



**National Rover Council
Remote Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7 April 2022

1. Procedural Items

1.1 Meeting Open

Meeting opened 8.08pm AEST.

As Scouts of Australia, we acknowledge Australia's First Nations Peoples, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

We are grateful to do our Scouting in this country; we commit to use its resources wisely and develop our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

We also acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scouts who are part of our movement today.

1.2 Attendance

Eleanor Hewitt (Nat)	Toby Blyth (Nat)	Liam Brown (Nat)
Meghann Gallagher (Nat)	Patrick McCormick (Nat)	Samantha Wells (Nat)
Thomas Milham (Nat)	Dylan Hannan (Nat)	Madeline Ancill (RIT)
Jesse Carter (RIT)	Shaylah McClymont (ACT)	Sam De Rota (ACT)
Emily Ogden (ACT)	Calista Beck (ACT)	Bryn Catlin (NSW)
Grace Mitchell (NSW)	Hugh Crawford (NSW)	Ryan Kemp (NSW)
Alison Maynard (NSW)	Lizzie Fogarty (NT)	Tobias Kennett (Qld)
Jadzia Clifford-Pugh (Qld)	Adam Simpson (SA)	Ben Brice (SA)
Brad Thompson (Tas)	Isaac Beswick (Tas)	Glenn Maddock (Tas)
Kieron Younger (Vic)	Gemma Park (Vic)	Jordan Phillips (WA)
Declan Schotte (WA)		

1.3 Apologies

Sonder Peters (ACT)
Bella Condella (NT)

2. Past Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 Previous Minutes

E. Hewitt moved voting of previous minutes to the next meeting. Minutes from the 2022 NRC Conference are available in the NRC OneDrive.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Child Safe Issues

NIL

3.2 WHS Issues

NIL

3.3 Conflicts of Interest

NIL

Page Break

4. NRC Team Report

4.1 NRC Team Report.

The NRC Team spoke to the tabled report. Key components included NRC's dissent at NOC regarding amendments to the Scouting events cycle and structure that has since passed, the in-person Executive handover meeting, Moot buddies is open for applications, and National training updates.

MOTION

That the report be noted.

Moved through the Chairperson.

CARRIED

5. Apple Isle Moot: 22nd Australian Rover Moot Report

5.1 Apple Isle Moot: 22nd Australian Rover Moot Report.

Isaac Beswick advised no further updates have come through from the AIM Team, Glenn Maddock reported that the event is progressing well.

6. World Scout Moot 2029 Team Report

6.1 World Scout Moot 2029 Team Report

No update.

7. Branch Reports

Branch Reports were received by ACT, Qld, and WA, and can be viewed on the OneDrive. E Hewitt thanked those Branches who had submitted reports, and asked for Branch reports to be submitted in order to keep record of historical trends and also properly represent Rovers at NOC meetings.

ACT

Star: Shaylah has been involved in the recruitment process for the Chief Commissioner appointment, as a youth advocate for Rover Scout and younger sections

Star: progressing well with Spymoot, which will be the first event in ACT/NSW since pre-Covid.

Registrations are open and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Wish: None

NSW

Star: A great handover with the new Executive has just taken place

Star: Marketing for Conference has been great, so hopefully the event will be a good weekend online with some valuable sessions

Wish: That the campsite for Conference didn't get flooded so the in-person event could have gone ahead

NT

Star: NT have a full BRC Executive for the first time in a few years, with lots of motivated younger Rover Scouts getting involved and some very exciting plans for the future

Star: The first Branch Linking event was held a couple of weeks ago, and was a great opportunity for younger sections to get involved, and meet the linking Venturer Scouts

Star: NT Moot will be happening during dry season, everyone is invited to attend

Wish: To have more than one Rover Scout attend AIM

Qld

Star: Test and Track Moot (RSM Event) Committee have been working hard to run the event in a new location

Star: The new Branch building has some significant work done, including aircon installation as well as stairs and ramps to ensure accessibility

Wish: That the bottom storey of Branch hadn't flooded

E. Hewitt advised that if NRC is able to help Branches in any way with flood or crisis relief, to get in contact, as the RDF is a good resource to utilise in these circumstances. How the NRC can support Rover Scouts in response to constant natural disasters and ensuring proper support from National may be something to look into.

SA

Star: State moot and some other events will be happening in October and the second half of the year

Star: Some informal events have been taking place

Wish: To solve issues with meeting quorum at BRC, and ensuring that engagement is still maintained

Tas

Star: Internal communications have been improving, with check-ins with Units and Unit Leaders

Star: The PR Officer has been doing a great job with promoting Tas Rovers on social media and through Branch reports

Wish: That AIM goes well!

Vic

Star: The annual metropolitan Rover Ball had over 200 attendees

Star: There have been some great events promoting Rovering, with a focus on retention (census shows that membership has dropped by around 80 members, but are optimistic that these numbers will be recovered by the end of April)

Wish: For the next event to be the biggest Mudbash ever as it is the 50th anniversary of the event.

WA

Star: The WA Rovers website redesign has been launched and looks great

Star: This year WA Rovers are celebrating 100 years as a BRC, and will be selling some commemorative badges and other merchandise

Wish: For more engagement in running Branch events.

8. Voting Items

8.1 – NRC Operational Account Budget

L. Brown spoke to the budget paper in the OneDrive, and highlighted that this updated budget reflects changes to the update levy structure that was voted upon and agreed to at Conference.

MOTION

That the 2022/23 NRC Operational Account Budget be approved.

Moved: NRC Executive Seconded: NSW

For: ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Tas, WA

Against: Vic

Abstain: Nil

MOTION CARRIED

8.2 – Rover Development Fund Budget

L. Brown spoke to the budget paper in the OneDrive. He explained that as we are in a moot year, there will be a loss to the RDF from the Moot Buddies contribution. He also noted that current economic volatility means that losses should be properly managed.

B. Catlin asked if given the spending this year on Moot Buddies, over the three years of the Moot cycle have we made a loss? L. Brown replied that we will break even, and exhaust the Moot Buddies contribution. P. McCormick advised that all income from Moot Buddies contributions is made available to the Moot Buddies for AIM.

MOTION

That the 2022/23 NRC Rover Development Fund Budget be approved.

Moved: NRC Executive Seconded: NSW

For: ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic, WA

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

MOTION CARRIED

8.3 – Suspension of 2022/23 Levies Paper

L. Brown spoke to the paper in OneDrive. Due to consolidated expenditures and a large surplus in 2020, the NRC has the funds to cover the 2022/23 Operational Budget. There is a risk in waiving such a large loss if we don't have a comfortable surplus to do so every year.

J. Clifford-Pugh asked what would happen if there was volatility to cause the NRC to run out of money to cover this levy, and suggested a smaller levy if this were to occur. L. Brown replied that at this stage, the NRC would not run out of money this year, as there is enough buffer based purely on

what is in the Operational budget, however this is a very real possibility in future years if levies continue to be suspended.

E. Hewitt emphasised the fact that this action cannot be continual, and is a response to the fact that last year in-person meetings were expected and were unable to go ahead due to rapidly changing circumstances. In recognising that NRC is not for-profit, in the interests of financial maturity and breaking even, this suspension is in recognition that adequate operational funds and expense management exists, and will not be a regular occurrence.

MOTION

That the National Rover Council:

- Suspend Standing Orders 5.3.1(b), (c), and (d) for the 2022/23 Scouting Year
- Suspend all elements of the Conference Representation Costs section of the NRC By-Laws Part II: NRC Terms of Reference related to charging Travel Rationalisation on the second Branch Delegate to Conference for the 2022/23 Scouting Year.
- Suspend the invoicing of attendance to the 2023 Conference for Branches' second Delegate. It is recognised that this cost will be absorbed by the NRC Operational Account.

Recognise that 2022/23 Moot Buddies contribution will still be charged.

Moved: NRC Executive Seconded: Victoria

For: ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic, WA

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

MOTION CARRIED

8.4 – Remote Meeting Timetable

M. Gallagher spoke to the proposed Remote Meeting Timetable. K. Younger expressed that Victoria is very happy with the paper as it helps with scheduling meetings

MOTION

That the NRC agree to the periods of July 2022, September 2022, and November 2022, where a doodle poll will be distributed to determine the actual Remote Meeting date.

Moved: NRC Executive Seconded: WA

For: ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic, WA

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

MOTION CARRIED

8.5 – NRC By-law Updates

M. Gallagher spoke to the paper regarding the updating of the NRC By-Laws to reflect decisions made at the 2022 Conference. J. Clifford-Pugh mentioned that Qld still do not like By-law 4.3.

MOTION

That the NRC approve By-Laws Version 2.6 to supersede By-Laws 2.5.

Moved: NRC Executive Seconded: Tasmania

For: ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic, WA

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

MOTION CARRIED

8.6 – NRC Goals Paper

E. Hewitt spoke to the information paper. The NRC want to be transparent and accountable, and this paper is one way of doing this by sharing their goals for the year. Branches are encouraged to read the paper and ask questions in order to hold the NRC team accountable.

8.7 – Strategic Plan Workshop

E. Hewitt moved a motion to suspend the no votes after 10pm rule. WA seconded.

B. Catlin asked whether the Strategic Plan required a vote. E. Hewitt responded it did not, but was in the interest of fairness to Victoria in order for their papers be voted on. G. Mitchell asked whether the Strategic Plan workshop could be postponed due to the late time of the meeting. E. Hewitt questioned if proper feedback on the plan if the workshop doesn't go ahead, as it is very important to have further consultation.

B. Catlin asked if the order of the Agenda could be swapped so that people could leave after the Victorian papers had been voted on, E. Hewitt replied that this implies the Strategic Plan is optional, which is not and proposed that if Branches are able to, either another workshop could be run, or feedback collected, but asked for confirmation from all Branches that this feedback was received. Confirmation was received from all Branches.

The paper was withdrawn, and alternate method for gaining feedback will be distributed soon.

8.8 – Outcomes of Victoria's "Value for Money" Workshops

G. Park spoke to the information paper in the OneDrive. The workshops run by Victoria were not minuted, but presented papers in the exact form they appear in. The papers presented in these workshops can be found in Appendix 3 of the minutes.

8.9 – NRC Executive meetings should be self-funded

G. Park spoke to the paper, and acknowledged that they did not want to bring it to NRC, but it was missed in the workshops they had run.

B. Catlin said that having self-funded Executive meetings makes Executive positions accessible only to those who have the money to attend these meetings, and that there is an established value in face-to-face meetings. L. Fogarty agreed and added that the NRC Executive work in a voluntary scale. J. Clifford-Pugh acknowledged that while online meetings were a viable option, they agreed with the previously made comments. I. Beswick and J. Phillips agreed with the previously made remarks, with J. Phillips expanding that self-funding would be an especially great barrier to WA Rovers who wanted to run for NRC roles due to high travel costs.

MOTION

That the NRC remove the “NRC Executive Meetings” line from the budget, both this year and in future budgets, and that the NRC Executive Team self-fund their meetings.

Moved: Victoria

Seconded: NSW

For: Vic (2), NSW (1)

Against: ACT (2), NSW (1), NT (1), Qld (2), SA (2), Tas (2), WA (2)

Abstain: Nil

MOTION FAILED

8.10 – NRC Conference to be open to all Rover Scouts

G. Park spoke to the paper, and explained that it was very much an open paper, and that it builds on what already happens at Conference.

MOTION

That the NRC approve:

- Opening the 2023 and 2024 NRC Conferences to all Rover Scouts
- The organiser of the Conference should determine the maximum number of face-to-face participants.
- Each Branch shall be given the option of sending up to 5 priority attendees (x2 voting parties, x2 observers, x1 Rover Scout Commissioner).
- Other guests normally invited then can take attendance places (ie. NRC Executive), with any remaining places being able to be purchased by any Rover Scout/Advisor, or participate virtually
- Some aspects of the conference may be open to observe only (rather than being able to speak on the floor) by non-delegates due to time restrictions (ie. If discussing a paper).

Moved: Victoria

Seconded: NSW

For: NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic

Against: ACT, WA

Abstain: NT

MOTION CARRIED

E. Hewitt flagged that the NRC Executive will contact Victoria as this is incompatible with the current By-Laws, hence Victoria will take the lead to organise appropriate amendments and formulation of this motion.

8.11 – No “process papers” discussed at Conference

G. Park spoke to the paper in the OneDrive and highlighted that ultimately the NRC Executive or whomever organises the Conference agenda will have the final say in whether these types of papers are included at Conference.

S. De Rota said that admin and process papers are best to have in-person as they can be overwhelmingly boring in a remote meeting, therefore papers that address the smooth functioning of the NRC are critical to be discussed in person. G. Park responded that at the heart of the paper were “normal Rover Scouts” and time at Conference was best spent on other projects that support them.

B. Catlin said that even if this makes Conference more inaccessible, distinguishing what papers can and can't be discussed at Conference was inappropriate. G. Park acknowledged the feedback and recognised that the NRC Executive would be able to modify the Agenda as they saw fit.

J. Clifford-Pugh suggested that this paper could be more useful as a best practice guideline to the NRC Executive. G. Park responded that Victoria were trying to make suggestions and pass on feedback to improve Conference, and that they believe this is the quickest, easiest, and most open way to make that happen. J. Clifford-Pugh further agreed that selecting which papers can be discussed does not make sense, but they do acknowledge the value of workshops.

A. Simpson commented that defining process and admin papers can be difficult, and is unsure how this paper would be enforced and what its end goal was. G. Park responded that if it created change, that would be supported and that it was not enforceable, K. Younger suggested it was more of a “pirate code.”

E. Hewitt commented that at the 2022 Conference, all papers discussed were admin papers, as no other papers were submitted. The NRC Executive aims to guide strategic direction which means that the NRC will always present admin papers in order to ensure the organisation is open and accessible.

MOTION

That the NRC does not schedule a place in the 2023 NRC Conference Agenda for proposing papers that focus on the internal processes of the NRC. If Branches are unsure whether their paper fits this criterion they should consult the NRC Executive.

Moved: Victoria

Seconded: NSW

For: Vic (2),

Against: ACT (2), NSW (2), NT (1), Qld (2), Tas (2), WA (2)

Abstain: SA

MOTION FAILED

9. Information & Late Papers

9.1 – Environment & Sustainability Project Officer

E. Hewitt advised that as no nominations for this position had been received, the BRC will continue advertising the position, and proposed that the NRC Executive would form a selection committee in order to avoid waiting until July to elect an Officer.

S. De Rota clarified that the NRC Executive will determine a date to which nominations will be open, and upon that date the NRC Executive would form a selection committee and determine the best applicant for the role.

MOTION

That the NRC will continue advertising the role of the Environment & Sustainability Project Officer, and will determine a date at which point nominations will be closed and a selection committee formed by the NRC Executive to determine the best applicant for the role

Moved: NRC Executive Seconded: NT

For: ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Vic, WA

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

MOTION CARRIED

10. General Business

Nil.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in July 2022. M. Gallagher will distribute a poll to NRC members to determine the exact date of the Remote Meeting.

Strategic plan feedback will be expected shortly, the NRC Executive will determine how best to collect this and distribute this shortly.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed 9.58pm AEST

Appendix 1 – Tabled Papers



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

8.1

Item Title		2022/23 NRC Operational Account Budget
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		NRC Treasurer
Strategic Alignment		Program and Governance: The NRC is the peak governance body of Rover Scouts Australia and relies on the NRC Levy levied on all Australian Rover Scouts to deliver its activities.
Consultation		NRC Executive
Implementation period		N/A

KEY POINTS

- The NRC Operational Account has a proposed total income of \$37,207.70.
- The NRC Operational Account has a proposed total expenditure of \$40,666.50.
- Therefore, the NRC Operational Account will result in a proposed loss of \$3,458.80 for 2022/23.

BACKGROUND

- A General Operating Levy is the main source of income for the NRC Operational Account. This is currently set at \$5.30 levied on all Australian Rover Scouts. This also covers the cost of one Delegate to Conference.
- A Travel Rationalisation scheme covers the travel cost for a second Delegate to Conference. Based on current flight estimates, this has been budgeted at \$450.00 per Branch Rover Council. Final Rationalisation costs are adjusted to reflect true travel costs before income is collected.
- The NRC Operational Account also collects income from guests, Branch Rover Advisers and observers to Conference. This is currently set at \$615.00 per person, compromising of:

- \$66.35 for comprehensive site hire;
- \$35.00 for catering;
- \$35.00 for engagement activities;
- \$8.65 for administration costs;
- \$20.00 for additional transport costs; and
- \$450.00 for flight costs (which is adjusted to reflect true cost once the flight is booked before the income is collected).
- The second Delegate is charged for their attendance to Conference. This is budgeted at \$165.00 per person, as broken down above.
- There has been a dip from a surplus of \$1,906.00 detailed in the draft budget presented at 2022 Conference to the current projected loss. This is because the \$450.00 flights used in the updated NRC Levy and Travel Rationalisation policies was not reflected in the draft budget. The Conference attendance costs featured above include cost savings of \$15.00 per person, due to a re-costing of catering and engagement activities.
- There has been a cost saving of \$50.00 per NRC Executive member forecasted for Executive Meetings, due to a re-costing of catering and accommodation expenses. This is in addition to the reduction on the 2021/22 budget, which was included in the draft 2022/23 budget tabled at NRC Conference 2022.
- Lower-than-expected expenditure for administration support over previous years has enabled a downward forecast to \$500.00.
- Previous budgets have had an inadequate contingency included to protect from financial risk. In the draft budget tabled at 2022 Conference, the contingency was 1.64% of total expenditure.
- Industry standards recommend that all operational budgets include a contingency of between 5% and 10%. This is to help protect the operating account from excessive financial risk if there are adverse events.
- Given the extreme volatility within the economy over recent times – both due to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and other humanitarian crises – it is imperative that the NRC adopts a robust contingency standard to protect our financial interests. In this regard, a contingency of 5% of total expenditure has been included in the budget.
- See Attachment A for details, and the related 2022/23 Rover Development Fund Budget for decision.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Approve the 2022/23 NRC Operational Account budget.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	NRC Treasurer
Assists	NRC Executive
Cost	N/A

Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mismanaged financial losses can have negative impacts on future years which may be difficult to recover from. • There has been significant volatility in the economy over 2021/22 and this is likely to occur in 2022/23. This may impact the ability for budgeted expenses to be met. • Failure to adopt a robust contingency standard will leave Rover Scouts Australia liable to high financial risk. Any significant financial losses will have to be recovered, and this may require increases to the NRC levy.
Milestones	N/A
Outcomes	2022/23 Rover Development Fund budget is approved.

AMENDMENTS

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NRC Operational Account - 2022/23 Budget

Income	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Levied Income			
2022/23 General Operating Levy	\$ 5.30	2959	\$ 15,682.70
2023 Conference Flight Rationalisation	\$ 450.00	8	\$ 3,600.00
Total Levied Income			\$ 19,282.70
2023 Conference Income			
Second Branch Delegate Attendance	\$ 165.00	8	\$ 1,320.00
Observer and Guest Flights	\$ 450.00	27	\$ 12,150.00
Observer and Guest Attendance	\$ 165.00	27	\$ 4,455.00
Total 2023 Conference Income			\$ 17,925.00
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 37,207.70
Expenses			
2023 Conference Expenses			
2023 Conference Flights	\$ 450.00	52	\$ 23,400.00
2023 Conference Attendance	\$ 165.00	52	\$ 8,580.00
Total 2023 Conference Expenses			\$ 31,980.00
Executive Meeting Expenses			
Executive Meeting Flights	\$ 450.00	5	\$ 2,250.00
Executive Meeting Attendance	\$ 800.00	5	\$ 4,000.00
Total Executive Meeting Expenses			\$ 6,250.00
Administration Support Expenses			
Administration Support			\$ 500.00
Total Administration Support Expenses			\$ 500.00
Operational Contingency			
5% Contingency			\$ 1,936.50
Total Operational Contingency			\$ 1,936.50
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 40,666.50
Surplus/(Loss)			\$ (3,458.80)

ATTACHMENT A – 2022/23 NRC OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT BUDGET



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

8.2

Item Title		2022/23 Rover Development Fund Budget
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		NRC Treasurer
Strategic Alignment		Program and Governance: The NRC is the peak governance body of Rover Scouts Australia and relies on a Moot Buddies levied on all Australian Rover Scouts to support identified opportunities for Rover Scouts to actively participate in the program.
Consultation		NRC Executive
Implementation period		N/A

KEY POINTS

- The Rover Development Fund has a proposed total income of \$3,459.00.
- The Rover Development Fund has a proposed total expenditure of \$16,333.00.
- Therefore, the Rover Development Fund will result in a proposed loss of \$12,874.00 for 2022/23.

BACKGROUND

- The Moot Buddies contribution is the only controlled source of income for the Rover Development Fund and is set aside specifically to fund Rover Scouts needing support to attend a National Rover Moot (as set out in the NRC By-Laws). This contribution is currently set at \$1.00 per annum, levied on all Australian Rover Scouts.
- In addition to this, we expect that the Rover Development Fund will earn returns on its investments.
- The main expense for the Rover Development Fund is the Moot Buddies scheme. Apple Isle Moot 2023 will occur within the 2022/23 Scouting Year, which means that collected Moot Buddies revenue will be reinvested back into supporting Rover Scouts to attend the Moot. There is \$14,083.00 available for Moot Buddies expenditure, comprised of the following amounts:
 - \$3,067.00 from 2020/21;

- \$2,357.00 from 2021/22;
- 2,959.00 from 2022/23; and
- \$5,700.00 refunded from CBR Moot 2020.
- In addition to this expense, a maximum of \$2,000.00 per annum for the Rover Challenge has been included.
- See Attachment A for details, and the related 2022/23 NRC Operational Account Budget paper for decision.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Approve the 2022/23 Rover Development Fund budget.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	NRC Treasurer
Assists	NRC Executive
Cost	N/A
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mismanaged losses can have cascading negative impacts on future years. • The annual threshold of Rover Challenge fund allocation has not been met in recent years (i.e. less than \$2,000.00 has been paid to initiatives). • There has been significant volatility in the economy over 2021/22 and this is likely to occur in 2022/23. This may impact the forecasted investment income and the ability for budgeted expenses to be met.
Milestones	N/A
Outcomes	2022/23 Rover Development Fund budget is approved.

AMENDMENTS

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Rover Development Fund - 2022/23 Budget

Income	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Levied Income			
Rover Development Levy	\$ 1.00	2959	\$ 2,959.00
Total Levied Income			\$ 2,959.00
Investment Income			
Account Investment Scheme			\$ 500.00
Total Investment Income			\$ 500.00
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 3,459.00
Expenses			
Moot Buddies Expenses			
Apple Isle Moot 2023 Moot Buddies			\$ 14,083.00
Total Moot Buddies Expenses			\$ 14,083.00
Rover Challenge Expenses			
2022/23 Rover Challenge			\$ 2,000.00
Total Rover Challenge Expenses			\$ 2,000.00
Accounting and Audit Expenses			
National Administration Fee			\$ 250.00
Total Accounting and Audit Expenses			\$ 250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 16,333.00
Surplus/(Loss)			\$ (12,874.00)

ATTACHMENT A – 2022/23 ROVER DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

8.3

Item Title		Suspension of the NRC Levy collection, Travel Rationalisation and second Branch Delegate Conference attendance fees for 2022/23
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		NRC Treasurer
Strategic Alignment		Governance: The NRC is the peak governance body of Rover Scouts Australia and relies on the NRC Levy levied on all Australian Rover Scouts to fund its activities. Program: Finances collected from Rover Scouts have an inherent ability to impact their financial ability to actively participate in the program. It is imperative that there exists a balance between the funds required to operate the NRC and the ability of Rover Scouts to have lower barriers to active program participation.
Consultation		NRC Executive
Implementation period		N/A

KEY POINTS

- The 2021/22 Scouting Year was severely impacted by the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Due to consolidated surpluses and given the low expenditure for 2021/22, the NRC Operational Account has sufficient funds to comfortably cover the 2022/23 operational budget.
- This action will provide needed support to Rover Scouts, who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic. It is hoped that by not collecting the NRC Levy for 2022/23, the funds instead could be used to contribute to Unit-life of Rover Scouts.

BACKGROUND

- Rover Scouts Australia activities across the country have had a marked impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Harsh travel and movement restrictions, in partnership with social responsibility, meant that Rover Scouts Australia was not able to meet face-to-face for the NRC Conference 2022.
- These restrictions also meant that many Rover Scouts were unable to, or had impacts upon, their ability to generate income.
- Based on the 2021 Scout Census, the current NRC Levy of \$5.30 per Rover Scout and the Travel Rationalisation policy, the NRC will invoice an estimated total of \$19,282.70 to Branches in 2022/23. There is an additional \$17,925.00 of other forms of income in the proposed budget.
- The proposed 2022/23 budget includes total expenses of \$40,666.50. The budget results in a loss of \$3,458.80.
- The income from attendance costs of the second Branch Delegate to Conference is budgeted at \$1,320.00. The benefits of collecting this revenue are immaterial to the benefits that could be realised from these funds being used to reinvigorate Unit-life. The additional loss incurred by the exclusion of this revenue is immaterial to the current NRC Operational Account balance.
- Without the income from the NRC Levy, Travel Rationalisation or second Delegate Conference attendance fees in 2022/23, the budget will result in a loss of \$24,061.50.
- The NRC Operational Account has greater than \$108,000.00 in consolidated surpluses. This has been caused by operational surpluses accrued over time, and lower-than-expected expenditure levels as the National Rover Council has temporarily adapted its operations to meet the volatile conditions imposed by the pandemic.
- Funds not being moved to the Rover Development Fund by the National Support Team have also contributed to the accumulated surpluses.
- Even considering the funds in the NRC Operational Account which are set aside for the Rover Development Fund, these consolidated surpluses provide sufficient safeguard to absorb the larger loss, as the NRC recognises the support this decision will provide to Unit-life Rover Scouts.
- A consideration was made to reverse the already charged 2021/22 General Operating Levies, which had a slightly higher balance of \$22,693.19. However, since there was only a \$2,090.49 difference between the two revenue figures, it was deemed that the administrative cost on both volunteers and paid staff members in refunding the previously collected levies would negate the materiality of any gains.
- See the related 2022/23 NRC Operations Budget paper for consideration on this decision.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Suspend Standing Orders 5.3.1(b), 5.3.1(c) and 5.3.1(d) for the 2022/23 Scouting Year.
- Suspend all elements of the Conference Representation Costs section of the *NRC By-Laws Part II: NRC Terms of Reference* related to charging Travel Rationalisation on the second Branch Delegate to Conference for the 2022/23 Scouting Year.

- Suspend the invoicing of attendance to the 2023 Conference for Branches' second Delegate. It is recognised that this cost will be absorbed by the NRC Operational Account.
- Recognise that 2022/23 Moot Buddies contribution will still be charged.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	NRC Treasurer
Assists	NRC Executive
Cost	N/A
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitual suspension of the NRC Levy (which covers NRC's operating costs) will eventually have a quantifiably negative impact on the NRC Operational Account. • Not collecting the NRC Levy in 2022/23 financial year will contribute to any potential losses generated in that period.
Milestones	N/A
Outcomes	NRC Levy and Travel Rationalisation suspended for 2022/23.

AMENDMENTS



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

7 April 2022

Item Title		Remote Meeting Timetable
	Information	
	Decision	
Document Author		Meghann Gallagher – NRC Secretary
Strategic Alignment		Governance

KEY POINTS

- As per procedure voted on at the 2022 Conference, the NRC Executive shall produce a Remote Meeting timetable specifying what months NRC Remote Meetings will be held in.
- Final dates will be determined via poll, with the meeting date confirmed at least four weeks prior to the earliest proposed meeting date.
- For 2022, remote meetings are proposed within the following months:
 - July 2022
 - September 2022
 - November 2022

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Agree to the periods above where a doodle poll will be distributed to determine the actual meeting date as per the By-Laws



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

7 April 2022

Item Title		NRC By-Laws Update
	Information	
	Decision	
Document Author		Meghann Gallagher – NRC Secretary
Strategic Alignment		Governance
Consultation		N/A
Implementation period		Immediate implementation – review as required

KEY POINTS

- The current version of the NRC By-Laws (V2.5) requires updating to reflect actions of the NRC.
- This version seeks to update the By-Laws in line with decisions made by the NRC at the 2022 Conference, including Rules of Debate, out of session votes, and Moot Buddies data
- The updated By-Laws can be found as an attached PDF document
- Changes have been highlighted in red, and logged on the final page of the NRC By-Laws

BACKGROUND

- The By-Laws of the National Rover Council serve as the governing document of this Council and how it operates.
- Changes made in the proposed version of the By-Laws are from the 2022 NRC Conference.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Approve By-Laws Version 2.6 to supersede By-Laws Version 2.5

AMENDMENTS



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

7 April 2022

Item Title		NRC Team Goals
X	Information	
	Decision	
Document Author		Eleanor Hewitt – NRC Chair
Strategic Alignment		Governance
Consultation		NRC Team
Implementation period		By January 2023

KEY POINTS

- At the commencement of the NRC Teams term this year, each exec member and project officer listed a number of goals that they had for the year ahead in their role. Goals were accompanied by identification of challenges and barriers to implementation and support required to achieve.
- To further improve the transparency and accountability of the NRC, the team has elected to share the top two or three goals, for each person, with the whole NRC.
- By no means are the listed goals all the team is aiming to achieve this year, rather they are the key big items that each individual is going to pursue in addition to the normal operations of the NRC and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Note the following goals:

Position	Goal
Chair	Improve the NRC Chair process and look at introducing a 'shadowing' period for the new Chair
	Create a cohesive strategic and operational plan based on consultation that delivers for Rover Scouts across the country
	Fully implement the findings of the external review
Vice Chair	More Rovers will know about the Rover Challenge grant and how to access it, and the funds are distributed to help support Rover Project and activities.
	Support the NRC Project Officers to be a valued part of the NRC team, and to support them in meeting their own goals.
Secretary	Get a newsletter up and running
	Ensure all communication for the year is timely, accessible, and high quality
Treasurer	NRC Financial Strategy Create a strategic plan-esque document that sets out commitments financially over a set period. Thinking of the financial strategy as an extension of our strategic plan allows us to be bound by our financial commitments for a period that will let us have the time to execute on them before they can be changed by a future Executive.
	Comprehensive Levy Strategy
	NRC Financial Procedural Instructions and Branch Best-Practice Guides
Training and Development	Completion of my Cert IV in leadership and Management through SAIT.

	Learn more about Adventurous Activity Qualifications and Scout Training requirements
	Collate a selection of supplementary training for Rovers around Australia
PR & Marketing	Increase Social Media presence for Rovers Scouts Australia, particularly on Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook. Aim to have every Rover Scout in Australia following these platforms.
	Assess the viability of a merchandise line and hopefully produce one.
	Start (or revive) a monthly Rover newsletter similar to the chief newsletter
Diversity and Inclusion	gathering more resources for diversity and inclusion as support and education
	creating more diversity and inclusion workshops
Rover Adviser	Provide support and encouragement to NRC Team members (and other members of the NRC) so they can make the most of their opportunities for personal growth.
	Finalise the update to the RA Expectations, and support RAs and interested Rover Scouts to advance the opportunities to ensure our RAs are well equipped to support the needs of Rover Scouts today.

AMENDMENTS



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

Item Title		NRC Strategic Plan
x	Information	
	Decision	
Document Author		Eleanor Hewitt (NRC Chair) and NRC Executive
Strategic Alignment		Governance
Consultation		Whole National Rover Council at the 2022 NRC Conference
Implementation period		April 2022 – Initial Feedback from BRCs on the Strategic Plan June 2022 – Draft Strategic and Operational Plan released for consultation through BRCs End of June 2022 – Feedback on draft Strategic and Operational Plan sent back to the NRC Executive By July 2022 – Final Strategic and Operational Plan voted upon at the NRC

KEY POINTS

- The previous Rover Scouts Australia Strategic Plan expired at the end of 2019. A decision was taken to not start creating the new Strategic Plan until after the findings of the External Review were tabled and implementation could begin.
- At the 2022 NRC Conference, a total of three sessions were held on gathering feedback and consultation about what delegates wanted included in the Rover Scouts Australia Strategic Plan.

- At the NRC Executive Meeting, held between 18 -20 March, the Exec went through all the consultation, identifying key themes, trends, and pertinent points. Additionally, the Exec examined other Strategic Plans across Scouts Australia to source inspiration and new ideas on how and what a Strategic Plan could look like.
- The NRC Exec determined that the Rover Scouts Australia Strategic Plan should be split into two parts:
 1. The Strategic Plan – Defining the purpose, vision and broad strategic goals as well as identifying briefly the broad methods that will be used to implement the plan.
 2. The Operational Plan – Taking the broad strategic plan and breaking it down into goals.
- The proposed plan structure echoes the Strategic Plan Structures used by [Scouts WA](#) and [Scouts NSW](#) and also aligns with the [Scouts Australia Strategic Plan](#).
- To ensure that this new Strategic Plan delivers for all Rover Scouts, it is imperative that BRCs actively share the proposed plans and supporting documentation with their Rover Scouts and create a platform that allows for unbiased feedback to be shared with the NRC Exec. Ultimately the future of the Rover Scout section is shaped by this plan.
- The proposed Strategic Plan will also be shared with a wide variety of stakeholders, outside of the Rover Scout section, to gain further feedback and perspectives.
- It is also the intention of the NRC Exec for the final strategic plan to include a clause that guarantees that a review of the Strategic Plan takes place mid way through the Plan.

BACKGROUND

- The Strategic Plan of Rover Scouts Australia is an integral responsibility of the NRC Exec. Previous plans have focused on traditional areas of Governance, Program, Representation, Communication etc.
- The NRC External Review concluded that: *“Developing and reporting against a strategic plan allows organisations such as the NRC to improve their accountability and transparency and demonstrate their value to their stakeholders. According to the Institute of Community Directors Australia: “The process of strategic planning assists an organisation to enhance its understanding of where it is going, how it is going to get there and how it will know if it has been successful in achieving its aims.””*
- The NRC External Review also identified that previous Strategic Plans were inconsistently reported against. This finding is something that will be addressed in the Operational Plan.

- And finally, the NRC External Review concluded that “*The strategic plans of BRCs, while focused on their own priorities, should also seek to support the strategic direction of the NRC.*”. This conclusion has been embedded in the initial Strategic Plan and firmly lays out responsibility for implementation on Branch Rover Councils, and collectively as the National Rover Council, with the NRC Exec to guide the strategic direction.
- Consultation from the 2022 NRC Conference is included as a separate document.

ACTION REQUESTED

- That the NRC provides feedback on this plan
- That the NRC shares consultation documents with their BRCs to ensure that the ultimate plan truly reflects the broader Rover Scouts Australia cohort.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	NRC Executive
Assists	Branch Rover Councils
Cost	<i>Nil.</i>
Risks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BRCs do not share the plan with all Rover Scouts and allow for all Rover Scouts to provide feedback that can be shared with the NRC Exec in an unbiased manner. This will be negated by regular reminders and material to assist in the consultation in being provided directly to BRCs. 2. The plan does not accurately reflect the wishes of Rover Scouts Australia. This will be negated by ensuring that feedback and consultation is sort through BRCs, and identifying if not enough feedback is being received, identify ways that the NRC Exec can source the feedback. 3.
Milestones	<p>April 2022 – Initial Feedback from BRCs on the Strategic Plan</p> <p>June 2022 – Draft Strategic and Operational Plan released for consultation through BRCs</p> <p>End of June 2022 – Feedback on draft Strategic and Operational Plan sent back to the NRC Executive</p>

	By July 2022 – Final Strategic and Operational Plan voted upon at the NRC
Outcomes	A clear strategic and operational direction for the NRC, and more broadly Rover Scouts Australia resulting in the section achieving its vision.

AMENDMENTS



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

Item Title		NRC Strategic Plan
x	Information	
	Decision	
Document Author		Eleanor Hewitt (NRC Chair) and NRC Executive
Strategic Alignment		Governance
Consultation		Whole National Rover Council at the 2022 NRC Conference
Implementation period		<p>April 2022 – Initial Feedback from BRCs on the Strategic Plan</p> <p>June 2022 – Draft Strategic and Operational Plan released for consultation through BRCs</p> <p>End of June 2022 – Feedback on draft Strategic and Operational Plan sent back to the NRC Executive</p> <p>By July 2022 – Final Strategic and Operational Plan voted upon at the NRC</p>

KEY POINTS

- The previous Rover Scouts Australia Strategic Plan expired at the end of 2019. A decision was taken to not start creating the new Strategic Plan until after the findings of the External Review were tabled and implementation could begin.
- At the 2022 NRC Conference, a total of three sessions were held on gathering feedback and consultation about what delegates wanted included in the Rover Scouts Australia Strategic Plan.
- At the NRC Executive Meeting, held between 18 -20 March, the Exec went through all the consultation, identifying key themes, trends, and pertinent

points. Additionally, the Exec examined other Strategic Plans across Scouts Australia to source inspiration and new ideas on how and what a Strategic Plan could look like.

- The NRC Exec determined that the Rover Scouts Australia Strategic Plan should be split into two parts:
 1. The Strategic Plan – Defining the purpose, vision and broad strategic goals as well as identifying briefly the broad methods that will be used to implement the plan.
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- To ensure that this new Strategic Plan delivers for all Rover Scouts, it is imperative that BRCs actively share the proposed plans and supporting documentation with their Rover Scouts and create a platform that allows for unbiased feedback to be shared with the NRC Exec. Ultimately the future of the Rover Scout section is shaped by this plan.
- The proposed Strategic Plan will also be shared with a wide variety of stakeholders, outside of the Rover Scout section, to gain further feedback and perspectives.
- It is also the intention of the NRC Exec for the final strategic plan to include a clause that guarantees that a review of the Strategic Plan takes place mid way through the Plan.

BACKGROUND

- The Strategic Plan of Rover Scouts Australia is an integral responsibility of the NRC Exec. Previous plans have focused on traditional areas of Governance, Program, Representation, Communication etc.
- The NRC External Review concluded that: *“Developing and reporting against a strategic plan allows organisations such as the NRC to improve their accountability and transparency and demonstrate their value to their stakeholders. According to the Institute of Community Directors Australia: “The process of strategic planning assists an organisation to enhance its understanding of where it is going, how it is going to get there and how it will know if it has been successful in achieving its aims.”*
- The NRC External Review also identified that previous Strategic Plans were inconsistently reported against. This finding is something that will be addressed in the Operational Plan.
- And finally, the NRC External Review concluded that *“The strategic plans of BRCs, while focused on their own priorities, should also seek to support the strategic direction of the NRC.”* This conclusion has been embedded in the initial

Strategic Plan and firmly lays out responsibility for implementation on Branch Rover Councils, and collectively as the National Rover Council, with the NRC Exec to guide the strategic direction.

- Consultation from the 2022 NRC Conference is included as a separate document.

ACTION REQUESTED

- That the NRC provides feedback on this plan
- That the NRC shares consultation documents with their BRCs to ensure that the ultimate plan truly reflects the broader Rover Scouts Australia cohort.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	NRC Executive
Assists	Branch Rover Councils
Cost	<i>Nil.</i>
Risks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BRCs do not share the plan with all Rover Scouts and allow for all Rover Scouts to provide feedback that can be shared with the NRC Exec in an unbiased manner. This will be negated by regular reminders and material to assist in the consultation in being provided directly to BRCs. 2. The plan does not accurately reflect the wishes of Rover Scouts Australia. This will be negated by ensuring that feedback and consultation is sort through BRCs, and identifying if not enough feedback is being received, identify ways that the NRC Exec can source the feedback. 3.
Milestones	<p>April 2022 – Initial Feedback from BRCs on the Strategic Plan</p> <p>June 2022 – Draft Strategic and Operational Plan released for consultation through BRCs</p> <p>End of June 2022 – Feedback on draft Strategic and Operational Plan sent back to the NRC Executive</p> <p>By July 2022 – Final Strategic and Operational Plan voted upon at the NRC</p>

Outcomes	A clear strategic and operational direction for the NRC, and more broadly Rover Scouts Australia resulting in the section achieving its vision.
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AMENDMENTS



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

Item Title		NRC Executive Team meetings to be removed from the NRC Operations Budget.
	Information	
x	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Strategic Alignment		Program: Decreasing the Branch NRC levies allows the Rovering program to be delivered at the lowest cost possible, therefore making the Rover Program more accessible to people of all backgrounds. Consequently a larger, more diverse membership base allows the program to grow in strength and quality. Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.
Consultation		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC and Victorian Region Chairs.
Implementation period		March NRC remote meeting: paper passes. As soon as possible: Current budget updated with only receipts accepted for purchases dated before this paper passing. 2022/23 Budget: "NRC Executive Meetings" line removed/not included.

KEY POINTS

- Online meetings can be productive and successful at delivering outcomes at no cost.
- NRC Executive meeting funding should be removed from the budget.
- Should the NRC Executive decide to hold a face-to-face meeting it should be self-funded by the meeting attendees.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived "value for money" financial participation in the NRC.

- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.
- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. Furthermore, the Review's 16 recommendations entirely focus on the administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.
- National COVID restrictions have forced many teams to meet online including the NRC Executive. The previous 2 years have demonstrated that online meetings can be successful in achieving outcomes.
- Therefore, NRC Executive meeting funding could be removed from the budget as these meetings could be held online at no cost.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Remove the "NRC Executive Meetings" line from the budget, both this year and in future budgets.
- The NRC Executive Team self-fund their meetings.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Assists	NRC treasurer to update budget.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Nil risks anticipated.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Reduced NRC levies for branches. Branches can invest grassroot rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for grassroots rovers, to ensure Rovering is worth the financial cost. This ensures retention of current members and makes Rovering a financially attractive option to potential members; as a result growing our membership.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

Item Title		The NRC conference is open to all Rovers to attend.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Representation: Inviting all Rovers to the Conference improves transparency on the function of the NRC. It also provides NRC/BRCs/external committees greater access to grassroots Rovers.</p> <p>Governance: More Rovers engaging with NRC reporting and strategic planning helps the NRC identify and meet the needs of the section and the grassroots Rovers understand the role of the NRC.</p> <p>Rover Training: More Rovers experience Conference means more Rovers benefiting from the soft skills and networking that come with being a Conference Participant.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>Implemented for 2023 & 2024 NRC Conference.</p> <p>Review period post 2024 Conference.</p>

KEY POINTS

- All Rovers/RAs should have the opportunity to participate in/observe all aspects of the NRC Conference.
- We should be opening face-to-face attendance for the general Rover population in addition to virtual registrations. This ensures a greater number of Rovers experience the benefits of NRC Conference.

BACKGROUND

- The NRC External Review found grassroots Rovers have a poor understanding of the functions of the NRC and almost no engagement with NRC.

- When conducting research into benefits of NRC participation within the Victorian Rover population the only finding was that attending conference was beneficial for the individual Rover's soft skills and personal networking.
- A greater number of Rovers participating in NRC activities would increase engagement: therefore, meeting the strategic goals of the NRC and address multiple themes of the NRC External Review.
- Branch delegations now have the option to send almost all of their delegates virtually, therefore potentially reducing the number of face-to-face attendees, therefore driving up cost per attendee (taking into consideration things like venue hire have minimum cost, not per head fees).
- A greater number of Rover attendees would also distribute costs across a larger population keeping conference costs affordable.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Open 2023 and 2024 NRC conferences to all Rovers.
- The organiser of the conference should determine the maximum number of face-to-face conference participants. Each branch shall be given the option sending up to 5 priority attendees (2x voting parties, 2x observers, 1x Rover Commissioner). Other guests normally invited then can take attendance places (ie. NRC Exec). Any places left over could be purchased by any Rover/Rover Advisor.
- Branches can participate entirely virtually to improve the accessibility of NRC engagement.
- Rovers/RAs can register to participate virtually (similar to 2022 Conference).
- Some aspects of the conference may be open to observe only (rather than being able to speak on the floor) for non-delegates, due to time restrictions (ie. if discussing a paper).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian Branch Delegation.
Assists	Nil.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposals regarding changing the way NRC manages finances and finances themselves are currently not included on the Conference livestream. This is mitigated by not including "admin/process" papers at NRC Conference. The NRC budget should be accessible to all Rovers as Rovers/Scouts are a non-profit organisation and currently all Rovers are contributing their funds to the budget. 2. More people participating in conference discussions (ie. discussion of a paper) may drag out discussion taking up too much time. This is mitigated by implementing Recommendation 9 & 19 which advises

	<p>that Conference focuses on Strategic Planning and Project reporting, not proposal papers. This is further mitigated by the paper proposing no process/admin papers at Conference.</p> <p>3. Grassroots Rovers might not be interested to attend conference, and therefore not buy tickets.</p>
Milestones	<p>March: Paper is sent to branches for feedback.</p> <p>March Remote Meeting: Paper is discussed and voted on.</p> <p>Late 2022: Advertising NRC Conference to the grassroots Rover population begins and tickets open.</p> <p>2023/2024 Conferences: Conference is run with open attendance.</p> <p>After 2024 Conference: Review occurs focusing on financial viability, number of grassroots Rovers attending and if projects are being delivered because of Conference.</p>
Outcomes	<p>The benefits of attending NRC Conference are accessible to a greater number of Rovers.</p>

AMENDMENTS

- N/A.



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

Item Title		No “process/admin” papers to be tabled/discussed at NRC Conference.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		Governance & Program: Reallocating discussion time of these type of papers to Remote Meetings allows this valuable face-to-face time to be better invested into projects that meet the needs of the Rover section. Contributes to implementation of External Review Recommendations 9 & 19.
Consultation		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Implementation period		March NRC remote meeting: paper passes. Implemented for 2023 & 2024 NRC Conference. Review period post 2024 Conference.

KEY POINTS

- Process/admin type papers about how the NRC functions internally do not have any direct link to grassroots Rovers. Currently grassroots Rovers pay for the Conference.
- These papers should not take up valuable conference time, instead be moved to Remote Meetings.
- Should the NRC conference have a block of time unfilled and no workshops, information sessions or projects can fill it, the NRC executive may decide to open the floor to administration type papers.

BACKGROUND

- After the NRC Conference 2022, the Victorian delegation scrutinised the content and were disappointed that all papers discussed were admin-type papers which impacted internal changes with NRC, rather than projects with a strong focus on delivering for grassroots Rovers.

- When reflecting on previous conferences (in particular the last 4 years of conference due to having easy access to conference attendees), no conference delivered significant outcomes to grassroots Rovers, especially not when the cost of conference is considered.
- These papers should not take up valuable conference time, instead time allocation should be moved to Remote Meetings.
- As these papers focus on changes in internal procedures, they are unlikely to require urgent attention and could wait for a Remote Meeting.
- This aligns with Recommendations from the NRC External Review.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Do not schedule a place in the 2023 Agenda for proposing papers that focus on the internal processes of the NRC.
- If Branches are unsure whether their paper fits this criterion, they should consult the NRC Executive team.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
Assists	Nil.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	<p>1. Conference doesn't have enough content to fill the void when these papers are excluded from the agenda. This is mitigated by a Rover putting more time into organising the agenda to bring in more external parties/workshops and project delivery. Hopefully, a member/s dedicated to the NRC Conference (see External Review Recommendation 11) will have the time to organise this.</p> <p>Should no content be found to fill the block, the NRC exec may decide to open the floor to administration type papers.</p>
Milestones	<p>March: Paper is sent to branches for feedback.</p> <p>March Remote Meeting: Paper is discussed and voted on.</p> <p>2023/2024 Conferences: Original agendas do not include allocated time for <i>administration of NRC processes</i> papers. Live agendas may include these.</p> <p>After 2024 Conference: Review occurs.</p>
Outcomes	The value of running a NRC Conference is maximised by ensuring an agenda which takes full advantage of having a large number of Rovers together (and

	accessible), and does not waste time on papers which could successfully discussed in a remote meeting.
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AMENDMENTS

- N/A

NRC April Meeting PR & Marketing Update

By Samantha Wells

General

eNews Article

The National Rover Council were featured in the Scouts Australia eNews February edition twice. The first article was titled, 'National Rover Council Elects New Office Bearers' and can be found [here](#). The second article advertised 'National Rover Council Environment & Sustainability Officer Vacancy' and can be found [here](#). These articles are a great opportunity to share what we've been up to with the wider movement on a large scale.

Website Access

The website was updated to include information regarding Moot Buddies but this was not actioned by me.

Linktree

We have set up a Linktree account for Rover Scouts Australia. Linktree allows us to 'pin' multiple websites in one place and have them easily accessible for Rovers. The linktree website is now listed as our website on Instagram. You can visit our Linktree [here](#).

The following websites are currently pinned to our linktree.

- Rover Scouts Australia: <https://rovers.scouts.com.au/>
- Join Rovers: <https://scouts.com.au/join/rovers/>
- Moot Buddies: <https://rovers.scouts.com.au/resources/moot-buddies/>
- Rover Challenge Grant: <https://rovers.scouts.com.au/resources/rover-challenge/>
- Instagram Profile: https://www.instagram.com/rover_scouts_australia/

Who are We Series:

The Who are We series would be a collection of posts that introduce each member of the NRC, their role and why the role is important to help show why the NRC is an important body of Rovering. If people know who we are and why we are important, they are more likely to want to engage with our social profiles.

I sent out a request on February 2nd 2022 for each member of the NRC to send me a photo of themselves and some information to make these posts. Unfortunately, this

series hasn't been launched yet as I am still awaiting replies and some content despite frequent follow up communications.

Social Profiles Insights

It is one of my goals to increase the engagement and following of our social profiles across the board using the Who are We series. I would also like to diversify our posts, but this causes issues with maintaining relevance on a national level. Posting too much content that isn't relevant to a majority of our followers may cause people to unfollow/unlike our page.

Facebook

Total Page followers: 4,288 (Goal 5000 by NRC meeting in June)

Total Page likes: 4,044

Total Page reach: See Image 1

Recent Posts:

As seen in Image 2, there have been 11 posts to over Facebook during the first quarter of the year. On average our posts reach about 1k people. Posts have been about upcoming events (KISC and Apple Isle Moot), upcoming opportunities for Rovers (contingent leaders and open the NRC position) and national and international days of celebration (Founders Day and International Women's Day). I have created a google calendar for international days of celebration that are relevant to rovers and any input would be appreciated.

Instagram

Insights:

Followers: 997

Accounts Reached: 753

Accounts Engaged: 144

Posts: 6, cross post of Facebook posts.

General:

A decision was made to increase the following on the Rover Scouts Australia Instagram Account. At handover the Instagram account only followed the official Instagram account for each state (a total of 7 accounts). The Instagram account now follows the accounts of Rover Units all over Australia, (140 following), this encourages these units to follow us back and allows the PR and Marketing officer to see what different units are up to and interact with them.

TikTok

Insights:

Following: 8

Followers: 334

Likes: 379

General:

There has been no activity on the Rover Scouts TikTok at this point in time. I am drafting a list of potential video ideas/trends that I believe would be fun and interesting for Rovers to get involved in. I will then put out a call to action with the NRC, my personal rover connections and on our other social profiles for User generated content and invite rovers to send in their own videos/takes on the trends for them to be shared on the rover page.

The challenge has been finding trends that will be reasonably low effort so people are likely to participate as well as stay in alignment with all the relevant social media policies.

I have a TikTok evening planned with my own personal rover unit on April 14, 2022 to attempt these TikTok ideas and make videos and accompanying tutorials that can be shared with the NRC for approval.

Appendix

Image 1

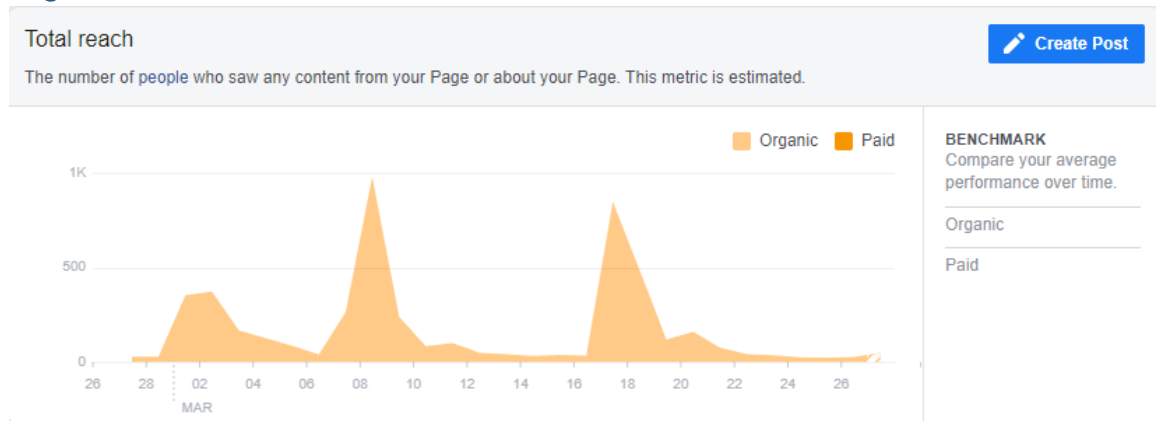


Image 2

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
18/03/2022 09:25	 Are you interested in attending Apple Isle Moot, Tasmania 2023 - 22nd			1.5K 	72 46 	Boost post
08/03/2022 21:17	 We couldn't have said it better ourselves! We'd like to give a huge			920 	42 27 	Boost post
02/03/2022 15:00	 NRC Nominations for Environment and Sustainability			1K 	11 17 	Boost post
23/02/2022 17:00	 Were you considering joining the NRC team for 2022 but missed the			413 	0 4 	Boost post
22/02/2022 13:23	 🌟 Today is Founders Day! 🌟 On 22 February every year, millions of			2.1K 	29 109 	Boost post
16/02/2022 10:00	 Were you considering joining the NRC team for 2022 but missed the			1K 	25 18 	Boost post
09/02/2022 17:00	 Were you considering joining the NRC team for 2022 but missed the			1.1K 	15 17 	Boost post
03/02/2022 14:52	 Have you thought about being a Contingent Leader? 🗡️ Scouts			704 	18 12 	Boost post
26/01/2022 17:21				479 	5 3 	Boost post
25/01/2022 15:28	 Independent Travel is now available for this amazing international			1.1K 	57 10 	Boost post
24/01/2022 21:42				643 	9 11 	Boost post

Appendix 3 – Papers initially tabled at Victoria’s “Value for Money” Workshops



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		Financial participation in the NRC’s Rover Development Fund to be optional.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Strategic Alignment		Program: Allowing branches to decide where Rovering fees are spent allows the branch to divert funding into projects targeted to the specific issues of that branch, therefore delivering the best program for that branch. Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.
Consultation		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC and Victorian Region Chairs.
Implementation period		March NRC remote meeting: paper passes. March NRC remote meeting: branches can “opt out”.

KEY POINTS

- The NRC Rover Development Fund budget expenditure consists of Moot Buddies and Rover Challenge.
- Financial participation in the Rover Development Fund should be optional.
- Those branches who have opted-out of financial participation in the Rover Development Fund will lose access to Moot Buddies and Rover Challenge.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived “value for money” financial participation in the NRC.
- The underlying themes of these discussions is that Branch Councils are the best group to identify the financial needs of their grassroots rovers.

- Each Branch has different avenues of accessing financial support for grassroots rovers to attend events and complete projects. For example, Victorian Rovers have access to EML/NEAR fund and local council sports club grants.
- Due to significant difference between what Rovers in each state can access, branches should be able to opt-out of participation in the Rover Development Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Amend Bylaws 5.3.2 The Rover Development Fund
 - a) The NEC is responsible for the Rover Development Fund, which is governed by a standing resolution of that body.
 - b) The Invoices for the Moot Buddies contribution will be calculated based on the most recently finalised National Scout Census and sent to **participating** BRCs in August each year.
 - c) The Moot Buddies contribution is maintained as a separate line item in the Rover Development Fund until a Moot year.
 - d) Branches that are not **participating in the RDF** cannot access funding from the Rover Development Fund with the exception of where a specific National Rover Council program has benefit to any individual or Unit.
 - e) **Branches may opt-out of participating in the Rover Development Fund.**

- *For reference (can be deleted from the paper once it has finished being discussed before being tabled) Currently the bylaws read:*

5.3.2 The Rover Development Fund

- a) The NEC is responsible for the Rover Development Fund, which is governed by a standing resolution of that body.*
- b) The Invoices for the Moot Buddies contribution will be calculated based on the most recently finalised National Scout Census and sent to BRCs in August each year.*
- c) The Moot Buddies contribution is maintained as a separate line item in the Rover Development Fund until a Moot year.*
- d) Branches that are not financial with the NRC cannot access funding from the Rover Development Fund with the exception of where a specific National Rover Council program has benefit to any individual or Unit.*

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
Assists	NRC Secretary to update the Bylaws document on the One Drive and Website.

Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Some branches may opt-out of participating in the RDF therefore decreasing the income to the account. This is mitigated by less Rovers being able to apply for the funding. As the amount available in grants is determined by the income the account will never be negative, rather there may be a lower pool to pull grants from.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Reduced NRC levies for branches who don't want to be financial participants. Branches can invest grassroot rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for that rover, to ensure Rovering is worth the financial cost. This ensures retention of current members and makes Rovers a financially attractive option as a hobby.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		NRC Conference to be funded by tickets, and travel arrangements to be funded by individuals and/or branches
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Program: Allowing branches to decide where Rovering fees are spent allows the branch to divert funding into projects targeted to the specific issues of that branch, therefore delivering the best program for that branch.</p> <p>Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Region Chairs, Victorian Rover Commissioners, Victorian Grassroot Rovers. Opportunity made for other branches to provide feedback.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>2022/2023 Budget: Conference has its own budget within the NRC budget, in which conference costs are balanced out by income from ticket sales. The NRC Levy is reduced to balance the removal of the NRC Conference and Conference Travel as an expenditure item.</p>

KEY POINTS

- The NRC Operational Account Expenditure consists of: NRC Conference Attendance, NRC Conference Travel, NRC Executive Meetings, Administration Support and Contingency. It is the Victorian opinion that these items do not benefit our grassroots Rovers.
- The content of the NRC Conference doesn't benefit grassroots Rovers. However, it significantly benefits those in attendance (ie. building soft skills and networking skills).
- The Conference should be funded by ticketing its participants, and travel be organised privately (removed from NRC Ops Budget).

- This paper should be read in conjunction with the paper proposing to open tickets to all Rovers and increase number of face-to-face participants; this ensures financial viability of tickets to fund the event.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived “value for money” financial participation in the NRC.
- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.
- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. The Review’s 16 recommendations entirely focus on the administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.
- When reflecting on previous conferences (in particular the last 4 years of conference due to having easy access to conference attendees), no conference delivered significant outcomes to grassroots Rovers to justify the cost.
- The External Review Findings and anecdotal reports find that attendees of the Conference do experience benefits, however due to the type of benefits (namely skill building) are not passed onto grassroots Rovers.
- Therefore, the NRC Conference should be funded by ticketing attendees and travel arrangements shall be privately arranged/removed from the budget.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Plan the 2022/23 budget with the following changes from this year’s budget:
 - Conference has its own budget within the NRC budget, in which conference costs are balanced out by income from ticket sales.
 - Conference travel is removed from the budget.
 - The NRC Levy is reduced to balance the removal of the NRC Conference and Conference Travel as an expenditure item.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
Assists	Nil.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Branches who contribute only a small proportion to the total NRC levy are currently having their travel and tickets to conference heavily funded by all grassroots Rovers; this would be lost with the change to ticketing. This is

	mitigated by encouraging all attendees who have financial difficulties to fundraise, apply for grants and potentially apply for Rover Challenge grants.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Reduced NRC levies for branches. Branches can invest grassroot rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for grassroots rovers, to ensure Rovering is worth the financial cost. This ensures retention of current members and makes Rovering a financially attractive option to potential members; as a result, growing our membership.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		2021 Branch NRC Levies to be cancelled.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Program: Decreasing the Branch NRC levies allows the Rovering program to be delivered at the lowest cost possible, therefore making the Rover Program more accessible to people of all backgrounds. Consequently, a larger, more diverse membership base allows the program to grow in strength and quality.</p> <p>Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC and Victorian Region Chairs.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>May: Refunds processed to Branches by end of May (2 months allowance to process these transactions)</p>

KEY POINTS

- The 2022 NRC conference (the largest expense in the budget) was held entirely online, with food reimbursement as the only cost.
- NRC levies for 2021 should be cancelled and refunded back to Branches (minus the food reimbursement costs and already purchased budget items (receipts must be dated prior to this paper passing to be included)).

BACKGROUND

- The NRC Operational Account Expenditure consists of: NRC Conference Attendance, NRC Conference Travel, NRC Executive Meetings, Administration Support and Contingency.
- The NRC Conference 2022 was hosted entirely online significantly reducing the cost in the budget. The only conference cost was a food reimbursement of \$30 per attendee (NRC Executive members, NRC Project Officers, and the standard Branch delegation (up to 2 delegates, 2 observers and 1 advisor)). Claiming the food reimbursement was

optional and due late February. By March remote meeting there should be a clear idea of who has claimed and what the conference “actuals” are.

- NRC Exec meetings should be self-funded (please refer to the paper on this topic) and therefore no longer required in the budget. Funding already spent on this budget prior to this budget would be deducted before calculating refund totals.
- Administration Support is budgeted at \$1000 however only cost \$13.2 in 2021/22 “actuals”. Given the conference was online for both 2021 and 2022 (and therefore a low number of transactions processed through the account) we could expect costs to also be low this year. This could be covered by previous year’s surplus or be factored into next year’s conference tickets (please refer to the paper describing conference being funded by tickets).
- Contingency “actuals” were \$0 last year. As the Conference has already been held it is not unreasonable to expect no/low contingency costs this year.
- Due to funds pre-existing as a surplus in the General Operations Account, this year’s Admin Support and Contingency fees could also come from money already in the General Operations Account.
- Due to national COVID restrictions and the ongoing consequences it is crucial that all funds possible be reinvested into projects that re-invigorate Rovering. For example, in Victoria the Rovering Section took a large financial hit due to inability to use their assets to bring in income, and many Rovers were out of work for a long period of time making personal finances challenging.
- The NRC branch levies for 2021 should be cancelled (minus the food bill for conference and already purchased budget items as previously described), and money that has already been paid to NRC be refunded.
- Moot buddies/Rover Development Fund levy still applies.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- NRC Treasurer publishes the total for Conference Food Reimbursements by the end of March.
- The NRC Treasurer calculates the amount of refund per Branch as: ((total budgeted income from NRC Levy) – (Food Reimbursements + Already spent budgeted items)x (percentage that states membership makes up as of 2020 rover census).
- NRC Treasurer refunds Branches.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Assists	NRC Treasurer to calculate totals and facilitate transfers.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Nil risks.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. End of March: Totals for Food Reimbursement determined.

	<p>March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and passes.</p> <p>End of April: Already spent budget items receipts are declared.</p> <p>May: Refunds issued.</p>
Outcomes	Branches can invest grassroot rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for grassroots rovers focusing on retention and growth.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		Financial participation in the NRC General Operations to be optional.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Program: Allowing branches to decide where Rovering fees are spent allows the branch to divert funding into projects targeted to the specific issues of that branch, therefore delivering the best program for that branch.</p> <p>Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Region Chairs, Victorian Rover Commissioners, Victorian Grassroot Rovers. Opportunity made for other branches to provide feedback.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>March NRC remote meeting: branches can “opt out”.</p>

KEY POINTS

- The NRC Operational Account Expenditure consists of: NRC Conference Attendance, NRC Conference Travel, NRC Executive Meetings, Administration Support and Contingency. It is the Victorian opinion that these items do not benefit our grassroots Rovers.
- Financial participation in the NRC Operational Budget should be optional.
- Those branches who have opted-out of financial participation in the NRC Operational Account will become “non-financial” and lose rights already outlined in the NRC Bylaws.
- Branches who are paying the Moot Buddies Levy still have access to the Rover Development Fund.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived “value for money” financial participation in the NRC.
- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.
- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. The Review’s 16 recommendations entirely focus on the administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.
- The NRC Conference 2021 ran entirely online and showed promise of removing the cost of conference from the budget in future years, however this did not occur.
- In depth discussion amongst Victorian Region Chairs, Rover Commissioners and the VRC Executive began in October 2021. Consultation occurred with the NRC Executive where it was established that there was nothing NRC could provide to Victoria that justified a \$10,000 bill. NRC Executive advised Victoria to table papers to reduce the levy. The 2 papers Victoria tabled in subsequent months to address this failed.
- After the NRC Conference 2022, the Victorian delegation scrutinised the content and came to the verdict it did not justify an approx. \$25,000 budget. When reflecting on previous conferences (in particular the last 4 years of conference due to having easy access to conference attendees), no conference delivered significant outcomes to grassroots Rovers to justify the cost.
- In addition, national COVID restrictions have forced many teams to meet online including the NRC Executive. The previous 2 years have demonstrated that online meetings can be successful in achieving outcomes. Therefore, it is the Victorian opinion that NRC Executive meeting funding could be removed from the budget.
- The Victorian Region Chairs, Rover Commissioners and the VRC Executive do not believe participating in the Operational Account of the NRC is beneficial to their Rovers, therefore financial participation in this account should be optional.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Amend the NRC Bylaw 5.3.1 General Operating Account so it reads:
 - a) A NRC Levy on all Australian Rover Scouts *of participating branches*, including Rover Scouts who are Leaders in other sections, generates income to the operating account.
 - b) Invoices for the NRC Levy will be calculated based on the most recently finalised National Scout Census and sent to *participating* BRCs in August each year.
 - c) The NRC shall determine the amount of the NRC Levy and Moot Buddies contribution from time to time.
 - d) *Branches may opt-out of financial participation in the NRC Operating Account. This is considered as being a “non-financial member” in the Bylaws.*
- *For reference (can be deleted from the paper once it has finished being discussed)
Currently the bylaws read:*
- *5.3.1 General Operating Account*

This fund facilitates the operating of the NRC.

- a) A NRC Levy on all Australian Rover Scouts, including Rover Scouts who are Leaders in other sections, generates income to the operating account.*
- b) Invoices for the NRC Levy will be calculated based on the most recently finalised National Scout Census and sent to BRCs in August each year.*
- c) The NRC levy will increase by 2.5% each year according to the equation: $Levy = \$7.50 \times (1.025)^n$ per Rover Scout, where n is the number of years since 2020 (i.e. $n = [current\ year] - 2020$).*
- d) The NRC shall determine the amount of the NRC Levy and Moot Buddies contribution from time to time.*

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
Assists	NRC Secretary to update the Bylaws document on the One Drive and Website.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Some branches may opt-out of participating in the Operations Account therefore decreasing the income to the account. This is mitigated by changing the income stream for the account and/or decreasing the budget. Please refer to other papers authored by Victoria in the March 2022 Remote Meeting as to the clearly outlined step-by-step process to achieve this.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Reduced NRC levies for branches who don't want to be financial participants. Branches can invest grassroots rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for grassroots rovers, to ensure Rovering is worth the financial cost. This ensures retention of current members and makes Rovering a financially attractive option to potential members; as a result growing our membership.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		NRC conference to be held entirely online with a \$0 budget.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Program: Allowing branches to decide where Rovering fees are spent allows the branch to divert funding into projects targeted to the specific issues of that branch, therefore delivering the best program for that branch.</p> <p>Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Region Chairs, Victorian Rover Commissioners, Victorian Grassroot Rovers. Opportunity made for other branches to provide feedback.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>2023 NRC conference held online.</p>

KEY POINTS

- The NRC Operational Account Expenditure consists of: NRC Conference Attendance, NRC Conference Travel, NRC Executive Meetings, Administration Support and Contingency. It is the Victorian opinion that the Conference and Executive Meetings do not benefit our grassroots Rovers and it is important that these items not be funded by grassroots rovers (ie. decrease the NRC levy).
- The conference can be successfully run online as seen in 2021 and 2022.
- This is a last resort paper if the NCR Levy cannot be reduced through: self-funding executive meetings, ticketing the conference with self-funded travel, levy is the same for all branches or optional participation in the General Operations Account.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived “value for money” financial participation in the NRC.
- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.
- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. The Review’s 16 recommendations entirely focus on the administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.
- The NRC Conference 2021 ran entirely online and showed promise of removing the cost of conference from the budget in future years, however this did not occur.
- In depth discussion amongst Victorian Region Chairs, Rover Commissioners and the VRC Executive began in October 2021. Consultation occurred with the NRC Executive where it was established that there was nothing NRC could provide to Victoria that justified a \$10,000 bill.
- After the NRC Conference 2022, the Victorian delegation scrutinised the content and came to the verdict it did not justify an approx. \$25,000 budget. When reflecting on previous conferences (in particular the last 4 years of conference due to having easy access to conference attendees), no conference delivered significant outcomes to grassroots Rovers to justify the cost.
- In addition, national COVID restrictions have forced many teams to meet online. The previous 2 years have demonstrated that online meetings can be successful in achieving outcomes.
- Therefore, it is the Victorian opinion that NRC Conference should not be funded by a Levy on all grassroots rovers and due to being unable to decide on a different funding stream, it should be held online with no cost/budget.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Hold all future NRC Conferences online with no budget.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
Assists	Nil.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Less opportunities for NRC members to build soft skills and build relationships with other Branch Representatives.

Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Reduction of NRC levy for all branches. Branches can invest grassroot rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for grassroots rovers, to ensure Rovering is worth the financial cost. This ensures retention of current members and makes Rovering a financially attractive option to potential members; as a result growing our membership.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		NRC Executive Team meetings to be removed from the NRC Operations Budget.
	Information	
x	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Program: Decreasing the Branch NRC levies allows the Rovering program to be delivered at the lowest cost possible, therefore making the Rover Program more accessible to people of all backgrounds. Consequently a larger, more diverse membership base allows the program to grow in strength and quality.</p> <p>Marketing/Venturer Retention: A strong and affordable rover program encourages venturers to continue in the movement and join the Rover Section.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Branch delegation to NRC and Victorian Region Chairs.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>As soon as possible: Current budget updated with only receipts accepted for purchases dated before this paper passing.</p> <p>2022/23 Budget: "NRC Executive Meetings" line removed/not included.</p>

KEY POINTS

- Online meetings can be productive and successful at delivering outcomes at no cost.
- NRC Executive meeting funding should be removed from the budget.
- Should the NRC Executive decide to hold a face-to-face meeting it should be self-funded by the meeting attendees.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived "value for money" financial participation in the NRC.
- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.

- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. Furthermore, the Review's 16 recommendations entirely focus on the administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.
- National COVID restrictions have forced many teams to meet online including the NRC Executive. The previous 2 years have demonstrated that online meetings can be successful in achieving outcomes.
- Therefore, NRC Executive meeting funding could be removed from the budget as these meetings could be held online at no cost.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Remove the "NRC Executive Meetings" line from the budget, both this year and in future budgets.
- The NRC Executive Team self-fund their meetings.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian Branch delegation to NRC.
Assists	NRC treasurer to update budget.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Nil risks anticipated.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Reduced NRC levies for branches. Branches can invest grassroot rovers' money into projects with the best outcomes for grassroots rovers, to ensure Rovering is worth the financial cost. This ensures retention of current members and makes Rovering a financially attractive option to potential members; as a result growing our membership.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		The NRC General Operations budget bill to be divided as a reflection of the voting weight at the table.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		Governance: This paper ensures that the way we finance governance is equally distributed.
Consultation		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Implementation period		March NRC remote meeting: paper passes. Concept applied to the NRC levy invoiced in 2022 (ie. the next bill).

KEY POINTS

- The outcomes of the NRC do not benefit grassroots Rovers, they benefit the members on the council and the Branch Councils.
- Therefore, as each Branch has equal representation on the NRC and therefore only equal access to benefits of the NRC, each Branch should be charged the same amount.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived “value for money” financial participation in the NRC.
- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.
- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. Furthermore, the Review’s 16 recommendations entirely focus on the administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.
- In September 2021 the Victorian Region Chairs began investigating what NRC could provide to grassroots Rovers that was worth financially funding. The Region Chairs

could not design any projects. It was then taken to the Regions to discuss within their individual teams and the feedback to the Region Chairs was that they could not come up with any NRC project ideas that benefited them, and the money could be better spent within the branch.

- In October 2021 the sentiment from Victorian Rovers that “there was nothing NRC has recently provided or could provide that would be of great benefit to them” was raised with the NRC Executive Team.
- As the purpose of the NRC is support Branch Rover Councils (not directly supporting grassroots Rovers) and each Branch Rover Council has the same weight in a vote then the cost of funding the NRC operations should be shared equally, not an amount “per Rover”.
- To equally share funding the current NRC budget would place significant financial burden on some states, and therefore this paper should be read in conjunction with all other proposed papers which aim to decrease the NRC operations budget or change the funding stream of the budget.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Amend the Bylaw 5.3.1 General Operating Account to read:
This fund facilitates the operating of the NRC.
 - a) A NRC Levy on Australian Rover Branches generates income to the operating account.
 - b) The NRC Levy is the same amount for all participating Australian Rover Branches.
 - c) Invoices for the NRC Levy will be sent to BRCs in August each year.
 - d) The NRC shall determine the amount of the NRC Levy and Moot Buddies contribution from time to time.
- *For reference (can be deleted from the paper once it has finished being discussed and before being tabled) Currently the bylaws read:*
- *5.3.1 General Operating Account*
This fund facilitates the operating of the NRC.
 - e) *A NRC Levy on all Australian Rover Scouts, including Rover Scouts who are Leaders in other sections, generates income to the operating account.*
 - f) *Invoices for the NRC Levy will be calculated based on the most recently finalised National Scout Census and sent to BRCs in August each year.*
 - g) *The NRC levy will increase by 2.5% each year according to the equation: Levy = \$7.50x (1.025)ⁿ per Rover Scout, where n is the number of years since 2020 (i.e. n=[current year]-2020).*
 - h) *The NRC shall determine the amount of the NRC Levy and Moot Buddies contribution from time to time.*

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
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Assists	NRC Secretary to update the Bylaws document on the One Drive and Website.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	If the current NRC Operations budget does not change either the amount or the income streams the implications of this paper would be financially crippling to some branches – making grassroot Rovering not a financially viable hobby therefore decreasing their membership (actual and potential). This is mitigated by all Branches using their voting rights to ensure the NRC budget experiences change, and facilitated by other papers proposed by Victoria passing.
Milestones	<p>Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion.</p> <p>March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.</p> <p>March Remote meeting: Some other papers addressing the budget pass, to ensure the resulting NRC levy is affordable for all branches.</p>
Outcomes	An equal levy for Branches who have equal voting rights.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		The NRC conference is open to all Rovers to attend.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Representation: Inviting all Rovers to the Conference improves transparency on the function of the NRC. It also provides NRC/BRCs/external committees greater access to grassroots Rovers.</p> <p>Governance: More Rovers engaging with NRC reporting and strategic planning helps the NRC identify and meet the needs of the section and the grassroots Rovers understand the role of the NRC.</p> <p>Rover Training: More Rovers experience Conference means more Rovers benefiting from the soft skills and networking that come with being a Conference Participant.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Implementation period		<p>March NRC remote meeting: paper passes.</p> <p>Implemented for 2023 & 2024 NRC Conference.</p> <p>Review period post 2024 Conference.</p>

KEY POINTS

- All Rovers/RAs should have the opportunity to participate in/observe all aspects of the NRC Conference.
- We should be opening face-to-face tickets for the general Rover population in addition to virtual registrations. This ensures the cost of conference tickets are affordable. This also ensure a greater number of Rovers experience the benefits of NRC Conference.

BACKGROUND

- The NRC External Review found grassroots Rovers have a poor understanding of the functions of the NRC and almost no engagement with NRC.
- When conducting research into benefits of NRC participation within the Victorian Rover population the only finding was that attending conference was beneficial for the individual Rover's soft skills and personal networking.

- A greater number of Rovers participating in NRC activities would increase engagement: therefore, meeting the strategic goals of the NRC and address multiple themes of the NRC External Review.
- Branch delegations now have the option to send almost all of their delegates virtually, therefore potentially reducing the number of face-to-face attendees, therefore driving up cost per attendee (taking into consideration things like venue hire have minimum cost, not per head fees).
- A greater number of Rover attendees would also distribute costs across a larger population keeping ticket costs affordable (please see paper about funding Conference off tickets).

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Open 2023 and 2024 NRC conferences to all Rovers.
- The organiser of the conference should determine the maximum number of face-to-face conference participants. Each branch shall be given the option of purchasing up to 5 priority tickets (2x voting parties, 2x observers, 1x Rover Commissioner). Other guests normally invited then can purchase tickets (ie. NRC Exec). Any tickets left over could be purchased by any Rover/Rover Advisor.
- Branches can participate entirely virtually to improve the accessibility of NRC engagement.
- Rovers/RAs can register to participate virtually (similar to 2022 Conference).
- Some aspects of the conference may be open to observe only (rather than being able to speak on the floor) for non-delegates, due to time restrictions (ie. if discussing a paper).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian Branch Delegation.
Assists	Nil.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposals regarding changing the way NRC manages finances and finances themselves are currently not included on the Conference livestream. This is mitigated by not including “admin/process” papers at NRC Conference. The NRC budget should be accessible to all Rovers as Rovers/Scouts are a non-profit organisation and currently all Rovers are contributing their funds to the budget. 2. More people participating in conference discussions (ie. discussion of a paper) may drag out discussion taking up too much time. This is mitigated by implementing Recommendation 9 & 19 which advises that Conference focuses on Strategic Planning and Project reporting,

	<p>not proposal papers. This is further mitigated by the paper proposing no process/admin papers at Conference.</p> <p>3. Grassroots Rovers might not be interested to attend conference, and therefore not by tickets.</p>
Milestones	<p>March: Paper is sent to branches for feedback.</p> <p>March Remote Meeting: Paper is discussed and voted on.</p> <p>Late 2022: Advertising NRC Conference to the grassroots Rover population begins and tickets open.</p> <p>2023/2024 Conferences: Conference is run with open attendance.</p> <p>After 2024 Conference: Review occurs focusing on financial viability, number of grassroots Rovers attending and if projects are being delivered because of Conference (is there a point in Conference existing?).</p>
Outcomes	<p>The benefits of attending NRC Conference are accessible to a greater number of Rovers.</p>

AMENDMENTS

- N/A.



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ROVER COUNCIL

Rover Scouts
National Rover Council

NRC Remote Meeting

[Date]

Item Title		Proportional Voting: Number of votes equal to proportion of total NRC Levy paid.
	Information	
X	Decision	
Document Author		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Strategic Alignment		<p>Representation: This paper aims to ensure that the number of branch delegates from each branch on NRC is reflective of the percentage that Branch contributes to national membership numbers, therefore ensuring accurate representation of Rovers when it comes to making decisions.</p> <p>Governance: In order to ensure NRC is working in a flexible way to meet the needs of the Rover section, the number of voting members of each branch on the NRC needs to be reflective of the proportion that Branch makes up of the section.</p>
Consultation		Victorian Branch Delegation.
Implementation period		March NRC remote meeting: paper passes. Concept applied to the NRC levy invoiced in 2022 (ie. the next bill).

KEY POINTS

- Each BRC is the best party to identify and communicate the needs of its members, and currently each member pays a fee to fund the NRC operations.
- Therefore, the proportion of the total votes each branch has should be reflective of the proportion of the members and funding.

BACKGROUND

- Extensive consultation has occurred within Victorian Rovers regarding the perceived “value for money” financial participation in the NRC.
- In 2014 concerns were raised about the role/purpose of the NRC and the lack of contribution to grassroots Rovers.
- As the levy increased over the years with membership growth and a change in funding model it prompted a discussion paper being tabled in 2019 within Victoria. It was decided to wait for the findings of the NRC External Review Team.
- Victoria holds the opinion the Review Findings did not address finances in enough depth. Furthermore, the Review’s 16 recommendations entirely focus on the

administration practices of the NRC as a council, and does not describe delivering value for grassroots Rovers or what the NRC should be delivering to the Rover members.

- In September 2021 the Victorian Region Chairs began investigating what NRC could provide to grassroots Rovers that was worth financially funding. The Region Chairs could not design any projects worth \$1000+. It was then taken to the Regions to discuss within their individual teams and the feedback to the Region Chairs was that they could not come up with any NRC project ideas that benefited them, and the money could be better spent within the branch.
- In October 2021 the sentiment from Victorian Rovers that “there was nothing NRC has recently provided or could provide that would be of great benefit to them” was raised with the NRC Executive Team. The Executive Team encouraged Victoria to table papers to enact change, however the 2 papers tabled were unsuccessful due to not enough of votes of support.
- Each BRC is the best party to identify and communicate the needs of its members, and currently each member pays a fee to fund the NRC operations.
- Therefore, the proportion of the total votes each branch has should be reflective of the proportion of the members and funding.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the National Rover Council:

- Add into the NRC Bylaws “National Rover Council Remote Meeting Procedures”
- “6. Distribution of voting rights: Votes are determined by the percentage of national membership each branch makes up (based on the census used to determine the Levy for that year). The branch with the smallest membership is allocated 1 vote and allocation of voting rights are factored off this. This applies to all voting sessions of the NRC”.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lead	Victorian delegation to NRC.
Assists	NRC Secretary to update the Bylaws document on the One Drive and Website.
Cost	Nil cost.
Risks	Branches with smaller memberships would have less of a voice. NRC exists to support BRC's - not individual Rovers – and each Branch has only 1 BRC therefore voting rights should be equal.
Milestones	Early March: Papers distributed to all branches via email for early discussion. March Remote meeting: Paper discussed and voted on.
Outcomes	Proportional voting rights which reflect the portion of the budget each Branch contributes.

AMENDMENTS

- N/A