

~ Michelago Magpie 19 ~

The Michelago Region Newsletter
from your Michelago Region Community Association
3 September 2023

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Remembering Brian Kenyon – Michelago Memorial Hall, 2 August 2023



Cheryl with sisters Rose and Ann



Brian & Cheryl 1968





Cheryl says 'Thank you, Michelago.'

Cheryl Kenyon

A special thank-you to the community of Michelago from Cheryl, Rebecca, James, Anna and Mark. We are so blessed with the physical and emotional love and support we have received since the passing of our beloved Brian.



Brian and I came to Michelago with our four small children in 1979 and felt at home from the start. We have watched Michelago grow and thrive and, hopefully, we did our bit.

Brian was a wonderful husband and father and is missed. May he rest in peace after his long battle with Parkinsons disease.



Yours sincerely,
Cheryl Kenyon.

Photos: thank you to the Kenyon family.

[Note: younger Michelagoans might not know that Brian was not only a devoted family man and a pillar of the community, helping many. Before he retired and he and Cheryl established the Michelago General Store, he worked as a forensic accountant for the ACT and State Governments. -Ed.]



Dorper ewes and babies

I have some healthy Dorper ewes available. Great for growing food or mowing grass. Some with a lamb at foot, some with twins. If you are interested, please contact me. Anna: 0409 918 451



What is this? Not



a sheep ... See p9 for the story



Community Choir

Choir meetings will recommence **Thursday, 7 September, 7—8pm** at St Thomas Church, Ryrie Street. It's next to the police station.

Choir is not 'churchy' – it's at this church because the little building has excellent acoustics.

All voices are welcome. Even if you think you're not a 'good' singer, you can join in the fun, teamwork and the fabulous feeling of all giving voice together.



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Michelago Memorial Hall

It's all happening at the Hall!

1. The sliding doors to the storage area have been hung and a lock installed, all by Allan. Architraves have been put up and painted. Gyprock repair to be done soon. *R: photo Allan Lehepuu*
2. The Stronger Communities grant application for the acoustic curtains was successful. The Committee will now choose the colours.
3. There's no result yet on the Boco Rock grant application for funds to install the dishwasher.
4. The solar panels (funded by the NAB grant) were installed 7 August.
5. Allan has, after consultation with the Better Music expert, sorted out the sound system and will organise clear instructions for using the remotes and dongles. An electrician still has to relocate some switches to make the party lights accessible. Allan accessed the TV link for viewing the Aussie Matildas vs the English Lionesses match on 16 August.



The Matildas at the Hall

Monday 14 August. Idea! Let's watch the Matildas in the World Cup semi-final! The Memorial Hall as Community Central!

After Allan had got the streaming sorted on the revived sound and video equipment (see *Maggie18*), the Hall Committee had this inspiration and zipped into fast action over 24 hours.

Belinda sorted the poster for Facebook, Allan and Jenny painted over an old corflute for a sign at the village entrance, they all did shopping for 'footy food' – party pies, franks, mini quiches, juice and soft drinks – and searched in vain for yellow and green streamers. All the Committee helped. *Photo: Jenny Wholohan →*

The MRCA's dormant pie-warmer, unused since the last Fair or maybe even before, came collaboratively to the Hall.

The feeling was that even if the Matildas didn't win, it wouldn't be for lack of Michelago's support. And if they didn't, they'd done a wonderful job to get to the semi-finals. Who can forget those quarter-final penalty shootouts against France!

Wednesday 16 August. The marvellous Matildas went down 3-1 to England, a better and, shall we say, more *physical*, team on the day.



About forty fans, adults and children, watched tensely at the Hall and erupted with the rest of Australia at the Sam Kerr goal. The streaming was occasionally dodgy, apparently a combination of Channel 7's 'technical issues' and the sometimes tenuous internet connection. The Hall Committee will investigate the latter problem.

Thank you to people who supplemented the Hall's footy food and to those who gave donations totalling \$67.50 – very much appreciated.



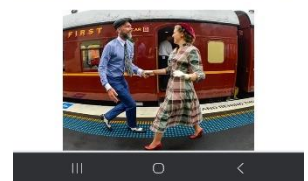
Railway Station Update

Kerry Rooney

Exciting news! MRCA has been offered a NSW Heritage Grant of \$17,000 to paint the interior of the Michelago Railway Station and do some repairs. There is just one catch. The grant is contingent on matching funding. We are now reconfirming if UGL Regional Linx will provide the other \$17,000. (UGL manages the country rail network for the NSW government).



MRCA is planning to update its constitution at the next AGM in 2024 to add maintenance of heritage buildings and researching local history. This would better reflect our actual role which includes looking after the station precinct. It would also qualify us to apply for a broader range of heritage grants. Imagine if we could acquire some railway rolling stock for display!



Above: photo of rolling stock formerly at Michelago Railway Station: Kerry Rooney

Above image from NSW Heritage



Living with lovegrass – Landcare workshop 7 October



African lovegrass has become a dominant grass across many of our native and agricultural landscapes in the local area.

Join Local Land Services and Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare to hear about:

- The plant and why it's such a challenge to manage
- Management requirements for lovegrass on the Monaro
- The feed value of lovegrass for livestock
- The effectiveness of management options such as burning, slashing, fertilising and grazing management
- Herbicide control options.

When: Saturday 7 October, 10.30am—2.00pm

Where: Michelago Community Hall

What to Bring: Clothing and footwear suitable for a paddock walk

RSVP: Georgeanna Story (UMLC): 0429 779 928,

upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com

Jo Powells (LLS) 0429 785 986, jo.powells@lls.nsw.gov.au





Senior Lunch Group

7 August. Extra chairs were squeezed in this time for a big rollup. The shop's kitchen was kept busy supplying toasted sandwiches, chips, soup, coffee and tea.

First Monday of the month, around 1pm. All Michelagoans are welcome to meet and chat with friends old and new.

Next gathering: Monday 4 September



Weed whacking 101 – webinar 5/9 & field day 9/9



Local Land Services, Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach and Landcare invite you to attend a webinar and/or field day investigating the many tips and tricks there are when it comes to Integrated Weed Management.

Webinar topics will include:

- Knowing your enemy – what weeds are we watching
- Finding weeds weakness' and exploiting them
- What is integrated weed management and how can it work for me
- Weed control tools and techniques.
- Field day topics will include:
 - Weed identification – tips and tricks

Demonstrations of weed control equipment and technology, including:

- Knapsack and spray units
- Weed wiping
- Stem injection and cut stump
- Weed burning/ flaming.

Webinar: Tues 5 September 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm. **Field Day:** Sat 9 September 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Michelago Community Hall. Lunch provided.

RSVP: Antia Brademann (UMDR): 0429 778 633, upperbidgeereach@gmail.com or
Jo Powells (LLS): 0429 785 986, jo.powells@lls.nsw.gov.au



Native fish workshop – ‘The Murrumbidgee is a pretty special place.’

5 August, 10—1. This very well attended and information-packed workshop started with a review of the species of fish, native and not, and the types of habitats, up and down the Murrumbidgee, then moved to fishing expertise and finished with an outline of the Ngunnawal Aboriginal Water Assessments program. The attentive audience appreciated the speakers’ wide experience and knowledge and their readiness to answer questions.

Mick Bettanin, Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems, NSW Government, gave a comprehensive list of native and introduced fish. The most dangerous invasive species is currently the Redfin. He advised how recreational anglers can avoid spreading invasive species.

Andy McGovern (‘You can’t go past worms’) followed to tell us the where, when and how to catch different types of fish. He covered, *inter alia*, lures and baits for different fish and conditions, fish handling (catch and release), sustainable fishing and safety tips.



Far L: a favourite lure.
L: Andy & Antia.
Top R: different lures.
R: the team of presenters.



Bradley Bell, Ngunnawal Ngadjung (Water) Project Officer for the ACT Office of Water, outlined the comprehensive Ngunnawal Aboriginal Water Assessments tool, which advances First Nations’ rights and interest in water planning, policy and legislation and which benefits outcomes for all. It links land, water and people. It includes questions about the cultural and environmental health and condition of sites across Country. The questions and outcomes are organised into three sections: (1) Waterway Health, (2) Cultural Values & Uses, and (3) Summary and Objectives.

R: Bradley & Antia



He spoke about Snowy Hydro’s Tantangara Dam affecting upper Murrumbidgee flow rates and connectivity. The waterways are becoming wider and shallower, with less water and are ‘a dying cultural asset’ for all people. He noted that the dam is for electricity, not for consumption by people and agriculture.

Thank you to the presenters and to Antia Brademann (Cooma Region Waterwatch Coordinator) and Georgeanna Story of Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare for organising this popular workshop.



Michelago Creek

A week after the above workshop, Georgeanna and Antia, guided by MRCA’S Di and Leanne, assessed the health of the creek almost parallel with Ryrie Street. They were impressed by the flourishing Landcare plantings of some ten years ago, which were done under the direction of Tony and Gill Robinson. They are hopeful of grant money for controlling some feral growth.



Rail Trail consultation continues

Wednesday, 23/8. The MRCA's Di and Kerry met Mike Halliburton and Mike Maher, rail trail planners, at the Michelago Railway Station to further discuss rail trail possibilities (see also *Magpie*#3, 18.3.2022).

Di and Kerry strongly advocated that the rail tracks *not* be disturbed and that any trail near the station should go around them.

The two Mikes, who are engaged by Queanbeyan-Palerang and SMRC Councils, regard Michelago and its historical Railway Station as a prime attraction for the trail.

They have met with landholders and organisations on the rail corridor who have responded to their outreach and found that not all landholders are positive about the proposed trail. They have not received a response from Geocon.

R: Mike Halliburton, Mike Maher, Di Fett. Photo: Kerry Rooney




This link re Cooma Monaro Rail might interest readers:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-24/monaro-bike-trail-cooma-monaro-rail-coridor/102747014>



Michelago Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

Our vigilant firefighters have trained all winter and continue to prepare for the coming  season.



Training Officer Gregg McFaul has told the *Magpie* that training on Sunday 10 September (0900—1300) will 'probably be a trip up to the Tinderrys to assess the condition of the fire trails and a navex/familiarisation of the area ahead of this season. [It will be] a chance to practise fuel load assessment and discuss the techniques and hazards of forest fire-fighting.'

There will be no Brigade training 8 October, 'as it is the District Exercise, the opportunity for the Monaro to exercise fire-ground management and comms as much as trucks and hoses.' Brigade members will be notified of details.

Lighting a fire out of fire season? Notify Fire Control, neighbours and the Brigade Captain.



Poets

13 August. Six poetry lovers shared old poems, some they remembered from their childhood and some recently discovered, as well as some written by themselves.

The theme this time was 'Would you believe?' This elicited discussion as well as poems about ghost stories, unusual experiences and insights about the land from a First Nation perspective.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, 10 September, 3pm at the Michelago Railway Station. The theme will be 'History'.





Would you believe? Or A bit of doggerel

You'll never believe, the other day
 My dog reared up, said 'Callooh callay,
 And no, I'm not the Jabberwocky,
 But this will make you listen to me,
 For just my barking won't get your attention
 As you're obsessed with human exception.
 I'm sitting up like a circus performer
 Not to say the world is getting warmer
 While I'm freezing outside on frosty nights
 Because you're out at meetings until first light.
 My concerns are of a personal nature –
 No, don't interrupt and tell me "Later".
 I hear that too often when I want a bone
 As you lark off and leave me alone.
 The time has come to turn the table
 To lateral thinking – if you are able.
 You think you are so bloody superior
 But (in useful rhyme) you're quite inferior.
 The Bible said you had dominion
 O'er birds and fishes and others minion.
 It didn't mention dogs at all,
 Neither in that Eden nor after the Fall.
 The reason is we were there already,
Personified, do y'see, Blind Freddy,
 As God. But first please check the spelling
 For an insight that you'll find compelling
 And read it backwards, you dyslexic dill,
 Take *Doggified*, a linguistic pill,
 And Dog is God, you'll surely see.
 So now you can go outside to pee.'

Leanne Pattison 12.8.2023



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Andy McGovern ©

Pro-fisherman Andy McGovern took this photo.

He was the second presenter in the Native Fish workshop organised by Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare and Cooma Waterwatch at the Michelago Memorial Hall, 5 August.

The *Magpie* asked Andy for the original photo, which he kindly sent. He also gave us its story ...

‘The image is actually a big Murray Cod (90cm long) eating another Murray Cod (57cm long). The best part of this is we managed to free both fish and they both swam off healthy.

The smaller cod had taken my lure and while I was bringing it in, the big fish swam up behind it and tried to eat it.

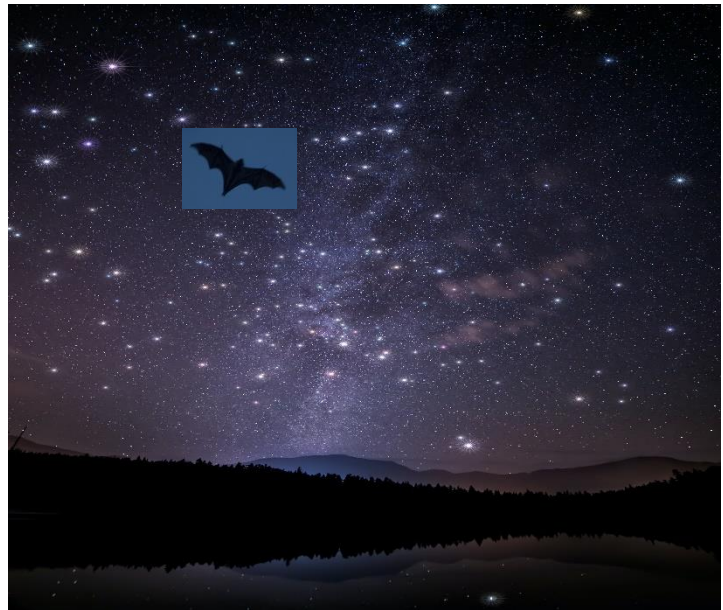
Forty-five years I’ve been fishing for cod and it’s still the most amazing thing I’ve witnessed.’



Shared space

Anne-Louise Pollard

My sleep disturbed again last night
By the turmoil of air beside my face
As the wee bat came,
To once again,
Visit me, in this shared space.
I rarely see this little mite –
I feel its motion and sense its flight.
The curious face and fine black skin
Stretched across its blurring wings.
It comes to me perhaps once a year,
It has no harm, I have no fear.
I guess it feels itself at home
When it drops in from the night skies dome.



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Please 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.



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Contributions: photos (jpg) and news items are welcome. Please send them to Lpatt@internode.on.net Please give your name and put *Magpie* in the subject line. Published items will be attributed.

If you have events or activities planned and would like them listed in the *Magpie* calendar, please email them to Lpatt@internode.on.net

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 and articles, 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 It's only \$10 p/a single and \$15 p/a family. 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-listed Railway Station. The Committee applies for government grants and occasionally organises other fund-raisers, depending on available personnel.
4. It's sociable – you know what's happening, who's doing what, and you participate only if you want to.

The MRCA Committee <http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/>

Meetings are open: 2nd Tues of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagoans are welcome. Minutes are on the website: www.michelagoregion.org.au



~ Michelago Magpie Calendar ~

Please send quick updates of what's coming up, what's on and any corrections to 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.

Previous issues of the *Magpie* are on www.michelagoregion.org.au

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

- **Choir** recommences 7 September. See p3.
- **Fire Brigade** training second Sunday of the month, 9am–1pm. Contact details: MRCA notice board at the Michelago General Store.
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings:** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au or phone new number 0493 638 878. Current hire rates: see p8 in *Magpie18* on www.michelagoregion.org.au
- **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. Sept 11 & 25. See below. (See *Magpie 13* for complete library calendar. The schedule is also on the Shop Noticeboard).
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2nd Tues 6pm.
- **Pony Club.** Monthly 2nd Sunday. Enquiries: Rhys (0401 778 004) or Alisha (0422 623 304) or email 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.
- 1. **Seed Savers.** 3rd Sunday of the month. See below for September date. To check dates and locations or if you have other questions, please SMS or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au
- **Senior Lunch Group.** 1st Monday of the month, 1pm, the Shop.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass monthly, usu. 2nd Sat, 5.30pm. Updates on Facebook's Michelago Noticeboard.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3rd Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders:** usu. monthly, 1st 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:** Sundays, 6pm, Michelago Hall. Details: see p.11

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

- **Landcare presentation.** Webinar. Weed Whacking 101. Hall. Tues 5, 12.30–1.45. Details p.5
- **Landcare presentation.** Field Day. Weed Whacking 101. Hall. Sat 9 Sept. 10.00–2. Lunch provided.
- **RFS training.** Sunday 10 Sept. 0900–1300. See p7.
- **Poets** Sunday, 10 Sept, 3pm, Railway Station.
- **Mobile library.** Mondays, Sept 11 & 25. Outside the school 9.45–11.30am.
- **Seed Savers.** Sunday, 17 Sept, 2–4pm. 6141 Monaro Hwy. Seed planting & propagating cuttings for Spring. You can bring seeds, cuttings. Potting mix, rooting hormone, pots supplied. Donations, please. All welcome to plant and leave things in Belinda's greenhouse until warmer weather. SMS Belinda for more info 0411 043 027.

October

- **Landcare.** 7 Oct 10.3–2. Hall. Living with lovegrass. Details p.4.
- **Exciting Event** at the Michelago General Store / the shop. Date and details to come.

