

# ~ Michelago Magpie 23 ~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 30.1.2024

from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au) Print copies at shop \$2

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## 26 January Australia Day holiday BBQ at Michelago's Clive Kelly Oval



Some of the 70 people came to celebrate Australia Day and others just to enjoy a community holiday, but all to enjoy free snags and drinks and Ian Wholohan's singing, all in perfect weather. See more on pp4-5.

Photo: Gary Morris

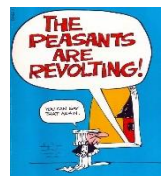


## Scoop! UGL signs for the bridge land! You saw it here first!



This might not sound as exciting as the roar of bridge-building at the creek, but no signing = no bridge. *Magpie22* detailed the final block, now gone. It's no longer just 'priority' pushing; now the bridge *will* happen. Councillor John Rooney started the serious campaign back in 2018, when he was Mayor. The MRCA has continued lobbying, Councillor Tanya Higgins has relentlessly pursued many influencers, and Council staff have given maximum support. Thanks to MLA Steve Whan for helping turn the final wheels in the bureaucratic machinery.

So, after all, there's no need for the semi-planned busload of pickets and pitchforks heading to UGL's Sydney office and the NSW Parliament. Might have been fun ...



Above: Tanya and John 2022

Creative Commons image

## Final bureaucratic block removed!

**Snowy Monaro Regional Council and the Michelago community have crossed the final hurdle to the construction of a bridge over the Michelago Creek, finally receiving a licence from UGL/TfNSW this week.**

Council now only needs to align Telstra with delivery of the pre-constructed bridge components and the works teams (who are working on another bridge at the moment) and a start date will be included in the Operational Plan.

The construction of a safe crossing of Ryrie St over Michelago Creek is long overdue. Over time, the number of families living along Micalago Road has grown significantly, as has the traffic using the Monaro Highway. Residents of Micalago Road should not have to use the Monaro Highway to access the village.

Engineering advice to Council was that a ford-style crossing would no longer be appropriate and that construction of a bridge would be required.

From 2018 onwards, former Councillor John Rooney worked hard to get the bridge onto the Council's agenda and into the Michelago Masterplan. At that time, the other councillors were primarily focused on addressing the infrastructure needs of Bombala and Delegate. It was not easy to win support around the table for any expenditure on Michelago. Finally, in 2020, Council agreed to build the Michelago bridge with funding coming from the Commonwealth Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

In 2021, once funds had been received, the bridge was designed and costed, and it was recommended that the crossing be realigned to avoid a deep part of the creek, protecting construction from future flooding events and making it cheaper to build.



## We need a real main street that

- Connects the two main population centres
  - the village – North Michelago
  - Micalago Rd – South Michelago
- Gives safe access to school and playgrounds for families on Micalago Rd
- Gives safe, fast access to and from the Fire Shed and Micalago Rd
- Encourages tourists to drive through the village, rather than stopping at the Service Station and leaving



***Above: a slide from Kerry Rooney's PowerPoint presentation to a Council meeting, 2018. Her presentation focused on a lack of amenities and infrastructure and emphasised the need for a bridge.***



This alignment would need part of the bridge to be situated on part of the disused railway corridor. Council commenced getting all of the approvals needed to construct the bridge, including Department of Fisheries, to approve additional culverts, and Telstra, who had to move their assets.

The complicating factor was the use of the railway land, managed by UGL on behalf of Transport for NSW. There is a great deal of legislation that governs the use of railway corridors, and it is not a simple procedure to apply to use it.

Council agreed to pursue two simultaneous processes to lease the land and ultimately purchase it. UGL and TfNSW not only had to approve the land transfer, but also the bridge construction itself. This process was started in March of 2022.

No one would have ever imagined that it would take just about two years for Council to receive the approvals required to construct the Ryrie Street bridge.

The Michelago community was very concerned that inflation would ultimately mean that the grant money would not be enough to build the bridge or that the money would have to be returned to the Commonwealth Government as unspent funds. Council tendered for the bridge to be constructed in a style that meant that most of it could be pre-formed, and then put into place by Council construction crews.

Councillor Tanya Higgins worked with the community, Council staff, Member for Monaro Steve Whan and Transport for NSW to expedite the approval process through layers of bureaucracy.

'I must commend Council staff for their persistence in applying pressure to UGL' said Councillor Higgins. 'It was like navigating in the dark, never seeming to get to the end of the tunnel. As one approval was finalised, we would then have to start another.

The Michelago community has been amazing, with so many people rallying themselves to advocate to their NSW representatives, and raising awareness using social media and the local press. They have had to wait a ridiculous amount of time to get a critical piece of infrastructure.'

The lack of crossing has impacted on the village in many ways. Families living on or off Micalago Road have been limited to car travel and had to use the Monaro Highway to enter the village. This has limited school children's ability to ride their bikes to school, and some people have made the decision not to enrol their children in the village school due to this.

RFS volunteers living on Micalago Road have also had to drive the long way round to get to the Michelago Fire Shed for callouts, and all of this traffic has to go past the school, impacting on road safety for students.



Michelago villagers can now look forward to being joined up, with improved access to the general store, sporting and community facilities, and the school. It is hoped that this news will encourage new families in the rural residential zone of Micalago Road to enrol their children in the local school, which may encourage further investment by the NSW Department of Education. *L: Mayor Rooney at the site, 2018. Photo: K. Rooney*

**It may be a little bridge, in a little village in the middle of NSW, but it will make a massive difference to the village of Michelago.** Cr Higgins will update the community about progress.





**26 January community bbq cont'd** Photos: Gary Morris, Sally Hughes, Jenny Wholohan, and Lolida Amon



There were more people than expected, given the small attendance at two free public barbecues at weekends in the past year and a half, so sausage supply ran out near the end of the scheduled time. Perhaps coinciding with a public holiday is best.

Thank you to the barbecue workers and organisers: Jo Gaha, Tony De Salis, Gary Morris, Sally Hughes, Elizabeth Price, Jenny Wholohan, Allan Lehepuu, Leanne Pattison. Even a simple barbecue needs a team. Thank you to all the photographers and to professional musician Ian Wholohan for donating his time and entertaining so well with so many Aussie songs.

Thanks to John Colaric for special mowing for the day and for putting incense sticks in the dunnies (that he and Ivan maintain) – thoughtful!

Council has been notified that the basin tap at the dunnies needs a plumber. The clubhouse toilets were a well-used amenity. They're maintained by the Hall Committee.





**L: The view of the holiday gathering from Ryrie St.**

**Photo: Sally Hughes**

The MRCA thanks Snowy Monaro Regional Council for the \$200 grant to help fund this free barbecue at the Clive Kelly Oval.



## **Choir & Christmas Carols**

**23 December.** About 30 people gathered at the Michelago Railway Station to enjoy the Community Choir singing Christmas carols. These were mainly traditional with some amusing ones (eg Rudolf, 12 Days) to follow.

Choir member Jenny reported that the all-ages audience joined in and that it was altogether a happy occasion to lead up to the festive holiday.

*Photo: Sally Hughes*

**Choir meetings** will recommence on Thursday 8 February, 7–8pm at St Thomas Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station).



Jenny said that a wide variety of music is planned, including a sea shanty and contemporary songs.



She emphasised that the choir needs more members, all voices are welcome, no experience is needed as you are 'trained on the job', and that it's a thoroughly enjoyable activity that's good for your health and 'takes away the cares of the day'.

Dee is an excellent teacher, she added, who helps people learn to sing together in a satisfying, fun way.



*Creative Commons image*

**Photo: Allan Lehepuu**



## A bridge to the past

Research: Kerry Rooney

Michelago is always waiting for a bridge. Here's some history from 1875. This would have referred to the creek crossing on the Monaro Highway. The railway line and station were not built until 1887 so the village of Micilago, as it was then spelt, was still on the highway. The village was comprised of the Hibernian Inn, the Michelago Police Station and Gaol, Abraham Levy's general store and the small stone church of St Patrick's.

Shortly after the original newspaper article below, in 1875 the spelling had changed from Micilago to Micalago.

*Monaro Mercury, and Cooma and Bombala Advertiser (NSW: 1862 - 1931), Saturday 3 July 1875, page 2*

**'MICALAGO.**

*June 29 – The weather during the past week has been very cold. On Saturday night we had heavy rain. Sunday was the coldest day we had this winter. The Tindery mountains are covered with snow, and the great coat is in requisition.*

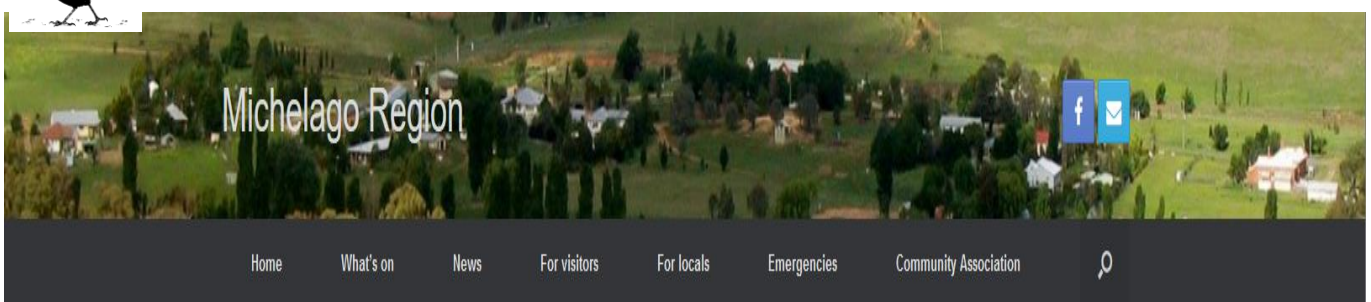
***Tenders are called for the erection of a bridge over the Micalago Creek at last.*** Every flood that comes down this creek leaves a quantity of sand in the roadway, which makes it difficult for heavy laden drays to pass over.

*Mining matters are at a standstill just now, as Mr. Maguire has not got the race finished, but he expects to have it completed this week, when he will commence crushing. Correspondent to the Queanbeyan Age.'*

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114397131?searchTerm=Micalago#>



## New Michelago community website



The new website for the Michelago community is live but still under construction. It looks a little like the old one but is more streamlined and simpler to navigate. It will also have more community information. Content from the old site is gradually being transferred.

The address will be the same: [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

The MRCA thanks Markus Buchhorn for setting it up via WordPress and educating the administrators in its use.

The MRCA Committee hopes that the new site will become a go-to for community information.





## Michelago Cricket Club

The mighty MCC (no, not that Melbourne one) is flourishing under the continuing captaincy of Dave Hanns. He said 'We've got a good team this year.'

The team sometimes calls itself the Michelago Mongrels and sometimes the Michelago Maulers. Dave is thinking about organising a team cap, so the team might settle on a name then.

The team played in Canberra 21 January against The Gliders. Michelago bowled them out for 129, then went in to bat, losing only 3 wickets before reaching 130. In Dave's words, 'We cleaned 'em up.'

The Michelago Captain had cause to speak to his opposing number about the need for sporting behaviour when one suffers a defeat.

The next match is 12.30, Sunday, 4 February at Michelago's Clive Kelly Oval. Bring a picnic and support the team.

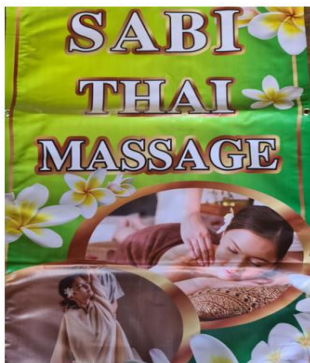
Cricket gives intermittent exercise (see below), sharpens the wits and is very sociable. Call Dave Hanns if you'd like to join in: 0404 060 316.



## Massage at the Railway Station

Now there's no need to go to Canberra for a feel-good massage that soothes away aches and pains, benefits your immune system and leaves you feeling relaxed.

It's handy to home, and you save on petrol and city massage prices.



Somsri Khaochong offers her excellent massage skills to the Michelago community.

Somsri works regularly at Sawasdi Thai Massage near Bunnings in Tuggeranong.

Bookings: 0427 308 239. If that's out of range, call or leave a message on 02 62308 239.

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with Somsri

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Aromatherapy

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## GARDEN STUFF



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selective weed spraying, general maintenance

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## Michelago Magpies have wings on their feet

Tanya Higgins

Did you know that Michelago fielded a football (soccer) team in the 2023 Cooma Six-A-Side competition? It's called the Michelago Magpies.

Players ranged from 8 to 12 years old, mostly from the Michelago region. The team was comprised of 4 girls and 5 boys, and about half the team had never played football before! Coach Harry Hatter had three main goals for the team:

1. to allow those who had never played before the opportunity to learn and gain confidence in a 'no pressure' environment,
2. to maintain skill and fitness in the off season for those who had played before, and
3. for everyone to have fun.

All of those goals were met! Each Wednesday afternoon from October to November, the team travelled to Cooma to play against the Nut Megs, the Mosquitos, the Pink Panthers and The Plastic Bags. After losing the first two games, the Magpies went on to win 1, draw 3, and lose another. Very good for their inaugural season!!

Cooma Tigers are seeking expressions of interest from anyone keen to play in the 2024 Football season. [Check out Cooma Tigers Football Club on Facebook or coomafc.com.au.](#) Photos: Tanya Higgins



## Michelago School's Colour Run – 8 December




It was a very hot day for the school's fun end-of-year event. Lots of kids, lots of colour, many buckets of water, a barbecue and fruit, the big fire truck and a bespectacled Santa Claus.





## Mobile Library 2024 & other library services



# Michelago Mobile Library 2024




Our Mobile Library visits Michelago on alternate Mondays  
9.45am to 11.30am Ryrie Street at the school

Month	Dates
January	Monday 15   29
February	Monday 12   26
March	Monday 11   25
April	Monday 8   22
May	Monday 6   20
June	Monday 3   17
July	Monday 1   15   29
August	Monday 12   26
September	Monday 9   23
October	Monday 7*   21
November	Monday 4   18
December	Monday 2   16

\*No service today  
Phone (02) 6451 1630  
Email [libraries@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:libraries@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)

24/7 Customer service line  
**1300 345 345**

PO Box 714 COOMA NSW 2630  
E [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)  
W [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)



**Public Notice from Council 12.1.24 [extract]:** To find out when the Snowy Monaro Mobile Library is stopping in near you, please visit [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-Locations#section-5](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-Locations#section-5) to get a copy of your local schedule for 2024.

Council appreciates the community's patience and understanding while the Mobile Library gets ready to hit the road for another year.

Email us at [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 345 345 with any questions, concerns, or for further information.

Visit [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Library) to find out more about library services in the Snowy Monaro. Your membership includes access to a wide array of resources available for free online.

Clancy Noakes  
Communications Officer







## New fence at the Oval – not happening ... yet

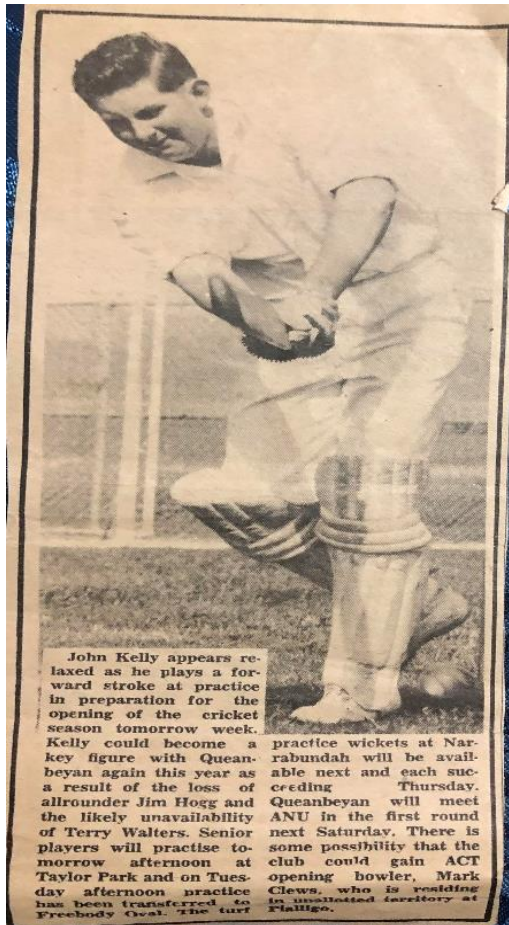
Alerted to an imminent sports grant by Cr Tanya Higgins, MRCA Treasurer Kerry contacted Council to investigate the requirements, as the Michelago Oval is Crown Reserve land managed by Council.

The Oval was originally *donated* to the then Council as a cricket ground by Andy and Jim Kelly in the early 1900s. During WWII it was gazetted as a Crown Reserve (15/5/1942).

The current fence is a dilapidated eyesore, but the Michelago Cricket Club is less focused on aesthetics than the wish for a high fence (like that at the tennis courts) to restrict the range of cricket balls. As the club is not incorporated, it can't apply for grants, but the MRCA is and wanted to help the MCC with this.

However, as it turns out, the land's status means that State government regulations and Council requirements would make the lengthy grant application process overwhelmingly daunting. The MRCA does not have the personnel resources to undertake this.

Sight screens have been suggested. *R: The current fence*



### Linked

story: John Kelly (Michelago Elder and once a first-grade cricketer) said a new fence would just provide an incentive to batters to hit sixes over the top.

He reminisced about a match between Jerangle and Michelago at Michelago. Jerangle opened the bowling with one of its best.

Clive, John's dad, opened the batting and hit into the creek off the first ball of the match. There was plenty of water in the creek and the fielders had to wade in and find the ball. This took quite a while. Many runs ensued.

*L: Queanbeyan Age 1.10.1971: 'John Kelly appears relaxed as he plays a forward stroke at practice in preparation for the opening of the cricket season tomorrow week. Kelly could become a key figure with Queanbeyan again this year...'*

Thanks to Janet Kelly for the newspaper clipping.





## Tennis coaching



12 January. Tom Perea, of Cooma Champs Tennis, conducted a tennis camp from 9am to 3pm for 10 children of varied ages at the Michelago tennis courts. The cost was \$80 each.

Not having experienced the excellent MRCA electric barbecues, he brought his own and supplied the happy campers with lunch.



*From L: Tom, Stephen, Anna; Sophie enjoys a sausage sandwich; Mother to the rescue – on the hot day, Anna brought cooler gear for son Stephen.*

Back in the day (at least 10 years ago), Tom gave regular tennis lessons to groups and individuals, children and adults, at Michelago. He would be interested in doing so again. Contact: 0404 838 049.



## Care and use of tennis courts, clubhouse and barbecues

While the tennis courts are free for individuals to use, the professional coach paid a daily hire fee to the Memorial Hall Committee, which is responsible to Council for their upkeep.



Volunteers do the work of weed spraying, clubhouse cleaning and minor repairs when they can. They ask that people treat the facilities with respect, close the court gates when they leave and take their rubbish with them. There is a Council bin next to the public drop-dunnies near the road, but not at the courts.

Toilets: These are kept locked by the Memorial Hall Committee. They will be opened on request for events. Otherwise, please use the drop-dunnies next to the road. These are serviced by the mowing contractors, John and Ivan Colaric.

Kitchen: This can also be used by people organising events.

The electric barbecues were bought and installed for the community in 2022, thanks to a grant obtained by the MRCA from the Bushfire Community Relief and Resilience Fund. The MRCA oversees them.

Please clean them after use – turn on the heat (the button press works for 10 minutes), tip a little water on the plate and wipe with paper towel. Be careful of burns! It would be appreciated if users could also wipe the area surrounding the hotplate.

It recently took an MRCA Committee member half an hour to clean up after recent users (see R). **Let's leave them nice for the next person.**







## Memorial Hall Committee

The tennis clubhouse's tank wasn't filling. Allan found the down pipe was blocked with what he called 'brown high-value mulch'. He added 'Fortunately, the person who put it together used screws rather than glue so I could pull it apart.'

Allan has put new two-way latches on the tennis court gates. The old bolts didn't line up with the fence. If court users close the gates, there'll be no more kangaroo poo in there.

*New and old ways of closing the gates→*



The new 'Asko' dishwasher, including full installation, totalled \$3,167.00.

Grateful thanks go to:

1. the Boco Rock Fund and
2. Snowy Monaro Regional Council for Donations and Sponsorships Grant.

The happiness of food events at the Hall will not now be diminished by the drudgery of hand-washing piles of dishes and cutlery. People hiring the Hall will marvel at the up-to-date facility. Happy Hall Committee!

The grant application for \$10K for a solar energy storage battery was successful. Grateful thanks go to the Snowy Monaro Community Bushfire Recovery and Preparedness Grant, to Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT, with funding from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, which is co-funded by the NSW and Australian Governments.

Many thanks also to the tireless grant-application writers of the Hall Committee. Updating the Hall to this extent to be a more amenable community facility is an expensive process that can be funded only by grants.



**BREDBO TRUCK & MACHINERY SHOW**

**Easter Sunday 31st March 2024**

***Year of Ex Snowy Equipment***

Run By Snowy Mountains Historic Equipment Association





## JENNY'S REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS SERVICE

**\*\* very reasonable rates \*\***



Anything from sewing on buttons, altering hems, resizing, repurposing, to adjusting a formal garment. Also mending, patching or altering such household items as curtains, bedding linen, cushion covers, etc.

You may not need to throw out that favourite piece you love to wear, or maybe there's something you've just bought that doesn't really fit.

*Save yourself \$\$ by keeping items useful for longer and help to minimise waste*

Contact Jenny: Ph. 0400 484 485 Email: [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com)



## Michelago Fire Brigade – joining the team

*Brien Hallett*

The Michelago Rural Fire Brigade has been part of the community for three decades.

The brigade is run by volunteers for everybody's benefit. We attend fires, motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies. We also offer advice on fire safety.

And while the Fire Brigade operates all year round, it's understandable that people often think about joining over Summer. So what's involved?

The level of commitment varies, but usually involves training about once a month.

This summary below (p15) from the Rural Fire Service sets out the steps involved.

It's worth noting that the Michelago Brigade does conduct interviews (step 4 below) as it is important that prospective members find out about the responsibilities – and benefits – of joining.

Membership of the brigade is a practical way of contributing to community. You can also develop useful skills, and enjoy being part of a team.

If you are interested in finding out more, a good place to start is to speak to a member you know, or drop into the shed if it's open, or contact the captain, Keith Howker (☎ 0406 887 435) or President Brent Wallis (☎ 0435 794 432).

Training Officer Gregg McFaul says:

Training will recommence Sunday, Feb 11 Feb, 0900-1300.

Training is planned for the SECOND Sunday of each month.







NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



# 10 STEPS TO BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

## JOINING A RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

### STEP 1

#### GET STARTED

Becoming a volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service is easy, and there are a surprising number of roles available. First, consider the kind of volunteer work you would like to do, and the time you can spare. It's also a good idea to discuss your intention to volunteer with your family, friends or employer – their support can be crucial.

### STEP 2

#### CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The next step is to contact your local rural fire brigade. The members of the brigade are all volunteers and can help you decide whether volunteering is right for you. If you're not sure where the brigade is located, ask your nearest Fire Control Centre or email [volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au).

### STEP 3

#### THE APPLICATION

Complete the Volunteer Membership Application Form and return it to the brigade. If you are over 18 you will also be asked to complete a National Police Checking Service Consent Form and provide identification.

### STEP 4

#### THE INTERVIEW

You may be invited to attend an interview with the brigade you are seeking to join. The interview will cover the types of things you can expect as a volunteer, what your role in the brigade will involve and what the NSW RFS expects from its members.

### STEP 5

#### PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

If both you and the brigade wish to proceed, your application will be sent to the District Manager for endorsement. At that point you become a "probationary member pending clearance".

### STEP 6

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

It is important for the NSW RFS to make an assessment about each applicant's suitability for membership because our volunteers hold a position of trust within the community, so a criminal history check will be conducted after your application form is endorsed. Your privacy will be protected in this process.

### STEP 7

#### COMMENCE INDUCTION

While you wait for clearance, you can commence some activities with the brigade under supervision. During this time there are some restrictions on the types of activities you can participate in.

### STEP 8

#### OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

If your application for membership is successful, you will receive a letter containing your membership number. You can now participate fully as a volunteer member of your brigade.

### STEP 9

#### TRAINING FOR YOUR ROLE

The NSW RFS provides training opportunities to all members free of charge, giving you the knowledge and skills to work safely in your chosen role. Once trained, you will be provided with the appropriate clothing and equipment for your role.

### STEP 10

#### ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

You will remain a probationary member for a minimum of six months, and at the end of the probationary period your brigade will vote on whether to accept you as an ordinary member.



## Soil workshop at the Memorial Hall 16.12.23

This most informative session was a follow-up to the Living with Lovegrass field day of 7 October (see *Magpie* 21).

This one focused on the many aspects of soil, including geology, physical and chemical characteristics, how to identify different soils and their effect on vegetation and livestock.

Participants had submitted soil samples from their properties for analysis and the results were graphed for various important plant growth nutrients such as sulphur, potassium and phosphorus.

NSW Local Land Services agronomist Jo Powells\* presented and explained the results.

The scope of the whole workshop is normally run over three days, so Jo managed to provide a lot of information in four hours. This workshop was free, supported by Local Land Services and run in partnership with Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare and Michelago Landcare.

Thanks to Georgianna Storey, coordinator of Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare, for organising this intensive session of information and the very welcome lunch.

**\*Jo Powells**

Senior Agriculture Advisor – Pastures  
Local Land Services | South East Monaro



### Soil pH

- Two types of measurements:
  - pH (water)
  - pH (CaCl<sub>2</sub>)
- Water tests – “garden variety” test kits
- CaCl<sub>2</sub> – lab tests, done in CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution
- CaCl<sub>2</sub> often 0.7 units lower than water
- CaCl<sub>2</sub> more robust with climate, moisture etc

**From top:**

. extreme erosion

.samples of soil and their analysis

. Georgianna Storey

. information about two types of pH measurement was new to many attendees.





**Yoga is for everyone, no matter your body type!**

**Slow, mindful movement for improved strength, flexibility, mobility and relaxation. All shapes offered can be modified to suit whatever is most beneficial for your body.**

**Yoga can help to decrease stress and improve your overall mental health & wellbeing, help with managing back pain, assist in the recovery from injuries or just generally improve your overall strength, mobility and balance.**

**Please BYO mat, blanket & cushion.**

**Please message or call Belinda on 0411 043 027 to book in (bookings preferred just in case the class is cancelled for any reason) or for any additional information.**

**Private sessions are also available if you're not sure about coming along to a class or if you have something specific you'd like to work on.**



## Connecting Rural Families

30/15 Unlimited

**\$80** per month

**New!!**

Up to 50Mbps

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**New!!**

Up to 100Mbps

**\$129** per month



**Locally Based Helpdesk**



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## Magpie information

Get the Magpie free by email: send name and email address to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) Print copies at the Michelago shop are \$2. Previous issues are available on [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

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**Advertisements:** businesses can purchase advertisement space for \$30.00 for three issues (it might end up being a half-page or a full one, depending on space). Non-business ads are free.

**Contributions:** photos (jpg preferred, please) and news items are welcome. Please send them to [Lpatt@internode.on.net](mailto:Lpatt@internode.on.net) Please give your name and put *Magpie* in the subject line. Published items will be attributed.

If you have events or activities planned and would like them listed in the *Magpie* calendar, please email them to [Lpatt@internode.on.net](mailto:Lpatt@internode.on.net)

The MRCA committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length and clarity.

**Aims:** to publicise community events and activities and promote community identity. Yes, the Facebook pages do that, but the *Magpie* tries to give a more cohesive, detailed picture, and one that builds up a Michelago history.

*Photos and articles, unless otherwise accredited, are by Leanne Pattison, Magpie Editor.*



## MRCA information

To belong to the MRCA, first download the membership form at [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au) It's only \$10 p/a single and \$15 p/a family. To renew, see the same for bank details, and please include your name.

There are **four good reasons** for joining the Michelago Region Community Association:

1. The more representative we are, the more we can achieve for our village and region.
2. You get updates from Council.
3. All funds go to running costs, including upkeep, rental and insurance for Michelago's heritage-listed Railway Station. The Committee applies for government grants and occasionally organises other fund-raisers, depending on available personnel.
4. It's sociable – you know what's happening, who's doing what, and you participate only if you want to.

The MRCA Committee <http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/>

**Meetings are open:** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Tues** of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagoans are welcome. The minutes are on the website: [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING to update the Constitution: Sat 16 March, 3pm, Railway Station**

**MRCA AGM: August 2024, date tba. Please consider being involved and helping the community.**



## ~ Michelago Magpie Calendar ~

Please send quick updates of what's coming up, what's on and any corrections to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) If the *Magpie* knows about it, it will be here.

If your friends want to be on the mailing list for the *Magpie* and its calendar, send names and emails to the above address.

Previous issues of the *Magpie* are on [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

### Regular (Venues, contacts and times can change; information is here as received.)

- **Choir** Thursdays, 7-8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station). From 8 Feb 2024.
- **Fire Brigade** training second Sunday of the month, 9am–1pm. Contact details: MRCA notice board at the Michelago General Store.
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings:** [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) or phone new number 0493 638 878. Current hire rates: see 23.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, outside the school. See below. (See p10 for complete 2024 library schedule. It's also on the Shop's MRCA Noticeboard).
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 6pm. Next: 13 Feb.
- **Pony Club.** Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Enquiries: Rhys (0401 778 004) or Alisha (0422 623 304) or email [michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com) Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/>
- **Pre-School.** Hall. Scheduled to re-start Term 1 2024. No details yet available. Check Monaro Mobile Pre-School site.
- **Seed Savers.** Usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. To check dates and locations or if you have other questions, please SMS or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or [hello@michelagoyoga.com.au](mailto:hello@michelagoyoga.com.au)
- **Senior Lunch Group.** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 1pm, the Shop.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass monthly, usu. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat, 5.30pm. Updates on Facebook's Michelago Noticeboard.
- **Thai massage.** Railway Station. Tues, Wed, Thurs. Details p7.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders:** usu. monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. Check details on Tinderry tab of Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). *Magpie* 4 had a feature write-up. President Don Munns 0407 235 407. Membership – Secretary Heidi Dreyer 0434 197 122.
- **Yoga:** Thursdays, 6.30 pm, Michelago Hall. \$20. Enquiries: Belinda 0411 043 027. For all bodies.

### One-offs (that we know about) (Venues and times can change; information is here as received.)

#### February

- **Michelago Fire Brigade** Sun Feb 11, then 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month. See p14–15.
- **Cricket comp.** MCC at the Clive Kelly Oval, Sunday 4 Feb, 12.30pm.

#### March

- **This Lush Corner** pop-up shop. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Railway Station.

#### April

- **This Lush Corner** pop-up shop. 20 & 28. Railway Station.

