



Michelago Region Community Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13 AUGUST 2025

Michelago Railway Station

Minutes pp 1–2, President’s report pp 2–4, Treasurer’s report pp 5–7

The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.

Chair Kerry Rooney

Present Kerry Rooney (President), Graeme Plath (Treasurer), Michael Fett (Presiding Member), Di Fett, Jenny Wholohan, Allan Lehepuu, Sally Hughes, 7 Tony De Salis, Leah Oliver, Leanne Thurling, Leanne Pattison (minutes). Guests: John Rooney, Derek Giucci.

1. Apologies Belinda Hayes (Secretary), Ben Wickham (Public Officer), Jo Gaha, Elizabeth Price.

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM Moved Kerry, seconded Leanne P. ‘That the minutes of the 27 July 2024 Annual General Meeting be approved as a correct record of that meeting.’ CARRIED

3. President’s report

a) Attachment 1. The report was previously circulated to the 2024–2025 Committee by email.

b) The Boco Rock funding grant for work at the Clive Kelly Oval was acquitted today.

d) Kerry announced a list of awards, to enthusiastic applause, and distributed celebratory certificates to:

i) Di Fett: The Dale Carnegie Award for winning friends and influencing people, in recognition of your tenacity in getting outcomes in 2025.

ii) Sally Hughes: The Dale Carnegie Award for winning friends and influencing people, in recognition of your tenacity in getting outcomes in 2025.

iii) Belinda Hayes: The Henry V Award for Once More Unto the Breach, in recognition of your secretariat role in 2025 and hosting the *Magpie* and donation boxes at the shop.

iv) Tony De Salis: The BBQ Maestro Award, in recognition of your gentle geniality at all our events in 2025.

v) Leanne Thurling: The Great Australian Bake-Off Award, in recognition of the most memorable morning teas in 2025.

vi) Leah Oliver: The Ruth Park Award, in recognition of your rustically beautiful Harp in the South.

vii) Graeme Plath: The Paul Keating Award for Best Treasurer, in recognition of your excellent financial reports.

viii) Leanne Pattison: The Most Improved Player Award, in recognition of your captivating cricket journalism in 2025.

ix) Derek Giucci: The Community Spirit Award, in recognition of your generosity in lighting the Cenotaph.

x) Sam Walton: The Special Supporters Award, in recognition of your generosity in printing the *Magpie*.

xi) Brien Hallett: The Special Supporters Award, in recognition of your detailed annual reviews of MRCA’s financial statements over many years.

xii) Markus Buchhorn: The Special Supporters Award, in recognition of your invaluable support of our website and webmail.

4. Treasurer's report

- a) Attachment 2. Graeme noted a small operating loss of \$478 but a healthy general account balance of \$11,473 at year end.
- b) Graeme expressed great appreciation for Brien Hallett's checking of the accounts. Kerry moved a vote of thanks (seconded Di) to Brien Hallett for verifying the MRCA's financial records for the year.

CARRIED

5. Elections

The 2024–25 President and Committee stood down. Presiding Member Michael Fett took the chair and conducted the election of the 2025–2026 Committee. There being no objections, those elected were:

- a) President: Kerry Rooney (nominated Di Fett, seconded Leanne Pattison)
- b) Vice President: Leanne Pattison (nominated Di Fett, seconded Kerry Rooney)
- c) Treasurer: Jenny Wholohan (nominated Kerry Rooney, seconded Di Fett)*
- d) Secretary: Leah Oliver (nominated Di Fett, seconded Leanne Pattison)*
- e) Committee members: Sally Hughes (nominated Kerry Rooney, seconded Leanne Pattison), Tony De Salis (nominated Di Fett, seconded Leanne Pattison), Leanne Thurling* (nominated Kerry Rooney, seconded Di Fett), Di Fett (nominated Michael Fett, seconded Leanne Pattison).

[*Nominated from the floor, as no formal nominations were received before the meeting.]

6. The Presiding Member retired and the 2025–2026 President took the chair.

- a) Noted that there are 8 Committee members; minimum of 7 is required by the new Constitution.
- b) Noted that Ben Wickham has agreed to continue in the role of Public Officer.
- b) Moved Kerry Rooney, seconded Michael Fett 'That the MRCA membership fees remain at \$10 single and \$15 family.'

CARRIED

7. The next ordinary meeting will be 10 September (the second Wednesday). The agenda will focus on the MRCA's priorities for 2025-26.

7. The MRCA's Annual General Meeting for 2025 concluded at 7.45 pm.

Attachment 1. President's Report (pp 2–5)

President's Report 2024-25

2024-25 was a big year for our community association. Our committee got a lot done. I thank them all immensely.

Communications

Hats off to Leanne Pattison, our Editor of the magnificent *Magpie*. Leanne produced 12 editions last year, wrote most articles herself and took nearly all the photos.

The *Magpie* covered everything from glorious cricket victories to funeral farewells and happy community events. Leanne can be particularly proud of her in-depth coverage of road and council issues.

Advocacy

MRCA's priorities for 2024-25 were road safety and the implementation of the Michelago Masterplan.

Monaro Highway Safety

This is our top priority and should remain so until we get results. We have advocated for:

- Protected turning lanes for the Micalago Road intersection
- Wide, long and sealed verges for all other intersections with the Monaro Highway in the Michelago region
- An 80kph speed limit on the Highway at Michelago

We met with and provided submissions to Steve Whan and Kristy McBain, our NSW and Federal Members of Parliament. We encouraged residents to write to their local members and ministers. The *Magpie* featured photographs of the dangerous intersections and explained the case for action.

We have raised these issues with our local Councillors, Tanya Higgins and John Rooney (the latter a member of the Traffic Committee) and with Tony Lickiss, Council's Head of Infrastructure and Chair of the Traffic Committee.

A Campaign to Seal Micalago Road

This became a priority when Micalago Road deteriorated into a dangerous road and traffic diverted through the village to avoid the 500-metre horror stretch.

We initiated a campaign to ask Council to seal the road. As a result, 134 people wrote to Council asking that the sealing of Micalago Road be included in Council's 2025-26 Operational Plan.

Micalago Road was debated by Council on 19 June and on 3 July in response to three motions proposed by Cr Rooney and an amendment by Cr Higgins. The decisions are:

1. Council will now advocate for funding to **seal road segments with vehicle daily movements of 150 per day, or above**. This short list of priority roads **includes the segment of Micalago Road from the Highway to the railway bridge** which has 162 vehicle movements per day.
2. In the longer term, Council will also advocate for state and federal grant funds to allow it to **seal gravel roads that incur 100 to 149 vehicle movements per day**. This is a longer list and **includes the segment of Micalago Road from the railway bridge to Karinya Plains intersection**.
3. Council will adopt a medium-term objective to **improve the condition of Micalago Rd** from the Monaro Highway to the Karinya Plains turnoff.
4. Council will receive a report at the August Council Meeting providing **options for improvements to the 'serviceability' of Micalago Road**.

Ryrie Street Safety

Speeding traffic along Ryrie Street makes pedestrian safety a major concern for residents of the village and parents of children attending Michelago Public School and catching school buses from the village. Road safety around the playground is also troubling.

Accordingly, we have written to the Traffic Committee of Council asking for the installation of chicanes on Ryrie Street at the school and at the playground. Traffic calming measures for Ryrie St were recently added to Council's forward delivery program.

The absence of footpaths is another infrastructure issue deserving more attention.

Michelago Masterplan

The best news of the year was the **completion of the bridge linking Micalago Road to Ryrie Street**. What a proud outcome for our two local Councillors. The bridge was initiated by Cr John Rooney and championed by Cr Tanya Higgins. MRCA had lobbied for the bridge for years and it was included in the 2021 Michelago Masterplan as the highest infrastructure priority.

MRCA made a submission on a development application for **a large residential development** proposed for the old Inn site on Ryrie St. Our submission argued for better compliance with the Michelago Masterplan and more investment in footpaths and intersections.

Grant Projects

Boco Rock grant for Clive Kelly Oval is almost complete. We built a fence for the cricket team (thanks to Will Kelly) and put in a sign to name the oval (thanks to Nathan Booth) and almost finished lining the tennis clubhouse (thanks to Wayne Hatcher). The fly in the ointment turned out to be termites in the Clubhouse and the ball is in Council's court in that regard.

NSW Heritage grant for the railway station has been frustratingly slow due to regulatory hurdles, a tardy corporate donor and very busy heritage tradesmen. Enormous thanks go to Di Fett who broke the logjams. Due to her efforts, UGL provided their promised cash and the tradesmen worked their magic. The station now has some freshly plastered walls and fastidiously rebuilt doors. There is still more work to be done before we can acquit the grant but we are already searching for the next funding.

Events

Although events were not a priority, our generous members organised around ten events over the year. Special thanks go to Leanne Pattison and her reliable helpers Tony de Salis, Sally Hughes and Elizabeth Price. We also worked with others such as Michelago P&C's Sarah Davies on election BBQs. Here is the list:

- September - **Democracy Sausages for local council elections** – thanks also to cheerful helper Martin Hughes
- October 13th - **the official opening of the long-awaited bridge**. Kristy McBain, member for Eden Monaro and Regional Development Minister, cut the ribbon. Crs Higgins, Rooney and Narelle Davis attended. The RFS was well represented with Group Captain Brent Wallis, Captain Abby McPherson, Peter Butler and Ian Hooley. The fire truck led a procession to the railway station for afternoon tea to thank Kristy, Tanya and John.
- November - **Remembrance Day 2024** What made this one special was attendance by the whole Michelago Public School and a poem written by Leanne Thurling.
- November - several members helped Michael Scanlon with **St Pat's Car Boot Sale**. It was great to see so many people enjoying the day at the Memorial Hall.
- January - **Australia Day family BBQ** at Clive Kelly Oval
- March was the **ACT National Trust visit**. A **huge spring clean** spruced up the railway station for the 30 Trust members who came on 26 March. They received a good dose of Michelago history and lashings of old-fashioned hospitality with a Memorial Hall morning tea, superbly catered by Leanne Thurling, helped by Anne-Louise Pollard. Most of the original settler families shared stories – special thanks to David Ryrie, Tony de Salis and Liam Cotter (the latter helped guide visitors at the cemetery). We produced a booklet on the railway station's history.
- March-April - **coffee sessions** for Kristy McBain and Jo van der Plaats the major parties' candidates in the Federal election. Thanks to Belinda Hayes for hosting at the shop.
- May - Again we partnered with the Michelago P&C to cook **Democracy Sausages** for the **Federal election**. Visitors came from around the world to experience our BBQ – from Kiribati, Timor Leste and Fiji. And from Canberra too which is like another country in many ways!
- May - **Mothers Day**, Leanne Thurling hosted a Devonshire tea fund-raiser for the railway station. A blazing fire, soft music and Leanne T's service with a smile, made us all smile.

Our venue, the heritage railway station hosted major community events organised by others. The events were ANZAC Day, the Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Carols. Thanks to Dee and Gregg McFaul, Jo and Brendan Jackson and Sam Walton and Fiona Tollis.

Largely Unsung

Many people have earned our thanks for helping out. Here are some:

- **Derek Giucci** was magnificent. With help from Brony Gattringer and Ivan Colaric he dug the trench and installed the lights at the Cenotaph. One word. Beautiful.
- **Markus Buchhorn** who is the administrator for our email and website and cheerfully responds in detail to our requests for help.
- **Belinda Hayes** who hosts the *Magpie* and donations boxes at the shop for the railway station, the RFS and the school.
- **Pip Giovanelli**, Council's heritage consultant who gives us expert advice on conserving the railway station.
- **Sam Walton** who helps by printing the *Magpie*
- **Emily Green** who helped with the campaign to seal Micalago Road
- **Brien Hallett** who reviews our financial statements each year

- The staff and inmates of the **Cooma Correctional Centre** who mowed and whipper-snipped the railway station and cemetery grounds in preparation for the National Trust Visit. Thank you, Sally Hughes for organising this.
- **Those who helped at railway station working bees**, including members, Di and Michael Fett, Michael Scanlon, Josh Kunkler, Leah Oliver, Graeme and Miz Plath, Jo Gaha, Margaret Farmer, Annette Fitzgerald, Catherine Turnbull, Derek Giucci and of course the usual gang of Sally, Tony and the 'two Leannes'.

Kerry Rooney
President
12 August 2025

Attachment 2
Treasurer's Report: (pp 5–7)

MICHELAGO REGION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED ABN 69 045 806 574

Financial statements - 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2025

| | (\$) | 30/6/25 (\$) | 30/6/24 (\$) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Bank: General a/c | | 11,473.19 | 14,613.00 |
| Bank: Grant a/c | | 9,313.06 | 8,208.82 |
| Receivable: Heritage NSW grant | 8,500.00 | | 8,500.00 |
| Less received | <u>6,800.00</u> | 1,700.00 | |
| Receivable: UGL Regional grant | 16,390.00 | | 16,390.00 |
| Less received | <u>16,390.00</u> | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 22,486.25 | 47,711.82 |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Railway: Essential Energy grant | 2,050.81 | | 2,050.81 |
| Heritage railway project: Heritage NSW grant | 16,700.00 | | 16,700.00 |
| Heritage railway project: UGL Regional grant | 16,390.00 | | 16,390.00 |
| Heritage railway project: MRCA matching funds | 610.00 | | 610.00 |
| Less Railway restoration work undertaken | <u>25,770.25</u> | 9,980.56 | |
| Oval: SMRC grant | 9,600.00 | | |
| Less tennis clubhouse work undertaken | 2,800.00 | | |
| Less oval work undertaken | <u>5,777.20</u> | 1,022.80 | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 11,003.36 | 35,750.81 |
| NET ASSETS (fell by \$478.12) | | 11,482.89 | 11,961.01 |

**MICHELAGO REGION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED ABN 69 045 806 574**

Financial statements - 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Profit and loss statement 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

| Income | (\$) | (\$) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Interest | | 0.88 |
| Railway station brochure sales | | 100.00 |
| Election BBQ | 922.11 | |
| Election BBQ expenses | <u>451.95</u> | 470.16 |
| National Trust hosting | 189.81 | |
| Less National Trust hosting expenses | <u>188.00</u> | 1.81 |
| Membership fees | | 245.00 |
| Donations | | 1,012.30 |
| Magpie magazine sales | 206.05 | |
| Magpie magazine advertising | 370.00 | |
| Less magpie magazine expenses | <u>214.50</u> | 361.55 |
| Church car boot market takings | 447.31 | |
| Less cost of church history book | 366.00 | |
| Less donation to church | <u>81.00</u> | 0.31 |
| Australia Day grant | 200.00 | |
| Australia day net sales | <u>134.81</u> | 334.81 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 2,526.82 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Electricity | | 415.31 |
| Railway station lease | | 676.42 |
| Insurance | | 820.82 |
| Sewer fee | | 91.39 |
| Railway station plumbing | | 1,001.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 3,004.94 |
| OPERATING LOSS | | -478.12 |

Michelago Regional Community Association (MRCA)
Financial Statements 2024-25

I have reviewed the accounts for the MRCA for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

In my opinion the financial statements which include a balance sheet and profit-and-loss statement provide an accurate representation of the MRCA's financial situation.

As part of this process, I held an initial meeting with the Treasurer, Graeme Plath, who provided bank statements, invoices and receipts for the period specified. He 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.

The few minor questions raised have been satisfactorily dealt with.

I note that once again the MRCA has completed a range of beneficial projects associated with our historic railway station and the Clive Kelly Oval. As in previous years, the documentation is well organised and thorough.



Brien Hallett
30 July 2025