



Michelago Region Community Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27 July 2024

Michelago Railway Station

Minutes pp1–2, President’s report pp3–4, Treasurer’s report pp5–11

The meeting commenced at 3.15pm.

Chair: Di Fett

Present: Di Fett (President), Kerry Rooney (Treasurer), Leanne Pattison (Secretary), Committee Member Tony De Salis, Committee Member Sally Hughes, Leah Oliver, Jo Gaha, Elizabeth Price, Leanne Thurling, Michael Fett, Peter Butler.

1. Apologies: Brent Wallis, John Rooney, Kristen Reeson, Jonathon Ball, Ben Wickham, Simon and Jeanne Edwards, Gary Morris, Robbie Wood, Graeme Plath.
2. Minutes of previous AGM: Moved Kerry Rooney, seconded Jo Gaha ‘That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 18 March 2023 be accepted as a correct record of that meeting.’ CARRIED
3. Minutes of Special General Meeting: Di spoke to these minutes, noting the new constitution and the revised objectives of the MRCA.
Moved Sally Hughes, seconded Tony De Salis ‘That the minutes of the Special General Meeting of 16 March 2024 be accepted as a correct record of that meeting.’ CARRIED
4. President’s report (Attachment 1): as this was previously circulated by email, Di spoke to particular points – MRCA achievements, the new constitution and the substantial contributions of the treasurer and secretary, as well as those of non-committee members Markus Buchhorn and Belinda Sierzchula.
5. Moved Leanne Pattison, seconded Kerry Rooney ‘That the meeting acknowledge its deep appreciation of President Di Fett’s contribution to the MRCA over five years, particularly her liaison with Council, her initiation of the new constitution and her community initiatives.’ CARRIED
6. Treasurer’s report (Attachment 2): In addition, Kerry noted that
 - a) there are two sets of financial statements because of the constitution-mandated change in MRCA’S financial year
 - b) MRCA’s total cash at bank is \$22,800 but approximately half of this is committed to the Railway Station Heritage project
 - c) the Heritage project has stalled. UGL has been very slow to respond with its committed contribution which requires its contractor Ventia to onboard our heritage tradesmen and as a result the tradesmen have largely lost interest in the project.

Moved Kerry, seconded Leanne P ‘That the meeting gives grateful thanks to Michelago RFS Treasurer Brien Hallett for meticulously reviewing the MRCA’s financial records for the 18 months.’ CARRIED
7. Moved Di Fett, seconded Sally Hughes ‘That the meeting thanks Kerry Rooney for her work as treasurer.’ CARRIED

8. Moved Di Fett, seconded Jo Gaha 'That the meeting thanks Leanne Pattison for her work as secretary and as editor of the *Michelago Magpie*.' CARRIED
9. The 2023–2024 MRCA Committee stood down and the Returning Officer, Michael Fett, conducted the elections for the 2024–2025 MRCA Committee.

10. Elections

- a) *President*: Kerry Rooney (nominated Di, seconded Leanne P)
- b) *Vice President*: there were no pre-meeting nominations. Leanne Pattison (nominated Kerry, seconded Di). Leanne agreed to fill this position
- c) *Secretary*: there were no pre-meeting nominations. Kerry (seconded Di) nominated Sally Hughes as temporary secretary pending a permanent appointment. Sally accepted
- d) *Treasurer*: there were no pre-meeting nominations. Kerry nominated Graeme Plath (in absentia), in accordance with a previous verbal agreement. Seconded Di. Pending Graham's written consent, the meeting approved his nomination
- e) *Committee members*:
Written nominations: Di Fett (Kerry, Leanne P), Leanne Thurling (Di, Tony), Tony De Salis (Kerry, Di), Peter Butler (Kerry, Di), Leah Oliver (Kerry, Di), Sally Hughes (Kerry, Di), Leanne Pattison (Kerry, Di), John Rooney (Di, Leanne P) in absentia, subject to his written consent.

Peter Butler, a new member, sought clarification about the process of making nominations for executive positions from the floor of the meeting. The retiring President explained that the constitution required written nominations in advance but if no nominations were received, nominations from the floor were then required.

There being no objections, Returning Officer Michael Fett declared the new MRCA Committee elected.

11. President Kerry Rooney took the chair.
12. Membership fee review: Moved Kerry Rooney, seconded Leanne Pattison 'That the MRCA membership fees remain at \$10.00 per single person and \$15.00 per family.' CARRIED
13. Next committee meeting: Tuesday 13 August, 6pm at the Michelago Railway Station.
14. Further committee meetings:
 - a) Agreed that the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm was convenient but was subject to review
 - b) Noted that Zoom meetings were possible, that Leah Oliver offered to establish the link and that the new constitution mandated only three meetings per year.

The meeting concluded at 4.17pm.

Attachments: President's and Treasurer's reports.

Attachment 1 – President’s report 2023–2024

Since our last AGM, the Michelago Region Community Association’s band of volunteers has been working, as always, to further the interests of Michelago and region.

We’ve applied for and been awarded grants for improvement of community facilities, and we’ve acquitted large grants. We’ve made submissions to Council and governments about issues of importance to Michelago and region residents. We’ve supported other Michelago community organisations. We’ve organised and facilitated community events. And of course we’ve published a magnificent community newsletter, the *Michelago Magpie*.

When I say ‘we’, I mean the MRCA committee, a diverse group of locals who meet regularly at the railway station to nut out ways to support better social and economic outcomes for the Michelago region and to preserve the region’s heritage infrastructure and natural environment.

Without the energies of the MRCA, Michelago and region wouldn’t have, for example:

- a well preserved historical railway station for community use
- barbecue and seating facilities at the Michelago Oval
- a useable tennis court and clubhouse (and credit to the Hall Committee for much maintenance)
- sound buffers at the Michelago Memorial Hall
- a community noticeboard at the Michelago General Store
- new tables, chairs, patio heaters and shelving in the storage shed
- security/safety lights at the railway station
- a community-led, formally adopted plan for the future development of Michelago, and
- a vibrant, high quality local rag, the *Michelago Magpie*.

Without its community association, Michelago would not have been treated to a rich variety of community events, including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services, community dinners and barbecues.

The committee has been ably assisted by the highly talented Markus Buchhorn, who has transformed our clunky old website into a user-friendly place, Belinda Sierzchula, who reliably gets MailChimp to work for distribution of the *Magpie*, and the Gregg and Dee McFaul team, who make our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services warm, professional and well attended.

Welcome news! The bridge linking Ryrie Street and Micalago Road is finally finished! This is an important piece of infrastructure. The MRCA has supported the tireless efforts of former Councillor John Rooney and current Councillor Tanya Higgins to have it built. Michelago residents like Emily Green have also been a vital part of this community teamwork.

A complete list of MRCA campaigns and achievements, as well as everything of note that’s happened in and around our little village, has been superbly chronicled in the *Magpie*, which I hope you have all been receiving. Rather than detailing them again here, I just want to say a hearty thanks to the wonderful MRCA team and to urge more members of the community to get involved.

The *Michelago Magpie* is the product of our wonderful secretary, journalist, and publisher Leanne Pattison. It is a truly class publication and a great read, and its readership continues to increase. Communities across the world are bemoaning the loss of their local news sources, and yet Michelago has the *Magpie*. Leanne also produces excellent meeting agendas and minutes and always circulates them in a timely manner, attends meetings of the Michelago Hall Committee on behalf of the MRCA and was responsible, with the Hall Committee (notably Jenny Wholohan and Allan Lehepuu), for the recent upgrades to the tennis club building via a grant, weed control and lots of cleaning. She was deservedly nominated this year for an Australia Day Local Citizen of the Year award for her community work over several decades. Michelago is

very lucky to have such a dedicated and talented writer/photojournalist/publisher/community volunteer. Thank you, Leanne!

Most of the grants we've received are a result of the skill and hard work of our outstanding treasurer, Kerry Rooney. Kerry has a unique ability to plough through mountains of grant requirements to produce stellar applications that have Michelago successfully competing with much larger and better resourced communities for grant funding. Michelago's treasured Historical Railway Station stands looking beautiful and in good repair due to her tireless work on grants and a current grant will see internal restoration/painting and other improvements. Kerry has been responsible for obtaining grants, year after year, to keep the MRCA afloat, as well as for the large bushfire recovery grant that funded Michelago's new barbecue and other facilities and events, as well as the launch of the *Michelago Magpie*. The MRCA's finances are in great shape and properly reported on, thanks to Kerry. Thank you, Kerry!

Thanks also to the other committee members Tony DeSalis, Peter Holland, Sally Hughes, Sam Walton, and Robbie Wood. Sally kicked off our current letter writing campaign for improvements to the safety of Michelago's Monaro Highway turnoffs, with letters to Steve Whan and Minister Aitchison from Mount Livingstone/Lawler Road residents. Tony has been a stalwart of the barbeque/sausage sizzle. All have made invaluable contributions – turning up at meetings, fundraisers and working bees through rain and shine, contributing ideas and knowledge, elbow grease, printing and spreading the Association's message. Thank you, team. I hope you will all stay involved!

Our region has a huge diversity of residents with a fabulous range of talents. I know there are other talented grant application writers, minute-takers, sausage-flippers, ideas generators and event organisers in this wonderful community. To those who haven't yet joined the MRCA, please consider doing so and consider nominating to become part of the leadership team by nominating for the Committee.

It's been a privilege to occupy the role of President of the MRCA. I look forward to watching the Association grow with the growth of Michelago and region and offer my support and encouragement to the incoming President and team.

Di Fett
July 2024

MICHELAGO REGION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

ABN 69 045 806 574

Financial statements

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

and

1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024

Kerry Rooney
Treasurer – MRCA

**Michelago Regional Community Association Inc.
Financial Statements 1 Jan 2023 to 30 Jun 2024**

This is the first AGM under the new model constitution, which means MRCA's financial year now ends on 30 June. Given this transition, I have prepared two sets of financial statements – 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 and 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024.

Since MRCA last reported at the end of December 2022

- Cash at bank has **increased** from **\$20,259 to \$22,822**
- Net assets have **increased** from **\$10,686 to \$11,961.**

Net assets are the more important number as that tells you how much of our funds are totally at our disposal should we need to spend them. The other half are committed to specific grant projects usually around maintaining or upgrading the railway station.

These are the main developments in our finances since our last report:

- We have fully acquitted the **2021 bushfire grant** which provided **\$78,000** for the BBQ facilities at the Michelago Oval and paid for the *Michelago Magpie*, marquees, patio heaters, chairs and tables as well as some community events.
- We have successfully applied for the following grants: 2023 SMRC Donations and Sponsorships \$1500, Essential Energy \$2750, NSW Heritage Grant \$17,000 with matched funding from UGL of \$16,390, 2024 SMRC Donations and Sponsorships \$2000. Total: **\$39,640**. These grants are assisting with the maintenance of the Michelago railway station and its operating costs.
- **The NSW Heritage Grant project is proving a challenge to deliver given the difficulty we've had in getting UGL to engage actively to get the work done.**

We have also tried to help the Michelago community in other ways.

- Members donated \$515 to the Hooley Fire Appeal BBQ in 2024.
- In 2023 we successfully applied for a **\$9,925** grant on behalf of the Michelago Memorial Hall. The Hall Committee used these funds to install acoustic curtains and wall panels. As a result, the acoustics in the Hall are much better now.
- If successful, our 2024 grant application for the Boco Rock Fund would improve the fence at Michelago Oval and provide modest signage to recognise local cricket heroes, Dave Hanns and Clive Kelly. However, this is a very competitive Fund.

Each year the Treasurer of the local RFS, Brien Hallet, has reviewed our financial statements. This year it has been a more complex task than normal and once again Brien has been very thorough and helped me improve our reporting. Thank you, Brien, for providing this service to the MRCA and your local community.

Kerry Rooney

Treasurer

23 July 2024

Michelago Region Community Association Inc

Income Statement for Year Ending 31 December 2023

Income	\$
Dinner (Ticket Sales to BCRRF)	500.00
Carboot Sale	916.41
Donations	423.95
Grants (SMRC, Essential Energy, Heritage NSW)	12,950.00
Interest	0.42
Magpie	236.20
Membership	255.00
Michelago Hall Grant	9,925.00
Railway Station Hire	760.00
Total Income	25,966.98

Expenditure

BCRRF Cricket BBQ	357.24
BCRRF Dinner	3,197.24
BCRRF Roxanne BBQ	401.34
BCRRF Payback residual	790.52
BCRRF Magpie Printing	2,398.03
BCRRF Capital (Chairs, tables, patio heaters etc)	2,783.23
Carboot Sale (incl 50% of profits to St Pat's)	676.61
Electricity	673.46
Fees	80.00
Heritage grant- s60 fee	300.00
Insurance	827.10
Magpie	86.80
Mowing	330.00
Michelago Hall Grant	9,925.00
Rent	637.59
Website	114.94
Total Expenditure	23,579.10

Michelago Region Community Association Inc

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash Assets		
Cash at Bank - MRCA	14,388.77	10,632.42
Cash at Bank - Grant Account	8,208.41	9,576.88
Cash at Bank - Spring Fair Account 50%	49.80	49.80
Total Cash at Bank	22,646.98	20,259.10
Receivables		
Heritage NSW Grant	8,500.00	
UGL Regional Linx Matching Funds	16,390.00	
Total Assets	47,536.98	20,259.10
Current Liabilities		
Grants		
BCRRF Grant		9,572.77
Essential Energy Grant	2,750.00	
Heritage Project at Railway Station		
Heritage NSW Grant	16,700.00	
UGL Regional Linx Matching Funds	16,390.00	
MRCA Matching Funds	610.00	
Total Liabilities	36,450.00	9,572.77
Net Assets	11,086.98	10,686.33
Cash Reconciliation	\$	
Opening Cash at Bank 1 Jan 2023	20,259.10	
Plus Income	25,966.98	
	<u>46,226.08</u>	
Less Expenditure	23,579.10	
Closing Cash at Bank 31 Dec 2023	22,646.98	

Michelago Region Community Association Inc

Income Statement Six Months Ending 30 June 2024

Income	\$
Donations	118.65
Grants - SMRC	2,000.00
Hooley Fire Appeal BBQ	515.00
Interest	0.41
Magpie	283.65
Memberships	45.00
Railway Hire	350.00

Total **3,312.71**

Expenditure	\$
Austrailia Day BBQ	244.30
Electricity	274.56
EE Grant - railway station	699.19
Fees	61.53
Hooley Fire Appeal BBQ	515.00
Magpie	139.47
Mowing	110.00
Other	20.00
Railway station supplies	19.10
Rent	656.72
Website	398.00

Total **3,137.87**

Michelago Region Community Association Inc

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	2024*	2023**
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash at bank - MRCA	14,613.00	14,388.77
Cash at bank - Grant	8,208.82	8,208.41
Cash at Bank - Spring Fair 50% ***	0.00	49.80
Total Cash at Bank	22,821.82	22,646.98
Receivables		
Heritage NSW Grant	8,500.00	8,500.00
UGL Regional Linx Matching Funds	16,390.00	16,390.00
Total Assets	47,711.82	47,536.98
Current Liabilities		
Grants		
Essential Energy Grant (2023)	2,050.81	2,750.00
Heritage Project at Railway Station		
Heritage NSW Grant	16,700.00	16,700.00
UGL Regional Linx Matching Funds	16,390.00	16,390.00
MRCA Matching Funds	610.00	610.00
Total Liabilities	35,750.81	36,450.00
Net Assets	11,961.01	11,086.98
Cash Reconciliation		
Opening Cash at bank 1 January 2024	22,646.98	
Plus Income	<u>3,312.71</u>	
	25,959.69	
Less Expenditure	<u>3,137.87</u>	
Closing cash at bank 30 June 2024	22,821.82	

* Six months ending 30 June 2024

** Twelve months ending 31 Dec 2023

***This account was closed April 2024

Michelago Regional Community Association (MRCA) Financial Statements 2023-24

I have reviewed two sets of accounts for the periods (i) 1 January to 31 December 2023, and (ii) 1 January to 30 June 2024. This follows an organisational change this year whereby the Association has adopted a financial year reporting timeframe.

In my opinion both sets of the financial statements provide an accurate representation of the MRCA's situation.

As part of this process, I held an initial meeting with the Treasurer who provided bank statements and associated documents for these two periods specified above. She also responded to questions during my review, and we met again to finalise matters.

My analysis has included examining bank transactions, invoices, and receipts, and matching the figures in these documents to the amounts reported in the financial statements for the Association's annual general meeting.

All issues raised have been satisfactorily dealt with. I note that the last 18 months has been a busy time for this vibrant community organisation that relies on volunteers. As in previous years, the documentation is well organised and thorough.



Brien Hallett

17 July 2024