



Michelago Newsletter

The Michelago Region Community Association Newsletter

Design and Layout by Tech Libris

Michelago Mayfair

The second annual Michelago Mayfair will be held once again on Mother's Day—Sunday 10th May 2009 between 10:00am and 3:00pm. It is being held at the Michelago Community Oval, and a fun day should be had by all.

Stallholders are welcome—it is a fantastic opportunity to display your wares to the local community, demonstrate your art or craft, or to launch a new business. Stalls are only \$25 each. You can get more information from Trish Grice on 0402 487 706, or via email on tagrice@activ8.net.au. Please apply by 24th April if you would like to run a stall.

We are also looking for volunteers on the day. If you are in a position to help, please contact Jeremy Mears on 0405 730 575 or via email on jeremy@jeremymearsdesign.com

President's Report

There is plenty going on in and around Michelago at the moment and it promises to become busier.

The annual Mayfair is coming up on Mothers' Day, 10 May, and this is always a popular event for locals and visitors alike. There will be plenty for the kids to do plus a range of stalls where one can get information or part with some of Kevin's stimulus package for a good cause or a good buy.



On May 14, the Cooma-Monaro Council will release its annual Draft Management Plan for public comment and we will be holding a public meeting with members of the Council in the Community Hall, currently scheduled for Thursday 4 June.

In the Plan is a list of the activities and works that the Council intends to carry out over the next financial year. Earlier this year the MRCA submitted a wish list to the Council for works in our area so it will be of interest to see what they plan for our area in the coming year. The MRCA wish list can be found in the MRCA folder that is on public display at the village store.

A copy of the Draft Management Plan is usually sent to the village store so look out for that after May 14 and see if you have anything to ask Council on 4 June.

Michelago residents may be interested to know that the MRCA was successful in its bid through the Council to the Federal Infrastructure Fund for the construction of an exercise track around the oval. This was one of the improvements requested on our wish list.

Contact

Newsletter contributions:

cathy@techlibris.com.au

Email MRCA:

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

Looking further into the future we are keenly awaiting the first draft of the Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP). This document will outline how the Council envisages development in the Shire and how land will be zoned for use. Importantly for us this will give an indication of how Council sees development in and around Michelago.

The MRCA has prepared a position statement on development in the village and this can also be viewed in the MRCA folder as can the minutes of previous meetings of the MRCA.

If there is any issue to do with Michelago and the surrounding region that you would like to discuss with the MRCA get in touch with any member of the Committee.

Tony Robinson

Ph: 62359334 or 0409 776 705



Sunday 10th May 2009 (Mother's Day) Michelago Oval



Your Voice on Council

I hope that you all had a happy and enjoyable Easter break. There are plenty more festivities and events in Cooma-Monaro in the calendar over the next few months. Some of you receive this calendar from the Cooma Visitors Centre via my email mail-out list. Those of you who would like to be included, please let me know at 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.

In consideration of the many issues that arise and concern ratepayers, I would like to remind you that the draft Cooma-Monaro Management Plan for 2009-2010 (commencing 01 July 2009) will be advertised and on public display from 14 May to 11 June. Copies will be available from the Cooma-Monaro Shire. This document details the budget for the coming financial year and lists proposed expenditure in all areas of Council's responsibility. If you are seriously concerned as to where Council proposes to spend its revenue in 2009-10, this is your last opportunity to study the plan and provide comment. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions of Council at a community consultation forum at 7pm on Thursday 4 June in the Michelago Village Hall. You are encouraged to attend and be part of the process.

I have continued to attend local associations' committee meetings (Smiths Road, Nimmitabel, Numeralla, Michelago) to listen to their concerns and assist where possible in furthering their interests. There have been some notable successes since January. The Federal Government's Infrastructure Fund, grants to communities (\$410,000 for Cooma-Monaro), announced before Christmas, has brought significant benefits to most communities in the Shire, all submitted projects having been approved by the Government. Michelago will be receiving \$51,500 to upgrade facilities at the oval, primarily an exercise track for cyclists, skate boarders and runners. In the meantime, the MRCA (Michelago Region Community Association) is waiting on the outcome of a Sport and Recreational grant application to upgrade the tennis courts for multi purpose use. Once these works have been completed, the Michelago oval will be well on its way to providing a range of facilities for all ages.

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. 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 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.

I hope to see all of those who can make it to the Michelago Mayfair on Mothers Day, Sunday 10 May, on the village oval.

If you want further information on Council's activities, check out the website at www.cooma.nsw.gov.au and/or buy copies of the Monaro Post (see Council Catchup) (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

Country Cookbook

Do you have some favourite recipes that you use all the time - or which have been passed down to you from your parents?

The Michelago Country Cookbook is calling for recipes. Email them through to cathy@techlibris.com.au or mareeca.steer@capitalregion.org.au. Or photocopy them and place them in the box at the Michelago General Store.

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 (or in the case of a younger person, an icecream of your choice from the General Store).

Last Issue's Winner - There were a large number of entries to our last competition. In the end, it was a dead-heat between Anna Bunstan and Ashleigh Gattringer, who correctly identified the Ryrie grave in the Michelago Cemetery. Anna received a bottle of specially-labelled 'Michelago By Night' chardonnay and Ashleigh received an icecream voucher.

Make power while the sun shines!

Clean Energy For Eternity (CEFE) has organised a bulk buy deal with Pyramid Power (based in Pambula) for the installation of grid connected solar PV systems on people's homes in SE NSW.

We need just 10 people in the Cooma area to make the bulk buy deal work. People need to sign up and pay before 29 May 2009 (as the current federal government rebates for solar systems run out in July this year). For every 30 people, Pyramid Power will donate a 2KW system to a community building. CEFE proposes to install these on rural fire sheds in our shire.

The deal takes advantage of the Federal Governments \$8000 grant and Renewable Energy Credits (\$1000) to supplement the amount you pay for the system. Pyramid Power can recoup the rebate for you as a point of sale discount to reduce the upfront price you have to pay for your system. To qualify for the \$8000 rebate you need to have a combined household income for the last financial year of less than \$100,000 and own the home you live in.

The deal means that you can purchase a 1kW to 2kW system for household use at up to half price (or maybe less) than if you bought it individually. Under this scheme a 1KW system costs as little as \$1180 (total out of pocket costs), depending on the system options you choose and the location of your proposed system.

A 1KW solar PV system will generate between about 3 to 7KWhours per day throughout the year and will cut about \$250 to \$300 off your annual electricity bill at today's prices (and bear in mind prices are set to rise dramatically soon). The best location for a system is a north, north east or north west facing section of your roof at least 10m² in size to make it work.

All the systems being offered in the deal are grid connected systems, meaning that they are connected to the electricity grid at your house. When you are using more energy than they are producing, you simply use the grid as per normal. When they are producing more electricity than you are using, the excess feeds back into the grid and makes your meter run backwards.

To register or receive more information on this scheme, contact:

Stephanie McDonald

0408 425 430 or s.mcdonald@snowy.net.au

Alternatively, come along to the Solar Bulk Buy Information Session (see page 4).

To download your solar bulk buy pack:

1. Go to www.pyramidpower.com.au
2. Click on the huge picture "Solar systems fully installed for \$990 ..."
3. On the left hand side of the page, click on "Available Groups and Downloadable Documents"
4. Scroll down to "Initial Document Downloads" and select the third (last) document in this section called "Customer Pack". This is the material you need to print out and complete to participate in the scheme.

Michelago Phonebook

The Michelago Community Phonebook and Business Directory has been a successful fundraiser for the school for many years now, and has also been a valuable resource—linking community members and allowing businesses to advertise to their local clientele.

The 2009/2010 phonebook will be printed in July/August this year, which gives community members about three months to add their phone numbers to the book, or to update existing details.

Updates can be made at the Michelago General Store, or via the community website (<http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/phonebook>).

Business can pick up an advertising application at the Michelago General Store, or apply online for advertising. Advertising must be paid for in advance, and artwork should be in digital format (preferably PDF).

If you have an interesting photograph of the local area that you think would be suitable as a cover for the phonebook, please email a copy to cathy@techlibris.com.au.

Animal Antics

Have you ever wondered how those tree guards come off their stakes?

Martin Hughes watched with amazement from his kitchen window as a kangaroo came up to one, lifted it off with its paws and then kicked it around like a football! A few days later he saw a 'roo lift a guard off and hug it to its chest. I guess you either love 'em or hate 'em.



*Hah!
That'll teach
'em to not let me
join Landcare!*

Classified Ads

Here's a great way to let everyone in the community know what you have for sale, what you need, or the services you offer.

Small classifieds (up to 5 lines) are \$5, larger classifieds (up to 10 lines) are \$10. Ads can be emailed through to Mareeca@yless4u.com.au or cathy@techlibris.com.au.



Solar Bulk Buy Information Session

Sunday 26 April 2009, 2pm – 4pm

Cooma TAFE Restaurant

(walk into TAFE from Commissioner Street side)

ALL WELCOME!

Derek Povel (Pyramid Power) will give a presentation on the scheme and answer any questions you have.

Forms and information packs will be available and completed forms can be submitted (with payment) on the day.

Anyone with any level of interest in this scheme is encouraged to attend this session.

Australian Agricultural Industries Young Innovators and Scientists Awards

The 2009 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is now open for applications.

If you're aged between 18 and 35 years and have a great idea that will help boost Australia's agriculture, fisheries or forestry industries, then start working on your application now!

There are 13 award categories up for grabs: animal welfare, dairy, eggs, emerging and niche rural industries, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, grains, horticulture, meat and livestock, pork, processed meat, sugar and viticulture and oenology.

Applications close 5pm EST Friday 3 July 2009.

More information is available on the website (<http://www.daff.gov.au/brs/science-awards>).



Will we see a repeat of 2008 'Tug of War' between the Michelago and Colinton Rural Fire Brigades at this year's Michelago Mayfair? You will have to be there to find out!



Constable's Column

by S/C Charles Gannon
Michelago Police

While we reside in the country and enjoy the benefits of rural living in Michelago and surrounds I want to remind everyone that thieves also understand this. Some of us can become complacent and our property security standards can slip. It is important to ensure all doors and windows are locked and all sheds, vehicles etc are secured. There have been a couple of stealings this year in the area. Be vigilant and report any vehicles and/or persons who appear out of place in your area. If you are going to be away for a period of time send me an email or give me a call and I can conduct a few patrols while the property is vacant.

There is currently a firearms amnesty being conducted by NSW Police concluding on the 31st May. If there are any firearms that have been discovered on your property that are unregistered they can be handed in to me no questions asked prior to the above date. Alternatively give me a call and I can come out and collect them. As many would be aware it is an offence to possess an unregistered firearm or possess a firearm while unlicensed.

On the 19th March, 2009 myself and the Youth Liaison Officer from Queanbeyan conducted a bike safety program at Michelago School. The day was an enjoyable day for all students involved and again reinforced the need to remember bike safety such as wearing helmets. While there has been an improvement in bike safety there is still some that set a bad example to the school children. Keep in mind that the cost of a helmet is cheaper than a fine for not wearing one.

Finally I would like to mention some police results in the Michelago area for the last few months. Traffic offences have been a problem with 11 infringement notices and two charges issued this year. Out of the 11 notices 6 were issued during the one collision a few weeks back on Egan's Road which occurred between two unregistered vehicles. A phone call from a local resident allowed me to catch these blokes in the act and they were left with fines in excess of \$2000. Also there was a slight rise in malicious damages mainly due to the increased reporting. I thank the community for the increased reporting and please continue to report all matters to me.

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 Please note that when I am off shift police other police cover the Michelago area.