



MRCA Committee Meeting Minutes
Michelago Railway Station 6pm Tuesday 11 March 2025

Present Kerry Rooney (President), Leanne Pattison (Vice President), Tony De Salis, Sally Hughes, Peter Butler, Leanne Thurling, Di Fett.

The meeting commenced at 6.15.

1. **Apologies** Graeme Plath (Treasurer), Leah Oliver, Geoff Inkpen. Geoff has notified Kerry that he can no longer continue as the pro tem MRCA Secretary.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting (11 February)** Moved Kerry Rooney, seconded Leanne Thurling 'That the minutes of the 11 February meeting be accepted as a correct record.' CARRIED
3. **Business arising from previous meeting(s)**
 - a) ANZAC Day Organisation of this event is held over to the next meeting, but Gregg McFaul has notified that Brendan Jackson will give the address and Jo Jackson will officiate.
 - b) Monaro Highway Action Group Held over to the next meeting.
 - c) Men's Shed Held over.
 - d) Lighting of Cenotaph will go ahead when electrician Derek Giucci is available.
4. **President's report**
 - a) Kerry thanked everyone who has helped with packing up the station prior to the heritage renovations and doing some preliminary cleaning.
 - b) Kerry thanked Peter and Leanne T for their handy-person job fixing the second toilet and Sally for cleaning off cobwebs and dust on walls in all toilets
 - c) Note: CCC mowed the grounds and will return to whipper snipper before 26 March.
 - d) The visit by the National Trust (ACT) is the current consideration.
 - e) More cleaning will be done 23 March prior to the National Trust (ACT) visit 26 March. Kerry will do a Facebook post about this working bee.
 - f) Thanks to Leah and Leanne P for offering to clean the toilets.
 - g) Meet the candidates for the Federal Government election: Liberal Party candidate Jo van der Plaats will be at the General Store Sunday 23 March at 11 am. The Labor Party candidate (and sitting Member), Kristy McBain, is keen to come and will confirm a date asap.
5. **Treasurer's report** In Graeme's absence, Kerry reported that there is just \$1300.00 left in the grant account. Payment for Alastair's plastering and a 50% deposit for Myles was made from the Grant Account. As UGL and Heritage NSW will not pay the remaining grant money until all the work has been done, we will have to draw down on our operational account for Myles' final payment.
6. **General Business**
 - a) Date change for monthly meetings of the committee: from the 2nd Tuesday to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
 - b) National Trust ACT visit to the station
 - i) Kerry is organising a brochure of c. 12 pages to sell to attendees. Proceeds after printing costs will go to the railway station. [Added after the meeting: Kwik Kopy (Phillip) has given a 10% discount in exchange for an ad on the back page. LP]
 - ii) Kerry is also organising new backing and labels for the historical photos before they are re-hung.
 - iii) Painting cannot be done before the visit, as there are insufficient funds. Derek Bardsley, a painter recommended by Alastair Saunders as experienced with heritage work, will quote. For the amount required, we need to obtain a second quote. (See below e iii.)

- iv) Morning tea: Leanne Thurling needs numbers for catering by Monday 17 March. National Trust (ACT) has confirmed 30 visitors. Approximately 30 more from 'old' local families will attend. The visitors will tour the Michelago Cemetery from 9.30 am and come to the railway station about 10.30.
 - v) Local stories: Members of the local families have been asked to share with the visitors a few memories of former times. Sally asked about recording these memories but this would add extra organisation and we would need story-tellers' prior permission.
- c) **Boco Rock grant for Clive Kelly Oval**
- i) Signage: We have received 3 quotes. Nathan Booth's is \$1,331 for an all-aluminium sign, which is very durable. Artwork is included; the expense is in the material. The others are aluminium composite with a life of c. 10 years. Incline is the cheapest \$980, Jindabyne company is \$1,323. Kerry noted that the planned sign for the Dave Hanns fence is now probably redundant, as the Michelago Cricket Club has erected a handsome, durable, steel sign for 'The Dave Hanns Pavilion' near where the fence sign was to go. Leanne will pass this on to the Cricket Club Captain. Kerry offered to pay for the sign for Clive Kelly Oval with MRCA to reimburse her just the available funds from the Boco Rock oval grant. Action Leanne and Kerry
 - ii) Clubhouse termites: The Hall Committee Secretary, Jenny Wholohan, has not yet had a response from Council about treatment for the active termites that have stopped Wayne's work on the tennis clubhouse (details in *Maggie 35*). Peter gave information about treatment available at Bunnings and offered to do the spraying – thank you, Peter. Leanne will pass this on to Jenny. Action Leanne and Peter
- d) **Council Strategic Plan**
- i) Di has reviewed this. It's a document of strategies/aspirations/ 'motherhood' statements. The MRCA supports it. MRCA agreed that we will request that invasive species be added to the document as this plan should be used to justify grant applications. Action Di
 - ii) There was concern about invasive species, vegetable and animal, and the lack of support for landowners. It seems invasive species control is mainly up to landowners. Council's recent and detailed media release about budget restrictions vis-à-vis weed control is published in the current *Maggie 35*. Di will email MRCA members about joining the 'Feral Fighters Group'. Action Di. The MRCA supports Landcare initiatives to control feral species and the installation of tree guards to protect koalas from predators (see Landcare report in *Maggie 35*).
- e) **Railway station**
- i) Woodwork: Myles Gostelow aims to finish the heritage repairs on woodwork by 23 March. Kerry thanked Di for pursuing finalisation of the work.
 - ii) Plumber Charles Hillman has quoted \$715 to enable pressurised water to the tank's hose. This would make garden watering more efficient. The meeting agreed that this be done when money is available.
 - iii) Painter: Derek Bardsley's quote (see above 6b) for painting both plastered areas and some others (e.g. Myles' new skirting boards) is coming. He will also give a quote for the whole interior and, separately, for the repair and facelift of the Michelago sign on the platform. Kerry will contact local painter Ardeshir for a second quote for painting in the building. Action Kerry
 - iv) UGL's Alan Bennett (the new Tim Ritchie) carried out the annual inspection of the railway station. He noted there were two wooden trolleys in the old green shed at the northern end of the platform. He will ascertain whether these could be handed over as MRCA assets. He noted the rusted guttering that needs replacing on the signals shed.
 - v) The pest company also visited to do a termite check. Kerry will ring the UGL lady contact for a full report. Action Kerry

- vi) Grant Warren remains our primary point of contact in UGL.
- vii) The replacement powerpoint fitting is missing, possibly packed with other items prior to the plastering.

7. Other business

- i) Michelago Magpie newsletter: Sally suggested a feature on Ivan Colaric's Open Garden Day.
- ii) Station visits/tours + morning/afternoon tea for targetted clients: Leanne T – bussed visits for aged-care residents could provide funds for the station and include her catering fee. The meeting agreed.
- iii) Peter reported on alleged asbestos dumping at Micalago Rd quarry and claims about contamination of nearby properties. Peter acquainted the committee with the anger of residents. There was considerable discussion of the why and how. There has been social media publicity prompted by the recent involvement of Crs Williamson and Thaler. While supporting publicity, Peter expressed strong distaste for the negative comments about Cr Higgins. Other committee members gave unqualified support for Cr Higgins' dedication to solving community problems.
- iv) Condition of Micalago Road: The road has a lot of traffic, including trucks, so is corrugated and needs a better surface. Peter noted that this will become worse with the new development near the corner of Micalago Road and Karinya Plains Road.

Kerry will write to the Council CEO, asking that Micalago Road be sealed because of the high number of residents using the road and the upcoming development. Action Kerry

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

Next meeting: 6pm, Wednesday, 9 April at the Michelago Railway Station.