

Winter 2013 Michelago Newsletter

Michelago Region Community Association Newsletter

Presidents' Report

by Cate Spencer & Fiona Tollis

Things always seem to happen at their own pace in Michelago, but do not be disheartened, they do happen. Since our wonderful Mayfair some exciting projects have been unraveling. These have been kicked off by the MRCA being the recipients of a \$30,000 grant to upgrade the clubhouse at the oval. This will be ready to be used in conjunction the tennis courts when they have been resurfaced.

The existing building is to be preserved and renovated with additions that include a kitchen and toilets. The project has started with the lifting of floorboards. It was evident that the termites had enjoyed this site for many a year. As a result it has been decided to put down a concrete slab in its stead. We have been very fortunate to have a local builder supporting this project with his time and expertise.

The next stage of work on the clubhouse will be setting out the pipes for the plumbing and preparing the formwork for the concrete slab. The framing for the walls and roof will need to be made ready for erection on completion of the slab.

To accommodate the renovations of the clubhouse, the electrical wiring to the area is to be upgraded. This will also allow for tennis lights to be installed and sufficient power for future Mayfairs. Work on the electrical upgrade will commence shortly and we are relying on volunteers from the community to help lay cables and dig trenches under the supervision of our local electrician.



If you have any skills in these areas and are able to volunteer your services, we would love to hear from you.

Most of the work will occur on weekends and any helpers, skilled or unskilled will be gratefully appreciated, even to cook sausages for the workers for lunch!

Another valuable project in the village is the renovation and subsequent use of the Michelago Railway Station. A local volunteer group will be taking up tools to repair, paint and clean up the railway station in readiness for use.

Our aim is to turn the railway station into a photo and memorabilia gallery of the history of Michelago as well as being available as a place for local community groups to meet. There is an active group of Funny Old Active Ladies, (FOALs) from the community who will be the first to enjoy the upgraded facility. There they will meet and share a cuppa together while engaging in craft and other activities. We will keep you updated on progress of this project.



Presentation of the tennis clubhouse grant to the Michelago community

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 Monday 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

Amid all these renovations and upgrades we have also run sausage sizzles at Bunnings and Bredbo Markets for fund raising and supporting our Bredbo neighbours. Bredbo has again invited us to run the Sausage Sizzle on Sunday 29th September. Closer to the date we will be looking for volunteers for the roster.

Finally, as another effort to put Michelago on the map and promote our community we have produced a bumper sticker, "Always sunny in Michelago" (see picture above). These quality stickers are available for purchase from the shop for \$10. Keep an eye out for them and if you spot one passing you by, take a picture and send it to us. You will be placed in the draw to win a prize at the next Pot Luck Supper.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next social activity or working bee.

Election Day 2013

The Federal Election is on Saturday 7th September.

A Polling Station will be set up at the Michelago Primary School. The P&C will be running a sausage sizzle and the MRCA will be selling delicious home made cakes, tea and coffee.

We hope to see you there.

Mayfair 2013 Roundup

by Cate Spencer & Fiona Tollis

Once again we had a successful Mayfair with beautiful weather. It is, of course, 'Always Sunny in Michelago' and it did not let us down this day. The participating community groups collectively raised over seven thousand dollars. These funds will in turn benefit the whole community. The Michelago Rural Fire Brigade put on an outstanding BBQ as always. They provided a wide selection of delicious food including burgers, sausages and baked potatoes.



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade Mayfair BBQ team, photo by Bebe Lees

The MRCA also catered to varied culinary tastes with Pulled Pork Rolls, debuting this year and very successful, the return of the mouth-watering Curries and of course, the extensive choice of home made cakes. Lunch co-ordinated with the opening of the Fair Wether Bar. It was a wonderful way to quench your thirst with a local beer, Kosciuszko Pale Ale or a glass of wine on a beautiful sunny day. Thank you to Jindabyne Brewery for donating the Pale Ale.

The features of the day included the Patting Paddock, the Jumping Castle, sheep dog displays, whip cracking display, Duck Poo Lotto, an extensive fire truck display, face painting, children's show bags and a large variety of market stalls. Visitors were entertained by local Canberra bands; *The Bridge Between*, the *Queanbeyan Pipe Band* and the *Circus Warehouse*.



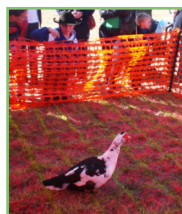
Martin announces the raffle results, photo by Leanne Pattison

Our local councillor, Martin Hughes, did a wonderful job MC-ing during the day with the help of Canberra's very own Town Crier, who was dressed for the occasion.

Thank you to those who volunteered time and resources, and to all visitors, who together, contributed to a very successful day. We look forward to strong community input for Mayfair in 2014.

Michelago Mayfair 2013

Photos by Leanne Pattison and Bebe Lees



Driver Reviver

by Sandra Lauer

The Michelago Region Community Association, in conjunction with Colinton Rural Fire Brigade, commenced our third year of Driver Reviver on the June long weekend. The Driver Reviver runs each Friday and Sunday during the snow season at the Colinton Rest Area, right through until the October long weekend.

We have had a great start to our Driver Reviver this year; thanks to all the wonderful local volunteers who have helped out. Thanks must also go to Rotary Tuggeranong and Bredbo Rural Fire Brigade for their ongoing support.



Jeremy at our Driver Reviver, photo by Sandra Lauer

So far we have already served well over 1,200 visitors. We seem to be getting more people stopping in to visit the Driver Reviver and the light tower we acquired last year has certainly helped us to stand out to travellers along the highway.

If you haven't had a go yet this year, there is still time. We only ask for two hours of your time. It is a great opportunity to catch up with your neighbours and meet the people travelling through our area. I have received some lovely feedback from visitors who have really appreciated the warm welcome they received at our Driver Reviver.

If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail the MRCA or contact Sandra on 0418 626 077 or Gill on 0400 356 645.

Lovegrass Fires are Dangerous!

Community Workshop About African Lovegrass Fires

All landholders, fire-fighters, and other interested people are invited to an information workshop to highlight the dangers of African Lovegrass fires.

There will be a live fire demonstration (weather permitting), as well as information about the management of African Lovegrass, protecting your property and fire-fighting techniques to suppress Lovegrass fires.

When: Sunday 25 August 2013 from 1pm

Where: Meet at the Bredbo Rural Fire Station, Bredbo (behind the Bredbo Village Hall).

For more information: bredborfb@gmail.com

Please forward this information to your neighbours and friends, and encourage them to come along.

Regional Wellbeing Survey

from Jacki Schirmer, University of Canberra



The wellbeing of Australia's rural and regional communities is of critical importance.

The Regional Wellbeing survey is identifying:

- how to better support wellbeing in Australia's rural and regional areas
- how changes to agriculture and the environment affect rural and regional wellbeing, and
- how to help communities adapt to change.

To achieve this, we need to hear the views of people living in rural and regional Australia. We'd like to hear from you – whether you're a farmer, or live in a rural town or a regional city.

All eligible survey participants can enter a draw to win one of nine prizes worth a total of \$7,000.

Do the survey online at www.regionalwellbeing.org.au

Call **1800 981 499** if you'd prefer a paper copy of the survey, or for help with the survey.

I encourage you to consider participating in the survey, and to forward this information to other people who may be interested in participating.

The survey is being conducted by the University of Canberra. It is different to others because we will make results publicly available to anyone who wants to use them. The study will also provide a resource that local communities and groups can draw on, as we will produce results for all communities and groups from whom we receive 100 or more survey responses.

See <http://www.canberra.edu.au/murray-darling-crn/regional-wellbeing> for more information about the survey, who is funding it, and how we ensure your survey responses are confidential and anonymous.

Yours sincerely,
Jacki

Dr Jacki Schirmer
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1800 981 499

NSW RFS OPEN DAY

Visit your local rural fire brigade, meet the volunteers and have some fun!

Saturday 28 September 2013

Check with your local brigades for times and details... Anembo, Michelago, Smiths Road, Colinton and Bredbo



Honeyeater Migration

by Sandra Lauer

You may not have noticed that every Spring millions of birds return to our area from the coast and the warmer areas north of the Monaro. Many of these birds migrate each Spring and Autumn, and travel thousands of kilometres, sometimes as far away as northern Queensland. Some birds are solitary travellers, such as the cuckoos, whilst others, such as many species of honeyeaters, travel in flocks of up to 100 birds.



White-plumed honeyeater

When these birds arrive in our area they pair up and breed over the summer. Many birds return to the same location year after year. Listen out for their calls to one another as they travel through, often in mixed flocks. Some other non-migratory birds often join up with the migrating flocks and it almost seems as if they get caught up in the excitement and have to join in!

If you are interested in bird-watching or conservation efforts to improve local habitats for birds, why not consider joining the Canberra Ornithologists Group to learn more about our local birds (<http://www.canberrabirds.org.au>).

Pot Luck Dinners

by Cate Spencer & Fiona Tollis

As suggested by a member of the community and to facilitate social gatherings and community contact, the MRCA are running regular Pot Luck Suppers at the hall.

So far we have enjoyed two such gathering with numbers and new faces steadily growing. It has been a great way to mix with and meet other members of our community. The food has been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We encourage you all to come along and enjoy the atmosphere. It is a family friendly event with the children also having a great time.

For catering purposes, normally each family will bring a dish to share feeding approximately 5 people. Singles may prefer to bring some nibbles or a side dish to share.

To help cover the cost of hiring the community hall and other expenses we ask people to contribute \$5 per head or \$10 per family.

The next Pot Luck is scheduled for **Saturday 14th September from 6pm until 10pm**. We hope to see you there. Please do not hesitate to call Cate on 6235 9217 or Fiona on 6235 9306 for more details.

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.

BREDBO COFFEE & CHAT

People with memory changes, carers and those living with dementia from the Bredbo and Michelago areas are invited to join us for morning tea and an informal social get together.

Venue: Snowy Mountains Gourmet Food, Bredbo

Dates: 17th September and 12th November 2013

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am (Gold Coin donation)

If anyone in the community is worried about their memory or wants more information on Dementia they can contact: Verity Jackson, Alzheimers Australia NSW on 64523961.

Bredbo Markets BBQ

The Michelago community has been invited to run the Sausage Sizzle at the Bredbo Markets on **Sunday 29th September from 10am until 2pm**. In the past we have sold egg and bacon sandwiches, soup, sausages and biscuits.

We invite any members of the community to donate baked goods, soup or time. Any and all contributions are extremely welcome.

Please put this in your diary and contact Cate on 6235 9217 closer to the time with your offers of help. Thank you.

Landcare

by Tony & Gill Robinson

The Michelago and District Landcare Group hopes that Glossy Black- Cockatoos will return to our region.

The Group was successful in getting a Community Action Grant, under the Australian Government's "Caring for our Country" initiative, to plant 700 *Allocasuarina verticillata* trees around Michelago on the ridges overlooking the Murrumbidgee River. These Drooping She-oaks are the main food source for the beautiful Glossy Black-Cockatoo.



Landcare planting day at Illilanga, photo by Sandra Lauer

We have almost completed our plantings and all the young trees are well-protected with wire guards. Guarding the trees well is really important as deer, rabbits, wallabies etc find them very attractive.

Our working bees are a good opportunity to meet up with others who are passionate about our environment. We have excellent lunches and learn from each other about weeds and other threats to the environment.

If you are interested in being involved please call Tony Robinson on 0409 776 705 or by email to tandgrobison@bigpond.com.