



## **Bombala Community Petition in Support of Rail Trail Development**

24 August 2023

Monaro Rail Trail (MRT) President, Carlo Botto and Vice President, Frank Bakker were invited to attend a Bombala community meeting on 24 August at the Imperial Hotel. The meeting was organised by local residents Charlie Maslin and Zoe Joseph. Snowy Monaro Regional Council Mayor, Narelle Davis and Councillor and local resident, Bob Stewart also attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Receive a petition in support of the MRT from Zoe Joseph from the Bombala Chamber of Commerce.
- Discuss the current status of the MRT.

Residents expressed concern that the MRT project was moving too slowly and the economic development associated with the MRT project was being stifled. They were concerned other potential rail corridors users were competing rather than co-operating. Mayor Davis and Councillor Stewart were highly supportive of the interest in accelerating MRT progress.

A petition to demonstrate local support to hasten development of the MRT was initiated by a local committee formed by the Bombala Chamber of Commerce. The petition with 150 signatures was handed to the President of the MRT and will be used as part of the MRT business case demonstrating community support.

In summary, the actions that resulted from the meeting were:

- Formation of a local community MRT committee to co-ordinate local support in conjunction with MRT.
- The committee's first task is to develop a local promotional plan, laying out the benefits of the MRT at a local level. This included developing a video and associated material as part of a broader marketing/promotional plan.
- Provide the committee with contacts from the highly successful Tumbarumba Rail Trail to leverage their experience (this Rail Trail has many similarities to what is proposed at Bombala).
- Identify a marketing/promotional expert who can assist "pro bono".
- Identify an experienced drone operator to provide fly-over footage for promotional purposes.
- Interact with likeminded MRT support groups in another town/village.
- Meet with other Bombala Community groups to see what can be done to promote rail heritage in Bombala in the railway station precinct, including potential use of trolley cars.

Frank Bakker, also took the opportunity to thank the locals who helped develop the successfully completed precinct trail. The precinct trail was a MRT initiative, and was made

possible with the support of the local community, grant funding from Bocco Rock Wind Farm and Snowy Monaro Regional Council.



L to R: Charlie Maslin, Carlo Botto and Zoe Joseph



Some attendees of Bombala community with SMRC Mayor Davis (right) and MRT representative, Frank Bakker.



Dis-used Bombala Railway Station and precinct (leased by SMRC)