



President's Report 2009

Fundraising and other events

We had one successful fundraising barbecue together with the Michelago Fire Brigade outside Harvey Norman in April. MRCA also ran a barbecue outside the Hall on Australia Day. This was sponsored by the Cooma-Monaro Shire Council (Council).

The MayFair was a big project which took a lot of energy and time. Thanks everyone involved in the effort. It was a very successful event and some funds were raised. We have decided this year (2010) to hold it on Sunday May 2, the weekend before Mothers' Day.

Cooma-Monaro Shire Council Management Plan

At the beginning of the year the MRCA made a submission to the Council's 2009-2010 Management Plan and we spoke to it at Council in February. In June we invited Council and Staff to discuss the Draft Plan. Many of the items on the plan have been there for a while and are yet to be addressed. However, the Council was able to take advantage of the Australian Government's stimulus package (see below) to support our request for the exercise track on the Oval. This underlines the importance of our annual submissions to the Plan.

Projects

A major project for the Committee, now almost complete, was the construction of the exercise track around the oval. Funding for this was received from the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program ("stimulus package") through the Council, the NSW Sport and Recreation fund and accumulated MRCA funds. The Sport and Recreation funding was originally for an upgrade of the tennis courts to a multipurpose court but the final cost was too high. Also, the Australian Government funding was insufficient for a full track. A variation to Sport and Recreation to put their grant toward the exercise track was applied for and approved which allowed us to construct the complete track. Thanks to Independent Building Solutions for building an excellent track and Council for their assistance.

Another grant that the Committee was successful in obtaining was through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). With this grant we purchased four Gazebos, a portable barbecue and ten light tables and a microwave oven for use in the Hall. These items will be used at community events and will be available for the use of members of the community for a nominal hire fee to cover depreciation.

Many of you will have noticed the new sign on the Highway welcoming travellers to Michelago. This was organised by the MRCA and took advantage of the sign frame left over after the change to Shire boundaries.

Newsletter and Website

The Newsletter continues to be popular with the community. Thanks to Cathy Morison, TechLibris, for producing the Newsletter and also for her continuing management of the

Michelago Community Website. On the website you will soon notice an item prepared by the MRCA that highlights the features along the Highway which has been drawn from the publication "The Road South" by Ruth McFadden. A number of us will be meeting with Ruth to discuss the possibility of a future update and publication of this book.

Fire

On December 17, which was a total fire ban day, Michelago experienced one of its worst fires for decades. Starting near the northern corner of the Burra Rd and Tinderry Rd junction it burned all the way through to the eastern side of the Tinderries and despite a huge effort by local fire brigades it was only a change in the weather that slowed it down, allowing it to be contained. The members of all the fire brigades, the staff of the RFS and the members of the Local Emergency Management Committee must be congratulated for their work and in particular the Michelago Fire Brigade for all the organisation that they put in on the day and with the RFS staff in the aftermath. The loss of homes and infrastructure throughout the fire's path has been devastating for many and as a community we need continue our support. The MRCA initiated a fund raising and volunteer effort for those affected by the fire and this will continue.

Future

As well as support following the fire we will continue to work with the Council and the community to improve the infrastructure in and around the Village. Our annual submission to the Council's Management Plan has gone in and we will meet with the Council later in the year to discuss the Draft Plan. Although there are limited discretionary funds available to Council for communities it is important that we keep articulating our needs to them as was borne out by our success with funding for the exercise track. The next project will be a rail fence around the oval to prevent casual entry by vehicles. Again this will be financed by funds allocated to the Michelago community by Council. We will be asking for volunteers to help erect this fence and the Council staff will assist with administration.

The MRCA Committee will also be calling for volunteers (probably in April 2010) to help with the clean up of the tennis courts. In addition we will be applying for funds to provide shade over the children's playground and seats by the playground and in other sites on the oval.

Please let the members of the Committee know what else is required in the community and we can factor that into our planning.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the Committee this year for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the Community.

Chairperson: Martin Hughes

Vice President: Mareeca Steer

Secretary: Jeremy Mears

Treasurer: Gill Robinson

Committee members: Carmel Birch, Charles Gannon, Trish Grice, Bronwyn Gattringer, Paul Kennedy, Ines Pinto-Lopez.

And for those community members who assisted the Committee during the year.

Tony Robinson

14 February 2010