



Cooking Jam with Matt
.....

Now is the time to start collecting jars and their lids, any size will do, but try to keep the jars that have metal lids. Pasta sauce jars are great.

A selection of homemade jams make great gifts and the jar lids can be covered with a square of nice coloured cloth and secured with a piece of string or ribbon tied in a bow.

Jam is an easy thing to make and the kids will enjoy making it with you.

The advantage of making it yourself is that it will not have any artificial colours, flavours or additives.

It is important to sterilise you jars and lids. Jars can be done in the oven at 150 Deg for about 20 mins and the lids can be boiled or you can boil them all together.

I prefer to use the oven, then the hot jam can be placed directly into the hot dry jar, this is important to prevent the jar cracking.

Most fruits can be used, but I like to use apricots, plumbs and strawberries.

There are several types of setting agents, CSR Sugar make a product called “Jam Setting Sugar” and you can also get a product called Jam Setta, and this is available from the Michelago Store.

It is important to get the right consistency so it will set.

To test for a set: remove pot from heat; put a small amount of jam on a chilled plate or saucer. Allow to cool and gently push your finger through this. If the surface wrinkles, the jam should set when cool. If not, return to boil and retest at 2 minute intervals.

Driver Reviver Volunteers Needed
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On behalf of the MRCA, Sandra Lauer is currently in the process of organising a Driver Reviver site at the Colinton Rest Area for the snow season & other peak traffic times during the year.

It is planned that Driver Reviver shifts will be run by the MRCA and local fire brigades (Michelago, Colinton, Bredbo & possibly Anembo), with gold coin proceeds going to those organisations. More details about the actual start dates and times of these shifts will be made available once the application has been approved.

As the Driver Reviver co-ordinator, Sandra is seeking volunteers to help co-ordinate, as well as run the Driver Reviver. Any other local organisations who wish to run a shift are also welcome to contact Sandra. Contact details: sandra.lauer@bewebbed.com.au or 0418 626 077.

May Fair 2011
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Next year’s May Fair in the village will be on Sunday 1st May. We have started planning and are certain that this fair will be even better!

We plan to have live music all day, an auction of your unwanted goods, produce stall, lots of stalls and entertainment for young and old alike.

Mark the date in your diary and if you make jam, bottled fruit or chutney etc make an extra batch or two and we can sell it on your behalf. Plant extra pumpkins and support your local community.



Soul Food and Sole Grooves
.....

‘Soul in the Bush’ had a great day in Michelago on 4th September, and despite the rain a lot of fun was had by all. There was plenty of action in the hall as the ‘Soul Team’ led several people through some games and activities. Emily Lambert who co-ordinated the team was positive; “The rain is a welcome spring gift for the region. We had a lot of fun in the hall – getting to know each other, and preparing for our community festival and bush dance this evening. We have tried to create an event where people can choose different options throughout the day in making a contribution to their community.” One of the other participants was happy taste testing all the local ‘produce’, “The cakes are GREAT! The rain is great! God is GREAT too!”

The highlight of the day was the bush dance, where approximately 50 people took to the floor with ‘Sole Grooves.’ The Murrumbidgee Bush Band led young and older through many of the traditional dances. “It was a great family occasion,” said Rev James, “and considering the severity of the weather I am grateful for all the people who made an effort to be there. So many people tell me of the ‘good old days’ when dances were a common activity in community life. It is one of those activities that all members of the family can do together. It’s just so much fun!”

‘Soul in the Bush’ is an important opportunity for young people to engage and serve the community in practical and creative ways as we build connections with each other because of God’s love for us. Rev James from St Thomas’ Anglican Church wants to thank the local Landcare branch for their preparation for our community projects even though they didn’t go ahead on the day; the willingness of the school and people on two other properties for the chance to plant trees and do some gardening; and the Michelago Fire Brigade for cooking the sausage sizzle for the afternoon festival.

‘Soul in the Bush’ will return to Michelago! “It is a great chance to work, play and grow together,” says Rev James. “As human beings - we need purpose, laughter and fellowship with each other. ‘Soul in the Bush’ is committed to all three!”

FREE FIRST AID COURSE.
NO PREVIOUS
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

9am to 5pm Saturday 16 October 2010
Colinton Rural Fire Brigade
Training Centre
Monaro Highway

Would you like to attend a **free** Senior First Aid course? **Ablaze Total Solutions** will present this accredited first aid course at the Colinton RFS training room on Saturday 16 October.

The course is suitable for people who have never before attended a first aid course and also for those who would like to refresh their first aid skills and knowledge – please see the Ablaze website for more information about their course www.ablazetotalsolutions.com.au

Tea and coffee will be provided. Participants are requested to bring their own lunch.

If you would like to participate please register by phoning Martin or Sally Hughes on 62359093 or email mshughes@activ8.net.au

Please RSVP by COB Friday 8th October.

This course is made possible by support from Volunteering ACT; Monaro Rural Health Service, Cooma Monaro Shire Council; The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing



10 Michelago Newsletter

Spring
2010

Michelago Region Community Association Newsletter

President’s Report
.....

I occasionally hear that some residents don’t know what the MRCA does. Others have said that they miss out on MRCA community events as they didn’t know they were on. Communication can be a problem but here is what we do to try to reach the community. Notices of activities are sent out to members by email and provided we get sufficient notice we put notices in the village store and on the Hall door. The Committee is also looking into getting a dedicated MRCA notice board.

Another way to find out what the MRCA is planning is to attend meetings which are held in the Hall at 7.00 pm on the first Wednesday of every month, except January. These are business meetings and may not be very exciting but they are informative. Minutes of all meetings are held in a folder in the village store. The quarterly Newsletter is also a source of information. We print 300 copies and these are delivered by the postie to all mail boxes in the area and there are copies held in the store. For general information about the community there is a website www.michelagoregion.org.au you can look at. If you have any ideas as to how we can communicate MRCA activities more effectively let me or a member of the Committee know. Lastly, if you have a particular question about the MRCA, please give me a call.

Think about joining the Association as this is probably the most effective way we have of keeping residents up to date particularly through emails. It is only \$5 to join (a nominal membership fee is a requirement of incorporated associations) and this helps toward paying our insurance. There are membership forms in the shop.

The new exercise track and the rail fence on the oval were officially opened by our NSW Government member Steve Whan at 1.00 pm, 26 August. This was a good example of a communication problem, as his visit was only announced the day before and there was little time to advertise it. As it turned out it was a cold windy day and being on a week day with most people working a large crowd was not forthcoming nor expected. Nevertheless, Steve was very pleased that the track was being used and was interested to hear of other developments planned for the oval such as the upgrade of the tennis court, barbecues and tables and a cover for the children’s play area.

Tony Robinson



L to R: The Hon. Steve Whan, Councillor Martin Hughes, Councillor Jenny Lawliss, Ross Lawley, Recreation & Property Manager Cooma-Monaro Shire Council

Recording our heritage
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Many of us in the community want to find out more about the history of Michelago and surrounding district – who were the original inhabitants? When did the first settlers arrive and who were they? What about bushrangers and sly grog shops. More recently, stories about the railway, the school, the store, the Inn etc.

We know that there is quite a lot of information out there and we would like to make it readily available maybe in a booklet, an affordable hard-copy version and on the web. Gay Lawler is putting together a history and she welcomes reminiscences, stories, any help you might be able to give.

We also would like to collect photos that we can frame and have on the village hall walls with some text about the history of the village and area. If you can assist/ donate photos we can get them copied and return the originals to you.

Please call Gay on 62864524 or email her at glanroe@optusnet.com.au.

Contact
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Newsletter contributions:

heidi@supportlink.com.au

Email MRCA:

mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

MRCA Committee:

President: Tony Robinson

Vice President: Heidi Campbell

Treasurer: Gill Robinson

Secretary: Jeremy Mears

Public Officer: Jill Dobkin

Committee members: Alysoun

Boyle, Bronwyn Gattringer, Julie

Giucci, Paul Kennedy, Sandra Lauer,

Maureen Morgan, Brent Wallis.

“The MRCA committee meets the first Wednesday of each month except January in the Michelago Memorial Hall at 7pm. All welcome. This is a good opportunity to raise any issues you might have that the MRCA can assist with.

Michelago & District
Landcare Group
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The Group had an interesting day on 31 July with David Tongway who introduced us to his excellent landscape function analysis course. He demonstrated how water moves in the landscape and how this knowledge can be used to improve plant cover, soil retention and landscape health. Thanks to Di Phelan for hosting this event.

On 19 September the Group began planting out a range of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses on the railway land in the village. Most of this land was overgrown with suckering plums and blackberry. This was cleared in early September by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) who have provided us with the plants. Thanks to Christen Henrikson of ARTC for organising the clean up and Pat Kearins for ripping planting lines for us. Landcare will be doing further plantings and follow up control of woody weeds.

For more information about Landcare in Michelago contact Tony Robinson, 6235 9334, 0409 776 705, tandgrobinson@bigpond.com or Elizabeth Price on 6235 9042.



Community Profile - Fiona Tollis

Tell us a little about who you are and why you chose Michelago to be your home?

Married to John for 14 1/2 years. Mother of 5 children aged 5—13. I love animals, our family includes 2 dogs, 3 cats, 1 sheep, 1 rabbit, 28 chickens and 2 ducks. I am a teacher's aide 2 days/week at Trinity Christian School. We chose Michelago because we thought it would be a great place to bring up our children. We had already experienced a small rural community when our children were at Tharwa Primary school and we felt that Michelago would not only offer us an equally wonderful small school education for our children, but would also have that same sense of community. This has been the best move we have ever made, God has really blessed us with a lovely house and great neighbours and we plan on staying here for a long time!

What are three things you simply love about living in Michelago and surrounds?

- Do I have to limit myself to just 3???
- 1) Wonderful people and community.
- 2) Space, fresh air and views.
- 3) Fantastic local school.

What changes have you seen occur in Michelago since your time in the village?

We have only been here just under 3 years, but we have already seen a few subdivisions and new houses in the village (including our own). The MRCA have worked hard to fundraise for and implement the improvements to the local oval with a fitness track and fence. There have been quite a few changes at the school including a tennis court, new library and extended play equipment.

In what ways do you involve yourself in community life. How has this affected your love for the area?

I love meeting and getting to know new people. I have had many opportunities to get to know people in Michelago through the playgroup, school and being involved in the P&C, helping the MRCA with the Mayfair, joining the Hall Committee, and attending St Thomas Anglican Church. I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the young people in Michelago through MY (Michelago Youth) place which is a youth group that John and I run fortnightly at the hall through the church and with the support of Rev James Wood.

Share with us your wish list for the area?

We have so many fantastic community groups in Michelago who all work extremely hard and with great energy and enthusiasm to contribute to the growth and improvement of our community. These include the Bush Fire Brigade, MRCA, Hall Committee, Preschool, School P&C, Youth, 2 churches, Landcare and others. I would absolutely love to see everyone (from all different groups) get together more often for community functions/events to relax, have fun and enjoy each others company.

My second wish would be for the railway station to be used as a Youth and Community centre.

If you can suggest another person for our Community Profile please contact the MRCA. Remember to ask for their permission first.

Nothing trivial about this

The Michelago Primary School P&C is planning another Trivia Night at the Michelago Community Hall on **Saturday 13th November at 7pm**. The last one was a big hit, and loads of fun.

To find out more or book your table, contact Fiona or John Tolis on 62359306.

A View from Council

Council continues to work on the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and is currently waiting on a decision from the Minister regarding its submission/proposal for an averaging provision for rural subdivisions. The Mayor and Senior Staff have conducted discussions with the Minister and NSW Dept of Planning staff to resolve this issue as quickly as possible so that Council can finalise its draft LEP.

Council has also been conducting workshops on the proposed new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. This will replace the current Management Plan and Social Plan (but not until June 2012) and will engage the community in an ongoing consultation and reporting process.

Council has also commenced a Strategic Planning Project to conduct a comprehensive review of its Water and Wastewater strategies throughout the Shire (including any possible future development in and around Michelago) in order to systematically assess the risks and implications associated with Climate Change, business activity and asset management. This will ensure that Cooma-Monaro Shire Council (CMSC) complies with the State Government's current and assessed future model of best practice management; will give confidence to Councillors and community that well managed water and wastewater services can continue to be delivered into the future; and will ensure that the community understands the cost and the social and environmental issues of providing these services.

And here are some of Council's achievements over the past twelve months. There is a comprehensive list covering improvements to assets throughout the Shire but I have picked out those specific to the Michelago region and some of general interest covering other areas.

- Major cleanup works after the flood event on 6 November 2009
- Major cleanup works after February 2010 storm and flood damage **\$823,000** (Grant)
- Major clean up works from the May 2010 Flood Event
- Tinderry Road, Fire Restoration works **\$87,000** (Grant)
- Gravel re-sheeting on The Captains Flat End of the Jerangle Road **\$41,000**
- Grading of the Jerangle Road **\$25,000**
- Michelago Cycleway completed. The project was funded under the Federal Government Regional Local Community Infrastructure program **\$53,000**

These are in addition to the road maintenance program as detailed in the Management Plan where roads have been graded and/or re-sheeted as scheduled.

The annual Council elections for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor took place on Monday 13 September. Councillor Dean Lynch was duly re-elected Mayor and Councillor Martin Hughes the Deputy Mayor for the coming year. I have continued to attend local associations' committee meetings and events to listen to their concerns and assist where possible in furthering their interests.

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

In the meantime, 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 Communique page that is also published in the Express every Thursday. 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.

Martin Hughes

Constables Column

by S/C Charles Gannon, Michelago Police

As was the case with my last report there have been more examples of erratic behaviour on our local roads. During September a male driver was caught travelling at 139km/h on the Monaro Highway south of Michelago while in August two separate male drivers were detected near Kelly Road travelling in excess of 120km/h. The drivers licence was suspended on the spot. For those that head to work early be advised that the Highway Patrol are now starting their shifts much earlier than has been the case previously. They are targeting pre-dawn speedsters, and have had immediate success with a female caught travelling in excess of 130km/h at 4:30am on the Highway north of Michelago. In further concerning news an alleged road rage incident is currently being investigated in which a vehicle was rammed while being overtaken near Michelago recently. Please also note that police can issue an Infringement Notice as a result of information from members of the public who witness driving incidents. I am looking for further witnesses to a number of traffic offences committed on Lawler Road over recent months. Hopefully legal action can be taken against the offender in the near future.

I have received a number of complaints from council over the last couple of months in relation to people continuing to dump rubbish and abandoned vehicles and removing council stockpiles of gravel, soil and sand from both in the village and the surrounding area. Council have advised me that they wished for me to inform everyone that in the future they want police to take action against anyone who is identified removing material from council stockpiles or dumps rubbish on council owned/ crown land.

Last summer many people notified me directly and via the NSW Police website of upcoming parties. The benefit is that I can be aware of a contact person and the location should things get out of hand and a police response is required. I would urge all persons to make use of this service. I am notified of all functions/ parties held at the hall when they are booked.

I wish to thank those persons who have supplied information regarding local drug supply through crime stoppers. This information has assisted me in my investigations into the nominated offenders, however I am always happy to receive further information and would urge those that have any information about drug supply or any crime for that matter to contact crime stoppers.

I mentioned in the last report about being vigilant about property security. One local resident has done just this and disturbed a

person attempting to steal a pump in a paddock from a property on the Monaro Highway in Michelago. The person has fled the scene once disturbed and left in a Holden Commodore dark coloured station wagon bearing Victorian number plates. If this vehicle is sighted at night near your property contact police. I am in the process of obtaining some rural crime assessment packs to assist in making your property safer. Once I obtain these packs I will leave a number of them at the shop.

Many would be aware of the recent incident this year and one last year where cows have managed to get out of roadside paddocks and onto the Highway and subsequently caused two crashes after vehicles collided with them. While it is sometimes difficult to contain some determined cattle the onus is on the owner of the cattle to ensure they are contained in paddocks. This also goes for other animals such as dogs/cats. If a vehicle collides with them on a roadway the owner of these animals is liable for any damage caused to the vehicle/s.

As I have mentioned in previous reports a state-wide audit of firearms and firearm storage safes is continuing. It will continue to be conducted over the next couple of years. Please take the time to check with the firearms registry to ensure your information is up to date including contact details as errors are still being identified during audits. The firearms registry can be contacted on 1300 362 562.

Finally if anyone has any questions, comments or feedback please send me an email. Community information assists me greatly in performing my duties.

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, comments and feedback. I can also be contacted by email on gann1cha@police.nsw.gov.au I check this email on a regular basis even when on leave and will call you back promptly.

Michelago Community Hall

Following the Michelago Hall Committee AGM on 18 August eight names were put forward as members of the new Committee and these were accepted by the Cooma Monaro Shire Council at their meeting on 13 September. Those appointed to the Committee are Sue Drew, Leanne Fisher, Mareeca Flannery, Trish Grice, Joan Ramsdale, James Ryrrie, Toni Schroedl, and Fiona Tollis.

For Hall bookings or other Hall matters contact Mareeca Flannery in the first instance on 6235 9366 or 0439400129 or email MichelagoHall@gmail.com.

MRCA Equipment Hire

Private use (no charge for community events)

Members	Tables (1,800 x 800) \$5
	Gas barbecue \$15 (plus \$30 deposit refundable if returned intact and clean)
	Marquee (4,000 x 3,000) \$25
Non-members	Tables (1,800 x 800) \$10
	Gas barbecue \$30 (plus \$30 deposit refundable if returned intact and clean)
	Marquee (4,000 x 3,000) \$50

