

# ~ Michelago Magpie 12 ~

From your Michelago Region Community Association

3 February 2023 news peckings



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## January 26

**Australia Day** is, for many people, a holiday for relaxing and being thankful for living in this country rather than in any of the many less fortunate places on this planet.



So it was for the folk who gathered at the Michelago Oval – the Wholohan and Lucas families, their relatives and various friends from Michelago and Canberra.

They ate sausages cooked on the MRCA barbecues, other delicacies and drank some celebratory bubbly.

They played tennis (Djokovic & Sabalenka are on notice) and some young cricketers showed their talent, especially the youngest wicket keeper, Hugo.

The new MRCA barbecues and shelters at the Oval are the focus of increasing community activity.

They, with the courts and the clubhouse (which is being rejuvenated), are forming an attractive facilities complex for Michelago. Like all facilities, they need maintenance. The MRCA and Hall Committee volunteers do this.

Grateful thanks go to Ivan Colaric for spraying the weeds around and on the courts and around the bbq slabs, all for no charge.







*R: Allan cleaned the tank filter and pulled leaf rubbish from the pipe. Great job, Allan!*



## Michelago Cricket Club match & Community BBQ 12 February, 12.00



Michelago fielded a cricket team at least as early as 1899. \*

Dave Hanns (at left, enjoying an MRCA bbq sausage on Election Day, May 2022) has been Cricket Captain for as long as any magpies can remember.

The MRCA is celebrating this community group with a free bbq at the Oval for the home team, the visitors and the Michelago community on Sunday, 12 February, starting 12.00. (The bbq is BCRRF funded.) The match starts at 12.30.



Volunteers to help with cooking and serving will be welcome – contact Secretary Jo at [Committee@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:Committee@michelagoregion.org.au) by 3 February.

So bring a chair, hat, sunscreen and drinks and enjoy lunch on the village green and cheer (or at least clap in genteel fashion) at the crack of ball on willow in the gentle atmosphere of a friendly rural competition.

\* <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/31370123?searchTerm=cricket%20michelago>  
(Reference sourced by Kerry.)





## Poets 'n' Pizza

**3 January, 6.30pm, Michelago Railway Station.** Pud's poets shared poems and some prose. There were the old and the new, the serious and the funny, the descriptive and the narrative. Some rhymed and some didn't. All were interesting and entertaining. The food was excellent.



*Above: Most of the poets and presenters. Photo: Michael Fett*

*Below right: Ben entertained with an account of his first meeting with Cheryl 'The Legend' Kenyon at the shop.*



*L: Sophie Higgins wrote her poem about the sea after reading a story about a turtle.*



*Above: photo Kerry Rooney*



*L: Yes, there was pizza for the poets.*

For Leanne Thurling's poem *The fox*, see p9.



**Next Poets'n'Pizza meeting: Sunday 5 Feb. 4 pm, Railway Station.** Come along to enjoy poems and high tea.

As before, bring a poem you want to share (for whatever reason), some food and a gold coin (more if you feel generous) to support the station costs (see also pp5–6).





## The Michelago Clive Kelly Oval?

There is support for a move to name our sportsground after this outstanding Michelago cricketer whose uncle James donated the land for a cricket ground. Clive's history is outlined in Kerry Rooney's article below.

### Proposal to name Michelago Oval after legendary Local Cricketer

Kerry Rooney



*Above: James and Clive Kelly*

Clive Kelly was the best cricketer Michelago ever produced. To recognise his legacy, his family is proposing that the Michelago cricket oval be named Clive Kelly Oval.

From 1935-36 to 1938-39, Clive played 14 representative matches for the ACT and Southern Districts teams, scoring 850 runs.

In 1937, at the age of 23 Clive opened the batting for the Southern Districts XI against England at Manuka Oval. Facing a fast-bowling English attack, he top-scored with 49 runs. This score remained the highest by an Australian Capital Territory player against an international team until 1968.

To quote *The Canberra Times* of 12 February 1937 "... the young Michelago batsman, Kelly, gave a wonderful exhibition of stroke making and played England's crack bowlers as to the manner born."

Another highlight of Clive's career was his 66 runs off a bowling attack led by one of Australia's greatest spin bowlers, "Tiger" Bill O'Reilly in 1939.

*The Queanbeyan Age* in a 1968 feature article about his cricketing record, described him as "a flamboyantly aggressive batsman". Most of his career as an opening batsman was spent playing with the Queanbeyan first grade team. In 47 matches for Queanbeyan he scored 1500 runs. He also played for Michelago at the beginning and latter part of his career.

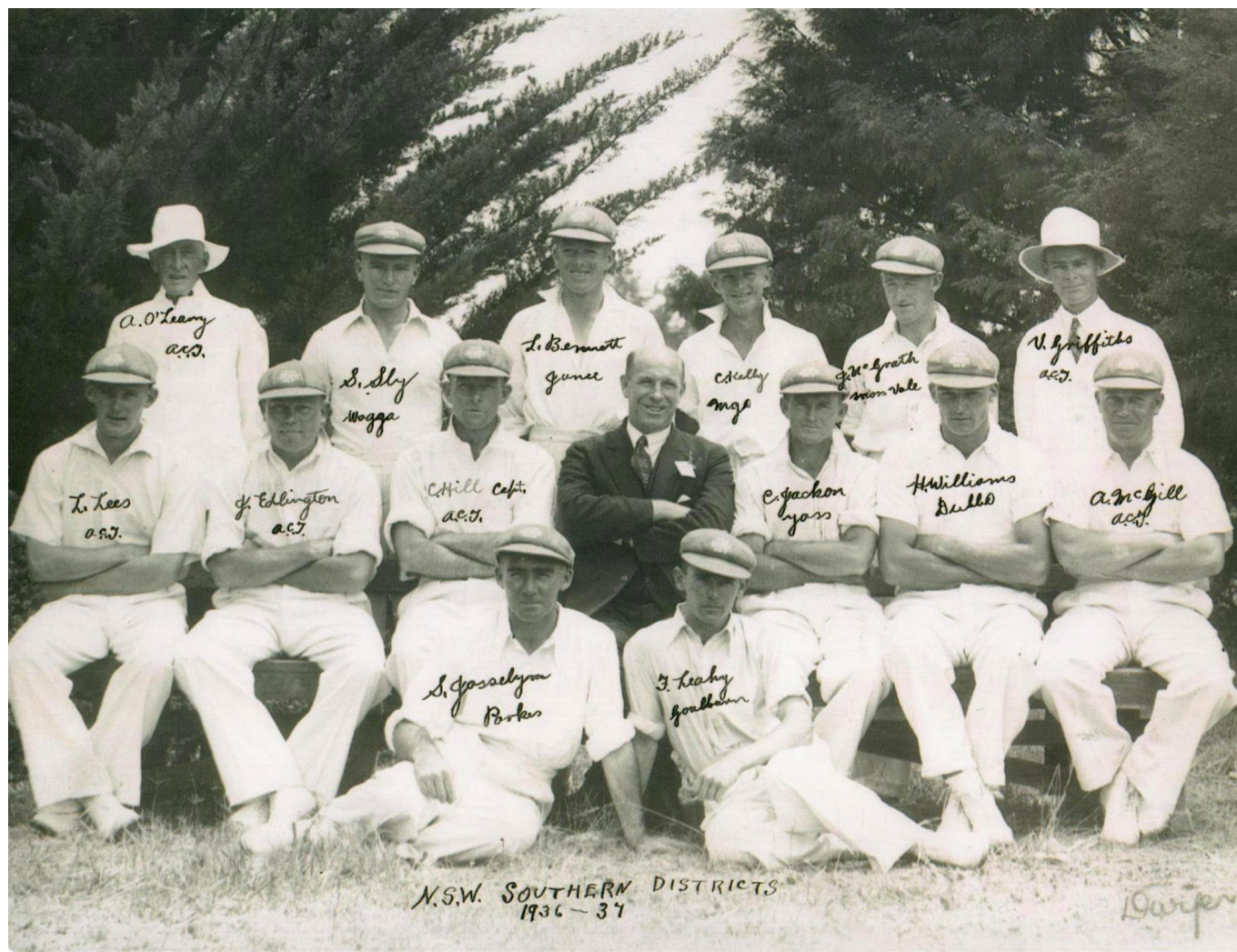
In nine seasons and 221 innings, Clive notched up a career total of 9,875 runs at an average of 44.68.

**Clive's father Andy Kelly and his Uncle Jim Kelly provided land in Michelago for a cricket ground. This remains the Michelago cricket oval to this day.**

Uncle Jim encouraged Clive to take up cricket seriously at the age of sixteen and became his first coach. The young Clive honed his batting skills by hitting a golf ball against a wall with a cricket stump.

Of historical note, the February 1937 game against England, was the very first international cricket match played in Canberra. A crowd of 5,000 people gathered at Manuka Oval to watch. Canberra's population at the time was only 8,000. All school children were given a day off to attend and free maps were handed out to visitors to direct them to Manuka.

The proposal to name the cricket oval after Clive Kelly was discussed at an MRCA meeting in October last year. The Committee unanimously supported the idea. The next step will be a request to the Deputy Mayor, Tanya Higgins, to present a motion to the Snowy Monaro Regional Council seeking the Council's official agreement.



Above: NSW Southern Districts team 1936–37. Clive Kelly is third from right, rear row.



## Your Railway Station Needs You

Everyone loves our heritage-listed railway station. It's been a big part of Michelago's history since 1887 when the first trains arrived. Sadly, the trains stopped in 1989. In 1993, the Michelago Tourist Railway commenced but as the track deteriorated over the years, services were truncated and then ceased in 2006.

You can be assured these days the station has become *the* location to be seen in Michelago. It has retained loads of character and attracts visitors from near and far.

Community-focused annual events, such as the Easter Egg hunt and the ANZAC Day commemoration, are centred around the railway station.

## Kerry Rooney



Donation box at the Michelago shop



All kinds of fascinating community groups meet at the station: Landcare, Seed Savers and Pud's poets. Dee's choristers sang their inaugural Christmas Carols there in December.

Local residents have been married and local children have celebrated their birthdays at the station.

The railway station has given you all so much. Now the station needs your help.

There are three ways you can help:

1. Join Friends of the Railway Station

Email [kerryarooney@gmail.com](mailto:kerryarooney@gmail.com) to join. Friends can:

- do some gardening or mowing
- assist with small repair jobs and maintenance to the buildings
- come along to working bees to clean and tidy the station buildings.

Big thanks to:

- Yless4U and local resident Martin for dealing with the station's security needs.
- Wayne, Roscoe and Ardeshir who donated their skills to building repairs
- John who empties the bin weekly
- all those who planted, weeded, lopped, mowed and cleaned during working bees.



2. Donate money

- either at the General Store donations box or
- via a transfer to the MRCA: BSB 633 000 Account No 126 401 058.

Fixed costs of managing the station are \$1600 per year, which includes rental and electricity.

Additional costs have recently included repairs to the buildings, replacing the water pump, slashing grass and buying a mower. These can add up quickly. All the costs are borne by the Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA), a small not-for-profit association whose only revenue comes from its \$10 membership fees. MRCA leases the station from the NSW government and is responsible for its upkeep.

3. Joining your community association

Membership of MRCA is \$10 per year for an individual, \$15 for a family. **The Annual General Meeting is 18 March at 3pm at the railway station (but 5pm being considered—watch this space).** Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. All committee positions are spilt. Members are entitled to vote.



MRCA applies for financial grants for major work on the railway station and lobbies the company that manages the NSW country rail network (UGL currently and John Holland previously) for in-kind and financial contributions. In 2019-20 MRCA acquired funding from the Snowy Monaro Regional Council's Boco Rock Fund and John Holland to paint the exteriors of the buildings.

This year it is applying for grants to paint the interiors of the buildings. Last year MRCA, with help from the community, was successful in getting a small grant through the Essential Energy "Clickathon". Note that MRCA also got the grant and managed the red tape to build the new barbeque facilities at the Michelago Oval.



## Fire Brigade wall and hard-stand

A new outdoor training facility for the Michelago Rural Fire Brigade is nearing completion. The new facility will provide a safe space to undertake various drills.

In particular, it will be used to practise procedures for extinguishing gas bottle fires in a way that meets modern work health and safety standards. R: Wayne's Wall, built by local bricklayer Wayne Hatcher



Brien Hallett

Gas cylinders used in many rural homes present particular challenges for firefighters. In the worst conditions they can explode and make a bad situation worse, particularly due to their proximity to buildings.

The hard-stand plus brick wall (pictured) means that drills using a specially designed kit can be undertaken without risk of starting a grass fire.

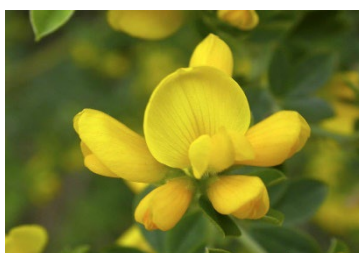


## Landcare

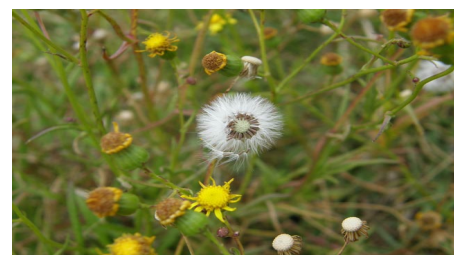
Markus Buchhorn, President, Michelago & District Landcare



Chilean Needle Grass – Credit Mark Imhof



Cape Broom – Credit John Hosking



Fireweed – Credit B. Johnston

[www.agriculture.vic.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.au)

[www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

[www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Want to know more about the possible weeds on your land? Confused by Lovegrasses, Needle Grasses, various Tussocks and desirable native grasses? Our local Landcare group and Council are organising **a public workshop for Saturday 4 March, 1–3pm in the Michelago Memorial Hall!** Learn how to identify what you have, desirable or otherwise, and more importantly, what to tackle, and how. There'll be plenty of information and people on hand to give advice.

**But wait, there's more!** Our Landcare group has been quite successful in getting grants for our landholders over the last year, which we'll provide updates on. These include:

- **Healthy Rivers** – managing woody weeds along the Murrumbidgee River and some major tributaries (like Michelago Creek). Contractors will come in to do the work, provide training and even certification.
- **Koala support** for the NSW state strategy – grants include surveying land by audio, listening for their very distinctive call, as well as some funding for fencing and habitat planting. Did you know our part of NSW has a very good population of koalas, even after the recent fires?
- **Free trees** – Landcare members in our district received and planted over 7000 trees last year! There are another 4000 or more on offer in 2023.

Food and drinks will be provided during the workshop. We'll also discuss any and all ideas for Landcare activities for 2023 and beyond. Bring your questions and wish-list. More information will be shared closer to the date, so keep an eye out. We hope to see many of you there!



## Fire Brigade training

Michelago Fire Brigade is moving **monthly training** back to the first Sunday of each month in 2023, to avoid clashing with public holidays, starting with Sunday 5 Feb, 9am. Then 5 March. Hope to see anyone interested in joining down at the shed and we'd be happy to answer any questions.

Gregg McFaul



Thanks to those who have spent hours cutting back the rampant grass in preparation for summer. It makes an enormous difference to the ability to defend a home from a fire. It's never too late to tidy up, but be careful of striking a rock and causing a fire.

Please invest in a fire extinguisher to carry on the mower or slasher to keep yourself and your neighbours safe.

Thursday Shed Nights recommence 16 Feb (3rd Thurs of the month).

Gregg McFaul, Training Officer, Michelago RFS Training Team

Further note on 5 February training, Michelago Oval, c.9am to 1pm: Michelago & Colinton Fire Brigades. Light-hearted 'Round Robin' training for different skills, focusing on pumping skills and hose work, including some water transfer and draughting.

This is aimed at BF / AF members' skills. It does not replace Colinton's Sat. 11 February training.



## Music event – the Hall rocks!

Saturday, 18 February, Michelago Memorial Hall



This is an exciting new band, formed by Chris Connell and billed as a Police Covers band. **They'll play at the Hall 7.15–8.15. Entry gold coin donation. RFS Social Club fundraiser. BBQ 6.00pm. BYO drinks.** BBQ is BCRRF funded.

**Check out the cool band members** on their website: [www.roxanne.band](http://www.roxanne.band)

From the site:

**ROXANNE** was formed by rock guitarist Christmas in January 2022 after a meeting with drummer Oli who was the owner of a clothing store in the city. Christmas visited Oli at his residence to collect some new jackets and suits when he noticed a couple of drum kits in Oli's front room. Christmas told Oli of his desire to reform his Police Covers Band Roxanne that played in Canberra from 2007 to 2008 and would he be interested in a drum role? Oli said yes and eventually told his friend and former bandmate Bruce of our plan and Bruce decided he would like to jump in and play Bass for Roxanne. Bruce is a gifted and highly skilled Bass player so his talent and tone has been a welcome addition to Roxanne! Oli's attack on the skins and cymbals and sense of timing was amazing! Around the same time Christmas had bumped in to a well-known Lady Singer in Canberra, Dianne, who recommended Tristan as a keyboard player and Lead Vocalist and Tristan thankfully decided to come on board and blew us all away with his vocal and keyboard prowess. Thank you to everyone who will come along and see us play some of the best rock music ever written! Your support will be Truly Appreciated!

**ROCK ON, ROXANNE!**





## THE FOX



Chaos descended on Dunblewin farm  
When a bloody great fox entered into the yard.  
It watched and listened with malice intent,  
Its eyes were now focused, its ears slightly bent,  
Its red russet fur was now prickling with greed  
As it watched a plump bird, for its pups it would feed.  
In horror I watched for this scene to unfold –  
The fox in its mission was brazen and bold.  
I didn't have time to go back for the gun.  
In pursuit of this thief I'd now have to run.  
The bird that it grabbed was now squarking in fright,  
My feet sprouted wings; I would put up a fight.  
I shouted and yelled, the words somewhat blue,  
This villainous vixen I'd try to pursue.  
The grip on the bird could have been a bit more,  
For now in the grass there were feathers galore  
For the bird that it grabbed round the tail in its haste  
Was the rooster with feathers a-plenty to waste.  
With me still in pursuit, it let go of its prey  
And the rooster, less tail feathers, bolted away.  
Well, the rooster was rattled and stayed out of sight,  
His rear end now bare and recovering from fright,  
A little less cocky and feeling subdued  
But grateful for not ending up fox's food.  
Peace is restored now on Dunblewin farm  
The fox that had preyed on chooks and caused harm  
Has left this dimension, its maker has met.  
For the first time in months now the fowls safely slept.



But as all farmers know, it's a false sense of peace  
For up in the scrub there are others that sneak  
They hide behind bushes and wait for the time  
When no-one is looking, to continue their crime.

— Leanne Thurling



*Creative Commons images*



## **Council to apply for 53% Special Rate Variation**

*The following media release from Council on 30 January is reproduced here for your information. Note that ratepayers can calculate their possible rate variations via the given link.*

A majority of councillors voted to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 53% at the Monday 30 January 2023 Extraordinary Meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council.

IPART will now consider Council's application and conduct their own consultation in coming months, before deciding whether to approve the requested increase in rates. If approved by IPART, Council will meet again to decide whether to apply the approved increase to Snowy Monaro property rates.

Council has prepared a Special Rate Variation calculator for ratepayers to see how much their rates will rise under this scenario – please visit

[www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation](http://www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/special-rate-variation) to access this tool.

This increase would mean Council has sufficient funding to maintain infrastructure and services at their current level, while achieving financial sustainability.

This decision follows an extensive period of public consultation undertaken by Council to gauge the opinion of our 20,000 ratepayers and residents on whether to pursue a Special Rate Variation. While the option ultimately supported by councillors was not the option supported by the majority of the online survey respondents, Council could not ignore the recommendations of the Financial Sustainability Review and recommendations from the NSW Office of Local Government: Council must increase rates to become financially sustainable.

The main focus of the additional funding is to stop the decline in Council's assets, predominantly the road network, with the funding allowing for a fourfold increase in the extent of renewal works that can be carried out. Based on standard unit cost rates this means Council will be able to reseal 64km of road per year instead of the current 15km. Getting road seals down before the road fails saves 5-6 times the cost of dealing with a failed road.

For the unsealed road network, this will allow 92km per year of gravel sheeting to be completed as opposed to 24km per year, which allows our road network to be restored to an acceptable standard over time.

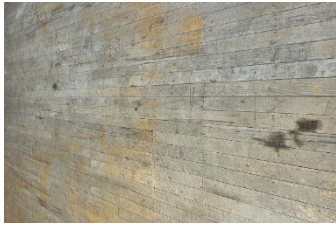
Council has received significant state and federal funding over the past two years. However, this has gone into specific projects such as Bobeyan Rd, Springfield Rd, Tinderry Rd and has not been able to be used to address the core problem of renewal of other roads and community owned assets such as pools, libraries, halls and buildings.

This decision, if supported by IPART and approved by councillors, will stop the decline in assets. To view the business paper, attachments or to view a recording of the webcast of the meeting – visit [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings) For more information, please contact Council on 1300 345 345 or at [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)





## Mystery photo



What is this? Where is it? What is its fate?

Answer in the next *Magpie*.

No prizes.

*Photo: Belinda Sierzchula*



## Late news: MRCA general meeting + Cr Tanya Higgins

After the usual open monthly meeting (starting 6pm, 8 Feb), Cr Higgins will attend from 6.30 to discuss local government funding.

Only residents of the Michelago region to attend, please.

## Magpie information

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.



*Photos, unless otherwise accredited, are by Leanne Pattison, Magpie Editor.*

## MRCA information

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 updates from Council.

3. All funds go to running costs, including upkeep, rental and insurance for Michelago's Heritage Railway Station.  
These costs are eating into reserves because of Covid-cancellations of two fundraising Spring Fairs and a Christmas Market. The Committee is working on 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.

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

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

**MRCA 2023 AGM: 18 March, 3pm, Railway Station.** A time change to 5pm is being discussed as possibly suiting more people. Any change will be notified on Facebook, in the *Magpie* and emailed to MRCA members.



### So-Good Sewing with Jenny – individual and group tuition

Learn, create, have fun – Jenny's available to teach you anything to do with sewing. Your place or hers.



New stuff or re-styling old stuff – she can do it, she can work with you to create marvellous things, and she can show you how to do it for yourself.

Contact her to discuss your skill level, learning needs and ask questions: call 0400 484 485 or email [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com)



The above photos are from Jenny's workshop in May 2022, before she was badly stricken with Covid. She has now fully recovered 😊





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## ~ 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). 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 the Michelago General Store.
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 5.45pm. Next: 15 February.
- **Hall bookings:** [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) or phone Rachel Harling 0431 528 258 (hire rates will increase soon; for current rates, see *Magpie11*).
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter. Hall. Sat 8am. \$10.
- **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 is on leave. A new teacher hasn't been appointed yet. It has been weekly, Mondays 6am–6pm. Magpie awaits information about resumption.
- **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. More info in *Magpie10*.
- **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.

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

#### February

- **Poets 'n' Pizza.** Sun 5 Feb, 4.00. Railway station. Bring a poem or two, food to share, gold coin (or more if feeling generous) to support the station. Enquiries: Pud on 0409 220 842.
- **Michelago & Colinton Fire Brigades.** Sun. 5 Feb. Light-hearted 'Round robin' training for different skills. Michelago Oval, c.9am to 1pm.
- **MRCA general meeting 6pm + Cr Higgins to discuss local govt funding** 6.30pm. 8 Feb. Railway Station.
- **Cricket + MRCA/Railway Station Community BBQ.** Sun 12 Feb, Oval, c.12.00. Free snags. BCRRF funded, but donation to the Railway Station collection box appreciated.
- **Music event.** New cover-band, 'Roxanne'. *Magpie* has heard they're good. Sat 18 Feb, Hall. Band plays 7.15–8.15. Gold coin donation for RFS Social Club. BBQ 6.00pm. BCRRF funded. See info p8.

#### March

- **Landcare** Sat 4 March, 1–3, Hall. All you want to know about weeds and grants. Food & drinks provided.
- **MRCA AGM.** Sat. 18 Mar, 3pm, Railway Station, but 5pm is being discussed as a more convenient time for many people. Any change will be on Facebook, in the *Magpie* and emailed to MRCA members.

