

MINUTES OF MRCA COMMITTEE MEETING 5 April 2007

Meeting opened 7.15pm

Present: Mareeca Steer, Carmel Birch, Martin Hughes, Laurie Carlson, Richard Stone, Geoff Bowland, Michael Lees, Sue Drew, Vern Drew, Dugald Mitchell, Bruce Hovey, Russell Cotter, Trish Grice.

Apologies: Michael Da Roza, Jeremy Mears, Inés Pintos-Lopez

Mareeca welcomed Dugald Mitchell, Laurie Carlson, Geoff Bowland and Bruce Hovey to the meeting, from Cooma Unlimited.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007

Michael Lees pointed out an error in the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007. Under General Business, Item 5 (i), the minutes implied that Michael had attended a weeds meeting when Cooma Monaro Shire Council had amalgamated. This is not correct – Michael has attended 2 meetings in the last 6 months, but not a meeting when the Councils amalgamated. He stated that he attends the meetings to find out what is going on in the region and to be a voice for the Michelago region. Michael will supply a summary of those meetings to the MRCA.

Michael also questioned the email meeting that had occurred before the AGM. This was explained – the issues that were raised had to be resolved before the AGM so that those issues could be ratified. Michael raised the question as to whether this could open the way for general issues to be handled via an email meeting. Martin explained that it was one way that issues could be handled, but everyone at the meeting agreed that it was not a good way to conduct a meeting via email and would only happen in exceptional circumstances.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007 with the amendment as per the first paragraph above.

Moved Martin Hughes, **Seconded** Carmel Birch
Carried.

2. Correspondence

(i) Email from Elizabeth Price about Landcare planting of trees. The planting will be held on the weekend of 28 and 29 April and will need weekly watering for a while.

(ii) Mareeca received an email from John Dedman about Motor Cycle Tourism. The run from Goulburn to Cooma by motorcyclists can be marketed

with the idea that a good place to stop would be Michelago. Marceeca will attend the meeting on Friday 27 April at 10.00am to discuss this initiative.

3 Treasurer's Report

Martin advised that the fine that the MRCA was expecting from the Department of Fair Trading will not eventuate. It seems that the letter that was sent advising of the fine should not have been sent.

The term deposit for the tennis club money has been opened. The balance of the cheques account is now \$4001.84, but \$2156.00 of this money is earmarked for the purchase of a laptop and multi function printer. Michael Da Rosa was to have obtained quotes for these, but was not at the meeting to report.

The members present at the meeting thanked Martin for organizing to put the tennis club money into term deposit.

Martin tabled a quote from GIO for public liability insurance. The quote has come in at \$808.37 and is a lot cheaper than any other quote received. The insurance will cover volunteers, but they must be financial members of the MRCA. This can be paid for this year with money in the Association's cheques account, but fundraising would be required in subsequent years to cover the cost. There was a motion on the table that the Association goes ahead with paying this insurance, but general discussion ensued. It is still a lot of money to pay out, especially if there are no functions planned in the near future that will require this type of insurance. At the present time there are only 30 financial members of the Association, and this seems to be a lot of money to cover a small amount of volunteers. The general consensus of the meeting was that if there was not going to be an event held soon that required the insurance then we should hold off and pay the insurance prior to the first event, which could be in 6 months time.

Motion: Hold off on paying this insurance until we are sure what events/fundraising will be held in the future.

Moved: Mareeca Steer, **Seconded:** Richard Stone

Carried.

4 General Business

(i) Dugald Mitchell was invited to talk to the meeting about the activities of Cooma Unlimited. Dugald stated that Cooma Unlimited had been set up to better the quality of life of people living in Cooma. There has been a lot of discussion about concerns about what is happening in the north of the Cooma Monaro Shire and about the draft LEP. Cooma Unlimited was also concerned that there was no community steering committee as far as the LEP is concerned. If the wrong decisions have been made with regard to the LEP there may be no recourse.

There was a lengthy discussion during the MRCA meeting about the LEP, community title, development in the Michelago region and the problems in dealing with the Council.

Cooma Unlimited would like to see the issue of the draft LEP debated publicly. The draft LEP goes on display on 17 May, the MRCA needs to look at it closely and give feedback to the Council. Cooma Unlimited have invited a representative from MRCA to attend their breakfast meetings which will discuss the LEP. Trish will endeavor to attend the meetings.

The MRCA will also follow up with Council about the draft LEP – Mareeca to talk to Council and request a copy of the draft as soon as it is available.

Mareeca thanked the gentlemen from Cooma Unlimited for attending the meeting.

(ii) The Harvey Norman Barbeque will be held on Sunday 29 April at the store in Fyshwick, commencing at 10.00am. Volunteers are required to man the barbeque. Mareeca, Martin and Trish have volunteered, but more people will be required. Martin to forward a copy of the membership list to Trish. Trish to divide the list up and each MRCA committee member will be asked to phone people to ask for assistance.

(iii) There was some discussion about the oval. Mareeca will email the plans to Trish to distribute to everyone for comment. There will be an open public meeting about the issue, so that everyone in the community can have the chance to comment. There will 2 meetings to accommodate everyone; Wednesday 2 May at 6.30pm – Carmel will be at the hall at 6.30pm so that anyone interested can look at the plans, and also Saturday 5 May from 8.00am to 10.00am.

Mareeca will put a copy of the plan up at the school, hall and Inn.

The information to be put on the next agenda.

(iv) Planting on Ryrie Street. Carmel and Mareeca attended a meeting on this. The planting will be held on 28 and 29 April – the MRCA is unable to help with this as it is the same date as the Harvey Norman Barbeque, however it should be encouraged.

Motion: That the MRCA encourage this as a community activity with the cemetery and landcare and send an email to the general membership about it.

Moved: Mareeca Steer, **Seconded:** Carmel Birch

Carried

(v) There will be a working bee at the cemetery Sunday 15 April commencing at 9.00am. Everyone is asked to spend an hour with their mower and whipper snipper. The MRCA has been asked to send an email to its membership asking for help.

(vi) Roads. The issue of Willows Road was raised with the MRCA. MRCA is aware that many roads in the region need repair and will continue to lobby Council about all roads.

(vii) Heritage Committee. Mareeca informed the meeting that she had not been able to make the Heritage meeting on 20 March. Mareeca will follow up on what happened at the meeting and report back.

(viii) Weeds. Michael Lees reported that Council is keen to educate the community on the weeds issue. Michael will provide a summary of the minutes of meetings he attends, and will be added to the list of community reports at the MRCA meetings.

(ix) Michelago Red Cross. Sue Drew reported that there has been a continuous Red Cross branch at Michelago since 1915. The Red Cross will also be added to the community reports. The branch meets at Michelago or Bredbo on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2.00pm. The MRCA will send out an email to the general membership about the Red Cross meetings, encouraging anyone interested to attend.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm