

# ~ Michelago Magpie 11 ~

29 December 2022 news peckings

from your Michelago Region Community Association



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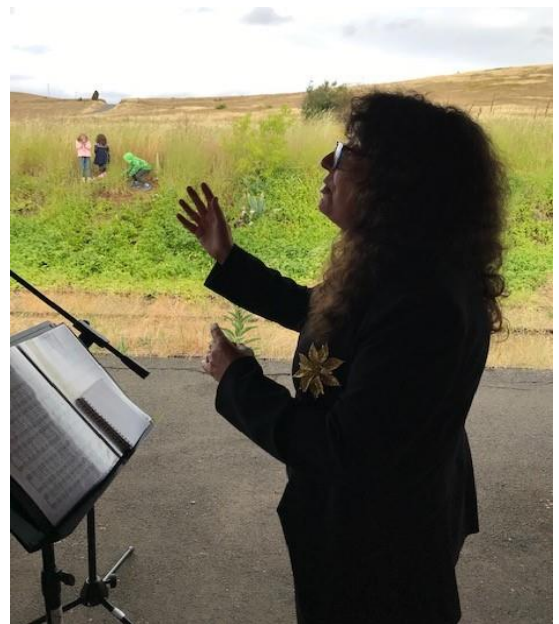


## Christmas Carols with the Community Choir

**22 December, Michelago Railway Station.** Led by choir mistress Dee, the Michelago choristers sang ‘lustily and with good cheer’, harmonising beautifully in their inaugural public performance.



The carols ranged through the tender (*Away in a manger, Silent night*) to the triumphant (*Joy to the world, Hark the herald angels sing, O come all ye faithful*) to Australian (*Orana*) to the whimsical (*Twelve days of Christmas*) to the jolly (*Rudolph, Jingle bells*) and others, finishing with the rousing demand for figgy pudding in *We wish you a merry Christmas*.



The choir members – Sally, Chloe, Anna, Jenny, Romney, Lizzie, Helen, Libby, Elizabeth, Karen and Leanne – paid tribute to Dee McFaul’s coaching skills over the last couple of months and enthused about how much fun they’ve had. Sally said, ‘We all love our Thursday nights!’

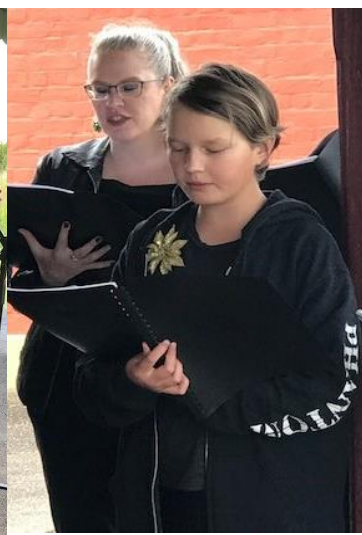
In the absence of figgy pudding, peppermint and chocolate cake from our cake-maker extraordinaire, Leanne Thurling, substituted very well.





The audience of around 30 adults and children joined in, encouraged by the evident enjoyment of the choristers and Dee's urging, and became louder as they warmed up.

Choir meetings will resume at St Thomas's Church, Ryrie Street, 7–8 pm, on the first Thursday of the next school term (2 February). Everyone is welcome and, as Dee said, that includes men, even though the present choir is all ladies.







The station's grass fairies romped and sang.



## Poems 'n' Pizza

*Pud & LP*

**Michelago Railway station, 3 January, 6.30pm.** Bring a poem to share – maybe you wrote it or someone else did. Maybe you love it. Maybe you want to share a poem that annoys you. Maybe it's one that's happy, maybe it's sad or angry. Maybe it's just fun.

This small group of budding poets, relaxed and low-key, has been meeting and creating for a few months and is attracting more people, so has decided to meet at the fairly central venue of the station. If you're interested in reciting or creating poetry, come along.



A plate to share plus a gold coin donation for the station are welcome. BYO drinks.

Pud (formally known as Anne-Louise Pollard), is organising this group with a 'Let's see how it goes' attitude. There'll be enough chairs. There might or might not be pizza with the poems, but there's sure to be some alliteration. Ring Pud if you have any questions: 0409 220 842.



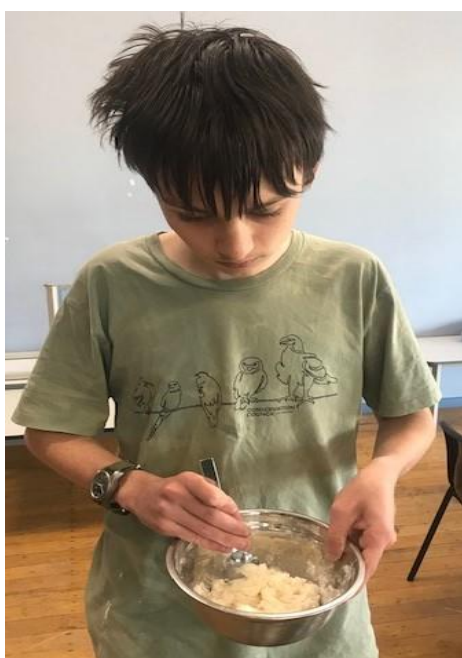
*Creative Commons image*



## Unique gingerbread houses

**18 December, the Hall:** small, middle-sized and big kids assembled their pre-ordered (thanks, Belinda!) flat-pack gingerbread houses and freely individualised them with concentrated creativity, icing sugar and lollies.

First, mix your icing sugar cement – not too dry, not too wet. Fill and squeeze the icing-bag – not too soft, not too hard. Lay the floor, attach the walls and put on the roof.



Secure the roof. Stick on the chimney (right way up if you want, but all witches' chimneys are crooked, Hansel). Get help when you need it.





After the basic architecture, make your own artistic statement.











Participants (including some adults) went through the rainbow at the end, got coloured again, then came together for review and marshalling instructions from Michelago Principal Geoff Smith for toilets and lunch.

Everyone queued for the sausages excellently cooked on the MRCA barbecues.

Time ran out for the planned swarming onto the Michelago Fire Brigade Cat7. Still, the truck added to the community atmosphere and thank you to Deputy Captain Abby for organising it.







Lunch under the trees with friends after two hours of exercise and excitement – what could be better? Thanks to all the teachers and parents for organising and helping.



### Council drop-in information session

**3 December, Michelago Hall.** Council staff and elected Councillors Narelle Davis, Tanya Higgins, Craig Mitchell and Luke Williamson displayed the extensive plans for the Snowy Monaro Draft Rural Land Use Strategy and Draft Local Environment Plan. They discussed them for two



hours with local landholders whose interest ranged from mild to very concerned.

Most concerns focused on changes to rural land zoning. In the Michelago region, the Minimum Lot Size (MLS) for land zoned RU1 is proposed to be increased from 80 to 100 hectares. Some RU1 land is proposed to be rezoned to



RU2 with an MLS of 200 hectares.

Although the event had been well publicised, not many people attended. Council staff ran another information session at Bredbo in the afternoon.

Councillor Higgins urges residents to access the Snowy Monaro Council's 'Your Say' site to give their views on the draft plans. She says Council would like to be informed of a full range of views, from negative and mixed to positive. Here's the link:

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draftsnowymonarolep>







Happy anniversary, Michelago! The end of the year marks one year of representing you on Snowy Monaro Regional Council. I certainly understand a bit more about roads, culverts, legislation and financial reporting now, as I have butted up against the realities of Local Government being 'governed' by NSW State Government legislation and being subjected to cost shifting and rate capping. I've also learned how much it actually costs to build and maintain a road!

I would like to thank previous local Councillors John Rooney and Martin Hughes for their advice and mentoring, as well as community leaders Di, Karen and Paula for their support and camaraderie through some particularly tough times. And, of course, Sally and the team in the General Store for providing me with coffee, chocolate, laughter and often a much-needed sanity check. Oh, and my family, who are now used to me disappearing to meetings or requesting silence for a ZOOM ☺

Most of all, I want to thank everyone in the community who has worked with me, shared ideas, concerns and issues and, especially, words of encouragement and support. I cannot tell you how much that has meant.

My priorities for Michelago for 2023 include:

- Pushing UGL and Transport NSW to give final approvals to allow work on the Ryrie St Extension to commence (and then FINISH!)
- Continuing to support residents of Micalago Road with issues associated with the quarry development
- Working with the community and Council to deliver safety issues for Ryrie St, especially in front of the school
- Encouraging the community's input to the draft Rural Land Use Strategy, LEP, Financial Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan
- Monitoring effectiveness of the Waste Management Strategy and the village Bank of Bins
- Ongoing road surface improvements and maintenance
- Opportunities surrounding the Monaro Rail Trail
- And anything else that comes up!

If you have anything you would like me to put my attention to, please email me on

[tanya.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tanya.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) .



*Photos taken mid-November of Tinderry Crossing work, now complete, and, at right, part of the three and a half kilometres of newly sealed Tinderry Road.*







## St Patrick's Christmas gathering

**10 December.** On the first day promising a proper summer, the caretaker of the St Pat's presbytery, Michael Scanlon, hosted a relaxed, convivial community gathering in the house and garden.

Children especially liked Michael's lavish Christmas decorations in the presbytery, while some adults were more interested in the garden's work-in-progress. Others just enjoyed a chat with afternoon tea or a beer.



The relaxed afternoon mood later moved easily to the barbecue and the singing of a multitude of Christmas carols, with Romney, Lizzie and Emma in particularly good voice.

Michael would like to develop further the extensive area around the church and presbytery to be available for more community events.







*The roses are in beautiful bloom and, overall, the garden's renaissance is remarkable.*



## Thank you to generous donors

1. **The Grand in the Hand lottery:** the winner donated the \$1,000.00 she won with ticket #9 to the Michelago Memorial Hall! Not only did the Hall Committee achieve its aim of raising \$1,000.00 for the Hall, but has now gratefully received this very kind gift of the other \$1,000 raised. It will go towards all the maintenance projects in the building.



Council pays for most maintenance, but not for items like improvements to the acoustics, upgrading or repair of facilities, mowing or electricity. For those, the Hall relies on hire fees and donations.

2. **The Michelago Railway Station's donation box in the General Store:** thank you to all those thoughtful people who pop some change (and sometimes more) in this. Last time it was cleared, \$26.00 went into the station's account.



## Organic weed-control demonstration

Markus Buchhorn

[Below is a shortened version of a 14 December email sent to Landcare members by Markus, President, Michelago Landcare. Contact for Markus is [landcare@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:landcare@michelagoregion.org.au) – Ed.]

Michelago Landcare recently established a FoamStream demonstration site for weed control, and had a get-together on 19 December at 'Pacawooly' (Gary Morris and Jo Gaha's Clearview Road property) to review the results and show them to a wider audience. Landcare members were advised and invited.





The company rep, Stuart Samson, was onsite to demonstrate the equipment.

The main concept behind FoamStream is that it is totally 'organic' – basically steam and a food-based foam that uses the (captured, enduring) heat to kill weeds. It's broad-based (kills everything) and probably won't reasonably do a broadacre situation until further development, but for breakout patches, paths/roads/sides and some particular weeds, it looks very promising. It has been safely used in fruit orchards in Europe, as there is nothing for the desirable plants to take up.



The site had experimental plots treated to test the effectiveness of the method on several different weed species. Photos at left show a strip 8 weeks after treatment and a new strip being applied.

A lovegrass patch is seeing its second flush from the seeds in the soil, as expected (along with the 'normal' spring growth alongside!). The tussocks appear to be well affected, and new grasses are emerging to replace them.

*R: dead, previously treated serrated tussock and live ones being treated.*



At the review and further demonstration, Landcare members were joined by SMRC biosecurity folk, who talked about their current priorities and interests and how they can help landholders with education and support to manage both the well-known weeds and the emerging concerns.

<https://www.weedingtech.com/why-foamstream/our-technology/> for further information.



### **Magpie goes to print**

Small numbers of *Magpie9* and then *Magpie10* were printed and left at the General Store. Aims: (1) make the newsletter available for people who don't do email, and (2) encourage others to join the email distribution list.

The asking price for the paper copy is \$2. It costs more than that to print, but the BCRRF funding will support printing for a few more issues.

The *Magpie* is free by email. To receive it, just send your name and email address to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)







## Magpie information

Photos p9: Tanya Higgins. All others this issue: L. Pattison

Previous issues available on [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

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**Advertisements:** businesses can purchase advertisement space for \$30.00 for three issues (it might end up being a half-page or a full one, depending on space). Why per three issues rather than per month? Well, (a) sending an invoice monthly is more of an administrative task for we volunteers, and (b) we can't guarantee a timeframe for issues – issues depend on available content and volunteer time. Non-business ads are free.

**Contributions:** reactions, letters, photos and news items are welcome. Please send them to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) Please give your name and put *Magpie* in the subject line. Published items will be attributed.

If you have events or activities planned, please email them to be listed in the calendar and also given article space if there's enough information: [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)

The MRCA committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length and clarity.

**Aims:** to publicise community events and activities and promote community identity. Yes, the Facebook pages do that, but the *Magpie* tries to give a more cohesive, detailed picture.

*Leanne Pattison, Editor.*



## MRCA information

**Meetings are open:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagoans are welcome.

To belong to the MRCA, first download the membership form at [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au) It's only \$10 p/a single and \$15 p/a family. Peanuts. To renew, see the same for bank details, and please include your name.

### There are four good reasons for joining the Michelago Region Community Association.

1. The more representative we are, the more we can achieve for our village and region.
2. You get more updates from Council than the ones Council sends ratepayers.
3. All funds go to running costs, including the upkeep, rental and insurance for the Michelago Railway Station.  
These costs are eating into reserves because of Covid-cancellations of two fundraising Spring Fairs and a Christmas Market. The Committee is considering other fund-raiser options and really appreciates all the volunteer assistance.
4. It's sociable – you know what's happening, who's doing what, and you participate only if you want to.
5. The AGM is in February. Date to be advised. As always, all positions are open. In particular, we will need a new treasurer this time. Please consider some volunteer contribution for the community.

Di and Leanne for the MRCA Committee <http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/>





## Hire rates, Michelago Memorial Community Hall

2022 rates still apply, as below, but will soon change, largely due to electricity charges. The Hall Committee has been subsidising these for some time, but cannot continue to do so to the same extent.

Council requires confirmation and/or updates to hall hire rates by early January.

### Michelago Community Hall

		2022	
Hire - per hour	\$17.00	\$12.00	per hour
Refundable Deposit Bond - Standard Hire	\$167.50	\$160.00	per event
Private evening/Party function	\$0.00	\$215.00	per event
Refundable deposit bond - private evening/Party function	\$0.00	\$250.00	per event
Hire of equipment - chairs, tables, kitchen etc.	To be arranged on a case-by-case basis with the committee.		



## ~ Michelago Magpie Calendar ~

Please send quick updates of what's coming up, what's on and any corrections to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) If the *Magpie* knows about it, it will be here.

If your friends want to be on the mailing list for the *Magpie* and its calendar, send names and emails to the above address.



### Regular (Venues and times can change; information is here as received.)

- **Choir** Thursdays 7–8pm. St Thomas's Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station). Finished for 2022. To resume 2 February.
- **Cricket Magpie** hasn't yet been able to get more information, but knows cricket happens at the Oval.
- **Fire Brigade** training is finished for the year. Contact details: MRCA notice board at Michelago General Store.
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 5.45pm.
- **Hall bookings:** [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) or phone Rachel Harling 0431 528 258 (hire rates below).
- **HIIT** exercise class. Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. No news yet available for over Christmas-NY break.
- **Library.** Mobile library has been 10–11am Tuesdays, outside the school, but no 2023 info yet received.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 6pm.
- **Pony Club.** Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. <https://www.pcansw.org.au/clubs/list/michelago>
- **Pre-School.** Hall. Teacher: Debbie 0412 485 212. Weekly. Mondays 6am–6pm. Resumes when?
- **Seed Savers.** Monthly, usually last Sun but can vary. 2pm. Gold coin. Usually railway station but to confirm the locations or if you have other questions, please call or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or [hello@michelagoyoga.com.au](mailto:hello@michelagoyoga.com.au)
- **Senior Lunch Group.** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 1pm, the Shop.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass monthly, usu. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat, 6.00pm. Updates on Facebook's Michelago Noticeboard.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders:** usu. monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. Check details on Tinderry tab of Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). *Magpie 4* has a feature write-up. President Don Munns 0407 235 407. Membership – Secretary Heidi Dreyer 0434 197 122.
- **Yoga** classes have been discontinued for the moment.



### One-offs (that we know about) (Venues and times can change; information is here as received.)

#### January

- Friday, 3 Jan. 6.30pm. Railway station. Poems 'n' Pizza. See news item pp3–4.
- For the rest of the month ... nothing yet.

