

WAM ROVER FORUM
Get Involved!



REPORT OF DATA COLLECTED AT THE

WAM NATIONAL ROVER FORUM

This is a report of the National Rover Forum held at the 19th Australian Rover Moot - WAM, December/January 2013 -14.

Included are reports for all topics from the forum, these are;

- National Rover Council,
- Rover Training,
- Bullying in Rovers (available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums),
- Youth Program Review Questions,
- Inclusive Rovering &
- Rover Issues.

The Forum was run in a new format at WAM based on a workshop at the 2013 NRC meeting. Participants at the Moot were surveyed on iPads whilst waiting in the line for dinner. Two surveys were run each night, three iPads per survey and respondents were randomly selected. Over 900 responses were received in total, across 9 surveys.

On Thursday 9th January 24 Rovers participated in a session to consolidate all of the responses. The participants then produced a number of reports summarizing the data and making a number of key recommendations

On the evening of Thursday 9th January we asked Rovers to evaluate the forum process. From this survey 91.88% of respondents (160 in total) stated they felt they were provided with the opportunity to have their say in the forum. 85% of respondents were also happy to participate in the surveys regularly. 93.51% of respondents agreed the iPad data collection model should be used again and 93% liked lolly pops!

It should be noted that BRCs agreed at the October 2013 Rover Program Meeting to a process of getting delegates to attend the Forum. This involved a campaign to attract participants by BRCs followed by an 'expression of interest' campaign via the Rover website, details of interested Rovers were then passed to BRCs for selection. From this process only four delegates were chosen (after zero responses to the EOI from some states). It is clear this process didn't work, this made detailed planning for the forum difficult.

In the end, 24 Rovers attending the Forum day, many of whom were found during the Moot through other channels. The NRC will need to ensure that a more suitable process is established for the next Moot.

For future Moots a more defined process and understanding needs to be established for communication and co-ordination between the Moot Organising Committee and the National Adviser - Youth Forums. Whilst the final result was achieved to a good standard, providing better guidelines around this for future Moots will ensure everything runs smoothly. It is recommended that the National Moot Guidelines are updated to include detailed expectations of the Moot organisers, this must be done in consultation with National Adviser - Youth Forums and National Commissioner Youth Program. The following things must be included:

- A direct contact on the organising team to liaise with the National Adviser - Youth Forums. This should be someone other than the Moot chairperson, the onsite activities co-ordinator or similar would likely be the most suitable person. The contact should be established a minimum of 12 months prior to the Moot.
- A negotiated budget must be provided to the National Adviser - Youth Forums, at least six months prior to the Moot.

The NRC should also consider its position in relation to the Forums, as the Rover sections governing body it should take ownership of the forum. It has much to benefit from forums at Moots and taking greater ownership of the Forum will allow it to ensure the topics discussed are relevant to its strategic direction. The National Adviser - Youth Forums could still facilitate the actual forum but the NRC should workshop its role in the running of the Forum and direct the agenda.

Thank you to the WAM Organising Committee including Rob Curtis (chair) and Ayden Mackenzie (Admin Director), the National Rover Council including Nicky Statchan (chair), Alison Maynard (Vice-chair) and Leah Bach (adviser), the National Youth Council including Chris Neilsen (chair) for their assistance with the forum at WAM. Thanks also to the 24 delegates that attended the forum day, they were:

- Jason Jones
- Simon Barnett
- John Hooper
- Johnathan Morey
- Delshard Mozhdehinia
- Chris Malam
- Catherine Dibbs
- Matt Broadfield
- Rowan Sainsbury
- Chris Neilsen
- Phil Bryant
- Tahlia Siddall
- Jessica Lintvelt
- James Love
- Catherine Metcalfe
- Gary Namestnik
- Brogan-Li Berry
- Guy knopke
- Carrie Heaven
- Jennifer Murray
- Lachlan Preston
- Lizz Affleck
- Matt Conway
- Sébastien Terreux

This report has been distributed to NRC, BRCs, National teams, NOC and other relevant groups as required.

Yours in Scouting,



Peter Fowler
National Adviser: National Youth Council
& National Youth Forums

Introduction and Method:

These questions were put forward by Nicky Strachan, National Rover Council (NRC) Chair for discussion to assist with future planning and strategic development.

A survey was conducted at WAM 2014, the 19th Australian Rover Moot, by passing three iPads with surveys out to participants and staff while they waited in line for dinner. The survey asked four questions only:

- the respondent's Branch
- age
- what does the NRC do for you
- what should the NRC do for you

For both questions responders were able to provide open ended text answers.

WAM was attended by 519 Rover-aged participants (including Rover staff), and the survey was conducted at the same time as another survey, with respondents being randomly assigned which survey they completed based on which iPad was free next. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and although a small number of respondents chose to complete both surveys available on the evening this survey was presented to them, most respondents completed only the one they were randomly assigned to.

The National Rover Council survey was completed by 128 respondents, of which 5 were international participants and 7 were over 26 years old. An average of 25 people skipped the second two questions.

Result & Discussion:

A consistent response rate across the age brackets were taken,

- Rovers from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland were highly represented (67% of respondents),
- 54% of Rovers stated that they didn't know what the NRC did, or anything about it,
- Out of 107 submitted answers for the first question, a lack of communication was stated as a problem 16 times,
- Other frequent issues included levies and high levels of bureaucracy.

A variety of answers for what the NRC is believed that it should do, including,

- A simpler and more effective process to share information with Crews,
- Clarifying what the role of the NRC is, and its obligations,
- Providing a voice to the National level of Scouts Australia, for matters such as Training and Youth Program,
- Repairing the image of Rovers (i.e. alcoholic stereotype)
- Giving greater assistance and support to BRCs (specifically smaller Branches), Regions, Districts, Crews, individuals and regional areas.

Recommendations :

1. To raise the level and standard of communication to the general Rover community, and to give executive summaries (consisting of minutes, etc.) to Rovers at a 'grassroots' level.
2. A system of quality assurance, whereby information dissemination is completed from NRC to Crews.
3. Anecdotal evidence suggests that BRC Representatives are not completely disseminating all NRC information as required.
4. Continued development and use of www.rovers.com.au website calendar (<http://rovers.com.au/calendar>), whereby National and State Rover events are updated for easy access. This would be achieved through enabling a representative from each state (e.g. BRC Chair) to edit the calendar as required.

Appendices

1. Raw survey data exported from SurveyMonkey. (Available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums)

Introduction and Method:

This topic was designed to assist the National Rover Council Training team with its future planning.

At the Rover Youth Program meeting in October 2013, Branch Rover Council Chairmen and Branch Commissioners for Rovers / Branch Rover Advisers brainstormed a list of potential issues that they believed Rovers may want addressed, Rover Training was one of the number one issues amongst this group.

A survey was conducted at WAM 2014, the 19th Australian Rover Moot, by passing three iPads with surveys out to participants and staff while they waited in line for dinner. The survey asked ten questions,

- the respondent's Branch,
- age
- have you completed any Rover training?
- A 'yes' or 'no' answer to this last question determined the following questions,
 - 'Yes' respondents were then asked - how would you rate your training experience?
 - what did you like about your training experience?
 - what did you dislike about your training experience?
 - and why do you think many Rovers are reluctant to complete Rover training?
- 'No' respondents were asked why haven't you completed any training yet?
 - what roadblocks have you hit?
 - why are you reluctant to do it?
 - what could be done to help you complete Rover training?
 - and do you have any other comments about Rover training?

WAM was attended by 519 Rover-aged participants (including Rover staff), and the survey was conducted at the same time as another survey, with respondents being randomly assigned which survey they completed based on which iPad was free next. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and although a small number of respondents chose to complete both surveys available on the evening this survey was presented to them, most respondents completed only the one they were randomly assigned to.

The National Rover Council survey was completed by 92 respondents, of which 1 was an international participant and 9 were over 26 years old.

Result & Discussion:

The Survey had 92 responses relating to Rover training, the survey consisted of 10 questions. Questions 1 and 2 related to the demographics of the respondents (see appendices for breakdown). Of those who completed the survey 60% had completed some kind of Rover training, of these 95% thought their training experience was OK or better.

The survey progressed to asking what the participants liked and did not like about their training experience. Table 1 lists the major themes for both.

Table 1

Pros	Cons
Social	Cost
Face to Face	Time
E-Learning	E-Learning
Content	Content
	Relevance

- These responses have been collected from a range of participants across the country therefore their training experience will differ from each other.
- From these responses you can see that content and E-learning is both a concern and a positive in terms of training.
- A recurring theme throughout the survey is the cost of training for rovers, again this varies from state to state and even within states with some offering subsidises of varying amounts.
- Time again is another factor with many rovers undertaking study either in a university or TAFE environment therefore time is an important factor in their lives.

The survey asked for some feedback on what can be done to improve training for Rovers and the responses suggest that,

- A better RPL process be established,
- Less time to complete training
- and peer led training is made an important part of Rover Training

Recommendations:

1. NRC to advocate for peer led training across the country
2. A National Rover Training Team be established to develop Rover Training Nationally,
 - Chaired by the NRC Training and Development Officer
 - Attended by each state and territory
 - Have a National Training Team Delegate
 - Rover PLA's
3. Ensure a national consistency in Rover training content
4. Develop a national database of course resources and content
5. Provision of alternative training packages including;
 - Certificate Four in Training & Assessment
 - Event/Project Management
 - Training Partnerships
 - Volunteer Management (CHC Training Package)

Appendices

1. Raw survey data exported from SurveyMonkey. (Available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums)

Introduction:

These topics were designed to assist the Youth Program Review. The topics were;

- What does it mean to be a Scout?
- Why do kids leave Scouts?
- Scout Law

The questions came from the Steve Tyas (National Project Commissioner - Youth Program Review) and John Clarke (National Commissioner Youth Program). Presenting in this report is only the raw data for these questions as the information will be further developed by teams working on the Youth Program Review. No recommendations were sort by the questioners and therefore have not been provided.

The responses were sourced in one of three ways:

1. A survey was conducted at WAM 2014, the 19th Australian Rover Moot, by passing three iPads with surveys out to participants and staff while they waited in line for dinner. WAM was attended by 519 Rover-aged participants (including Rover staff), and the survey was conducted at the same time as another survey, with respondents being randomly assigned which survey they completed based on which iPad was free next. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and although a small number of respondents chose to complete both surveys available on the evening this survey was presented to them, most respondents completed only the one they were randomly assigned to.
2. A question was posted on the Rover Forum Au Facebook page. The Rover Forum Au page was setup specifically for use during WAM and as of January 20th the page has 235 'likes'. Responding to the questions on the page is voluntary and typically only achieve a small number of results.

Method, Result & Discussion:

What does it mean to be a Scout?

This survey asked four questions only:

- The respondent's Branch
- Age
- What would you say to a friend to sell Scouting?
- What does being a Scout mean to you?

For both questions responders were able to provide open ended text answers.

The *What does it mean to be a Scout?* survey was completed by 132 respondents, of which 13 were international participants and 10 were over 26 years old.

Appendix 1 includes all the Survey Monkey data. Responses to the second two questions have been categorised, question 3 into six categories and question 4 into seven categories.

Why do kids leave Scouts?

This survey asked six questions only:

- The respondent's Branch
- Age
- What are key reasons why kids leave Scouts in each section (any section)?
- Do we deliver what we promise?
- Who do you see as our competitors in attracting and developing youth?
- Why these competitors more successful than Scouting?

For both questions responders were able to provide open ended text answers.

The *Why do kids leave Scouts?* survey was completed by 65 respondents, of which 4 were international participants and 11 were over 26 years old. An average of 20 people skipped the second two questions.

Appendix 2 includes all the survey monkey data. Responses to questions 3 and 5 have been categorised, question 3 into nine categories and question 5 into seven categories.

Scout Law

A question was posted on the Facebook page around midday on January 7th. The post asked one question only:

- Are the ten parts of the Scout Law relevant? A Scout is trustworthy, A Scout is loyal, A Scout is helpful, A Scout is friendly, A Scout is cheerful, A Scout is considerate, A Scout is thrifty, A Scout is courageous, A Scout is respectful, A Scout cares for the environment.

The post received 13 comments, 7 'likes' and 586 views, it is difficult to determine the demographic of those responding online.

Below is a list of all the comments received:

- Yes and always will be
- A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property = Thrifty
- It's meant as a guide. you're not expected to run into a burning building to be courageous, but to stand up for what is right and wrong and not just hide on the sidelines
- Yes- even if they do not seem relevant now, we should be working out how to make them culturally relevant & how to apply them in our current context.
- It doesn't hurt the 21st Century Rover/Scout to go back to basics and think about being "Cheerful, Friendly and even Helpful". This all goes a long way in showing that the Youth of today can think of others and show that it is not "all about me".
- I use the scout law as my "10 commandments." I am a catholic, but am not practising. I do believe in the Scout Law, I attend scouts one/twice a week and ensure that during prayer at closing parade (either cubs or rovers), I listen to the words and reflect on my week, where I used the law or prayer. Therefore I believe that the Law is relevant... Standing up for Rurik Farserkr, "Rovering to Success" is still read by many Rovers, and is interpreted just so... We no longer have horses, however we do have cars. Just like horses need feeding, cleaning etc, cars still need tending to - petrol, washed, fueled etc...
- Cheerful, friendly, helpful? Are they 21st century concepts for modern youth or are they saying the same thing?
- and why wouldn't it be relevant . . .
- Thrifty has always been one that makes me wonder..these days is anyone thrifty?
- Yes
- Yes it's still relevant.
- No way it's a great way to punish someone when judging against the scout law cause it's impossible not to break some of the "laws" one way or another.
- The UK Scout Law: a Scout is to be trusted, a Scout is loyal, a Scout is friendly and considerate, a Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts, a Scout has courage in all difficulties, a Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property and a Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

Appendices

1. Survey data exported from SurveyMonkey from the *What does it mean to be a Scout?* survey. (Available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums)
2. Survey data exported from SurveyMonkey from the *Why do kids leave Scouts?* survey. (Available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums)

Introduction and Method:

This topic was in response to questions from Peter Blatch, National Project Commissioner - Special Needs. A survey was conducted at WAM 2014, the 19th Australian Rover Moot, by passing three iPads with surveys out to participants and staff while they waited in line for dinner. The survey asked six questions only:

- the respondent's Branch
- the respondent's age
- describe the Scouting demographic in four words
- what groups do you think we do a poor job of including in Scouting? (selecting from a list with an option for additional thoughts)
- what can be done to make Rovering more inclusive?
- should Scouting be more proactive, especially at Rover age? (with a yes or no option and a comments field)

WAM was attended by 519 Rover-aged participants (including Rover staff), and the survey was conducted at the same time as another survey, with respondents being randomly assigned which survey they completed based on which iPad was free next. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and although a small number of respondents chose to complete both surveys available on the evening this survey was presented to them, most respondents completed only the one they were randomly assigned to.

The Inclusive Rovering survey was completed by 64 respondents, of which 14 were over 26 years old, however an average of 19 people each skipped questions 3 to 6.

Result & Discussion:

Most respondents felt that Scouting needs to be more proactive about being an inclusive organisation. This covers a wide range of areas including: people with mental illnesses, Indigenous people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, and the cost of scouting. Amongst those that were surveyed, we found that 90.2% of people surveyed believe that Scouting should be more proactive in engaging these demographics.

When asked about the demographic of Scouting the most common response was 'middle class Caucasian who have a positive outlook on life'. We found that areas of improvement and changes to make Scouting more inclusive can include many things, for example; the cost of scouting is perceived to be high and the need to advertise externally and also the need for the program produced by Rovers should be appealing not just to those to the Crew, but to people from various demographics outside Scouting.

Recommendations :

Based on the findings we recommend that Scouting should be more proactive in involving everyone regardless of demographic and increase our ability to include people in Scouting. The areas of improvement that should be focused on include:

- People with mental illnesses
- Aboriginal and Torres strait islanders
- Non English speaking groups
- People from lower socio-economic backgrounds
- More Public Relations
- Different cultural backgrounds
- Gender equality

Appendices

1. Raw survey data exported from SurveyMonkey. (Available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums)

Introduction and Method:

This topic was designed to assist the National Rover Council (NRC) with its future planning by identifying what issues the Rover population believe need to be addressed.

At the Rover Youth Program meeting in October 2013, Branch Rover Council Chairmen and Branch Commissioners for Rovers / Branch Rover Advisers (title dependent on Branch) brainstormed a list of potential issues that they believed Rovers may want addressed. They were (in alphabetical order):

- Adventurous activities
- Bullying
- Drinking
- Getting Crews started
- Management of private information
- Mentoring
- National Moots
- Post Rover pathways
- Promise and Law
- Retention of Rovers
- Rover governance
- Service
- Training
- BRC events
- Documentation / forms / paperwork
- Dry moots (no alcohol)
- Getting Crews to attend events
- Max age limit
- National governance system
- Not having a voice on political issues
- Program
- Promotion and image
- Rover code of conduct
- Scouting – as a business
- Traditions
- Youth involvement in Scouts Australia

A survey was conducted at WAM 2014, the 19th Australian Rover Moot, by passing three iPads with surveys out to participants and staff while they waited in line for dinner. The survey asked three questions only:

- the respondent's Branch
- age
- which of the listed concerns they believed needed to be addressed

Plus, the option for extra information to be provided for the final question by the respondent if they wished.

WAM was attended by 519 Rover-aged participants (including Rover staff), and the survey was conducted at the same time as another survey, with respondents being randomly assigned which survey they completed based on which iPad was free next. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and although a small number of respondents chose to complete both surveys available on the evening this survey was presented to them, most respondents completed only the one they were randomly assigned to.

The Rover Issues survey was completed by 174 respondents, of which 16 were over 26 years old:

- only 160 respondents answered the question relating to issues being addressed.
- 79 respondents, or 49% of those answering the question, replied that one of their issues was 'Getting Crews to attend events',
- Retention of Rovers was seen as an issue by 38% of responders
- Promotion and image rated 35%
- Drinking rated 31%

Result & Discussion:

Table 1: Responses to "What are your concerns about Rovers today that need to be addressed?" from Rover Issues #1

Answer Choice	# of Responses	% of Respondents
Getting Crews to attend events	79	49%
Retention of Rovers	61	38%
Promotion and image	57	35%
Drinking	50	31%
Training	47	29%
Post Rover pathways	46	29%
Max age limit	43	27%
Getting Crews started	40	25%
Adventurous activities	38	24%
Bullying	37	23%
Service	35	22%
Traditions	35	22%
Dry moots (no alcohol)	34	21%
Program	27	17%
Youth involvement in Scouts Australia	26	16%
Documentation / forms / paperwork	24	15%
Rover governance	24	15%
National governance system	23	11%
Mentoring	22	14%
Scouting – as a business	21	13%
Not having a voice on political issues	20	12%
Rover code of conduct	19	12%
National Moots	17	14%
Management of private information	16	10%
BRC events	15	9%
Promise and Law	12	7%

A follow-up survey was conducted on a later night of WAM ('Rover Issues #2'). The second survey clarified what level of event (Crew, District/Region, Branch or National) the problem with attendance was at, and asked respondents why they believed there was a problem with attendance.

The second survey was completed by 84 respondents, of which 10 were over 26 years old, and conducted in the same manner as the first survey.

A large majority of respondents reported that problems with Crews attending events occurred at a Crew level (50 responses, 69%), followed by Branch (39, 54%), District/Region (35, 49%) and National (25, 35%). It should be noted that some Branches do not have Regions or Districts.

Table 2: Responses to “Why do you think Crews don’t attend events?” from Rover Issues #2

Answer Choice	# of Responses	% of Respondents
Work	39	51%
Financial Pressure	38	50%
Too busy	37	49%
Poor communication	33	43%
Travel distances	32	42%
Inactive Crews	30	39%
Lack of interest	29	38%
Alternate clashing events	25	33%
Lack of advertising	23	30%
Poor program	18	24%
Too many other events	16	21%
Boring events	14	18%
Friends	11	14%
Family	11	14%
Peer group pressure	9	12%
Social pressure	8	11%
Not adventurous enough	8	11%
Too adventurous	3	4%

Recommendations :

It is suggested that the NRC further workshops these issues to determine what can be done, to resolve the issues. This report can then be used by the NRC to help develop its strategic plan.

Appendices

1. Raw survey data exported from SurveyMonkey. (Available upon request from the National Adviser: Youth Forums)