

President's Report

Welcome to the first MRCA newsletter for 2009.

Firstly I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those that volunteered their time in 2008 including the MRCA committee.

2008 was a productive year for the MRCA, assisting Martin Hughes with his election to the Cooma Shire Council, the Mayfair, Play by Cooma Little Theatre, and Harvey Norman Bbq's.

The MRCA has also been working with the Cooma Council on upgrades to the oval facilities. We are happy to announce that the Council has allocated \$50,000 to the MRCA proposal for the construction of a path around the oval, as a walking, cycling track. With great thanks to Cr Martin Hughes for his efforts.

The MRCA has also submitted an application to the NSW Dept of Sport and Rec to upgrade one of the tennis courts to a hard surface multipurpose court. We will be advised on that submission in the second quarter of 2009.

Every year the Committee work on a submission to the Council's Management Plan. This assists Council to allocate funding to each locality. Some of the points raised are:

- Pony Club entrance off Hwy upgraded.
- Further works/maintenance on all roads in the area.
- Parking at the front of the school



- Open communication with Council
- Upgrades to existing facilities: ie: Hall water tanks, storage. Oval upgrade.

If you would like to contribute to the submission please contact me directly.
0439 400 129

Dates for 2009

The MRCA AGM will be held on **Sunday 15th Feb from 4pm** – all welcome.

The Mayfair will be again held on the Mother's Day weekend **Sunday 10th May**. So if you are interested in holding a stall or assist in the set up please contact Trish on 0402 487 706 or tagrice@activ8.net.au

We are also looking to hold a bush dance for Father's Day..... Watch this space....

The MRCA would also like to congratulate the Hall Committee on the re painting of the Hall. Our Hall is now looking fresh and new. - Special thanks to the painters Clarrie Flannery, David Gattringer .

Also Paul Kennedy and Brent Wallis and both the Gattringer and Steer families for all their efforts with a job well done.

Mareeca Steer
President

Feeling hairy?

Michelago once again has a regular hairdresser.

Maureen Morgan, with many years' experience as a hairdresser, will be available at the Michelago General Store on the first and 3rd Saturday of each month. This new service is reasonably priced and has proved to be very popular.

Contact

Newsletter contributions:

cathy@techlibris.com.au

Email MRCA:

mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

MRCA members:

Mareeca Steer 0439 400 129

Carmel Birch 6235 9016

Martin Hughes 0405 209 685

Trish Grice 0402 487 706

Local Adventurer

Peter Maguire, a Baroona Road resident for many years, returned from a 15,000km cycle trek around Australia earlier last month.

Peter, with friend John Dow, cycled around the perimeter of Australia to raise awareness and money for Cerebral Palsy.

After 7 months and a combined total of 26 punctures, Peter and John managed to raise over \$16,000. They were welcomed back to Canberra by John Hargreaves, ACT Minister for Disability and Housing, and sponsors Fuji Xerox.

Peter has maintained a very informative website that documents his trip (www.ausbycycle.com). It is worth a visit to view the photos of the many towns and cities they visited.

Well done Peter, and welcome back!



MRCA Committee

President: Mareeca Steer
Vice President: Carmel Birch
Treasurer: Martin Hughes
Secretary: Trish Grice
Public Officer: Jill Dobkin
Auditor: Tony Campbell
Jeremy Mears
Paul Kennedy
Charles Gannon
Bronwyn Gattringer
Michael Lees





Your Voice on Council

I would like to start by thanking all of you who supported my election campaign. I do believe that we have a well-balanced Council with good representation from most sectors of the community.

The four new councillors have been busy going through the extensive induction process as councillors as well as receiving briefings on the Management Plan, Council policies, strategies and current business matters, including the new Local Environment Plan. The latter is still a work-in-progress. Unfortunately, it will still be some months before it goes on public display for comment as it has yet to pass through the corridors of the NSW State Government.

A draft On-Site Sewage Management Strategy was posted on the Cooma-Monaro Shire Council's website and circulated to all community associations in the shire for public comment. Shannons Flat/Yaouk, Smiths Road, Numeralla and Tinderry Mountains Community Group have submitted individual responses to the proposed strategy and the MRCA (Michelago) has submitted a co-ordinated response from all of these communities, including Nimmitabel. In essence, the NSW Government requires health inspections to be carried out on on-site sewage systems to ensure that they are not creating health hazards to the community nor the environment. Most NSW Councils have on-site sewerage management strategies in place. Council intends to charge fees to carry out these inspections and to re-issue licences to operate.

One of the most effective avenues for bringing local issues to the attention of Council is to have them included in the Management Plan for the coming year. It is not too late to liaise with your community association to raise any issues in its submission to Council for the 2009-2010 Management Plan commencing July 2009. Although the first round for submissions is now closed, you will have the opportunity to present additional considerations on viewing the draft later in the year - do not put it off until next week as next week never comes!

I have been attending local associations' committee meetings (Smiths Road, Numeralla, Michelago, Nimmitabel) to listen to their

issues so that I can make representations to Council on their behalf. This is proving to be an effective strategy in that it is providing a direct link to Council staff as well as a voice on Council in debate. I hope to be able to attend Bredbo and Shannons Flat/Yaouk early on in the New Year.

I have been active in ensuring that the recent Cooma-Monaro allocation (\$410,000) from the Federal Government Infrastructure Fund has been distributed fairly and equitably around the Shire, approximately half going to Cooma township and the other half to the rural communities. These funds cannot be spent on roads or associated infrastructure. Michelago has been allocated \$50,000 to assist with its plan to upgrade the village oval to provide a community venue for residents to participate in a variety of activities. Bredbo, Nimmitabel, Numeralla, Shannons Flat/Yaouk, and Smiths Road were all allocated funds to upgrade/extend their community halls/sheds/facilities and Cooma gets an injection into their funding to upgrade the swimming pool. All in all, an excellent outcome and a good indication that this Council has an inclusive policy for all ratepayers in the shire.

I appreciate that the condition and regular maintenance of our rural roads is of primary concern to most ratepayers. I have put in a personal submission to the Management Plan for 2009-10 for an increased allocation of funds in the budget to address these issues and raise the frequency and levels of maintenance and upgrades for Council roads in the rural areas.

Problems exist in getting information out to rural residents. Mail-outs are costly and can only be used occasionally. If you want to keep informed of current affairs and up-coming events in the Shire and region, I recommend that you buy one of the local Cooma papers or look them up on the web at www.monaropost.com.au or <http://cooma.yourguide.com.au> (Cooma-Monaro Express). The Council website also provides information and Council's IT experts are currently working on an upgrade to make it more user-friendly. And I will forward selected information to my email contact list as it becomes available. If you want to be added to this list, or have an issue that you would like to discuss, please contact me at mshughes@activ8.net.au or phone 0405 209 685.

I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year!

Martin Hughes

How well do you know Michelago?

WIN a bottle of wine! Every issue of the newsletter will contain a photo of an object, building or structure within the Michelago area. If you recognise the pictured object (the picture to the left), be the first to place your entry in the MRCA box at the Michelago General Store, or email your answer to cathy@techlibris.com.au. The first correct entry will win a bottle of wine.



Last Issue's Winner - Our first competition was won by Maureen Morgan from the Village (pictured to the right). She received a bottle of specially-labelled 'Michelago By Night' chardonnay for guessing that the snippet of photograph was of the back of the sign at the Michelago Railway Station.



Michelago Pony Club Update

On Sat/Sun 31 Jan/1 Feb 2009 the Michelago Pony Club will be holding its sporting gymkhana at the Bredbo Showground. The gymkhana will be the biggest sporting gymkhana in NSW, other than the NSW State championship, and will involve 2 attempts at each of 17 games. At the end of the 10 games set down for the Saturday the fastest 25 flag race riders from each of the age groupings will compete in heats and a final in the flag spectacular. The final is expected to take place around 3.30pm. In 2007 Katie Slater from the Wamboin club won the spectacular by the narrowest of margins from Catherine Rowley of the Burra club. In 2008, at the club's one-day gymkhana, her younger sister, Penny Slater, won the spectacular.

The club prides itself on its sporting achievements. At the 2008 state sporting championships held at Gundagai five of the club's riders were accepted and acquitted themselves well, namely Heather and Sarah Finch, Aleira Plath, Katelin Blyton and Zac Hope.



The club is hoping that in excess of 100 riders and their families attend the event in 2009. In 2007 attendees came from places such as Cobargo, Yeoval, Molong, Shoalhaven, Dalgety, Snowy River, Cooma and Bega.

If you have nothing to do on this weekend pop on down and watch some of the most talented young riders in this region. A full canteen will be operating. The club is hoping that the band that played in 2007 will play in 2009.

If you have any questions feel free to contact any of the following:

Graeme Plath:

Gymkhana Co-Coordinator 6235 9155

Michael Blyton: Chief Steward 6454 4149

Sandra McMullen: Club President 6454 4155

Peta Hall: Club Secretary 0411 881 799

Kangaroo Valley?

During late winter/early spring you could have been forgiven for thinking Michelago had become a kangaroo graveyard. Not far from the Michelago Cemetery, on the short stretch of the Monaro Highway between Micalago Road and Clearview Road, a total of 12 dead kangaroos graced the side of the road. This phenomenon does not seem to have been repeated,

One theory for this happening is that kangaroos have been driven up Micalago Road by cars coming onto the Monaro Highway, with the road acting as a funnel opening onto the highway. While this does seem plausible, it doesn't fully explain why there were such a large number of kangaroo deaths in such a short space of time. Any suggestions?

Michelago Bush Dance

The Michelago Primary School has developed a reputation for putting on excellent community-based fundraising events. These events serve a two-fold purpose. Firstly, they raise valuable funds for the school itself—funds that are then put to good use to educate our children. Secondly, they provide a venue and an opportunity for the community to gather. Studies have proven that communities that can provide events where members can commune and be entertained are much stronger, with lower incidences of depression.

There was no evidence of depression at the Michelago Bush Dance (held on November 2nd last year), except perhaps for the men who were beaten in the 'Bottle of Scotch coin toss' by a woman (names have been withheld to protect the innocent)! The Murrumbidgee Bush Band led the dancers through a series of what seemed like contorted Olympic gymnastics events. There were lots of laughs and plenty of good food from the barbeque.

I am not sure if any of the attendees at the Dance were old enough to remember the days when dances like this were the highlight of the country social calendar. However, for one brief night, it was the highlight of the Michelago social calendar. Bring it on again this year!

Michelago and District Land-care Group Inc

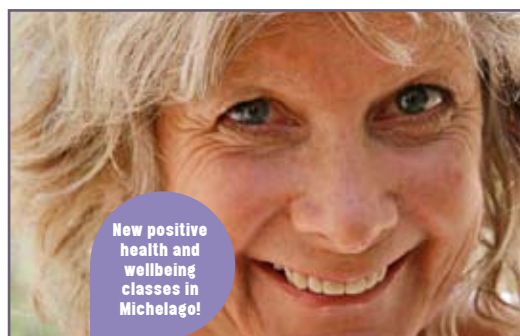
Recently the Landcare Group organised a native plant seed collection and propagation field day at Jeremy Mears property on Baroona road. The day was run by Stephen Bruce and Mark Jones of Greening Australia who demonstrated a range of ways to collect seed and propagate native plants. If you want to find out more contact Tony Robinson 0409 776 705 or 62359 334.



Soo Bahk WOW!

Four members of Michelago's growing Soo Bahk Do martial arts community graded for their 'black belt' in Canberra on Saturday 29th November, along with many members from Hughes, Bungendore, Florey, Forrest and Gungahlin. In order of seniority Claire Morison, Edward Lombe, Geoff Inkpen and Ashleigh Inkpen went through their paces in front of a grading committee of senior Soo Bahk Do dans, family and friends.

Andrew Brown, a Soo Bahk Do master, has been conducting the martial arts school at Michelago for at least 10 years. Training is held twice weekly, and the school has seen a number of our local community members obtain their black belt (it is actually 'midnight blue'). For more information on Soo Bahk Do, visit their website (<http://soobahkdo.chirp.com.au/>).



New positive health and wellbeing classes in Michelago!

dru Yoga & Meditation Classes

MONDAY	9.45-11.15 am	Yoga for flexibility
TUESDAY	7.00-9.00 am	Advanced yoga
	5.15-6.15 pm	Power yoga for teens
	6.30-8.00 pm	Relaxation & meditation
WEDNESDAY	6.00-7.30 pm	General yoga & relaxation
	7.45-9.15 pm	Movement & meditation

Classes start 1st week in November
\$15 each or \$75 for 5 classes (in advance)

Call to book your place
0438 636469
02 6235 9101



Led by Australian & UK Dru Yoga Teacher
Mouli MacKenzie MA, BA, IMDY
at Tawerong, 31 Ryrie Street, Michelago

Constables Column

Now that the warmer months are here I'd like to mention this month a few incidents relating to traffic. There will now be an increase in Random Breath Testing both stationary and mobile on the Highway and also in the village. The main reason for the increase is due to Operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers) which has begun this week and runs nationwide into summer. It is a fact that alcohol and drugs impairment of drivers contribute to a number of collisions. Heavy fines, loss of licence and the possibility of a goal term should be more than enough of a reason to organise alternative transport when consuming alcohol.

When riding push bikes around the village please ensure your children are wearing a bicycle helmet. A number of complaints have been made where children or teenagers are riding around the village without helmets. Apart from been against the law (\$51 fine) it sets a bad example for the younger children.

There have also been complaints about children and teenagers riding motorbikes etc around the roads in the village. Ridding unregistered motor vehicles/ motorcycles is illegal and those persons are not covered for insurance and public liability in the event of an accident. However, if they are ridden through the village to and from a location please ensure that they are ridden at a slow speed to reduce the chance of an incident occurring with other vehicles or a pedestrian.

Remember the contact details for police are emergency 000, non emergency 02 62359131 or to report crime that does not require a police response 131444 (calling from within NSW) or Crime Stoppers to report suspicious activity anonymously on 1800333000. I am happy to speak with anyone about any issues and can be contacted by email on gann1cha@police.nsw.gov.au or request that police at Queanbeyan email me with your contact details and I will attempt to contact you back when next on shift. Please note that when I am off shift police from Cooma/ Queanbeyan, Captains Flat and Highway Patrol can attend to incidents in the Michelago area or if urgent I can be recalled to duty by Queanbeyan to attend to them.

Finally I want to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.

S/C Charles Gannon
Michelago Police

Anglican Update

The Anglican Church meets at 9:30am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Christmas service, including communion, will be on Christmas Eve (24th Dec) at 7pm.

The blessing of animals and carol service on 30th November was a great success. We had rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, cats, birds, chooks, a kangaroo joey and a horse. Music was supplied by Peter Palij on his guitar. Everyone brought a plate of food to share and the sun shone on the happy group. We are going to make this service a yearly event (last Sunday in November) on the church calendar.