



MRCA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 9 August, 2023 at 6pm, Michelago Railway Station

[Note that future meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month.]

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Robbie Wood

Chair: Kerry Rooney

The meeting commenced at 6.20pm.

1. **Previous minutes** Moved Sally, seconded Kerry 'That the minutes of the 12 July 2023 Committee meeting be confirmed as a correct record.' Carried

2. **Business arising from 14 July minutes**

- a) Home printing of Magpie: Sam's sample copy. [Carried forward]
- b) G-mail calendar for railway station bookings – working, advertised? Sam, Kerry [Carried forward]
- c) Railway station minor maintenance work – Sally, Sam [Carried forward, but refer to Item 7.]
- d) Lock-box for keys at station – Kerry. The lock-box has been installed.
- e) Response from solar panels cleaner re MRCA's offer of \$3.5K p/a for advertising on MRCA noticeboard? Kerry reported there has been no response. No follow-up is planned.
- f) Michelago Master Plan: lobbying Council – Kerry & Leanne
 - i) Kerry plans a simple strategy of dot points for ongoing lobbying of all councillors, with the support of Cr Tanya Higgins Cr Williamson, and eg articles in the *Michelago Magpie*, letters to the editor of *The Monaro Post*, questions to the Mayor on 'Good Morning, Monaro', and presentations in the public forum at Council meetings.
 - ii) Noted that many of the major recommendations contained in the MMP are dependent on funding from developers' contributions.
 - iii) Noted, however, that Council has obtained grant funding of \$1million for the Berridale Beautification Master Plan.
 - iv) Therefore, it's proposed to lobby Council to obtain similar funds for the expensive project of making a path/boardwalk along the creek (also see Item g/iii). This project was favoured in local feedback for the MMP.
 - v) Also proposed to keep pushing for progress on the Ryrie Street bridge/causeway. The money was approved 2 years ago. The delay is apparently due to site adjustment because of the creek's depth and the requirement for Council to acquire railway land from the NSW Government
 - vi) Suggested that Steve Whan MLA be asked to assist.
- g) Village landscaping: olive trees, front of Hall, slashing next to oval, planting between flowering plums in Ryrie St – Robbie, Leanne
 - i) Hall Committee is in favour of a couple of olive trees, possibly in large pots, in front of the Hall.
 - ii) Agreed there is room between some Ryrie St flowering plums for olive trees.
 - iii) After inspecting the area next to the fence between the oval and the creek, Di and Leanne agreed that slashing and levelling for planting olives is beyond our resources. The land is

excessively uneven and replete with deep wombat holes and rabbit warrens. It's a job for big machinery and money (see f/i) above). Further, there was concern about planting where Council would not pay for mowing/maintenance. However, there is room for more trees around the oval.

- iv) Peter: there are symbiotically twinned native cherries and eucalypts growing in the Tinderries. The cherries grow in the roots of any eucalypt. They're being cultivated by a Dubbo native plant nursery, 'Yurbay'. Peter agreed to write to Markus, President of Michelago & Region Landcare, about a possible Landcare planting project. Action: Peter

3. President's report

- a) Di expressed appreciation for all the work done by the Committee in her absence.
- b) Jason Green of Yless4U requested a letter of support for his application to the Regional Digital Connectivity Round 2 for faster telecommunications via a new fibre network to the village. This was sent.
- c) Di contacted Marty re the continuing function of the security cameras.
- d) Jo Jackson formally requested that she be removed from the MRCA mailing list because of the number of emails (Di has asked Markus to do this) and stated that she will notify the Committee when she is ready to participate in the MRCA again. Leanne asked if Jo, having been elected at the 2023 AGM, should be noted in minutes as being on leave or as a continuing apology. Di will email Jo to ask for her preference. Action: Di

4. Treasurer's report – Attachment 1 of 1.

5. Memorial Hall – Leanne

- a) Solar panels were installed Monday 7 August. Some electrical work is still to be done.
- b) Acoustic curtains grant application (Stronger Communities program) was successful. The Hall Committee will decide colours.

6. Railway Station improvements – Kerry circulated her draft for discussion of priorities following receipt of two recent grants.

- a) Low cost
 - i) Urgently reintroduce a watering and seasonal roster for hedge, roses and succulents.
 - ii) Fit a lock on the signals hut.
 - iii) Replace fluorescent light bulb on platform. A spare is in the kitchen and a ladder in the southern end room.
 - iv) Prepare a Users' Check List for what to bring and what to do when hiring the station.
 - v) Organise a Spring working bee.
 - vi) Amend MRCA's constitution to include heritage maintenance and historical research objectives. [See below Item 8]
- b) Costly or needing expertise
 - i) Repair bolt on kitchen door.
 - ii) Install solar lights for night meetings (specifically funded under latest SMRC grant). Installation by Cooma Correction Centre workers?
 - iii) Make a wheelchair-accessible path to platform at southern end.
 - iv) Arrange inspection and quote for upgrade to electricity.
 - v) Repair 2nd toilet in the 'Ladies'.
 - vi) Investigate feasibility of installing air conditioning. (Possible Heritage issues, but agreed that this is probably not feasible, due to asbestos in the roof and a very small manhole.)
 - vii) The boards at the front door entrance are bowed – rot?
- c) Possible grants such as the NSW Transport Heritage Grant www.thnsw.com.au/funding-support and the National Cultural Heritage Account www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/national-cultural-heritage-account

d) Kerry to finalise the To-Do List for the Station and to get names of volunteers against each item. Action: Kerry

7. SMRC events survey – Sally

Several Committee members accessed this survey that asked how Council could facilitate community-managed events attracting 500+ people. (The 2018 Spring Fair attracted c. 1500.) For a community organisation, the main problems are insurance and regulatory red tape. The conclusion is that Council could help with the former but that the latter issue is largely governed by NSW Government regulations that the Council has to police.

Noted that Council's Nicole Plummer told Sally that insurance costs could be part of a Council grant.

Another issue for a large event is project management, in that we need to have sufficient volunteers to give time for the many tasks necessary for planning and execution. We do not currently have those resources and would welcome volunteers.

8. Proposed constitutional amendment for next AGM – Kerry

Amend the Constitution to include this objective:

'The maintenance of heritage listed buildings and precincts (such as the Michelago Railway Station precinct) and research relating to the history of Michelago and the surrounding region.' Agreed

Our constitution's objectives currently read: *'The object of the Association is to represent and work for people residing in Michelago and surrounding regions (with the exception of surrounding regions for which an organisation exists with similar objects to the object of the Association) ("Region") regarding:*

- a) The development and maintenance of public and community places and services (such as roads, parks, rivers, community halls, aged care);*
- b) Subject to "(a)", the furtherance of the objects of fire brigade, sporting, educational, environmental, business and recreational organisations that are located in the Region ("Community Organisations"); and*
- c) Subject to "(a)" and "(b)", the progress of businesses located in the Region.'*

9. Michelago Magpie

- a) Twenty printed copies of #18: \$94.78 (from \$600 BCRRF-supplied credit at Kwik Kopy, Phillip), so unit cost is c. \$4.70 per copy. We can use these funds until the end of this financial quarter, when we'll need to review costs. Seventeen printed copies were left at the shop 2 August, asking \$2 each.
- b) Leanne stated that her commitment to producing the *Magpie* is extensive and not indefinite. She is committed to continue until the end of September.

10. There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 12 September, 6pm, Railway Station

MRCA Committee 2023—24

Di Fett (Pres.), Brent Wallis (Vice Pres.), Kerry Rooney (Treas.), Leanne Pattison (Sec.), Sam Walton (Railway Station co-ord.), Tony De Salis, Sally Hughes, Jo Jackson, Peter Holland, Robbie Wood, Jess Kalthofen, John Rooney. Public Officer: Ben Wickham.

Attachment 1 of 1

TREASURER'S REPORT 4 AUGUST 2023

MRCA finances

Our grant account has a balance of \$798.88.

BCRRF will request this be refunded to them.

- There was no expenditure in July.
- There was a reimbursement of \$22 for MailChimp in August

Our general MRCA account has a balance of \$ \$24,789.86.

July revenue:

- Strong Communities grant for Hall of \$9,925
- Leah Oliver 2 days hire of railway station \$160
- SMRC Donations & Sponsorships grant for railway station \$1,500
- Donations from NAIDOC week painting event \$70

July expenditure:

- Reimbursement for key safe \$97

August revenue

- Essential Energy grant \$2750

Grants – Same Old, Same Old

Our BCRRF project has officially ended as of 30/06/2023. We have submitted everything required and we're just waiting for a letter from BCRRF to wind up the last few remaining dollars.

MRCA is still waiting on the outcomes of the NSW Heritage fund. In December 2022, we applied for a grant of \$17,000 with matching funding to come from UGL, for internal painting and minor repairs to the railway station (total project value \$34,000). – I have now received three consecutive emails apologising for the delay and advising the decisions will be announced SOON.
