



As it is Always Sunny in Michelago this is testament to a busy and productive last twelve months. The committee has worked hard to achieve a lot of community spirit through community activities and fund raising.

This year started with the Australia Day breakfast BBQ at the Railway Station with the local Australia Day Ambassador, Wally Mills. There was a great turn out with many new Michelago faces as well as more familiar faces enjoying a new venue.

Plans to upgrade the Recreational Facilities in the village forged the energy to apply for Government grants and general fund raising. We are presently awaiting a decision from the State Government Sport and Recreation Office regarding a Grant application for a new synthetic tennis court surface.

Some of the funds set aside by the CMSC for the upgrade have been used to improve the electrical cables at the oval to support eventual tennis court lights and the clubhouse and power usage at the Mayfair. We have been fortunate to sell the 2nd hand surfaces that we acquired in 2012 and these funds will also go the project.

Fundraising projects included the MRCA supporting our neighbours in Bredbo by holding 2 sausage sizzles at the monthly Bredbo Markets as well as a Bunnings BBQ. It was great to see the support from the residents as they tirelessly helped the committee to run these events.

Other ongoing fundraisers have included the production of 2 Michelago calendars, 2013 and 2014, featuring a collection of photos of people and places in Michelago in our past. Thank you to Michelle Lees for putting these together. With Michelle's help we hope to put together a coffee table book of collected photos and news articles from our past. We have also generated an "Always Sunny In Michelago" bumper sticker. Thank you to Jeremy Mears for designing this for us.

Our main fundraiser for the year is of course the Michelago Mayfair that was held on Sunday 5th May on a lovely autumn day. The day started with a crisp morning that progressed into a day that was 'just right'. The Mayfair was a great success both financially and in promoting our village; it was great to see the many locals and visitors that made their way to Michelago to share in the festivities. The MRCA was keen to include many groups and clubs from the area in the day, to promote them selves and feel part of the community. A **big thank you** to all who helped in anyway to make the day the success that it was.

MRCA received a grant of \$30,000 from the Community Building Partnership Programme to upgrade the clubhouse on the oval. John Barilaro came and presented us with the cheque and joined us for afternoon tea on the oval beside the 'old' clubhouse. Work has started and it will eventually house a shower and toilet block and a kitchen with a servery. Thank you to Paul Kennedy who is coordinating and partaking in the

work there with the great efforts from Will Stone, Brent Wallis, Troy Macpherson, Will Kelly, Tony Robinson, Craig Betts, Greg Whittle and Pat Kierens. It is very uplifting to see members of the community giving their time to help achieve goals within the community. Again a **big thank you** to all.

The MRCA has been working on the refurbishment of the Michelago Railway Station. It was felt that the lovely building needed to be used and valued in the community. We have had help from inmates at the Cooma correctional services, who have cleared the grounds, repaired walls and painted the interior; the results are very pleasing. We also received a grant from Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) through their programme of 'Caring for Ageing Rural Australians'. This has helped to fund materials, a new tank to service the toilets and a sink and help set up the station so that our 'Golden Oldies' may meet at the station regularly to chat, enjoy tea and coffee and make crafts. Thank you to Andrew Buyteweg, who has kindly donated his time to the installation of the tank and re plumbing of the down pipes. Further plans are to house a gallery of photos and memorabilia from the region for the public to share. Lindsay Richmond from the Friends of the Michelago Railway has been kindly making picture frames from the floorboards of the clubhouse for. He has done a great job, thank you Lindsay. Thank you again to Michelle Lees for collating the photos for this gallery. Thank you also to the residents of Michelago who have helped in the general clean up of the station and removal of rubbish. It is looking great, though is still in need of re stumping of the floor and new gutters. With all good things, we can wait and work away at these things slowly.

2013 saw the introduction the Pot Luck Suppers at the Hall. These have been held on a regular basis and have been a great way for the committee and the community to meet and come together in an informal setting. This has been a great opportunity to share ideas and communicate issues pertaining to Michelago over a meal. These suppers will continue in 2014 and I hope that they will be an ongoing success.

Gay Lawler has continued to contribute to the newsletter through her historical articles of Michelago's past. These accounts have been a great compliment to the calendar.

The Driver Reviver programme continued again in 2013 and was well supported by motorists from near and far. It is a great service to the community, thank you to Sandra Lauer for coordinating this and to Gill Robinson for organizing the roster over the season. We hope this service will continue into the future, however the running costs and set up of the generator make it a difficult prospect. We are hoping that power will be installed to the portable for future use.

I wish to thank the 2013 committee for your outstanding efforts in supporting the community of Michelago, particularly Fiona Tollis, who has been a great support to me, Sandra Lauer for minute taking and effortlessly maintaining the website and putting together the newsletters and to Chris Higgins for keeping the books. Without the efforts of the committee members none of the projects would have been achievable. Well done to all who have contributed to a productive 2013, sincerely, thank you. I wish the incoming committee a successful and productive year.

Cate Spencer
28 February 2014