

2015 MRCA President's Report

Welcome to the 2015 Michelago Region Community Association Annual General Meeting.

The past year in Michelago has proved to be a busy year again as the committee has worked well together to continue with projects and start new ones in an effort to further develop community spirit, participation and infrastructure.

As our work to re surface the tennis courts is in hiatus we are fortunate to have received grants for the clubhouse from the previous year for tennis lights and a new fence. We are still working on funding for the surfaces themselves. This is proving difficult, as the cost involved is significant.

The clubhouse is nearing completion and I look forward to its regular use, particularly when the courts are completed. Again a big thanks you to Paul Kennedy and Greg Wittle.

Throughout the year we have applied for a series of grants, unfortunately none have been successful. Of course, several were for the tennis court resurfacing through the state government. Our most recent one was through the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing asking for an amount of approx. \$200,00.00. The grant was for a proposed development of a structure to house and shade an electric BBQ and tables and bench seats. This was to be situated beside the existing playground, below which a new playground designed to cater for older children would be located, both with shade cloth structures to be installed. Further to this we had plans for a bike skills track on the land beside the large empty railway shed opposite the police station on Ryrie street. These are not lost dreams but will be pursued in the future once we have completed the ongoing projects at hand, e.g. the tennis courts and clubhouse. Our aim is to provide recreation facilities for the growing young population of the village, to create a happy and healthy community that embraces the great outdoors and physical activity.

Over the recent years we have been working to upgrade the railway station so that one of the oldest buildings in Michelago is preserved and used regularly. The MRCA hold their monthly meetings at the station that boasts functioning fireplaces, flushing toilets and electricity! We are soon to have hot and cold running water that will make an enormous difference to the ongoing use of the station.

A new activity held at the station is the monthly Treasure Markets. These markets are held on the first Saturday of the month and are designed to support local producers of food and artifacts as well as families wishing to sell their trash as treasure. The markets also feature delicious Devonshire teas, made by our own Fiona Tollis, and BBQs that may be hosted by the various groups within our community. We launched the market on fathers' day 2014 and it was a great success. Thank you to Perrins Saw

mills for providing first prize for the raffle. We would like these to continue and hope that the community continues to support this initiative.

Pot Luck suppers have continued throughout the year. The last few were held at the Michelago Inn, where, during the winter months, the open fireplaces created a warm and cozy atmosphere. These events continue to be open to all residents in a relaxed environment. I am pleased to say that at each Pot luck to date we have seen new faces, either new to Pot luck or new to the village. May the support continue.

We held many fundraisers for the year including a Bunnings BBQ, Gowrie Primary School sausage sizzle, Bredbo market sausage sizzles, a calendar featuring the photos from the Mayfair competition, Tea towels denoting the localities in the area, a Trivia Night, Fathers' Day Raffle and a Christmas Raffle. Here I wish to really emphasize my appreciation to the committee and members of the community for their support in making these fund raisers a success.

The Trivia night was also held at the Inn and was a lot of fun. There was a great range of prizes and I wish to thank the families and retailers who supported the Trivia night. Some of which included; Athlete's Foot, Double Shot café Deakin, T2 Woden, Sears work wear, Bunston, Cooma champs tennis and Southern Cross club Woden. The event included the sale of alcohol, BYO food, and trivia, games and many laughs. Thank you to John Tollis for his great efforts of collating the questions and games

Of course not to be forgotten the Michelago Mayfair. Again we were fortunate to experience wonderful weather and good crowds. The weather leading up to the day had been somewhat inclement and I feel that may have kept our usual numbers away. We also had some other bad luck as the truck bringing the Jumping Castle and other entertainment broke down on the way, however the new entertainment of the Magician was a great success and children and adults alike were happily entertained.

On a more serious note, the roads, footpaths and traffic through Michelago has been an ongoing concern particularly with respect to pedestrian traffic, especially school children. These concerns have recently increased as a Gas Compression station is being built out on Burra road that has increased road usage by large trucks significantly. The company developing the site is Jemena and they are in liaison with the state government and side stepping the local council. Our roads are the responsibility of local government and we are trying to work with all parties involved to ensure suitable road maintenance and safe use of the roads and the development of pathways for users. The MRCA have contacted Queanbeyan police regarding their concern about speed of commuters through the village. Since then, though I am unsure if it is related as we have not had a response from the Qbn police, flashing lights have been installed signaling school times and traffic restrictions. The trucks seem to have slowed and now we need to address other traffic that passes through the village at inappropriate speeds. Our efforts to improve roads and footpaths are continuing.

Again, I wish to thank my committee for their continuing effort and support of all the activities we organise. I value the input from each and every member of the committee, particularly at our meetings and I look forward to seeing further achievements within the community through the contributions of the committee and residents alike. Without the help on the ground none of this would be possible. I hope you all feel as proud as I do to be part of a friendly, positive community.