

# ~ MRCA Michelago Magpie 4 ~

1 May 2022

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**ANZAC Day 25 April 2022**

**Michelago Heritage Railway Station**



Seventy or so people gathered on a calm autumn morning for the traditional ANZAC commemoration. Squadron Leader Gregg McFaul conducted the ceremony, read the Ode and reflected on team and community spirit in various contexts. Dee McFaul read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Squadron Leader Leesa Cromie gave the keynote address. People laid wreaths. Sophie Higgins read *In Flanders Fields*. Jade McFaul led the crowd in singing the National Anthem. The Last Post was played, a minute's silence observed, then the Rouse was played. It was a lovely ceremony.





Then it was time for a sumptuous morning tea and community mingling in this beautiful setting.



Thank you to all the generous people who provided the varied culinary delights.







There were  
little kids.  
There were  
bigger kids.  
And there  
were many  
quite big kids.

It was a  
pleasure to  
mix after  
Covid  
restrictions.



Thank you to all the volunteers who ensured the station's grounds and buildings were in excellent order for the community gathering on Anzac Day. Thank you to Gregg and Dee McFaul for organising the ceremony.

There will be more photos of this community gathering in the next *Michelago Magpie*.



## Council Corner



**Tanya Higgins, local Snowy Monaro Councillor and Deputy Mayor,** addresses some immediate concerns in this extract from her up-to-date report of 26 April. The rest of her report, with any further news, will be published in a later *Magpie*.

*I have been advocating for road repairs, especially on Tinderry and Jerangle Roads. However, the weather has put schedules behind AGAIN. With 2,647km of road network, Council road crews are focussing on roads that have been cut off completely. Please be assured that I am continuing to represent the needs of this area with Council management.*

***At the April Council meeting, Councillors voted to appoint Belinda, Naomi, Wendy and Jenny to the Michelago Hall and Tennis Courts committee. I am looking forward to the Hall and the park being***



*used to bring the community together again after our horror few years, especially with the construction of the new BBQ facilities!*

*Council also agreed to acquire land from Transport NSW, to realign the Michelago Bridge. This is to avoid a deep hole in the riverbed where the current road reserve runs, which, if traversed at that point, would increase costs, the size of the bridge and the risk of damage in future flood events. This change will have no impact on the planned commencement or completion timeframes as, until the acquisition is undertaken, the Council will lease the land required. At this stage, the project is also being impacted by the road crews being diverted to emergency road repairs.*

*Tinderry Crossing is almost complete, but is also being impacted by the need to use road crews on urgent repairs. I would be keen to hold a street party/christening event once it is done, as we make a collective sigh of relief. I would like to commend the residents of Tinderry road for their patience, camaraderie and community spirit, as they have been cut off three times by flood waters through the construction period.*

## Easter egg hunt



On a sunny, calm Easter Saturday, 16 March, about 54 young egg-hunters scavenged eagerly at the Michelago Historic Railway Station for nearly 1,000 Easter eggs laid earlier by Coordinator Chickens Sam Walton and Fiona Tollis. Twenty-four families participated.



Hope and Jarrah



Thank you to the organisers, including to Fiona for the delicious Hot Cross Buns.



Margie and George



Nathanial and Olive



Sophie at the colouring-in corner



Someone very shy!





### **Big Easter Bunnies at the Easter Egg Hunt**

*L: Rachel, Sam, Fiona, Sarah and Naomi*

*R: Di, Tanya, Fiona and Anna*



### **Michelago Fire Brigade Training**

Michelago RFS Brigade conducts training every second Sunday of each month 9am—1 pm. All are welcome.

As we move from summer to winter, the emphasis will shift from training for grass and forest fires to training for motor vehicle accidents and village firefighting (structure fires).

This year has seen the brigade attending several accidents on the Monaro, including some fatalities. Please drive carefully and stay safe out there.

*Thanks to Gregg McFaul, Training Officer for the Michelago Brigade, for this report.*



### **Fire Brigade – National Emergency Medal**

More than 12 months after the last flame was extinguished, the tireless contribution of Michelago Rural Fire Service members has been formally acknowledged.

Brigade volunteers involved in fighting the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires travelled to Cooma on 9 April to receive the National Emergency Medal from RFS Assistant Commissioner, Kelly Brown.



Our brigade was involved in fighting fires around Michelago, northern New South Wales, the south coast and Queensland.

This important acknowledgement recognizes the heroic contribution of our local RFS members, and the support of their families and loved ones.

*Thanks to Brien Hallett for this report.*

*Photo: Bruce Davies*





## Michelago Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the Michelago Rural Fire Brigade will be held at 5.00pm on Saturday 21 May at the Michelago Hall.

At this meeting, reports on key activities will be presented, including the financial statements, callout summary and an update on equipment and training.

Following these reports, all positions will be declared vacant and nominations for the executive and field officers will be called and, if necessary, elections held.



All are welcome to attend and membership is open to any community member who wishes to support our local brigade. The annual subscription is currently \$5, payable at the door.



## Railway station maintenance

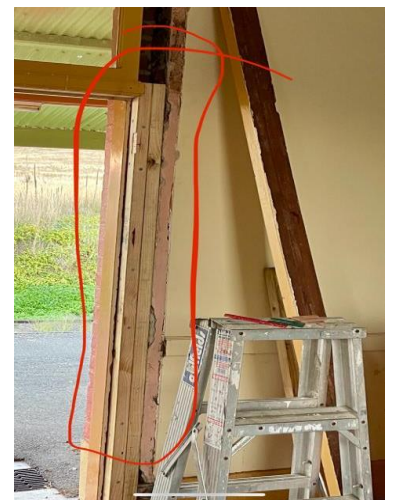
**Door damage:** shortly after the painting over of the graffiti (see *Magpie 3*), it was seen that the locked



kitchen door was slightly askew. It's unclear whether the graffiti vandals had tried to open it. It gave way completely when investigated, showing that the frame had already had extensive termite damage prior to last year's spraying.

Local hero (another one!) Wayne Hatcher, bricklayer and general handyman, replaced the frame for just the cost of the materials.

The MRCA plans to check other wood components of the station when possible.



**Clean-ups:** thanks to volunteers who have helped with several ad hoc clean-ups in the last three months. When required, we've swept, dusted, toilet-cleaned, mowed, weeded gardens and sprayed



some weeds. There was a special pre-ANZAC Day manicure by the Jo-and-Brendan team.

Accumulated odds and ends from various May and Spring Fairs, short-term commercial endeavours, and 'where on earth do we put this?' impulses were sorted in February. Historical and useful items were kept, some went with treasure hunters and a trailer load went to the ACT Green Shed.





As with any old building, there are always upgrades and repairs needed, and the grounds have needed more regular attention in the recent wet weather than in the previous few years. Working bees with cheerful, willing volunteers have been satisfying and chatty occasions. Well done, all, and keep it up!



### MRCA Community Notice Board

The much-anticipated notice board is now installed at the Michelago General Store. Thank you to Sally and Tom for giving the MRCA and Michelago community this space.

The board was financed through the 2021 Federal Volunteer Grants program, for which we were nominated by current Federal member Kristy McBain.



*L: Brendan and Tom installed the board.*

*MRCA Secretary Jo took the photos.*



To advertise on the notice board, please note these steps, as shown on the board.

- Notices are to be A4 size.
- They can advertise upcoming events, organisations and fundraising activities.
- If you have a business, please check these steps for your A4 flyer:
  - a) Cost per advertisement is \$10 per month (paid in advance before display). If you wish to advertise for longer, please pay for that time, e.g. 3 months = \$30.
  - b) Notices will be removed each month if payment is not made.
  - c) Please pay online: Michelago Region Community Association Inc, BSB 633000, Account number 126401058. Please add your name and/or business name.
- Notices to be posted can be left for the MRCA Committee at the General Store.
- If you have any queries, please contact Secretary Jo through the MRCA Committee  
 << [mrca@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:mrca@michelagoregion.org.au) >> Note that non-business ads are free, of course.

We look forward to sharing information with everyone in the community through the notice board.





## Essential Energy's Community Choices Program

Michelago people were constantly nagged reminded through emails and Facebook to join in this click-often-to-win, week-long campaign (only one click per hour per computer was allowed, though) up to midnight, 18 April, to win up to \$2,500 from Essential Energy for a community group.

Michelago was leading in our Zone 5 until late 17 April, when Nimmitabel clicked to the front.



There are five winners in each zone. There are 20 zones in NSW. Our zone is approximately the size of the electorate of Monaro. All sorts of community groups (scout halls, animal rescue, dragon boat racers, etc) competed. Of the 317 applicants in all NSW, we finished in the top 10. Most applicants were from much larger towns and cities (e.g. Tamworth, Dubbo, Port Macquarie), so we did well.

There's a range of prizes; we're unsure as yet how much we get for finishing second in our zone.



Our second-place winnings will help pay for Heritage Railway Station maintenance, particularly a new pump, upkeep of the surveillance cameras and internal repairs.

Thank you to all Michelagoans, their families and friends who helped in this clickathon.



## Democracy Sausages! Federal Election!

Make the MRCA's Democracy Sausages an exciting aspect of this special day, 21 May. Our bbq will be sited in the school grounds again, sharing them with the kid-friendly Fire Brigade truck and the Brigade's free merchandise, as well as P&C stalls. Truly a festival of choices! Nowhere else in the world!



**DEMOCRACY SAUSAGE**

How good is a Democracy Sausage!



## Creating Calm in Times of Crisis – 10am to 1pm, FREE!

1. Bredbo Community Hall Saturday 30 April
2. Michelago Memorial Hall Sunday 22 May



You're welcome to come for the full workshop or drop in and out when it suits. Morning tea & light lunch are provided.

**Bookings essential:** <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/Workshops> or contact Belinda on 0411 043 027.



Participants will learn how disasters and crises affect the body and nervous system, as well as valuable techniques for building resilience, clarity and calm in our bodies and minds. Participation in activities is completely optional. Techniques/activities will include mindfulness, breathing, and some gentle movements, suitable for everyone interested in exploring these calming and resilience building techniques.

This free workshop is offered with funding from the Snowy Monaro Regional Council's Community Bushfire Recovery Grant.







## Tinderry Trail Riders: are you a horse rider wanting to connect with local riders? Google us!

Tinderry Trail Horse Riders is a local trail riding club which aims to provide a club atmosphere on rides that are safe, interesting, have great scenery and are varied in location and difficulty.

Our members come from a wide area including Tarago, Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Carwoola, Cooma, Braidwood, Bredbo, Burra, Michelago and the ACT. We have about 15 members and the age range is to 70+.



Our rides are conducted at mainly walking pace with some trotting if the conditions are right. If you are interested in joining us on one of our rides, contact the club through the Tinderry tab of the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). We sometimes go camping on long weekends in National Parks, and at other times ride for about 4-5 hours including lunch. We usually ride the first Saturday of the month. We are insured. You can join for a year, or try us out for up to 2 rides (day membership fee includes insurance).

All rides are dependent on weather and getting enough numbers (legally, minimum is 3).

**Next rides:** (a) 7 May, a day ride at Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie (b) 4 June, Goat Shooters Hut, Bredbo.

**The most recent ride** was 5 March, a fantastic ride through Kowen Forest near Bungendore. We met near the gates to the forest and meandered through the forest until reaching a pleasant permanent



picnic area in a glade. We tied up the horses and shared a lovely lunch and hot tea before heading back through the forest, past some heritage huts, open plains and some interesting scenery back to our starting area. We had a good day out and just missed getting blasted by a thunderstorm! We felt safe though, as we always carry a PLB and a first aid kit.

*Thanks to Cristina Huesch for this report and the photos.*



## Local folk



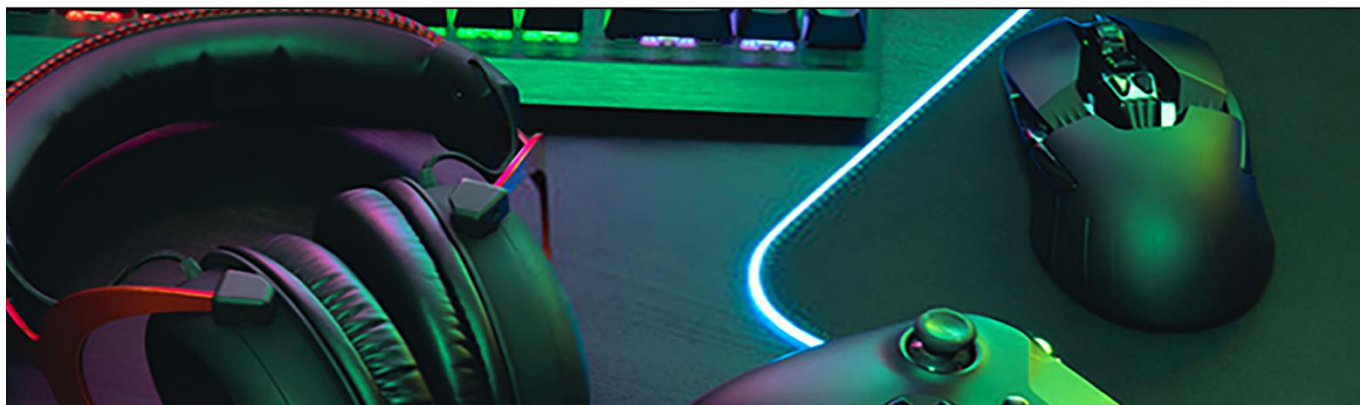
In late March, Hazel Bennett and Josh Whittle re-fenced a village neighbour's paddock, where Hazel often agists her two beautiful horses.







# Computer & Internet Help Session + Gamer Night!



1pm to 5pm: HELP! Session  
5pm to 9pm: Gamer Night



Yless4U are bumping up the bandwidth

at the hall for the day so you can come down with your laptop, xBox, computer, etc and download updates, install anti-virus software, and ask all your computer & internet related questions for FREE!

- e.g. how do I cut my kids off the internet when I tell them it's dinner time?
- How can I restrict what the kids can view online?
- Why is my internet/computer/etc so slow?
- Tips and tricks for better WiFi signal in your house
- Live demos of Wired Access points etc
- Assistance with computer issues
- Chat with techs about IT issues in general.

Entry is \$2 with all monies being donated towards repairs and maintenance at the Historic Michelago Railway Station

Saturday 4 June  
Michelago Memorial Hall







## Introductory sewing workshop, our Hall, 3 April



Jenny Wholohan writes: 'The introductory session had lots on display for sewing inspiration, including clothing, patchwork quilts, bags, fitted sheets & various fabrics. We had a brief look at clothes, clothing repairs, sewing tools and gadgets, some great tips and shortcuts.

If there is enough interest, I will do another introductory workshop, but am getting a selection of dates and times together for lessons (group or individual) for sewing machine familiarity, beginner sewing, and



many other topics for those with some experience.'

Jenny is happy to take any queries at: [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com)

*Thanks to Jenny Wholohan for this report.*

Some participants modelled samples, both newly made and re-worked, of Jenny's creations and marvelled at her adaptations of superseded clothes with new, simple patterns. Her samples ranged through quilts, re-cut shirts, and beanies made from straight scarves.



## Editor's note:

In *Magpie 3*, the MRCA expressed the view that advertisements would be free but with advertisers agreeing to make a contribution to the donation box in the General Store for maintenance of the Historic Railway Station. This has been reviewed.

Current policy is that businesses can purchase a quarter-page advertisement space for \$30.00 for three issues. 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.

You can send reactions, letters, photos and news items to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)  
Please give your name and put *Magpie* in the subject line. –Ed.