

MINUTES OF MRCA COMMITTEE MEETING 7 MARCH 2007

Meeting opened 6.15pm

Present: Mareeca Steer, Carmel Birch, Jill Dobkin, Inez Pintos-Lopez, Martin Hughes, Jeremy Mears, Michael da Roza, Trish Grice.

Apologies: Vern Drew

Trish Grice volunteered to become the Committee's Secretary following the resignation of Angie Elphink.

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2007

Before the minutes of the last meeting were accepted there was discussion about a meeting that was held via email prior to the meeting to approve two resolutions. Three people participated in this email meeting: Carmel Birch, Mareeca Steer and Martin Hughes. The resolutions were: "to approve the audited financial statements for 2006 for presentation to members at the AGM and to authorize Mareeca Steer and Carmel Birch to sign the Report of the Committee"

Motion: *To accept the email meeting prior to 7 February meeting*

Moved: Mareeca Steer, **Seconded** Jeremy Mears

Carried

Motion: *To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2007*

Moved Carmel Birch, **Seconded** Michael da Roza

Carried.

2 Correspondence

(i) Letter of resignation from Angela Elphink. Angie felt she couldn't take on the role of Secretary to the Committee as she had too many other commitments.

(ii) Letter from Cooma Monaro Shire Council about Mt Livingston Road. The grader has now been and graded the road. Mareeca to send an acknowledgement letter back to Council.

(iii) Letter from Steve Whan about his achievements in the area.

(iv) An advertisement was sought from the Committee by the Cooma Express, outlining its goals and achievements. The Committee thanked Michael da Roza for putting the advertisement together.

(v) Heritage Commission email from Mareeca. There has been a request for nominations for inclusion on heritage listing. Inez will start a working group to look at possible inclusions. Mareeca to drop a copy of "The Road South" to Inez – this has many mentions of local properties that could be nominated. Mareeca will go to a meeting to be held at Cooma Monaro Shire Council on 20 March.

(vi) Email about the Social Plan. CMSC sent copy of the Michelago portion of the social plan, it was agreed that the statistics were flawed, numbers of people and children in the area was incorrect. Mareeca noted we need to make comment on the document. Further discussion required, was agreed to discuss further later as time was limited.

(vii) Free Training Workshops for Regional Organisations – Flyer received from Volunteering ACT about this. They are offering free workshops on a variety of topics. The Committee agreed that this would be a valuable resource and we should take advantage of the offer.

Motion: *That the MRCA accept the offer of the free workshop from Volunteering Australia and hold it on Saturday 5 May 2007 commencing at 9.30am in the hall.*

Moved: Martin Hughes, **Seconded** Jeremy Mears.

Carried

Mareeca will follow up with all the community groups in the region, such as Landcare, P&C, Rural Fire Brigades etc and let them know about the workshop and the topic and invite them all to attend.

(viii) Letter offering \$200.00 for a community barbeque to be held on Australia Day. Unfortunately the letter, which was dated 19 December, was only received by the Committee in February. Carmel Birch will respond with a letter explaining the situation and asking that we be invited to participate again next year.

3 Business Arising

(i) There was a verbal agreement from NSW Department of State & Regional Development to come to the next meeting to explain what they do. Louise Conibear who is the Community Economic Development Manager will attend the 4 April meeting at 7.30pm.

(ii) Mareeca was contacted by John Mercer about the Community Plan. It was thought there could be a planning day/workshop on strategic planning. Mareeca will ask him to attend the same meeting that Louise Conibear will attend on 4 April.

4 Treasurer's Report

Martin advised that with regards to Volunteer Insurance GIO insurance covers volunteers by normal public liability if they are a member – special insurance is not required. Martin will chase this up.

Grant money for the computer etc has come in. \$2156.00 has been received and this money is to cover the purchase of a laptop, software and a multifunction centre. Michael da Costa will obtain quotes from various retailers and present to the Committee for approval.

\$2964.79 has been contributed by the ex-tennis club, which brings the balance of the Committee's account to \$7,068.73 at 1 March 2007. The Committee discussed the best way to invest the tennis club money.

Motion: *The money received by the tennis club to be invested in a term deposit at Bendigo Bank for a period of 90 days and an interest rate of 5.3%. All interest earned by this money to be transferred into the Committee's operating account.*

Moved: Martin Hughes, **Seconded:** Mareeca Steer
Carried.

5 General Business

(i) It was reported that Michael Lees went to a weeds meeting when Cooma Monaro Shire Council and Yarralumla Council were amalgamated, and it was reported that funds for weed control went to Council, but haven't been allocated. While Council is spending more money – it is not enough.

(ii) Jeremy Mears will do an article for the Colinton Courier about MRCA meeting times, and advising that the hall will be closed during the next school holidays as the ceiling is being done and fans will be installed.

(iii) Multipurpose Court - Ross Lawley from Cooma Monaro Shire Council joined the meeting and advised that Michelago Primary School has received funding of \$150,000 for a multi purpose court. The Committee voiced its concern that this is a lot of money that will benefit a small number of families. The court will not be able to be left open due to vandalism. Mr Lawly told the Committee that the school was happy for the courts to be open to the public and that arrangements for this need to be looked at closely. The Committee felt that the school court would not work very well for the community and would prefer Council to look at spending money on an oval instead. Mr Lawly stated that a formal letter to Council from the Committee setting out what is required and what is already happening in the community would need to be drawn up. Basic plans have been drawn up and Mr Lawly left these with the Committee to look at and come up with suggestions. It was stressed that the Committee needs to come up with a long term plan for what the community needs. Mareeca will scan the plans and email to the Committee looking for suggestions, and also let all community groups in the area know this is open for discussion.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm