

13 Michelago Newsletter

Winter
2011

Michelago Region Community Association Newsletter

President's Report

The weather was very kind to us for the May Fair and it was a brilliant day in more ways than one. Most people seemed to be enjoying themselves which is the main objective of a community event such as the May Fair. It is also of course an opportunity for local community groups to raise some money, and the MRCA, the Michelago Fire Brigade and the School benefitted collectively to the tune of \$6,000. Thanks to all those involved in the organisation of and support for the Fair.

Planning continues to be a focus for the MRCA. Members of the community met with the Council on 6 June to discuss the draft Management Plan and were able to suggest some changes to the allocation of funds for Michelago. Our plan is to use some of those funds plus money raised by the MRCA to upgrade the tennis court which has been on the agenda for a few years now.

Another planning forum was organised in Michelago by the Shire Council on 29 June. Some 23 members of the community assisted the Council in providing ideas for development of the Michelago region as part of the Council's ten-year plan. Visit the Council's website to find out more. There is still time to have your say.

History, history, history. As the village changes we are keen to see that the history of our region is not lost and is readily available to locals and visitors alike. Gay Lawler is gathering some fascinating information about Michelago's history, and again a taste of that can be found in this Newsletter. This information and more will be available on the Michelago website and a brochure is being prepared.

Tony Robinson

Michelago/Colinton Driver Reviver

It has been a very successful start to our new Driver Reviver for 2011. We received delivery of our transportable building just before Easter, ready for the hectic pace of traffic during the snow season.

We have had quite a few international tourists drop in to find out what the Driver Reviver is all about. A recent visitor was a cyclist from Catalonia (near Spain) who



Michelago Variety Concert

Come and join the fun!

Saturday 5:30pm 16 July at the Michelago Inn, Ryrie St Michelago

5.30pm **Alfresco Magic's** magic show for children.

Dinner interlude while we enjoy either a curry or pasta.

7.15pm well-known singer/songwriter **Fred Smith** followed by the jazz talents of **The Rafael Jerjen Quartet**

Tickets: \$5 for magic show only. \$15 children for all the evening (meal included). \$25 adults for the whole evening (meal included). Reserve your ticket by calling Gill Robinson 62359334 or Fiona Tollis 62359306.

Tickets are selling fast! Book by Tuesday 12 July for catering purposes

Fred Smith

<http://www.fredsmith.com.au/pages/bio.html>

The Rafael Jerjen Jazz Quartet

<http://www.rafaeljerjen.com.au/>



was making his way from Sydney to Melbourne and then on to Perth. He told us we were crazy for running the Driver Reviver... not sure who was crazier, as he was cycling at night! Nonetheless we had a lovely chat and he had a very welcome break from the cold.

Another overseas traveller from

Contact

Newsletter contributions:

tandgrobinson@bigpond.com

Email MRCA:

mrca@micelagoregion.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.

Singapore took numerous photos of us to put on her blog and Facebook. We have a fan page on Facebook, so please "like" us to help promote our Driver Reviver.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have assisted so far. The Driver Reviver would not be able to run without your help. Special thanks must also go to the RTA for providing us with the building, generator and lights. All other resources have been bought using proceeds from Mayfair or donated by local businesses and volunteers. Many thanks also to Rotary Tuggeranong, who are helping every second Sunday during the snow season.

If you would like to help out as a volunteer, please contact Sandra Lauer: sandra.lauer@bewebbed.com.au or 0418 626 077. No prior experience required!

Revamped Michelago Region Web Site

The Michelago Region web site (<http://www.michelagoregion.org.au>) has been revamped and is now being regularly updated with local news, events and all things that relate to our area. The web site is funded by the MRCA and run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

We would appreciate contributions and suggestions as to what you would like to have on the web site, so please take a minute to have a look and send us some feedback.

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Any local businesses that would like to place a small advertisement to promote their business can so do by a \$10 fee payable to the MRCA.

Web site contact, Sandra Lauer:
sandra.lauer@bewebbed.com.au or 0418 626 077.

Michelago May Fair 2011

Our May Fair this year was the best ever! We had record crowds, sunshine and lots to ensure the day was successful.

The produce stall raised lots of money for the set-up and running of Driver Reviver at the Colinton rest area. Wilson the donkey gave children rides, and thanks to Spackman Real Estate for sponsoring him. There were around 30 stalls selling everything from leather goods to clothes and from plants to



Photo by Maree Blume

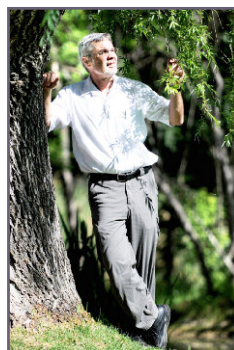


Except where marked photos by Leanne Pattison

alpaca products. A real draw card was the coffee van and also the fire brigade's baked potatoes.

We are so lucky that our community has such a generous heart and a capacity to pitch in and support events like the May Fair. Thanks to all of you!

"Just what is happening to our climate?"



Professor Will Steffen

Michelago residents may well be confused about what is happening to our climate. Did the Victorian fires of 2009 and last year's Queensland floods have anything to do with long term climate change, or were they just one-off events? Should we be worried about possible drying of the Monaro region?

At the Michelago Mayfair, a number of local residents indicated their interest in setting up a new group to be called Climate Action Monaro. Its purpose will be to inform people about climate

science. While this group has not yet adopted a constitution, a meeting will be held in coming weeks to do so. Anyone interested in being involved should email Jenny Goldie on jenny.goldie@optusnet.com.au.

In the meantime, the interim committee has invited Professor Will Steffen to speak in Cooma on Wednesday July 20 at 7.30pm. This free public meeting will be at Cooma Public School on Commissioner Street. Michelago residents are warmly invited to attend. Professor Steffen is one of Australia's leading climate

scientists. He is Executive Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, and serves on the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee (MPCCC) and as a Climate Commissioner. He is also Co-Director of the Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) initiative, a joint venture of ANU and UC.

From 1998 to mid-2004, Professor Steffen served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, based in Stockholm, Sweden. His research interests span a broad range within the fields of climate change and Earth System science, with an emphasis on incorporation of human processes in Earth System modelling and analysis; and on sustainability and climate change, with a focus on urban systems.

What better person to inform us about just what is happening to our climate!

Michelago & District Landcare Group

The frosty weather has not deterred our hardy landcarers from getting out and about. Over the last few months we have been planting trees along the riparian zone of the Murrumbidgee River to replace invasive willows and we continue to work on the disused railway land in the village. Our aim for the latter is to convince the Council and Rail Corp to provide a more permanent solution for this land. We would like to see part of that land converted to a recreational area with some explanatory signage erected to highlight some of the history of the railway and those that worked on it.

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.

The Railway Station and Rail Link



The Victorian architectural style of the Michelago Railway Station is typical of those servicing larger centres in rural New South Wales. The erection of the railway station buildings was carried out by Messrs. Pooley and Harris, the quote being 4,850 pounds (\$9,700). The Station and the Stationmaster's residence are of brick

construction, the only buildings of the large complex to have survived.

Surveying of the line was underway by 1879, tenders being called by the Railway Branch of the Dept. of Public Works for the construction of the section from Bungendore to Micalago in 1884, A. Johnston and Co. being the successful applicant. It opened on 7th Dec. 1887. No grand function heralded this milestone, as was the case with Queanbeyan and later, Cooma; the fettlers, 2 casks of beer and a fight was about the size of it.

The majority of locals attending a meeting at the Hibernian Hotel on 3rd July 1886, were opposed to the siting of the future station. Close to the original village would have seemed preferable to

cutting through their old race-course to a paddock two miles distant, with no road access at the time. The protests fell on deaf ears and the result was the demise of the old Micalago village on the main road to Cooma.

The current spelling of 'Michelago' was officially adopted at this time, differentiating the town from Ryrie's 'Micalago' pastoral property. Coaches were still used from the Michelago terminus to carry passengers, goods and the mail further south, until the completion of the line to Cooma on 30th May 1889.

Competition from road transport was a factor in the closure of the station in 1974, soon after receiving a new colour scheme of light green, with dark green and white highlighting the architectural features. A railway official came from Queanbeyan each week to deal with necessities, not so regularly to deter vandalism. The stationmaster's house was leased, no longer needed for its original purpose. The railway itself finally ceased to run on 31st May 1986 having run at a loss for most of its life. The Michelago community provided morning tea for the crew and passengers at the station.

The Michelago Tourist Railway was opened in 1993 by the ACT branch of the Australian Railway Historical Society, offering day and evening excursions, but they too have ceased to run, due to prohibitive costs for line repairs. During their operation, a large maintenance shed was erected to the south of the station, now lying idle. A gift and coffee shop was opened for some time but sadly this too has closed. The colour scheme has reverted to typically Victorian, much befitting the style. It is still hoped, with Government funding, the line will reopen for the tourist railway, bringing renewed life to this splendid old station.

Gay Lawler

Constables Column



by S/C Charles Gannon,
Michelago Police

With the onset of the winter season and the increase in highway traffic I again urge all road users to drive with caution. Unfortunately some have not heeded this warning over the past few months, with an increase in motor vehicle collisions. In April an unaccompanied learner driver crashed and rolled a number of times while travelling down Mount Livingstone Road. Both driver and teenage passenger were not wearing seat belts. As a result of the collision the passenger sustained serious and permanent leg injuries. The driver was subsequently issued a summons to attend Queanbeyan Court. Also in April, a male driver was stationary on the highway waiting to turn right into a driveway when a vehicle approaching from behind failed to stop and collided with the stationary vehicle causing extensive damage to both vehicles.

A further two collisions involved animals. Both were on the highway near the Ryrie Hill Road intersection. The first involved a male driver swerving to avoid a kangaroo which was on the roadway. The vehicle rolled and left the roadway. The other collision involved the driver colliding with a deer which had jumped onto the roadway.

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Some drivers continue to speed on the Highway. As a result of an increased Highway Patrol presence they continue to be caught. One of those caught was a male driver stopped for speeding. Checks revealed his licence was disqualified. The driver was issued a summons to attend court for speeding and driving while disqualified. A male P plater was stopped south of Michelago during mid May after being detected speeding at 134km/h. (a red P plater in NSW has a maximum speed limit of 90km/h). As a result his licence was suspended and he was issued a large fine.

In other news, during the last couple of months a vehicle parked in a paddock on Kelly Road was set alight by persons unknown causing damage to the vehicle and a small grass fire. A short distance away a stolen vehicle was located at the intersection of Kelly Road and the Monaro Highway at the gap. This vehicle was left intact and seized for forensic examination by police before being returned to the owner.

Two males were observed by a landholder in Ryrie Hill Road entering a property by jumping a boundary fence, after parking their vehicle adjacent to the fence. The landholder approached the males who ran from the property and sped away. The landholder obtained the vehicle registration and has supplied this to police. The matter is currently under investigation. It is anticipated that, once identified, both males will be issued fines for trespass. While these appear to be isolated incidents, it is important to remain vigilant and ensure all buildings and property are secured.

The state-wide firearms' audit is coming to an end in the next few months. Those that have not had an audit over the last 18 months will be contacted soon. 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 1800 333 000. 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 and will call you back promptly.

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*

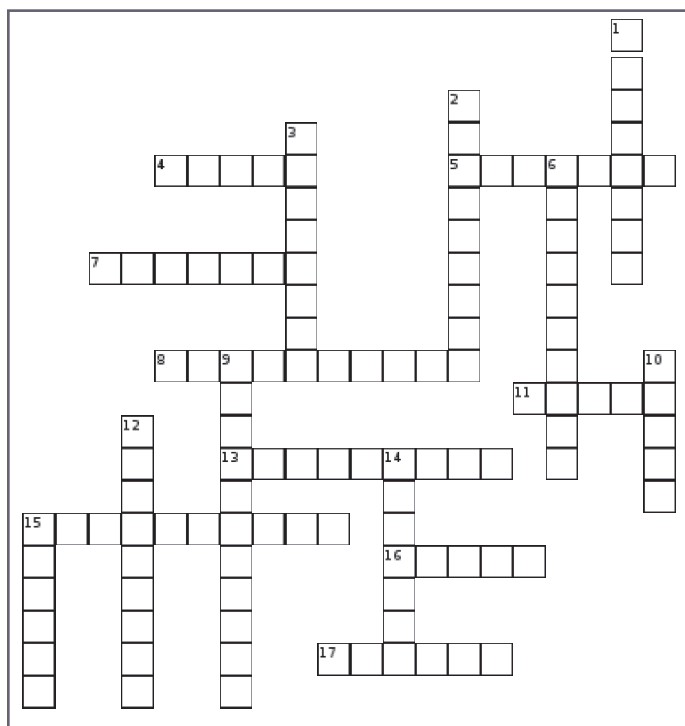
*A \$30 cleaning fee will be charged for the barbecue which will be fully refundable if the barbecue is returned in clean and undamaged condition.

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.

Michelago Miscellany by Raptor



Across

- 4. Try not to tread on one!
- 5. Often found at school
- 7. We hold one each year
- 8. Hear this in the creek
- 11. This Range is often not!
- 13. An old Inn on the Highway
- 15. You might see these above
- 16. He settled here very early on
- 17. It gets this in Michelago

Down

- 1. The big smoke
- 2. There is one under the railway bridge

- 3. Michelago ----- Hall

- 6. We are fortunate to have one in our area
- 9. They have gone now, thank goodness
- 10. We would like to get it back
- 12. This creek comes from Burra way
- 14. These people were here long before us
- 15. Found on a chook but is a tree as well

Crossword answers

Down Answers	Across Answers
9. Bushrangers	4. Snake
1. Canberra	5. Teacher
2. Watertank	7. Mayfair
12. Margarets	8. Pobblebonk
14. Ngarigo	16. Rossi
15. Watlie	17. Frosty
3. Memorial	6. Councilor
11. Hibernian	13. Clear
10. Train	14. Wedgetails
8. Canbera	15. Hibernian
7. Bushrangers	16. Clear