Minutes of the Michelago and Region Community Association Inc.

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 2nd August 2006

Present: V. Drew, M. Hughes, M. da Roza, C. Birch, R. Stone.

Apologies: M. Steer.

Meeting opened:7.30 pm

1. Minutes from the 7/6/06 meeting be accepted:

Proposed: C. Birch Seconded: M. da Roza.

Carried.

2. Treasurers Report: M.Hughes.

2.1 Summary from Bendigo Bank; Balance; \$744.66 Petty Cash; \$16.70 Total; \$761.36

Pass a resolution that this committee has authorised the following four signatures to operate the MRCA Inc. Bendigo Bank Account: M. Steer, C. Birch, M. Hughes, M. da Roza

V. Drew

This authority permits any two of the four named above to sign.

Proposed: M. Hughes Seconded:

Carried.

2.3 Moved that the Treasurers report be accepted.

Proposed: C. Birch Seconded: M. da Roza

Carried.

3. Correspondence.

3.1 Received:

3.1.a From: Pam Veiss. "Community Information Officer for the Monaro Region

Library and Information Services"

Regarding: Requesting information for a data base.

Action: C. Birch to complete.

3.1.b From: Cooma-Monaro Council

Regarding: Free Water and Energy Saving Pack.

Action: Notification

3.2 Outgoing:

3.1.a From: C. Birch and M. Steer

To: (to be clarified and updated for the minutes at September meeting)

Regarding: Application for volunteers grant for; laptop computer, Fax/

phone/ photocopier.

4. Report to MRCA Inc. Meeting. (Summary by M. Hughes is included below)

Martin Hughes, Vernon Drew and Peter Bobroff represented the MRCA at meetings with three NSW Cabinet ministers on Tuesday 1/8/06.

Mr EM Roozendaal MLC, Minister for Roads

Mr FE Sartor MP, Minister for Planning

Mr KA Hickey MP, Minister for Local Government

4.1 Mr EM Roozendaal

The Minister was accompanied by Mr Patrick Muhlen-Schulte, Media Advisor, and Mr David Stuart Watt and Ms Jay Stricker from the RTA.

4.1.a Matters for discussion.

Access to and from the Monaro-Highway from Kelly Road in the north to Baroona Road in the south. (Kelly Road, Michelago Village, Pony Club, Micalago Road, Clearview Road, Mount Livingstone Road and Baroona Road)

4.1.b Mr Stuart Watt explained that passing lanes cost several thousand dollars to construct and therefore it was not feasible to create one for every turnoff on the highway.

- 4.1.c Emphasis was placed on the Pony Club/Cemetery turnoff and an entry lane to the south from Ryrie/Main Street onto the highway.
- 4.1.d Mr Watt also stated that the RTA would visit the area and inspect the other sites to see if anything can be done to improve safety, including more signage for advanced warning.
- 4.1.e Mr Watt was also aware of the Pony Club turnoff issue since he had a record of previous approaches including a recent one from Mr Steve Whan MP and he stated that they were investigating the problem.

4.1.f Outcomes

A productive meeting with positive reactions from the RTA/Minister. We hope that they are genuine in their concerns and that they will conduct works that will improve safety along this stretch of the highway.

4.2 Mr F. E. Sartor

4.2.a Matters for Discussion.

Local Environmental Plans (LEP's). Need for flexibility; communications between ratepayers, council and D of P; monopolistic relationship with little recourse for redress; effect on personal, business and community entities caused by unwarranted delays in approvals; subdivisions and zoning.

- 4.2.b Mr Sartor stated that the NSW Government was not in favour of further rural sub-divisions since they reduced available agricultural/grazing land and imposed greater costs on the State in the supply of services. He was also reserved in his opinions on village expansions stating that location in relation to the nearest city/town was a critical factor as well as considerations regarding other outlying villages in the same region.
- 4.2.c His views on LEPs were helpful in clarifying matters.
 - it was necessary to have a comprehensive template on which Councils could base their LEPs since not all councils could be trusted to make sensible decisions regarding developments in their shires.
 - ii. Over 5000 pages of LEPs had been rejected as being unacceptable, unworkable, etc and that delays in producing the template were due to the difficulties in designing an acceptable model. He was not happy with the current process and was setting up an independent panel to design LEPs and present them to the government for approval.

4.3 Mr KA Hickey

4.3.a Matters for Discussion

Disproportionate distribution of Council expenditure in relation to rates paid

- 4.3.b Mr Hickey was not at all sympathetic to the problems that rural ratepayers face in relation to a visible return for rates paid. His attitude was very much in line with the Cooma-Monaro Council's responses. Rural rates are paid for the benefit of the whole shire community and many of the services provided are centralised in Cooma, being the municipal centre of the Shire. If rural residents want to benefit from these services, they should be prepared to travel to Cooma. If they are not happy with this situation, they should move back to a city or town where their services are at their door.
- 4.3.c Regarding accountability of council staff, he recommended an approach to the Mayor and, if still dissatisfied, then an approach to the Minister for a hearing.
- 4.3.d On the subject of representation on Council, we pointed out that the votes were not in the rural areas but in the town and so it was nearly impossible to win a seat. He rejected the possibility of the formation of wards in the Shire as this system could not be introduced without a referendum and he was not prepared to go down this path.
- 4.3.e It was also an impractical suggestion to introduce separate councils for rural and municipal areas since rural areas would not be able to raise sufficient rates to run their regions. Likewise with separate accounts.

4.3.f The '97' holding was discussed and presented as being an unjust and inequable policy. Further information to be provided on Council's policies on residential development in rural areas (Peter Bobroff).

4.4 That the report be accepted.

Moved: V. Drew Seconded: C. Birch

Carried.

4.5 Proposal: That M. Hughes on behalf of the MRCA Inc. compose a media release on

the meeting with the NSW Ministers.

Moved: R. Stone Seconded: C. Birch

Carried.

5. General Business

5.1 Michelago Hall: C. Birch to pursue the ongoing maintenance issues and to offer to

take on the management of the hall.

5.1.a R. Stone to approach J. Ryrie President of the Hall Committee to

discuss the issue.

5.2 Harvey Norman BBQ: Reminder of the upcoming MRCA Inc. and MRFB Harvey

Norman BBQ in September.

5.3 Service Station BBQ's

Proposal: That the MRCA Inc. does not pursue the Michelago service station

BBQ's during winter.

Proposed: R. Stone Seconded: V. Drew

Carried.

5.4 David Madew

Proposal: That V. Drew contacts David Madew inviting him to respond to

our concerns at the MRCA Inc. October meeting.

TBA.

5.5 Insurance Elders Insurance Cooma quote.

M. Hughes to investigate.

6. Next Meeting

Wednesday 6th September 2006, Michelago Community Hall @ 7.30pm

Meeting closed: 9.30