



# Rover Scouts

AUSTRALIA

## National Rover Council 2023 Conference

Bay Park Campsite, Victoria

20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2023

### Administration

### Attendance

\* Denotes online attendance

Eleanor Hewitt (NRC Chairperson)  
Toby Blyth (NRC Vice Chairperson)  
Meghann Gallagher (NRC Secretary)  
Liam Brown (NRC Treasurer)\*  
Patrick McCormick (NRC Adviser)  
Thomas Milham (NRC Training and Development and SAIT Deputy Principal)  
Steph Cowling (NRC Environment and Sustainability)  
Hamish McNeice (ACT Delegation Leader)  
Sam De Rota (ACT Delegate)  
Sara Taylor (ACT Observer)  
Jonathan Thornton (ACT Observer)  
Calista Beck (ACT RA)  
Mackenzie Pearce (NSW Delegation Leader)  
Ryan Kemp (NSW Delegate)  
Alison Maynard (NSW RA)\*  
Isabella Condello (NT Delegation Leader)  
Daniel Boyd (Qld Delegation Leader)  
Jake Goodall (Qld Delegate)  
Max Manson (Qld Observer)  
Jessica Hernandez (Qld Observer)  
Paul 'Caesar' Lappin (Qld RA)  
Tom Brazier (SA Delegation Leader)

Karen McNamara (SA Delegate)  
Adam Simpson (SA Observer)  
Ben Brice (SA Observer)  
Isaac Beswick (Tas Delegation Leader)\*  
Brad Thompson (Tas Delegate)\*  
Catherine Marley (Vic Delegation Leader)  
Izaak Kitching (Vic Delegate)  
Lily Stephens (Vic Observer)  
Zac Geddes (Vic Observer)  
Peter Wotherspoon (Vic RA)  
Jordan Phillips (WA Delegation Leader)  
Max Vinning (WA Delegate)  
Emma Groeneweg (WA Observer)\*  
Danica Zekulich (WA Observer)\*  
Delshard Mozhdehinia (WA RA)

Damon Love (Regional Youth Representative – Australia)  
Nicholas Carrol (Deputy National Commissioner International)  
Ezgi Bridger (Deputy National Chief Commissioner)  
Phil Harrison (National Chief Commissioner)

## **Apologies**

Samantha Wells (NRC Marketing and PR)  
Dylan Hannan (NRC Diversity and Inclusion)  
Glenn Maddock (Tas RA)

## **Plenary Session One**

### **Session Open**

Session opened at 10.00am on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

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 and present.

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.

E. Hewitt opened the plenary session, and remarked that it was excellent to be back at a face-to-face conference for the first time since 2020, as due to Covid-19, quarantine, and travel restrictions, the Conference has been held online for the last two years.

### **1.1 Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

#### **1.1.1 Minutes of the November NRC Remote Meeting**

E. Hewitt presented the minutes from the November 2022 Remote meeting for approval, which had previously been distributed to the NRC.

#### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council confirms the minutes as a true and accurate record of the November Remote Meeting.

**Moved:** NRC Executive   **Seconded:** WA

**For:** ACT (2), NSW (2), NT, SA (2), Tas, WA (1)

**Against:**

**Abstain:** WA (1)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **1.1.2 Minutes of the 2022 NRC Conference**

E. Hewitt presented the minutes from the previous NRC Conference, held on the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022, noting that these had been confirmed in principle at the July 2022 Remote Meeting.

#### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council confirms the minutes as a true and accurate record of the NRC Conference, held on the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

**Moved:** NRC Executive **Seconded:** NSW

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **1.1.3 Confirmation of 2023 Executive and Standing Project Officer nominations**

Nominations were closed at 9am on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### **1.2 NRC Team Report**

The NRC Executive and Standing Project Officers presented their combined report, outlining projects undertaken and achievements made throughout the year.

#### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council Team Report be noted

**Moved:** NRC Executive **Seconded:** Qld

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **1.3 National Team Updates**

#### **1.3.1 Deputy International Commissioner of Australia**

N. Carroll made a verbal report, outlining that he had only recently been appointed to the role in December.

Currently there is an opening for Contingent Leader for World Rover Moot 2025 in Portugal; more information will be provided shortly.

#### **1.3.2 Deputy Principal SAIT – Under 30**

T. Milham gave a verbal report highlighting his work in the role, which included assisting the new SAIT leadership team to be better able to deliver projects and support assessors.

## 1.6 Branch Rover Council Reports

All Branch Rover Council Reports that were submitted can be found in the NRC SharePoint.

### ACT

Star: Spy Moot ran well and had very good attendance

Star: Unit of the month was run for the first time this year, with a different unit running an activity for all of ACT Rovers each month. This program sparked lots of engagement and will hopefully continue in the future.

Star: Congratulations to Rover Scouts who have been awarded Rover Service or Chief Commissioner's Awards for providing excellent service to ACT Rover Scouts and the Community

Wish: For Rover Coast Camp to run smoothly as it was cancelled last year

Wish: For Roventure to be successfully run; originally the event was in October however was postponed.

### NSW

Star: Ran an awards ceremony for December BRC where three people were recognised

Star: People have been taking up mental health training and welfare support at most events

Star: Alpine ski school ran, which allowed Rover Scouts to work on their alpine OAS, as well as alpine wilderness first aid.

Wish: To run the BRC Conference in person

Wish: To improve on some communication issues that have occurred within the Executive and try to resolve these issues.

### NT

Star: Seven Rovers were at AIM which has inspired Rover Scouts to try and attend smaller state moots

Star: Recruiting has been going well with another three Rover Scouts starting this year

Star: Rover Scouts have been very motivated, with many people holding multiple roles in order for the BRC to function

Wish: To have a better support network, as Rovering is currently based on individual motivation and action

Wish: To incorporate more rural Rover Scouts, rather than just in Darwin

## **Qld**

Star: 32 BP Awards were awarded on the old program

Star: All event chairs for 2023 have been appointed so are ready to go for an exciting year of events

Star: Celebrating 100 years of Queensland Rovers in 2023!

Wish: For the Queensland Rover Centre renovations to be completed

Wish: To make badges for the Queensland Moot bid

## **SA**

Star: Have elected a full executive for 2023

Star: Have retained numbers for the second year

Star: State events have been better organised, with some events being successfully run that haven't run in a significant time

Wish: To focus on Venturer retention as losing large numbers

Wish: Ensuring that Treasurer reports are being completed

## **Tas**

Star: Two Rover Scouts have received Adult Leader Special Service Awards, four have received their BPSAs and some have received Rover Service Awards

Star: Tas Rovers have been getting out into the community with local activities

Star: Apple Isle Moot was successfully run!!

Wish: Get Rover Scouts back to events

Wish: Work more closely with Venturer Units to get numbers back up in Rovering

## **Vic**

Star: Six Rover Scouts have received service awards

Star: All events have gotten running after a bit of a break

Star: All Executive positions have been filled

Wish: To do more development in the training space, particularly surrounding the Rover Training Space

Wish: To get the website updated

## **WA**

Star: A Personal Development Course was written and successfully implemented, and are hoping to flesh it out further both at a NRC and BRC level

Star: Complete redesign of the WARC website and digital branding was undertaken in 2022

Star: Seven BPSAs awarded at the 2022 Youth Awards

Wish: To have more RSM events, as they have disappeared despite demand

Wish: To ensure Units are running quality programs as many small Units are popping up and then immediately dying.

### **Session Close**

Session closed at 10.54am.

## **Plenary Session Two**

### **Session Open**

Session opened at 11.33am on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

E. Hewitt began the session by raising a motion to waive the outstanding instalment of the Victorian BRC's outstanding invoice, thereby restoring Victoria's financial membership and voting rights. She detailed that the NRC needs to move on, as the Council is not achieving anything by arguing over the final instalment of the payment plan at every meeting. Neither the Victorian BRC nor the NRC are short on money, and this matter is hindering the progress of the Council as a whole by bringing up the same arguments and debates.

E. Hewitt further mentioned that while it is rare for the Chair to share an opinion as the role is objective, this matter has been ongoing for the entirety of her two-year term, and like most of the Council, is fed up with wasting time and energy dealing with this matter. If we cannot come up with a solution that is agreed upon, it is time for the NRC to be adults and move on.

S. De Rota requested five minutes of Branch discussion time, which was granted. J. Goodall declared a conflict of interest as he was involved in the creation of the payment plan. P. Wotherspoon (for Vic BRC) noted their thanks to the NRC for moving this motion.

Voting was undertaken, after By-Law discussion, it was agreed that each Branch has one vote per delegate. As the vote resulted in a tie with five votes for and five against, By-Law 4.1 was consulted (as abstention does not count for or against the majority), thus the NRC Chair was given the deciding vote. E. Hewitt voted for the motion.

E. Hewitt noted that she understands the frustration of the Council with this matter, however, is confident that this action says that the NRC are the bigger adults, and will allow Shaylah to run the NRC from a clean slate in 2023 onwards.

**MOTION**

That the National Rover Council waives the final instalment of \$2580.93 of the Victorian Branch Rover Council NRC Levy Payment Plan.

**Moved:** NRC Executive   **Seconded:** WA

**For:** NSW (2), SA (1), WA (2)

**Against:** ACT (2), Qld (2), Tas (1)

**Abstain:** NT (1), SA (1)

**VOTE TIED** – NRC Chair given deciding vote

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **2.1 Elections of the 2023 NRC Executive and Standing Project Officers**

As per NRC By-Laws (Part I: National Rover Council – Standing Orders, Article 4: Voting and Election of The NRC Executive), the NRC Adviser is the Returning Officer for the NRC. The NRC Chair handed over to NRC Adviser (P. McCormick) to chair this session.

### **2.1.1 Close of nominations and confirmation of candidates**

P. McCormick confirmed that as per the changes to By-Laws in September 2022, the incoming NRC Chair was elected at the November 2022 NRC Remote meeting, with Shaylah McClymont from the ACT elected to the role. Shaylah will become Chair at the conclusion of Conference, though has been shadowing Eleanor since the Remote meeting to prepare.

Nominations for NRC Executive and Standing Project Officer (NRC Team) roles were formally opened a month before the opening of Conference, and promoted widely to Rover Scouts across Australia through BRCs and social media. Nominations were received via an online form, and they closed at 9am on Thursday 19 January 2023.

Branch Rover Council Chairs were informed of nominees so they could confirm their endorsement. The endorsed candidates have now provided confirmation of their training status and their pre-recorded candidate statement, so we are good to commence. In order of the roles and then who submitted, below are the endorsed nominees:

Damon Love from New South Wales nominated for Vice Chair

Sam De Rota from the Australian Capital Territory nominated for Vice Chair

Meghann Gallagher from Western Australia nominated for Secretary

Liam Brown from the Australian Capital Territory nominated for Treasurer  
Steph Cowling from New South Wales nominated for Environment & Sustainability Officer  
Aodren Knight from Victoria nominated for Environment & Sustainability Officer

NRC Adviser noted that as there was only one nomination for the Treasurer and Secretary positions, a vote of confirmation would be held for those positions. No endorsed nominations were received for the positions of Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Marketing & Public Relations Officer and Training & Development Officer; these positions should be filled as a casual vacancy at the first Remote meeting of the year.

### **2.1.2 Elections of NRC Team**

NRC Adviser noted that elections would follow the order set out in By-Laws (with all roles open for election, except for the NRC Chair). Candidates in attendance were asked to leave the room during the election for their nominated role (or placed in a waiting room in MS Teams if they were joining online). Each Candidates' pre-recorded statements (provided with their nomination) were played in order of nomination received, with the NRC then invited to ask questions of each candidate (including those calling in to speak to their nomination).

Elections were held for each of National Rover Council Team positions where two or more nominations were received (Vice Chair and Environment & Sustainability Officer); a vote of confidence was held where only one person applied for the role (Secretary and Treasurer). The following candidates were declared elected:

<b>NRC Team 2023</b>	
NRC Chair (elected in Nov 2022)	Shaylah McClymont (ACT)
NRC Vice Chair	Sam De Rota (ACT)
NRC Secretary	Meghann Gallagher (WA)
NRC Treasurer	Liam Brown (ACT)
NRC Diversity & Inclusion Officer	Vacant
NRC Environment & Sustainability Officer	Steph Cowling (NSW)
NRC Marketing & Public Relations Officer	Vacant
NRC Training & Development Officer	Vacant

Note that all roles are for a 12-month term, till the end of NRC Conference 2024 (with the exception of the NRC Chair – their 24-month term concludes at the end of the 2025 Conference). With no applications for the NRC Diversity & Inclusion

Officer, Marketing & Public Relations Officer and Training & Development Officer, these roles will again be advertised by the new NRC Team in the coming weeks.

The NRC Adviser congratulated the incoming NRC Team members on behalf of the Council and handed back the chair to the NRC Chair.

### **Session Close**

Session closed at 1.15pm.

## **Plenary Session Three**

### **Session Open**

Session opened at 2.02pm on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

### **3.2 – Rover Retention Working Group – principle**

J. Goodall presented the paper and spoke to the trend of declining Venturer retention and lower numbers of over 23 year olds in Rovering in Queensland, which has been mirrored throughout other Branches. The paper has been written to empower the NRC to create a project plan to see what can be done to mitigate these problems. He also outlined that this paper is not to approve the project or project plan – this will need to be presented to the NRC again at a later date.

S. De Rota thanked Queensland for submitting this paper ahead of time and taking on the responsibility of organising a project and plan, highlighting the role of BRC Delegates taking on tasks and not just passing them to their Execs. C. Marley noted it was a good idea however asked that consultation amongst other Branches occurs before the project plan comes to the table once the principle is approved.

### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council empower Queensland to create a project plan (including Project Officer Position Description) for final approval in March 2023. Note this is for principle only, prior to larger work being completed for a project plan.

**Moved:** Qld

**Seconded:** ACT

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3.3 BP Award Name (Discussion paper)

D. Boyd spoke to the paper on NRC's SharePoint, reflecting on discussions that have occurred in the last few months in Queensland around the suitability of the name of the peak award for Rover Scouts (Baden Powell Scout Award). There is recognition that BP did great things for the organisation as the founder of Scouting, but also has a troubling and problematic history, with colonisation work and potential antisemitic views. The question that has been raised is what vision are we putting forward to our younger members, and do we still believe that we should recognise BP as the founder through the naming of this award. An unstructured debate was requested to have the discussion and get feedback from the NRC, this potentially could be a 3-4 year project.

C. Marley commented that the main issue they had with the paper was the lack of primary resources – the oldest mentioned was a news article from 2004, and pointed out it is very easy to find problematic viewpoints in BP's primary documents, such as *Rovering to Success*.

S. Taylor noted this was a worthwhile discussion to have, however lots of work needs to be done, and broad consultation with Rovers should be taken so that a decision represents the opinions of the people who are in the section, and that even the opinions of those not actively aiming for their peak award should be consulted.

D. Boyd prefaced that the NRC does not have the authority to change the name of the peak award, they could only make a recommendation to the National Youth Program Team (NYPT). J. Goodall also asked for ideas about how we could engage with Rovers to get this feedback. S. Taylor said a survey wouldn't be appropriate in this case, and that actions would need to go further, for example having a standard speech and educational session to provide to BRCs, and once the education and discussion is undertaken, receiving formal feedback. She noted a target of 80% of Rovers providing feedback would be a good benchmark.

M. Vinning asked whether the reports of the name of the peak award being a potential deterrent to individuals working towards receiving the award was anecdotal or a widely felt opinion, as he hasn't really heard this sentiment. D. Boyd responded that there is no evidence it would deter people, however there is a precedence for changing problematic names to reflect community values in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

C. Marley noted that brands changing items from slurs is a big difference to the matter at hand and a separate conversation about historically white men holding positions of power. They suggested that we should focus on how we handle events

and awards named after people who may have had these positions of power, and the repercussions of this, rather than just making a brand change. S. Taylor noted that as many councils have changed suburbs and street names due to similar reasons, it could be worthwhile to get professional input and opinions.

E. Hewitt asked the Council the broader question of whether the life that BP lived is something we want to aspire to personally through the peak award of the section. She said that we shouldn't, and this is what the discussion comes down to – by using BP's name we are portraying that his ideals are implicitly okay and thus this kind of discussion is useful. She also noted that any decision surrounding this matter should be mostly unanimous.

R. Kemp noted the serious nature of the discussion and agreed that a conversation needs to be started with the wider Rovering community. Perceptions of societal expectations have vastly changed since the time of Scouting's founding. They also asked if there was anything Queensland wanted taken back to BRCs. D. Boyd responded that their BRC wanted to start a dialogue at NRC to gauge what the wider perception was, then come back with further papers with action items at an NRC Remote meeting once a bit more consultation had been undertaken. J. Goodall suggested that an information pack could be created so that BRCs could run these sessions.

R. Kemp further added that as such a decision impacts many Branches and as it is a national level, any project patrols moving forward should have members from every Branch represented. H. McNeice added that if we want to look at this matter properly perhaps we should look at something similar to the NRC External Review and pushing down to grassroots Rover Scouts to get a proper understanding, and questioned whether as NRC we are the best people to be undertaking this review. S. Taylor mentioned that it can be hard to get people to join teams so perhaps it should fall on there being consultation from each BRC if they can provide someone.

S. Taylor also noted disappointment about how the topic had been approached with a level of humour, and noted such a discussion about real issues would need to be approached with sensitivity therefore to get more people on board. Furthermore, there is the consideration of how people outside of Scouting may perceive this, which could lead to much larger conversations. C. Marley noted that there are ties to BP all throughout the organisation, and if we don't want to be associated with him in regards to the award scheme, how far do these ties go, and would we then consider completely detaching from BP. They also mentioned that merely changing the name of the peak award may be a performative action if all of Scouting is built on his legacy, and we are unwilling to examine how we associate with BP. D. Boyd responded that it is still at least a move forward and reflecting on values does enact

a change, and that it is outside of the scope of the NRC to undertake a further review of BP's legacy, which Scouts Australia probably should look at doing.

E. Hewitt asked E. Bridger if a name change was decided, what steps would need to be taken. E. Bridger said that once a decision occurs, the first step would be to go to the NYPT representative and Chief Commissioner and advise them of the decision and background, that BRCs support this change. A paper would be submitted to the NYPT with the name change, they would have an informal discussion. While NYPT are a decision-making body, best practice would be to go through NYPT, then go to NOC to enforce the decision.

D. Boyd mentioned that Queensland's intention would be to consult on what an alternative name could be and provide options before changing it. S. Taylor said that it would be fair to say that some members of Scouting may not like the name it is changed to, and E. Hewitt added this decision may be too far for the scope of the current discussion.

M. Vinning agreed with VBRC's earlier comments about merely changing the name being performative, and added that if we truly have issues with BP's legacy we should also look at actions such as taking down photos of BP etc. He noted he was not necessarily for or against the paper, and believes review is necessary, however believes a review of the scope of the paper is necessary, otherwise just changing the name of the award, but retaining other links to BP will come across as hypocritical. J. Goodall mentioned that as Rovers and NRC we do not have the power to make this decision, just the ability to make recommendations.

The allotted time for the discussion expired, and E. Hewitt (in consultation with the incoming chair S. McClymont) moved a motion on the NRC Executive's behalf to begin the process of creating a project patrol to further expand on this discussion.

### **MOTION**

That the 2023/2024 NRC Executive begin the process of creating a project patrol to further explore this idea. The NRC Executive will provide a terms of reference for the project at the first remote meeting of 2023.

**Moved:** NRC Executive   **Seconded:** NSW & Qld

**For:** ACT (2), NSW (2), NT, SA (2), Tas (2)\*, WA (2)

**Against:**

**Abstain:** Vic (2)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **3.4 NRC Operational Plan**

T. Blyth spoke to the paper. At the 2022 Conference a new strategic plan for the NRC was developed. From this plan an “Our Actions” section was created, which exists in the form of the Operational Plan. It has been built from the last operational plan and consultation regarding the new strategic plan. Items can be added to the document so the NRC can report upon different projects laid out, so it aligns to each strategic area.

J. Goodall asked for confirmation whether the document would be updated as projects progress; T. Blyth responded that there is space to show reporting periods and updates. C. Marley noted that areas 2.2, 2.4, and 3.2 could do with some more detailed actions and projects; T. Blyth responded that it is the NRC’s responsibility to do this, and as more projects surrounding these areas are implemented will become more detailed. C. Marley then asked if more actions and projects would be added or if the ones currently in the document were the only ones to be looked at in the next few years; T. Blyth clarified that the document is an active document, so the actions currently in it are the actions being undertaken at present, and new projects that are created will be added, updated, and reported on via the document.

#### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council accepts this format of the Action Plan ad endorses the actions that have been rolled over from previous plans, and new actions that have been included from the consultation period.

**Moved:** NRC Executive **Seconded:** ACT

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3.5 Moot Buddies Data**

T. Blyth presented the report, as an opportunity to better understand how Moot Buddies is received. At the 2022 Conference a paper was passed that required reporting on how Moot Buddies funds were distributed by Branch, payment type, age, and amount received by each BRC; this is that report. There is also a BRC by BRC breakdown.

D. Boyd thanked the Exec for working so quickly to action this report. C. Marley thanked the Exec for granting emergency payments when late changes to Moot fees were implemented.

E. Hewitt commented that from the data we can see that certain Branch applicants are applying, and the opportunity for many Rover Scouts falling through the gaps, so please ensure that the Moot Buddies program is being advertised.

### **3.6 Rover Challenge Grant**

T. Blyth spoke to the report, outlining the recipients of Rover Challenge Grant funding. \$2000 was spent in total – the full budgeted amount through both Grant rounds. He also noted there were only three projects, thus the NRC should aim to get the message out about the Rover Challenge Grant to enable Rover Scouts to undertake new challenges.

### **3.7 Qld Bid for Moot**

E. Hewitt introduced the paper and discussed the situation with the major events framework dissolving the cycling of Moot organisation through different Branches under the events review. Disappointingly, still no guidelines on how to bid for such an event have been provided, as a result we do not know where the next Moot will be held. Queensland Rovers have indicated an intention to bid but, understandably, cannot bid until they know what information to provide in a bid, as well as where, how, and to whom to bid. The NRC are therefore taking matters into their own hands and endorsing **in principle** Queensland Rovers' intention to bid for the next national Rover Moot.

J. Goodall then discussed that Queensland have been vocal about their intent to host the next Moot, but are still waiting on guidelines, so can't really produce anything. Queensland Rovers have been working in the background to start to for things to organise a Moot, and QBRC has endorsed this intention to bid. QBRC will be going to the Queensland Branch Executive Committee to bid, and would like to have the NRC's endorsement of the bid.

S. De Rota asked what the timeline for the second action item was; J. Goodall advised that this vote was an endorsement of the intention to bid, so the NRC would be advising the relevant bodies that a bid had been submitted or is coming, and it would be up to the NRC when that it is, and hopefully would be as soon as reasonably possible. D. Boyd further clarified that the hope was this action item would be a motivator to the relevant bodies to produce these guidelines, by showing readiness to run the Moot, just requiring actioning.

**MOTION**

That the National Rover Council endorse Queensland's intention to bid for the 2027 National Moot, and that the NRC Chair advise the National Youth Program Team and National Operations Committee of the NRC's endorsement.

**Moved:** Qld**Seconded:** ACT**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****Session Close**

Session closed at 3.01pm.

**Plenary Session Four****Session Open**

Session opened at 11.03am on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.

**4.1 – NRC By-Laws – Restructure and alignment**

E. Hewitt spoke to the paper, which matched the current By-Laws with the new national policy hierarchy and became an easily navigable document.

C. Marley asked whether guidelines were too relaxed a term for such a document thus would people see them as optional. P. McCormick replied that as part of the Scouts Australia Policy & Rules Redesign, nationally agreed standards have been agreed by the NEC, producing a three-tiered system; policy, then procedures and standards, then guidelines all have formal meanings, so NRC have aligned with these.

**MOTION**

That the National Rover Council agree to the updated structure of the NRC Procedures and Guidelines, and amend Preamble 3

**Moved:** NRC Executive   **Seconded:** WA**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****4.2 – NRC By-Laws – Workshop proposed changes**

E. Hewitt spoke to the paper, reminding that workshops on Friday had focussed on three areas for proposed amendments, which are not currently included in By-Law update 3.0. The following proposed changes were raised.

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
3.3	<p>All submissions requiring a vote of the NRC shall be submitted to the NRC Secretary, no later than two weeks before a Remote meeting and three weeks before the AGM. Late papers submitted at least 48 hours before meeting commencement, including those requiring a vote, will only be distributed to the NRC by agreement of the NRC Executive. Any submissions received within 48 hours before a Remote meeting will not be accepted, unless deemed necessary and urgent by the NRC Chairperson. Submissions must have the support of a BRC or the NRC Executive. The agenda of an NRC meeting shall be distributed to the NRC two weeks before a Remote meeting or three weeks before the AGM and will consist of the following:a) Minutes of the previous meeting of the NRC. These are to be ratified at the following meeting.b) Report of the record of decisions and activities of the NRC Executive since the previous meeting of the NRC c) BRC reports on activities which have taken place in their Branch between NRC meetingsd) Items submitted by the BRCs e) Any other items as determined by the NRC Chairperson.</p>	<p>All submissions requiring a vote of the NRC <b>at either a Remote meeting or AGM</b>, shall <b>have the completed header information</b> submitted to the NRC Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the Remote meeting. <b>The accompanying completed paper shall be submitted no later than one week prior to the Remote meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.4.2 Late papers requiring a vote submitted <b>after the paper deadline for a Remote meeting or AGM</b> shall only be distributed to the NRC by agreement of the NRC Executive.</li> <li>3.4.3 If a paper is rejected under 3.4.2, the paper author must be notified at the earliest possibility, and the rejection noted in the minute</li> <li>3.4.4 The agenda of an NRC meeting or AGM shall be distributed to the NRC one week before a Remote meeting or AGM.</li> </ul>

**Moved by:** NT

**Seconded by:** Vic

C. Marley asked whether this section should include AGM/Conference, and not just Remote Meetings. M. Gallagher responded that Conference has different deadlines for documents which are mentioned elsewhere in the By-Laws.

P. McCormick advised that the NRC Secretary has the discretion to tidy up grammatical things within the By- Laws

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ACTION ITEM:** NRC Secretary to look at the use of the terms “AGM” and “Conference” and decide which is best to use in such a document.

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
3.5	<p>d) Minutes are to be distributed to the NRC within two weeks of a Remote Meeting for review and information only.</p> <p>e) Minutes are to be distributed to the NRC within five weeks of an NRC Conference for review and information only.</p>	<p><b>D) Minutes are to be distributed to the NRC within three weeks of a Remote meeting for review and information.</b></p> <p><b>E) Minutes are to be distributed to the NRC within six weeks of an AGM for review and information.</b></p>

**Moved by:** Qld

**Seconded by:** ACT

J. Goodall noted this was amended in order to be in line with what realistically happens from an NRC meeting; especially if there is a lot of discussion minutes can take a long time.

S. de Rota requested to delete the word only so it reads “review and information”

#### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
3.6	The incoming and outgoing NRC Chairpersons shall determine the participants for the NRC Executive handover meeting based on requirement	<b>Remove this section</b>

**Moved by:** Vic (withdrawn), Qld

**Seconded by:** SA

S. de Rota asked what implications this would have on the Handover meeting. J. Goodall responded that this section seems redundant in terms of the By-Laws specifically, as the Exec will have meetings regardless.

K. McNamara asked why Victoria had removed their motion. C. Marley responded that they believe it is better to clarify who attends these meetings so chose to leave it in.

E. Hewitt noted that we would take the motion on notice as we don't have a clear cut place to ensure participation in such a meeting is controlled, and that it is important to have this somewhere in the document, and that the next Executive will work to figure out where it fits.

## MOTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
4.1	If voting becomes necessary, each of the two Branch Delegates will have one vote and a simple majority carries a motion. In the case of a tied vote, the NRC Chairperson will have a casting vote.	<b>When</b> voting, <b>each Branch Delegate will have one vote.</b> A simple majority carries a motion. In the case of a tied vote, the NRC Chairperson will have a casting vote.

**Moved by:** ACT

**Seconded by:** WA

M. Vinning clarified that this amendment would clarify some how many votes Branches have in light of some discussion in recent votes.

A comment was left on the document to add "(two)" to clarify that each Branch will have two votes, M. Vinning chose the wording that they did as Branch Delegations are earlier defined, and so if in the future delegations are changed, this point would not need to be amended.

## MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
4.2	However no Branch shall be allowed to participate in voting if they are not currently financial with the NRC, unless the Branch is able to come to an agreed payment plan with whom they are in debt to.	[add to end] a) As payments are met, voting rights are returned. b) If any payment is late, or missed, voting rights are suspended.

**Moved by:** Vic

**Seconded by:** NSW

## MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
Whole document	See document	Change all uses of "Chair" to "Chairperson"

**Moved by:** ACT

**Seconded by:** NSW

## MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
4.4	Election of the NRC Executive and standing Project Officers takes place at the NRC Annual General Meeting under the following provisions:	Election of the NRC Executive and standing Project Officers takes place at the NRC Annual General Meeting ( <b>held at NRC Conference</b> ) under the following provisions:

**Moved by:** Vic

**Seconded by:** NSW

E. Hewitt took this motion on notice as it falls under the action item listed above, regarding the use of the terms "AGM" and "Conference"

## MOTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Section	Original	Proposed Amended
4.4 d)	NRC elects the NRC Chairperson for a term of 24 months subject to endorsement to continue in an out of session vote where the NRC Adviser will act as the returning officer 2 months prior to the first NRC Conference after their election (mid term).	<p>4.4.d) NRC elects the NRC Chairperson for a term of 24 months. <del>subject to endorsement to continue in an out of session vote where the NRC Adviser will act as the returning officer 2 months prior to the first NRC Conference after their election (mid term).</del></p> <p>[move to new point - 4.5 e)] The NRC Chairperson term is subject to endorsement to continue in an out of session vote where the NRC Adviser will act as the Returning Officer two months prior to the first NRC Conference after their election (mid term).</p>

**Moved by:** Vic

**Seconded by:** NSW

L. Stephens noted that these provisions were not necessarily relevant where they were, and better fit in the voting rights clause.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Proposed Amended</b>
4.4 e)	The NRC elects the Vice Chairperson, Training and Development Officer, Secretary and other standing Project Officers outlined in the Terms of Reference, Section 2 of the NRC By-Laws for a term of 12 months	The NRC elects the Vice Chairperson, Secretary, <b>Treasurer</b> and other standing Project Officers outlined in the Terms of Reference, Section 2 of the NRC By-Laws for a term of 12 months

**Moved by:** Vic

**Seconded by:** NSW

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Proposed Amended</b>
4C	The NRC Chairperson will properly introduce all attendees by name and Branch or National role at the beginning of the meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The NRC Secretary shall read out the attendance (including apologies) upon direction of the Chairperson.</b></li></ul>

**Moved by:** Qld

**Seconded by:** SA

J. Goodall noted this was to reflect what actually occurs in practice, and also is easier for the Secretary's records.

A Simpson mentioned that this may not be possible or difficult with MS Teams (ie. the current online meeting platform) as people may not have the ability to change their display names. E. Hewitt noted we could remove it and it is then up to the Executive to set the standards for the meeting, as the By-Laws are not the place to put what is preferred practice.

M. Vinning asked whether there had been an issue with figuring out who was in the meeting or what Branch they were from, M. Gallagher responded she had not had any issues, and that it had never been so great a problem it warranted inclusion in the By-Laws. J. Goodall agreed that was also his experience as Secretary.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Proposed Amended</b>
Part II Section 4 – Remote Meeting Etiquette - Rationale	To ensure that attendees of the National Rover Council Remote meeting are aware of and adhere to the following procedures to ensure NRC Remote meetings run smoothly and effectively.	<b>The following procedures help ensure NRC Meetings (Remote or Hybrid) run smoothly and effectively for attendees of the National Rover Council.</b>

**Moved by:** Qld

**Seconded by:** SA

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **4.3 – Rover Event Management Course 2023**

T. Milham spoke to the paper. He also noted that the NRC will form a budget for the new event.

D. Boyd asked for consideration to hold the course in Queensland, as if the Moot was going ahead there it would be convenient for much of the Moot committee could easily attend. E. Hewitt responded that she understood the request however it is necessary to recognise that all Rover Scouts deserve access and therefore it should be held in the most financially viable location. K. McNamara further asked if location would be influenced if a lot of people were attending from one particular place. E. Hewitt responded that currently no venue has been selected, and it will be based off the most financially viable location for attendees.

#### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council endorses in principle the National Rover Event Management Course is held in 2023.

**Moved:** NRC Executive **Seconded:** NSW

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **4.4 Quality Rovering Award Review**

J. Phillips spoke to the paper, that it had been written regarding outcomes from the workshop held earlier during Conference. The last time the Quality Rovering Award was reviewed was in 2018 and no longer applies to the new Youth Program. There has been workshopping on how to improve the award, including removing some of the rigid aspects and allowing broader statements to account for reasonable adjustments.

**MOTION**

That the National Rover Council amend the NRC By-Laws to reflect the attached document, propose the following designs to the NYPT and NOC, as badges to be worn on the right sleeve of the Rover Scout Uniform, and for BRCs to promote the National Quality Rovering Award guidelines within their Branches.

**Moved: WA****Seconded: ACT****MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****4.5 Rover Personal Development Course**

J. Phillips spoke to the paper, and clarified that the paper's intention is not to run the Personal Development Course, but to run a course to upskill individuals to be able to run face to face Personal Development Courses in their own Branches. He mentioned there had been some concerns raised about the 30 hour requirement, and that there was an inability of some BRCs that they could not run it themselves and would need to offload to their training team. The intention of the course is to empower BRC members to run the course themselves.

**MOTION**

That the National Rover Council endorse the organisation and running of the WA Rover Personal Development Course for all BRCs to participate in.

**Moved: WA****Seconded: NT****MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Due to extra time being available, plenary items 5.1 and 5.2 were moved to Plenary Session 4.

**5.1 NRC Financial Report 2021-2022**

E. Hewitt spoke to her message included in this report, noting that it has been fantastic for the NRC to have a treasurer for the first time, and the quality of the work that has been put into management and transparent is evident in the documentation.

## **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council approve the 2022 Financial Statements.

**Moved:** NRC Executive **Seconded:** ACT

**Report noted**

## **5.2 NRC 2022-2023 Budget**

L. Brown spoke to the paper, and noted that a review of the indexing policy will be occurring, as well as in investigation to find new income streams for the operational account. A large amount of work has been undertaken to improve NRC's financial management this year, and more is still to be done.

Some questions that had been received from BRCs before the plenary session were also answered by L. Brown.

- Victoria: where were the actuals for the draft budgets and why were they absent?
  - L. Brown noted that while actuals aren't required, they can be provided once acquired for transparency. However, the two major operational costs are the 2023 Conference, which is still currently being undertaken, and the 2023 Executive Meeting, which hasn't occurred yet. A more comprehensive budget will be presented for approval at the first Remote meeting of the year.
- Victoria: should the Executive Meeting be included in the budget and why were the costs so high.
  - E. Hewitt responded that this had been covered in her report, but noted again that the Executive has been able to function better by being able to meet each other in person to get to know each other and work on projects. Additionally, Australia is a large country, and transporting members across the country can contribute to the expenses.

L. Brown also noted tanks to Drabin who runs accounts in the National Support Team office, he has gotten him through the year and been very helpful with statements and providing advice through complex financial matters.

### **Session Close**

Session closed at 12.18pm.

## **Plenary Session Five**

### **Session Open**

Session opened at 1.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.

### **5.3 – Formal thank you to Tasmanian Moot Committee**

S. Taylor spoke to the paper requesting a formal thank you for Tasmanian Rovers and the AIM Moot Organising committee due to the huge amount of time, effort, and energy that went into organising the event.

#### **MOTION**

That the National Rover Council formally recognises and thanks AIM MOC and Tasmanian Rovers for their efforts organising Apple Isle Moot. As a small Branch they rose to the challenge of organising a National Moot directly after a global pandemic and multiple natural disasters. They worked hard in responding dynamically to challenges pertaining to supporters, participants, and logistics which arose during the course of the event.

**Moved: ACT**

**Seconded: Qld & Vic**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

T. Blyth moved a motion to thank E. Hewitt for her time as chair, and gave the following statement:

“I’d like to take over the meeting for a moment, and allow the National Rover Council to pass a motion of thanks to the outgoing chair, Eleanor.

I first officially met Eleanor at Moot in 2020, where the role of being a Chair was a tumultuous time as we supported our Rovers through the cancellation of the second half of Moot. Our friendship has been nothing more than a rollercoaster

since then. I then met Eleanor again at the 2020 NRC Conference, where strong debates were had to continue the development of Rover Scouts Australia.

Eleanor has continued to develop as a leader, having now completed four years as a Chair of one council or another. After two unprecedented years of chairing the NRC she has come out mostly unscathed, and all together a stronger person. She has carried the NRC out of the darkness of Covid, and sees us returning to our face to face meetings, which as we have seen here this weekend, have a huge benefit to the outcomes of this Council.

I speak for all of us on the Exec, NRC team, and the NRC as a whole that it has been a pleasure to work with her. For me personally it has been a highlight to work with Eleanor in my final year of Rovers, I look forward to our next challenge as we become “old Rovers”

So, I would like to put forwards the motion that the National Rover Council pass a motion of thanks for Eleanor for her work as Chair of the National Rover Council.”

#### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **5.4 Chief Commissioner's Remarks**

P. Harrison gave some remarks to the NRC – acknowledging the work Eleanor had done over the past two years both within the context of the Rover Scout section and in National meetings as a voice of youth at the decision-making table. Initiatives she was engaged with included Antarctica 2023 and the investiture process,

#### **Session Close**

Session closed at 1.49pm