



**MRCA Committee Meeting  
Railway Station, 6pm, Tuesday 11 June 2024**

**MINUTES**

**Minutes pp1–2, President’s report 3–4, Treasurer’s report 5**

The meeting commenced at 6.10pm

1. **Present:** Di Fett (President), Kerry Rooney (Treasurer), Leanne Pattison (Secretary), Tony De Salis.
2. **Apologies:** Sally Hughes, Robbie Wood, Peter Holland.
3. **Previous minutes:** Moved Di Fett, seconded Kerry Rooney ‘That the minutes of the MRCA Committee meeting of 14 May 2024 be accepted as a correct record.’ CARRIED
4. **Business arising** from previous minutes:
  - a) Heritage NSW grant for railway station & latest UGL – Kerry. The plasterer (Alistair Saunders) has now received a form from Ventia to complete, presumably to commence the ‘onboarding’ with Ventia. MRCA has no information yet about this for the carpenter (Myles Gostelow). Heritage NSW offered more of the grant money if needed, but this is not helpful at the moment because we need UGL to make their contribution of matching funding (on which our grant depends).
  - b) SMRC proposed draft plan re reducing/cancelling maintenance of roads – it was agreed that a community representative should speak at the forum at the Extraordinary Council meeting on the Budget (27 June?). ACTION KERRY
  - c) Boco Rock application for funding the Oval’s new fence & lining of the clubhouse’s main room. Kerry has written and submitted the full application
  - d) Publicity for new Committee members: in *Magpie28* and a Facebook link to MRCA website. Publicity to include a list of MRCA achievements. The current Secretary and President will not continue in these positions. A new Treasurer is very desirable. New committee members would be very welcome ACTION LEANNE, KERRY  
There were no responses to the appeal in *Magpie27*.
  - e) Monaro Highway issues action:
    - i) *A new road connection* between St Patrick’s Church and the village, as set out in the Michelago Action Plan as adopted by the Snowy Monaro Council and approved by the NSW Government.  
*It’s urgent* that this be at least surveyed so it won’t be built over, given unofficial news that the buyer of the old hotel’s land plans to develop housing. Letter to SMRC CEO urging that this road be surveyed. ACTION LEANNE
    - ii) *Reduced speed limit* on the Monaro Highway near the village (north of the church – south of Micalago Road) PLUS safety turn-in lanes/wider verges for local roads off the Monaro Highway.  
Representatives of Clearview Rd and Mt Livingstone-Lawler Rds are organising group letters from residents to petition NSW Govt for the turn-in lanes/wider verges. MRCA will find representatives in other roads off the highway to do the same. ACTION DI & KERRY

Noted that side roads off the highway south of Michelago have very good to excellent turn-in lanes/wider verges, eg Bumbalong Rd, Poveys Rd.

- f) *Village road safety* & SMRC Active Transport Plan – no more action, as Council has rejected the request for pedestrian crossings.
5. **Email distribution system:** There are problems with MRCA's ISP Vodien. Markus is working on a solution. See President's report (Attachment 1) for detail.
6. **AGM Saturday 27 July** 3pm, railway station.
- a) Email to members by 6 July: ACTION LEANNE, KERRY
- i) Notice of meeting and agenda
  - ii) Nomination form, membership form and reminder to pay membership fees
  - iii) Minutes 2023 AGM (18.3.23) & of Special General Meeting (16.3.24) re new Constitution
- b) Papers at AGM: ACTION LEANNE
- i) Minutes of 2023 AGM (1 copy)
  - ii) Minutes of Special General Meeting re new Constitution (1 copy)
  - iii) President's Annual Report
  - iv) Treasurer's Annual Financial Statements.
7. **President's report:** Attachment 1
8. **Treasurer's report:** Attachment 2
9. **Hall report** – Leanne. As in Magpie27: the solar battery is installed and the acoustic panels project acquitted. A 'how to use' information sheet is posted in the kitchen (includes instructions for the pump and the solar system) and will be included in hiring information. A cleaning fee for large events will be added to the hire fee. Council has promised to fund an emergency power inlet. Council has replaced the broken carpark bollard. The Hall Committee has successfully applied to the annual SMRC Donations and Sponsorship Grant fund for a new name-sign above the portico and for materials to paint the patched wall next to the recently installed (by volunteers), lockable door to the storage area. Rachel Harling has resigned from the Hall Committee, so Council will advertise for a replacement. Also (not in M27), following the decision by the Monaro Mobile Pre-School not to run the pre-school in Michelago this year, its director has partly complied with the request to remove pre-school materials from the purposed room; what remains is apparently not required, so the Hall Committee will decide what to do with it.
10. **Magpie27**: 30 copies were printed and 28 copies left at the General Store.
11. **Bridge**: there is a discernible structure across the creek. Cr Higgins has been told the roads on either side of the single-lane bridge will be single lanes.
12. **Railway station irises** – Tony. It will soon be time, ie before Spring, to dig them up, divide the tubers and plant new tubers if necessary. We will need a working bee to help Tony. *Magpie* item next issue for publicity and approximate date. ACTION LEANNE, TONY
13. **Next meeting**: It was agreed that there would be no July general meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.50pm.

#### **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. Council rep: Cr Tanya Higgins*

## **Attachment 1: MRCA President's report**

### **Website**

After much too-ing and fro-ing with Vodien, our current website and email hosting service, we have paid \$110 to transfer our data to Vodien's new server, plus a renewal payment of \$288 for two years of web hosting.

Use of the email address [webmail@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:webmail@michelagoregion.org.au) comes with this service, but it has limited capacity to send bulk emails. This means it may not work (unless we use work-arounds) for an 'all Michelago residents' email list or even an MRCA members list. We are examining ways to get around this – see Markus's email notes below. Vodien says it has cleaned up their email service, it having been 'compromised', so it will at least be usable.

One benefit of the new subscription is that it consolidates the website domain address with the web hosting and email (nobody seems to know how they became separated some time in history). I see that Kerry has been uploading items onto the website and it looks great. I still haven't managed to get to this – apologies.

### **Railway Station Heritage grant**

Slow progress but our heritage plasterer Alastair informs me that he has recently received a form from Ventia (for UGL) to complete as part of the 'onboarding' process for the contractors.

I haven't heard back from the other contractor, Myles, but assume he has also received the relevant form.

As is often the case with grants, implementation requires constant urgings and reminders, and battles with bureaucracy. Hopefully, by the AGM we'll be able to report some actual progress.

### **The Michelago Magpie**

It remains wonderful, and probably the MRCA achievement I'm most proud of (I claim it as my idea). It is in fact all down to Leanne's brilliance and hard work.

### **Grants**

Speaking of brilliance and hard work, Kerry's application for Council's \$2,000 Donations and Sponsorship grant for railway station costs was successful, hooray! Kerry has also submitted an excellent application for a Boco Rock grant for improvements around the oval. Preparing these applications is a massive exercise. Don't forget that the barbecue facilities at the oval, railway station painting, numerous events and equipment upgrades are all down to Kerry's dedication and immense grant application writing ability.

### **Council budget consultation**

Michelago had a very good turnout for the drop-in session on Council's plans and budgets at the Michelago store - no doubt at least in part because of MRCA comms. The proposal to cease maintaining unsealed roads with less than 35 cars per day and sealed roads with less than 150 cars per day would be disastrous for Michelago and is unacceptable.

Many of us made personal submissions, and Kerry submitted an excellent one on behalf of the MRCA. Thanks, Kerry!

This battle is not over, and the MRCA will need to stay on the case. Perhaps we should publish our submission to Council on our website, and maybe Facebook? The community should know about the hard work we do for them.

## **Monaro Highway safety campaign**

Gary Morris has agreed to coordinate a letter to the relevant politicians for Clearview Road. I have not managed to find leaders for the other roads. Have others had any luck? This will also need to be a continued concerted effort.

## **Committee**

**This is our last meeting before the AGM, and I just wanted to say a huge thanks to you all for your hard work and support. Please consider remaining on the Committee and, if you are so inclined, nominating for an executive role.**

...

## **Correspondence**

From Markus Buchhorn

- We are paying Vodien around \$140p.a. for website hosting and (limited) email services. Because we wanted mailing lists, we stayed on the old package they've been trying to retire for years, but now they are forcibly kicking us off 😊 and upgrading our plan – sans mailing lists.
- We are paying Instra (via DomainDirectors) some \$\$/year to keep our domain name ([michelagoregion.org.au](http://michelagoregion.org.au)) registered and valid. Why this got separated from the website/email hosting is something lost in the mists of time, it happened before by my time, and has caused a little confusion when a renewal was due (we thought they were scammers). This needs to be fixed by transferring the registration to Vodien. Should be free...
- We have about 6 “email accounts” (functional addresses/mailboxes, where the password has been shared with a few people – e.g. memorial.hall, newsletter, railway.station, mrca, ...). These are good, and free, and we can have more. Replies sent from these accounts come from that functional address.
- We have a few “email-aliases” (addresses, that forward messages to one or several people, e.g. editor@, ), and can have more again, also free. Replies from here come from the individual, though. These can be used for small mailing lists, like mrca-committee, where the reply address should actually be the sender.
- We have lost the use of our mailing lists, like landcare-members, michelago-residents, etc. that are around 10-100+ people in size. Too big for aliases, or to manage as a contacts list for any single email account (as bredbulletin does for 140 people, ugh...). We can replace them (for free) with googlegroups or something similar. There are some configuration issues to sort out (non-google-registered accounts for example) but they're more usable (and free) compared to other products (e.g. mailchimp, salesforce, ...).

I'd propose going through all our lists and addresses and seeing which we want to keep/modify/find-an-alternative for, and migrate them as needed. Main aims are functionality and low (zero)-cost!

## Attachment 2: Treasurer's report 11 June 2024

### MRCA finances

Our grant account has a balance of \$8,208. There have been no transactions over the last six months. We are waiting upon UGL Regional Linx to honour their funding commitment.

As at 11 June, the general MRCA account had a balance of \$ 12,418. Transactions since my last report are:

- Credits of
  - \$10 in advertising fees for the Magpie
- Debits of
  - \$139 for printing the Magpie
  - \$110 for the Vodien email migration

We also received cash donations of \$60 on 12 May and \$60 on 2 June (both pending online transfers to MRCA general account).

### Heritage 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 of \$16,390. We have received specialist heritage trades quotes of \$8,830 from Alistair Saunders (rendering) and \$16,940 from Myles Gostlelow (carpentry). We have accepted the quotes and forwarded to UGL suggesting they may like to onboard the tradies and pay them directly.

Following a deafening silence and after consulting our Ventia contact, Tim Ritchie, we invoiced UGL in full on 26 March for their funding. This was followed up by an email on 29 April advising that we will need to cancel the project if UGL does not provide its promised funding. On 10 May, I spoke to Tim Ritchie who had been on leave for four weeks after major surgery. He advised that the Ventia safety officer will be contacting Alistair and Myles for onboarding. He has received the agreement of UGL on 10 May to then proceed and Ventia will bill UGL.

On 10 June Di Fett contacted Alistair Saunders who confirmed Ventia has sent him a form presumably for onboarding. Di is still waiting to hear from Myles Gostlelow. UGL/Ventia is proceeding at glacial speed.

### SMRC Donations and Sponsorships

MRCA was successful with its recent \$2000 application to assist with railway station costs.

### Boco Rock Grant

On 7 June, I applied for a Boco Rock grant of \$9,600 for the fence at the oval, partial lining of the tennis clubhouse and two signs. We received excellent quotes from Rob Hansen and Will Kelly for the fence, from Roscoe Cowling for the tennis shed lining, and a quote for two signs for Dave Hanns and Clive Kelly.

-----