



MRCA Committee Meeting

Railway Station, 6pm, Tuesday 13 February 2024

MINUTES

Minutes pp1–4, President's report 4–6, Treasurer's report 6.

The meeting started at 6.15pm.

1. Present: Di Fett (President), Kerry Rooney (Treasurer), Leanne Pattison (Secretary, minutes), Peter Holland, Sally Hughes, Cr Tanya Higgins.
2. Apologies: Tony De Salis, Sam Walton, Robbie Wood, Ben Wickham.
3. Previous minutes (circulated previously): Moved Di Fett, seconded Sally Hughes 'That the minutes of the 12 December 2023 meeting be accepted as a correct record of that meeting.'
CARRIED
4. Event proposals from Belinda Hayes: carried forward. See Item 16.
5. Matters arising from previous minutes
 - a) Gmail calendar for station bookings – Leanne to contact Sam ACTION LEANNE
 - b) OPH Heritage Team – Peter. The team needs contacts for organising a date to view St Patrick's Church (the original and present ones) and the railway station. Contacts: Michael Scanlon and Kerry, respectively. ACTION LEANNE
 - c) Key to old well on station platform: Brien Hallett reported from the Brigade Executive that the Brigade has no knowledge of the key.
 - d) Oval renaming & signage – Kerry
 - i) Thank you to Cr Tanya Higgins for her work in securing Council's agreement to rename the Oval and for pursuing the signage issue with Council.
 - ii) Cr Higgins will investigate availability of park benches made from recycled materials and the possibility of attaching a good-quality sign to the back of one that could be located on the Oval's street side. This would circumvent the prohibition on digging holes for posts on Council land. ACTION TANYA
 - iii) Cr Higgins has discussed with the new SMRC CEO the need for strategic management to smooth the administrative path for volunteer organisations working for community benefit.
 - iv) Leanne noted that some members of the Michelago Cricket Club would like the work of MCC President and past Captain, David Hanns, acknowledged on the new sign. The meeting discussed a number of options for acknowledging David's commendable volunteer activities.
 - v) Kerry noted that the Cricket Club has existed since the 1880s.
 - e) Oval's fence – Kerry
 - i) As reported in *Maggie23* (p11), the administrative requirements for the construction of a new fence were prohibitive for the MRCA's limited personnel resources. Cr Higgins has spoken to the SMRC CEO about such difficulties (see above 5d iii).
 - ii) Peter will ask Sam Walton about the cost of sight screens, for which no DA would be required. ACTION PETER

6. Informing Essential Energy how we propose to spend their grant – Kerry
 Spoilt for choice: priorities are a concrete path from the car park for wheelchair access, pump pressure for watering the garden and installation of new power points.
7. Railway station Heritage grant and work – Di, Sally, Kerry
- a) UGL's Tim Ritchie (Manager of Southern Regional Services in Ventia, a partner company of UGL) asked a plumber (Keiran from O'Neill & Brown Plumbing from Canberra) to quote on work at the station. This is to ensure the railway station is waterproof before internal works are undertaken. Kerian did an inspection of the station with Tim and Kerry on 20 December. They expect the work will take one day and will include checking the roof valleys, cleaning all gutters, connecting a downpipe on the Out-of-Room to the garden and fixing the toilet. ACTION KERRY
 - b) Tim said that UGL will pay for the quoted work of the renderer, Alistair Saunders.
 - c) The carpenter, Myles Gostelow, has yet to give his quote.
 - d) The Cooma Correction Centre workers cannot wash the walls and ceiling because of WHS concerns about asbestos.
 - e) The painter, Ardeshir Gholipour, will requote, given the time from his original quote and the major changes to his scope of work. He will need to wash all internal walls and ceilings and paint c. 3 interior walls and the Michelago sign on the platform. We discussed the necessity of appropriate safety apparel for Ardeshir.
8. Ryrie St-Micalago Rd bridge progress – Tanya
 All legal requirements associated with the ownership of the land are finalised, but Telstra has yet to complete relocating telephone lines. Cr Higgins is pursuing the matter and will update the committee.
9. Speed restrictions near school – Tanya
- a) Speed bumps might be possible at either end of the school's frontage.
 - b) The portable 'your speed' electronic sign was vandalised last time it was at the school.
10. Ryrie St trees – Leanne
- a) Ivan Colaric has recommended that olive trees would be suitable replacements for the apparently ailing flowering plums.
 - b) The meeting thanked Robbie for her plan to drive irrigation pipes in next to some of the flowering plums to see if this rejuvenates them and to attend to the watering.
 - c) John Colaric is concerned about ground disturbance inhibiting mowing and forecasts that watering, rather than reviving the trees' growth, will only promote them to produce more suckers from their surface roots.
 - d) The meeting questioned whether we would need (i) Council permission to remove and replace trees and (ii) community consultation – possibly through the *Magpie*.
 - e) Leanne to follow up. ACTION LEANNE
11. New website & email address – Di
- a) The website is now live but much content still needs to be transferred from the old site. Only Markus has access to this. Di to follow up. ACTION DI
 - b) Di, Kerry and Leanne are administrators and will try to update the site with new material and photos. ACTION DI, KERRY, LEANNE

12. SMRC Donations and Sponsorships Grant

- a) Applications close 15 March. Agreed to ask for the usual grant towards railway station running costs of the lease, electricity and mowing, for which we usually receive \$1,000 to \$1,500. We added the solar lights last year. ACTION KERRY
- b) Kerry: Michelago is 'the poor man out' for the station, compared with Bombala and Cooma.
- c) Tanya offered to support the application at the Council meeting.

13. Hall Committee – Leanne (via Hall Secretary Jenny Wholohan)

- a) The acoustic curtains are now installed and look beautiful.
- b) Acoustic panels were delivered and will be installed on some wall surfaces.
- c) The new dishwasher is fully installed.
- d) Funding of \$10K was received from the Snowy Monaro Community Bushfire Recovery Grant for solar battery storage, now being organised.
- e) The committee is considering potential projects for an application to the SMRC Donations and Sponsorship Grant.
- f) Next meeting Wednesday 21 February.

14. Magpie printing – Leanne

#23: Sam Walton printed 23 copies. 21 copies are at the General Store for \$2 each. Many thanks to Sam.

15. Constitution – Di

Moved Di, seconded Peter:

'That the MRCA Committee proposes that the Association adopt, by Special Resolutions, the Model Constitution for incorporated associations as recommended by NSW Fair Trading and a new set of objectives.' (See below)

CARRIED

' 1. The MRCA's objectives are to advocate and work

- i) to support better social and economic outcomes for the Michelago region, and**
- ii) for the preservation of the Michelago region's heritage infrastructure and natural environment.**

2. The MRCA will pursue these objectives

- i) by working collaboratively with other groups in Michelago and the Snowy Monaro region, and**
- ii) through open and inclusive communication.'**

- a) Timing of the AGM would then change to accord with the financial year ending June 30.
- b) Agreed to email members the committee's recommendation and include links to the old and proposed new constitutions.
- c) Memberships would then fall due by or at the AGM.

Agreed that these resolutions would be put to a Special General Meeting on Saturday 16 March, 3pm, Railway Station.

16. Events

- a) Belinda Hayes has proposals for community events and plans to attend an MRCA meeting to discuss them. Di has already spoken with her re some logistics.
- b) Peter: some music bands have event managers who organise funding and have insurance. He will contact one and report back. ACTION PETER
- c) Peter will also contact a potential sponsor. ACTION PETER
- d) Tanya noted that Queanbeyan's Music by the River had ICON Water as a sponsor and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra playing.
- e) Tanya to find out which events must have a DA, as there appears to be some inconsistency. ACTION TANYA
- f) Agreed that more human resources are needed for the MRCA to organise events.
- g) Di will continue to copy Belinda Hayes in correspondence about events.

17. Committee 2024–25: expressions of interest. This item was held over for lack of time.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12 March, 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, Peter Holland, Robbie Wood, John Rooney. (Jess Kalthofen and Jo Jackson have taken indefinite leave). Public Officer: Ben Wickham.

Attachments: 1. President's report. 2. Treasurer's report

1. President's report & correspondence, 13 February 2024

Australia Day award nomination

Our secretary Leanne was nominated for an Australia Day Local Citizen of the Year Award. Unfortunately the award went to someone else, but I am proud of Leanne's achievements and thank her for her amazing community work over several decades. Michelago is very lucky to have such a dedicated and talented volunteer!

Proposal to change our constitution

Leanne has circulated the information about this proposal, but I'm happy to answer any questions.

Heritage grant for railway station

We are progressing this project. Heritage NSW has received and acknowledged our heritage report, and does not require amendments to our grant.

Kerry, Leanne and I met last week with our heritage consultant Pip Giovanelli and his recommended heritage tradespersons Alastair Saunders (wall and other repairs) and Myles Gotslow (doors, skirting boards etc). Alastair has provided a quote for \$8,830.25, which we have accepted. We are awaiting a quote from Myles and a timeframe for the works.

Our local painter Ardeshir is happy to quote again for the painting. It's looking like this will be late in the year.

Events at the railway station

The MRCA inbox received a request from Belinda Hayes to use the railway station as the venue for a market day on Sunday 7th April. I responded that we need to discuss, which Belinda and I subsequently did at the store. This issue is Item 4 on the agenda. See also my correspondence with Council (below and attached).

Michelago Bridge

Council has finally received a licence from UGL/TfNSW for use of railway land for construction of the Ryrie St-Micalago Road bridge. The negotiations for this licence were slow. We look forward to seeing some action on the ground! See *Magpie 23* for the full story.

Website

Our new website is up and running, but needs a lot of work to bring in all the old material and to update with the new. It is way simpler to edit than the old site. Just needs people with time to do the work. I plan to work on it this month, and to seek input from local organisations and businesses.

Correspondence

- After speaking with Belinda about street stalls and events in Michelago, I had a search of the SMRC website and found a 'street stall initiative', which looked promising. Unfortunately the link didn't work, so I emailed the council contact to ask about the initiative. See email chain below. I have attached the attachments provided by Council to my email to the committee. They set out Council's requirements for holding street events.
- I continue to receive email invitations to 'Friends of MTR (Michelago Tourist Rail)' dinners. The convenor (Erik Jochimsen) asked whether anyone wanted to be deleted from the mailing list, and I replied that I'd like to keep in touch. I also provided him with a brief update of our activities at the railway station.
- BCRRF has asked to interview us about our experience with the grant. I have previously completed a survey on the subject. Neither Kerry nor I could get the link to work, so Kerry has emailed the BCRRF team.
- Our MRCA mailbox received an invitation to subscribe to a new Council newsletter produced by the SM regional library. It promises to 'serve as a virtual gateway to the library's resources, helping to connect residents with the broad catalogue of items, services and events available free of charge with a library membership.' If it looks useful to Michelagans we could forward it to the community, but I suggest we let our Magpie ed filter it, as she does so expertly with other Council missives, and deliver the relevant bits via our local rag.

The Michelago Magpie

Speaking of the Magpie, it rocks :-). And its subscriber list just keeps growing!

Correspondence (copy)

Snowy Monaro Regional Council Land and Property

Admin <LandandPropertyAdmin@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>

Thu, 8 Feb, 10:58 (4 days ago)

Good Morning Di,

Thank you for your query.

Apologies for any confusion, Council is not administering a *Street Stall initiative*, however, local Community groups can apply to hold a stall on a footpath to raise funds or awareness.

To apply for a footpath street stall, each community group is required to complete an application form (attached), and provide written permission/support from the business/property owner, in front of which the stall is to be located.

If a number of Community groups are hoping to hold stalls concurrently, there is the option of contacting the Michelago Hall s355 Committee for use of the Hall, or UGL Regional Linx, for land adjacent to the Michelago Railway Station.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind Regards

Julie

From: Di Fett <difett.mrca@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 1:36 PM
To: Records Snowy Monaro Regional Council <council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Street Stall initiative

Hi,

We are interested in holding community street stalls in Michelago, and on the [Community Connect](#) page of your website there is a link to a [Street Stall initiative](#), but the link does not work.

Could you please forward this to someone who knows about this program and what is involved?

Cheers, Di

Di Fett

President, Michelago Region Community Association

<http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/>

2. Treasurer's report 12 February 2024

MRCA finances

Our grant account has a balance of \$8,208. There have been no transactions over the last two months as we have been busy revising our project following heritage advice from Pip Giovanelli.

Our general MRCA account has a balance of \$13,328 down by \$810 since December's report.

Transactions included:

- Credits of
 - \$200 grant from SMRC for the Australia Day BBQ
 - \$50 donation from Gregg McFaul for the Christmas Carols
- Debits of
 - Electricity \$49
 - Reimbursement of L Pattison for Australia Day BBQ \$244
 - Mowing \$110
 - Lease payment to UGL \$657

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. The project is proceeding, albeit more slowly than we expected and with a different scope of work due to the advice of the heritage consultant. Hopefully we will have the specialist replastering and carpentry done this year.

Essential Energy would like an email telling them how we spent our \$2,750 grant received in August 2023. I am proposing to use this for an upgrade to powerpoints and exterior lighting (Tony De Luca), fixing the broken loo and connecting a pump to pressurise water from the tank (Ash Crivici), and providing wheelchair access to the platform between the signals box and the Out-of-Room (Wayne Hatcher).