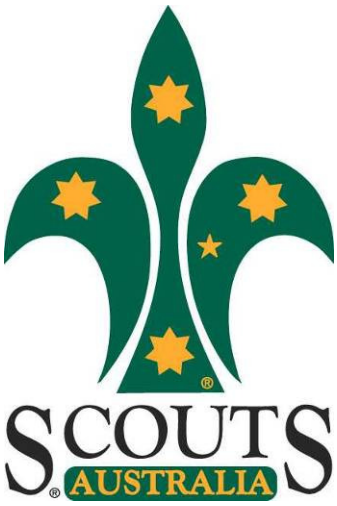
Scouts Australia



Final Recommendation Report of the

National Venturer Youth Forum

held at the 14th Australian Venture

escape

Fairbridge Village, WA
13th January, 2009

Stephen Tyas
National Adviser – National Youth Council and Youth Forums
24th January, 2009

Contents

CONTENTS 2
INTRODUCTION 3
THANK YOU 3
DELEGATES 4
FACILITATORS 4
SPECIAL GUESTS 5
TOPIC RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT 6
TOPIC 1 – THE VENTURER SECTION IMAGE & LINKING 7
Recommendations 8
TOPIC 2 – HOW COULD YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING IN SCOUTING BE IMPROVED? 9
Recommendations: 9
TOPIC 3 – BREAKING THE SCOUTING STEREOTYPE 10
Recommendations: 10
TOPIC 4 – COMMUNICATION 11
Recommendations: 11
TOPIC 5 – LEADERS 12
Recommendations: 12
TOPIC 6 – KEEPING VENTURERS – COMMITMENT AND RETENTION 13
Recommendations: 13
VENTURE FEEDBACK AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS 14
Executive Summary 14
Actual Comments 14
THE VENTURER SUGGESTION BOXES 17
FORUM COORDINATOR'S REPORT 18
FORUM FORMAT 18
Recommendations 18
BUDGET 18
Recommendation 19
DELEGATE SELECTION 19
Recommendations 19
TOPIC SELECTION 20
Recommendations 20
VENTURE SUPPORT 20
Recommendations 21
APPENDIX 1 – FORUM PROGRAM 22
APPENDIX 2 – DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM 23
APPENDIX 3 – SUMMARY OF TOPICS SUBMITTED 24

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.

Thank You

I would like to thank the following people for their outstanding support in the organisation and running of the Forum:

- Jade Elliott – Chairman, National Youth Council, Assistant Forum Coordinator, MC
- Scott Sargant – Chairman, Venture Organising Committee (as well as for his occasional advice as previous National Youth Forums coordinator)
- Carina Kemp - Marketing Director, VOC
- David Kelly – Sites and Services Director, VOC
- Barry Green - Administration Director, VOC
- Stephen Smart – Database Administrator, Venture Administration Directorate
- All other members of the Venture Organising Committee directorates who helped me in many ways over the course of the Venture.
- Mavis Ives - Branch Commissioner Venturers, WA
- Cliff Dent – Branch Commissioner Venturers, Victoria
- Greg McDougal – previous Branch Commissioner Venturers, Victoria
- Donna McDermott – Branch Commissioner Venturers, Tasmania
- Steve Palmer – Branch Commissioner Venturers, South Australia
- Phil McNicol – Branch Commissioner Venturers & Contingent Leader, Queensland
- Charles Watson – State Commissioner Venturers, NSW
- Michael "Max" McDonnell – Branch Commissioner Venturers, ACT
- Julie Creed - National Commissioner Youth Program, Scouts Australia
- Emma Barker - International Commissioner, Scouts Australia
- John Ravenhall - Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia
- Peter Blatch – National Project Commissioner (Chair National Venturer Review)
- Andrew Millen – Contingent Leader, NSW
- Dot McCullagh – Contingent Leader, Tasmania (and previous BC Venturers, Tasmania)
- Supporting Members of National Youth Council – Braidy Ould, Sophie Huchet, Andi Gannaway

Delegates

Delegates are to be congratulated for volunteering a day of the Venture Experience for the future benefit of Scouting & Venturing in Australia:

Name	Contingent	Home Unit
Genevieve Abbott	Vic	Tarwin River
Charlotte Baker	NSW	1st Bulli
Ayden Bauer	NSW	West Pennant Hills
David Giles	SA	Twin Peaks - Mt Lofty
Mike Hall	NT	
Jacob Hedger	Vic	1st Deer Park
Nathan Herholdt	WA	3rd Karratha
Stephanie Higham	WA	1st Subiaco
Pelham Holland	Tas	Mersey
Celeste Huntley	NSW	1st Kanwal
Callie Kennedy	Qld	Stanthorpe
Michael Kurtanjek	Vic	1st West Waverley / Koorunga
Matthew Kusi-Appauh	NSW	1st Austinmer
Freya Lamacraft	SA	Tangent
Nick Linde	Qld	Stafford
Quinn McGuinness	WA	Byford
Samantha Roald	ACT	Erindale
Tim Sargent	Tas	Hellyer
Jessica Shea	ACT	Red Rock
Tahlia Siddall	Tas	Eastern Shore
Annalise Taylor	Qld	Caboolture
Caitie Thorne	Vic	Pakenham
Hannah Zurcher	ACT	Southwell

Facilitators

Thank you to the following people who's support of the Forum as facilitators was exceptional:

Name	
Jade Elliott	Chairman, National Youth Council (NSW)
Nathan Delaney	Rover, National Youth Council (Victoria)
Delshard Mozhdehinia	Rover, National Youth Council (WA)
Reg Williams	Branch Venturer Scout Coordinator, Tasmania

Special Guests

Thanks to the following guests who attended the final presentations of recommendations at the forum:

John Ravenhall	Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia
Reg Williams	Chief Commissioner Designate, Scouts Australia
Julie Creed	National Commissioner Youth Program, Scouts Australia
Alyssa Pears	Chair, National Rover Council
Scott Sargant	Chairman, Venture Organising Committee
John Derbyshire	Chief Commissioner, South Australia
Sue Mitchell	Chief Commissioner, WA
Bob Taylor	Chief Commissioner, Victoria
Mavis Ives	Branch Commissioner Venturers, WA
Michael (Max) McDonnell	Branch Commissioner Venturers, ACT
Steve Palmer	Branch Commissioner Venturers, SA
Phil McNicol	Branch Commissioner Venturers, Queensland
Cliff Dent	Branch Commissioner Venturers, Victoria
Bruce Ellis	Assistant Branch Commissioner Venturers, Victoria
Ben Keily	Contingent Leader, ACT
Faye Burgess	Contingent Leader, SA
Andrew Millen	Contingent Leader, NSW
Gary Steinhardt	Contingent Leader, Victoria
Mari Nakano	Scout Association Japan
John Shelley	Assistant Group Leader, Flagstaff Hill, SA
Paul Marnane	Venturer Scout Leader, Queensland

Sincere apologies were received from:

Emma Barker	International Commissioner, Scouts Australia
Paul Parkinson	National Commissioner Adult Training and Development, Scouts Australia
Peter Blatch	National Project Commissioner, Scouts Australia (Chairman of the National Venturer Review)
Dot McCullagh	Contingent Leader, Tasmania

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.

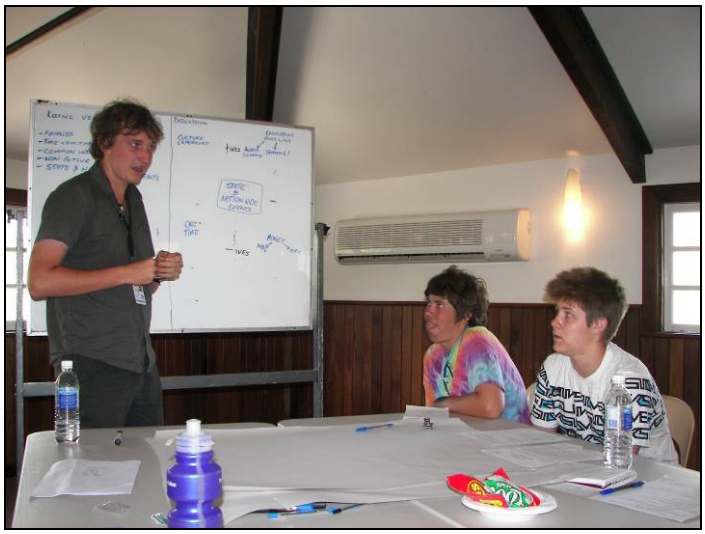
The Branch Commissioners for Venturers determined the first three topics from this input at a meeting in October 2008.

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	No
▪ 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	▪ 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:

The delegates of National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that the National Operations Committee implement the following recommendations.

1. *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.*
2. *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' Restraunts, 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:

The delegates of National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that:

- 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:

The delegates of National Venturer Youth Forum 2009 recommend that:

- *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.*

Venture Feedback and Future Recommendations

Executive Summary

The Forum delegates were asked the following questions and responded in writing:

- What really worked well at this Venture?
- What recommendations do you have for the next Venture (Tasmania 2012 "Wild Dayz")?

Overall, Venturers were extremely satisfied with the organisation of the event. Many positive comments were written about the activities, both on and offsite, during phase two of the Venture. Expeditions received very positive comments, with some commenting specifically on the organisation and quality of leaders on their own expedition. Evening entertainment also had positive reviews, although some suggested entertainment and activities run later into the night. Barcode scanning on/off site, and the activity booking system were noted by some Venturers as being smooth and well implemented.

One comment "No curfew! Then its my own fault if I'm tired" suggests that Venturers appreciated being given responsibility to make their own decisions during the Venture.

Food had mixed reviews. Some Venturers recognised the difficulty of feeding a 1000 person event, while others were disappointed with quantity, the general quality, and the availability of special meals. Flexible meal times were appreciated by Venturers.

Comments about the site of the Venture mainly related to the sand on the campsite and the state of toilets and showers. More regular cleaning of amenities was consistently mentioned in feedback for future Ventures. One Venturer suggested toilet wardens be used. The swimming pool was appreciated, although some also requested more shade (both on the campsite and around the rest of the site).

The lead up to the Venture received little comment, although one indicated communication was good and another suggested more communication was necessary. Some concerns were raised about the availability and accuracy of information about the site, the activities, and the expeditions, leading up to the Venture.

Actual Comments

What really worked well at this Venture?

The variety of activities.
No curfew
Being allowed so much freedom.
Expeditions
The site, except sand.
The offsites.
The onsites.
The food.
4wd – awesome!
meal times – we walked in, ate and left.
No curfews! Then its my own fault if I'm tired.
free coffee
Roverscope – multiplayer Wii ☺
Time to consume food in.
Good DJ!
Rides, Carnival
meal times
The expeditions were really well planned.
Expeditions = amazingly well organised, great, leaders and authoritarian positions were well thought out so that all bases are covered in organisations.
Onsite activities/general onsite = variety and a lot of free choice, well organised.
The offsite activities.
The passes for public transport.
The offsite activities worked really well and the dining facilities also worked very well.
The Amazing Race expedition worked really well as did the expeditions with a variety of activities over three days.
The expeditions worked well and the location of the Diving 101 site was great.
Offsite activities
Expeditions

The mess hall ☺ Crowded but not too crowded
The internet café was slow but good.
Amazing Race expedition
Roverscope
Offsite options
Keep up the good work.
Expeditions
The chick in for offsite
Organisation
The check in and out system
The running of the expedition and off site organisation
Expeditions – TALL SHIPS FANTASTIC
Carnival
Organisation of activities, expeditions or travel.
Information sent out to contingents. All Venturers knew what was going on.
First Aid is fantastic.
Meal times. Although waiting in line is no fun.
Food has been good
Offsite bookings
Youth forum
Onsite pool (due to the heat)
NSW Pre Tour
I pretty much liked everything. Some people complained about the food but I thought it was pretty good for a camp this size.
Random, strange, weird, spontaneous things!!!
The Barcode Tags
Most of the Entertainment
Expeditions
Expeditions
Barcode, scanning in and out
Food.
Working in small groups at the youth forum.
Being able to swap offsite activities.
The ability to find out about the new award scheme.
The program worked well.
The pool party.
Every1 is having fun.
The check in and out system for offsite.
The expedition and the leaving/arrival from it.

What recommendations do you have for the next Venture (Tasmania 2012 "Wild Dayz")?

Entertainment could be better.
We need more time to explore the onsite stuff.
Music over the PA needs to be chosen more like it was at AJ07. ie. You can request songs.
No sand.
Food was way too expensive.
More showers.
More DJs
Grass
Grass!!!
Toilet clean!
Varied food.
Not in Tas. Please.
Never, ever have a sand campsite. Ever.
Camping site could be improved.
More eco friendly (not using disposable plates, cups, cutlery)
Cleaner toilets & showers
No more blue tshirts!
More fixed toilets and showers.
More Rover activities
More random, strange, weird, and spontaneous things!!!!! :D
Larger contingent areas.
Clean toilets.
Variety for lunch.
Toilets cleaned more frequently, including initiatives such as toilet wardens outside showers.
Security STOPPING noise in tent lines at night.
Turning music down after 11pm
Need a bouncy castle.
Generators for lights away from tents.
More shops.
Cheaper food and drinks.
No shade in tent lines making it difficult to find leaders if
No sand
Have a dust free camping ground
Better organisation of offsite activities such as change of activities choices.
Different lunches offsite
Figuring out a liability form or similar so clothing etc isn't pushed by leaders. – Venturers can look after THEMSELVES
Need desert on expeditions
Decent toilets
Decent levels of shade on site
Less expeditions involving sand &/or beach.
Food needs top be better, more variety, amount of food (morning and afternoon tea)
Better bands (play own songs)
Play music later at night.
Activities later at night.
Better bathrooms eg toilets showers
More variety of food
Better live entertainment.
More info to go to Leaders, not just to Branch. Also direct to Venturers.
Better toilets (clean) showers.
Improved catering with more diverse range of food and better preparation of special diets.
Clean, well prepared (with toilet paper holders etc.) toilets and more regular cleaning/replacing of toilet stuff.
The food needs to be altered and menu changed for people with allergies or dislikes.
Hygiene is a problem. Toilets/showers need to be changed regularly (daily/ 2x daily).
Curfew lights time.
Better food at Fairbridge and on expeditions.
Better promotion of what is actually at the Venture (ie.

required.
Showers and toilets not very adequate.
More food more often. Bigger serves etc.
More variety with in meals, especially on expeditions.
More shaded areas.
Theme nights, even if its only a tent with this happening.
Cleaner and bigger pool.
Better transport organisation.
Better entertainment.
ID tags that are more stronger in that the bar codes etc don't rub off.
Facilities etc)
Blurb for activities should have been more detailed and accurate.
Everything is closing early while leaders are still awake.
Why cant they supervise some quiet activities until at least 12.
Some of the toilets were not kept clean. Did not have toilets. at AV09, I would like to see a change.
Better food.

The Venturer Suggestion Boxes

At the National Team table in the Contingent HQ, a Venturer Suggestion box was setup for Venturers and Leaders to make suggestions about the future of Venturing. Below are the comments, in verbatim, received.

Invite more Kiwi

Do NOT put too much emphasis on the actual "knots, poles & hiking" side of Scouting. Most Scouts I know are in it for other reasons.
Don't make it look too "cheery outdoors robots" when you make ads. People do not want to be a part of that. People join because of their parents or because of their friends, not because they have it forced down their throats.
Ease up.
*Just tell people to haite [sic] friends to Scouts. Make more wristbands, stickers, gear. It intrigues people. No pressure, no zombies. Just fun.**

** unless, of course, for you fun = zombies.*
Just thought I'd make sure.

The old Uniform.

The new uniform sucks.

I want Sea Scout Badge on Uniform.

Need more support for Units to get started. Too many units die because of no prior planning or lack of activities.

Forum Coordinator's Report

Forum Format

The Forum was held from 9am – 5pm on one day of the Venture. A one hour briefing was conducted in the evening, two days prior to the Forum, to get introductions and house keeping out of the way and allow maximum time for topic discussion.

The outline of the forum day (refer Appendix 1), involved a morning of discussion time (about 3.5 hours), report writing time after lunch (about 2 hours), and a formal (in uniform) presentation of findings at the end of the day. Only half of the delegates were needed for the report writing phase.

Delegates worked in groups of 6 (mixed Branches) to discuss and record their ideas. This worked well as it allowed delegates to express a view to a small group. Ideas from all teams were put together into topic groups for the report writing phase.

Six topics were covered in the forum. Although emphasis was placed on groups tackling the topics in any order and that it wasn't expected that they got through all the topics, most groups were able to do so. The Venturers participating in the report write-up were also able to complete the task within the allotted time.

It is important that youth members who are prepared to volunteer their day instead of participating in other, possibly more exciting, activities of the Venture, be recognised for their contributions. Certificates were issued, however a more local thank you ought to be considered.

Recommendations

1. That future Venturer Youth forums retain this existing format.

2. Delegates should be recognised and thanked by the respective Branches for their contributions to the Forum.

Budget

The approximate cost of coordinating the Forum consisted of:

Postage	$44.00
Envelopes	$10.00
Certificate Paper	$20.00
Mints	$10.00
Photocopying	$15.00
TOTAL	**$99.00**

Note that pens, chart paper, etc. were supplied by the Venture as well as from left over equipment from previous forums. Catering of the Forum was covered by the Venture also (morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea). The cost of these items is unknown.

Recommendation

1. An amount of $100 is set aside in the Venture Budget for the future running of the youth forum (consideration of inflation may need to be performed). Additional funds will need to be set aside for catering and supply of consumables.

(Note that travel expenses and Venture attendance fees for the Forum Coordinator were covered by the National Office out of the Youth Program budget.)

Delegate Selection

The countdown to the Forum was kicked-off at the National Venturer Programming Meeting held at the National Office in Chatswood NSW in late November 2007. This meeting was attended by Branch Commissioners for Venturers, National Commissioner Youth Program, and Chief Commissioner Scouts Australia. A general outline of the plan for the Forum was presented at this meeting and a request for Branches to begin finding delegates was made.

The opportunity to speak at this meeting was an excellent opportunity to discuss the Forum.

Coincidently, the National Venturer Review was being conducted in 2006 - 2008 which meant additional meetings were conducted allowing extra opportunities for the Forum Coordinator to meet with Branch Commissioners. (Thanks to the chair of the Review, Peter Blatch, for allowing me some time at these meetings). This is unlikely to be the case in future Venturer Forums.

Despite this good start, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining Delegate nominations from Branches. Only Western Australia and Tasmania had submitted Delegates by the due date. Victoria, ACT, Queensland and South Australia supplied Delegates shortly after the due date. Mail-outs to registered Delegates in all Branches, except NSW & NT, occurred well ahead of Contingents' departure dates for the Venture. With thanks to the their contingent leader, 4 delegates were obtained for NSW at the start of the Venture. A member of the NYC from Northern Territory offered to be a part of the forum, ensuring all states and territories were represented.

For the Forum to be truly representative, the delegates need to have the opportunity to discuss the topics with other Venturers prior to the Forum. Unfortunately, this was not able to occur for delegates from NSW or NT as they did not receive any relevant information prior to arriving on site.

It was noted, however, that some Branches who made some extra effort to promote the Forum very close to departure received a lot of interest (Queensland, WA, and Victoria reported late interest). This could be due to youth members seeing the forum as more relevant once they knew they were imminently going to the Venture.

Recommendations

1. That the Forum Coordinator attends the Venturer Programming Meetings in the two years prior to the Venture to ensure all Branch Commissioners understand the concept and expectations on them for the Forum.

2. That Branch Commissioners endeavour to cooperate in providing details of delegates well in advance of the Venture.

3. The Youth Forum Coordinator should set a due date for delegate nominations as late as practically possible. Late November would be a possibility so that a mail out could occur at the beginning of

December with Forum Details (including chosen topics). It will be important to consider that Venturer Units will stop meeting around mid-December.

Topic Selection

Also at the Venturer Program Meeting in November 2007, a request was made to submit ideas for topics of discussion at the Venturer Forum. Branches were invited to submit topics at any time via email to the Forum Coordinator.

Resulting from a suggestion at this meeting, an online forum on the Escape website was created for Venturers to put forward issues that they felt needed discussion. Whilst this was not a hugely popular section of the Escape website, a number of ideas were gathered for consideration. This was a useful exercise.

Delegates to the Youth Forum were also asked to suggest their ideas for topics when they applied.

The Branch Commissioners for Venturers determined the final list of topics from all these inputs at a meeting in October 2008.

Three topics were reserved to be decided at the briefing session two nights before the Forum. This worked well as it gave ownership of topics to the forum delegates and allowed burning issues to be discussed.

Recommendations

1. That the Forum Coordinator attend the Venturer Program Meeting in the year prior to the Venture to collect and finalise topics.

2. To use an online forum for collection and discussion of topic ideas from the general Venturer population.

3. Continue to allow both Branch Commissioners and Venturers themselves to select topics of discussion.

Venture Support

The Venture provided excellent support to the Youth Forum at all levels and a special thanks needs to be given to all directors of the Venture Organising Committee and their teams. All requests were seen to promptly.

Initial contact with the Venture Chairman was made in May 2007, eighteen months prior to the event. This proved to be a good lead time to ensure the Venture Organising Committee and Youth Forum Coordinator were able to put together a successful Forum.

Read Only access to the Venture database was provided. This was a useful tool in cross checking the delegates for correct spellings, and most usefully, to collect Venture unit numbers. This helped improve the running of the Forum, especially in communicating with the delegates. Future Venture Forums could take this a step further by including relevant Forum fields into the Venture database to remove duplicating of data such as addresses etc.

Other useful support from the Venture Organising Committee included:

- Inserting a memo to all Forum delegates into the welcome bag received at the Venture check-in on Day 1.
- Providing a location and resources (tables, paper, pens, whiteboards, etc.) to the Forum.
- Assisting with communication with delegates, such allowing Forum Coordinator to attend Line Leaders meetings.
- Printing, photocopying, etc.

Recommendations

1. Initial discussions to begin with the Venture Organising Committee within two years of the next Venture, and that a forum liaison be appointed from the committee. This could be the chairman, if appropriate.

Note: An approach has already been made to the Chair of the 2012 Venture (Tasmania) to ensure that the Youth Forum is included in relevant planning for the event.

2. Integration of the Forum into the Venture database. Specifications would need to be written and submitted 18 months prior to the event.

3. Maintain good relations and communications between Forum Coordinator and Venture Organising Committee to ensure positive outcomes for the Forum.

Appendix 1 – Forum Program

Sunday 11th January (Venture Day 8)

7.00pm – 8.00pm Pre-Forum Briefing Session for all delegates.
Explain the whys and history.
Discuss logistics, discussion topics & background, organise groups, meet facilitators, meet each other. Select one or two more topics.
Plan for 20 delegates organised in to 4 groups of 5. Plan for 6 topics.
WA BC to speak.

Tuesday 13th January (Venture Day 10) MC – Jade/Steve

8.45am Registration

9.00am Welcome (Julie/John may speak)
Introduction of Guests (National/NRC/NYC/Branches/Venture/etc)
Reminder of outline and goals of the day.

9.10am Break off into facilitation groups for topic discussion.
Each group to tackle topics in their own choice of order.
Each group has 3 ½ hours to cover 6 topics.

10.30am Morning Tea Break
NYC Presentation at approx. 10.50am

10.00am Resume topic discussion.

12.30pm Lunch Served.

1.15pm Final Facilitation Session

1.45pm Bring together groups for final discussion.
Assign pairs plus facilitator to each topic. (12 delegates and 6 facilitators)

2.00pm Begin report writing. 2 hours to complete. (Rehearse presentation if time)

3.15pm All Delegates return in full uniform & help setup for presentation.
Location will be downstairs from Forum venue

3.45pm VIPs begin arriving.
Afternoon tea served for all participants plus VIPs.

4.00pm Introductions inc. Reg W.
Forum Report presentation to National Team/NYC/Branches/Venture Team/NRC
Reply from National/Branches/Venture

5.00pm Final thankyous. Certificate presentation.
Where to from here?
Group Photo

8 hour day:
3 ½ hours discussion time
2 hours report writing time
1 hour presentation
1 ½ meals and misc.

Appendix 2 – Delegate Nomination Form

National Venturer Scout Youth Forum
Escape, January 2009

DELEGATE NOMINATION

Return this form to your Branch Commissioner Venturer Scouts by **Friday October 3rd, 2008.**	Questions? Contact Steve Tyas – Email: nyc.adviser@scouts.com.au Mobile: 0424 594 432 (Vic, time zone!) Or your BC Venturer Scouts

First Name:	Last Name:	Membership No.:
Postal Address:		Male / Female
Contact Phone:	Mobile:	
Email:		
Venturer Unit:	Branch/Contingent:	
Dietary Requirements:		
A Topic You Would Like To Discuss and Why:		

I **am** / **am not** attending Escape 2009.

I understand that this is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the development of Venturing and Scouting in Australia, and that as a contingent delegate I will be representing Venturers from my state or territory.

I will conduct myself at all times in accordance with the principles of the Scout Law and Promise and will do my best to be an active and worthy contributor to this forum.

Signed: **Date:**

Endorsement (BC Venturer Scouts)

Name: Position:

Signed: Date:

Form V4 20/01/2009 10:24:09 PM

Feel free to photocopy multiple copies.

E:\Data\National\Venture 2009\NVYF09 Delegate Registration Form V4.doc

Appendix 3 – Summary Of Topics Submitted

May 2008

- How do we get Venturers to engage in National & International events? – Scott Sargant via Julie

June 2008

- Youth Health Issues
- Community Involvement
- Linking

My Ideas

- How could youth input into decision making in Scouting be improved? (pre reading – McGrath & McCormick)
- Venture Feedback

Online Forum

- Qualifications for going on Expeditions (Magnuswb) / Adventurous Activity training for Venturers (Clob)
- Uniform Issues: Wearing the highest award in each section (Braidy)
- Advertising to outsiders (Braidy / Vanillao0o Laura / Steve - Ldr) / Breaking Scouting Stereotype (Quinn)
- How to make a good Venturer program and market it to others (Steve - Ldr)
- Leader filtering (Steve - Ldr)
- Inconsistencies in Training Levels across states (Steve – Ldr)

Delegate Submitted Ideas

- Getting involved in the woder Scouting community
- Leader filtering ofg ability
- Image of Venturer Section held by leaders and the Scout section.
- What it means to be a Scout
- Venturers not doing enough Scouting activities
- Scouting image
- Service
- Honour system
- New award scheme
- Scout uniform
- Leader subsidies
- The year of the Scout adverstising campaign
- Technology
- The Queen's Scout Award when Australia become a republic
- Lones Venturers