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What's in this edition of the Message Stick

There's been a few months in between our Message Stick newsletters as COVID lockdowns and homeschooling have us all feeling a bit frazzled in our home! We're aiming to get this out every 6 weeks or so but sometimes the rest of life gets in the way. If you'd like to contribute to the newsletter in any way or would like your event included, please email Belinda & Hamish:
newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

Community AED (Defibrillator): Our community fundraiser to get AEDs in Michelago & Bredbo was a super success and we now have our community AED located at the Michelago General store. Please read on for more info.

Hall Happenings: upcoming events at the hall

- Floral Wreath Workshop: 20 November
- Remote & Rural First Aid Course: 28 November

Update from the MRCA: MRCA Magpie, news "peckings" from your local community association

Michelago Landcare News: Come and join us! Now that we've 'survived' COVID we need to save the planet :)

Council Matters from Councillor John Rooney



Sarah (Michelago Primary School P&C President), Karen (Bredbo Hall Committee President), Ryan with CPR baby (Canberra First Aid), Belinda (Fundraiser organiser)

Community AED Fundraiser

Our community AED Fundraiser was a huge success and we now have AEDs available for community use (hopefully, you'll never need it!) at the Michelago General Store and the Bredbo Hall. We also raised enough for the Michelago & Bredbo Schools to add AEDs to their first aid equipment.

The cabinets are alarmed and if you do need to use it please let Sally know at the Michelago Store or the Bredbo Hall committee so we can organise to replace the pads. If you have any questions at all about the AEDs, please contact Belinda on 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au.

If you feel a bit nervous about the thought of ever having to use an AED (don't we all!?!), maybe you'd like to come along to the next Remote Area First Aid Course on 28 November.

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A massive thank you to the following businesses that made very generous donations to make it possible to purchase these life saving devices for our community. If you need any of these services, please consider supporting the businesses who support our local community!

[YLess4U](#) - Local Rural Internet Provider



[Solace Creations](#) - Double Glazed Windows



[Michelago Mindfulness & Yoga](#)



[TM Solicitor](#) - Business Solicitor



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[Southern Tablelands 4WD Club](#)



[Bennett's Tax](#) - Tax & Accountancy

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[Canberra Glass Solutions](#)



[Kristy McBain MP](#) - Member for Eden Monaro



[Perrin's Peafowl](#)



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[First Call Property Inspections](#) - Property & Building Reports



[Perrin's Mill](#) - Firewood & Timber



[Canberra First Aid](#)



News from the s355 Hall Committee

1. The Hall Committee anticipates clear directions soon from Council about opening up the Hall post-lockdown for weddings, parties, funerals, and other meetings larger than five people.

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3. The Audio-Visual system: the committee is waiting for a quote from Better Music to fix the sub-standard installation of the system. It's anticipated that the recent Boco Rock grant (thanks, Belinda) will pay for this.



Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday 20th November 3-4.30pm

Cost: \$130

Using handmade wreaths, Niki from Thorn & Snow will guide participants on how to style a wreath using all dried and preserved blooms resulting in a beautiful keepsake wreath for home or as a gift.



Remote & Rural First Aid

Sunday 28th November 9.30am-3.30pm

Cost \$70

This first-aid course will allow you to develop skills and knowledge and, most importantly, confidence, to recognise and respond to life-threatening emergencies when in a remote situation.

For more information and to book in, please see this [link](#)

MRCA Magpie

News peckings from your local community association

MRCA update



- What's happening about our **causeway** at the south end of Ryrie Street? According to the *Monaro Post* weeks ago, Council staff are reviewing design options for what will apparently be a 60-metre span bridge. When we get updates, we'll post them on the website www.michelagoregion.org.au
- We're working on the DA for the **new community barbecue facilities** at the Oval, paid for by our Bushfire Resilience grant, and are looking forward to

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- Committee meetings are now held on the second Wednesday of the month, 6 pm at the Michelago Shop. These meetings are open to the community. For the time being, they have to be virtual because of Covid. Email mrca@michelagoregion.org.au for the link if you want to attend.
- Minutes of MRCA Committee meetings are posted on www.michelagoregion.org.au

Farewell but not forgotten

Gill and Tony Robinson, such mainstays of the Michelago community, have moved on to be close to family and are now enjoying life near their grandchildren. Both worked tirelessly for Michelago, including running the MRCA as President and Treasurer respectively, Landcare as Chair and Treasurer respectively, as firefighters on the ground, Gill as a radio controller at Cooma Fire Control and both holding various offices in the Colinton Fire Brigade — that is, always ready to hold a hose. Tony also served as President of Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare for several years, and Tony and Gill have been an integral part of UMLC. They will be deeply missed. Huge thanks to Gill and Tony for everything they have done for our community. We weren't able to hold the planned farewell, but they've promised not to be strangers to Michelago, and we will celebrate with them when we can.

Vale to a pillar of our community, **Vernon Drew**, who passed away last week. Vern made valuable contributions to the Michelago community in many roles. He was a long-term member of the MRCA, as well as of the Michelago Fire Brigade and a foundation member of Michelago Landcare, and served on Council for many years. Vern and Sue moved into town a few years ago, but never really left our community. We will miss his good humour, readiness for a yarn and wealth of knowledge about all things Michelago. Our love and condolences to Sue, Sophie, Scott and Michael.

Vale also to **Dick Lawler**, who passed away on Monday, 11 October, aged 82, after a short illness. He was a Michelago boy brought up on the family property, 'Hilldyke' and attended the local school on horseback, as many did in those days. Here are some memories from those who got to know him more recently. Landcare members will especially remember his dry wit, acute observations, help to country newbies, and willingness to pitch in and work on environmental projects. After such work, he and Gay sometimes held barbecues at their weekender, a delightfully restored heritage cottage by the river, where Dick had done skilful stonework, tended his beloved vegetable patch and helped maintain Gay's stunningly beautiful flower garden. He talked little about his early days, yet loved socialising and had many mates in Canberra and beyond with whom he liked to share a meal and drink (like the legendary 'Sir Lunchalot') and, always, jokes. He was genuinely interested in other people's stories, especially those of the friends and family of his near neighbours. He shared his love of old, classic cars with Gay and loved touring heritage houses and gardens with her. In short, Dick was a really good bloke.

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L: Dick with a prize tomato. R: Dick and Vern at a Landcare fundraising bbq, Bunnings.

(Photos: Tony Robinson)

Michelago Masterplan

Council members have considered the final version of their Michelago Masterplan at their 21 October ordinary meeting, 5pm, and accepted it.

[It's on this link << https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/1701/Business-Papers-and-Minutes-2021 >>](https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/1701/Business-Papers-and-Minutes-2021) in the Council Business Paper and is a huge document, so takes a while to download. The Michelago Masterplan starts on p.177.

Christmas Markets

Unfortunately, it looks like we won't be able to hold our planned Christmas Markets. The MRCA/Michelago Fire Brigade team has reluctantly bowed to the indefinite duration of Covid-dictated restrictions on planning time.

A big shout out to Secretary Jo for preliminary organisation and lining up stallholders!

Michelago Heritage Railway Station

A helpful person at John Holland Group sent a plumber who located and fixed the leak into the ceiling of the main room and next-door storeroom. The cause was water backing up a blocked downpipe. He cleared this and cut a small hole at the bottom so it could empty freely. He also filled some empty nail holes on the roof with silicone. We'll need to attend to the leak's paint damage in the two rooms.

JHG considered that cleaning the gutters was part of the MRCA's maintenance responsibility under the terms of our lease, so Roscoe has agreed to do it for a very reasonable fee. Some jobs are beyond ageing volunteers!

Congratulations and thanks

... to the new Michelago Memorial Hall Committee on its excellent work. They've streamlined the booking system for the Hall and are working on fixing the ceiling and the AV equipment.

... to Will Kelly (speaking of the Hall), who has kindly fixed the swinging, untethered side gate. Thank you, Will!

... to Markus Buckhorn, who has stepped up as new Chair of Michelago Landcare, filling Tony's enormous shoes. Markus has been managing the MRCA website marvellously, making us mailing lists that don't bounce, and generally sorting out our tech issues. He is also skilled at (human) networking, and is already working with Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare, Waterwatch, and Bush Heritage, as well as the MRCA and other community groups on some great grant opportunities for the

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shoes. Belinda, otherwise known as our Yoga Lady, is multi-skilled. She has had Michelagans watercolour painting, learning to make sauerkraut, and getting accredited in First Aid for Remote Communities, inter alia. An upcoming Michelago star if ever we saw one :-)

Join the Michelago Region Community Association

Just saying, the more of us there are, the more we can achieve for our village and region. Go to www.michelagoregion.org.au for the membership form. Only \$10 p/a single and \$15 p/a family. All funds go to running costs, including upkeep, rental and insurance for Michelago's Heritage Railway Station. As we haven't been able to hold the last two scheduled fund-raising Spring Fairs, and now can't hold the Christmas Markets, we could do with some new membership fees!

Di and Leanne

MRCA Committee

<http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/>

Michelago Landcare Important News

There is a changing of the guard at the Michelago and District Landcare Group. After nearly twenty years in the roles, Tony Robinson, the Chairperson, and Gill Robinson, the Treasurer, are moving away from our area, and will be greatly missed. The committee welcomed Markus Buchhorn and Belinda Sierzchula to take over for them in these roles, and noted that the group will particularly appreciate having younger people in leadership roles to further refresh the group.



Our Landcare group has run well over 15 major projects: tree planting, water management, weed removal and pest control, supporting pollinators and various endangered wildlife species, increasing regenerative farming practices and connected landscapes, and supporting emerging carbon management and soil improvement programs. It has also operated a huge number of community events since it started, around 1999, and is keen to grow participation even further, across all age groups.

Landcare is a great way to meet other locals, share ideas, learn a lot and make new friends, at the same time as seeing your collective efforts achieve environmental benefits for our beautiful Michelago region.

There are frequently a large number of opportunities available to landholders in our region, with opportunities around river restoration, weed control, fencing, erosion control and massive tree-planting already on the table, and just recently around 11 landholders have volunteered to host major tree-planting activities in 2022 subsidised by a significant grant. The group is also keen to share knowledge about the use of technology, including wildlife cameras and drones and sensors, to help care for our land and its inhabitants, and to run more workshops and on-property

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magnificent, forested mountains. Join the Michelago and District Landcare group and join in! Just email landcare@michelagoregion.org.au for information.



Tony and Gill Robinson, longstanding members and retiring Chairperson and Treasurer of Michelago Landcare

COUNCIL MATTERS from Councillor John Rooney:

- **Micalago Road and Burra Road** will be graded and re-sheeted with 500 tons of gravel each.
- **Tinderry Road** will be sealed for 3 kilometres in total:
 - Remedial work is continuing on the recently sealed section around 'The Governor'.
 - Further stretches of the hill climb up the mountain will be sealed.
 - A section from the Burra Road turnoff to the timber yards will be sealed to cope with heavy firewood trucks
- The old fire shed has been converted into a **Bank of Bins** for use by participating rural residents:
 - You may apply through forms available at the Michelago General Store.
 - The cost will be \$250 a year (\$5 a week). The charge will be added to the rates notice only of those who sign up.
 - Access is via a keycode on the door that will be issued to you upon application.
 - If you have any feedback on the bank of bins or find the bins need servicing, etc please email council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au.
- The **Michelago Bridge/Micalago Road connection** is underway:

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- There will be a 60 metre bridge over Michelago Creek with sealed approaches on both sides.
- The causeway over Booroomba Creek is being replaced with the concrete box culverts you see on the side of Micalago Road.

Councillor John Rooney

Your local voice on Snowy Monaro Regional Council

John.Rooney@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

0400 488 055



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