



Rover Scouts

AUSTRALIA

National Rover Council Remote Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 2023

1. Procedural Items

1.1 Meeting Open

Meeting opened 8.04pm 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 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.

1.2 Attendance

Shaylah McClymont (Nat)
Sam De Rota (Nat)
Patrick McCormick (Nat)
Liam Gallagher (Nat)
Steph Cowling (Nat)
Damon Love (Nat)
Jonno Thornton (ACT)
Bryn Catlin (ACT)
Sara Taylor (ACT)
Calista Beck (ACT)
Lachie Page (NSW)
Leigh Jonassen (NSW)
Bella Condello (NT)
Max Manson (Qld)

Meghann Gallagher (Nat)
Liam Brown (Nat)
Jessica Hernandez (Qld)
Dylan Shaw (Qld)
Jake Goodall (Qld)
Paul Lappin (Qld)
Ben Brice (SA)
Brad Thompson (Tas)
Emily Ezzy (Tas)
Zac Geddes (Vic)
Izaak Kitching (Vic)
Stephen Carter (Vic)
Jordan Phillips (WA)

1.3 Apologies

Delshard Mozhdehinia (WA)

2. Minutes and past business

2.1 – Minutes of the previous meeting

MOTION

That the minutes of the April 2023 Remote Meeting be ratified

Moved by: NRC Executive Seconded: NSW

MOTION CARRIED

3. Standing items

3.1 Child Safe Issues

NIL

3.2 WHS Issues

NIL

3.3 Conflicts of Interest

NIL

4. Presentation/Strategy from Morris

Morris Orchard held a presentation and feedback session to gather some information in order to gain feedback and data from Rover Scouts broadly to go towards the updated Scouts Australia national strategic plan that will start in 2024.

A number of questions raised included what success looks like in Scouting at a national level, what unfinished business from the 2021-23 strategic plan is outstanding, and how could the impact of Scouts change over the next 10 years. There was great engagement across Branches, and if any feedback is raised, or further input for the strategic plan, please contact Morris (morris.orchard@gmail.com), or the NRC Executive who can pass this on to Morris.

4. NRC Team Report

The NRC Team spoke to the tabled report. Major points included information surrounding Moot bids, levy invoicing, and vacant roles on the NRC. Updates from the National Team, NAISC, NOC, and the Under 30s planning weekend were also provided.

MOTION

That the report be noted.

Moved by: NRC Executive Seconded: NT

CARRIED

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

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

The formal AIM report will be published within 12 months of the event. If there are any questions regarding this report, please direct them to the Tasmania BRC Chair and they will be answered or forwarded as required.

6. Branch reports

Branch reports were received by NSW, Qld, and WA, and are available in the OneDrive. Each Branch was asked to share a success and a challenge that they have faced.

ACT

Woohoo: Have just finished the Branch strategic plan review (2019-2023) and have found they have grown a lot and are happy with where they are now, and have some things to still work on. Additionally, gang show recently occurred and was successful.

Boohoo: Almost too many activities occurring, with not enough Rovers in the ACT to go to the events and run the events.

NSW

Woohoo: Ran state ball recently in Wollongong that was very successful.

Boohoo: Have recently switched to a new financial and registration system (Scout Hub) so there have been some challenges during the transition period.

NT

Woohoo: Had a Rover go to KISC – great international engagement

Boohoo: Organisation of a camp between Alice Springs and Darwin has been a bit difficult but the Branch is hopeful it will get done and be a great event.

Qld

Woohoo: New executive has come into effect, with all executive roles being filled

Boohoo: Migration from Google Suite to Office 365 has started, and there have been some hiccups with this process

SA

Woohoo: Lots of Branch level events being organised, including the ANZAC Day service

Boohoo: Having some issues sorting finances out

Tas

Woohoo: Some great events are being run across the state to look forward to

Boohoo: The fleet of marquees that typically makes up a lot of the Branch's revenue has had some insurance troubles that need to be ironed out

Vic

Woohoo: Have continued running successful events, including Mudbash, which had over 1000 attendees on site

Boohoo: Have some issues with some policies that as a collective need to agree and work on.

WA

Woohoo: More and more Rovers are keen to run events, including new events

Boohoo: Currently migrating from Google Drive to Teams, and unfortunately files have not been organised well over the last 15 years

7. APR Regional Youth Representative

The report was tabled and is available in the OneDrive.

M.Manson also provided a report regarding their experience at the Asia-Pacific Youth Mobilisation Summit, also available on the OneDrive.

8. Voting Items

8.1 Changing NRC Election Cycles

S. McClymont spoke to the tabled paper. This year, the Executive has trialled having a handover period for the NRC Chairperson, and felt that this has been a positive initiative, as she has felt set up to succeed after shadowing the prior Chair. Moving forward, the handover would happen before Conference, and Elections would be held during the final remote meeting of the year.

I. Kitching raised the question of whether the incoming executive would have subsidised travel to Conference. S. McClymont responded that it would be on a case-by-case basis as to whether they came to Conference, and they potentially would be invited online. It is not in the 2024 budget so if travel were to be subsidised, a later vote would need to occur.

MOTION

Moved by: NRC Executive Seconded: Qld

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Information and Late Papers

8.1 BPSA Name and Retention Project Officers

S. De Rota spoke to the tabled paper, noting that these working groups had been discussed at Conference, in order to address a perceived reduction in members and also investigating the suitability of the BPSA award name. Not enough time has passed to make a meaningful investigative effort for the 2024 Conference, so the time frames of the projects have been changed to 31/12/2023 (midterm report) and 30/06/2024 (full report).

Jake Goodall has been appointed as BPSA Name Project Officer, and Dylan Shaw as Retention Project Officer.

8.2 - NRC Election Voting Procedures (Discussion)

L. Page spoke to the tabled paper, noting that the paper was raised in order for NSW to gain input from other Branches regarding current NRC voting procedures, and called for an unstructured discussion. Vic seconded the unstructured debate. L. Page noted that many people are not aware of candidates for NRC elections, and what platforms candidates run on. They also noted that the current NRC election system, with a voice recording being played at the NRC Conference does not allow for Branch consultation. They would like for information to be available before conference regarding who has nominated for roles, and what their qualifications and motivations are.

B. Catlin noted that he understood the premise of why this is useful, however noted that many nominations arise at conference, which could disadvantage them compared to candidates who nominate earlier. L. Page responded that the just passed paper regarding elections may mitigate this somewhat, however noted that there would still be a number of nominations received before the meeting that could be addressed.

P. McCormick noted that as Returning Officer he was not consulted for input or feedback on the paper, and he would have been very willing to, especially discussing the history as to why the current procedure is in place. He noted that the reason this procedure was enacted was in an attempt to remove politics, campaigning, and popularity votes from voting for NRC roles. He also asked what ideal processes for elections would look like compared to the current By-Laws. L. Page noted they were happy to have further conversations outside of the meeting in order to gain an understanding of some of these points

J. Goodall noted that the paper had information that had likely been carried over from copying a previous template regarding QBRC – and reminded Branches to ensure that paper information was all correct before submitting. J. Goodall asked what nomination details would be outside of the voice recording already provided. L. Page noted that they weren't aware the voice recording was provided rather than a written statement, and that that would be sufficient to not duplicate work for individuals.

J. Goodall also asked if this would also apply to standing project officer roles as well – L. Page noted this was taken to also apply to project officers, and that this was an oversight.

I. Kitching noted that Branches cannot have consultation without hearing the recordings and questions posed to candidates on the day. I. Kitching also noted that Branches have trust in Branch Chairs and Delegates to make those decisions without consulting with all Rover Scouts. B. Catlin proposed that voice recordings could be released earlier than Conference to allow consultation with Branches. L. Page responded that he didn't see the campaigning issue as a major one so something like this could be implemented.

P. McCormick noted that in regards to the recording it was set up to be distributed only so the Returning Officer had access to the file in the closed meeting, and that even streaming of conference is shut off while these play, and file is then deleted. This would then change

how the process works as some candidates are very nervous about their recording being shared. B. Catlin noted that it might be fair for people who are nominating for a prominent position in Rover Scouts to be transparent and have those recordings shared so grassroots rovers can access that rather than gaining a second- or third- hand account from Chairs, especially given that minutes of other decisions are circulated. P. McCormack reiterated I. Kitching's earlier point that we are in a representative democracy and that BRC Chairs and Delegates are elected on the basis that they are able to make decisions on behalf of their Branch. He also noted that meeting minutes are a record of the decisions made by representatives with the best information available at the time.

L. Page noted that they would take the paper offline to consult where relevant, and future information and action would be communicated to the NRC.

Item 8.3 Scouts Australia Strategic Plan Consultation was moved to earlier in the meeting.

8.4 NRC Citizen Science Service Project

B. Brice spoke to the tabled paper, noting that this would launch a project available to all Rover Scouts in Australia, allowing them to participate in a citizen science project to contribute to the science behind biodiversity.

J. Goodall asked if there would be any costs to the NRC and its members with this project, B. Brice responded that it would be free, with no costs to the NRC. B. Condello asked if there was a limit to the number of Rover Scouts who could participate, B. Brice responded there was not.

10. General Business

J. Goodall noted that the BRC St George's Ball would be running in August, and provided some marketing information for the event.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held via Teams on Tuesday 3rd October 2023. A meeting link will be distributed closer to the meeting

11.2 Meeting Close

Meeting closed 9.52pm AEST