

~ Michelago Magpie 7 ~

12 August 2022 news peckings

from your Michelago Region Community Association



In this issue: Seed savers; Michelago Oval bbqs and shelters; **Win a Grand** in the Hand; Sewing workshops; Fire Brigade training; Council support for railway station; Yoga; RFS & bees; Hall hire; Council Corner; Yless4u; Michelago Landcare; Michelago Fire Brigade update; What is the MRCA?; Magpie info; Errata Magpie 6; **New Magpie calendar** (replacing Magpie Mini); Council survey about aged care – due 2 September.



Michelago & Surrounds Seed Savers and Growers Group

There were fifteen adults, four children, two dogs, many seeds and plants and afternoon tea at the MSSSGG's friendly, first and busy get-together at the Michelago Railway Station on 24 July.

People contributed ideas about organising and building garden beds, where to plant what, making home-made fertilisers with different types of poo, maintaining worms, compost bins and heaps, and assessing the role of chooks.

Some gardeners there were long-term, dedicated and obviously skilled, some were occasional ('When I have time') and some just starting out. There was lots of discussion and sharing.

Above: Louise put in a set of three sprouting seeds. The set makes a triangle. The triangle's in a circle. She has the word on the (almost) vertical stick. Numeracy and literacy through gardening.

People shared contributions of seeds, including some from the Canberra group.

The mini-gardeners planted seeds in potting mix-filled cups.

Convened by Belinda after the popular Canberra Seed Savers Workshop on 26 June (see *Magpie 6*), this local group's aim is to save and share seeds, seedlings and excess produce to promote locally grown food and build better resilience in the food supply in our community.



Above: Bredbo Lyn's huge red garlic.

R: Which seeds shall I choose?





The group plans to meet on the last Sunday of each month at 2pm. Entry is a gold coin to contribute to the Railway Station's upkeep.

A small contribution to afternoon tea is welcome, but certainly not necessary.

The September meeting is planned to be at Lyn Southwell's home in Bredbo. The August meeting location is yet to be decided.

To confirm the locations or if you have other questions, please call or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au

Photos: LP



The BBQs and shelters are ready at the Michelago Oval

At long last, this big project for the community is ready for use!

The MRCA gratefully acknowledges The Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF), a joint NSW and Federal Government fund for making it possible. BCRRF-funded community events—see below and Calendar p13.

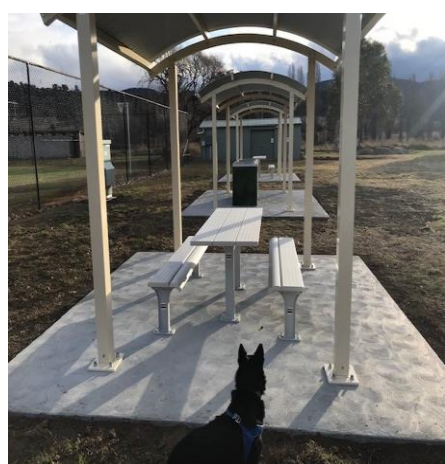
The MRCA Committee also gratefully acknowledges itself 😊 because of all the time given by its volunteers to help make the project happen.

The Committee thanks local builder Troy McPherson for his excellent construction work and Craig Bingley Electrical for connecting the barbecue.

Instructions for use are on the front of the barbecue. It's a push-button operation, shown by a green light, for ten minutes of heat – you just push the button again for another ten minutes.

Please wipe the plate clean with your paper towel and either take any rubbish with you or put it in the bin next to the dunnies at the top of the oval.

Included in the BCRRF grant are funds for some community events, so the MRCA plans to have barbecues for Michelago people when we have some warm, dry weather. See *Magpie Calendar* p13.



Two long views, and (R) it works!
Photos: LP & Jake of Craig B Electrical.





MICHELAGO HALL NEW FRIDGE FUNDRAISER



A CHANCE TO WIN A GRAND IN YOUR HAND



What could you do with a Grand in your Hand?

The Michelago Memorial Hall needs a new fridge and to fundraise for it you've got the chance to win **\$1,000!***

There are 100 numbers available and each number costs \$20 (plus transaction fees when purchased online). Once all the numbers have been sold, Sally and Tom will draw the winner at the General Store and the winner gets a grand! And so does the Hall for the fridge!

The remaining numbers available to purchase will be hanging on the door at the store and updated as regularly as possible and showing online here: <https://events.humanitix.com/a-grand-in-your-hand>

Tickets can be purchased online here: <https://events.humanitix.com/a-grand-in-your-hand> (preferred option). If you'd rather pay cash or by bank transfer direct to the Hall's bank account, please call or message Belinda on 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au to pick your number and arrange payment (please note if paying this way there's a chance that your number may not be available if someone has already picked it online).

Other Information/Terms & Conditions

*If we don't sell all the numbers, the winner will get half of the number sales. So, in that case, the more you buy, the more chances you have to win AND the more you'd win!

Hall committee members are ineligible to purchase numbers, but their family members can enter if they wish. Note that the winner will be drawn independently.

First names only will be written on the poster outside the store; if you would rather your name not be written on the poster, please let us know when you buy your number(s).

The winner is final and will be contacted by phone or email to arrange payment of the prize money.



Learn to sew with Jenny, 14 & 21 August, 2.00—4.00



Let's get SEWING & gain skills to save some \$\$s

Two classes are coming up on Sunday afternoons in August from 2 to 4 pm at the Michelago Hall

14 August: Get to know your Sewing Machine and start on some basic sewing techniques (fabric included). Cost is \$72.00 for the session.

21 August: Gain confidence, learn some more skills and make your own pillowcase to take home – all materials included in the cost. Cost is \$85.00 for the session.



Bring your sewing machine with you, but if you don't have one, please let me know and we'll see what we can do.

Please contact Jenny to book, or if you have questions:

Ph. 0400 484 485 or email: jenny258@bigpond.com



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade training

Training is the second Sunday each month 9am—1pm, and Maintenance Nights (aka Shed Nights) are usually the last Thursday of the month 6—8pm. Contact details are on the MRCA notice board at the Michelago Store. Next trainings: 14/8 (9am to 12 midday) and 11/9.

Things we do at Shed Nights:

- Give the shed a quick once-over
- Ensure the trucks are prepared for a call-out
- Test equipment and identify faults
- Repack Trucks – "explore the trucks"
- Answer questions you may have about equipment and their use
- Small training sessions to cover off members wants and needs
- BF Skill Cards training.

Hope to see you there.

Michelago RFS Training Team



Remember

Photo: Keith Howker, March 2020



Council support for Heritage Railway Station

We would like to thank the Snowy Monaro Regional Council which has once again provided support for Michelago.

On this occasion, the Council has provided \$1,000 from its 2022 Donations and Sponsorships round for the heritage-listed Michelago Railway Station.

These funds will partly offset the electricity bills and annual licence fee paid by MRCA so the railway station can be used by the community.

In 2020 the Council contributed nearly \$20,000 toward the costs of painting the exteriors of the railway station and replacing badly weathered timber. This earlier grant came from the Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund.



Thank you, Kerry, for liaising with Council for this grant and for this report.

Photo: LP



Yoga for every body



New class schedule

Slow yoga on Fridays at 9.15am in the Michelago Hall. This class is accessible for all body types.

Dee, a wonderful teacher, looks after your kids while you have an hour to yourself or, if you prefer, babies are welcome to stay in the room (whatever you are comfortable with).

The class cost is \$20 and bookings can be made online:

<https://michelagoyoga.as.me/> or you can just show up and pay cash.

Enquiries: contact Belinda on 0411 043 027 or

hello@michelagoya.com.au



RFS helps again, this time with bees



Two local RFS members recently travelled to the Hunter Valley to assist the biosecurity measures establishing a quarantine area to contain and destroy varroa mite infestation of beehives.



Operational security forbade them reporting or taking photos, although they can say it was a fascinating but sad experience. *(Creative Commons images)*



Hire of Memorial Community Hall

Please contact our Bookings Officer, Rachel Harling.

Email: memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au

Phone: 0431 528 258

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 Hall s355 Committee



Council Corner

A week in the life of your local councillor



Sunday 31 July – community meeting at Smith's Road

Wednesday 3 August – Webinar: Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Sydney Peace Prize winner

Thursday 4 August – Councillor briefing on:

- (a) biosecurity (weeds)
- (b) updates on the new Fire Control Centre in Cooma
- (c) Bombala and Delegate Water Treatment Plant

Saturday 6 August – Jerangle Road Community Meeting

On my radar this month

- Pedestrian safety at Michelago Public School
- Training: (a) Snowy Monaro Interagency and (b) Bushfire Management
- Council meeting 18 August

Contact me: 0420 970 544

or tanya.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

R: Grader on its way to Tinderry Road to help with repairs after rain, 14 July.

Photo: Tanya Higgins





Yless4u Rural Internet Solutions

Connecting Rural Families

30/15 Unlimited

\$80 per month

New!!

Up to 50Mbps

\$ 99 per month

New!!

Up to 100Mbps

\$129 per month



Locally Based Helpdesk



Internet Packages to suit all needs!

Plans starting from
\$ 35 per month



MICHELAGO AND DISTRICT LANDCARE GROUP

Around a dozen members of the group were able to finally meet in person, 17 July at the Railway Station, in front of a delightful fire – thank you to those who provided the wood and kindling!

Projects: the president, Markus Buchhorn, provided updates.

- Tree grant 2021/22 – Michelago Landcare members received over 7000 trees for planting, with most getting 500-1500 trees. Many of these have now been planted out, or are about to be. Landholders got the trees for free, but had to acquire the tree guards and planting labour themselves. We were fortunate to partner with ANU's local group of Intrepid Landcare* and 11 students came to help a landholder plant around 600 trees in 3 hours! We hope the same grant will appear again for 2022/23. It has also been great to form a close relationship with Greening Australia, which grows over 160,000 trees each year for our region from local seeds.

- We were successful in a joint project proposal with Bush Heritage Australia and other Landcare groups to fund a \$500k project around woody weeds control along the Murrumbidgee River and Michelago Creek. That will see contractors coming in to help willing landholders, and also to train them for subsequent weed control.
- A number of Landcare groups have been working with Local Land Services (LLS)** and the NSW Government to support their Koala initiative, aiming to double the population of koalas across NSW by 2050. A recent audio survey of our region, along the Tinderry range down to Numeralla, detected koalas on over 60% of properties! Turns out the cold country koalas are doing remarkably better than expected/feared. The funding will help extend and connect their key habitats along that corridor, with an initial grant already won for tree planting near Numeralla, and more opportunities to come. LLS have recently released some videos of their work – find Cold Country Koalas on their youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LocalLandServicesNSW>

* <https://intrepidlandcare.org/> ** <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>



Planting activity for the recent tree grant, showing about half done on this property. Photo: Intrepid Landcare/ANU

Local issues and potential opportunities discussed:

- The control of feral animals, even when well-funded, is very piecemeal and usually once-off, when it needs to be long-term and across multiple adjacent properties to be most effective. It's important to give the government and agencies useful data. Every landholder should use the FeralScan app (iOS and Android) to record sightings and numbers regularly. It's very easy to use!
- There are many apps and booklets available for landholders to get information and help about plants, animals, soils, water, etc. We'll set up a website to collate useful references to share with everyone.



- We have significant expertise in our region around technology for property monitoring, including wildlife cameras that also catch feral animals and miscreant humans, and audio recorders. These latter are useful for species that don't often appear right in front of cameras but make a lot of noise, such as koalas. We will arrange some workshops for our region over the next few months.



- There was good discussion about potential projects we could work on as a community, similar to other Landcare groups that are resuscitating river fronts and old quarries. Suggestions for Michelago include the village entrance, the area around the railway line, the replacement causeway on Ryrie St and the cemetery.
- The members also suggested various events we could arrange:
 - Various property visits, from the native bush at the top of the Tinderry, to fire-recovering areas, to properties where African Lovegrass management techniques are being evaluated
 - A workshop on cool-burning techniques, and their cultural importance
 - Film nights at the Michelago Hall
 - Seed collection and propagation, for native plants as well as food crops.

Next meeting: probably in September. Keep an eye on the *Magpie* newsletter and our Facebook page, or join the Landcare group. Email landcare@michelagoregion.org.au for more information.

Thank you for this report, Markus and Michelago Landcare Secretary Karen.



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade update



Brigade officials elected at the Brigade's recent AGM for 2022—23 are:

Captain: Brent Wallis (general enquiries 0435 794 432; emergencies 000)

Senior Deputy Captain: Scott Teys

Deputy Captains: Keith Howker, Abby McPherson, David Ferris, Derek Giucci

Training Officer: Gregg McFaul Treasurer: Brien Hallett

It's been a wet and cold winter, but already there are buds on fruit trees and parts of the landscape are turning green, which means that our next fire season is on its way. And while – at this stage – the forecast promises a mild summer, the risk of fire is always present. Here are some helpful tips from the local brigade:

- Don't put fireplace/stove ashes in the council plastic waste bin.
- Dispose of ash in a metal bin or spread on bare earth. Hose thoroughly!
- Before you burn off, check the weather, get a permit and advise neighbours.
- Permits can be obtained from Michelago Brigade Captain Brent Wallis (☎ 0435 794 432).
- If you see smoke or fire that's not coming from a chimney, call 000.

The Monaro District RFS website has useful links about fire safety in our community: <https://monarorfs.org.au/for-our-monaro-community/>

Thanks for the update, Brien.

R: Putty Rd fire, Nov 2019. Photo: Rob Smith





What is the MRCA?

It's a constituted Association formed at Council's urging many years ago to represent the community to Council where appropriate. It aims to organise good things for the region. The more people register as members (see below), the stronger the community voice to Council.

Minutes and financial statements are available. Members elect the committee at the AGM in February. Any Michelagoan is welcome to join and contribute. It's inclusive. Work is done by volunteers.

To belong, 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 electricity 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.

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

MRCA Committee 2022—23: President Di Fett; Vice President Brent Wallis; Secretary Jo Jackson; Treasurer Stuart Peterson; Railway Station subcommittee Kerry Rooney & Belinda Sierzchula; *Magpie* editor Leanne Pattison; Cristina Huesch; Gary Morris; Tony DeSalis.

MRCA contact: mrca@michelagoregion.org.au



Magpie information

The Magpie calendar is attached. It replaces the short-lived *Magpie Mini*. Its nest had IT problems.

Previous Magpies are on the MRCA website: www.michelagoregion.org.au

Advertisements: businesses can purchase a quarter-page advertisement space for \$30.00 for three issues (it might end up being up to a half-page, depending on space). Why per three issues rather than per month? Well, (a) sending a three-issues invoice is a lesser administrative task, and (b) we can't guarantee a timeframe for issues – they depend on available content and volunteer time. Non-business ads are free.

Contributions: You can send reactions, letters, photos and news items to

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.

Errata – *Magpie* 6:

1. In stanza 8 of Leanne Thurling's poem, *Michelago, our home*, 'wood' should be 'wool'.
2. Craig Bingley, electrician, lives in Sutton, not Collector.

Your editor apologises for the errors.

SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL WANTS YOUR VIEWS ON HOME-BASED COMMUNITY SERVICES BY 2 SEPTEMBER

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement and accountability, Council is inviting our community to have their say on the availability of home-based community services in the Snowy Monaro region.

The information collected through this survey will assist all providers – Council and private operators – to understand what you need right now, and what you and your family are going to need in the future.

With an ageing population and more of our older community members wanting to stay in their homes as long as possible, we understand that there is an unmet need in the area of home-based services.

This necessarily includes support and transportation services for people with disability and for the aged.

Your feedback is critically important and will allow all providers in the Snowy Monaro to understand where service gaps and deficiencies exist.

Once the responses are collected and the data collated, regional providers will be able to work together to address the shortcomings of currently available services.

Participation in this survey can be anonymous.

If completing this on behalf of another person, please ensure responses reflect their current situation.

This survey will close on 2 September.

<https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/News-and-Media/News-articles/Aged-care-and-community-services-survey>



Creative Commons image

~ Michelago Magpie Calendar ~

From your Michelago Region Community Association

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 get the *Magpie* and *Magpie Calendar*, just send names and emails to the email address above.



Regular

- **Fire Brigade** training. Monthly 2nd Sun 9am—1pm and (usually) the last Thurs 6—8pm. Location varies. Contact details on MRCA notice board at Michelago General Store.
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3rd Wed 5.30pm. Hall bookings: michelago.hall@michelagoregion.org.au
- **HIIT** exercise class. Hall. Sat 8am. \$10.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2nd Wed 6pm.
- **Pony Club**. Monthly 2nd Sunday. <https://www.pcansw.org.au/clubs/list/michelago>
- **Pre-School**. Hall. Teacher: Debbie 0412 485 212. Weekly. Mondays 6am—6pm.
- **Seed Savers**. Monthly, last Sun 2pm. Gold coin. Usually railway station but to confirm the locations or if you have other questions, please call or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass monthly usu. 2nd Sat, 5.30pm (6pm daylight saving). Updates on Facebook's Michelago Noticeboard. Also see 'One off' for August, below.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3rd Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders**: usu. monthly, 1st Sat. Details on Tinderry tab of Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA) & in *Magpie* 4. Lianda Plath 0401 829 699.
- **Yoga**: breathe, move, relax. Hall. Fri 9.15am. \$20. BYO mat but some mats available. Booking: <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/> or just show up and pay cash. Child-minder on site. Enquiries: Belinda 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au



One-offs (that we know about)

August

- Learn to **sew** with Jenny. Aug 14, 2—4pm (\$72), Aug 21, 2—4pm (\$85). Materials included. Hall. Bring own machine but contact Jenny if you don't have one. Booking & questions: Jenny 0400 484 485 or jenny258@bigpond.com Details: *Magpie* 7 p5 above.
- **St Patrick's**. Sun 14th, 10am. Communion service. (No Mass 2nd Sat this month – see above).

September

- **Mental Health** First Aid. Sept 10 & 11. Free. Hall. Lunch & afternoon tea provided. (Details: *Magpie* 6) Bookings essential as space is limited: <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/Workshops>
- Michelago **Landcare** occasional meeting: TBA. Landcare members will be notified (for info and to get your name on the list, email landcare@michelagoregion.org.au)

October

- **Community BBQ** lunch. Sat 22. Guest speakers. To be confirmed. BCRFF funded.

November, December and into the New Year: the MRCA has several family/community gatherings semi-planned, mainly focused around the new barbecue facilities at the Michelago Oval. These will be BCRFF funded as part of the grant that enabled us to build the barbecue and shelters. The MRCA will notify the community of these events via *Magpie*, Facebook and the MRCA noticeboard.

