



MRCA Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6pm
Michelago Railway Station

MINUTES

Present: Di Fett (President), Kerry Rooney (Treasurer), Leanne Pattison (Secretary, minutes), Tony De Salis, Peter Holland, Sally Hughes, Sam Walton.

Apology: Brent Wallis.

Chair: Kerry Rooney

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm.

1. Adoption of previous committee meeting minutes

Moved Di Fett, seconded Tony De Salis: 'That the minutes of the 12 February 2023 meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.'

Carried

2. Matters arising

Due to other commitments, Di withdrew from the leadership course detailed in the previous minutes.

3. Council's draft recreation and open space strategy: community input

a) The Council representative, Alannah, was ill, so unable to attend this meeting. Di will contact her to discuss by phone after meeting with Elizabeth P. and maybe Anna B. in the suggested areas.

Action Di.

b) There has been only one community comment: the unused area south of the railway station could become a recreation area. This would depend on whether it's Council or UGL land. At present, it's a fire risk.

c) Recreation and open-space planning is covered in Council's Michelago Master Plan of 2021. The input for this could account for the lack of response to the current draft strategy.

d) Sam recommended a shade structure over the playground at the Oval. Council has previously advised this is not a project for the MRCA because of WHS. We can ask for Council funding and implementation in the submission to the recreation strategy.

Action Di.

Agreed

e) The MRCA will review the Michelago Master Plan and prioritise one or two areas in a submission to Council.

Action Di.

Agreed

4. Correspondence

a) Jo Jackson email to Di (12 April): Jo declines the Events Organiser position but accepts the committee one. She states (in sum) that, as Secretary (2021, 2022), she has felt unsupported on the committee. She requests a USB to download MRCA files.

b) Other correspondence: see President's report.

5. **President's report:** Attachment 2.

6. **Treasurer's report**

- a) Financial report: Attachment 1.
- b) *Michelago Magpie*: discussion re high cost of commercial printing, currently manageable only with Bushfire Community Relief & Resilience Fund (BCRRF) funding until 30 June. Agreement that a few colour copies available for browsing at the shop would be useful community publicity. Sam will trial-print one. Action Sam & Leanne
- c) To reduce electricity costs, we'll turn the fridge and pump on only when needed. Agreed
- d) Most of the BCRRF commitments have been achieved: barbecues at the Oval, outdoor heaters, chairs, barbecue events, community dinner and briefings. The *Magpie* newsletter: 100% milestone achieved.
- e) The committee thanked Di, Kerry, Jo, Tony and Leanne for their work in achieving these milestones.
- f) A 'square' for sales was bought and will be set up. Action Belinda, Leanne, Di, Kerry

7. **Railway Station**

- a) SMRC donations & sponsorship applications are open. Di will apply for \$3K to cover rent and electricity. Action Di
- b) Noted: Council pays the licence fees for Bombala Railway Station.
- c) UGL variously slashed and mowed and poisoned weeds at and around the station last month.
- d) Cooma Correction Centre workers: Sally suggested Sam liaise with the CCC for repairs.
- e) Publicity photos: Peter will contact 'Justin's Photo Walks' of Queanbeyan re a Michelago photo walk that includes the railway station. Because of the MRCA's licence conditions, this could not be a commercial arrangement, but we could accept a donation. Action Peter

8. **Hall Committee** (report published fully in *Magpie14*)

- a) Floor resealed; sliding doors to storage area not yet finished; acoustic curtains quote coming; plumbing repairs by Allan (leaking kitchen tap, split pipe in bore-supplied water tank supplying men's loos). Repair/replacements needed: grill & 2 hotplates, gutters & barge boards. New hiring fees for next financial year proposed to Council, the only rise being in pre-school fees from \$22 per day. NAB \$10K grant solar panels quoted. Committee changes – 2 vacancies advertised after 2 resignations (Cath Cotter and Allan Lehepuu have applied); Bookings officer Rachel resigned the position but stays on the committee – Belinda is managing hall hire at the moment; no news re new pre-school teacher.
- b) Cooma Correction Centre workers will be at the Hall 13 April for various maintenance tasks.

9. **Other business**

a. **BBQs & Oval**

- i) Digging out/poisoning thistles (and other less obnoxious but undesirable weeds) not controlled by mowing is an individual or small working-bee task. Agreed

- ii) Storage shed cleanout: first task is to cull the old chairs. No date set for this. Proposed first option for chair disposal was that we ask Council if they'd take them away. Action Leanne Agreed
- iii) BBQs: who pays for the electricity? Council.
- iv) Tax deductibility of donations: not feasible, due to ATO paperwork, donations (usually small), issuing receipts and other work for the treasurer.

b. WWI 'Snowball March' Recruitment Banner

Kerry consulted two framers and the War Memorial. Framing such a large piece would be complex and expensive and the result would be very heavy, challenging the structural integrity of a wall. Therefore, she recommends hanging it from a curtain rod. It's too big for the station's available space; the Hall Committee is happy for it to be in the Hall. Kerry will store it at home until the Hall Committee is ready to hang it.

Agreed

c. Noticeboard at Shop

- i) Leanne agreed to try to keep it up-to-date but suggested others also could.
- ii) The new opening tool has arrived and will be left at the Shop. It would be useful to have the old one left there, too. Action Jo
- iii) Leanne proposed a trial of inviting people to attach their notices themselves, using sticky tape on the Perspex cover, as this would be more in the spirit of a community notice board. Some oversight would be necessary. Agreed
- iv) Discussion: charge businesses or free to all? No decision was reached.
- v) Peter proposed: (1) we investigate sponsorship (Yless4U?) with the name of the sponsor prominently advertised, (2) all posts would then be free, and (3) instead of noticeboard rent, we invite donations for the Railway Station donation box in the Shop. Leanne to contact Yless4U. Action Leanne Agreed

d. Community event-fundraiser proposals

- i) Car boot sale 20 May at St Patrick's: Michael Scanlon (caretaker of St Patrick's Church and Presbytery) and Leanne proposed this joint event. Proceeds 50/50 St Pat's & MRCA. *The advantage to MRCA* of this venue rather than the Oval or Railway Station would be (1) no need to get a DA, and (2) stallholders would not need to have their own public liability insurance.
Doubts raised: (1) traffic danger on the Monaro Highway, (2) small number of cars could make it unprofitable for the effort, and (3) only 1 toilet available. Leanne, Kerry, Sam and Michael will discuss issues at the site. Action Leanne
- ii) Music event (country and country-rock): Peter's proposal. The country music events organiser covers insurance and costs, take profits and give the MRCA a donation. *Advantage to MRCA*: we are not responsible for the event, so have no accident liability/ insurance cost. Peter will investigate. Action Peter

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday 10 May, 6pm at the Michelago Railway Station

Attached (1) Treasurer's report (2) President's report

Attachment 1

TREASURER'S REPORT 12 April 2023

MRCA is in a comfortable financial position at this point in time.

Our general account has a balance of \$10,310.

The main sources of revenue have been:

- Ticket sales from the recent Southern Harvest dinner - \$490
- Donations from community groups (Choir, Poets, Easter Egg Hunt, Seed Savers) using the railway station - \$130
- Membership fees - \$185

The major items of expenditure have been:

- Electricity – now around \$240 per quarter
- Annual Licence fee (rent) for the railway station \$638
- Occasional Mowing railway station \$220
- Annual MRCA insurance \$790

The latest BCRF quarterly report was submitted today. MRCA has spent almost \$72,000 from a \$78,000 grant. We are coming in under budget – exemplars of productivity.

We should be proud of the progress MRCA has made in building the BBQ and shelter facilities at the oval, the publication of the Magpie, the purchase of the marquees, chairs and tables. MRCA has also delivered three dinners and two BBQs – community events that were generally well attended and connected our community through fun activities from cricket to Landcare, from a bush dance to a Police tribute band concert. What a contribution MRCA has made to making Michelago just that little bit more marvellous.

The wonderful Belinda has applied for a Square for MRCA and Leanne has purchased the hardware. Now we await training from Belinda to show us how to take mobile online payments and join the 21st century.

An acquittal report has been submitted for 2022's Donations and Sponsorships round which provided \$1000 to MRCA to help cover the costs of managing the railway station. Di is applying for the 2023 round and after we left in the dark tonight, decided to add movement sensitive lighting to the application.

Attachment 2

MRCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 12 April 23

Welcome to the new MRCA 2023 committee! Thanks everyone for coming on board.

We are now finalising the **BCRRF** (bushfire recovery) grant. The new chairs, tables and patio heaters, as well as three big shelving units are in the shed. Brent has done a preliminary sorting, but the shed needs a working bee - query whether we just hire a skip. Our new Treasurer Kerry has taken on the reporting (hallelujah!). There's a bit of money left over - will hand over to Kerry re what we should do with it.

Railway Station

A quick introduction for our new committee members:

We hold an annual licence from Transport for NSW via its agent UGL.

Our annual costs:

- annual licence fee - currently \$619.03 paid in January this year
- electricity charges (Red Energy) about \$240 per quarter, or \$960 pa

- insurance (Elders) is about \$800 a year (previously about \$1300 when we were holding Spring Fairs etc).

It's our gem, and our major cost, so we need to derive some income to cover it. Previously Spring Fairs and Music Musters contributed, but they are a huge amount of work and give rise to significant risk (and high insurance premiums). I am not prepared to undertake the risk, and in any case we don't have a team willing to do the work.

So, it's sausage sizzles, raffles, or whatever we can think of, subject to assessment of risk and sufficiency of volunteers.

The railway station licence is quite restrictive regarding how we can use the premises. Basically it is 'community purposes', so we can't just hire it out. There must be an appropriate link to the Michelago community.

Draft Council Recreation and Open Space strategy

I said we would make a submission on this. Elizabeth has provided some input but I've had no responses from other members of the community. So it will be a short submission.

Making submissions to Council about matters of importance to Michelagans is one of our core roles. However it takes time and energy, and it is difficult when we (or the issues) fail to engage our busy community.

Community engagement generally

I think this is our most important role, engaging with and connecting the community of Michelago and region.

The BCRRF project has been a great boost, but we need to keep at it. Our little region has a huge diversity of residents with a fabulous range of talents. Please keep bringing your ideas about how to engage more of them. And please keep encouraging Leanne to keep producing the Marvellous *Michelago Maggie*!

Correspondence report

Correspondence with Allanah from Council regarding the Recreation and Open Space strategy, resulting in her kindly agreeing to attend our meeting for a briefing/Q&A.
