

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

**MINUTES**

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

Chair: Kerry Rooney

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm.

Apologies: Di Fett

1. **Previous minutes** Moved Kerry, seconded Tony 'That the minutes of the 14 June Committee meeting be confirmed as a correct record.' Carried
2. **Business arising from 14 June minutes**
  - a) Home printing of Magpie: Sam's sample copy. [Carried forward]
  - b) Railway Station bookings: gmail calendar. Kerry & Sam. Sam has set this up, will share it with Kerry and will help people with it.
  - c) Railway Station minor maintenance work – Cooma Correction Centre? Sally, Sam. Sam will ask Naomi, Kerry or Sally for CCC contact details.
  - d) Canberra & Region Heritage Festival update. Sally, Kerry. No follow-up is required. Nicole Plummer from SMRC has contacted the National Trust and they will make their own arrangements for their Monaro visit. To assist them, Kerry has supplied Nicole Plummer with contact details for St Patrick's Church.
  - e) The Essential Energy 'Clickathon' is proceeding. Our position has varied from second to fourth. Leanne contacted the Michelago School Principal again but there was no follow-up.
  - f) Lock-box at the Hall for Railway Station keys. Leanne. Tentative agreement from Hall Committee. However, this MRCA Committee approved the purchase of a lock box, as recommended by Sam, to locate at the Railway Station. ACTION: KERRY
3. **President's report** – Di is on leave until the end of July.
4. **Treasurer's report** (including SMRC Donations & Sponsorships): attached.
  - a) The general account is healthy.
  - b) We hope to finish in the top three in the Essential Energy Community Choices Program (aka the Clickathon).
  - c) BCRRF funding acquitted. The fund people agreed the MRCA could deposit \$600 with Kwik Kopy as credit for printing *The Magpie* to the end of the financial quarter (end of September). The unspent funds have to be returned.
  - d) We are waiting for the result of the NSW Heritage Fund application. UGL said they will match it if it's obtained.
  - e) \$1,500.00 from Council (SMRC) for the Railway Station. From the Donations and Sponsorships fund.
5. **Correspondence**
  - a) Re Canberra man wanting to advertise his solar-cleaning business on the MRCA noticeboard: agreed to give assent for an A4 advertisement for \$3,500.00 p/a. Kerry to email him this decision. ACTION: KERRY
  - b) Jess Kalthofen email to Di expressed regret that she doesn't have time just now for MRCA Committee participation but remains interested and would like to stay in touch. This was noted with thanks.
6. **Hall Committee:** Leanne (Full report from Jenny Wholohan, Hall Committee Secretary, is in *Magpie*17.)
  - a) Funding was obtained for dishwasher purchase from SMRC but not for its installation. The Hall Committee has applied for Boco Rock funding for cabinet, electrical and plumbing work.
  - b) Sound & lights system: Better Music consultant is booked to try to get it all working at last.
  - c) SMRC has approved solar panels installation. Funding is the NAB grant originally gained for a generator.
  - d) The MRCA is the official applicant of the Stronger Communities program funding for the installation of curtains in the Hall to improve the acoustics.

**7. Michelago Master Plan: Kerry**

- a) The parameters for the village's development were established with the adoption of the Plan by Council nearly two years ago. The plan includes a walking track along the creek and the Ryrie St extension and bridge over Michelago Creek. There has been little or no progress and it is urgent that it be made. Agreed
- b) Council does not appear to have a process for implementation of the Michelago Master Plan.
- c) The Committee agreed to develop a campaign to lobby Council to make this priority. Agreed.

ACTION: KERRY, LEANNE

**8. Village landscaping: Robbie** (Landcare President Markus's email, in which he proposed planting along the creek, was distributed before this meeting. Also note Landcare meeting planned for 29 July.)

- a) The meeting discussed various sites for tree planting, including those of some of the apparently struggling ornamental cherry trees in Ryrie Street. Sally and Leanne recounted some Landcare history (noting 'corporate knowledge') for newer committee members about Landcare's previous extensive plantings (from the early 2000s to c. 2017) in the village and on various nearby properties.
- b) Robbie has many potted olive trees, seedlings and established, to donate. Leanne will ask Anna Lucas of the Hall Committee to contact her about potted trees for the front of the Hall.
- c) Robbie will contact Ivan Colaric for advice about planting the olives and also Michael Scanlon, who is also a landscape gardener.

ACTION: ROBBIE

**9. National Trust, oral history, heritage, MRCA links:** Sally noted Cooma Library's oral history section and that the library can do transcripts. She asked about local oral histories for tourists about the two Michelago churches and old families. Kerry: there is a book about the Cotter family, including a history of Michelago. Peter located a National Library link. Sally: could a Council heritage grant fund a project? Kerry: there is lots of material available, but it needs a person/committee to organise an experienced oral historian and to turn the material into a script for a local tourism guide to inform visitors about our history and heritage buildings. It was concluded that we currently don't have these resources.

**10. Magpie: Leanne (a)** Five booklets of issues 1—16 were printed by Kwik Kopy, funded by BCRRF. One copy for each of the shop, the railway station, and Leanne (as compiler and editor) and Brien Hallett will give one to Cooma Library, which is keen to collect items of local history. There is one left.

**(b) Magpie 17,** MailChimp stats report 12 July: 295 deliveries. Open rate 61.1%

**11. Brigade Bulletin 5 copies of all 60 issues: Leanne.** This was a community newsletter, though focused on the Michelago Fire Brigade. Four compendia distributed – Brigade, Brent Wallis, Cooma Library, Leanne. See Treasurer's report.

**12. Any other business:** none.

The meeting concluded at 7.57pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 9 August, 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: TREASURER'S REPORT 11 JULY 2023**

**MRCA finances**

Our grant account has a balance of \$821. I expect BCRRF will request this be refunded to them. Expenditure in June comprised:

- \$600 advance payment for printing *Magpies* till end September
- \$366 for 5 copies of the *Magpie* compendium
- \$532 for 5 copies of the Fire Brigade compendium, the predecessor to the *Magpie*
- \$120 for printing *Magpie* 16

Our general MRCA account has a balance of \$10,482.

June general revenue:

- Two family memberships \$30 - Suzanne Stevens and Brendan Jackson

June general expenditure:

- Vodien email hosting \$ 68

## Grants

Voting in Essential Energy Community Choices is on now. You can vote once per IP address, per hour, per group. It ends at 5 pm 17 July. Last year we came 2nd in our zone and received \$1,000. This year prizes are higher but the competition is tougher. First prize is \$5,000! We're coming 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our BCRRE project has officially ended as of 30/06/2023. I have submitted the acquittal certificate ie the financials, and have completed the outcomes report (ie what did we achieve with the grant) which must wait for Di's review and signature for submission.

MRCA is still waiting on the outcomes of the NSW Heritage fund. 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).

The Council's 2023 Donations and Sponsorships round was decided in June. We applied for \$3,000 for the railway station and will receive a \$1,500 "Donation to cover cost of licence with Transport NSW, various running costs and installation of solar lights". Budget submitted for this year's application is below.

Budget for Michelago Railway Station 2023			
<b>Estimated Expenditure for Station</b>			<b>\$</b>
Annual Licence Fee			640
Annual Electricity			960
Insurance			800
Solar Lights			261
Mowing (max 4 per year)			600
Repairs & maintenance (estimate)			300
<b>Total</b>			<b>3561</b>
<b>Estimated Revenue from Station</b>			
Local Community Donations			500
<b>Total</b>			<b>500</b>
<b>Net Deficit</b>			<b>-3061</b>

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