

Autumn 2013 Michelago Newsletter

Michelago Region Community Association Newsletter

New Committee

At the Annual General Meeting on the 23rd February a new committee was elected. We are a dedicated team, working toward improving the Michelago region for the benefit of all the community.



L to R Sandra Lauer, Leanne Pattison, Cate Spencer, Fiona Tollis, Maureen Morgan and Chris Higgins

Here is an introduction to the new committee members:

President: Cate Spencer

Cate has been on the MRCA committee for a few years now. She has lived in Michelago for 8 years and has loved getting to know the members of the community and being involved in local events. She looks forward to encouraging a more active community through the development of the recreation area and the introduction of more social events.

Vice President: Fiona Tollis

Fiona has lived in Michelago since 2007 when she moved here with her husband and children. She has helped organise many of the local community events held in our region, including our annual Mayfair and P&C fundraising activities for the Michelago Public School. Fiona is also an active member of the local Anglican Church and on the Michelago Hall committee.

Secretary: Sandra Lauer

Sandra moved to Michelago after meeting her partner Jeremy in 2008. She is very passionate about our beautiful region and the lovely community that we all belong to. Sandra is also secretary of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade, a committee member of Michelago Landcare and helps run our local Driver Reviver each year. In her spare time, Sandra enjoys gardening and taking photos of the local flora/fauna.

Treasurer: Chris Higgins

Chris moved to Michelago in April 2012 with his wife, son, daughter-in-law and grand-daughters. He is enjoying getting to know the people of the Michelago community and spends his time establishing a new garden, working with his family on their property and is still an active member of the National Institute of Industrial Engineers.

Committee Member: Leanne Pattison

Leanne represents the Michelago Fire Brigade on the MRCA committee. She has been in Michelago for 18 years, having first planned to stay for five, was the honorary secretary of Michelago Rural Fire Brigade for five years and is now its vice president. She has fun also with Landcare and does part-time editing.

Committee Member: Maureen Morgan

Maureen has been a committee member of the MRCA for a number of years and helps out with many of the local community events held in our region, including our annual Mayfair. Maureen is also our local hairdresser and is available on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Michelago General Store, from 10am onwards.

Committee Member: Janeta Morison

Janeta has lived in Michelago since 2006 and is a proud mother of a child at kindergarten and a preschooler. Her interests include photography, bush

Contact

MRCA Committee:

President: Cate Spencer

Vice President: Fiona Tollis

Treasurer: Chris Higgins

Secretary: Sandra Lauer

Committee members: Maureen Morgan, Janeta Morison, Bronwyn Gattringer, Leanne Pattison.

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

Website:

www.michelagoregion.org.au

Email MRCA:

mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

Newsletter and web site editor:

Sandra Lauer

walking and community work, so she appreciates the strength of the community in Michelago and enjoys being a member of the MRCA. Janeta has also worked as a volunteer with the Red Cross, Centacare, Southside Community Services and the YMCA.

Committee Member: Bronwyn Gattringer

Bronwyn has been a committee member of the MRCA for a number of years. She is also an active member of the Michelago Rural Fire Brigade and on the Michelago Hall committee.

Join the MRCA - we need your support

The Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA) represents our local community and is actively involved in the progress of Michelago as it grows and improves. To continue our work, we need your support, so please consider joining.

The subscription for 2013 is **\$10 per person** or **\$15 per family**.

Please send your fees with the enclosed membership form (also available on our web site) to: MRCA Treasurer, c/- Chris Higgins, 61 Baroona Road, Michelago NSW 2620. Or you can pay by EFT and send your membership information via e-mail (see form for details).

President's Report

by Cate Spencer

Our new MRCA committee was elected in February and we look forward to an exciting year in Michelago. Firstly, we are waiting to hear if our bids for State Government Grants are successful to enable us to revamp the tennis clubhouse and courts. The MRCA feels that it is time that the oval and recreation area provide more than they do at present, so let's keep our fingers crossed. We will keep you posted of progress. Remember to watch our website for details.

We developed a 'Strategic Plan' which sets goals to redevelop our local recreation facilities, including the area around the Michelago Oval and provide something for everyone. Presently, our Cricket Club uses the oval regularly through the summer months. Around the oval is our bike path, which is a great place to learn to ride or just to walk the dog.

The tennis courts near the oval are very degraded and unusable. With help from our community and funds from various grants we hope to resurface the courts. We also plan to install lights and a new fence, to extend their use and keep the area safe.

The Club house is also due for a facelift and extension, so again, grant permitting (I hope those fingers are still crossed-watch this space), the aim is to add a kitchen and toilet block.

In the next stage we then plan to modify the existing grey toilet blocks into a shelter to provide shade beside a new playground, which will cater for all ages and not just the little ones. Adjacent to this we plan to install picnic benches, seating, a BBQ and a pergola, surrounded by a garden. The MRCA will work alongside a special family in our community who will donate time and money to help make this happen.

At all stages of this development we plan to create a safe, friendly, active environment for children and their families to use at any time. The oval and surrounding area is also an ideal location, as there is no through traffic.

I hope that you all are happy to support these projects and as required you will be able to roll your sleeves up and pitch in to make this happen for our village.

We hope that the Mayfair is a great success this year as funds raised will also go to improving the facilities for people in our village. I look forward to seeing you there.

Michelago Mayfair

The Michelago Mayfair is being held this year on Sunday the 5th May. Put the date in your diary and tell your friends and family!

In 2012, the Fair was a huge success with over 1000 visitors and more than \$6000 being raised. The fresh Autumn day did not deter visitors who attended to watch our displays including the Michelago Pony Club, alongside sheep shearing and fantastic sheep dog work. There were over 35 different market stalls selling their wares and local produce. Lunchtime was a treat with meal choices of BBQ or curry, followed by delicious homemade cakes and freshly brewed coffee and tea, or a drink at the bar. The fire education smokehouse provided by the NSW RFS was also a big hit with the kids.

The funds raised at Mayfair this year will be used in conjunction with various Grants to finance the upgrade of the tennis courts, children's play area, BBQ and seating facilities at the oval. The first of our Grants have been approved. Watch this space!

We Need Your Help for Mayfair

If you can spare a couple of hours on the day, we would love to have your help. It could be: helping on the tea and cake stall, manning a stall for an hour, keeping an eye on the kiddies play area or the animal corner, or helping with set-up or dismantling. Many hands make light work and it is great fun as well.

Cake, biscuit bakers – we would really love to get some baked goods to sell at our tea and cake stall. Local produce and preserves are also welcome as a donation. With all home made goodies, please label with the ingredients.

Contact Cate on 0431 259 632 or Fiona on 6235 9306, or e-mail the MRCA: mrca@michelagoregion.org.au.

A vibrant green poster for the Michelago Mayfair. At the top, the words 'Michelago Mayfair' are written in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below this, the date and location 'Sunday 5th May Michelago Village Oval' are written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, followed by the time '10am - 3pm' in the same style. The poster features several starburst-shaped callouts with white text on a green background. These callouts include: 'Market stalls with Mothers' Day gift ideas' (yellow starburst), 'Scrumptious food & drinks' (blue starburst), 'Patting Paddock' (yellow starburst), 'Live Music' (pink starburst), 'Hot Air balloon rides' (blue starburst), and 'Relaxing country atmosphere' (orange starburst). At the bottom, contact information is provided in a small, black, sans-serif font: 'www.michelagoregion.org.au', 'mrca@michelagoregion.org.au', 'Cate 6235 9217, Fiona 6235 9306', and a list of sponsors: 'Thanks to Essential Energy, Cooma-Monaro Shire Council, Peter Blackshaw Qbn, Monaro Rural Health Service & LJ Hooker Tuggeranong'.

Driver Reviver

The Michelago Region Community Association, in conjunction with Colinton Fire Brigade, will commence our third year of Driver Reviver from the June long weekend. The Driver Reviver will run each Friday and Sunday during the snow season until the October long weekend. Shifts for volunteers run for two hours and it is a wonderful way to meet new people, catch up with your neighbours and help to reduce road fatigue during winter when the snow traffic increases on the Monaro Highway. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the MRCA or Sandra on 0418 626 077.



Photo: Sandra Lauer

Michelago Rural Fire Brigade Station Needs a New Home

by Leanne Pattison (Vice President MRFB)



Photo: Sandra Lauer

Michelago is growing and its Fire Brigade needs a new home, a central site with room for the trucks and equipment and their maintenance. It needs better facilities for crisis management (especially when Michelago is a strategic, forward-control point as in 2003 and 2009). It needs room for meetings and theory-training sessions. It needs good drainage and quick, safe access and egress. And toilets.

Such facilities will provide a positive, morale-boosting environment for present volunteers and promote the recruitment and training of more. They will help the Brigade protect the expanding population, private properties, infrastructure and the environment—the community.

The history of the Michelago Fire Brigade is a story of community spirit. It goes back a long way, with a tradition of volunteers helping people in strife—bushfires, MVAs, unbogging tractors and cars, helping people rebuild.

There were always fires and accidents and people helped each other as best they could. Old farmers, like the Kellys, Ryries, Poveys, Coffeys, de Salises and Drews, and small landholders,

CORE YOGA

Don't let the cooler weather slow you down. Come and try **Core Yoga - a fusion of Pilates and Yoga** to strengthen and streamline the body. Available for all levels of fitness.

8 Week course at Bredbo Community Hall. 7.00pm-8.00pm.

Starts Monday 6th May 2013. Bookings essential.

Cost \$80. Call Sally 0400 100 224 to reserve your space.

from the village to as far as Bredbo, cooperated to protect their property, their stock and each other. They had horses and tractors, then telephone, then some radio, a couple of old trucks parked at people's places, and always trust in and commitment to each other.

More effective coordination evolved as the NSW Government's Rural Fire Service developed to give professional support and when Colinton and Anembo Brigades were established.

The present Station ('the Shed'), built in 1993 with a grant and lots of volunteer labour, gave a base and protection for trucks and equipment. The 2005 one-bay extension can accommodate a truck or provide a primitive space for personnel, but not both.

Council plans and a boundary conflict prohibit further extension, so the RFS and Council are investigating the limited site options.

The Michelago Fire Brigade hopes to have good news soon for its community.

Landcare

Helping to bring back the Glossy Black-Cockatoo

by Tony Robinson

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is listed as vulnerable in NSW and the ACT. The vulnerability of Glossy Black-Cockatoo is related to its specialist feeding habits, as it feeds exclusively on the seeds of *Allocasuarina* species which are particularly susceptible to fire, browsing and lack of regeneration from constant grazing pressure.

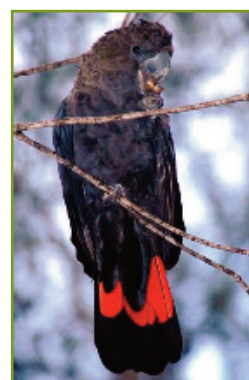


Photo: Stuart Harris

Michelago Landcare was successful in a Caring for our Country Community Action Grant to plant 100 Drooping She-oaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) on each of six properties along the ridges above the Murrumbidgee River increase their food supply.

A few months later Kosciuszko to the Coast (K2C) was successful with a grant from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust to plant a massive 10,000 Drooping She-oaks in the region. The bulk of the work will be done by Greening Australia capital region with Landcare Groups assisting. Some of the trees will be planted on properties around Michelago.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo can be confused with the much more commonly seen Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo which is larger and has a yellow patch on the side of the head as well as having yellow tail feathers.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is stockier, has no obvious head markings and has red tail feathers. The calls are also different but it would require practice to distinguish between the two species.

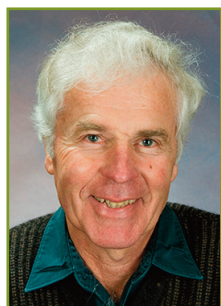
For more information on this and other projects contact Tony on 0409 776 705, 6235 9334 or email tandgrobinson@bigpond.com, or Elizabeth Price on 6235 9042.



Photo: Leanne Pattison

Council News

News Bulletin - Councillor Martin Hughes



The good news is that Council has submitted its final draft of the Local Environment Plan (LEP) to the NSW Government for approval. This process has taken many years to complete and Council is aware of the frustration and criticism generated in the community over the time taken to accomplish this outcome. Once the NSW Government has approved and published the final draft, Cooma-Monaro Shire will have one LEP

that covers the entire shire rather than the current situation where 3 LEPs are in existence as a result of boundary and legislative changes over past years.

Council has also undertaken its Community Strategic Plan process to determine the needs and aspirations of the community for the next ten years. It is recognised that, with forecast growth of Canberra and the ACT, there will be increased interest in development south of the ACT border to Cooma. Consequently, it is anticipated that the villages of Michelago and Bredbo and their surrounding regions will experience these pressures. Subdivisions have already been either approved or are under consideration in and around Michelago. Council has supported an extension of the village zone to the Monaro Highway and will be considering re-zoning further land in proximity to the village as demand dictates. Ultimately, if Michelago does grow substantially, reticulated water and a wastewater system will need to be considered.

In the meantime, Council will be addressing the more immediate needs of the community through the one year Operational Plan and four year Delivery Plan, in consideration of the submissions received from the community associations and individuals. The Operational Plan, previously called the Management Plan, will consider these requests and determine priorities for expenditure. Realistically, budget constraints will mean that Council can only address a few items each year and communities/individuals are requested to resubmit outstanding requests in following years to ascertain any amendments to priorities. Both the MRCA (Michelago Region Community Association) and the Bredbo Community Progress Association have been very pro-active in their comprehensive submissions providing excellent information to Council on which to base planning and financial decisions. I am aware that it is a handful of dedicated local residents in each community that volunteer their time and energy to compile these submissions and work for the benefit of their communities. I strongly encourage others to support their local community associations as everyone benefits from improvements to infrastructure and the social well-being of their community.

LOCAL ADVERTISING

Are you a local business that would like to promote yourself across our region? For just **\$5 per advert**, the MRCA will advertise your business on our local web site and in the MRCA newsletter.

The newsletter is distributed to households across our region and is also uploaded to the MRCA web site.

Please contact the MRCA for more details.

The Original St. Patrick's Church

by Gay Lawler

At the rear of St. Patrick's Church and the Presbytery is the original Roman Catholic church opened in 1865. Once the pride of the predominantly Irish-Catholic community, the stone structure is rapidly deteriorating, with part of the northern wall already collapsed. It was designed to serve as both church and



Photo: Leanne Pattison

schoolhouse, with a two-roomed teacher's residence attached. Thomas Kennedy, innkeeper of the old 'Hibernian', funded the Gothic-style building, an economical structure with only 80 pounds (\$160) owing, half of which was given to him after the Mass. The opening ceremony, held on March 23rd, was conducted by Father Patrick White, the Parish Priest of Queanbeyan, with the choir of St. Gregory's singing the Mass. The denominational school opened a few days later on March 27th operating until June 1868.

The first wedding was celebrated in June 1866 – the bride Elizabeth Corey of Bredbo and the groom Samuel Jackson, a butcher, of Queanbeyan. Denis Kelly, son of John and Ellen (nee Conroy) of 'The Creek' Michelago, was first to be baptised.

Fund raising events, mostly described as 'Grand Picnics', were held regularly, with proceeds going towards 'furnishings and embellishments' from 1871. The acquisition of an American organ, 'neatly built with a capital tone', was the grand purchase of 1886.

By 1900 the steady growth of the community and those attending the Roman Catholic services proved the existing St. Patrick's too small. Construction of the new church began, opening on April 28th. 1907.

New Constable in Michelago

The end of November 2011 spelt the end of Senior Constable Charles Gannon's tenure as the Michelago Police Officer and Alex Fookes took over as our local policeman in 2012. Alex has been a police officer for over twenty years. He has a background in criminal investigation and has also performed uniform duties in metropolitan Sydney and outback New South Wales. Alex is available to see you about any concerns you have and when he is not working in our area, please be reminded you are entitled to a police response at all times. To contact Alex, please phone 6235 9131 or Queanbeyan Police on 6298 0555.



Photo: Leanne Pattison

Speeding in the Village - Please Slow Down!!

It has come to the attention of the MRCA that speeding along the main street of the village has become an issue for residents. Please remember that the speed limit is **50km/h** along the main street and **40km/h** in front of the school during 8am-9.30am and 2.30pm-4pm. We should all consider that many local children and residents walk or ride along our main street every day. The MRCA encourages residents to report any instances of dangerous driving in our region to Constable Alex Fookes on 6235 9131 or to Queanbeyan Police on 6298 0555.