

Minutes of Michelago Community Association Inc.

Open Committee Meeting: Wednesday 7 June 2006.

Present: M. Steer, C. Birch, M. da Roza, R. Stone, J. Mears

Apologies: M. Hughes, V. Drew

Meeting opened: 7.45 pm.

- 1. Guest Speakers: Australian Historical Railway Association**
Bruce Blain and John Cheesman, Vice President and
Operations Manager

The speakers addressed the MRCA Inc. members and interested residents on several topics including;

1.1 Issues / Challenges

- 1.1.a The history of the line.
- 1.1.b The cost of maintenance.
- 1.1.c The need for community support if the railway is to return to Michelago.
- 1.1.d The need to find government support via grants to raise the \$300,000 - \$500,000 required to fix the 8 bridges between Royalla and Michelago and to cover the replacement and upkeep of the 30,000 sleepers on the 53 km stretch of track at a rate of 1 in every 10 sleepers (\$58 for timber sleepers or \$78 for steel sleepers – 25 year lifespan) Timber sleepers can be delivered free in lots of 400 a cost of \$30,000.
- 1.1.e The meeting was assured that the Railway society would be keen to run a train to Michelago once every three to four weeks if Michelago provided a reason for visitors to come to the village.
- 1.1.f Railway Shed in the village. The **Australian Historical Railway Association** based in the ACT is considering moving the shed to Kingston ACT if the line does not reopen. An issue with this was raised at the meeting as the sheds erection was made possible via a NSW government grant.

1.2 Solutions

- 1.2.a Reduce the amount of rail line to be managed from 53 km to 8 km.

Williamsdale Quarry may move its aggregate by rail to Sydney if it can secure a rail operator to take on the Job. Three companies have been approached; Pacific National freight operator of Toll and Patrick. This operator is in need of rolling stock if it took on the job. The operator will consider its position again at the end of 2006.

- 1.2.b Mareeca to contact Steve Whan and Garry Nairn to find out what Grants are available.

- 1.2.c Railway shed. Multiple uses to the community if the shed is not used to hold rolling stock; pending the resolution of 1.1f.
- 1.2.d Bruce offered to do the necessary rail bridge inspections.
- 1.2.e Mareeca thanked both Bruce and John for taking the time out to address the meeting regarding the status of the Michelago railway.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

- 2.1.a Previous minutes not tabled.

3. Secretary's Report:

- 3.1.a Correspondence from; Cooma-Monaro Council Micalago Road resident. A response to "The Dangerous State of Micalago Road" paper presented to Council. The letter indicated that the following work is to be considered in the Councils 2006 / 2007 Draft Management Plan;
 - * Upgrading of the intersection of Micalago Road and the Monaro Highway to meet current RTA specifications.
 - * Sealing the intersection of Micalago Road and the Monaro Highway and approximately 30 metres along Micalago Road.
 - * That 200 m of Micalago Road be re-sheeted each year. Re-sheeting of a Local Road in this area is currently costed at \$25,000 / Klm.

4. Treasurers Report:

Treasurer's report carried over to next meeting.

5. Presidents Report

- 5.1.a MRCA Inc. submission to the Cooma Monaro Shire Council (CMSC) 2006-07 Management Plan.
For the details contained in the MRCA Inc. submission see the Community Web page at <http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/mrca.htm>
- 5.1.b The Mayor, General Manager, and senior staff would like to hold a meeting with MRCA re: our submissions. 28th June at 7.30pm at the Hall has been set. Any interested parties welcome to attend.
- 5.1.c MRCA submission to the CMSC 2006-07 Strategic Plan.

Copies of both available for viewing in the "MRCA" folder at the General Store.
Or on the website: www.michelagoregion.org.au

- 5.1.d Postal Service. Mareeca to compose a note to be forwarded to MRCA Inc. membership to seek residents' feedback on the state of the mail service in our area.
- 5.1.e Williamsdale : 80 kilometer zone and the Rough Surface sign on the Monaro Hwy. Mareeca to make inquiries regarding residents concerns over the state of this section of road.
- 5.1.f MRCA Inc. letterhead. Three possible designs by Jeremy Mears to be posted on the Community Associations web site for comment.
- 5.1.g Better communication between MRCA Inc Committee and residents. The following steps have been taken;
- * 6 Copies of the minutes will be placed in a folder on the MRCA Inc's contact box outside the General Store in the village.
Continued thanks to Cheryl and Brian at the store.
 - * The minutes will also include the date of the next committee meeting to which all interested members and residents are invited to attend.
 - * A reminder is to be emailed 2 weeks before the meeting to the membership.
 - * The minutes will be available on the MRCA Inc's web site at <http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/mrca.htm>

6. Main Street roadwork.

- 6.1.a Plants between the new access road and Main Street.
Mareeca to ask Council to supply plants for the beautification of the new garden beds.

7. Cooma-Monaro Council Meeting.

- 7.1.a MRCA Inc President and Vice-President to attend the next Council meeting in support of Livingstone Road residents.

8. Next Meeting:

- 8.1.a Wednesday 28th June at 7.30 pm in the Michelago Hall
8.1.b The Mayor, General Manager, and several senior staff will be in attendance.

Meeting closed: 9.35.