propaganda
National Relay – a bit like the Olympic torch relay

3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum
8 January 2005
Tassiemoot- Lake Barrington, Tasmania

Topic: Scouts of the World Program

Background:

A brand new initiative, fresh from the World Conference in Brunei in November/December 2004, this WOSM program aims to help integrate the challenges identified by the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* into the Scout Program as a priority for Scouts aged 15 to 26 years.

The challenges facing the World as identified by the UN Declaration are:

- Peace, security and disarmament
- Development and poverty eradication
- Protecting our common environment

It will be Scouts Australia's responsibility to implement and manage this new program in Australia – and we need your ideas on how we can do it.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

Rover specific or Rover / Venturer award

Support from National / Branch

Promotion of award

Miscellaneous questions / issues

Summary of Discussions:

- Self guided award structure suited to Rover Crews
- Run award in parallel with BP / QS award (could contribute to project / service)
- Venturers could attempt the challenge with Rover guidance
- Award requirements need to be tailored to individuals skill sets (hard to do at Venturer level)
- 15-26 years (i.e. 11 year age group) working together could benefit both ends of spectrum
- award suitability assessed as part of discovery component
- use external resources from other NGOs (i.e. rotary, amnesty)
- compartmentalise modules for each millennium goal for assessment (training modules)
- should be available to be carried across sections – started in Venturers – gap between end of school / beginning of Uni ideal for travel etc – Venturers already have huge commitment with QS – BP not so time consuming due to more time in rovers
- a very strong support will be needed – exploration in groups could be encouraged – feasibility of exchange programs and support overseas – funding made available for people doing award
- current material seems fairly daunting – clearer guidelines without being restrictive – more examples of things which can be done within Australia – provide opportunities at world moots for exploration etc.
- Does service with pre-organised organisations i.e. Volunteer Australia etc count?
- Primary focus QSA / BPSA offered to Vennies who are seen to be challenged
- Can be started in either sections and carried through
- Assessed at relevant level but set at Rover level
- Non members can attempt but still supporting Scouting (young leaders)

- good idea agreeable by all
- allow Venturers to give separation from younger sections – something else to do if they have finished their QS
- different levels between Rovers and Venturers, different coloured badge
- peer based assessment (accessible to everyone)
- training workshop – follow up or debrief of workshop
- implement SW into rovers – more team based promote Venturers and Rovers working together
- running costs from National budget rather than from State Branches'
- make as flexible as possible so can study / work around longer part time option to complete

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum recommends that:

- SOW Award should be a standard badge that is separate to the QS or BPSA but could be built upon to satisfy requirements for a BPSA section
- Open to all members to age 26 years (including young leaders)
- Clear guidelines to be established on minimum requirements
- An individual award that a group of individuals could achieve together
- Self determined / individually determined level of achievement – similar to QS / BPSA
- Taskforce – a person in each Branch to form National taskforce – responsibility for establishment is to rest with Rover Youth Program committee
- Promotion – initial launch, promotion blitz; target QS awardees, promote to older Venturers in addition to the major interest award

3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum
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Tassiemoot- Lake Barrington, Tasmania

Topic: 16th Australian Rover Moot

Background:

As much planning and effort as goes into putting on an event such as a Moot, there will always be ways to consider improving things for the rest of the event, and for future events.

Consider everything from promotions, to communications prior to moot, to expeditions and every other aspect of Moot life.

Summary of Discussions:

Promotions and Communications

Positives:

- Good promotion early on
- Smaller contingents found the communication from Tassiemoot was excellent, suggesting perhaps the lack of communication was within the contingent.
- Word of mouth was good for advertising, considered critical for bringing more people to the next Moot.
- Advertising the buses leaving etc over the PA was useful. Also not having someone speaking on it all day was good.
- Advertising to Venturers was good. Recommend continuing promotions at AV2006 Roverscope
- BRCs need to support promotions to Venturers

Negatives:

- Website needed updating more regularly
- Provide more timely info back to applicants
- More communication between contingent leaders and Tassiemoot
- Perhaps too reliant on email for communications – phone calls would have been useful for some queries

Entertainment

- Bands ok – prefer cover bands though. Irish band was good, others were shit.
- Provide entertainment away from the bar – needs to be alternative activities at night that are well publicised

Expeditions

- Be prepared for bad situations and over budget for them – Tassiemoot did this very well
- All feedback has been pretty good
- Perhaps five days was a little long
- People wondered where their money went – keen to see a breakdown of costs and distribution of surplus monies
- Communication of changes needs to be explained
- Beware of inclusions that get changed – communication was poor about which meals needed to be paid for etc
- Concern about the level of alcohol consumption on the expeditions impacting the quality of the event

- Was proper risk management carried out
- Perhaps more information on gear required etc – and it needs to get out earlier
- Leaving on new years day is hard
- Doing expeditions the very first day is good – only one night between arriving and leaving for expeditions
- Selection of buses – need to get more comfortable buses for long term trips, and bus drivers with local knowledge
- Good range of activities to cater to many tastes
- Communication of details for people who get lost etc – need to give contact information – communication with expedition leader required.

Activities

- Difficult to book activities because they got back late from expeditions – address that booking opportunities be made available to all taking into account the return times
- Eastman shield should be run over a series of nights rather than squishing them in to just two nights
- Needs to be more time between dinner and Eastman shield
- Service activity – should we be doing service to the local community as an alternative to environmental issues – for example: local scout groups or one big service project that everyone can participate in and also attracts attention
- Service quantity – perhaps not enough for everyone to keep busy – need to make sure that the time resource is not wasted

Site

- Fantastic choice of site – has gone really well
- Everything is placed closely and that is good. Better than being spread out like it was at QLD.
- There is a need for more showers – it is taking up to 2 hours to get a shower because of the impost on water pressure
- Need to make sure there is soap in the bathrooms to ensure reducing spread of infection
- Provision of more washing machines
- Having all camping together is a much better idea.
- Have better site coverage of announcements / public address system

Staff

- Tassie Rovers have been fantastic in delivering the moot – Tassie Rovers were offered the choice to attend as staff, and many took it up.

Managing costs

- Need to make sure people are getting good value for money
- Make sure the moot is still affordable - moot is still a major influence on the decision to attend
- Moot buddies to be more widely promoted by BRCs
- BRCs should promote the concept of fundraising
- Have maintained good value for money at Tassiemoot – well done.
- Bar prices are really good. Bar cards work well.
- Can you use a card for everything – use smart cards

Merchandise

- Prefer to have a moot scarf or some merchandise included in the price

Admin

- Plastic name tags are great
- Make sure cheques are cleared / credit cards charged in a timely manner and not delayed a great deal

Food

- Generally considered great.
- Onsite lunches could be a bit more filling

3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum
8 January 2005
Tassiemoot- Lake Barrington, Tasmania

Topics submitted by delegates

Bigger / better Moots - included in Tassiemoot feedback
How much service is enough? - no outcomes
Better Roving - no outcomes
How do we improve information flow between states? – agreed to defer discussions to NRC
How do other Rover Crews do things? – deferred to networking time
Current issues in other Branches? – deferred to networking time
Centenary celebrations - previously discussed

Topic: Implementing good programs

Summary of Discussions:

A general lack of awareness of resources exists – e.g. National Rover Publications, www.rovers.scouts.com.au, branch resources, old Rovers, training courses
Agreed that training courses provide valuable background to Crew leaders and others in maintaining good programs
Training publications recommended as a good tool
The Rover Fun guide recommended as a good tool
Agreed that if help was requested, it was generally forthcoming, though it was requested infrequently.

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum recommends that:

There exists a need for Branches to ensure people are constantly reminded of the availability of these resources.
The offer of assistance to struggling crews should be made more actively to encourage people to seek help.

Topic: Public image of Roving

Summary of Discussions:

- The observation of responsible alcohol policies should be revisited in Branches
- Some of the songs being sung on a regular basis by many Rovers may be thought to be offensive and make others uncomfortable.
- Agreed that discussion on the appropriateness of these songs, and a revisiting of the responsible alcohol policies should be conducted through NRCs and BRCs.
- A point was made about reference to child abuse in one of the songs (*My father's a baker.....*) and it was particularly important for Scouting to be aware of this issue.
- The image that Scouting receives overseas as a result of our conduct at National Moots is widely recognised for its alcohol consumption in overseas organisations. A point was made about the impact this has had on the image of Australian Scouting in applying to host the World Jamboree / World Conference / World Youth Forum in 2011.

- The encouragement of nudie competitions in public places and to take photos of themselves during the moot has resulted in readily identifiable groups of Rovers exposing themselves, and recording it, in a number of locations – some of which may or may not have been visible to the public.

Recommendations:

The delegates of the 3rd Australian Rover Youth Forum recommends that:

- National Rover Council review its responsible alcohol policy with regards to major national events and the negative impacts excessive alcohol consumption and associated behaviours has on the quality of the event (including expeditions) and the experience of the participants (particularly with respect to the inability of some to participate in the full moot experience due to a daily hangover).
- Branch Rover Councils review their own Responsible Alcohol policies in all aspects – but with particular reference to the songs that are regularly sung in Roving circles and the negative impacts this has on the Scouting image (and not just the Roving image).