

President's Report: July 2025 to June 2026

Looking back over the year, we can be very proud of four highlights:

Great Michelago Bake Off 16 November

What a successful event! Congratulations to Leanne Thurling in particular who championed the idea and took the lead. **The amount raised was just over \$1,000** and this is in the bank for repairs to the station. In addition to our MRCA team (Leah Oliver, Jenny Wholohan, Leanne Pattison and Sally Hughes) Ian and Rebecca Hooley, Abby McPherson and her RFS team all helped to make it a great day. We had 53 entries. People had fun, old acquaintances were renewed and the baking was fabulous.

The Completion of the \$35,000 Caring for Heritage Grant

The major heritage project at the railway station was completed in November 2025. This \$35,000 project involved plastering, carpentry and painting. It was funded by the NSW Heritage Office and UGL Regional Linx. Certified by our heritage consultant as fully compliant with our heritage plan, the project was acquitted in December. It was administratively burdensome and took two years to complete due to factors beyond our control but the work by the three tradesmen is first class.

Heritage Market 3 May

This was a pilot project to test the railway station as a venue for a market. Held as part of the Australian Heritage Festival, the event was very successful. We estimate 800 people visited the market, generating plenty of profits for the 23 stallholders. Nearly all local community groups participated. Many people deserve thanks but today I will single out just a few: Leah Oliver and her husband Mark; and Ivan and John Colaric. They all did so much to help make the event a success. The **key learning** for us is to fix the driveway. **Profits for MRCA from the event were \$1500.** Of this \$1100 was spent on permanent 'safety' signage and refilling the water tank at the railway station.

Michelago Magpie

In July 2026, a very notable milestone took place with the publication of the 50th edition of the Michelago Magpie. Congratulations to Leanne Pattison on an incredible achievement. The Magpie will be a valuable social history of our region in years to come. The first edition was published in 2022 and since then it has grown in stature and content. Leanne writes the vast majority of articles and takes nearly all the photos and publishes it monthly.

Financial Outcome for the last twelve months

Thank you to Jenny Wholohan who took on the role of Treasurer for 2025-26. Her income and expenditure statement is included in the AGM papers.

Thank you once again to Brien Hallett for reviewing our financial reports and making helpful suggestions.

Our **general income** for the year, net of expenses was **\$1,002**. This is reflected in our general bank account balance of **\$12,475** on 30 June.

Our **grant income**, net of expenditure, was **-\$8,288**, leaving a balance of **\$1,025** in the grant bank account. This mainly reflects payments to tradesmen for the Caring for Heritage project.

Summary of Activities Over the Year

Three Grant applications were submitted

- August 2025 - a grant application for \$10,000 was submitted to Jemena for railway station repairs. The application was not successful.
- April 2026 – Di Fett submitted our Volunteers Grant application (approx. \$1000) to cover insurance and internet fees but unfortunately we missed out.
- June 2026 - our Boco Rock application to re-sheet the driveway at the railway station requested \$11,600. This application has been successful.

Four Projects were completed

- July 2025 - the new sign for Clive Kelly Oval was installed (Boco Rock)
- November 2025 - the Caring for Heritage Grant works for plastering, carpentry and painting of the railway station were completed.
- April 2026 - the internal cladding for the tennis clubhouse had been completed (Boco Rock).
- April 2026 - a safety awareness program included the preparation of a risk assessment, the installation of permanent signage at the railway station warning visitors of dangers and the purchase of two fire extinguishers were completed. (Self-funded) Thank you Sally Hughes for putting forward these ideas.

Website and Facebook

- Technical support is provided by Markus Buchhorn for our website and email. Thank you, Markus once again!
- MRCA Minutes and Michelago Magpies are uploaded to the website by Leanne Pattison – thank you!
- I have created content for most local organisations on the website.
- We regularly use our MRCA Facebook page and the Michelago Noticeboard to publicise our events and activities.
 - Our MRCA Facebook page has 898 followers: 54% from Canberra, 12% from Sydney, 7% from Michelago. Women make up 66% of our followers, and the age group 35-54 make up 50%.

Four events organised by MRCA and three events by other groups at the railway station

- 14 Sep Railway Station **Blessing of the Fleet**: Michelago, Colinton, Burra & Guises Creek fire brigades. Hosted by Queanbeyan & District Anglican Church.
- 11 Nov **Remembrance Day** organised by MRCA. Attended by Michelago Public School. Thanks to Jenny Wholohan for the memorial address.
- 16 Nov **The Great Michelago Bake Off** organised by MRCA, masterminded by Leanne Thurling.
- 26 Jan 2026 **Australia Day BBQ** at the Oval – MRCA event funded by Council. Thanks to our BBQ ‘chefs’, Tony De Salis, Sally Hughes and Elizabeth Price.
- 4 April **Easter Egg Hunt** Hosted by Sam Walton, Fiona Tollis and others
- 25 April **ANZAC Day** Organised by Gregg McFaul, Rob Smith, Dee McFaul’s Community Choir and MRCA. Thanks to Leanne Thurling for her poetry.
- 3 May MRCA’s biggest event in a long time, the **Heritage Market** at the railway station. Thanks to our MRCA team and vast cast of helpers too numerous to list.

Advocacy – three submissions were completed

- September 2025 - MRCA Submission to the *Residential, Commercial and Industrial Lands Strategy* reminded Council of the priorities in the Michelago Master Plan that have yet to be implemented:
 - Sealing of Michelago Road
 - Traffic calming measures on Ryrie Street
 - Michelago Creek Loop Trail/Path
- October 2025 MRCA Submission to the draft *Snowy Monaro Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy*. We made five recommendations
 - heritage assets managed by the volunteer groups should be included
 - Council retain a heritage consultant on an as-needs basis to support community groups manage heritage assets
 - Council advocates for the removal of the financial co-contribution for community groups applying for NSW heritage grants
 - Council introduces a heritage grant funded by the NSW Government
 - Developers be required to commit part of their development contributions to the maintenance of heritage assets on their property
- November 2025 MRCA wrote to the NSW Environment Protection Agency about the noise directive to Council for the Michelago Bank of Bins.