

# 12 Michelago Newsletter

Autumn Michelago Region Community Association Newsletter  
2011

## President's Report

The Cooma-Monaro Shire Council, as part of the Local Environment Plan (LEP) process, is considering how Michelago and the surrounding region might develop over the next ten to twenty years and it is seeking input from the community. It is likely that in this time the village's population will double to about 200. A smaller but significant increase is also likely in the surrounding region.

We have formed a sub-committee of Wayne Landford, Fiona Maguire, Cate Spencer and Julie Giucci to prepare a MRCA response. Over the next month or so they will be seeking views from residents in the village and surrounds. This of course does not preclude other groups or individuals in the community providing a view directly to Council. The Council has indicated that they encourage and welcome all community input.

We are pleased to see that the Council has been upgrading the Michelago Road and Pony Club Road junctions with the Monaro Highway. These upgrades were requested in our submission to the Council's Management Plan, and provide a good example of Council responding to community concerns.

I would like to welcome the new MRCA committee (see this page) and give my sincere thanks to those Committee members standing down this year. Your input last year was much appreciated.

**MAY FAIR – MAY FAIR – MAY FAIR !!!**  
As you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter, planning for the May Fair is well advanced. It will be held on Sunday 1st May. Come along to support the community and enjoy the day.

Tony Robinson

## Michelago & District Landcare Group

The Landcare Committee has planned a very full schedule of work to be done this year. We will be planting trees on the Murrumbidgee following up on the willow removal, and other plantings are planned for a number of properties in the area. We will continue to manage the railway land in the village anticipating that this area will eventually be maintained by the ARTC and the Shire Council. Later in the year we will hold a plant identification day on



one of the local properties. We hope to contribute to the new Atlas of Living Australia by recording our findings from this and other surveys.

If you would like to join us, or find out more contact Tony Robinson 0409 776 705, tandgrobinson@bigpond.com or Elizabeth Price on 6235 9042. All our working bees end up around the barbecue and it is amazing what you find out!

## Mayfair Produce Stall

We are running a stall at the Michelago Mayfair on Sunday 1st May selling locally grown vegetables & fruit and locally made foods. Profits go back to the local community through the MRCA.

### 1. WE SELL YOUR PRODUCE

We will sell fresh fruit, vegetables or flowers (please specify if organically grown) or home-made jams, pickles etc and we take 10% for MRCA funds to aid the community. Please label with the ingredients and date when made.

### 2. PLEASE DONATE PRODUCE

We will make & sell your produce. We'd also be delighted to receive donations of home made goodies.

We are looking for donations of:

*Landcarer Peter Bobroff whips his lunch into shape*



## Contact

### Email MRCA:

mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

### MRCA Committee:

**President:** Tony Robinson

**Vice President:** Wayne Landford

**Treasurer:** Gill Robinson

**Secretary:** Jeremy Mears

**Committee members:** Julie Giucci, Sandra Lauer, Maureen Morgan, Fiona Macguire, Cate Spencer, Carolyn Burton, Peter and Toni Schroedel, and Bronwyn Gattringer.

*"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."*

- Jars (preferably pop-top style smaller jam jars, without rust or damage) and screw top bottles and excess fruit and vegetables you may have eg. tomatoes, plums, capsicums, corn, onions, cucumbers, zucchinis etc. sugar, vinegar, salt etc.

Please contact Jeremy on 61001100, M:0405 730 575 or jeremy@jeremymearsdesign.com.

Please pass the word on to your friends & neighbours. Thanks!

## May Fair Help Needed

We are hoping for an even bigger and better May Fair on Sunday 1st May. It is the week before Mothers Day so a good

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opportunity to buy a Mothers Day gift and be entertained with music, games for the kids, animals, donkey rides, stalls and much more!

If you can spare a couple of hours on the day, we would love to get your help. It could be: helping on the tea and cake stall, manning the produce stall for an hour, keeping an eye on the kiddies play area or the animal corner or helping with set-up or dismantling.

Cake, biscuit bakers – we would really love to get some baking to sell on our tea and cake stall. With these and the preserves, please label with the ingredients.

Call me if you can help! Gill Robinson 62359334

## Local History

Gay Lawler is researching the history of our village and the surrounding district. Here is a taste of what she has discovered.

### THE HIBERNIAN HOTEL

This two-storey stone building is on the right-hand side of the highway going north from the village turn-off. It dates from 1872, and replaces the earlier hotel of the same name established in 1856 by Thomas Kennedy and his wife Mary (nee Maher). Both buildings also served as Coach Offices, offering accommodation and stabling for travellers to and from the Monaro. After the death of 55-year old Mr. Kennedy in March 1875, Mary retained ownership until her death June 1894, aged 82.

In June 1866 the notorious bushrangers, the Clarke brothers, and some others of the 'Jingera Mob', made a second assault on the village in only a matter of months. Instead of the Post-Office Store, their attention this visit was focused on the old Hibernian, where they held captive many of the locals, while they ransacked Abraham Levy's store across the road. The day was rounded off by 'drinking the hotel dry' (or almost) and forcing their captives to do the same, before staggering off to their hideouts in the Jingera range east of the town. Those left at the Inn were in no fit state to give chase. The family of the local police officer, Constable Moran, were amongst those detained, 'the law himself' riding escort with the gold-carrying coach, en route from the Kiandra diggings to Queanbeyan.

The absence of a School of Arts or Hall in the village meant the Hibernian served as the local hub, hosting concerts, balls, fundraising activities for the church, sports days, auction sales and the best place to celebrate winnings (or drowning sorrows) after the local horse races.

After the death of Thomas & Mary there were different licensees until the sale to local property owner, Mr. W. Lenane in March 1895, and another change of ownership in 1900, to George Fane De Salis (late of 'Cuppacumbalong'). The name of the property changed to 'Soglio' and the old inn became the family home, occupied in the latter years by the four Misses De Salis, until 1962. 'Soglio' continues in family ownership and a working property.

## Free fitness check

Monaro Rural Health Service will be at the May fair on Sunday 1st May. They will do free health screening (blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol) and will provide seated massage and health promotion information.

*Pilates*

**Introductory classes,  
Michelago Hall**  
*To express your interest,  
please email Jennifer at:*  
**genoveffa@yless4u.com.au**

They are generously supporting the community through the May Fair so come along and see what they have to offer.

## Michelago Cricket Club

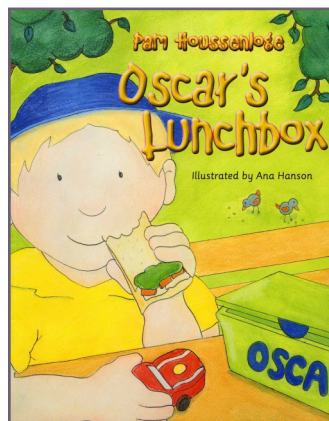
Michelago Cricket Club is a locally based team playing B grade in the ACT 40/40 summer comp, which runs from October to March every second Sunday afternoon. Around half of our games are held at Michelago Oval, (better known as the 'real' M.C.G ☺ ) and the rest at various ovals in Canberra.

**We have just enjoyed a successful season, seeing our team reach the semi- finals.**

What better way of spending a Sunday afternoon than playing cricket with the local guys! Of course the highlight of the day is always the BBQ and beer afterwards, where we can relax and have a chat.

For more information, please call Dave Hanns on 62359015

## Michelago at the heart of new children's book



Pam Houssenloge has just released a book about food intolerances called *Oscar's Lunchbox*. I talked to Pam about the book and discovered that we have yet another creative person amongst us. Pam lives on Baroona Road with her husband Craig and their children.

I asked Pam "Why Michelago?"

Pam: "We have lived here for 10 years and discovered the place after travelling around

Australia for a year. It was a spontaneous decision which we've never regretted. We love the bush, the village, the school and the community"

We talked about her book and how it came to life.

Pam: "It was 4 years in the making and came from the personal experience of raising a child with food intolerances and has developed into a passion to teach children how important it is to listen to their bodies when they make choices about the food they eat. The book speaks to adults as well as children although it is written as a children's book".

From the idea has come the bright, appealing book. How did this come about?

Pam: "Self-publishing a book is quite a challenge but I have had a lot of help from friends, including local residents Mouli McKenzie and Jeremy Mears. Other local connections include Aunty Mary who was named after Mary Bouma, and Miss



Lindbeck who was a prac teacher at the school. The school uniforms depicted in the book are also based on the Michelago School colours. So it has a great connection to Michelago”.

Now the appetite has been wetted (so to speak) where can we get a copy or find out more?

Pam: I have a web site [www.wellconnectedkids.com.au](http://www.wellconnectedkids.com.au) or phone me for a copy - there is a special local price of \$15! Pam's number is 0414587308

## Vet visit 7th May weekend

Gary Ashton the vet visiting the village the weekend of 7 May

Dogs and cats: general veterinary check of animals and vaccinations as required. Saturday morning 7 May at Michelago Store.

Horses: general vet check, vaccinations, gelding, pregnancy check. By appointment.

Cattle: general vet check, vaccinations, pregnancy check. By appointment.

General enquiries and confirmation of date: Cheryl Kenyon

Appointments: Noreen Clark 6235 9285 or 0417 426 455 (evenings)

## Bringing the train back to Michelago



© NSWrail.net

A subcommittee of the MRCA is busy campaigning for the repair and re-opening of the train line from Canberra to Michelago, as the first stage of a proposal to rebuild the line all the way to Cooma.

The first objective is to get the NSW Government to agree to fund a feasibility study on the reopening of the whole line, connecting it with the Queanbeyan and Sydney lines, with Canberra-Michelago as the first stage. This would take into account likely freight, commuter, snow and tourist use of the line in the new carbon-taxed environment.

Please show your support by signing a petition at the Michelago Store, spreading the word, and sending your suggestions as well as memories of when the trains came to Michelago!

## A View from Council

We have a new State Government, and NSW Councils are waiting to see what changes this might bring to Local Government. During the campaign, several pertinent issues were discussed and policies promoted, and Councils now wait for announcements to support those platforms. Congratulations to John Barilaro for winning the seat of Monaro. The community looks forward to working with him and his government to seek further improvements to communications, roads and other services for the region.

The new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, which

includes the Community Strategic Plan, is developing to the point where communities will soon be consulted on their vision for the future of their communities. This replaces the current Management Plan and Social Plan (by June 2012).

Summer is over and autumn is well on its way. After the heavy rains, bridges and roads damaged by flooding have been repaired/restored/re-gravelled as necessary, although there is still work to be done. According to the long-range forecasts, our winters are going to be drier and our summers wetter. If so, hopefully our roads will have a respite from the flash-flooding that has occurred over the summer. Council appreciates residents' patience and understanding through this difficult period.

Celebrations for Australia Day were held throughout the shire. Australia Day Ambassador Dr Cindy Pan, accompanied by her two children, attended the Michelago celebrations before going to Bredbo for morning tea. She also dropped in on the Driver Reviver being run by the MRCA and local RFS fire brigades at Ingelara Rest Area. She then went onto the celebrations in Centennial Park Cooma. Congratulations to our Local Citizen of the Year, Mr Brian Coyte and the other award winners - and also to nominee and local resident, Tony Robinson, a worthy contender for the honour.

Cooma celebrated Harmony Day on 20 March 2011 with a Multicultural Festival in Centennial Park. This was a remarkable display of Australia's diverse and colourful cultures and costumes with 14 different nationalities demonstrating their traditions of song, dance and music. It is very family-orientated, and I recommend attendance next year if you could not make it this year.

And, on events, don't forget that this is a two-way street - Cooma would like to see you attend their events and Michelago would like those from other parts of the shire to come along to their Mayfair on Sunday 1st May for another great family day. Keep an eye on the Cooma Visitors Centre Calendar of Events that I forward by email, as this gives all of the events happening in the shire (and outside) for the coming two months.

For 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.

I continue to attend local associations' meetings and events to listen to their concerns and assist where possible in furthering their interests and I continue to send information to my email list in the region. I hope that, for those of you who have registered their email addresses with me, you are happy with the flow of news, views, calendars of events etc that I send out, including the Council Communique page that is also published in the Express. If you wish to be included, let me know at [mshughes@activ8.net.au](mailto:mshughes@activ8.net.au).

Happy Easter!

*Martin Hughes, Councillor*

## Fire season ends

The 2010-2011 Fire Season ended at midnight on 31 March. This means that permits are no longer required for burning off outdoors. Luckily we had no major fire incidents within our region but it is worthwhile reminding you that there is plenty of fuel in the bush and on the grasslands. You should exercise care when undertaking any burning etc.

## Constables Column



by S/C Charles Gannon,  
Michelago Police

As always I will start with the traffic report. Topping the list is a 44 year old male who was stopped by police on the 3rd March, 2011 after being detected travelling at 145 km/h south on the Monaro Highway at Michelago. A breath test was conducted with a reading of 0.145

returned. The driver was charged with the speeding offence and Mid Range PCA (Prescribed Concentration of Alcohol). He will face Queanbeyan Local Court in April.

In similar circumstances a 41 year old male was stopped on the Monaro highway south of Michelago after detected travelling at 120km/h. He was also subjected to a roadside breath test which returned a reading of 0.065. As was the case above this driver was charged with the speeding offence and Mid Range PCA.

A 46 year old male was stopped on the Monaro Highway south of Michelago for a breath test. A check of his licence revealed he is currently disqualified until 2014. Further checks revealed he had 3 outstanding warrants. As a result he was arrested and charged with disqualified driving and the outstanding warrants.

A 48 year old female was stopped on the Monaro Highway south of Michelago by police for a breath test. When her licence was requested she provided false details. Subsequent checks revealed the female was unlicensed. She was charged with providing false particulars and driving without a licence.

During the previous month there have been two collisions one each on Micalago Road and Tinderry Road, Michelago. Both were on dirt roads at night and both were a single vehicle collision. At this stage both collisions are still being investigated. These collisions are a timely reminder to drive to the conditions especially on dirt roads no matter how well or how often you travel along the road.

In previous columns I have mentioned instances of domestic dogs attacking sheep and causing motor vehicle collisions. It appears that dogs are still causing problems both in the village and the surrounding area. It is the law that all dogs are placed on a lead while in a public area. It does not matter whether they are the gentlest dog to the most vicious. The law also applies to cats and other livestock. ALL breaches of this law will be referred to the Cooma-Monaro Council Ranger to take action. The fines are hefty, as two residents found out last month.

As I have mentioned in previous reports a state-wide audit of firearms and firearm storage safes continue and will do so until every firearm licence holder has had their firearms inspected. Please ensure all details are correct and if changes need to be made or for general firearms enquiries please contact the Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562.

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.

## Food for thought

Learning to grow, gather and use plants is very rewarding and our very survival may depend on it if something were to happen to our major food source (the supermarkets). This is the first of a regular piece that explores the uses of a particular wild or cultivated plant that grows in our area.

### Pumpkins:

If there is enough water pumpkins grow quite well.

The fruit of the pumpkin is very useful. You can make soups, muffins, roasts etc. They store well and can even be dehydrated. However did you know that you can also eat the seeds- raw, roasted or boiled? A bit fiddley but nutritious and tasty. The flowers and young shoots are also edible. At this time of the year you can use all the flowers as there is not enough time to set and grow fruit before the frost. Otherwise just harvest the male ones (they are the ones with the longer stalk). The flowers can be battered and fried like tempura or they can be added to pasta or risotto. The stalks are tasty too- just peel off the tough outer layer and either eat raw, steam or add to stir-fries. (Ref: Isabell Shipard)

If you know of any bush/weed foods or unusual plants to grow and use in this area please let us know so we can share it through the newsletter.

Fiona Maguire

## New Equipment for community use

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the MRCA has purchased items that can be used for community events at no cost.

These items can also be hired for private functions at the following daily rates:

	MRCA Members	Non-members
Marquees 4.5m x 3m	\$25	\$50
Folding tables 1.8m x 0.8m	\$5	\$10
Footymaster BBQ	\$15*	\$30*

\*A \$30 cleaning fee will be charged for the barbecue which will be fully refundable if the barbecue is returned in clean and undamaged condition.

Contact Tony or Gill Robinson on 6235 9334.

## Membership of your local community association

The MRCA represents the community. To continue our work, we need your support, so if you are not already a member please send your \$10 (individual) or \$15 (family) to the treasurer (229 Mt Livingstone Road) or you can leave it in the box outside the store or pay direct into the MRCA bank account Bendigo Bank: BSB 633000 Michelago Region Community Association Inc. account number 126401058.