

Scouts Australia



Final Recommendation Report of the

5th Australian Rover Forum

*held at the 18th Australian Rover Moot
Woodhouse Activity Centre, South Australia
11th January, 2011*



compiled by Steve Tyas
Rover Forum Coordinator
February 6th, 2011



6th February, 2011

www.rovers.com.au
www.scouts.com.au/main.asp?iMenuID=19313916
www.ozmoot.com.au

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for new adventure!



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Introduction

This is the final report of the 5th Australian Rover Forum, held at “Oz Moot”, the 18th Australian Rover Moot in December/January 2010-11.

There are three main parts to the report:

1. Preliminaries (this section!)
2. The findings and reports of the forum itself, as written by the delegates to the forum;
3. Recommendations for future coordinators of the forum and Moot organising committees.

The Forum was held in a ground floor room in the Rymill Centre, a training and school camp venue just inside the main entrance of the Woodhouse Activity Centre where the Moot was held. The Forum ran between 9am and 5pm on Tuesday 11th January, 2011 and was attended by 28 delegates from each of the Branches of Scouts Australia, except NT and Tasmania. 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:

- Daniel Smith – Chair, National Rover Council (2010) (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.)
- Libby Davison – Chair, National Rover Council (2011) (for her support ‘on the day’)
- Shaun Sandilands - Vice Chair, National Rover Council (2011) (for his support ‘on the day’)
- Wayne Vilanova – Chairman, 18th Australian Moot Committee
- Lauren Vilanova – Administration Director, 18th Australian Moot
- Craig Parsons – Activity Director, 18th Australian Moot
- Branch Rover Councils and Commissioners from across the country who supplied the forum with delegates and topics for discussion.
- John Clarke – National Commissioner Youth Program, Scouts Australia
- Reg Williams – Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia
- Alison Maynard – National Youth Council and Rover Review Team
- Graeme Fordham - Chairman, Rover Review Team
- Matt Rigter - Rover Review Team



Delegates

A very big thank you to the 28 delegates to the forum who gave up a whole day of their Moot experience to represent their fellow Rovers:

Name	Contingent	Rover Crew
Adele Dane	ACT	Blue Water Rover Crew
Hayden Turner	ACT	Erindale Rover Crew
Scott Parkinson	ACT	Erindale Rover Crew
Anita Debelle-Tilt	NSW	1st Mona Vale Rover Crew
Beatrice Sharrock	NSW	1st Albury Rover Crew
Lizzie Melville	NSW	1st Wearne Bay Rover Crew
Pete Favelle	NSW	1st Epping Rover Crew
Samantha Strachan	NSW	Shoalhaven Rover Crew
Joel Harris	NSW	1 st Kentlyn Rover Crew
Annalise Taylor	QLD	Lawnton Scout Group
Nathan Swaffer	QLD	Far North Region
Philip Verner	QLD	Wishart Chester Scout Group
Travis Jordan	QLD	St Johns Wood Scout Group
Eliza Lockier	SA	Flash Rover Crew
Heather Browett	SA	Flash Rover Crew
Jack Caddy	SA	Aesir Rover Crew
Kate Morrissey	SA	Aesir Rover Crew
Toby Phillips	SA	Flash Rover Crew
Caitlin Brideson	Vic	Lord Casey
Evan Anderson	Vic	Ettamogah
Louise Pocock	Vic	Keilor 5th
Melissa Wolswinkel	Vic	Tarwin Junction Rover Crew
Anna Ikier	WA	Tuart Hill Yokine 1st Scout Group
Gail Mewburn	WA	Warwick 1st Scout Group
Greg Suffling	WA	Canning 1st Scout Group
Natalie Delfos	WA	Goollelal Greenwood Scout Group
Rebecca Stirling	WA	Maddington 1st Scout Group
Chris Williams	WA	Kalamunda Scout Group



Special Guests

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

Libby Davison	Chair, National Rover Council 2011
Shaun Sandilands	Vice Chair, National Rover Council 2011
Graeme Fordham	Rover Review Chairman
Matt Rigger	Rover Review
John Derbyshire	Chief Commissioner, South Australia Branch
Wayne Villanova	Chairman, Oz Moot
Matt McKernan	Chair, Vic Branch Rover Council
Pete Favell	President, NSW State Rover Council (2011)
Chris Williams	Public Relations Officer, WA Rover Council
Andrew Tremain	Chair, Branch Rover Council, South Australia
Greg Davies	Assistant Branch Commissioner Rovers, Victoria
Rodney Squires	Branch Commissioner Rovers, Tasmania
Alison Maynard	National Youth Council, Scouts Australia

Apologies

Sincere apologies were received from the following people:

Daniel Smith	Chair, WA Rover Council and Outgoing NRC Chairman
Michael Green	Vice Chair, National Rover Council 2010
Lizz Anderson	Training Officer, National Rover Council 2010
Reg Williams	Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia
John Clarke	National Commissioner Youth Program, Scouts Australia
Neville Tomkins	International Commissioner, Scouts Australia
Alex Motyka	President, State Rover Council, NSW (2010)
Jody Freeman	Branch Commissioner Rovers, Victoria
Paul Hutchins	Branch Commissioner Rover, SA
Lauren Vilanova	Administration Director, Oz Moot
Craig Parsons	Activities Director, Oz Moot
Nathan Delaney	Chair, National Youth Council, Scouts Australia

(In normal circumstances, personnel from the National Team would be in attendance to listen to what Rovers have to say. However, on this occasion, the World Scout Youth Forum and World Scout Conference were being held in Brazil at the same time, which meant they were out of the country and unable to attend.)



Rover Forum Recommendations

Following is the recommendations from the delegates to the Rover Forum. Delegates considered four topics. Topic ideas were sourced from BRCs, NRC, and National personnel prior to the Moot, as well as by the delegates on the day of the Forum.

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, rather each group should allocate as much, or as little, time as they thought appropriate for each topic.

The summary of discussions and the recommendations are as written by the delegates themselves in the afternoon of the forum.

Topic 1 – Rover Image

Background:

Rover Image covers the image of Rovers within Scouting, within the community & within the Rover section itself.

Summary of Discussions:

- Image to section leaders
- Rovers are unaware of the National Alcohol Policy
 - Alcohol is a part of our culture and is a reflection of our culture as the majority of 18-26 Australians drink.
- Public do not know what Rovers is
 - If they do many people still think it's a boys only club
- TV ads aren't achieving much
- Perception that all Rovers drink
- Rover Uniform isn't recognized by general public
- Branch merch not easily available to other states & copyright issues
- Some states feel unrepresented in national publications
- Image
 - Are joeys/cubs too young to distinguish between Rovers & Leaders?

Recommendations:

The Rovers of the 5th Australian Rover Forum make the following recommendations on this topic:

Image within Scouting:

- Rovers becoming leaders to promote positive Rovering
 - Encourage participation in other sections
- Create a 'Rover User Guide' ("how to use your Rovers")
 - Available to group leaders
 - Contact details
- Recommend that sectional shoulder bars are endorsed by Rovers so they only need to wear the one uniform as a Rover & Leader and to make it easier to distinguish section leaders
- Promotion of national uniform policy in regards to representation of Rovers in the media



- Merch:
 - WWBPD? wristbands
 - Webpage/link/online store to National/Branch Rover merchandise (ie order form on NRC website)
 - Branch branding should be noticeably different
- National Video comps for Crews to introduce themselves and what they do (max 5min)
 - Create a Rover YouTube channel with a designated “webmaster” with the log on to ensure appropriate videos are uploaded
- Utilise free media (Facebook, YouTube etc)
- Recommend that NRC investigates the cost of Facebook advertising (it may be more effective than tv advertising) – as a branch level initiative
- Promote websites
- Encourage rovers to be actively involved in other sections
- Shameless self promotion
- Run large scale events for other sections
- Create birthday cards for venturers
- Re-educate what Rovers are & what they do
 - Possible award for active service

Image Outside Scouting:

- Promote around Universities, TAFE, camping/outdoor mags, newspapers, free bumper stickers
- Encourage Rovers to wear their uniform more often & wear proudly
- National agreement of pants colours so everyone is uniformed.
 - Recommendation that pants be black (not jeans, easier to find, looks smart, hides dirt)
- Create an online file server that BRC PR Officers can add & use photos for promotion
-

Service:

- Subsidise national events (ie. Jamborees, ventures) so more Rovers can go and help, similar to moot buddies. Sponsored by NRC just for Rovers a couple of hundred dollars to it may encourage 10 more rovers to attend.

Alcohol:

- National DrinkSafe Program – continuous & obvious promotion of alcohol policy
 - Policy on display at every major event bar (business cards, posters etc)
- Ask that Individuals not use alcohol as a drawcard to events & not to mention alcohol in publications (mentioning a bar is ok)
- Promote other aspects, change focus away from “drinking” – encourage/promote service activities reports in local paper



Topic 2 – Communication

Background:

Lack of communication is becoming a big issue in Rovering. Whether it is between states, or from NRC, or between regions and crews.

Summary of Discussions:

We are finding that the National Rover Council is not easily identifiable and information regarding minutes and any decisions they make are not easily accessible to Rovers. Also communication between branches is not as good as it could be, this affects awareness and attendance at our various state events. Rovers who may live far from cities or Lone Rovers are feeling forgotten as communication is not as good as it could be. We need to find some better and more accessible ways for information to be passed on to these Rovers. With the very widespread and public internet networking sites communication of the wrong information is becoming more widespread. We need to stop the communication of the 'bad' information and use these websites to communicate the 'good' information. Rovers are also finding that images in National publications are not relevant to their states, some states feel as though they are left out as the images used are very select and normally from the Victorian branch, we should utilize the many images taken by each state and use them as new, exciting and relevant ways of representing our states in communications.

Recommendations:

The Rovers of the 5th Australian Rover Forum make the following recommendations on this topic:

- SMS messages, sent from NRC, would be a great way to reach a high number of Rovers, quickly, with short information about upcoming events or issues.
- The NRC website should have a National Event calendar with all of the events (which interstate Rovers can attend) on the calendar, with links to the various state websites for events and calendars. State event calendars will need to be kept current and linked back.
- States BRC's should ensure that all information from NRC etc is filtered through to their various regions and crews.
- Better awareness of NRC (Actions and decisions) is needed. To let people know what they are doing and what events are coming up.
- Major state event reports should be available somehow (possibly through the NRC website) so that other states can take advice from it.
- OzMoot financial brief should also be made available, as above.
- NRC website should be better promoted and stocked with relevant information, and a webmaster appointed who is easily contactable.
- NRC minutes should be better promoted and available as well as any new policies or changes to existing policies. All Rovers should be made aware of any decisions made by NRC through reports or email notification.
- NRC should advertise themselves better with an easily identifiable image or logo.
- NRC should draft and adopt two policies on social networking and media. One basic that all crews can read and sign and a formal in-depth policy including copyright, criminal and tort feasible offences. And all BRCs should make their members aware that they are not use logos on their social networking sites which are in a context which could be construed as bad to Rovering.
- Each state should be able to add their state's Rover publication to the National website and Facebook page.

- A national emailing list should be more widely available in which information could be distributed in short sharp messages to prevent wrong information being communicated.
- There should be a way of choosing your preferred form of communication, i.e email, sms, snail mail etc.
- We should start an online national forum for registered Rovers to discuss issues in between youth forums etc and to share knowledge and ideas.
- We should continue and improve our Facebook communications of our State events to promote them to each other.
- Promotion packs could be sent to Branches inviting them to interstate events.
- There should be some form of 'photo dump' which each state's PR officer can put promotional images from their state which should be used in national publications to make them more relevant to Rovers in each state so there is more of a chance of your state and current Rovers being represented.



Topic 3 – Rural, Remote, Decentralized Rovering

Background:

Rovering is spread across a large area in some states, structural issues make it challenging to run a rover crew.

Summary Of Discussions:

- Policies not always relevant to rovers / crews outside of major cities
- Promotion of roves in regional centres
 - Retention of transient members (city <-> country)
 - Increase Rover members in remote scout groups
- Access to resources outside of capital cities
 - Teleconferencing for training
 - Use of a state-owned equipment
- Support for Lones & other isolated crews at BRC
 - “host crews” to present reports/ awards ECT.
- Rover “Couch Surfing” initiative
 - Connects rovers on a national level – greater networking
 - All info on crews/ individuals in one central place

Recommendations:

The Rovers of the 5th Australian Rover Forum make the following recommendations on this topic:

- That policy and procedure amendments need to be mindful of their relevance to rovers outside the major cities.
- A national forum be set up to assist rovers with getting local contact for traveling etc.





Topic 4 – Quality Rovering

Background:

Quality Rovering is all about how Rovering contributes to the community also using making sure that all crews provide quality training and Rovering.

Summary of Discussions:

The points discussed by the groups pertained to

- -crews not having responsible and trained rover advisers.
- -crews not meeting the minimum standards of training.
- -service events.

Promotion of rovers.

- -having a national rover image not state.
- -crew guidelines
- -definition of quality Rovering
- -recognition of quality crews

Recommendations:

The Rovers of the 5th Australian Rover Forum make the following recommendations on this topic:

- *All crews should have appointed and responsible RAs.*
- *More training of RAs and crew leaders as many crews do not have warranted leaders.*
- *Encourage and help and support crews to meet the minimum standards crew leadership training.*
- *Promote branch and regional organized service projects to be held in all states.*
- *Educate leaders and adults in scouting on the purposes of service and the appropriate use of rover crews and time constraints.*
- *More promotion of the service that is being done and the variety of service.*
- *Rover image to be nationally formed not different state.*
- *Nationally develop a set of quality crew guidelines.*
- *Make more accessible a definition of quality Rovering and info such as guidelines to all rovers.*
- *Nationalize a quality rover crew award that recognizes quality crews.*



Forum Organisation Recommendations

Forum Format

The forum was held from 9am – 5pm on one day of the Moot. A one hour briefing was conducted in the evening two days prior to the forum to get introductions and housekeeping out of the way and allow maximum time for topic discussion. Care was taken to select an evening that did not clash with a major Moot evening event. (At the last Moot, this session clashed with the Eastman Shield, which caused some problems).

The outline of the forum day (refer Appendix 1), involved a morning of discussion time, report writing time after lunch, 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. Excluding morning tea, lunch, and the presentations, the working time totalled about 6 hours.

Delegates worked in teams of 5 - 6 (mixed Branches) to discuss and record their ideas. This worked well as it allowed 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 intended that three topics be covered by the forum, however the topic development phase introduced a large number of possible topics to be voted on. Therefore, it was agreed to extend this to four topics.

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 a similar format (mainly four topics and 6 hours working time)
2. That delegates' contribution to the forum continue to be considered as Moot Service.

Forum Budget

The overall budget for the Forum included postage, printing, consumables (paper, pens, textas, etc.), and catering (morning tea, afternoon tea, mints). This cost was included in the Moot budget.

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 Council Meeting held at Baden Powell Scout Camp (Pennant Hills, NSW) January 2010, although communication had occurred with Rover personnel at the National Rover Program Meeting in August 2009. The NRC meeting was attended by National Rover Council and Branch Rover Council executives, Branch Commissioners for Rovers, and the National Commissioners. An outline of the purpose of the forum was presented, and debate about the format of the forum occurred at this meeting. Branches were requested to begin finding delegates to the forum, as well.

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 Western Australia had submitted delegates by the due date, however with the support of Daniel Smith (NRC Chair), all branches, except Tasmania, had determined their delegates by early December. This allowed just enough time to send information to all delegates to prepare them for the forum. 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.

A key 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 sent members of their Branch Rover Council to the forum.

Recommendations

1. That the Forum Coordinator attends the Rover Programming Meeting and National Rover Council meetings 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 NRC Meeting in January 2010, a request to NRC and BRCs was put forward for ideas for topics of discussion at the Moot.

By the due date, only NSW 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. The NRC had also submitted a list of topics by December.

Delegates were invited to suggest their own topics for discussion. This gave ownership of topics to the forum delegates and allowed burning issues to be discussed.



Recommendations

1. That the Forum Coordinator attend the National Rover Program and NRC Meetings 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.

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. Despite a last minute change of dates, the forum was still able to run.

Initial contact with the Moot Chairman was made at the previous Rover Moot in NSW (January 2003). This allowed plenty of time to develop planning in line with the Moot program.

Recommendation

1. Initial discussions 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

It was decided not to run a “yakkery” at this event. A yakkery usually consists of a display and opportunity for Rovers attending the Moot to make suggestions about Rovering. The format of this Moot meant that almost all Rovers would be off site during the daytime, and evenings were focussed around the bar and entertainment venues. This situation, and experience from previous moots, suggested that a yakkery concept would be of little value. The Rover Review Team did experiment with setting up an information desk during the daytime, however it received almost no enquiries.

Recommendation

1. In consultation with NRC and Moot Organisers, continue to consider to value of a Yakkery style display or activity point.

Survey

At some moots, a Rover survey has been included in the welcome show bag that every participant receives. This was not requested at this 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 & collection s in line with NRC’s needs.

Rover Review – Rovering Towards 2020

Members of the Rover Review team (Graeme Fordham, Matt Rigter, Alison Maynard) travelled to the Moot to take advantage of the access that the Rover Forum gave them to another Rover community and update them on progress of the review and seek further input. A valuable discussion occurred amongst forum delegates and the review team.

The Review team deserve special thanks for making last minute adjustments to their travel plans due to the change of forum date.





Appendix – Forum Program

Saturday 8th January - Pre-Forum Briefing Session for all delegates.

7.30pm – 8.30pm Explain the whys and history.
Discuss logistics, discussion topics & background, organise groups, how to facilitate, meet each other. Select one or two more topics.
Plan for 30 delegates organised in to 5 groups of 6. Plan for 3 topics plus Rov. Rev.

Tuesday 11th January

8.45am	Registration
9.00am	Welcome Reminder of topics & process etc.
9.10am	Form Discussion Groups & Begin Work Groups can discuss in any order.
10:30am	Morning Tea Break
10:50am	Continue Discussions
12:00pm	Lunch Period Begins
1:15pm	Rovering Towards 2020 – Where do you see Rovers in the Future?
2:30pm	Write-Up Teams Begin Others Change Into Uniform Prepare for Presentations
3:30pm	Write-Up Team Reports Back
3:45pm	VIPs Arrive. Afternoon Tea.
4.00pm	Final reports presented to Assembled VIPs
5.00pm	Final thankyou. Certificate presentation. Where to from here? Finish