

**SCOUTS AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES
BRANCH ROVER COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE NSW RRC CHAIRS FORUM
WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2010, 8:00PM**

DRAFT RRC CHAIRS FORUM MINUTES

1. PRESENT

Chris Milligan (Sydney North), Alasdair Clarence (Chair, South Metropolitan), Amanda Colyer (Scout Coast & Tablelands), Ben Skeers (Chair, Riverina), Kent Palmer (Hume), Alex Motyka (Branch Rover Council)

2. APOLOGIES

Scott Witchard (Crew Leader, Lones), Sonia Lamb (North Coast), Emily Whitelaw (Scout Coast & Tablelands, Ally McKay (Hume), Lauren Thorn (Greater Western Sydney), Edward Bycroft (Hunter & Coastal), Matt Thompson (Greater Western Sydney), Josie Gordon (North West)

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes from 22 September 2010 be accepted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1. Search for new SC(R)

Received 1 expression of interest from Jonathan Seller who is an acting Rover Advisor for Oatley Bay Rover Crew. The Executive believes the EoI is quite good. Jonathan was quite involved in Rovers back in the day. He held roles on his RRC, was a BRC delegate and at one stage was also the NRC Training and Development Officer. Jeff Rose is currently seeking the feedback of the Region Rover Commissioners. He has been sent SC(R) position description and has been walked through it by Alex. If Jonathan decides he wants to continue with his application we move into the interview stage. Potential issues with Jonathans application is that he travels internationally a lot, lives about 3 hours away from State Office and has a young family.

Alasdair Clarence, a Rover from Oatley Bay, provided feedback on Jonathan's performance as an RA. Summary: Jonathan is a good guy and is quite contactable by email and phone. Is known by many people in Scouting.

4.2. NSW Rovers Calendar

Lones, Riverina, North Coast and North West have not submitted their RRC meeting and event dates. Make sure you get your dates in by 20 November 2010.

4.3. Award nominations

A friendly reminder that the award nomination period is now open for the Stan Bales Rover Service Award, Lodge Baden-Powell Service Award and Quality Scouting Award. Please identify Crews/Rovers in your region and either nominate them or encourage them to nominate themselves.

4.4. BRC elections

Regions has passed on info but not received any nominations. Please approach people you think we be good on the BRC and encourage them to take on a role (this process seems to work in Victoria).

5. REPORTS

5.1. BRC President

5.2. Greater Western Sydney

5.3. Hume

5.4. Hunter & Coastal

5.5. North Coast

5.6. North West

5.7. Riverina

5.8. South Coast & Tablelands

5.9. South Metropolitan

5.10. Sydney North

5.11. Golden West

5.12. Lones

Reports were not discussed because the focus of the meeting was on the Rover Review.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. Roving Towards 2020

Age range

When questioned on whether or not the Rover age range be shorter, longer or the same, some Forum participants expressed it should be longer. One Forum participant upon hearing that the WOSM suggested age range is from 18 to 23, vocally opposed this concept exclaiming "No way!". Some participants suggested that the age range should be increased and that it would have a positive effect on Rover membership. They believed that the rate of members leaving the Section is greater than that join the Section. Participants did recognise that older Rovers have a different perspective/mind-set than younger Rovers and that increasing the age range might further highlight these differences. Further on in the Forum participants identified that older and young Rovers had difficulty relating to each other because in some cases the older Rovers were the Leaders of the younger Rovers when they were in Scouts/Venturers.

Rover Governance

One Forum participant expressed frustration over the current system of Rover governance in that all the power was vested in Crews and that the Region Chair and others on the Executive had almost no authority. This bottom - up (as opposed to top - down) structure was identified at all levels of Rover governance e.g. the BRC Executive can't do anything without the approval of the Regions. The Forum participant did state that he would not like to see Rover governance become a dictatorship but a happy medium should be found.

Cost of Roving

Once Forum participant believed that the cost of Roving was too high and it made it difficult for Rovers who lived out of home or are students and don't have full time jobs.

Another participant expressed frustration over the idea of Crews fundraising from Rovers by making profit on events (e.g. moots and social events) and merchandise (stickers that cost 20c to make being sold for \$3). Forum participants also recognised that the sheer volume of Rover events contributed to the growing cost of Rovering.

Knight and Rover Service

Some Forum participants believed that Knights/Squires framework and service must be retained, as they were considered “our key values”. Forum participants believed that knighting and squiring system played an important part in the Rover program. Forum participants believed that Knights/Squires framework taught important life skills and allowed new members to demonstrate their commitment to the Crew.

Core Values

Forum participants believe it was vital to retain the current Scout Promise and Law as they outlined our core values. One participant believed if you were to change these elements then you would be changing the fundamentals of Scouting. However when the example Rover Promise from the WOSM *Empowering Young Adults* publication (page 46) was read out many participants really like it’s more adult concepts and language. One participant exclaimed, “That’s really cool”.

One participant believed that the recent “branding” was a “waist of time” and they did not believe the logo or slogan should ever be changed as they have sufficiently communicated our core values for many years.

Do we do too much?

The Forum participants identified that there was a lot of choice in the Rover Section program in NSW. Rovers have a huge range of Crew, inter-Crew, Region, inter-Region, State and inter-State events and activities they can participate in. A Rover can easily fill every weekend with a Rover activity. This coupled with the increasingly complexity of personal life can be difficult for Rover to juggle.

Rover events

Some Forum participants identified that there was a reticence for Crews to tender for organising events in many regions and state. It was thought that the prospect of organising large events such as Branch Moot might be overwhelming for new Rovers/Crews who may not have much experience organising events. As a result fewer Crews are tendering for events resulting in the cancellation of some events. Participants suggested the lack of adequate post event wrap-up and reporting lessened the ability for Rovers to learn from previous events. The cancellation of events was thought to negatively impact the likelihood of events running in following years.

6.2. YACS delegates

Please ensure you have a Rover delegate to the NSW Youth Advisory Council for Scouting. It’s really important we have full Rover representation because Sunday will be devoted to providing feedback to the Rover Review. The Rovering Towards 2020 team will be running the workshop.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS

N/A

8. CLOSE

Meeting Closed: 9:20pm

The next meeting is on 27 October 2010. Time and location are to be advised.