

INTERCHANGE

Vol. 30 No. 4

A MAGAZINE FOR VENTURERS & ROVERS

June 2009

Congratulations to **Lyn Olsen**
Branch Commissioner Joeys

Our top Victorian Joey Leader, has been
recognised as the

Australian Nurse of the Year

Congratulations to two Scouting
recipients of the **Medal of the Order
of Australia** on 08 June 2009

Joan Dillon,

Branch Commissioner Scouts (*former Venturer
Leader*), for service to youth through the
Scouting movement.

and

Shirley Bean,

Honorary Commissioner (former Assistant Chief
Commissioner and *Venturer Leader*)

for service to the community, particularly
youth, through the Scouting movement.

Well Done Lyn, Joan and Shirley

Abseiling Participant Course

4th/5th July 2009

stanleys@aapt.net.au

DL(VS) DAY 2009

Sunday 28th June 2009

Monster Scout Raffle.

\$502,000 has been raised.

Young Spokesperson PR training
is now known as

PR & Media Training,

but still Sun. 23rd August at BHQ

Bring a Friend badge

More info inside!

"All Victorians enjoying Scouting"

INFO BOOK 2009 UPDATES

Distributed with Feb, Scout Mag, and on www.vicscouts.asn.au. The web version was updated in early April, and next in July and October. This ongoing update should reduce long term errors being perpetuated and the volume of changes at the end of the year.

New Appointments

I welcome Rodger O'Hara, formerly RC North West, to a new role in the Branch team. He becomes ABC International Programmes as a member of the International team.

District Commissioner Conference – Sat. 27th June

Just a reminder that the follow up from the successful "Power of 10" conference held in January will be on 27th June. <https://www.vicscouts.asn.au/powerof10followup>

Bob Taylor, Chief Commissioner

Swine flu and weekly Scouting activities

I have been in touch with the public health authorities regarding their plans should the current Swine Flu situation continue or get worse. Currently there are no plans to disallow public gatherings such as Scouting meetings, church services and the like. If the situation worsens, such decisions will be taken by the public health authorities and Scouts will comply like any other organisation. Details of any such closures will be released by the government through the normal channels. Should you be interested the following link takes you to the fact sheet

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/345174/FINAL-FAQs-26-May-2009.pdf

Local Volunteer Recognition Awards

Each year all levels of Government - Federal, State and Local; promote the recognition of local volunteers on your area. I urge you that when you are made aware of opportunities in your local area you consider nominating someone from you local Group, District or

Region. One of our priorities is to have "adult lives enhanced by Scouting", this is a way that you can help recognise deserving individuals.

Scouts Victoria Web Site

There are a number of areas within the Branch looking at our Web site – some issues that have been talked about have been: what the Web could / should look like; what is important to have in it; what is important not to have in it; is our public face adequate; do we need a secure (leaders only) area; etc. With so many areas having a (legitimate) interest, we run the risk of solving problems that might not exist or building a solution that satisfies not all of our stakeholders. I intend to establish a forum to ascertain everyone's views and ultimately establish a stakeholder meeting to formulate a scope document on any required work. Please note that this will not focus on "content" but rather on "architecture". More Details to follow.

Alistair Horne, Exec. Manager & General Secretary

Volunteers Grant Program 2008

According to the funding agreement all approved grants must be spent by 30th September 2009. Thereafter any unspent money are forfeited and have to be refunded to the Department. As of today there are 30 Scout formations with grants totalling \$106,908.88 that have not commenced spending. A list of these Groups has been sent to all Region Commissioners for action.

Tom Hartley, Chairman, Branch Exec. Committee

Committee for the Far Future update

The latest update can be found by accessing the vicscouts web page

Margaret Tremewen, Assistant Chief Commissioner

INTERCHANGE – YOUR COMMUNICATION & RESOURCE SERVICE!

- Aim:** to provide communication & resource material for Venturers & Rovers.
- Content:** the Editor reserves the right not to publish material that is contrary to or conflicts with, recognised Scouting practice.
- Contributions:** articles, photographs, reports, cartoons etc are most welcome, preferably submitted via email, but postal is acceptable.
- Postal:** INTERCHANGE, P.O. Box 774, MOUNT WAVERLEY, VICTORIA, 3149.
- Email:** interchange@vicscouts.asn.au
- Due date:** the due date for contributions is the last day of the month preceding the monthly issue (ie 30th June for July issue); this permits inclusion of info from the BRC (4th Wednesday), VVC (1st Tuesday) and BCs' meetings (1st Wednesday); for mailing on the next Monday - which will be the 13th of the month, at the latest.
- Distribution:** it is published up to 11 times a year by the Scout Association, Victorian Branch, with copies to each Crew and Unit.
- Web Page:** you can view 2 pdf versions of each issue (one with pics/graphics, one without) on the Victorian Branch web site, at: vicventurers.com – go to the Newsletter page for back copies from 2001
- Subscriptions:** Venturers, Rovers & Leaders may subscribe by sending \$15.00 (Victorian subscriber) and \$18.00 (interstate subscribers)
- Advertising:** all general Scouting activities are promoted free of charge, but a fee may be charged for major fundraising events.
- Printer:** KWIK KOPY, 426 Burke Road, Camberwell, 3146. (W) 9889 0666 (F) 9889 4783.

BRING A FRIEND

“Growing Youth Membership”

Purpose:

- To encourage youth members to take pride in their membership of Scouting
- To facilitate growth in youth membership

Badge Development and Design:

- Initially developed by Sue Glenn and the South Metro Region Cub Council, then
- The Branch Commissioners (Youth Program) Council and SNOWGUM;
- Two left hands shaking, with the Scout emblem – green background and yellow edging for all sections

How to earn:

- to be awarded to a youth member who brings a friend (not a current member) to at least 3 meetings/activities
- during which they (and their leaders) teach the friend a simple Scouting skill from that section
- and the friend learns something about the next section, which could simply be who they are, what they do etc
- *the friend does not have to join Scouting for the youth member to earn the badge*
- *we rely on our program being exciting enough to encourage them to join*

Placement on uniform:

- the badge is to be placed on the bottom of the left sleeve, above the Link Badge(s)
- it should be removed when the youth member moves to the next section

What about additional friends?

- A youth member may earn additional badges, if they ‘bring more friends’
- But only one badge may be worn – additional badges can be used on blankets etc

Ordering and Cost:

- Group Leaders should contact their appropriate Scout Service Centre (SSC) to order the badges
- We encourage Group Leaders to order on a needs basis, rather than stockpiling excess badges
- The badge and postage are provided free of charge to the Group
- The SSC will record the Group, GL, date and number of badges so we can monitor usage of the badge

More information:

- This Information sheet and an Invitation template (in WORD format) has been placed on the website, and available from your Scout Service Centre;
- the Invitation may be modified for local use.

VICTORIAN VENTURER COUNCIL

GOES BUSH

NAGAMBIE - 2ND MAY 2009

D/L (VS) DAY – SUN. 28TH JUNE WILL YOUR D/ZVC BE THERE?

Suggested topics and actions

- The new Unit Management Course - try it out
- The Award Scheme revisited
- Recruitment and retention
- Certificate II update
- Event Promotions
- Cliff's surprises
- Any other business

please register online on the vicscouts website under event management.

AG2010 – 26TH / 28TH FEBRUARY 2010

The date for AG for 2010 is Friday Feb 26th til Sunday Feb 28th, not the first weekend in March as previously planned. Change was made by the venue operator. Revamped website will go live shortly.

The latest Vic Venturer news can be found on the website vicventurers.com - check the Calendar page for the latest calendar of courses, events etc and the Newsletters page for current and previous issues of Interchange

ARE YOU IN THE INFO LOOP?

Venturer Web & Resources - www.vicventurers.com
Vic Venturer E News - venturer.news@vicscouts.asn.au
National E News? - www.scouts.com.au/register.asp
Nat Youth E News? - scoutsnyc.com.au/newsletter

Abseiling Participant Course

The Victorian Branch Abseiling Council is conducting a Participant Level Course for Venturers

This course allows you to help on abseiling activities being run by the VBAC and Sub Teams

Venturers can use this to gain their OUTDOORS 2 or PURSUITS

Cost the cost of the course is \$30.00 per head

Location: Emerald Scout Hall

Date 4/5 July 2009

Please send a TR1 to Stanley Stevens BAL Abseiling
9 miner crt Werribee 3030

All TR1's must be received by the 20 June 2009

Other details: this is a self catering course,
accommodations will be at the hall ,

The hall is equipped with a kitchen

All venturers must bring a health form

Further details available from stanleys@aapt.net.au

Young Spokesperson PR training is still on Sun. 23rd August but now known as

PR & MEDIA TRAINING

- ◆ Are you aged between 14 – 26?
- ◆ Are you enthusiastic?
- ◆ Are you committed to Scouting?
- ◆ Are you a good communicator?
- ◆ Are you willing to be the public face of Scouting?
- ◆ Are you willing to take on the challenge of journalists?

If YES, then we just might have the job for YOU.

The motivation behind this is to continue to develop a group of young Scouting people with the skills to become the public media face of Scouting for the future. Many of the participants at the 2006 course were involved in the centenary events during 2007 and 2008.

- There is no fee for this training day.
- Assistance may be available for travel expenses.
- Billeting will be arranged for country based Scouts.
- Limited places, so register your interest direct now c/o or send an email to greg.mcdougall@vicscouts.asn.au

WORKING WITH YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

All are invited to a Special Needs workshop/info day at the Vic. Scout Centre on Sat 20th June, 10am til 4pm.

Guest Speakers on the following:

ADD	ADHD
Autism	Diabetes
Asthmatic	Epilepsy
Allergies	Spectrum Disorder
Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired
Cerebral Palsy	Signing
Challenging Behavior	Aspberger's Syndrome

- Opportunity to seek information about youth members with disabilities in your own District, Group and/or Section.
- Presentation on the 10th Nippon Aagoonaree (Japan) in 2008, including the need for support.
- Service opportunities for Leaders, Rovers & Venturers
- Leaders may use this for their 3 hour training module.

Registration at 10am	Uniformed meeting
BYO Lunch	Parking in car park
Morning tea etc provided	Handouts
Displays	No cost to participants

For registration or information about youth members with disabilities, please contact Charles Medwin OAM (BC Special Needs) on bc.specialneeds@vicscouts.asn.au.

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

The Scout Fellowship provides the opportunity to remain in or re-join the Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch and so be eligible to participate in Scout events with other present and former members. Membership is offered to Leaders who wish membership upon relinquishment of their Certificate and to former or "Booted" Rovers. New applicants must be willing to affirm or re-affirm the Scout Promise, submit for a Police Check

and hold a current Working with Children Card. If interested, call the Victorian Division Chairman, **Bob Goff**: (03 9807 2881).

Members of the Fellowship are often seeking opportunities to assist the current section Leaders or maybe an occasional Scouting task other than with a youth section.

Maybe your Unit or Crew can propose a project for them to consider?

Contact greg.mcdougall@vicscouts.asn.au

VICTORIAN YOUTH COUNCIL

The Branch Commissioners (Youth Program) are developing an ongoing, youth planned and managed, Victorian Youth Council to encourage the involvement of young people in decision making at a State level. Each section will be identifying youth members to form the initial planning group to meet on Saturday 19th September 2009. It is intended that the Youth Council would then meet on a regular basis, and possibly to plan a State Youth Forum in 2010.

The initial planning meeting will be at the Victorian Scout Centre, uniform, lunch and am/pm tea provided, from 10am til 4pm. Country participants will be assisted with transport expenses and billeting. Expressions of interest due by 04/09/09 – successful applicants will be advised by 06/09/09.

If you know of a youth member who may be interested to be involved, please encourage them to register their interest either with their Branch Commissioner or directly via <https://www.vicscouts.asn.au/YouthCouncil>.

LEADER RECEPTIONS & NETWORKING

Receptions have been developed for recently appointed Leaders to meet and network with members of Branch and Region support teams, to understand the support available, and gain an overview of the Scout Centres. The first was held successfully on Wednesday 29th April at the Victorian Scout Centre. Tables were staffed by the 5 youth sections, Training, International, Environment, Heritage, Marketing, and several Adventurous Activities, with the Chief and Assistant Commissioners circulating.

The next Reception is scheduled for Tuesday 30th June at the Western Scout Centre - contact Reception at Vic. Scout Centre during normal business hours on 03 8543 9800 or reception@vicscouts.asn.au or register via: www.vicscouts.asn.au/ldrwestern.

The process will be reviewed in July to determine how best to provide Receptions at country locations.

Final Recommendation Report of National Venturer Youth Forum

held at the 14th Australian Venture, escape,
Fairbridge Village, WA - 13/01/09

Introduction: This is the final report of the National Venturer Youth Forum held at "Escape", the 14th Australian Venture, in January 2009.

There are four parts to the report:

1. The findings of the Forum itself, as written by the delegates to the Forum;
2. Venture feedback and future recommendations from Forum delegates;
3. Comments from the Venturer Suggestion Box;
4. A report from the Forum Coordinator for future forum coordinators and future Venture Organising Committees.

The Youth Forum was held upstairs in the OFA Clubhouse on site at Fairbridge Village (the site of the Venture). The room was an air-conditioned room made available for VIP functions throughout the Venture. The Forum ran between 9am and 5pm on Tuesday 13th January, 2009. It was attended by 24 delegates from each Branch of Scouts Australia. A one-hour pre-Forum briefing was conducted two days prior to the Forum in order to take care of house keeping matters as well as to allow the delegates to select three topics for discussion.

Topic Recommendations Report

Delegates considered six topics, three of which were determined prior to the Venture, and three at the pre-Forum briefing session.

How the topics were selected:

Each Branch was asked to nominate possible topics they would like discussed at the Forum. An online forum on the Escape website was also created for Venturers to put forward issues that they felt needed discussion. Finally, delegates to the youth forum were asked to suggest their ideas for topics when they applied.

The Branch Commissioners for Venturers determined the first three topics from this input at a meeting in October 2008.

At the pre-Forum briefing, Venturers wrote up their issues on sticky notes. Issues were organised into broad topic areas. Each Venturer was allowed three votes to place against their preferred topics. The three highest scoring topics completed the list of six total topics for discussion.

Discussion groups (6 delegates per group) were free to tackle the topics in any order they chose. They were given no hierarchy of importance to the topics. It was

also made clear that they weren't expected to be able to thoroughly tackle all of the topics in the allotted time.

It needs to be understood that the nature of a one day Forum such as this denies the opportunity for participants to perform any research beyond discussions with people in the room. Inaccuracies and assumptions will appear in their discussions and reports. (One of the expectations of communicating the first three Topics to delegates well ahead of the Venture was that delegates could ask for input from fellow Venturers and their Leaders.) Nevertheless, it is worth taking from these statements some understanding of what our members believe to be true.

On the following pages are a summary of discussions and the recommendations for each topic, as written by the delegates themselves in the afternoon of the Forum.

Topic 1 – The Venturer Section Image & Linking

The image of any section in scouting can be vitally important to that most important of factors in running a successful Scout group: numbers. If the image of a section within Scouting is negative, there will be serious repercussions, for example dropping numbers in that section and ultimately the sections above.

Today the Venturer section is perceived in many different ways by different sections. These views vary depending upon the relative position of those in question to venturing.

Of course, the age and experience of anyone viewing Venturing will also determine the perspective taken. For example, to Joeys and Cubs (who may never have met a Venturer outside of having a Youth Helper as a leader or meeting a Venturer who is assisting in running activities on a camp) Venturers appear to be fun, funny, helpful and, on occasion, someone to aspire to be like.

To Scouts, however, who on occasion contact Venturers on a purely social basis (hence the removal of leader/led boundaries present in interactions between Venturers and the younger two sections), Venturers appear quite differently. Scouts see Venturers as a strange mixture of hero and villain. Venturers are heroes to the Scouts as they represent greater freedom than the Scouts are allowed, yet Venturers are also villains as they represent change, strangeness and foreignness. Problems can occur when a certain sort of Scout views Venturers as an excuse to have almost complete freedom which they felt was denied to them in Scouts. Although Venturers are allowed a greater degree of freedom than the Scout section, this does not mean that common social codes are thrown away. Scouts who do not understand this when they link up can cause major issues within the Venturer unit.

When a Rover views the Venturer section, they are looking back from their own experiences. They remember being horrible to Rovers—or remember friends who were horrible to Rovers—and forget that a lot of the time Venturers are also considerate and are people just as much as the Rovers are.

Leaders view Venturers in yet another different way. As there is no prerequisite for Scout leaders to have been members of Scouting, those leaders who were never Venturers view the section in the same way that adults view any teenagers of that age—a bunch of unruly, inexperienced troublemakers with no respect for anyone. Leaders who had previously been Venturers view the section in the same way in which Rovers view the section, unless they are a Venturer leader, in which case they may have a more accurate grasp of what goes on in Venturing. There is also the occasional issue with leaders who treat Venturers as though they were older Scouts or older Cubs. Although some Venturers at the younger end of the spectrum may act like Scouts, older Venturers are closer to being adults and resent being treated as though they were five or ten years younger. This creates tension between Leader and Venturer.

For some people linking can be a traumatic experience. They are the oldest person in their group and are therefore the first one to link; they feel like they have no friends and that everyone already hates them. In some cases the Venturers are not very accommodating. They encourage this view and “terrorize” the other person.

Some units do the exact opposite. They encourage the new persons to join in and have a good time. There cannot be generalization of these behaviours and so any solution applied to ease linking will, by necessity, be one that will work in more than one way. The Venturer section is judged upon what is seen of them. If Venturers are seen “misbehaving”, burning things and running around until all hours of the morning, we will be judged as such by the Scouts, and the main group of Scouts joining Venturers will be interested in such activities, instead of badgework, service or outdoor activities. If Venturers are seen—as Kaleidoscope at the previous two Jamborees has been—as boring, staid or stick-in-the-mud, a Scout will have to have either a very active and enthusiastic Venturer section or a tremendous desire to remain in Scouting to continue on to Venturers. The ideal approach for maximum member retention would therefore be a balanced program of ideas appealing to Scouts of all different personalities. This can be achieved through guidance when linking, tempering Venturer behaviour at Scout events and by running more activities to entice Scouts “up”, like a better Kaleidoscope.

Recommendations

- As the Group’s perceptions of the Section affect the future of the Section, a group committee is a very important place. Group committees are generally made up of parents and leaders. As Scouting is a youth organization it seems only right that youth get a chance to have their say at meetings that affect their time in Scouting. This is why the delegates of the National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that a Venturer go with their leaders to the group council meetings.
- The delegates of the National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 also recommend that each branch create a team of handpicked Venturers to be the core of a team that helps out with branch activities. It is proposed that a process similar to that used to pick people to help out with Kaleidoscope be used to pick these people.
- The delegates of the National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that the kaleidoscope base at the Australian Jamborees be improved to accurately show what Venturers do.
- The delegates of the National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that a handbook for Scouts that are linking be written by Venturers so that linking is easier and less traumatizing for them.

Topic 2 – How could youth involvement in decision making in Scouting be improved?

Background:

Scouts Australia recognizes the need for its under 26 year old members to be involved in decision making at all levels of scouting. Some councils and Committees have appointed young members to ensure that youth members are involved in Scouting’s management, but there are more areas where young members need to be more involved.

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Youth Councils and Forums
- Large Event Planning (i.e. Jamborees, Ventures etc.)

Summary of Discussions:

- Want to see youth members on Jamboree and Venture Organising Committee (age section relevant to event)
- Increase awareness of the presence and work of National and Branch Youth Councils and Forums
- It was suggested that a Youth Member take on the role of contingent leaders (with an application process similar to that of the NYC)
- Not enough youth on region or district councils
- One facilitation group believed that no change was required to current level of youth involvement in the decision making process
- Branch Youth Councils for each Branch
- Make the chair of the Branch Youth Council a full member of the relevant State team

- Overall, groups were quite happy with the current system but believed that there is always room for improvement

Where youth should and shouldn't be involved in decision making

Yes

- Planning of lower section events
- National events
- Scout Magazine
- Promotion of international events
- Local Youth Councils (Region and District Level)
- Planning Meetings
- Promotion of Scouting

No

- Leader training

Recommendations:

The delegates of National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that...

- The National Team and NOC increase promotion of National Youth Councils and Forums
- The National Team and NOC encourage Branch teams to involve youth members in the organization of large events, particularly on JOCs and VOCs
- The National Team and NOC continue involving youth in decision making through current channels
- The National Team and NOC encourage the formation of Branch Youth Councils in every state and territory, and that the chairs of these councils become members of the Branch team

Topic 3 – Breaking the Scouting Stereotype

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Advertising
- Peer pressure
- Public being uninformed

Summary of Discussions:

The delegates of the National Venturer Youth Forum discussed the fact that the advertising created by Scouts Australia is not targeted at the Venturer age group. The current advertising promotes the current stereotype placed on the Scouting Movement.

Many members of the public are not aware that girls can now be part of the Scouting movement within Australia, and can participate in all the same activities. The stereotype also involves the typical image of Scouts, which is the 'old' uniform of khaki, only tying knots and being 'dorky' and 'nerdy'. The public generally presumes that Scouting in Australia, is just like the way that it is like, in the United States of America, and do not fully discover the Australian Scouting movement.

Despite there are only six countries in the world which do not have a Scouting movement, the stereotype does not demonstrate the widely spread love of the Scouting movement.

It was discussed that for Scouts to have good advertising and to leave the stereotype behind, they must be proud of Scouting and their involvement. Although this is difficult as Scouts are often bullied or harassed due to their involvement within the Scouting movement from the likes as peer pressure.

The Forum talked about Scouting, particularly Venturers, has become less adventurous and more social, in certain units around the country. Although this goes against the typical stereotype people do not fully see the social side of Scouting until the time of joining.

The general public does not recognize Venturers as being any different from Scouts, although they are part of the same movement.

Recommendations:

That the National Operations Committee implement the following recommendations.

- A targeted advertising campaign using images from Venturer events, such as Venture, branch events and normal hall nights, or even other activities when Venturers are **not** in uniform and do not portray the stereotypical image of the movement that we want to overcome. It would be preferred for this campaign to be shown in the hours in which Venturer aged youth will be watching television, for example late at night.
- We also recommend that the NOC looks into the possibility and the viability of doing a corporate arrangement with a fast food franchise, such as 'Subway' Restaurants, to retail a small free toy with some of their meals, of perhaps a figuring in Australian Scout uniform, and we could advertise them on our site in return, or come to some other arrangement.

Topic 4 – Communication

Background:

At the Briefing Session for the 14th Venture national Youth forum, Communication was identified as a key issue for discussion. The main focal points included:

- Chat relationships with other Ventures
- Communication on all levels of Scouting and with the Public
- Communication between Scouts around Australia
- Communication between units (eg: In other states and regions)

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Information not reaching Venturers
- Sister units

- E-newsletter/Email System
- Venturer Website

Summary of Discussions:

- One of the major problems as identified by the forum is the communication through the different tiers of Scouting. The current flow of information from National > State > Region > District > Units is inefficient and creates problems for venturers. These problems include; the absence and misrepresentation of certain information, and not receiving information within an acceptable time period. Direct communication to Units from a State/National level would be a better way to distribute this information.
- Sister units were discussed as a possible way of improving communication between Venturers all over Australia. A sister unit system would strengthen the support networks of units and also individual venturers, assisting in the exchange of information and the sharing of ideas. A sister unit would also create strong friendships and bonds with others, which would be beneficial especially to those in remote areas.
- One way of communicating information directly to the venturers themselves would be by the use of an e-newsletter. This would be a more efficient and effective way of distributing important information regarding events, updates to the award scheme and general news relating to Australian venturers. The forum suggests this newsletter be distributed to the leaders of each Venturer unit, to then be passed on to the Venturers.
- The use of the internet is essential to communicate with today's Venturers. In order to harness this tool, a new Australian Venturers website was proposed by the forum. This website would act as a central point for members, containing information on events, resources, news, links, chat rooms (voice and text), forums and any other features as required by the National Team. This could be separate, or in conjunction with, the existing Scouts Australia website.

Recommendations:

- A 'sister unit' system be assessed by the National Team to investigate the advantages, disadvantages and practicality of such a system.
- A national Venturer website be constructed specifically for current members of the venturer section, which includes features as requested by the National Team in conjunction with Venturers themselves.
- An email system, including an e-newsletter, be implemented to distribute information as required.

Topic 5 – Leaders

Background:

At the Venturer youth forum these main ideas were identified:

- The role of Leaders on unit council

- Recruitment of motivated leaders
- The role of leaders within the Venturer section
- Few opportunities to become party leaders
- Attracting and retaining good leaders at the Venturer section
- Getting Venturers/Rovers to be leaders
- Poor Venturer leaders

Topic Breakdown / Sub themes:

- Insufficient leaders
- Training
- Control

Summary of Discussions:

Insufficient leaders:

The need for encouraging younger people to step up as leaders, in the operation of the Venturer unit is the key to address a shortage in leaders. Consequently the forum has found the need to use a variety of sources to assist, for example rovers and an outside volunteer recruitment organization if one such exists to address a leader shortage. Additionally the forum has identified a need for greater recognition of leaders is required in order to retain their valuable contributions to the scout movement.

Training and Control:

The training system for the Venturer section ensures the practices of controlling how the Venturer unit is run is upheld in order to ensure the balance between level of input between the Venturer and Venturer leader is upheld. It is important to note a good Venturer unit involves equal input from the Venturer leader and Venturer. However the forum has identified a need for Venturer leaders to take a step back particularly in the running of a unit council, and take on a role similar to a rover advisor. The forum has also identified the quality of leaders as an important issue and the lack of reporting procedures in place for the Venturer section to use when required.

Recommendations:

The delegates of National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that:

Insufficient leaders:

- Actively seek rovers and young adults to become leaders but be supervised.
- Actively seek help from volunteer recruitment organizations if one such exists to seek help for more leaders.

Training:

- Encourage the leader training material be enforced in the practices of controlling the unit.
- Training offered to perspective rover and Venturers to become leaders before retirement from section.

Control:

- Leader name change to ‘advisor’ and should take on an advisor role similar rover.
- Implementation of an anonymous quality control reporting practices and procedure system in place for Venturer to use.

Topic 6 – Keeping

Venturers – Commitment and Retention

Background:

During the National Venturer Youth Forum meeting the need of retaining Venturers in scouting was identified as being important.

Topic Breakdown:

Events

- Larger state events to continue interest
- Promoting interstate events
- Advertising international events
- Providing support for members to attend events

Programming

- Use websites to help with unit programming ideas
- Maintain a broad range of activities in programming

Recommendations:

- There are larger and more publicly known state and interstate events to continue interest after the Venture.
- Promote funding opportunities to support Venturers in participating in national and international events.
- Provide a location for the uploading and sharing of programs to provide units with ideas and resources for their unit programs.

More, in July Interchange:

- Venture Feedback and Future Recommendations*
- What recommendations do you have for the next Venture (Tasmania 2012 “Wild Dayz”)?*
- Actual Comments*
- What really worked well at this Venture?*
- What recommendations do you have for the next Venture (Tasmania 2012 “Wild Dayz”)?*
- The Venturer Suggestion Boxes*
- Forum Coordinator’s Report*
- Appendix 1 – Forum Program*
- Appendix 2 – Delegate Nomination Form*
- Appendix 3 – Summary Of Topics Submitted*

Bush Fire relief

You will all know of the generosity of Victorians and others in supporting our community with monies and acts of kindness. In past newsletters I have written of the sterling work done by the Rovers and others in organising volunteer labour and disbursement of much needed goods. It is now time to allocate the monies donated to those in need, and I have asked the Executive Manager to oversee this process. *Bob Taylor, Chief Commissioner*

BUSHFIRE FUND DONATION

At the 27th May meeting of the Branch Specialised Activities Council, Manh-Ha Nguyen, (Assistant Branch Commissioner, Multicultural Scouting - Asian Communities) presented a cheque for over \$4,000 to the Chief Commissioner, for the Bushfire Relief Fund. This generous donation was made by the 4 Vietnamese Groups in Victoria – a magnificent gesture!

NEW BADGE Draco Scout Fellowship in the ACT has produced a camp blanket badge as a fundraising activity in support of Victorian Scout Groups that lost buildings, equipment and members in the Black Saturday bushfires. Funds from every badge sold will be donated to either the ACT Chief Commissioner's Fire Appeal or directly to Scouts Victoria.

The badge is based on one of the most important parts of the Scout Promise: "To help other people." The silhouette depicts a volunteer bushfire fighter doing his best to help injured wildlife in a fire-affected area. The yellow background is a memorial to the Cub Scouts from Kinglake Park who lost their lives in the fire, and the yellow ribbon around the Scout logo is a symbol of memory and hope and reminds us all of Scouting's role in supporting and rebuilding communities. The name of the badge, "I Helped Other People", reminds us of the promise that every Member in Australia and the world has made.

The badge cost \$3 each, and \$2 from every sale will be donated to either the ACT Chief Commissioners Fire Appeal, or directly to Scouts Victoria. Order one for yourself, or for every member of your Group! Email dracofellowship@yahoo.com.au with your order and details. They will then advise you on the best payment method and send them out to you.

ALL VICTORIANS ENJOYING SCOUTING

The Vision for Victorian Scouting is "All Victorians enjoying Scouting", and our membership already comprises many diverse cultures and beliefs.

But, can we make Scouting more accessible to Victorians?

There are some opportunities for interested people to further develop our initiatives in:

- **Multicultural Scouting;**
- **Indigenous Scouting; and**
- **Faith Awareness.**

If interested in any of these initiatives, contact

greg.mcdougall@vicscouts.asn.au

Multi Cultural Scouting

On Sunday 17th May a team of Hoadley Region Leaders and Rovers assisted **MAX** at the Buddhist World Peace Blessing Ceremony at Federation Square.

Many thanks to the team and to Stephen Chew for liaising with the event organisers, extending Scouting to the wider community.

MAX with friends, young and not so

Scouting and members of the Multi Cultural Commission



Currently around 20 to 30 children die every year on the transplant waiting list because they don't get a

chance to have a transplant as Australia have far too few donors. For adults, even more die waiting. Parent's of families, sisters, brothers, cousins and next door neighbours are all waiting for that magic phone call, to say they have found a suitable donor.

Concept of Shoelaces Zaidee's Rainbow Shoelaces are our national symbol to create national awareness for this subject and also for the public to reflect their support and wear. Zaidee's Rainbow Shoelaces are sold for just \$2 a pair nationally. We aim to make Zaidee's Rainbow Shoelaces the national symbol for Organ and Tissue Awareness in memory of Zaidee and what she gave so others could live a better life or just to live!

Read Zaidee's web www.zaidee.org

Best wishes – Allan Turner

CEO Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation (Zaidee's Dad).



Monster Raffle - 2009

Congratulations to our lucky winners:

- **1st prize - Toyota RAV4 CV**
Kim Garoni (sold by 7th Doveton),
- **2nd prize - Wish Gift Cards to the value of \$10,000**
Caddie Meredith (Morwell East),
- **3rd prize - Wish Gift Cards to the value of \$5,000**
Joshua Nuzum (4th Knox),
- **4th prize - Snowgum Gift Voucher to value of \$1,000**
Ryan Smith (1st Red Hill)

Overall an amount in excess of \$504,000 was raised by groups and it all goes back to grass root scouting! Thank you to the Scout Foundation for providing the prizes. Group Leaders and Leaders in Charge are asked to send in their outstanding tickets and payment to Scouts Australia, Victorian Branch P O BOX 774 Mount Waverley 3149.

REGENT HONEYEATER PLANTING AND ENVIRONMENT WEEKEND 24-26 JULY To be held at Lurg, near Benalla, where we will spend Saturday planting new box-ironbark habitat for the regent Honeyeater and other threatened animals. Sunday a range of activities will help us learn more about this important habitat. Limited numbers will be able to participate – so book soon.

NATIONAL TREE DAY - SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

If you are not able to participate in the Regent Honeyeater project find a National tree Day activity close to home – visit <http://www.treeday.planetark.com/> to find an activity. National Tree Day activities are held all over Victoria, indeed Australia. While many activities are held over the weekend 1-2 August there are many other dates when Tree day sites have activities planned. If you are close to Victorian Branch Scout Office, the Friends of Scotchmans Creek will be planting just down the road in Mt Waverley.

SCOUT ENVIRONMENT WEEKS SEPTEMBER 2009

If your Group or section is running their own environmental activity - it could be planting, weed removal, rubbish collection, helping a wildlife shelter or one of many other activities – please fill in the [attached form](#), send it in and you will receive a certificate to display in your hall. If you have environmental activities planned for other times of the year – let us know we would like to acknowledge those too.

Annette Cook

Branch Commissioner – Environment

bc.environment@vicscouts.asn.au

Which BC Rovers (Victoria) was recently recognised for achieving 25 years of valuable service to Scouting?

BC ROVERS AWARD

Just a short note to advise that nominations are currently open for the Branch Commissioner's (Rovers) Award.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CARD

The WWC Card is a condition of membership for all members over 18. The following process will now take place to ensure all our members are protected.

- At 17 years and 9 months a Venturer will receive a letter inviting them to attend Rovers and advising of the need to apply for a WWC when they turn 18. It was discussed that you can apply when you are under 18 but most Post Offices don't seem to take the application, so we are advising to wait until you are 18.
- They join Rovers and the RA/Group Leader/Crew Leader provides them with the appropriate paperwork including a WWC application form
- They then have 3 months to apply and provide the receipt number to their Service Centre. If the WWC number is not supplied within that 3 months then their membership will be suspended until such time as they provide the number and they will be required to pay any appropriate fees at that time.
- Assistant Region Commissioners - Rovers will be sent lists of who has been suspended on a monthly basis and they will advise Crews. Rover Advisers are being given access to their Group on extranet so they can see who doesn't have the card and also who is registered. We are working with the extranet team to list each member by Crew so that RA's have access to those not registered with their group

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CARD REGISTRATIONS

There have been a number of instances recently where WWC notifications have been ending up at the wrong address, some in Sydney for instance. Could you please ensure that the address of the organisation (in this case Scouts Victoria) is listed as SCOUTS AUSTRALIA, VICTORIAN BRANCH, 152 FORSTER ROAD, MT WAVERLEY, VICTORIA 3149 so that we receive the appropriate advice following processing from the Department of Justice.

Craig Whan, Branch Commissioner - Rovers



SurveyMonkey.com
because knowledge is everything.

The survey can be found here

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=PbHOWGX7fW66devBbYi3Qg_3d_3d

BOGONG BULLETIN AUTUMN ISSUE is now available
www.bogongroverchalet.org.au/aboutUsBulletin.html

Snow has already fallen on the Bogong High Plains, and like every year a great snow season is predicted! The Alpine Rover Crew email list which is used to distribute the Bogong Bulletin, as well as occasional messages from the Bogong Chalet Management Group is now administrated from the Victorian Rovers server. Members can now subscribe, unsubscribe and change their email details by joining the Vic Rovers Website at www.vicrovers.com/index.php?option=com_registration&task=register

Ski Fun Day

The Alpine Rover Crews annual day trip will be held at Lake Mountain on Sunday 26th July. After devastating bushfires burnt through the region this year it is an opportunity to help the Marysville and the entire Murrindindi area recover from the Black Saturday bushfire by going skiing. Help even more by hiring skis locally, buying lunch, or maybe even staying the night in the region.

Winter Parties

There are still plenty of places left in Winter Parties, so get your applications in pronto!

Half Weeks!

The BCMG has decided to offer Half Week Winter Parties this year over the week 10 period. Two options are offered, from Saturday 29th August to Wednesday 2nd September and Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th September.

Operating like a regular winter party, only shorter, they will offer great spring skiing for those who can only get a few days off work. Half weeks will not be available for any other winter party. Apply on the regular application form from www.bogongroverchalet.org.au

Luke Moore, Chairman

Alpine Rover Crew, Bogong Rover Chalet

The BIG BURGER CHALLENGE 2009

What is it?

A Two Day Event where the Dandenong Venturer Unit is challenging you to make a bigger & better burger than they can.

What do you need?

BYO Everything

When is it?

Saturday 25th – Sunday 26th July 2009

Booking In commences at 12.00 noon, Cooking begins at dusk.

Where is it?

Harkaway Scout Camp, Chadwick Rd. Harkaway, Melways 210 A 6/7

What are the Rules?

1. Single Burger Bun.
2. Raw Ingredients Only.
3. **All** food to be cooked on the night.
4. Burger **must** be eaten.
5. Multiple levels of ingredients allowed
6. Burger must be 'free standing'
7. Teams up to 10 max.
8. No restriction on number of teams per Unit/Crew.

Burger Judging Criteria

Height, Weight & Presentation

Prizes

Trophies for Tallest, Heaviest, Presentation and Champion Burger
(also gets 100 + Chuppa Chupps)
and the Perpetual Trophy

Prizes awarded at Final Parade
10.00 a.m, Sunday

Entry Fee payable on the night
\$20.00 per Team

Contacts are:

Chris 0425 710 077 - cira@ihug.com.au
Goatee (Ian) 0401 878 355 - goateeavl@live.com

BIG BURGER CHALLENGE 2009

Dandenong Venturer Units Annual Big Burger Challenge has had to have a change of format as it is getting to popular to hold at our Scout hall, where we have limited space and limited cooking area for the 12 teams of up to 15 Venturers / Rovers and Guides that attended the 2008 Challenge.

For this reason we have relocated to Harkaway Scout Camp, Chadwick Rd. Harkaway (Melways Reference 210 A 6/7), for the weekend of July 24th – 25th. We have decided to make it an overnight activity as we had Units from Redhill and even Bendigo come over to participate and we thought they might like the time to relax after eating their creations.

To do this, sign in starts at 12 noon on the Saturday, to give teams time to set up their campsites, ready to start cooking at dusk (about 5pm). Judging happens as each team finishes, eating commences shortly thereafter in the "Dinning Room"

Teams up to a maximum of 10 are allowed but each Unit / Crew can have multiple teams. \$20 entry per team which covers camping costs and trophies and prizes awarded. Results will be published in August Interchange.

For further details contact Goatee or Chris on
0401 878 355 – goateeavl@live.com
or 0425 710 077 - cira@ihug.com.au

See you all there with a decent appetite!!

*Goatee and Chris
Dandenong Venturers*

Hoadley Hide 2010 Stranger than Fiction

Best Stunt of All Time Hoadley Hide 2010

Congratulations to Craigieburn Rover Crew for the best stunt in 2009 and Alpha Theta for best stunt in 2008 and in particular for sharing their thoughts in the last interchange about how to create a really good stunt. But what was the best stunt of all time and what made it so good?

Would you like to nominate such a stunt for overall recognition?

Nominate the stunt you enjoyed most as a Venturer or one which you enjoyed running. Tell us a bit about so we can pass it on to those thinking that they might try a stunt next year – give them some inspiration.

In the meantime remind your local Venturers how much fun you had and help them along the way by offering a “How to win the Hoadley Hide” session to add to their program.

You can post feedback to the Hide Chief at dgri4717@bigpond.net.au, to the website at www.hoadleyhide.com or look for Hoadley Hide, now on Facebook.

Regards,

David Griffiths,

dgri4717@bigpond.net.au

A Reminder re some April Youth Issues

1. *Have a say on Global Poverty*
<http://www.youth.gov.au/ayf>
2. *Young Social Pioneers Australia*
www.youngsocialpioneers.org.au
3. *7th Australian National L'ship Camp*
www.risinggenerations.org.au - closes 26 June
4. *Redkite scholarship for young people*
www.redkite.org.au – closes 18th May, 2009.
5. *Childwise* www.childwise.net
6. *Understanding Generation Y*

Description	Born	Age	Million	(%)
Seniors	Before 1925	77+	0.94	5%
Builders	1926–1945	57 – 76	2.75	15%
Boomers	1946–1964	38 – 56	4.75	25%
Gen X	1965–1981	21 – 37	4.83	26%
Gen Y	1982–2000	2 – 20.5	15	28%
Gen Z	2001+	<20	25	1%

HOW CAN WE BETTER COMMUNICATE WITH THEM?

- *Traditional talk and chalk won't work with this generation.*
- *Our communication style is structured, yet they want freedom.*
- *We stress learning, they like experiencing. We react, they relate.*
- *We focus on the individual, while they are socially driven.*
- **Four essentials to consider when engaging with youth today:**

REAL: *Not only must our communication style be credible, but we must be also. They don't expect us to know all about their lifestyle, nor do they want us to embrace their culture. They are simply seeking understanding, and respect. If our communication has a hidden agenda, or we are less than transparent, it will be seen. This generation can sniff a phoney from a long distance.*

RAW: *Today's youth have access to the most advanced technology, movie special effects, and video games with which we can never compete. But the good news is that they are not impacted by slick presentations. They don't want a rehearsed talk, or a manufactured spiel. The more spontaneous and interactive we are in the classroom, the less intimidated, and more open they will be.*

RELEVANT: *Obviously what we are communicating has to fall within their area of interest. But the style, as well as the content of our message must be relevant to a generation who are visually educated and entertained. There is no point in giving music to a friend on a cassette tape if they only have a CD player, or on CD if they only use MP3. Similarly we must research in the most appropriate format for those we are reaching. So in understanding the communication styles of our target cohort we will be better equipped to reach them.*

RELATIONAL: *There is an old and true saying in education circles: “They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!” Communicating to this generation requires openness, vulnerability, and genuine interest in those we are trying to teach, and above all else, understanding. The more relaxed the environment, and the more socially conducive to discussions; the better will be the quality of the learning.*

A FINAL WORD:

Whether we are involved in educating youth, or in a leadership role, a quality outcome is dependent on our understanding of them - once we have a foundational grasp of their characteristics, communication styles, and social attitudes.

Have you acted on any of these?

Does everyone in your CRUNIT have an opportunity to See/Read INTERCHANGE each month?

Why not suggest they check this list off as they pass it on.

UNIT CHAIRMAN	CREW LEADER
VENTURER LEADER	ROVER ADVISER
SECRETARY	SECRETARY
TREASURER	TREASURER
---	---
---	---
GROUP LEADER	GROUP LEADER
FINALLY, THE UNIT LIBRARY	FINALLY, THE CREW LIBRARY

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To be held at Lurg, near Benalla, where we will spend Saturday planting new box-ironbark habitat for the regent Honeyeater and other threatened animals. Sunday a range of activities will help us learn more about this important habitat. Limited numbers will be able to participate – so book soon – more info inside.

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