

~ Michelago Magpie 3 ~

18 March 2022 news peckings



From your Michelago Region Community Association



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Anzac Day



The 25 April 2022 ceremony at the Railway Station cenotaph will start at 10am and have the traditional format. There will be a guest speaker. All are welcome to lay a wreath if they wish. Thanks to Gregg McFaul and Rob Smith for the organisation. *Photos: 2021 ceremony*



Heritage Railway Station security

Our valued station was desecrated mid-January by vandals who sprayed highly offensive graffiti extensively on the rail side of two of the three buildings.

Local painter Ardeshir Gholipour came to the rescue within three days. He delayed other work so he could buy the mandated Heritage colours and cover the black spray. This took four coats. Thank you, Ardeshir.



There were many Facebook suggestions from the concerned community about security. The MRCA has liaised with a local security expert, Martin (thank you) and internet provider YLess4U to install CCTV, backed up in the Cloud and with microphone and speakers.

The wifi is solely for the security operation and is provided free on that condition. Thank you, Jason Green of YLess4U.



The Ryrie St bridge/causeway

The MRCA President emailed (2 March) Mayor Peter Bascombe of Snowy Monaro Regional Council and cc'd all councillors:

Dear Peter

It's been about 9 months since we've heard anything about the Ryrie St / Michelago Causeway (bridge) that has been allocated \$872k from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. As you are aware, this is a vital piece of infrastructure for which Michelago has been waiting for well over a decade.

At present, residents of the Micalago Road part of Michelago need to enter and then exit the Monaro Highway to get to the nearby village centre. This includes school children getting to the school, Rural Fire Service personnel getting to the RFS shed in order to respond to an emergency, and locals shopping at the Michelago General Store. The safety risks are serious and well understood, as is the passion of Michelago to have its village re-connected.

Could you please advise the Michelago community of the status of this project? I am happy to circulate your response to our mailing list.

Best wishes, Di

We await a formal response, but see p.4 'Bridges and roads = big money' for an update.



MRCA Annual General Meeting 12 January

Elected were: President Di Fett, Vice President Brent Wallis, Secretary Jo Jackson, Treasurer Stuart Peterson, Committee Members John & Kerry Rooney, Tony DeSalis, Belinda Sierzchula, Leanne Pattison. Cristina Huesch and Gary Morris were elected at the first Committee meeting, 9 March.

L: Di and Brent welcome Tony DeSalis to the MRCA Committee.



*Kerry,
Tony,
John,
Leanne,
Stuart,
Di.*

*Photo: Jo
Gaha*



What has the MRCA done for Michelago in the past year?

- Won a 2021 Volunteer Grant for a community noticeboard to go outside the General Store. This should be a useful resource for community groups, the school and various local activities.
- Distributed an information leaflet about Michelago's volunteer organisations and services to residents.
- Maintained the historic Railway Station, including significant repairs, cleaning and a clear-out.
- Planted and maintained a thriving box hedge and roses along the front of the Station.
- Held Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorations.
- Ruffled Bunnings vouchers (provided to us in lieu of our cancelled sausage sizzle fundraiser).
- Held a sausage sizzle on Council Election Day – the traditional Democracy Sausage!
- Contributed significantly to what is an historic achievement for our village, i.e. the adoption by Council of a Michelago Masterplan to control development in and around the village. The Masterplan was developed in consultation with the community over 12 months, and was adopted by Council in October. This is something the MRCA has been asking for for well over a decade and we are pleased to see it finally in place. Our thanks to Councillors, but especially John Rooney, who spoke passionately, eloquently and ultimately effectively at Council on the motion to adopt the Masterplan. Our thanks also to Council strategic planners Alexandra Atkins and Brooke Davey,

who undertook many, many hours of community consultation. The long process was a time-consuming and tiring commitment for many.

- As part of that, organised an evening (with deference to Covid regulations) for the community to question the Geocon representatives, Cardno, about their intentions for the development of land bought by Geocon in and around Michelago.
- Worked with Council to recruit and appoint members to the s355 Committee for the management of the Community Hall.
- Continued to advance the project for a barbecue, shade and seating facility at the edge of the sports oval, paid for by a Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund grant gained by Kerry's successful application.
- Forwarded notices and warnings to residents from Council.
- Continues to be very grateful to volunteers not on the Committee who have helped greatly with their labour and advice, all to Michelago's benefit – thank you!



Michelago Fire Shed



Federal MP for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain, dropped into the Michelago Fire Shed on 24 February to present a Volunteer Grant to the brigade.

This \$5,000 grant will be used to purchase additional training equipment.

Brigade treasurer, Brien Hallett, accepted the grant on behalf of his fellow volunteers.



Thanks to Brien Hallett for this item. Photos: office of Kristy McBain



Tinderry Road causeway flood damage 26 February ...



Photo: Brent Wallis



Photo: Anna Lucas

... and repair 27 February

Photos: Lindsey Perrin



This was not the first time the community was divided, many cut off from the wider world of work, family and friends by flooding. It won't be the last. Thanks to newly elected SMRC Councillor Tanya Higgins for responding to the urgent needs of stranded residents, and thanks to the Council workers.



Bridges + roads = big money

Intermittent flooding wreaks havoc to the good work done on the Tinderry creek crossing. Does it need a more secure structure? Also, there are roads needing repair: we expect the Tinderry Rd works will resume soon, but Micalago and Burra Roads also need a lot of attention. So, as it's a Federal Government election year, the MRCA plans, firstly, to put the issues to Kristy McBain.

Ryrie St-Micalago Rd crossing: Cr Higgins told the 9/3 MRCA meeting that it's funded, is on track (government approvals and removal of Telstra assets are nearly complete), there are investigations for slightly altered placement due to creek depth, and work on road approaches should proceed when weather allows. The MRCA Committee awaits a formal response to the letter on p.1.



MRCA & MRFB at Council elections, 4 December

The MRCA's Democracy Sausage bbq raised a good amount, despite Covid regulations saying non-school stalls had to operate outside the school grounds, well away from voters' paths. The customers liked the tasty snags and young folk loved the RFS educational freebies from the Brigade's stall.

Below: Stuart, Brent, Jo & Brendan staff the bbq; potential young firies; RFS's Abby, Keith, Scott.





Rail trail: Two Mikes consult MRCA on the Monaro Rail Trail

Mike Halliburton and Mike Maher met with Kerry and Leanne at the Michelago Railway Station on 22 January. The two Mikes have been jointly employed by the Snowy Monaro and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Councils to prepare a trail development plan for the proposed Monaro Rail Trail. This plan



will examine three sections of the 214 km rail trail: Tralee to Michelago, a short section south of Nimmitabel, and the section from Jincumbilly to Bombala. They have been consulting landholders and other stakeholders adjoining the railway line.

On 16 January, Mike Halliburton wrote to MRCA President Di: 'The purpose of the trail development plan is to determine what works are required to enable the disused railway corridor to be used as a recreational trail. The

plan will provide detailed construction requirements and cost estimates for items such as fencing, gates, stock and machinery crossing points, privacy screening and trail surfacing.'

The two MRCA reps expressed interest in the project's expected benefits but raised concerns about the possible removal of one set of tracks at the station (the one furthest from the platform).

On the Tralee-Michelago section of the trail, there would be four trail heads with park and ride facilities at Tralee, Royalla, Williamsdale and Michelago. Initially, the trail would terminate at Michelago. There could be some modest funding available to upgrade the Michelago railway station facilities to meet the needs of the rail trail.

R: With Kerry are consultants Mike Halliburton (L) and Mike Maher (R).

A challenge for the consultants is identifying a route for the rail trail to cross Burra Road or Ryrie Street in Michelago village.

If the rail trail goes ahead, it is likely the NSW Government would transfer responsibility for the rail corridor and stations to local councils. Council could license the station to a community group or to a commercial operator.



According to the Monaro Rail Trail Feasibility Study, the Trail from Queanbeyan to Bombala would:

- Cost \$63 million to construct with a sealed surface or \$48 million with a gravel surface (this would require NSW or Federal Government grants)
- Cost \$852,000 per year to maintain (local councils would have to fund this)
- Generate additional visitor expenditure of \$24 million per year for the regional economy and create new business opportunities. Most of these benefits would accrue to Michelago, Bredbo, Cooma, Nimmitabel and Bombala. *Thanks to Kerry Rooney for this report.*



Notice Board

The long-planned notice board for the Michelago Community will soon be installed outside the General Store. The MRCA hopes this will be a significant point of communication for community events and facilities.



Hall Happenings *[Just in! Sewing class, 3 April, 2—4pm, Jenny 0400 484 485 jenny258@bigpond.com]*

The Hall Committee's booking system for the hall: information will be on Facebook's Michelago Community Association and Michelago Noticeboard sites.



Belinda's two yoga classes ('For people who think they can't do yoga!') are continuing at the hall on Wednesdays 6.30pm, and Fridays 10am – excellent, gentle exercise, mental relaxation and friendly social contact. Fridays are kid-friendly!

\$20 per class. BYOM, though there are a few spare mats for newbies.



MRCA promotion



To belong, first download the membership form at www.michelagoregion.org.au 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 three 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. 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.

3. It's sociable – you know what's happening and you can participate if you'd like to.

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



Now you've read this far ...

or maybe skipped to the end, please tell us what you think – email address below. If the Magpie flies, it'll be because the community wants a newsletter. Many people have said it does. Others prefer Facebook.

We plan to include reports and photos from the school, the pony club, Landcare and other groups if they would like to give them.

If you have local photos of happenings you'd like to contribute, please email them to me. Maybe we could include letters. Please keep them, and all feedback, polite and short. Please include your name (for publication) and 'magpie' in the subject line. Items will be attributed (unattributed photos in this issue were taken by me). The MRCA committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length and concision.

We're open to advertisements from local businesses – no specific payment, but a contribution would help with the railway station's ongoing expenses and upkeep. There'll be a donation box at the shop.

Magpies 1 & 2 were attached to the previous newsletter, *Message Stick*. We don't know yet how often the *Magpie* will fly. This is an experiment. Leanne Pattison, Editor << newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au >>