

## President's Report

The MayFair was a success and we have had lots of positive feedback plus a few suggested changes. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a successful event. We also thank **Country Energy, Predator Paintball, Queanbeyan Rural** and **Cheryl and Brian Kenyon** for generous sponsorship. We will run another one next year but this time hold it the week before Mothers' Day to give those mothers who run stalls a break and also an opportunity for kids and dads to find that special Mothers' Day gift. Planning for next year's event has started and we hope to attract a wider range of stalls and activities. Make your suggestions for next years Mayfair to Committee members or pop them in the suggestion box at the Village Store.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we have been successful in raising money for a multipurpose sports court and an exercise track around the oval. Planning for these facilities is proceeding with Council.

For the longer term the Committee is exploring the idea of producing a Strategic Plan for the Village. Although these documents can be tedious to produce and make for rather dry reading they can be useful in providing Council with the values Village residents think are important and also provide directions for fund raising activities. As we progress with this idea we will involve residents both in the village and the surrounding region.

**Tony Robinson**

**Ph: 62359334 or 0409 776 705**



## Michelago Phonebook

The Michelago Phonebook and Business Directory has been a part of our community for 20 years or so. Not only is it a valuable fund-raiser for the Michelago Primary School, it is a wonderful resource for linking community members with other community members and local businesses.

Because it is only produced once every couple of years, there is a limited opportunity to get listed if you are new to the community. **THAT TIME IS NOW!**

Applications will be closing soon for advertising, so if you would like an ad in the business directory, please fill out the application form as soon as possible and leave it with your payment at the Michelago General Store.

Residential listings in the White Pages are free. The prices for advertisements in the Business Directory are contained in the application form. You can also apply online at [www.michelagoregion.org.au/phonebook](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/phonebook).

## Contact

### Newsletter contributions:

[cathy@techlibris.com.au](mailto:cathy@techlibris.com.au)

### Email MRCA:

[mrca@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:mrca@michelagoregion.org.au)

### MRCA Committee:

**President:** Tony Robinson

**Vice President:** Mareeca Steer

**Chairperson:** Martin Hughes

**Treasurer:** Gill Robinson

**Secretary:** Jeremy Mears

**Public Officer:** Jill Dobkin

**Auditor:** Tony Campbell

Carmel Birch, Trish Grice,  
Charles Gannon, Bronwyn Gattringer  
Ines Pintos-Lopez, Paul Kennedy

## Michelago and District Landcare Group

Interested in the environment but can't tell a weed from an endangered plant? Find those horses are eating more than you thought they would? Join Landcare and protect our natural resources. Landcare provides opportunities to learn more about your environment and also can provide information about government incentive programs that can help out financially both on farms and life-style blocks. For more information contact Tony Robinson on 6235 9334 or 0409 776 705 or Elizabeth Price on 6235 9042.



**Right:** Ashleigh Gattringer takes young Travis Kelly for a pony ride at the Mayfair.

**Left:** Fire, medical emergencies and lots of water—the Colinton/ Michelago Junior Fire Brigade impressed everyone with their skills.





## Your Voice on Council

I continue to disseminate information to my mail-out list in the region. I hope that, for those of you who have registered their email addresses with me, that you are happy with the flow of news, views, calendars of events and other matter that I send out, including the Council Catch-Up page that is published in the Monaro Post each Wednesday. Those of you who would like to be included, please let me know at [mshughes@activ8.net.au](mailto:mshughes@activ8.net.au) and I will add you to my address book for future circulars. These include an electronic copy of the newsletter as well as other interesting documents that arrive on my desk.

Some of the issues that I raised in my last column in April have now been resolved. The Cooma-Monaro Management Plan for 2009-2010 was adopted at a Council meeting on 22 June 2009. There were several opportunities for ratepayers to voice their opinions and make submissions over the previous weeks leading up to this decision, culminating, for the Michelago region residents, at a community consultation forum on Thursday 4 June in the Michelago Village Hall. The Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA), on behalf of the community, raised several questions for and at the meeting with Council staff and councillors, which I circulated via email to my mail-out list prior to the meeting. I now provide a resume of these questions and answers as well as for additional questions posed from the floor.

Roads are always of major concern. Cooma-Monaro shire has responsibility for many Council roads but there is only so much money in the bucket (budget). Priorities have to be set for maintenance and re-sheeting. As a result, it is not possible to keep all of the people happy all of the time. Council is aware of the condition of its roads and there is a list of unfunded works that require attention. When additional funds become available, this list is consulted when considering priority for expenditure. I repeat my comment in my last column that ratepayers are encouraged to lodge their concerns with Council as these are recorded, prioritised and added to the list. Council does listen and does respond! Residents of Smiths Road and Tinderry Road have both seen recent improvements to their roads in response to concerns lodged with Council.

For those of you hanging out to see the draft LEP, I regret that I still have no further news. I appreciate your frustration at the delay, but much of the process is out of our hands. We are

aware of the need to publicise the draft as soon as possible and we are working diligently to achieve this end.

And, as for the On-Site Sewage Management Strategy, Council has adopted some modifications to the inspection frequency. After much debate, it was decided that the inspection fee could not be waived as it was necessary to operate on a cost-recovery basis and not place any of this cost on other ratepayers. The renewal 'licence to operate' fee would be included in the rates notice but spread over several years. However, Council did make concessions with the inspection frequency, extending the period for non-aerated systems in the Medium and Low risk areas from 4 and 6-year intervals to 6 and 9 years respectively. And for aerated systems in the High, Medium and Low risk areas to 3, 6 and 9 yrs respectively.

I have continued to attend local associations' committee meetings to listen to their concerns and assist where possible in furthering their interests. I congratulate the MRCA with its success in being awarded a Sport and Recreation grant for \$9,600 to go towards restoring the tennis court area at the oval in constructing a multi-purpose court for local residents to enjoy. This compliments the \$51,500 allocated by Council for the exercise track to be built around the oval, both projects greatly assisting in the realisation of the full oval plan to provide the village and surrounding region with an activity centre providing a variety of recreational facilities.

If you want further information on Council's activities, check out the website at [www.cooma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cooma.nsw.gov.au) and/or buy copies of the Monaro Post ([www.monaropost.com.au](http://www.monaropost.com.au)) and/or the Cooma-Monaro Express (<http://cooma.yourguide.com.au>) I can be contacted on 0405 209 685.

**Martin Hughes**

## Cooma's Revolve

Cooma-Monaro Shire Council runs 'Scrapmart' at the Cooma Landfill every Saturday from 1pm to 5pm. If you have useful items that are too good to throw into the landfill, you can hand them to the staff and they will keep them for sale. And while they appreciate receiving items in working order, they will do minor repairs on items prior to sale if necessary.

They will also keep an eye out for items that you need - just let them know.

For more information, contact Glen Weston on 0400 689 360.

## 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](mailto:cathy@techlibris.com.au). The first correct entry will win a bottle of wine (or in the case of a younger person, an icecream of your choice from the General Store).

**Last Issue's Winner** - Pam Houssenloge correctly identified last issue's photo as being at the base of the school sign at the Michelago Primary School.

## Michelago Youth Place

.....

John and Fiona Tollis, in conjunction with St Thomas' Church, are launching the **Michelago Youth Place** on Saturday 1st August.

Michelago Youth Place is a youth group for high school age kids (from Year 7-12) that will be held on every second Saturday evening from 7-9pm (during the school term) at the Michelago Community Hall.

The aim of Michelago Youth Place is to provide a place for young people to get together, meet other young people in the community, have loads of fun together and build friendships in a safe environment.

The launch on Saturday 1st August will be from 6-9pm and will include a barbeque and supper. Everyone is invited to the launch, and parents are especially welcome at the launch to meet John and Fiona and find out what the youth group is about.

## Constable's Column

.....

**by S/C Charles Gannon**  
**Michelago Police**

The June long weekend has signalled the start to the ski season and the increase in Highway traffic. As such the highway patrol have also increased their presence on the highway. So be mindful of your speed both on the highway and around the village. Also don't forget the 40km/h school zone. This warning has come too late for one local resident who issued an infringement notice for speeding through the village last month.

Random breath testing has begun around the village by both highway patrol and myself at all times of the day and night. This will continue in coming months so please don't drink and drive even for a short distance. I would again urge people who witness traffic offences occur to contact me on the below numbers to report the details. You can remain anonymous if you wish. It is your safety these people are placing at risk.

I have also received a number of reports regarding people leaving gates open. If a gate is closed please close it again. There is generally a reason why it is closed. There is an obligation on those that travel through gates to close them again to ensure stock do not stray. I am aware that it is annoying having to open and close them especially when travelling on your own but it is the law and Infringement notices can be issued in some cases to those that leave gates open that were closed.

During June a break and enter occurred on Calabash Road on the Tinderry Mountains where a number of power tools were stolen.

In another instance a number of road signs on the Monaro Highway between Michelago and Royalla have been stolen.

On a positive note during the month of June a teenage female was issued an infringement notice for trespass when caught on the grounds of "The old Inn" just north of Michelago.

Finally if anyone has any questions, comments or feedback please send me an email at [gann1cha@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gann1cha@police.nsw.gov.au) I check this email on a regular basis and will call you back promptly. I am happy to receive information about what is happening in our community as this assists me greatly in performing my duties.

Contact details for police by phone are emergency 000, non emergency 02 62359131 (Michelago Police Station or if unattended will divert to Queanbeyan Police Station) 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.

## Beginner Feltmaker's Workshop

.....

Michelago Village Hall

10.30am – 3.30pm Sunday 23 August 2009

Some of you may have seen some of the beautiful work being created by members of the Canberra Feltmakers. Now's your opportunity to enjoy learning this craft for yourself! The possibilities with felt are endless – bags, hats, wraps, slippers, toys, rugs and much more.

If you would like to participate please contact Sally Hughes by email [mshughes@activ8.net.au](mailto:mshughes@activ8.net.au) or phone 62359093 by 5 August.

Experienced tutor, Maggie Whyte, from the Canberra Feltmakers will be the teacher for the day.

Fee: \$35 per person includes materials

## Animal Antics

.....

My husband and I were walking up to the chook shed in late May and noticed something happening in the adjoining paddock. For a while I couldn't quite work out what was going on as it seemed to extraordinary to be true! There was a fox and an eagle having a tug-o-war with one of my chooks! This went on for about two or three minutes while my brain tried to make sense of what I was seeing. The eagle eventually dropped its end of the poor chook and had a go at the fox. Those foxes are pretty plucky creatures. It held onto the chook grimly while trying to defend itself against the eagle. I asked my husband if he could see what I was seeing, and the sound of my voice alerted the fighting fox and eagle to our presence and the eagle flew away and the fox started to run off with the chook, but dropped it just a few meters further on and took off at double speed, with me hotly in pursuit. Of course I didn't catch the fox and when I got to the chook, she was dead. Our rooster was in the paddock too – but hiding, and from that day until his death about two weeks later he lost all his cockiness and spent all his time in the chook shed. I think he lost face when he couldn't protect one of his girls.

I've never seen anything quite like this – and it just goes to prove that you really do see some unusual things here in the country!

**Trish Grice**





## Wildcare Queanbeyan

On these foggy mornings and wintery days, the danger of hitting roos or wombats is more likely than usual. If the worse should happen, pull the body across to the side of the road (make sure you are not at risk of being hit by a car). Check if there is a joey in the pouch. If the animal is still alive, keep away from it. It may recover and hop off. Call Wildcare on 6299 1966.

Wildcare is a non-profit organisation comprising volunteers dedicated to the preservation of Australia's native wildlife.

Should you find an injured or orphaned native wild animal contact WILDCARE on 02 6299 1966.

If you are interested in joining phone 6299 1966 or visit the web site at [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au)

## Bredbo Village Markets

From Sunday August 30th, Bredbo will be hosting the Bredbo Village Markets on the last Sunday of every month. The focus of the markets will be on the sale of good quality arts, crafts and produce.

Stalls are \$20 (indoor stall) and \$15 (outdoor stall).

Market day will run from 10am - 2pm at the Bredbo Community Hall and grounds.

For more information, contact Rowena on 0402 620335 or email [rowena.liosatos@skymesh.com.au](mailto:rowena.liosatos@skymesh.com.au).

## Mobile Library Service

Did you know that the Cooma Mobile Library visits Michelago every second Monday? It parks in the carpark outside the Michelago Primary School, and is available for the use of all residents.

Membership of the library is free for Shire residents. All that adults need to join is to provide proof of name and current address. Children need a parent's or guardian's signature for permission to join.

Mobile library hours in Michelago are 9:45am–11:00am. The next library day will be Monday 20th July, then every second Monday from that date.

## Junior Fire Brigade

The Colinton-Michelago Junior Fire Brigade trains every second Thursday night from 7:00pm until 8:30pm. The Junior Brigade is becoming increasingly popular, being a fun mix of relevant skills development and social interaction..

The Junior Brigade trains at the Colinton Bush Fire Shed, making use of the recently added training facility. All youngsters over 7 years of age are welcome. Contact Bob Morison on 62359022 for more information.

## Cooma Landfill Opening Hours

From 1st September, the Cooma Landfill will be opened from 11am to 5pm daily except for all declared public holidays (other than Easter Saturday when the landfill will be open as normal).

Contact phone number for the Cooma Landfill is 6452 1105.

## Bredbo Transfer Station

The Bredbo Transfer Station is open from 10am–12 noon on Mondays and Friday, and from 10am–1pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

The contact phone number for the Bredbo Transfer Station is 0419 141682.

## Michelago Village Inn

Under new management. Relaxed family atmosphere. Children welcome

Open every night. Restaurant and Take-away. Phone in your orders to 62359011.

Accommodation also available.

Get a group together to come to "A Snow Affair" any evening throughout August. Phone in your booking. \$30 a head for meal and entertainment.

Looking ahead to November will be "A Kids' Affair" especially for parents and children, with fun for all.

We look forward to seeing you at the Inn

### FACTS:

1. UNHAPPINESS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PART & PARCEL OF OUR LIVES...
2. RELATIONSHIPS DO NOT HAVE TO BE ESSENTIALLY DIFFICULT!

FRUSTRATION, SADNESS, ANXIETY OR ANGER ARE SIGNS THAT YOU ARE NOT GETTING WHAT YOU DESIRE FROM THE WORLD OUT THERE.

FOR SHORT-TERM PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE

**CALL ME ON 0418 475 001**

INÉS PINTOS-LÓPEZ, BA PSYC (ANU), CT/RT WGI CERT, CAPACAR MEMBER