



MRCA Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14 November, 2023 at 6pm, Michelago Railway Station

MINUTES

The meeting started at 6.15pm.

1. **Present:** Di Fett (President), Kerry Rooney (Treasurer), Leanne Pattison (Secretary), Tony De Salis, Sally Hughes.
2. **Apologies:** Sam Walton.
3. **Previous minutes:** 12 September 2023 (Note there was no October meeting): Moved Di, seconded Tony De Salis 'That the minutes of the 12 September 2023 meeting be accepted as a correct record.'

CARRIED

4. **Business arising from previous minutes:**

- a) Home printing of Maggie: Sam's sample copy *[carried forward]* *[Subsequent to this meeting, Sam has supplied 15 copies of #21, free from a secret printing resource.]*
- b) G-mail calendar for railway station bookings – Sam, Kerry *[carried forward]*
- c) Proposed visit: Old Parliament House heritage team to liaise with MRCA Committee re restoration projects in heritage buildings and for the OPH people to better understand local history. This could include a visit to St Patrick's Church. Dates to suit OPH team and Michael Scanlon? – Peter *[carried forward]*
- d) Access to old well on station platform – padlock key? Leanne will ask RFS Treasurer Brien if the Brigade has the key. [Done. Brien to follow up.] ACTION - LEANNE

5. **President's report and correspondence – Di**

- a) Membership invoices and fees – Kerry confirmed she emails reminders to members whose fees are due. She finds this productive without sending invoices.
- b) Proposed Constitution change: Di recommends that the MRCA adopts the Model Constitution of NSW Fair Trading to replace our outdated one. This is a straightforward document but does not allow any change or supplement. We would need to:
 - i) Give 21 days' notice to all members of our proposal to move the Special Resolution at a meeting (can be a normal committee meeting or AGM or a meeting just for the purpose.
 - ii) Circulate a copy of the proposed motion (That members have decided to adopt a new constitution'), including a copy of the proposed constitution
 - iii) Within 28 days of passage of the motion, file with NSW Fair Trading a Form A6 and pay the service fee of \$60.00.
- c) She recommends that we would then update our own list of the Association's aims and objectives, previously discussed but yet to be defined. This list would be voted on after the 2024 AGM.
- d) President's full report is attached – Attachment 1.

6. **Treasurer's report** – Kerry – Attachment 2.

Further to her report, Kerry proposed that the remainder of the grant money for the Hall's acoustic curtains (obtained for the Hall by the MRCA, as the application had to be from an incorporated body) be transferred to the Hall account, as the purchase of curtains for the Hall's stage is still being discussed by the Hall Committee and its decision could take some time. The amount (c. \$6K) makes the MRCA account look healthier than it is. (Once the grant is fulfilled, the Hall Committee will need to complete the acquittal to be submitted by the MRCA. Leanne to check this with the Hall Committee. *[Done]* ACTION LEANNE

7. **Proposed grant application for new fence, creek side of the oval** – Kerry

This project will not proceed, due to the excessive paperwork (including a DA and Land Council consultations) required. Kerry has spoken with Michelago Cricket Club's President/Captain, David Hanns, about the Council requirements.

8. **Signage for proposed re-naming of the oval** – Kerry

Kerry has continued her enquires about the progress of the consultation process, noting that the proposal was approved unanimously by Council (in September) and awaits the Council response.

9. **Memorial Hall report** – Leanne

- a) Olive trees: the Hall Committee, initially enthusiastic about two trees in large pots on the Hall porch, regretfully decided that the risk of theft was too high. Also, given the onerous regulations about the Oval's proposed fence (see Item 7), digging holes around the Oval would be forbidden. However, some members were keen to have some trees for their own gardens.
- b) Acoustic curtains: those for the windows have arrived (thanks to President Naomi) and the Committee is seeking advice about hanging them securely. The plan to have a stage curtain is under review, due to the weight.
- c) Solar battery: application to NAB for a grant was unsuccessful. A different grant application is under way.
- d) Three sets of OHS-compliant stairs & new doors. This was a Council initiative in accord with their OHS requirements. There is no ramp. One door was hung on the wrong side, limiting access. Allan has re-hung this correctly, will repair the holes from the initial hanging, and will invoice Council for this work.
- e) Dishwasher, now completely funded for purchase & installation (thanks to Treasurer Belinda), was delivered 10.11.23. A carpenter and electrician have been organised.
- f) Fundraiser: gingerbread houses: order by 17 Nov. This fun event is Sunday 3 December, 3pm at the Hall. See *Magpie 21* for details.

10. **Railway Station** – Kerry

- a) The NSW 'Caring for State Heritage' grant: the first instalment of \$8,508.00 arrived in the grant account 9 Nov. (see Treasurer's report). The paperwork for both Di and Kerry has been onerous. Now the demand for a 'Statement of Heritage Impact' requires assessment by an authorised heritage consultant, whom the MRCA would have to pay.

However, Di will contact Council's heritage consultant, Pip Giovanelli, for advice. Pip is paid by Council when the item is managed by Council (which the railway station, being under the aegis of the NSW Govt, is not).

b) Cleaning / maintenance / repairs:

- i) Agreed to halve Leah Oliver's hire fee for her recent 3-day pop-up craft shop, as she had to remove the furniture and then thoroughly clean the room.
- ii) Agreed to review the all-day hire fee after the AGM, possibly to \$90. Currently \$80.
- iii) Spring-cleaning day: 21 Nov, from 10am. To be confirmed by email and advertised. A birthday party booking for 26 Nov is the impetus.
- iv) Pump repair: the 2nd-hand pump purchased from Ash Crivici (c. 1 year ago) failed two weeks ago. Ash has temporarily replaced it with another. The MRCA awaits news of the repair.

c) Watering roster: this has worked well. Kerry will renew it.

ACTION KERRY

d) Water:

- i) Hose pressure & water level. Unclear what can be done about the low pressure, given gravity feed and the tank currently being c. 2/3 full.
- ii) Tony will donate a length of hose so other plants can be reached. Noted that the Cenotaph garden will also need attention.

e) Electricals:

- i) Tony De Luca advised how to determine which power points are on which circuits so the heater and urn can be put on separate circuits, as their combination on one trips it. He advised that no electrical upgrade is necessary.
- ii) The main room's power point needs a basic re-attachment repair.

11. **'Rivers of Carbon' survey** (Australian River Restoration Centre) re Murrumbidgee – Sally

The communication advises that present management of the river is unsustainable and references ACT and NSW Governments and Snowy Hydro. This ARRC survey closes 30 Nov. This is too early for the next *Maggie*. Leanne will put the information on the Michelago Notice Board Facebook page. [Done]

ACTION LEANNE

12. **Bridge linking Micalago Rd & Ryrie St:** UGL agreements were reportedly signed; work to start December. Cr Tanya Higgins will continue to follow up after her report in *Maggie 21*. She had contacted local MLA Steve Whan about the issue; he has apparently had some influence, though he prevaricated about this when chatting with Leanne at the General Store, 8 November.

13. **Remembrance Day** – Kerry & Leanne

Thanks to all for the pre-organisation and team assistance for a successful ceremony. Kerry and Leanne were main organisers, Werner Lausberg was MC, and essential helpers were Leanne Thurling, Sally Hughes and Gisela Lausberg. Sophie Higgins and Leanne Thurling read poems and Leanne P. gave the address. Some floral tributes were laid, including a large wreath from Council.

14. **Michael Scanlon's project to help Belconnen children.** Kerry discussed this with Michael. He accepted that local efforts would be more appropriate for our resources.
15. **Magpie 20 & 21:** 20 copies of each were printed by Kwik Kopy, Phillip. Eighteen of #20 at the shop were all taken/sold. Eighteen of #21 were left at the shop last week.
16. **The meeting closed** at 7.50pm, there being no other business.

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, Peter Holland, Robbie Wood, John Rooney. (Jess Kalthofen and Jo Jackson have taken indefinite leave). Public Officer: Ben Wickham.

Attachment 1: President's report – 14 November 2023

Heritage grant for railway station

As Kerry mentions in her Treasurer's report, I've been battling the system for approval of heritage works. The Heritage NSW web application form for 'Section 60 fast track' approval for works is a game of endurance, but the form has now been lodged to the best of my ability and I expect to hear from Heritage with further requirements. This is something we've found with other grants – the admin is set up for large corporations, not for small community groups.

I have set this problem out in a (late*) submission to the Department of Social Services 'A stronger, more diverse and independent community sector' consultation (*late, because I was grappling with the Heritage requirements). I've forwarded this to the committee.

Security/safety lights for station

As you'll have read in the Magpie, these have now been installed, thanks to Roscoe, who refused to charge us.

Michelago Bridge and Masterplan

See: *Magpie 21*. Steve Whan has intervened but we still await a start date. I suggest that we progress other issues in relation to the Masterplan when the bridge is progressing.

The Remembrance Day service at the Michelago Historic Railway Station was superbly organised and executed. Werner Lausberg performed the MC role professionally, and Leanne's address was poignant.

Other correspondence

We received a delightful letter from our local RFS, particularly thanking Leanne for her contribution over the years, and continuing, to the Michelago RFS and community. I responded (hear, hear!) and offered any assistance the MRCA can provide to this brave brigade.

There has been lots of correspondence about the proposal by the Michelago Cricket Club for new fencing for the Michelago Oval. Whatever the outcome of this discussion, we should not let it impede the re-naming process. I look forward to a community picnic/barbecue/cricket match to celebrate!

Our mailing lists still don't appear to be working. I'll follow up with Markus.

The Michelago Magpie

I continue to hear great praise for our local rag. Long may it fly!

Attachment 2: Treasurer's report – 13 November 2023

MRCA finances

Our grant account has a balance of \$8,508 after receiving the first instalment of \$8,500 of the Caring for Heritage grant on 9 November.

Our general MRCA account has a balance of \$20,150. Transactions for 1 August to 11 November are in the table below. These include two payments of \$1,900 relating to a grant received for the Hall of \$9,925 on 28 July.

MRCA General Account				
Date	\$	Transaction		
11/11/2023	-110	Osko Payment Sent Mowing for Remembrance Day John Colaric 407406887		
9/11/2023	-99.49	DIRECT DEBIT RED ENERGY-DDR 0266180421 E0017233448		
8/11/2023	80	DEPOSIT - CASH STATION		
8/11/2023	146.2	DEPOSIT - CASH MAGPIE		
2/11/2023	30	DIRECT CREDIT Yless4U Pty Ltd 0264590795 Michelago Region C		
1/11/2023	0	TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED 10/23		
31/10/2023	240	Osko Payment Received LEAH OLIVER 402895320		
27/10/2023	15	Osko Payment Received Antram CHRISTOPHER ANTRAM 401450170		
11/10/2023	-1900.25	Osko Payment Sent Michelago Hall Curtains Sewlex Manufacturing 394539332		
1/10/2023	0	TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED 09/23		
1/10/2023	0	INTEREST		
15/09/2023	-209.97	Osko Payment Sent 3 solar powered motion sensor> Dianne Phelan 383653981		
1/09/2023	0	TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED 08/23		
31/08/2023	-1900.25	Osko Payment Sent Michelago Hall Sewlex Manufacturing 377897828		
21/08/2023	-827.1	BILL PAYMENT BPAY TO: Elders Ins 0148754588		
10/08/2023	-46.95	Osko Payment Sent Reimburse domain name renewal Markus Buchhorn 368506641		
9/08/2023	-86.98	DIRECT DEBIT RED ENERGY-DDR 0242870480 E0016465446		
7/08/2023	30	DIRECT CREDIT YLess4U PTY LTD 0242301802 Jason Green		
3/08/2023	2750	Osko Payment Received ESSENTIAL ENERGY 366601153		
1/08/2023	0	TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED TRANSACTION FEES CHARGED 07/23		

MRCA Grants

On 10 August 2023, MRCA received a letter of offer from the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) for a \$17,000 Caring for Heritage grant which we applied for in December 2022. UGL confirmed it would provide matching funding. All funding is provisional upon relevant heritage approvals, permits and exemptions. Di has been working with the Heritage team in DEP to get a Section 60 'fast track approval' which is proving extremely onerous. The project involves internal painting and minor repairs to the railway station (total project value \$34,000). Meanwhile the prices of paint and supplies are rising and already will cost \$3,000 more than the original budget.