



**MRCA Committee Meeting
Tuesday 12 December 2023
MINUTES**

The meeting opened at 6.10pm.

1. **Present:** Di Fett (President), Kerry Rooney (Treasurer), Leanne Pattison (Secretary, minutes), Robbie Wood, Tony De Salis, Sally Hughes.
2. **Apologies:** Peter Holland
3. **Previous minutes:** Moved Di, seconded Kerry 'That the minutes of the MRCA Committee meeting of Tuesday 14 November be accepted as a correct record.' CARRIED
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:**
 - a) Magpie printing – Sam, Leanne, Kerry. Sam printed 15 copies of MM20. The quality was comparable with that of Kwik Kopy.
 - b) G-mail calendar for railway station bookings – Sam, Kerry (carried forward)
 - c) OPH heritage team visit to St Pat's: date? – Peter (carried forward)
 - d) Key to old well on station platform – Leanne has emailed Brien (Treasurer, Michelago RFB) to ask about this at the next Brigade Executive meeting. No reply yet.
 - e) Pump repair: see Kerry's Railway Station report (Item 5).
 - f) Watering roster: Kerry has extended this. It is working well. We need to include the Cenotaph plants.
 - g) Procedural and paperwork holdups: (i) signage for Oval renaming, (ii) Oval fence – Kerry
 - i) Despite Council having voted in favour of renaming the Oval as 'Clive Kelly Oval', subject to community consultation, Kerry has not found that anyone in Council is organising consultation. Kerry has therefore asked Cr Tanya Higgins to enquire.
 - ii) The proposed fence will not go ahead under the aegis of the MRCA. Consultation with two Land Councils is required, as well as a DA. The MRCA does not have the resources for such a project.
5. **President's report -- Attachment 1**
6. **Treasurer's report – Attachment 2**
7. **Railway Station – Kerry**
 - a) Essential Energy Grant of \$2750 received in August: revisiting some options for expenditure. Essential Energy would like to know how we plan to spend the money.
 - i) Power-point repair and new power point in waiting room – we will do this.
 - ii) Install a new tap outside the men's toilet or a new pump at the tank to give water pressure watering the garden.
 - iii) Repair toilet – will do.
 - iv) Second battery for mower – not yet. See below 'Mowing'.
 - v) Smooth path for wheelchair access – yes, if there's any money left. The meeting favoured a concrete path. Sally noted that Cooma Correction Centre made a concrete path at Colinton RFS.
 - vi) Pump repair – Ash has yet to investigate our pump that stopped working. Ash's temporary replacement pump is in place.
 - vii) Mowing – agreed to pay John Colaric when volunteers cannot mow.

- b) Heritage conditions on heritage grant for station: how to proceed from here? Some aspects need heritage treatment, some not.
 Di proposed Pip as the overseer for qualified heritage workers.
 Pip stated that internal walls need washing. Agreed Sally would contact the Cooma Correction Centre about this work.
 Di to contact Pip re what parts of the recommendations could be done by the CCC, including the path and cleaning all walls. ACTION DI
8. **Bridge linking Micalago Rd and Ryrie St.** Actions have continued and are recorded in recent issues of the *Michelago Magpie*. Actions include Di's letter to the minister, Cr Higgins' contact with MP Steve Whan, contact with the Minister for Transport.
9. **Ryrie St trees** – Robbie proposes to experiment with rejuvenation of two of the flowering plums by digging a surrounding ditch for water retention, and applying fertiliser and gypsum. Robbie would attend to the watering. **NB:** check underground infrastructure first by contacting 'Dial before you dig'. [Note from LP outside minutes: I should check this project with John Colaric.]
10. **Hall Committee** – Leanne (full report see *Magpie22*)
- a) Acoustic curtains on the windows. Half are installed. Thanks to Jenny and Allan.
 - b) Dishwasher now fully installed (this is an update on *Magpie 22* report)
 - c) Monaro Mobile Pre-school scheduled to restart Term 1. Facebook site says they're advertising for staff.
 - d) Mowing: Steve from Council maintenance rang John Colaric to say he can mow once. Unclear whether this is once only or once per year.
 - e) Grant application for battery for solar power unsuccessful. New grant applied for.
 - f) Tennis courts (Sally query) are open for use. Court weeds have been recently sprayed. *Magpie* and Facebook should ask users to close the gates after use (kangaroo poo). ACTION LEANNE
 - g) Noted that the Hall Committee is charged by Council with looking after the courts, but this is not possible at the moment, given the Committee's commitments to Hall maintenance and improvements. It was suggested that we put out a call to community for interest in a tennis subcommittee.
11. **AGM date and Constitution change**
- a) AGM 16 March 2024, 3pm.
 - b) Memberships to be paid on or before the date to enable voting. Kerry will send out notices asking for payment via bank transfer.
 - c) Constitution change: Moved Di, seconded Kerry: 'That all members be notified 21 days before the AGM of the proposed changes to the constitution, ie that members adopt the Fair Trading NSW Model Constitution.' CARRIED
12. **New website and new email**: Moved Di, seconded Kerry: 'That Markus be asked to organise a new website and new email and that the MRCA pays for this.' CARRIED
13. **President's report** – Attachment 1
14. **Treasurer's report** – Attachment 2

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

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

MRCA PRESIDENT'S AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT 12 DECEMBER 2023

Heritage grant for railway station

We provided our heritage consultant Pip's report to Heritage NSW, and our 's60 fast track' application has been now approved, but with many new requirements.

Pip's report recommended significantly different works from our original proposal. For example, some of the proposed internal painting can be replaced by cleaning, which should save money which can be used for other works he recommends but which were not in our application.

We may proceed with the works that our Heritage consultant Pip recommends in his report, but must engage a heritage consultant to supervise. I doubt that Council will pay for Pip to perform this role, so assuming we proceed we will probably need to use some of the grant money to pay him.

Also, we are required to use heritage specialist tradesmen. Pip has recommended some in his report. This will require new quotes and much work....

All this has been beautifully set out in the latest *Magpie*.

Michelago Bridge and Masterplan

Again, see the *Magpie*. I wrote to the Minister for Transport. No response. I wanted to follow up with a phone call to her office, but her website does not provide a phone number and seems to restrict contact method to filling out a form (which is how I sent the letter).

Also as reported in the *Magpie*, Tanya H is working on this through Council and Steve Whan. It's frankly infuriating. Perhaps we need to arrange a protest.

Merch

My sister mocked up a cap with 'Michelago' (like the railway sign) and showed me how to seek quotes, with some suggestions about reasonable suppliers. Not having much luck with it yet.

Correspondence

We received financial and other reports from the Monaro Rail Trail, which I have not read. [Would anyone like to take this on?]

MRCA webmail continues to be a cesspit of spam, offering everything – enhancement pills, multi-language translators, and other bollocks. I honestly can't bear to open it very often so there is a risk we will miss something important.

Our mailing lists still don't appear to be working, and I haven't had a chance to follow up with Markus.

A new email service (for which we will have to pay), and the website upgrade, will need to be high on the agenda for the next committee.

The Michelago Magpie

It remains a wonderful creature, providing highly professional reporting on all things Michelago and region, with colour, humour and sensitivity.

Thanks to a wonderful team!

It has been an exhausting year, with many frustrations, but huge thanks from me to you all, the MRCA committee band of fantastic volunteers, for bringing us through it.

Attachment 2

TREASURER'S REPORT 12 DECEMBER 2023

MRCA finances

Our grant account has a balance of \$8,208.

The only transaction in the last month was a \$300 reimbursement for the s60 fee to Heritage NSW to fast track approval for our railway station project under the Caring for Heritage grant.

Our general MRCA account has a balance of \$14,138 down by \$6,000 since last month's report.

Transactions included payments to the Hall Committee of \$6,125 which represented the remainder of the Department of Industry grant for the Hall's acoustic curtains.

Other transactions included:

- \$200 donation from Leah Oliver for her three day pop-up craft exhibition in the railway station in October;
- \$64 in payments for printing Magpie22 – leaving us a small credit with Kwik Kopy of \$43.40 for the next edition.

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.

We have now received a letter giving us approval under section 60 of the heritage act, subject to many conditions: specifically that we follow the advice set out in Pip Giovanelli's report; that we hire a qualified heritage consultant to direct and monitor all the work at railway station; and that we use tradesman with experience in conservation of similar heritage buildings.

Our original project plan involved internal painting and minor repairs to the railway station (total project value \$34,000). I expect the original project plan will need to be significantly modified.

Essential Energy would like an email telling them how we spent our \$2750 grant received in August 2023.