

Michelago Region Community Association Inc. – Committee Meeting
Railway Station 6pm, Tuesday 10 December 2024
MINUTES

Present: Kerry Rooney (President), Leanne Thurling, Tony De Salis, Di Fett, Geoff Inkpen (Secretary), Leanne Pattison, Sally Hughes, Leah Oliver

Apologies: Graeme Plath (Treasurer)

Guests: Adrian Ljubic, John Rooney

Previous minutes: It was moved that the minutes of the MRCA Committee meeting of 12 November 2024 be accepted as a correct record. CARRIED

Business arising from previous meeting:

Monaro Highway Action Group. MCRA to further consult with Tony Campbell. There has been no response from the local NSW State Member Steve Whan on the Monaro Highway issues that MRCA raised with him in August this year.

President's report:

Kerry Rooney provided a detailed update on what the MCRA has achieved over the past six months. (See attachment.)

Treasurer's report:

- a. The MCRA Treasurer Mr Graeme Plath sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments. No Treasurer's report this month.
- b. Kerry mentioned, on Graeme's behalf, their intention to transfer committed funds from the general account to the grant account. This will ensure the general account more accurately reflects MRCA's discretionary funds.

General Business:

- a. Proposal for a Men's Shed at oval (Adrian Ljubic/John Rooney)
Men's Shed is a community driven project. Adrain works in mental health primarily in suicide prevention. Adrian noted there is a high suicide rate regarding elderly men who experience loneliness, furthermore many community benefits flow on from Men's Shed such as people being able to connect and talk. The proposal is to use the green shed on the oval. There is independent funding and umbrella insurance for the development of the Men's Shed from a registered association. The green shed is currently full and needs a good cleanout, as such the cleanout needs a working group. Men's Sheds are open to all age demographics and meetings are generally held once a week, however the men's sheds are open at any time to all members. Estimated time frame to set up a Men's Shed is 3 to 6 months.

Motion: that MCRA supports the establishment of a Men's Shed in Michelago. CARRIED unanimously.

Action: Kerry to write to the Hall Committee regarding the use of the Green Shed and suggest Adrian brief the Hall Committee on the Men's Shed proposal. (The Hall Committee is officially in charge of the Green Shed as it is on Council land.)

- b. Proposal to light up the cenotaph (Derek Giucci/John Rooney). Derek was unable to attend due to work commitments. John spoke on his behalf. Derek is a qualified electrician and has most of the parts for this project. He would install the lights on a volunteer basis. Power usage by LED lighting is low so the additional cost for electricity

would be small. MCRA is supportive of the lighting of the Cenotaph as this would bring some added security by providing additional lighting to the Michelago Railway Station. Motion – MCRA (Kerry) to approach Rob Smith and Gregg McFaul for agreement to the proposed lighting project. CARRIED.

- c. Cooma Correctional Centre – Proposed work program – (Sally/Leah) Sally and Leah drafted a letter to Mr Twaddell of the Cooma Correctional Centre (CCC) detailing proposed maintenance work for the Michelago Railway Station. The letter proposes for the MCRA to invite the CCC to attend the Michelago Railway Station to advise the MCRA on what equipment or staff would be required to complete agreed work. Motion: The MCRA to forward the letter to the CCC. CARRIED
- d. Boco Rock grant – Tennis clubhouse – new quote received, and deposit paid. Quote received from Wayne Hatcher. (2) Cricket Team consulted on signage. The Michelago Cricket Team agreed to the sign 'In memory of Dave Hanns' The oval is still named the Clive Kelly Oval.
- e. Railway Station – 1. Heritage Grant Progress (ongoing), 2. Watering Roster sent out (no pump required and there is a hose off the tank available) Mowing for Christmas Carols. (Leanne has reminded John Colaric to mow for the Christmas Carols)
- f. IT Issues – MCRA has been appalled at the poor service provided by Vodien, our current internet provider, and intends to find new providers to host our web server and email. The Gmail small business option appears to be a good one and would be cheaper than MailChimp. Markus is agreeable for the MCRA to go over to Gmail. . Motion: MCRA to express our gratitude to Markus Buchhorn for his generous and continuing IT support to the MCRA. Unanimously carried.
- g. MCRA's Webmail and bulk emailing of Magpie. The need to replace MailChimp was noted, but we would continue to use it for another month or so to send out the Magpie.
- h. Australia Day - \$200 grant received for BBQ at oval on Sunday 26 January 2025. Tony de Salis offered to help with the BBQ. All offers of help gratefully accepted.

Other Business:

- a. Next meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 11th February 2025.

**July to December 2024 in review
Michelago Region Community Association**

Who is MRCA?

Kerry Rooney President

Leanne Pattison Vice President

Graeme Plath Treasurer

Geoff Inkpen Secretary

Committee members

Sally Hughes, Di Fett, Leanne Thurling, Tony de Salis, Leah Oliver, Peter Butler.

Total MRCA membership: 28 people

Why does MRCA exist?

In 2024 MRCA adopted a new constitution and new objectives to advocate and work

- To support better social and economic outcomes for the Michelago region, and
- For the preservation of the Michelago region's heritage infrastructure and natural environment.

What are MRCA's Priorities for 2024-25

- Managing the railway station and a complex heritage grant
- Advocating for Monaro Highway Safety
- Advocating for implementation of the Michelago Masterplan eg footpaths and road safety

What did MRCA do Jul-Dec 2024?

- Wrote to Steve Whan and then met with him in August to explain Monaro Highway issues eg turning lanes and speed limits. No response to date.
- Encouraged residents to write to NSW politicians about the Monaro Highway
- Advocated for our road issues which were raised with Council's Traffic Committee via Councillor John Rooney
- Encouraged UGL and the tradies to stay the course on the heritage project
- Developed a proposal for the CCC to help manage the station
- Ran the Democracy Sausage BBQ for the local election (with help from P&C)
- Organised the Bridge opening ceremony for Kristy McBain, Councillors Tanya Higgins and John Rooney, and the RFS
- Organised the Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Successfully applied for Boco Rock Grant which funded the cricket ball proof fence at Clive Kelly Oval (oval signage and lining of clubhouse coming soon)
- Published 6 monthly editions of the marvellous Magpie
- Found a new Secretary – thanks Geoff for agreeing to join us