

# ~ Michelago Magpie 15 ~

The Michelago Region Newsletter  
from your Michelago Region Community Association  
4 May 2023

[www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

Newsletter enquiries: [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)



Print copy \$2.00 Free by email.

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## Anzac Day

Old, young and in between. The tradition continues. Over 100 people gathered at the Railway Station at 10am on 25 April for a rich ceremony.

*Below: Ivan Colaric*





*Harvey and Jordyn read 'In Flanders fields' and laid the Michelago Public School's wreath, the Community Choir sang the National Anthem and 'Where have all the flowers gone?', Leanne Thurling read her poem, 'Remember' (p4-6),*



*and Lt Colonel Werner Lausberg gave the address, eloquently reflecting on the positive qualities of the Anzacs and the importance of these qualities in society.*



**Then it was time to mingle, chat, enjoy the excellent morning tea donations, and for some to run races on the cleaned-up railway tracks.**







## REMEMBER

The year was 1915, with the war well under way  
The British hatched a plan to exit Turkey from the fray  
The troops were sent across the Dardanelles at break of dawn  
The 25<sup>th</sup> of April turned into a bloody morn.

Our troops were fired upon from high, the enemy watched them come  
They disembarked the boats and to the beach had tried to run  
So many of them fell before they ever saw the dawn  
Their spirits still at Anzac Cove, forever they are mourned.

The odds were stacked against them as they tried to hold their ground  
In trenches dug in mud and blood, their mates were often found  
Australian and New Zealand troops, a bond that wouldn't break,  
10 months of fighting in this place was more like Satan's gate

The stretcher bearers carrying the wounded day and night  
There's Simpson and his donkey with their hearts of steely might  
The soldiers there, they cared for one another, they were mates  
No choice, but just get on with it, until they could escape.

Evacuation orders came December of that year  
Some men were frozen at their posts, and frostbite they did bear  
Half starved, they staggered to the boats to leave this hell on earth  
They bid farewell at Suvla Bay and never to return.

They left behind so many mates, they kept them in their hearts  
With thoughts of home, they thought they'd go, it didn't come to pass  
With plans to fight another foe, our soldiers they were sent  
Continue fighting for the Crown, no time for them to rest.

With numbers low, the British put another call to arms  
The loss of life was staggering, they care not of the harm  
Australians right across the plains, from inland to the sea  
And once again we sent our sons, some never to be seen.

The Men from Snowy River had responded to that call  
They said farewell to loved ones as they left to give their all  
The mothers sadly waving to their husbands and their sons  
And prayed they would return to them, when the war was done.

The march began in Delegate, twelve brave courageous men  
They headed north to Goulburn, recruiting as they went  
Through Bibbenluke and Cooma, in rain and wind and shine  
Then on to Michelago, then further up the line.

Royalla, then to Queanbeyan, they stopped to take a rest.  
All the way their numbers swelled, they only took the best.  
200 miles they walked as mates, not knowing what came next  
142 Monaro men, they proudly did enlist.

With training done, they shipped them out to France and other shores  
To fight the war for Britain's lords, don't question, just endure.  
Australian soldiers well revered, their fighting skills were prized,  
Though mustard gas and shelling had cut short so many lives

Gallipoli was now behind, they now faced another foe  
The Western Front, more trenches dug in mud and freezing snow  
The Middle East and Egypt, The Light Horses charging in  
Conditions unimaginable, were what our men fought in.

The Doctors and the Nurses, who the wounded did rely  
Who cared for them, and tended wounds, a shoulder they could cry.  
They risked their lives; they did their best to bolster the morale  
Without their dedication, many more would line the ground.

The animals were oft forgot, they played their part as well  
The horses, dogs and pigeons, and the mascot stories tell  
Of acts of bravery, none could match, and messages they flew  
Remember them, they gave their lives, as well as comfort, too.

For those who stayed behind, their life was never quite the same  
With food to grow to feed the troops and so much more to name  
They learnt to farm and plough the fields, the factories they did work  
The women folk, they did their bit, until the men returned.

Twenty million souls had died throughout the first Great War  
And twenty million wounded, and we ask, what was it for?  
For those returned there was no peace, the battle raged within  
With missing limbs and shell shock, they had to start again.

They never spoke about the war, they just got on with life,  
They settled down, their families, they gave a better life.  
In 1919 the war did end, all hoped it was the last  
But in '39 the call went out, no lessons learnt from past

So remember all the brave young men, who forged our National Pride,  
Who fought to keep Australia safe, so many of them died.  
The families of the fallen, the returned and wounded men  
Will stand with pride on Anzac Day, when we remember them.



*Leanne Thurling ©*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL/15959

### Snowball March, January 1916

Did they know,  
The 'Men From Snowy River',  
young boys of the Monaro,  
all called to follow  
the red recruitment banner,  
larking, laughing as they  
marched? No, and in no manner  
did they march, such was their joy.

'That ain't a march, boyo –  
Ya can't dance to Michelago  
from Delegate, so get y'self  
together to be a soldier  
for this cause that's mightier  
than your dadda's call to plough  
or the morning moos of cows  
with urgent udders. They  
need you over there, and others  
like you, all sweet and limber  
with lips unkissed and virgin skin  
so smooth the bullets' run  
can choose just any place to burst  
it open so the Aussie sun  
no more will be the first  
touch to wake you in the morn.  
So march to the drum, lad,  
to its command, being glad  
for other lands that have,  
for you, a drum forlorn  
to, instead, follow you.

Follow.'

*Leanne Pattison ©*





**Sunday 21 May, 10—2**

**BBQ & Devonshire Tea 11—1.45**

**Shared Fundraiser: Railway Station & St Pat's (directions below).**

**\$15 for a boot-sale space: limit of 30 cars.**

**\$10 for a suitcase-sale site in the rose garden: limit 10.**

**Clean out your garage, spare room, wardrobe, back yard! Sell stuff you've made or don't want any more (but no electrics).**

**Cash sales but credit card facility ok for the BBQ**

**Book now via this link:** <https://events.humanitix.com/michelago-car-boot-sale> OR ↓

**If the link doesn't work for you, call Leanne 0407 110 946 to arrange cash payment at the Shop.**

**SCAN ME**



**Directions:** see map.

**Booked boot-sales:** turn right inside the gate to park on grass before 10am.

**Cars coming just to look and buy:** from 10am. No entry fee. Go left inside the gate and round to the back of the Church to park.

**Dogs** on a leash, please.

**Comfort warning: only one toilet on site!**

**Enquiries:** [mrca@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:mrca@michelagoregion.org.au) or Michael Scanlon (St Pat's 'Layperson in Residence') 0409 369 997. If bad weather, also see Facebook's MRCA & Noticeboard. Refunds if event cancelled.



# The 2023 Great Easter Egg Hunt



**8 April, Railway Station**  
**L: Very small person unwrapping and eating many small chocolate eggs for large pleasure.**

**R: Ambrose, Jordan and Hugo with their egg-full bunny-baskets.**



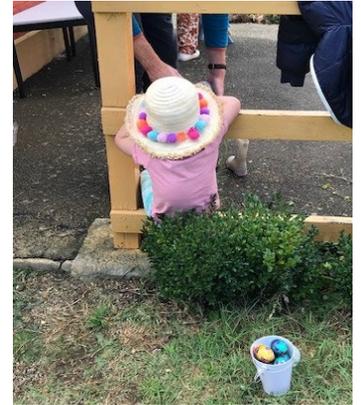
Our railway station again hosted this happy community event. Families and friends gathered Easter eggs, feasted on hot cross buns and tea and chatted in the sunshine.

Thank you to the main organisers, Fiona Tollis (L) and Sam Walton (R) and their helpers for early morning egg laying, supplying morning tea and organising the children's activity tables for artwork and letter-writing.





**About 60 children attended and \$41 was raised for the railway station booking fee after egg-and-bun expenses**



There was a pile of gravel for Gregg and Rob's continuing work on the cenotaph path. It was there, just waiting. What's a child to do?

Sam led a search for reclusive eggs to ensure there were none lying around for animals to eat. His followers used sticks to probe the insect hideouts among tree trunks. They disturbed a few millipedes and Ambrose found just one egg. The egg-hunters had been thorough.



## Seed Savers

Railway Station, 23 April. Leah Oliver had the most to share at this meeting – a large box of home-grown artichokes.

She said they don't roast well, but she especially likes to mash them, either by themselves or with potato. She showed photos of the flowers (L), like sunflowers but smaller.



Leah will hold other basketweave workshops in the coming months (the 30 April one was quickly booked out) – see *Magpie* calendar.

**Next Seed Savers: 28 May, at a garden. Call Jenny 0400 484 485 or [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com) for details.**





## Travellers and trains

You never know who'll next come to admire our Michelago Railway Station.

Hahn Pehl, who came from Bavaria 50 years ago as a 23 year-old to live in Australia, usually lives in the Atherton tablelands. Last September, he flew to Hobart to cycle all the way back home (with some train and bus breaks), with side trips along the way.

Before aiming for home, he cycled c.1200 km around Tasmania and then along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. Heading back north, he stopped here on his way to Cooma for the Land Rover Festival.



He's especially interested in steam engines, so visited the Sheffield Steam and Heritage Centre, near Devonport in Tassie (it's worth a Google). He was enthusiastic about the 6 km railway, near his home, where two steam trains run for tourists between Atherton and Herberton.

April 4: The MRCA's Di and Leanne met Hans when they were doing a weed check at the Railway Station and promised to email him this edition of the *Magpie*.

When we talked about the projected rail trail from Canberra, he showed Di (*above*) the Google link to [www.railexplorers.net](http://www.railexplorers.net) that has photos of pedal-powered vehicles in Europe and the US running on railway tracks, and talked about the benefits of keeping the rail lines for these, with walking and bicycle tracks alongside.



*L: Pedal power on the rails <railexplorers.net>*

*R: Engine 6029 with ARHS ACT-ARE tour to Cooma & Bombala 11.3.1978 (flickr.com)*



*Trains at Royalla*

*2.7.2006*

*Photos: Erik Jochimsen*





**12 April**

**Who needs trains? Or pedals?**

Sometimes foot-to-ground power is enough, and it keeps one so warm that one barely needs any clothes at all.

Also, one's tattoos are shown to advantage.

## Michelago Poets



**16 April. Seven language lovers enjoyed poems and chat with food and wine in front of a cosy fire at the Railway Station.**

*R to L: Laura (Pud's daughter), Sally, Elizabeth, Kerry, Leanne Thurling, Pud.*



For the theme agreed last time, some had written about a body part or parts with varying degrees of despair, frustration, resignation, forbearance and approval. There were moments of shared recognition and laughter.

All also brought a poem or poems that they liked. Everyone appreciated everyone else's contributions.

**Next meeting: 3.30pm, Sunday, 21 May, Railway Station.**



## Michelago Community Hall

Repairs and refurbishments are continuing at our Hall. The excellent workers from the Cooma Correction Centre, with their Supervisor Officer Matthew, have achieved many improvements during two visits. Another session is planned.

**Hall Committee Secretary Jenny Wholohan reports:**

**13 April: Matthew (an officer from the Centre) arrived at 9am with a crew of six fellows, along with a trailer of very useful equipment. Within a very short period of time, they got a lot of work done:**

- mowing of the Hall's back yard, down both sides and the whole front area including right up to the road edge and around the carpark area,
- trimming of all overhanging limbs of large shrubs around the back and sides of the hall
- gutters on eastern side cleaned out
- removal of debris from around all external sides at ground level of the hall

- installation of the defibrillator and signage recently supplied by Council
- the clean-up revealed another leak in the pipe coming from the bore (good thing a spare joiner was purchased when the last leak was repaired!).

Anna, Allan and I spent the morning at the Hall while the work was carried out. We supplied morning tea, then Belinda arrived with lunch for everyone.



*Tree trimming and debris removal.*

*Photos: Jenny Wholohan*



*Below: Hall Committee member Anna Lucas with the CCC Officer. New applicant for the Hall Committee, Allan Lehepuu, is on the right, moving storage items.*

20 April. The Cooma Correctional Centre workers were back. This time, they ...

1. removed six external doors from hinges (some screws needed to be replaced and timber base-plates sanded and painted, as they were weather-affected)

2. sanded these six doors

3. applied undercoat paint to these doors

4. rehung all the doors

5. applied one coat of paint to the metal handrail outside the kitchen door.



Once again, the work was done quickly and with gusto – many hands make light work, as the saying goes. The Hall Committee supplied morning tea and lunch. –J.W.



## **Booking the Community Hall – new phone number & updated organisation**

The new number is 0493 638 878. This is a dedicated number just for Hall bookings. The email address remains the same: [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au)

Belinda is managing bookings for the moment. She advises: ‘Preferably, people can download the booking form from the website and complete it and then email it or send a photo of it to the phone number.’

To access the booking form: go to the website [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au) and click on *Michelago Memorial Hall* in the Main Menu.

OR just call, email or text with enquiries.



## Community Noticeboard at the Shop – new organisation

1. Permanent/semi-permanent notices are now on the right of the board, under the Perspex. If you'd like to put up a *new permanent or semi-permanent notice*, please stick it *on top* of the Perspex yourself, politely not covering other people's notices. That space is a bit crowded, so please no bigger than half A4 size. Business ads are now free.
2. Michelago people are welcome to stick their own more *personal and temporary notices* on the left of the board, on top of the Perspex. Personal? Well, puppies for sale, an upcoming event, lost glasses ...
3. Please use sticky tape or a small piece of Blu-tak and remove your notices when they no longer apply.

The MRCA Committee hopes to make the noticeboard more like the former concept of the Shop door's community information centre. We hope this works for you. Feedback is welcome at the *Magpie* email: [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)



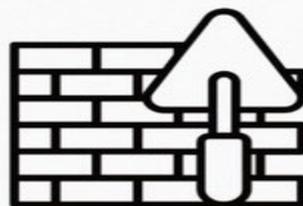
## Local folk – Matthew Woodhead

Matthew, a long-time resident of the Tinderries, was a recent Good Samaritan to a flat-tyre flummoxed local (*below, left*). His lively life-stories, however, attest to many more skills than that.



He was Assistant Curator of photos at the Australian War Memorial for years and subsequently part of the site management team for the Memorial's Gallery Development.

He's had many other career variations, from jackaroo to press photographer, in a much-travelled life.



# SOLID AF BRICKLAYING

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# Breathe, Move, Relax: Sundays at Michelago Hall

4pm: Yoga (1hr) - \$20

5pm: Meditation (30mins) - \$10

or \$25 for both



**Yoga is for everyone, no matter your body type!**

Slow, mindful yoga designed to improve strength, flexibility, mobility and nervous system resilience. All shapes offered can be modified to suit whatever is most beneficial for your body.

Yoga can help to decrease stress and improve your overall mental health & wellbeing, help with back pain, assist in the recovery from injuries or just generally improve your overall strength, flexibility and balance.

BYO mat, blanket & cushion.

Please message or call Belinda on 0411 043 027 to book in (bookings preferred just in case the class is cancelled for any reason) or for any additional information.

Private sessions are also available if you're not sure about coming along to a class or if you have something specific you'd like to work on.

**Next class Sunday 14 May 4pm, Hall, but no other May classes and no class Sunday 11 June.**



*A recent yoga class: strength, flexibility, calm breathing.*

*The old, flimsy curtains were closed to try to improve the acoustics.*

*The Hall Committee hopes soon to afford proper acoustic curtains.*





## Connecting Rural Families

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Last month I was the Acting Mayor for about 6 weeks while Mayor Davis was away.

During that time, I:

- chaired the April Council Meeting,
- was interviewed by David Browne on 2MNO on Monday mornings and by Simon Lauder on ABC South East on Thursday mornings,
- undertook a number of official events and public addresses, representing Council and community, and
- worked with Council staff to resolve issues as they arose and continue to deliver services to the community.

This month Councillors and staff have been working hard to prepare an updated delivery program and the new operational plan and budget for the next financial year. The emphasis has been on improving measures of performance in the Delivery and Operational Plans. My priorities:

- ensuring the recommendations of the Financial Sustainability Review are achieved, particularly regarding council's unrestricted cash (working capital)
- get more efficient! Yes, Council has identified a lot of potential efficiencies and is making the changes required to do a better job with the resources that they have. Council adopted the 'Towards Excellence' program in November and improvements are already being seen.
- listening to the community – the new draft budget documents will be out for consultation in May and we need to hear from you!!! Visit Council's *Your Say* page – [Have Your Say | Snowy Monaro Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.snowy-monaro.nsw.gov.au/your-say)

*Below L: Gala Dinner in Cooma for the 75 years of Landrover events held all over the region. Councillors Tricia Hopkins, Tanya Higgins and Chris Hanna.*

*Below R: Councillors Tanya Higgins and Bob Stewart with locals and staff of the Bendigo Bank, Bombala.*



## 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) **Look out for 3 new classes in June!**

### Magpie information

Previous issues are 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.michelago.org.au/mrca/>

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



## Weeds and the Biosecurity Act

*[The Landcare article in Magpie14 covered some of this content but, given the interest in weeds, we're including this SMRC press release.]*

Weeds and the Biosecurity Act  
Media release 27 January 2023



In this *Weed of the Week* we explain the **weed control requirements** for land owners and managers under the current regulatory framework.

Understanding both your individual responsibility and when and how government authorities will step in is just as important as having knowledge of our local priority weeds.

### What legislation governs the management of weeds?

Previously in NSW, weeds were governed by the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. This legislation was prescriptive and imposed strict control requirements on land managers to control certain weeds, including locally important weeds like Serrated Tussock, African Lovegrass and St John's Wort.

On 1 July 2017, the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* was repealed and the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) became the primary legislation governing weeds. Most locally important weeds are no longer identified on a 'noxious weeds list', nor does the legislation impose strict requirements in many cases.

The Act creates a general legal duty called the General Biosecurity Duty (GBD). GBD means that **everyone has a responsibility** to prevent, eliminate and minimise biosecurity risks associated with weeds – so far as reasonably practicable.

### Who is responsible for administering weeds legislation?

Snowy Monaro Regional Council, as **the Local Control Authority** in our region, continues to be the primary agency administering weeds legislation under the guidance of NSW Department of Primary Industries. Council is assisted in this role by partners including Local Land Services, industry and local agronomists.

## What are Council's responsibilities in relation to weeds?

Council has a number of important functions in weeds biosecurity, including:

- **Preventing** the entry of new weeds
- **Finding, containing and eradicating** emerging weeds
- **Minimising** the impacts of weeds that cannot be eradicated

In fulfilling these functions, it is important that Council maintains an active property inspection program targeting private and public properties, roadsides and high risk sites – including: nurseries, rest areas, campsites, boat ramps and other high visitation areas where new weeds may gain entry to the region.

Council is also responsible for managing weeds on its network of roads, reserves and operational lands and invests considerable funds into managing these weeds for the benefit of the local community.

## What am I required to do in relation to weeds under the Biosecurity Act 2015?

A number of **State priority weeds** are identified in **Schedule 2** of the Act. These weeds are referred to as Prohibited Matter. These weeds have not established self-sustaining populations in NSW and pose a significant risk to human health, the economy and/or the environment. All dealings with these weeds are prohibited and Council must be immediately notified if you become aware of, or suspect the presence of these weeds. Of these Prohibited Matter weeds, only Orange hawkweed has been detected within the Snowy Monaro region, although others have been detected in nearby jurisdictions.

Biosecurity zones and control orders apply to a limited number of weeds which have very limited distribution and abundance in NSW and pose a high biosecurity risk. For these weeds, eradication is considered feasible and control measures must be implemented by landowners and managers to assist in eradication efforts.

Schedule 3 of the Biosecurity Regulations 2017 lists a number of weeds to which **mandatory measures** apply. This list includes Serrated Tussock, Fireweed, Brooms, Chilean Needle Grass, Gorse and a number of other weeds which have previously been referred to as Weeds of National Significance. A prohibition on sale and importation applies to these weeds.

## What about weeds that are not specifically legislated?

Most local priority weeds are no longer subject to specific control requirements under current NSW legislation.

State and Regional Weeds Committees have analysed each weed species using a rigorous weed risk assessment tool and determined that **either they have a low risk rating or it is not feasible to contain or eliminate them.** The latter applies to most locally important weeds, in that they pose a high risk to the economy, environment and/or community, though are too widespread and established for regulation to provide any tangible benefit to the community.

Investment in weed management, including the imposition of compulsory control measures, is most cost effective when applied at the early stages of a weed's invasion.

The **South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan provides guidance** on the outcomes needed to meet your GBD and it outlines strategic actions for local weed management, resource allocation and investment.

**What does Council do to help landowners deal with unlegislated weeds?**

**Council continues to provide the same onsite weed identification and advisory service** for all weeds, regardless of their status. Council acknowledges that weeds have a significant impact on our community and encourages active participation in coordinated weed control programs.

**Can't identify a weed? Send in some photographs or arrange an onsite inspection** and one of our staff will promptly respond. There are thousands of weed species, so if it's one that we're not familiar with we can forward photos on to our state-wide networks or send a sample to the herbarium for a positive identification.

**Download** the free NSW WeedWise app for detailed information on how to identify and manage weeds. Visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds)

**Visit Council's website** to understand how we can help you with weed management. [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Waste-and-Weeds/Biosecurity-and-Weeds](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Waste-and-Weeds/Biosecurity-and-Weeds)

**Visit the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website** for information on weed control methods – [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control)

**Contact Snowy Monaro Regional Council** if you have any questions regarding weeds on your property or in your neighbourhood. Call 1300 345 345 to be connected to our Biosecurity Officer.



## **Michelago Rural Fire Brigade AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Brigade will be held on 21 May 2023, commencing 3pm at the Michelago Hall.

All current members have been emailed the necessary documents.

Please ensure you record your name as you enter the Michelago Hall for the meeting and don't forget the \$5 annual membership fee. This is to be provided to the current Treasurer, Brien Hallett, who will issue a receipt.

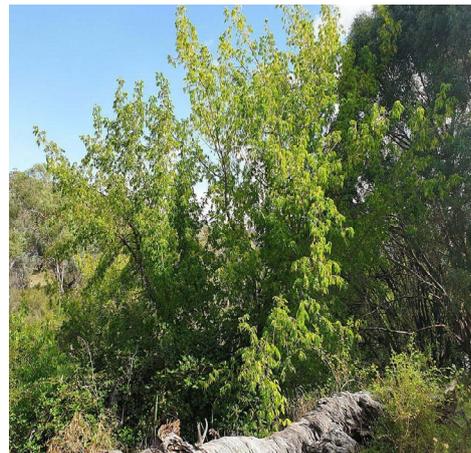
Please direct questions to Lee Harris, Michelago RFS Brigade Secretary. Contact details for the Brigade are on the MRCA noticeboard at the Michelago General Store.



## Box Elder – how to manage emerging weed on our waterways

Di Fett

Michelago Landcare and the MRCA are participants in an Australian Government Healthy Rivers Program with leading partner Bush Heritage Australia and the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach (UMDR). The program has funding for removal of Box Elders and Willows along waterways including the Murrumbidgee River between Bredbo and Angle Crossing, and Michelago Creek which feeds into the Murrumbidgee and has multiple infestations of these weeds.



Removing these invasive woody weeds is important for protecting high quality native vegetation along the river corridor and improving instream habitat.

As part of this program we are planning a number of on-site education and weed extermination sessions along Michelago Creek, hopefully with morning tea included. All welcome; stay posted for details. *Please let the MRCA or Michelago Landcare know if you are aware of Box Elder or Willow infestations along Michelago Creek.*

[mrca@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:mrca@michelagoregion.org.au) or [landcare@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:landcare@michelagoregion.org.au)



*L to R: Box Elder has bunches of winged fruit; it has distinctive grey bark and nodes on the young stems; the winged fruit turn brown in late autumn and are retained on the tree throughout winter. Photo credit: Raen Brademanne Photography.*

### Free trees for your property Markus Buchhorn, President, Michelago & Region Landcare

Do you want some free trees? Want to do some small-to-large-scale tree restoration work on your property? You can get from 100 to 1000+ trees. You just need to ask for them, plant them and care for them! The trees are available now, so get in quick. We have a few thousand still to share.

The Michelago and District Landcare group is guiding a habitat & wildlife recovery project, supported by the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW), with The Greening Australia Bushfire Recovery Nursery in Canberra. The trees available are a mix of eucalyptus species, acacia species and a variety of smaller shrub/trees. All of them are grown from local seed and

hardened to our conditions, and you can plant them during autumn and even winter – no need to wait. Some are suited for open paddocks, some for ridge lines, some for river corridors – we can help you identify what is most suitable.

Planting work needs to be a reasonable size, like a small cluster of 50-100 trees for smaller native animals to shelter in, or half or whole paddock rehabilitation. The trees come in tubestock, are around 20-50cm tall, and need some protection from weather and animals till settled in. Tree guards are available for purchase through Landcare if you need them, with indicative costs from basic models around \$1.50ea to serious ones around \$7 ea.

If you need help, we can often find willing volunteers who will plant trees and set up guards, for the cost of a morning tea.

You need to

- (i) be, or become, a member of one of the local Landcare groups – you can join right now, for just one year, \$16.50
- (ii) provide a simple mud map of your plan for planting (a crayon outline on google maps is fine)
- (iii) take some happy photos when picking up plants & when planted out, for public use by Landcare and the FNPW, and
- (iv) commit to taking good care of your trees as best you can!

Any questions, or to get started, email [landcare@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:landcare@michelagoregion.org.au)



*Landcare planting at Susan Tillack's property at the bottom of the Tinderry range.  
Photo: Intrepid Landcare ANU, the members of which helped with the planting.*



## ~ 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, contacts and times can change; information is here as received.)

- **Choir** Thursdays 7–8pm. St Thomas's Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station).
- **Fire Brigade** training first Sunday of the month, 9am–12noon. Contact details: MRCA notice board at the 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 new number 0493 638 878 (hire rates will increase soon; for current rates, see *Magpie11*). Also see p. 14.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library 9.45–11.30, Mondays, outside the school. Next stop 24 April (see p23).
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 6pm.
- **Pony Club.** Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Enquiries: Rhys (0401 778 004) or Alisha (0422 623 304) or email [michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com) Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/>
- **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.** See below for May date. To check dates and 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, 5.30pm. 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.** Hall. Sundays (1) Yoga 4pm, 1 hour, \$20. (2) Meditation 5pm, ½ hour \$10. Or \$25 both. Note changed times below & p16 for May & June.

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

#### May

- **Basketry workshops** with Leah Oliver. Railway Station. Details: [www.thislushcorner.com](http://www.thislushcorner.com)
- **Car-boot and suitcase sale.** Sunday 21 May, 10–2pm. At St Patrick's Church, Monaro Highway. See poster p8 for booking sites & parking. Sellers be there before 10. For browse 'n' buy, after 10. BBQ & Devonshire Tea 11–1.45pm. Fundraiser for Railway Station & St Pat's 50-50.
- **Poets.** Sunday 21 May, 3.30, Railway Station. Share your own and/or others' poems and a bite of afternoon tea.
- **Seed Savers.** Sunday 28 May. At a local garden. Enquiries for time & directions: 0400 484 485 or [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com)
- **Yoga:** next class Sunday 14 May, 4pm, Hall. No classes for the rest of May or for Sunday 11 June, then classes are planned to resume.

#### June, July, August

- **Basketry workshops** with Leah Oliver. For details: [www.thislushcorner.com](http://www.thislushcorner.com)
- **Sew-good with Jenny.** Three new classes coming. Watch for dates.

