

# ~ Michelago Magpie 6~

17 July 2022 news peckings

from your Michelago Region Community Association



In this issue: BBQ & shelters at the oval; **Christmas in July (bookings close 5pm 18 July)**; Mental Health First Aid – new dates; Seed Savers workshop; Memorial Hall news; Tennis clubhouse bird poo; Michelago Moth; *Michelago, our home*; Yoga classes; Fire Brigade; Property planning workshop; Michelago promotions; Internet help & gamer workshop; Clickathon money; Council corner; **Update pics** of BBQ & shelters project; Editor's note.



## BBQ and shelters at the Oval – early progress pics – updates p.13



Photos: Di Fett and LP



The much-anticipated barbecue and three shelters at the Michelago oval/sportsground will be ready for community use soon. They are paid for by the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund, a joint NSW/Federal Government fund.

After the MRCA'S successful application to fund this big project two years ago (thanks entirely to Kerry Rooney), there's been a lot of paperwork, bureaucratic hoop-jumping, organising of quotes and, of course, volunteer time.

All involved in this project are optimistic that this will be a significant facility for the community.

The MRCA hopes to find another friendly government grant program next year that will fund lights in the shelters for evening barbecues.

Local builder Troy Macpherson and Collector electrician Craig Bingley are responsible for the work.





## Christmas in July

The MRCA is hosting a Christmas in July luncheon on Sunday 24 July, 11am–3pm at the Michelago Community Hall.

Catering by Our Shop's Sally&Dale! A Delicious Get-Together!

Tickets: \$10.00 each, primary school children free. Numbers are limited, so first in ... Bookings close 18/7, 5pm!

Tickets available online from:

<https://events.humanitix.com/michelago-region-christmas-in-july>



## Mental Health First Aid: now 10–11 September



Adrian's second two-day Mental Health First Aid course, recently postponed, has been rescheduled to 10 and 11 September, still at the Michelago Hall.

This course is free, as Adrian is donating his time to the community.

Lunch & afternoon tea are provided. Bookings essential as space is limited: <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/Workshops>

Each year 1 in 5 Australians will experience a mental illness. Many people are not knowledgeable or confident to offer assistance. Physical first aid is accepted and widespread in our community, but most do not cover mental health problems.

Mental Health First Aid® teaches people the skills to help someone they're concerned about. These courses are being offered free with many thanks to funding from the Snowy Monaro Regional Council's Get Ready funding.



## Seed Savers Workshop



Arian & Mel from Canberra Seed Savers ran a fun and interesting seed saving workshop at the Hall on Sunday 26 June.

It was fascinating to learn that seeds grown and saved from the best plants in our own climate become more hardy and locally adapted over time. Each little seed comes with all of the genetic information for a new plant – flowers, fruit, seeds and on and on.







We learned how to pick the best plants to save seeds from as well as how long the plants need to mature before the seed is ready to be collected and we had lots of fun practising the skills in processing them.

The golden rule of seed saving is to 'Save seeds from the strongest plants, that produce fruit or edible parts earliest, bolt to seed last, have the tastiest fruit (or best tasting leaves), are most productive, and have the characteristics you want future plants to have.'

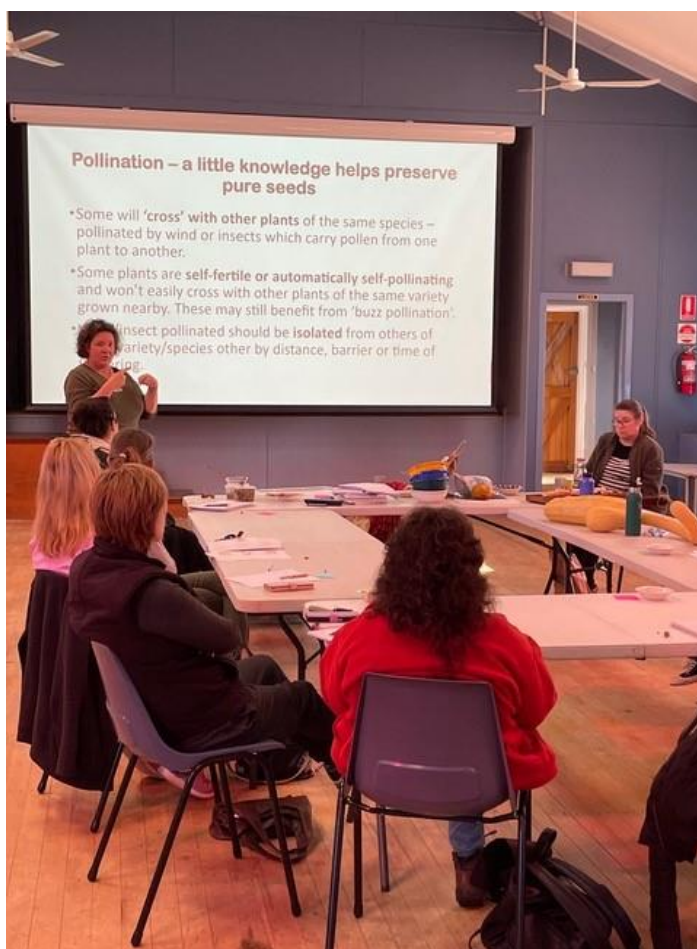
We all enjoyed it so much that we have decided to start our own little Seed Savers & Growers Group and we'd love you to join us!

Our local Michelago & Surrounds Seed Savers & Growers Group will have its first get-together on Sunday 24 July 2–4pm at the Railway Station. Our aim is to save & share seeds, seedlings and excess produce to promote locally grown food and build better resilience in the food supply in our community. We have some very skilled gardeners in our group and so much to share and learn from each other!

Please feel free to come along to check it out even if you have no idea about growing things or saving seeds. Your first meeting is free and then we ask that you join to cover insurance etc. The cost is \$10/year (waged) or \$5/year (unwaged) and you get 3 free packs of seed on joining.

We will also be putting together some locally collected seed packets for sale at the Michelago General Store so that everyone in Michelago can have more success at growing their own food & flowers.

*Thanks to Belinda Sierzchula for this report.*



*Photos: Belinda Sierzchula*

## Community Memorial Hall news



New internal door: thanks to Rachel's persistence, Council will soon fund a door to replace the present curtain across the storage area at the front of the Hall. This will keep the pre-school children safe from stacks of chairs and gym equipment and provide some security for the video equipment.

## S355 Committee AGM

As Returning Officer for the 15 June AGM, John Rooney conducted the election. The results were:

Naomi Walton (Chair); Jenny Wholohan (Secretary); Belinda Sierzchula (Treasurer); Rachel Harling (Bookings Officer); Anna Lucas (Facilities Officer); Mitch Lee, Isabelle Thorpe, Leanne Pattison (MRCA representative).

[Michelago Memorial Hall Bookings](#): please contact our Bookings Officer, Rachel Harling.

Email: [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au)

Phone: 0431 528 258

### Current hiring fees are:

Standard Hire	\$12.00 per hour
Refundable Deposit Bond – Standard Hire	\$160 per event
Private Evening / Party Function	\$215 per event
Refundable Deposit Bond – Private Evening / Party	\$250 per event
Hire of Equipment – chairs, tables, kitchen, etc.	By arrangement with the Memorial Hall s355 Committee

The Committee negotiated with Council to simplify the categories and reduce some charges. These changes will make the Hall more accessible to the community.

[Newsletter](#) To find out what's happening at the Hall and around Michelago, please sign up to the community newsletter *Michelago Magpie* by scanning the QR code and completing the form.

Alternatively, please send your name and email address to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)



## Tennis clubhouse bird poo



In 2018, the MRCA used its funds from Fairs to pay for ceilings under the rafters and closing off the eaves in the kitchen and toilets of the tennis clubhouse.

This solved the bird-poo problem there.

The MRCA couldn't afford to do the same for the central large room, where birds have continued to roost on the rafters and decorate the seats and floor.

This photo was taken July 2021, so Michelago's guano resource is now even richer. Some tennis players have politely notified us that sitting in there to eat lunch

and watch tennis, especially with children, is ☹️!X!%#\*?%#@! impossible. Indeed.

The Hall Committee is now trying to fix the problem with, yes, money.



The Memorial Hall Committee has recently applied for a grant in the Council-sponsored Boco Rock annual program to install and paint a ceiling to do the same job as the 2018 one. The application is for just under \$5K, the total of the two required quotes. The Hall Committee is optimistic.

This shelter and the courts will be more in demand, we anticipate, when the MRCA's nearby bbq project is complete.

Birds will still be able to fly in and out the open windows of this room but shouldn't roost on the seats ... should they? If they do, the Hall Committee will apply for another grant next year to install shutters.



## The Michelago Moth, Michelago Memorial Hall, 25.6.22



What entertainment! Such diverse talents! Thanks to Anne-Louise Pollard, better known as 'Pud'.

There were jokes, stories, harp playing, singing, and a guest appearance by the heritage banner (see also *Magpie 5*).

Warmly lit by radiator glow, Pud and local Councillor Tanya Higgins (below) conducted the Moth Cake Ceremony. The Moth Cake Maker was Leanne Thurling. Thanks to all for a delicious supper.







Pud read a story of some of her startling, scary African adventures on her not-boutique trip. Her daughter, Laura, safely collected donations at the door for Michelago Fire Brigade.



### What's a Moth?

'The Moth is a non-profit group based in New York City dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling.<sup>[1]</sup> Founded in 1997, the organization presents a wide range of theme-based storytelling events across the United States and abroad, often featuring prominent literary and cultural personalities ... named after moths attracted to porch lights when people gather to share tales.' [Credit: Wikipedia]

The Michelago Moth is its own Moth, not affiliated with any other Moths.



*Chris Bullmore, harpist, yoga teacher and blacksmith*



*Pud and Jen drew the raffle.*





### Participants

*L: Leanne Thurling, Chris Bullmore, Gregg McFaul, Pud, Brendan Jackson, Laura Pollard and the then-absent Louise on the iPad.*

*Above: Jo Jackson (who found the banner at the station) and Gregg.*

The historic banner has been taken to Jenny Wholohan, seamstress extraordinaire, for repairs to the letters.

Deb Grandidge won the wood raffle. Brett Musgrove won 6 months of Yless4u. Laura read a favourite poem. Brendan told jokes. Leanne Thurling read her bush



ballad (see p.8) and told the tale of the local bushranger Clarke brothers (very bad boys). Louise from Canberra rocked the Hall with her amazing voice.



### More Moths?

This Moth, organised by Pud and daughter Laura to raise funds for the Fire Brigade, was casual, fun and friendly. People there thought that more Moths would be excellent community events and that anyone prepared to get up and perform anything could be confident of a supportive audience. We missed Cheryl 'the Legend' Kenyon, who had prepared to recite *Mulga Bill's Bicycle*, but was struck down by flu.



Through the raffle and door-takings, this Moth raised \$752.00 for our local Fire Brigade.

There were about 30 people at this Moth, which was a good turnout on a cold evening. Inside the Hall was warm – the wall heaters are surprisingly effective.

So, if Pud organises another Moth, do consider getting up and doing your thing!



## *Michelago, our home*

1. The sun comes up from eastern skies  
Above the Tinderries towering high  
An eagle soars and glides on wing  
A gang-gang's screech, his song to sing.
2. The rugged hills and scribbly gums  
Wait silently to greet the sun  
In hues of gold and grey and pink,  
An artist's palette, I would think.
3. Beneath their majesty lies a spot  
Where sleepy folks put on a pot  
And greet the day with silent gladness  
Before the drive to Canberra's madness
4. The village where we all feel safe,  
Community just outside the gate –  
Michelago is that place  
Where new folk come to be embraced.
5. The old folks now are mostly gone  
But some remember, tired and worn,  
The struggles of the early days  
Of waiting for the sky to rain.
6. Droughts and fires and flies that strike,  
Interest rates, another hike.  
The price of feed's gone through the roof  
Of hardships here, we have no proof.
7. The winds from southern lands that blow  
That bring the cold and frost and snow  
And freeze the ground till Spring arrives  
Then summer bakes it hard and dry.
8. The farming families still on soil  
From generations built with toil  
The price of wood you can't rely  
The locusts once again on fly.
9. Feast or famine is the norm  
But looking at the day's new dawn  
The mountains hold us to their breast  
And gently whisper, 'Take a breath.'
10. But Michelago is our home  
There's nowhere that we'd rather roam.  
When things get tough, we pull together,  
Community is our greatest tether.
11. For when we look about this place  
And witness Mother Nature's grace,  
Give thanks for what she does provide  
And hold tight to our local pride.

– Michelago, our home –

**Leanne Thurling**



Photo: LP





yoga for people who think they can't do yoga

# Breathe Move Relax

**Monday 6.30pm** at Bredbo Hall:  
General Flow

**Thursday 6.30—7.45pm** at Michelago  
Hall: General Flow

**Friday 10—11am** at Michelago Hall:  
Slow Yoga with creche for the littlies.  
Babies are welcome to stay with their  
mum/carer or go with Dee in the  
creche – whatever you feel most  
comfortable with.

**Cost: \$20**

All classes include breath awareness and a breathing exercise, warm-up movements of the spine, yoga flow movements, stretching and a stress-relief relaxation at the end (also usually involves the teacher mixing up her lefts & rights at some point!)

Everyone – men, women, children – are welcome and many different options are given to suit different abilities.

If you feel a bit stiff, or perhaps you feel as though your body isn't moving as easily as you'd like it to, yoga may be a great option for you to try!

You can book your spot here: <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/> or contact Belinda on 0411 043 027 or [hello@michelagoyoga.com.au](mailto:hello@michelagoyoga.com.au)



## Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

The RFS was busy in June running an Advanced Firefighter (AF) Course up at Cooma. Congratulations to members of local brigades who completed four busy weekends covering (in official lingo) crew resource management, hydraulics, navigation and wild fire behaviour. For the rest of us, that means crew supervision and mentoring, communication, pump use and limitations, navigating, and better skills in anticipating and reading the fire ground. Thanks particularly to the instructors who gave up their weekends to teach.



The next Bushfire Course for those wishing to join the RFS will be in September, so July is the time to get the RFS paperwork and mandatory online induction training out of the way.

**RFS training** is the second Sunday each month 9am- 1pm, and (usually) the last Thursday 6-8pm. Contact details are on the MRCA notice board at the Michelago Store.

Stay warm, stay safe and don't forget to annually check and clean fireplace flues and chimneys.

Very best regards  
Gregg McFaul  
Michelago RFS Training Officer



## Property planning workshop, 7 & 23 April

Di Fett reports: I attended an excellent 2-day workshop on property planning at the Michelago Hall by Ross Kuchel, Senior Agricultural Advisor at Braidwood South East Local Land Service, and Alison Elvin of native vegetation specialists Naturalcapital.

The workshop was held over two Saturdays, 23 April and 7 May, and was attended by about 15 landholders from our region, including Michelago, Colinton, Bredbo, Smith's Road and Burra, and from as far away as Yass.

Attendees were provided with a large laminated map of their properties, and invited to add transparent overlays showing infrastructure, weeds and future plans.

We were also invited to bring along plant specimens for identification and discussion. This provided me with an opportunity to check out an attractive but suspicious tall reed that's doing well in my garden. Regrettably, the verdict is 'don't let it seed'!



*Photos above: Naturalcapital*

Alison and Ross provided an abundance of practical and expert tips on everything from weed management to tree plantings and income-producing options for properties in our region.

*L: Everybody's enemy, serrated tussock (Wikipedia image)*



I learned too many useful things to enumerate, including from other participants, and highly recommend these workshops. Look out for them when they come around next year.

*Thanks for this report, Di.*

## Michelago promotions?



The MRCA Committee is considering ideas for promoting Michelago for tourism *and* fundraising. This follows a visitor being surprised that she couldn't buy souvenirs like

postcards, keyrings, t-shirts, mugs, spoons, fridge magnets, tea-towels, beanies ...

One thing at a time, please!

At left is a photo digitised to look like a watercolour painting – a postcard possibility.

Suggestions are welcome.







## Internet help & Gamer workshop, 4 June

Hello and thank you to all who attended the Michelago Hall on 4 June for the Yless4u information afternoon and Gaming Night.



Gaming Night.

It was good to see our customers up front, discuss issues and have a chat. The Hall kept us nice and warm while we had our get-together.

We raised about \$40.00 towards the Heritage Railway Station maintenance.

We had some local lads come out, boys with their gaming consoles and laptops. It was good to see them loaded up with all the stuff you need when gaming and getting together.

Thank you, Michelago Hall Committee, for letting us use your hall for the event and to the ladies of the *Magpie* newsletter for coming and talking to us as well.

*Thanks to Anushka Green of Yless4u for this report. Photos: BS & LP*



## Clickathon money received

Essential Energy sent the MRCA on 27 June the \$2,000.00 earned for the Heritage Railway Station upkeep, paying for the new (reconditioned) pump and plumbing repairs (see *Magpie* 5). The rest is reserved for maintenance, e.g. repairing water damage, painting. Thanks to all the dedicated clickers!



## Council Corner – Deputy Mayor Tanya Higgins

### Community Consultation

I thank everyone in this area who joined in one of Council's recent community engagement meetings. I valued speaking with you all about our Council and your community expectations.

### Local Roads

While the sun shines, our road crews can get machinery out on roads. The SMRC has four maintenance teams; you may have seen them working on Smith's, Yellowbox, Applebox, Kelly, Micalago and Karinya Plains Roads and Hugs Lane repairing storm and rain damage. This is despite flu and COVID taking out three teams in late June!

Council has recently engaged external help to assist with asset inspections and road funding claims to ensure we capture and repair all damages from the natural disasters. This will make our road network safe and driveable again. Jerangle, Wild Cattle Flat and Egans roads are being worked on now.

Over \$20 million of capital upgrades of the region are in the pipeline, either being designed or grant funding being applied for, as Councillors have agreed to prioritise getting as many of our roads up to scratch as soon as possible. In the northern part of the region, a number of road upgrades are underway or about to commence, including Tinderry, Numeralla and Countegany Roads.

### Smiths Road

You may have heard that due to the rapid increase of costs associated with road building, Tinderry and Smiths Roads were both under-funded by the Fixing Local Roads grant. This has been an issue right around NSW, and Transport for NSW staff have been working with Council staff to find workable solutions. As a result, agreement was reached to use the funds to complete Tinderry Road, and to apply for the fully costed amount for Smiths Road in the next round of the Fixing Local Roads grant.

### Michelago Bridge

Council lodged the application to undertake the works in the rail reserve in May. Once approved, tenders will be called for final design and construction. The bridge will be 20 metres, single lane, 68 tonne capacity, with either steel beams with precast concrete decking or similar cast concrete style.

### School safety

I raised the issue of speeding traffic along Ryrie St, especially past the school. As a result, the speed monitoring signs have been reinstalled, and I will work with Council's new Road Safety Officer on further measures to improve children's and other pedestrians' safety in the village.

### Advocacy

Thursday 13 July: Mayor Narelle Davis and I took Tara Moriarty MLC and Chris Minns, Leader of the NSW Opposition (*see right, photo credit unknown*), around some of our poor roads as part of our advocacy work with all politicians to try to secure more funding support for the region. Chris understood Snowy Monaro's unique situation of having the most road kilometres per ratepayer and was also interested in the Monaro Rail Trail.



If you see road crews out and about, give them a friendly wave – they are working hard around a huge network of roads. As always, use the Snap, Send, Resolve app to report any road issues – Council is continuing to make improvements to responses to the app, and we appreciate your patience.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can help with:

[Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tanya.Higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) or 0420 970 544 (leave a message).



### **Update: BBQ and shelters at the Oval**

On Friday 15 July, Troy Macpherson advanced the BCRRF-MRCA project by completing the shelters and installing the barbecue after the slabs had set.

The electrician, Craig Bingley, will be able to connect the barbecue to power next week. Then it'll be available for community use.



More exciting stages ...



### Editor's note

**Advertisements:** businesses can purchase a quarter-page advertisement space: \$30.00 for three issues (it could be up to a half-page, depending on other content). Non-business ads are free.

**Previous *Magpies*** are on the MRCA website: [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

**Contributions:** 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. Published items will be attributed. The MRCA Committee reserves the right to edit contributions.

*Leanne Pattison, Editor. PS The next Magpie Mini hasn't had time to hatch yet.*

