










## South African Rover Scout Indabas (SARSI) and Moots

A SARSI is a gathering of Rovers from all over South Africa with a formal Conference to discuss Roving with Crews submitting items for discussion on the Agenda. The get-together also includes some enjoyable visits to local places of interest.

### A Timeline of South African Rover Scout Indabas (SARSI)

1931	Date: 2 – 5 April - Easter Venue: Lexdon, Pietermaritzburg <a href="#">Report</a>	
1934	Date: 30 March – 2 April - Easter Venue: Glencairn, Cape Town Participants: 100 Rovers from all parts of the Union  The Glencairn Camp was attended by nearly 100 Rovers from all parts of the Union have assembled to discuss matters of Scouting importance.  <a href="#">Photos</a>	
1937	Date: 26 – 29 March - Easter Kroonstad, OFS Unfortunately no additional information found.	
1948	Date: 26 – 29 March - Easter Venue: East London Participants: 110  <a href="#">Photos</a>	
1950	Date: 7 – 10 April - Easter Venue: Irene, Pretoria Participants: 158  <a href="#">Photos</a>  <a href="#">Report</a>	
1953	Date: 3 – 6 April – Easter Venue: Matoppo Hills near Bulawayo Southern Rhodesia  <a href="#">Report</a>	
1955	Date: 8 – 11 April – Easter Venue: Lexdon, Pietermaritzburg  It was still a semi-rural part of Pietermaritzburg and as one Scouter recalls, one had to lock away your food to stop the monkeys stealing it.	
1965	Date: 3 – 10 October Venue: Rugged Glen, Drakensberg, Natal  Unfortunately no additional information found.	

1969	<p>Date: 9 – 11 October  Venue: BP Park, Durban  We were unable to confirm if this was a bona fide SARSI, however a conference was held to discuss reviving Rovering.  <a href="#">Report</a></p>	
1973	<p>Date: 1-3 Sept.  Venue: Cape Town  Participants: 55 Rovers from Natal, Transvaal and Cape Western</p> <p>The programme included a dawn landing on Fish Hoek beach from a vessel anchored approximately 250 yards off the beach and breakfast was served at the 2nd Fish Hoek Scout Hall. On the Sunday afternoon they boarded a Dakota aircraft at CT Airport for a scenic flight over the Peninsula.</p> <p>The formal Dinner at the Savoy Hotel in Somerset West and was attended by Col. de Wet Venter, Mayor of Somerset West.</p> <p><a href="#">Report</a></p>	
1977	<p>Date: 3 - 5 September  Venue: Cape Town</p> <p>Unfortunately no additional information found.</p>	
1982	<p>Date: 24 – 26 September  Venue: Glencairn, Cape Town</p> <p>Activities included a tour of the submarine base at Simonstown, a hike up Table mountain and a sunset cruise to Clifton. Supper was on the go from Milnerton (starters), to Monte Vista (Main), to Constantia (sweets) and Glencairn to end off.</p> <p><a href="#">Report</a></p>	
1986	<p>Date: 9-11 May  Venue: Sulkerbosrand, Transvaal  Participants: 80 Rovers, 38 from the Western Cape</p> <p>Activities were a visit was to the ERPM Gold Mine where we also enjoyed their hospitality at lunch and then on to Gold Reef City.</p> <p>The official opening ceremony was at Gilwell in Florida and the guest Speaker was Carveth Geach, a former Rover and Chief Scout. Supper was a Travelling Dinner - Soup at Emarentia Crew, Main Course and Sweets at Bedford View Crew.</p> <p><a href="#">Report</a></p>	
1990	<p>Date: 31 May – 3 June  Venue: Durban.  Participants: 105 Rovers from all four Provinces</p> <p>Held in Durban for a most memorable four days. Friendships from previous SARSI's and Moots were renewed and the true spirit of Rovering and Scouting prevailed throughout the weekend.</p> <p>Friday was a day of sightseeing, made up of:  A visit to the Natal Shark Board The Scout Shop and Museum  Lunch on the beach (Bunny Chow that set many mouths on fire)  Boat cruise around the harbour and Bay.</p>	<p>Unfortunately badge not found</p>

1994	<p>Date: 12 -15 May Venue: Cape Town</p> <p>The Indaba was a great success with Rover Crews from Edenvale, Rhodes, Bedfordview, Southdowne, Port Elizabeth, Walmer, Newton Park, Sanddrift, Factreton, Steenberg, Mitchells Plain and False Bay attending.</p> <p>The opening ceremony was performed on top of Table Mountain at sunrise, thereafter the Crews had breakfast at Kirstenbosch and a great Rover dinner was held at Sandvlei.</p>	
1998	<p>Date: 24 - 27 September Venue: Addo Elephant Park, near Port Elizabeth</p> <p>S.A.R.S.I. — 98 was organized by Eastern Cape, Area Rovers and held in Port Elizabeth in September. A most successful event with constructive discussion during the Conference session to the benefit of better Roving country wide.</p>	<p>Unfortunately badge not found</p>
2002	<p>Date: 21-24 September Venue: Durban Participants: 70 delegates from all over South Africa</p> <p>The weekend was spent catching up on past events, meeting others, exchanging ideas and a small tour of some of Durban.</p>	

This then, briefly, is a History of the SARSI gatherings of Rovers and Commissioners in South Africa to discuss matters pertaining to Roving and to get together to share ideas and fellowship.



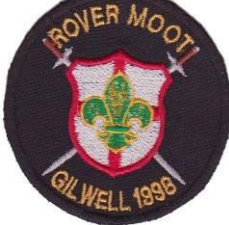

There are some gaps in the recorded history of the SARSI's and should anyone have more facts or the missing Badges, we would appreciate it if you could contact the Western Cape Heritage Centre or email [capescouthistory@gmail.com](mailto:capescouthistory@gmail.com)

Please scroll down to read about read about the Rover Moots.

## South African Rover Scout Moots

The word "Moot" is an Old English word meaning assembly or gathering.

A Rover Scout Moot is a gathering on an informal basis with plenty of special activities and sight-seeing, getting to know each other, and useful discussion while all that is happening.

<p>1988</p>	<p>Date: 1 – 4 April          Venue: Glencairn, Cape Town          Participants: 88 Rovers, 22 Crews from the Transvaal, Northern Transvaal, Natal, Midlands and Cape Western.</p> <p>The opening ceremony was held on the top of Table Mountain and was performed by Garnet De La Hunt the Chief Scout. It was then on to breakfast at Kirstenbosch, a boat trip to Seal Island, a visit to Groot Constantia.</p> <p>Sunday was a day of Base activities at Glencairn and the formal dinner was at the Sea Base in Sandvlei.  <a href="#">Report</a></p>	
<p>1992</p>	<p>Date: 28 - 31 May.          Venue: Port Elizabeth          Participants: 24 Rovers were from Cape Western.</p> <p>On the Friday evening there was a Civic Reception arranged by the Mayor Alderman K Nel and Councillors. A trip on the Apple Express on the Saturday was one of the highlights and in the evening was the formal banquet that was held at Gilsands Training Centre.          The Chief Scout officially opened the Moot.  <a href="#">Report</a></p>	
<p>1996</p>	<p>Date: Ascension week end          Venue: Florida Lake, Roodepoort, Johannesburg          Participants: 42 Rovers</p> <p>Attended by Rovers from the Western Cape, Gauteng, Natal and Eastern Cape. Places visited were the miniature stream trains at Len Rutter park, the old jail in Florida and the emergency services.</p>	
<p>2000</p>	<p>Date: 27 - 30 April          Venue: SAS Unite, Cape Town Harbour</p> <p>Activities included breakfast at Kirstenbosch, tour of SA Breweries, a boat trip to Seal Island and a tour of Groot Constantia.</p>	
<p>2007</p>	<p>Date: 28 December - 5 January 2007          Venue: Mafikeng</p> <p>The Centenary Moot was held in partnership with The Scout Association UK, and was attended by participants from Austria, Sweden, Finland, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, United Kingdom and South Africa. Activities included renovating a neglected school, the presentation of toys to an AIDS orphanage, a viewing game (where they saw a white rhino at 10m!) and the opening of the 20 kilometre B-P Trail.  <a href="#">Report</a></p>	