



MRCA Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 12 September, 2023 at 6pm, Michelago Railway Station

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Di Fett (President), Peter Holland, Tony De Salis, Leanne Pattison (Secretary, minutes).

**Chair:** Di Fett

1. **Apologies:** Kerry Rooney, Robbie Wood, Sally Hughes, Sam Walton, Brent Wallis
2. **Previous minutes:** Moved Di, seconded Tony 'That the minutes of the MRCA Committee meeting of 9 August 2023 be accepted as a correct record.' Carried
3. **Business arising from previous 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]
  - d) Michelago Master Plan: lobbying Council. See President's report (attached).
    - Di's email to Cooma radio program re Ryrie St Bridge.
    - Ryrie St-Micalago Rd Bridge site: Emily Green has contacted the Monaro Post and is liaising with Di, Leanne and Kerry.
    - Council survey on SMRC YourSay page re amenities people want.
  - e) Native cherry trees: Peter and Cass are planting some from 'Yarbay' nursery to be symbiotic with eucalypts on their village property. They will look at more extensive plantings if the trees progress well. The trees grow wild in Namadgi.
4. **President's report and correspondence** – see Attachment.
5. **Treasurer's report** – no report, as Kerry is on leave.
6. **Peter – Heritage.** Proposed visit from 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 and the cemetery (featuring Garrett Cotter's grave). Peter will find dates that would suit the OPH heritage team. The Committee and Michael Scanlon will then liaise. Weekday preferred. Action: Peter
7. **Memorial Hall** – Leanne
  - a) Boco Rock grant application successful for dishwasher installation after shortfall in Council funding.
  - b) Sliding doors to the storage area are now functional, thanks to Alan Lehepuu. Minor painting still to be done, possibly by the Cooma Correction Centre workers.
  - c) Committee will prioritise guttering and fascia board repairs with Council's offered funds.
  - d) Separately, Council has prioritised installation of wheelchair-friendly ramps at the kitchen and back doors. This is a Council OHS initiative.
8. **Railway Station**
  - a) Watering roster has been organised by Kerry. Volunteers to swap times as suited.
  - b) Tony offered to lend his fire pump to see if the old well on the platform could supply/supplement the rainwater tank for garden watering. This could reduce the cost of filling the tank in dry weather. Estimated cost of a new pump was \$1500.00. Agreed to try this during a Spring working bee.

- c) Ideas for improvements to the station following receipt of two recent grants: the previous minutes listed improvements in categories of low cost and more costly/needing expertise.
  - d) Solar-powered sensor lights: Di has bought three from Costco (\$69.99 each) and will ask Roscoe to install two on the platform and one at the front of the main building.
  - e) **Moved** Leanne, seconded Peter: 'That the MRCA Committee approves payment, on presentation of receipts, to Di Fett of \$209.97 for the lights' purchase and to Roscoe for their installation.' Carried
  - f) The NSW 'Caring for State Heritage' grant application was successful (as notified in *Magpie19*) and UGL Regional Linx (which manages the country rail network for the NSW Government) has generously fulfilled the condition of the grant by matching the c. \$17,000.00. This will pay for repainting the station and some significant repairs. (Kerry, do I have the grant name correct? Was there another one?)
9. **Magpie19:** 25 printed copies (Kwik Kopy) \$95.83 (from \$600 credit BCRRF). Means c. \$3.85 per copy. Twenty-two were left at the shop 25 September. Remaining credit at KK is \$317.70.
  10. **Other business.** With regard to plans to lobby for progress on the bridge, Tony noted the possibility of a change of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The meeting closed at 7.15.

#### 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

### **MRCA President's and correspondence report 12 Sept 2023**

#### **Heritage grant for railway station**

Our application for Heritage funding for painting the interior of the railway station has been successful. Heritage has agreed to pay \$17,000 on condition that an equal contribution is committed as co-funding, and UGL has now agreed in writing to contributing \$16,390.

This leaves a gap of \$610 for the MRCA to contribute, as foreshadowed in Kerry's correspondence to the committee dated 6 November 2022, and to which we agreed.

This is yet another amazing achievement by our grant expert Kerry and a fantastic feather in our little railway station's cap. The fact that it is able to compete with all the many and mighty heritage-listed items across NSW and receive this offer is heart-warming, and again, a huge credit to Kerry.

There's still quite a bit of paperwork to be sorted and we need to satisfy criteria required by both Heritage NSW and UGL. Leanne and I have been working on these with Kerry's (remote) guidance.

#### **Security/safety lights for station**

I've finally got around to buying three solar-powered motion sensor lights for security and our safety. Roscoe is meeting me at midday tomorrow to put them up. I note that we already have heritage approval for these, and that they do not require much installation (they are just attached at the edge of the balcony roof, with the solar panel on top).

The lights cost about \$65 each (from Costco, which in my experience has better quality lights), and I don't know whether Roscoe will charge to help me install. Is the committee happy to reimburse for these

purchases - and for installation if necessary - from the grant funding we received for the purpose? [See Committee approval above.]

### **Rates for the station**

We've had another request for us to pay the rates for the station. In response I reiterated the points Kerry made in her reply to an earlier request. That is, that our licence does not require us to pay rates, we have never paid rates, we are a small community association without regular income, and we have no intention to pay rates for the station.

### **Michelago Bridge and walkways campaign**

I sent a 'question for the Mayor' for Mayor Narelle Davis, to 2MNO as follows:

**"Why are we still waiting for Council to approve its own DA for the Michelago Bridge?"**

**"Funding for the bridge was approved back in 2020.**

**"A bridge over Little Plains River near Delegate was approved and funded at the same time as the Michelago Bridge. It has been demolished and rebuilt, and was reopened in mid-2022.**

**"The Michelago Bridge is an essential connector for the two main streets of Michelago – Ryrie St and Micalago Road. Without the bridge, school children who could otherwise ride their bicycles to school have to be driven onto and off the Monaro highway in dangerous traffic. The Michelago RFS has to wait for Micalago Road residents to navigate the Monaro Highway entry and exit before it can deploy a firefighting team.**

**"When will Council stop de-prioritising Michelago?"**

The Mayor's response on the radio was to acknowledge that the Dalgety Bridge was done and said she will chase up re the Michelago Bridge. Mayor Davis acknowledged that there was a problem with people having to go out onto the highway. She also encouraged people to give her a ring. I have left a phone message for her to call me but haven't heard back yet.

If I don't hear back within, say, a week, I will escalate in consultation with the committee and the community.

Leanne and I have also been in contact with Emily Green and she has contacted the Monaro Post about an update on the bridge story. She is happy to participate in a *Magpie* article.

There is currently a Council consultation on the SMRC YourSay page. Please complete the survey and encourage your neighbours to do so. You can drag and drop a pin onto the map of Michelago, showing where better walking/bike riding access is needed – obviously the bridge, but also walkways around the village, and a possible walkway to the creek.

We will progress other issues in relation to the Masterplan over coming months.

### **Other correspondence**

Spam spam spam and a threat to reveal photos of somebody doing something excessively personal. Markus has been having trouble with the website, constantly having to re-set the password, so I've left it in his hands. Maybe it's time for a new email and website, which will cost money. I'll ask Markus to find out.