



~ Michelago Magpie 26 ~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 1 May 2024

from your Michelago Region Community Association

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Farewell to Dave



St Patrick's Church was packed, the crowd overflowing to the steps outside, for this farewell to Dave Hanns, one of Michelago's biggest personalities.

Paul Brophy spoke about Dave's many and varied life experiences and achievements, some of which were a surprise to many locals. Glenn Fowler then gave a personal response about his friendship with Dave. The text of Glenn's eulogy is on pages 16–19. More pictures are on pp4–6.



The Hooley fire & fundraiser

What happens when you return from a shopping trip to find your beautiful, two year-old house and all your precious belongings burnt?

In Michelago, neighbours and the wider community supplement family to give you accommodation and physical, emotional and monetary support.

If you're Ian and Marion Hooley, you show an inspiring, brave spirit.

Their neighbour, Adrian Ljubic, organised a GoFundMe campaign that raised over \$30,000.



Photo above from the Hooley family

Ian and Marion knew of the campaign but had no idea of the large amount given by the community until it was announced at the barbecue and supper at the crowded Michelago Community Hall on 13 March.



Above: Ian speaks to the crowd; Adrian and Mal at the bbq lent by the Fire Brigade; most of the Hooley family.

And from Ian and Marion ...

Our utmost thanks and profound appreciation go out to the hundreds of beautiful souls who have reached out, given their love and ongoing support, donated all manner of goods, funds, compassion and prayers in the wake of the recent tragic house fire that took our amazing dog, Gordon, our new home, and almost every material thing that we formerly possessed.

This is truly community solidarity at its finest. Both of us have been abundantly blessed by our amazing and newfound Michelago friends and neighbours (whether known or anonymous), regardless of faith, status or personal circumstances.

Through this adversity, our faith has grown, relationships have been built up and strengthened, and our sense of belonging to both our local and wider communities has swelled within and almost overwhelmed us.

Our sincerest and exceedingly heartfelt gratitude and appreciation go out to church, the NSW Rural Fire Service Association (RFS) and RFS volunteers, the Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA), the Canberra Antique and Classic Motor Club (CA&CMC), the Queanbeyan

Police and Ambulance teams, friends, relatives, neighbours, former colleagues and strangers – all who have assisted and are continuing to help us in so many ways. Through you all, we have been sustained, encouraged and abundantly blessed.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Ian and Marion Hooley



Above: Ian delightedly receives the RFS donation of a new firefighter's uniform to replace his lost in the fire; Rebecca, Ian and Marion's daughter-in-law, speaks to the crowd about their love and courage; some of the crowd.

Below: Werner embraces Ian, then Marion; Dog Gordon, who quickly and painlessly succumbed to carbon monoxide fumes while asleep in his bed and was undamaged by fire.



Michelago Memorial Community Hall

Jenny Wholohan

Mobile Pre-School: unfortunately, there were very few children enrolled for 2024 so Monaro Family Support Services have deemed it unviable to continue for this year. They will see how potential enrolments go to see if they can re-start in 2025.

The Hall Committee has submitted a grant application to get funding for painting the large internal wall that currently has a number of unsightly gyprock patches (if you have recently been inside the hall, you'll know what we mean). This grant application also includes some extra money to get a new sign on the front of the building, which will be a great visual improvement.

The solar battery system will be installed in the next couple of weeks to complete the whole solar energy project and, therefore, saving power costs.

Don't forget that our Committee also manages the Michelago Tennis Courts (adjoining the oval) which is a great facility for those who enjoy either a 'hit & giggle' or a serious match.



cont. Dave's funeral

Dave was laid to rest at the Michelago cemetery. In accord with tradition, the grave was filled in by family and friends.



Above: The community guard of honour from the church (photo: John Rooney); Tinderry backdrop.



L: Australian flowers and Dave's cricket bat topped the coffin, which was carried, of course, by a ute;

R: another time-honoured way of saying good-bye.



Dave's wake, Community Hall



Dave's daughter, Leah Hanns-Davis, and her children.



MCC Captain Matt Williams, John & Janet Kelly



There were lashings of food (prepared by Dave's daughter, Melissa) and drink.

On the big screen, a loop of many photos of Dave's life was a focal point.





Captain Matt proudly put the Premiership Cup on display in the Michelago General Store, where Dave had told the Magpie it should go. It's a handsome trophy, a tribute to the whole team and its manager, Dave Hanns.



ANZAC DAY

AGAIN

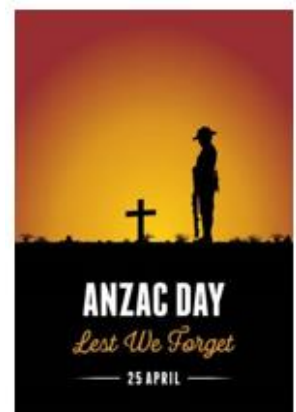
Leanne Thurling

Barely twenty years had passed since the guns fell quiet at Mons
The Treaty of Versailles was signed at end of World War I
There was agreement by all countries for hostilities to end
The war to end all wars – all thought it couldn't start again.

But Germany had felt hard done by the treaty put in place
And had festered, gathering support; the Nazi party waits
With economies at breaking point in countries near and far
Invasion into Poland was the catalyst that sparked.

Announcement made in '39 with Menzies at the helm,
And Australia once again at war, get ready for the hell
That was unleashed across the world, in Europe it did start
And like a virus spread, but Australia stepped up to the task

Memories of the First World War still haunt the people's minds
Another generation sent to fight and lose their lives.
There's those who fought in World War I now leaving on the train
And mothers weep as menfolk leave – will they see their men again?



Australian troops were sent to fight beside the Mother Land
The AIF of volunteers, the RAAF and then the RAN.
Battles fought in foreign skies, in seas and on the ground.
Of those men who fought away from home, Australia can be proud.



But the war was edging close to home; our troops were overseas
Defending Mother England's cause – our soldiers home we'd need.
Japan had joined the war, the threat to home now evident
1942, a year Australia won't forget.



Request denied to send troops back to fight on their home soil
And help was not forthcoming from the country of the Royals.
America was looked to as the saviour of the day,
Pearl Harbour bombed and America had joined into the fray.



The bombs rained down on Darwin's port and chaos did unfold
The loss of life in hundreds; it's a story seldom told.
With aircraft lost and ships destroyed, our defence was getting thin,
But little did they know the Aussie spirit would dig in.



Once again, our nurses and our doctors went to war
They patched the wounded, saw the death but their role was so much more
The carnage and the trauma that they dealt with every day
They buoyed the spirits of the men; they had a special way.



The fall of Singapore occurred in February '42
Surrender to the Japanese was all that they could do
Our men were taken prisoner and to Changi they were marched
Then Burma and to Borneo, Sandakan's deathly march.



Thousands died of cruelty, starvation or were shot
The jungle littered with our men, just left there where they dropped.
Our nurses who were found were also not spared this hell.
They were slaughtered at the water's edge, just one survived to tell.



When Papua was invaded, our troops were sent there to defend
They fought along Kokoda track, as history will attest
The jungle warfare, nothing could prepare for what they faced
But the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels came and many they did save.



And don't forget the role Australian women then had played
They worked the roles of absent men, and far less they were paid
And the land army of women, who kept our people's bellies full
And the Women's Army Service, in most other roles had filled.



And in the factories where munitions made, they toiled with steel and brass
And decoded secret messages the enemy tried to pass
They kept Australia off its knees, while the men had fought the war
And they stepped aside when the men returned, not needed anymore.



In May of 1942, Sydney Harbour was attacked
Japan had sent the submarines and communications they bombed flat
More lives were lost again upon this sunburnt land of ours
This war we didn't want had come and landed on our shores.

Battles where our soldiers fought, both here and far abroad,
There's Medway, Egypt, Africa and Europe, still there's more
In Tobruk, the Rats held Libya, Southeast Asia, close to home
But the Pacific was the bloodiest, so many won't return.

Germany surrendered 8th of May in '45
After Adolf Hitler finally disappeared and died.
On September 2 of '45, surrender from Japan
But it took the bombs to fall from high and devastate their land.

Atrocities committed in this war will make you cry
The families torn apart in every country far and wide.
The tyranny and evil that allowed this war to start
Lies dormant waiting for the time, the fuse waits for the spark.



The loss of life is tallied as all countries now take stock
More than 80 million dead of families, grief and loss.
Disease and famine followed, millions more add to the score
And nervously we wait to join another bloody war.

And those who joined to fight this war, from across this land they came
Whether rich or poor, black or white, their blood has spilled the same.
From the diggers in the trenches, to the officers in charge
To the sailors and the airmen, and those in the Home Guard.

And photos in their uniforms, with slouch hats proudly worn
Displayed in every family home, a reminder of this war.
And families grieve for loved ones, who didn't make it home
And mothers say a silent prayer as life goes on alone.

So, each year on April 25, we remember all who'd served,
The men and women volunteers, who joined to fight the cause.
We think of those in unmarked graves, in lands afar they lay
We think of those who made it home, and wreaths of flowers we lay.





Over 100 people gathered at the railway station in beautiful weather for the traditional ANZAC Day commemoration. Special Michelago touches were our choir's accomplished singing, a new, poignant ballad (pp6–8) by Leanne Thurling, the Michelago Public School's Year 6 student, Sophie, reading *In Flanders Fields*, the generous contributions for the delicious morning tea, and the convivial mingling after the ceremony.

The choir sang *To a grateful world* (a new song), *The National Anthem* and *Waltzing Matilda*.

Many wore their own or family medals, others carried or wore relevant items, and rosemary bushes Michelago-wide had sustained an early pruning.



L: Brendan Jackson's medals, from his right: Australian Active Service (AASM), with Kuwait clasp, Australian Service Medal (ASM) with Kuwait clasp, Australian Defence Medal (ADF), Liberation of Kuwait (Saudi Arabia). The Active Service Badge is on his lapel.

Below & R: Gregg Whittle's shirt made a rousing statement about Kokoda.



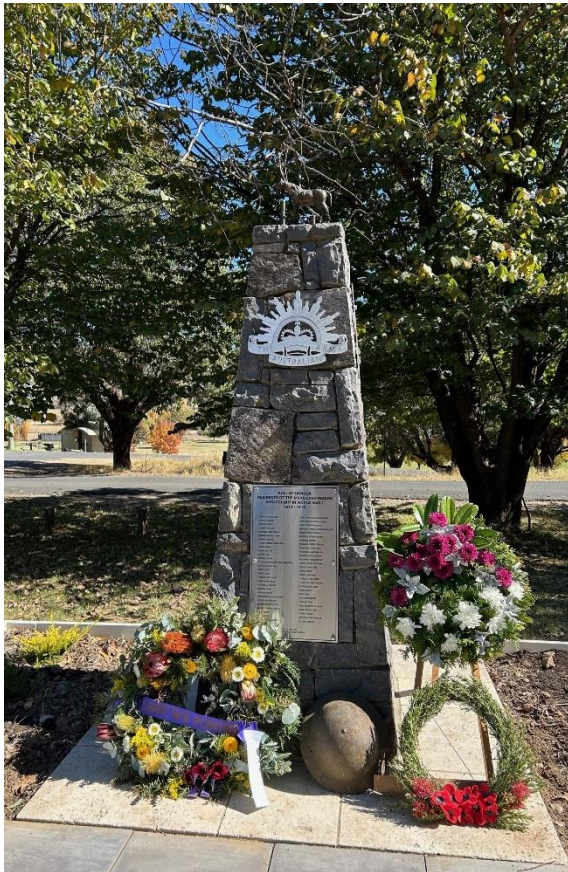


From L: Michael Fett wore the medals of his wife Di's late grandfather. They're WWI and for service in Burma c. 1930.

Judy Bobroff wore her father's Silver Star, awarded for gallantry in action, February 19 1942, during the Japanese air raid in Darwin

Peter Bobroff's medals: Member of the Order of Australia, for research and development; General Service medal (Borneo), for time in Borneo as a midshipman in HMAS Derwent.

Peter commented: 'The others arrived in the post. One says only "For efficient service in the permanent forces" and the other is The National Medal for Service – apparently no need for efficiency, much less gallantry.' ☺



Above: Dee McFaul conducted the Michelago Choir, which delighted with impeccable harmonising. The choir meets weekly for an hour; choir members look forward to these times as joyful and satisfying. See also p12.



L: Kokoda Ted rode on John Colaric's shirt.

R: Sophie represented Michelago Public School.





Above: Leanne Thurling read her commissioned poem, 'Again' (pp6–8), Navy representative Kate* was keynote speaker, emphasising Australian values abroad and at home; Gregg McFaul was MC and gave a short address.

Below: wreaths were laid by Cr Tanya Higgins for SMRC, Ivan Colaric (he made the wreath himself, a skill perfected with his wife, Joy, of loved memory), Michelago Public School Principal, Geoff Smith, and 6th Grader, Sophie.



L: Ian Hooley brought the helmet worn by his father in WWII.

He put it in the place of honour with the wreaths at the cenotaph.

His father's treasured Army slouch hat was lost in the house fire.

*** The keynote speaker's details will be published in the next Magpie.**



L: Cheryl Kenyon and daughter Anna Bunston.

R: Michelago Public School teachers and Sophie.



Morning tea was a time to socialise in and around the railway station.



Pauline Jackson (née Lawler), her daughter Emma Wells and Janet Kelly; Rob Smith and Dee McFaul; Naomi Walton, Romney Kelly and Lolida Amon.

Thanks to Gregg and Dee for organising the ceremony and to all helpers at the railway station.



Michelago Choir

Anna Lucas

Looking to unwind and enjoy music?

May I suggest just trying out our very own Michelago Choir?

I am no amazing singer by any means and I was not looking to add more to my busy schedule BUT I want to say I am so pleased I tried it out!

Now it is like a weekly refreshment that I am keen to participate in because I feel, in a sense, I am also taking care of ME!

Our choir offers a welcoming and friendly environment where you can enjoy singing with others and creating beautiful harmonies together.

Just come and try it!? No experience necessary – just bring your love for music and a desire to have fun.

Join us for our next rehearsal and experience the joy of singing in a supportive community.

We meet most Thursdays at the local Anglican Church on Ryrie St (located just past the Police Station), from 7 to 8pm. After ANZAC Day, choir will resume weekly sessions on 9 May.

[You don't need to be able to read music or have a great voice. You learn on the job with a great teacher and with accepting, friendly people –Ed.]





Bridge

Work to construct the Ryrie Street Extension has started, and the community should start to see bridge pylons being put in place very soon. Once the contractors have completed the bridge, Council will work on the road.

Road safety

Thank you to everyone who submitted their views to Council regarding the Draft Active Transport Plan. I have been working with the Road Safety Officer at Council to explore ways to improve safety along Ryrie St, and we will be holding a stall outside the General Store on the morning of 11 May. Come down and have a chat with us.

Planning matters

Council voted to increase the number of submissions to trigger a Development Application going to a Council Meeting from 5 to 10. However, Councillors themselves can request a DA be brought to a Council Meeting, so if you have concerns please contact me or another Councillor early on.

Road work

Over the past few months the unsealed roads around Michelago have been resheeted with new gravel for the first time in ages. This will help extend the road condition and make subsequent gradings more effective. Please drive to conditions and watch out on the gravel!

Is there anything I can help you with?

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please reach out on 0420 970 544 or tanya.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Below: Monaro Post article (17.4.24)

Clipping supplied by Kerry Rooney.



**Above: 29 April. Ryrie St side. It's starting!
They're demolishing and constructing.**



Native Vegetation Regulations and You

Information compiled by Kerry Rooney

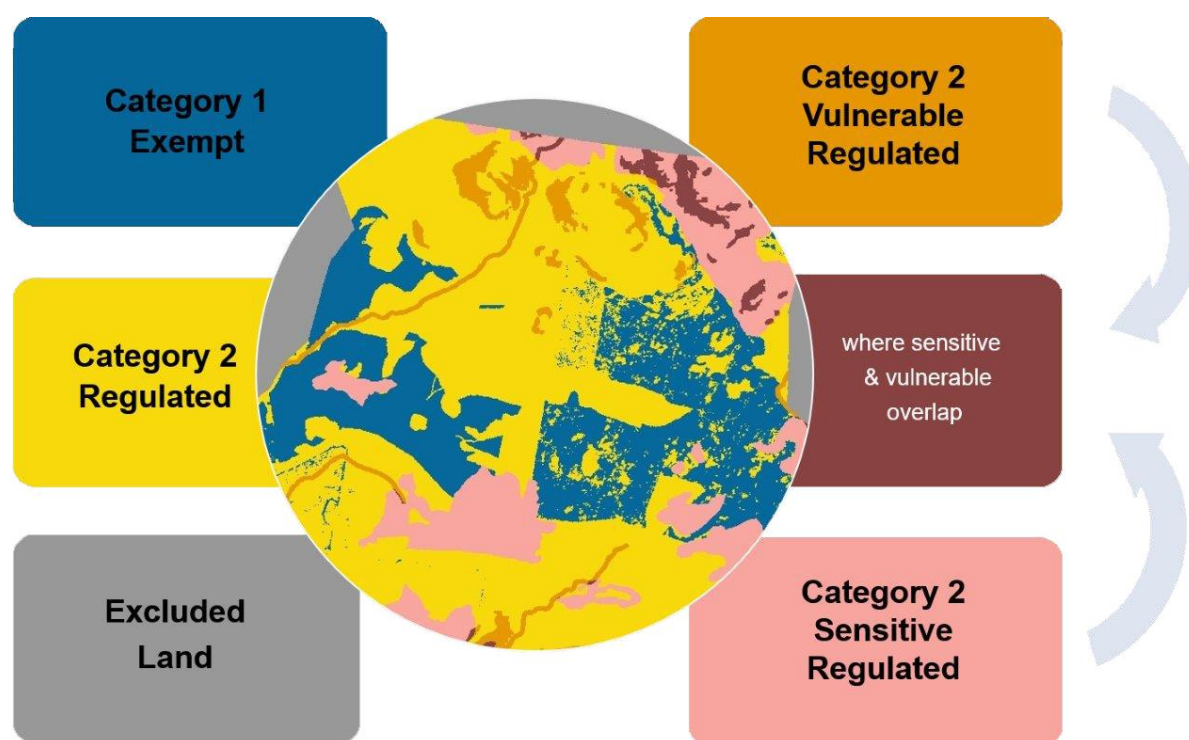
The regulations affecting your land could become more restrictive if the Government decides to accept the recommendations of two major reviews completed last year.

The interactive Native Vegetation Regulatory Map on the NSW Environment and Heritage website will show you how your land is currently classified and how this may change. [View your map | NSW Environment and Heritage](#)

It appears that two new categories are being introduced: Category 1 Exempt (Blue) and Category 2 Regulated (Yellow). Category 2 Vulnerable Regulated (Orange) and Category 2 Sensitive Regulated (Pink) are already in force.

The draft map is being published to enable landholders to review details about their land before the map is finalised. Apparently, even after the map is finalised, landholders will still be able to request map revisions without charge.

This diagram from the Environment and Heritage website shows the land classifications.



- Category 1 exempt land (blue) (draft)
- Category 2 regulated land (yellow) (draft)
- Category 2 vulnerable regulated land (orange) (in-force)
- Category 2 sensitive regulated land (pink) (in-force)
- Areas where category 2 vulnerable and category 2 sensitive regulated lands overlap (brown) (in-force)
- Land excluded from the LLS Act (grey)

Native Vegetation Regulatory map

The native vegetation regulatory map of New South Wales is a tool landholders can use when considering how best to manage native vegetation on their land.

The native vegetation regulatory map is a key tool in the NSW Land Management Framework that supports landholder decisions about clearing native vegetation. The map designates areas of land where clearing of native vegetation is categorised as regulated or exempt under Part 5A of the Local Land Services Act. Category 1 (exempt) and category 2 (regulated) mapping have not yet been fully released across New South Wales. Find out more about mapping available for your area.



Draft Native Vegetation Regulatory map



Transitional Native Vegetation Regulatory map



View your map



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The 2 main land categories are shaded blue and yellow.

Category 1 exempt land is land where native vegetation can be cleared without approval from Local Land Services.

Category 2 land is divided into:

- **category 2 regulated land** is category 2 land that is not Vulnerable or Sensitive regulated land. You may need authorisation from Local Land Services to clear native vegetation in this category. There are a range of allowable activities which can be carried out without needing authorisation.
- **category 2-vulnerable regulated land** is land where clearing of native vegetation may be limited under the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018, and a limited range of allowable activities are permitted.
- **category 2-sensitive regulated land** is land where clearing is not permitted under the Land Management Code (Native Vegetation) Code 2018, and a limited range of allowable activities is permitted.

Excluded land is land where the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018 and allowable activities do not apply.

Each land category is determined by various criteria as outlined in the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

What do the categories mean?

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No changes to native vegetation regulations have been announced at this stage by the Minns Government.

On 24 August 2023 Ken Henry, a former head of the Australian Treasury, handed over his review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act to the NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe. If Henry's recommendations are accepted, it could mean changes to a raft of NSW legislation, including the Biodiversity Act, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, and the Local Land Services Act.

Baker McKenzie September 2023

The (Henry) Report is critical of the credibility of the Biodiversity Act and the offsets secured under that Act's regime and disapproving of the status and trajectory of biodiversity in NSW. This position is consistent with the criticism levelled by Professor Graeme Samuel at the environmental offsets policy currently implemented pursuant to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The Report recommends a refocusing of the Biodiversity Act towards a nature positive strategy with improved protections for ecosystems.

The findings and recommendations of the Report, if adopted by the NSW Government, may also have significant implications for proposed greenfield developments in NSW. That is, with major infrastructure and energy projects still required to be developed as part of the energy transition and to achieve NSW's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, the proposed reforms may impose more stringent requirements on those developments to avoid, mitigate, or offset (in a way that achieves net gain) potential impacts on biodiversity.

Ms Sharpe said that the Minns Government would closely consider the report's recommendations, as it delivered on its election commitments to:

- fix the Biodiversity Offset Scheme,
- strengthen environmental protections and
- stop runaway land clearing.

In August last year, a statutory review of the native vegetation provisions of the Local Land Services Act was also completed.

Both reports were tabled in Parliament and are available publicly.

[Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 | NSW Environment and Heritage](#)

[Statutory review of the native vegetation provisions of the Local Land Services Act - Local Land Services \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Readers are urged to access the interactive map online (see above) to see how their properties are classified.

And now for something completely different ...



The National Busking Championships, Cooma *Report & photos: Kerry Rooney*

Community Radio 2MNO, which broadcasts across the Monaro, attended the Cooma Heat of the National Busking Championships on Saturday 27 April. We had a marquee not far from the main stage in Centennial Park and broadcast from the site from 9am till around 3 pm.

There were 18 buskers participating in the heat. Eight of them did an interview and performed live for 2MNO. Mayor Chris Hanna and the chair of the Community Chest, Marnie Stewart, also did interviews with us.

Buskers interviewed were The K Brothers, Laylah Baines, Em & Pais, John Curran, Tilly Rose, Wren & Crow, Chris Wright and Jules Winter (Julie Clancy).

After 2pm, 2MNO broadcast some live performances, as well as the awards session from the main stage.

Talented 2MNO technician Harry deserves special thanks for handling the many technical requirements of the day and ensuring the live performances were professionally broadcast.

The final of the Australian National Busking Championships takes place in November every year, hence Cooma's claim to fame as Australia's busking capital.

Maybe Michelago will one day have a busking championship.



Jules Winter



Laylah Baines



John Curran



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MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE - 12

Commencing 4 May
Saturday mornings/evenings
9:30 - 10:15 am

Bring own mat and drink bottle.

Held in the Michelago Memorial
Hall

More information contact ReformU
Pilates
0416 568 653

\$100 for 6 week package.
Registration and payment must
be made in full before 2 May
2024

Register using QRCode or via the link
below.



bit.ly/reformupilates-michelago

Pilates instructor Heidi will be running a pilot programme of Pilates instruction for six weeks from Saturday 4 May at the Michelago Community Hall, 9.30 to 10.15.

She has previously advertised on Facebook and the MRCA Noticeboard at the General Store.

At the time of this publication, there were two or three places left.

If this programme is successful, she'll consider a subsequent course.



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Fire Brigade Awards

Brien Hallett

After a busy summer responding to a variety of callouts, the Michelago Rural Fire Brigade conducted a successful general meeting and awards ceremony on Sunday 21 April.

RFS District Manager for Snowy Monaro, Jim Darrant, attended the meeting at the Fire Shed and presented long-service awards to nine members.

Addressing the brigade, Jim congratulated award recipients on their long service and thanked all members for their various contributions to this vital emergency service both on and off the fire-ground.



L to R: Kylie Kenyon, Rob Smith, Abby McPherson, Lee Harris, Peter Butler, District Manager Jim Darrant, Brigade President Brent Wallis, Dave Bunston, Anna Bunston, Lauren Wallis, Brigade Captain Keith Howker (Absent, John Taylor). Photo: Brien Hallett

How to join the Brigade? See detailed points in *Magpie 25* at www.michelagoregion.org.au



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very reasonable rates

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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



SES presentation on spontaneous volunteering, Colinton Fire Shed

Sunday 5th May... 2pm till 3pm (cuppa from 1.30pm)
at Colinton Fire Shed

SES presentation on Spontaneous Volunteering

The abstract of the presentation by Ms Chloe Spear
(SES Planning and Research Officer) is:

The Spontaneous Volunteering Project was established in response to the 2022 Flood Inquiry, following widespread flooding across parts of NSW. The project is intended to enhance the capability of the NSW SES to coordinate spontaneous volunteers during significant disasters.

Community members who assist the NSW SES during disasters will have greater confidence and additional support when lending a hand. It also enables NSW SES volunteers with specialist training to focus on more complex roles during a disaster. Spontaneous volunteering enables community members who would not have previously considered emergency volunteering due to the commitment and training requirements, to become involved in disaster response and recovery activities – learning new skills to help them better prepare for future disasters.

This is a whole of NSW Government initiative and we are developing tools and approaches that can be used by other agencies.

The purpose of this gathering is to allow SES as the NSW Government's lead agency, to provide guidance to community groups such as RFS brigades and progress associations, on how to attract and encourage volunteers from areas beyond your community.

Due to limited seating, please RSVP by 1st May 2024 to Mr Kim Templeton email kimtempleton@inet.net.au or SMS 0426 975 771.

This presentation has been organised by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, more precisely Cohort 1 of Regenerate Regional Leadership.



Eulogy for Dave Hanns

5 April 2024

Glenn Fowler

Photos supplied by Dave's daughter, Leah Hanns-Davis

David Hanns. Ledgen. L E D G E N. He couldn't spell legend, but he was one. He is one.

Dave was born on the 28th of August 1958. I know that because he told me about 120 times.

Dave moved to Michelago on the 13th of August 1966. I know that because he told me about 150 times.

I'm going to miss him telling me those things.



For Glenn Richard Fowler and the other inhabitants of the Michelago Men's Shed, Dave Hanns was David John Hanns, Hahn, Hannsy, Hannsy Cronje, The Mongoose (because he moved like one on a dance floor), David Hannsensensensen, the unofficial mayor of Michelago.

I met Dave in early 2012 just after I built in Michelago Heights, about 100 metres up the foothill from him. It was obvious to me that he was an old-fashioned Australian larrikin who said exactly what he thought. How wonderfully refreshing in our modern times. We clicked immediately – on sport, on music, on jokes, not on cars, because I don't understand them, but he was well catered for in terms of friends who loved cars. Dave and I first bonded by sitting on his verandah with a tinny and commenting on every vehicle and its occupants who had the temerity to enter Michelago village without our express permission. It was playful and harmless. We thought it was outrageously funny. We were both idiots like that, and I'll miss being an idiot with Dave. Being an idiot was a wonderful release from the stresses of life. Dave was much cheaper than a psychotherapist.

Many of us knew this Dave. I have heard Dave was loosely contemplating a move to Canberra around the time of the arrival to the village of myself and my friend of 35 years, Ricky Jordan. Rick and I came as a package deal: two clowns for the price of one. The Men's Shed grew over time and welcomed so many into the fold. Brandt, Pauly and Shano, Big Chris, Pat Ciaran, Ryano, Ed the Astronaut, Matty Williams and Big Ado. Will Kelly would pop in and so did many semi-regulars, like the McDonalds. Strangers would walk past and be invited to come in and have a "tube". I saw this happen many times. Some said yes, like Joe Lanutti, who became a bona fide Men's Shed member and is here today. Gibbsey would often turn up and have a coffee and tell shooting and fishing stories. Some of these stories were probably true. For the first few years that I knew Dave he had a loyal sidekick in Russell Cotter. The two of them got on like family, and argued like family. Think Steptoe and Son. Russell used to tell Dave to "behave..." Dave didn't. It took a while to adjust to Dave without Russell after Russ moved into Queanbeyan. But there was a new generation to fill the void in Nathan and his crew, and young Charlie. The gang is super close, and will go on. Dave was our glue, but now we will find different glue. Every time we catch up we will remember Dave and we will share our stories.

I've always sought to surround myself with people who are funny. I can tell you that Dave was one of the funniest people I've ever met. He seamlessly blended being consciously funny and unconsciously funny. He could tell a joke and it would be consciously funny, or he could tell a joke and stuff it up and it would be unconsciously funny. Dave's dancing was funny. Ridiculous

and funny. I still don't know if he seriously did not understand caller ID and believed he had to spell out his phone number on every single one of the thousands of phone messages he left me, but it was always funny. Dave frequently and famously mangled the English language and invented words and again it was unclear as to whether he was doing it deliberately or accidentally. Every time there was a belter we would write it in permanent marker on his garage door. He would light up because he'd amused us.

Dave called Youtube the Loudtube.

Wifi was Ewik.

Twitter was Witter.

Email was Amail and a computer was the Amail machine.

A recluse was a secluse.

I don't know what ferolity meant but he said it.

Same with extruded, futusion, exertive and gynoconjugal.

Once or twice somebody became ineburated and that affected their longjeppity for the afternoon session.

The Men's Shed, or the Michelago Memorial Stump Grinding Club, was a creative space. It was where Dave changed the lyrics of Rick Springfield's Jessie's Girl to "I wish that I had Lucy's friend". It's where Dave renamed Halloween to That Twinkle Twinkle Rubbish. He really hated the Americanisation of Australia. And he hated electric vehicles. If you drove a Prius or a Tesla here today, in Dave's honour, your car is, as I speak, being located and destroyed.

Dave was a brilliant observational comedian. He would notice things about people and work them into one of his routines. Dave once became internet famous for a day for his appearance on Gary the Goat's YouTube channel. Search White Line Fever.

Dave was authentic. What you saw was exactly what you got. I think that is what we cherished about him in social settings. He could say absolutely anything at any time. Every conversation with Dave was like a Mystery Flight. It could go anywhere.

At the age of 42, I was bullied by Dave into playing my first ever game of cricket for the Michelago Cricket Club down at the MCG. There I got to know a whole new dimension of Dave, his passion for sport and his sporting relationships. I understand he had been an accomplished cricketer in his younger days – Dave told me that, and others did also. His body didn't allow him to play with any seriousness by the time I arrived. But his mouth still worked fine. Whilst keeping up his fluids, Dave would shout encouragement, and often give some tough love to anyone whose enthusiasm might be waning on a 40 degree day. He would playfully taunt the opposition, then offer their outfielders a beer, sometimes when a catch was coming their way. He would always make friends with opposition players and shake their hands after the game, even when he didn't play. I know blokes that played cricket against Dave Hanns 15 years ago who were devastated on hearing of his passing. He was simply the biggest personality in the competition. Dave was Michelago cricket. There are many of his teammates here today and



obviously they are struggling to deal with Dave's passing and to work out what it means for the collective. Dave played with hundreds of men, and not one of them will have forgotten him. We met to share cricketing memories last Saturday. I didn't really know that the reinvigoration of a cricket team that began playing in 1897 occurred in the early 1990s when Dave collaborated with fellow posty, the young Eric Bowman. The older Eric Bowman is here today, along with a number of the footy players and others Bowie recruited over the years who went on to become stalwarts of the cricket club. The team won seven premierships in a decade between 1994 and 2004, including two threepeats**. I can



remember hundreds of statements made by players, me included, about giving up the game, about the body giving out, or the lost Sundays that could have been spent with family, about it being their last season. They just kept coming back. Kieran kept coming back. Walshy and Phil kept coming back. Richard kept coming back. Pete Wren can barely move, having been attacked by multiple pieces of heavy machinery over the years, but he kept coming back, along with his son Mick. Graeme Barron has had more farewell appearances than Johnny Farnham, but he was so unassumingly ruthless and effective that he could do what he wanted. Baz would turn up in his civvies for a beer and end up bowling eight overs into a stiff north-westerly.

Dave left us way too early, but it would have been even more tragic if he had gone a few weeks earlier and missed out on Michelago's first grand final victory in 20 years, a comprehensive victory, and then the league presentation night when skipper Matty spoke and dedicated the victory to Dave. Dave drank from the premiership cup and topped it off with a win on the pokies. A pig in the proverbial. He wanted me to go but I had a prior commitment. That's my "if only". Lots of people here with us have an "if only" about one more thing you wanted to do with Dave, or one more time you wanted to see him, or one more thing you wanted to say to him. There are definitely mercies in dying suddenly when you are at the peak of your life, but there will always be regrets when someone leaves us without warning, in a moment.

I want to talk about Dave's competence, because it would be important for him. Dave took a pride in his work, whatever it was. Meggsy tells us that Dave had a reputation in the shearing sheds in Queensland and Bourke for outworking everyone. He was strong, and great with his hands, and he would have a go at anything. He was in his element mucking around with a car, fixing things or working on a landscaping job. He was a natural with machinery. He could grind the heck out of a stump. He could kill a threatening snake without his resting heart rate changing. He had his weekend rituals to maintain the outside of his house. I remember him ritualistically attending to every inch of the brick house that he built here in the village. Dave's lawn was and is probably the nicest lawn in the region. Dave did a big paving job for me once when he was in his very late 50s. He was slow, but painstakingly precise, and the job was absolutely perfect, and will no doubt remain perfect for decades. Dave did things right.



Knowing Dave was to know his family. We Men's Shedders and cricketers knew each of his siblings, Mick, Margaret, Mark and Simon. We'd play tennis with them and their extended families every Anzac Day in honour of their father Jim, whom Dave put on a pedestal, like he did his mum Pat. Dave was so fond of Leah and Aaron, and he adored his grandkids. Dave was a family man and it was clear to anybody who spent time with Dave how much he loved you all. Susan, I know Dave loved you because he told me so numerous times, and everybody who knew you together could see how much you loved him.

Dave Hanns was a good man. Dave was genuinely interested in his friends, in what they were doing, and that is a quality that is more rare than you might think. He really cared for his people.

He would be available to you. He would go to war for you. When my world collapsed overnight three years ago, my opponents became Dave's opponents. Dave didn't doubt me for a moment and he would have done anything for me. I hope all of you have at least a few friends like Dave who will stand in your corner no matter what comes.

I'm sure you will know what I mean when I say that our friends were Dave's friends. If I vouched for someone, that was good enough for Dave. When he said he was "pleased to meet someone", that wasn't merely a turn of phrase: he actually meant it. He was immediately curious to know what made this person worthy of your friendship. Dave would have had many thousands of brief or momentary encounters with friends of friends or complete strangers. He made a permanent imprint on so many people. He made the most of every single connection and interaction.

Dave told me many times that I was his best friend. "Glenn Richard Fowler, you're my best friend" he would say. I never believed it for a second. In the moment, he'd just get carried away about such things. I never believed I was Dave's best friend because Dave had at least 50 best friends, and most of them are sitting here today. If most people said they had more than one best friend I'd say they were saying one thing to one person and the same thing to another person because they were insincere or hedging their bets. But that's not what Dave was doing. In the moment he meant it about me. And in another moment he'd believe it when he said it to Paul Brophy, or Ricky Jordan, or Meggsy, or any number of you. Dave Hanns sincerely had a lot of best friends.



In fact, that's what Dave was: a best friend. An elite level best friend.



Council survey about tourism

There are differing opinions around Michelago about tourism and a sustainable future. Here's a chance to express your views to Council via the survey links below.



**A community survey
inviting feedback on current
tourism impacts and local
tourism potential.**



We are seeking community input on the impacts of tourism within our region.

Your feedback will play an important role in shaping how tourism develops in our community and help us ensure a sustainable future for our region.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes. Participants who complete the survey by *Friday 31 May 2024*, will go into a draw for a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift vouchers that can be redeemed at the Cooma or Bombala Visitor Centres.

To complete the survey scan the QR Code or visit
<http://www.angusassociates.co.nz/snowymonaro5>

24/7 Customer service line
1300 345 345

PO Box 714 COOMA NSW 2630
E council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
W www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au



Thai massage temporarily unavailable

Somsri's marvellous massages are on hold while she helps care for an ill family member.

She plans to resume this excellent service at the railway station for the community as soon as she can.





Magpie information

Get the Magpie free by email: send name and email address to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au Print copies are \$2 at the Michelago shop. This goes to the Railway Station Maintenance. Previous issues are available on www.michelagoregion.org.au

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Contributions: photos (jpg preferred, please) and news items are welcome. Please send them to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au 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 newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

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 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: 2nd Tues of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagoans are welcome. The minutes are on the website: www.michelagoregion.org.au



Yoga



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.



Memorial Hall bookings – memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au New phone # soon.

This is the Schedule of Fees for the hire of the Michelago Memorial Hall for the financial year 2023-2024.

- a) A flat fee per hour: \$17.00. Refundable Deposit Bond: \$170.00
- b) Private Evening / Party Function: \$240.00, Refundable Deposit Bond: \$250.00
- c) Hire of equipment, eg tables, chairs, kitchen, arranged with the Committee.



Michelago & District Landcare



President Markus Buchhorn

Our local Landcare group met 14 April for its AGM, and to discuss ideas for projects in 2024 and beyond. A fruitful discussion followed the brief administrative bit.

Over the last year we ran a number of workshops, stalls and information sessions that were very well attended; the first weeds workshop alone had nearly 50 people come along! We funded several people to get ChemCert accreditation, who are now able to help local landholders. We also got funding to tackle some large-scale professional weed control along Michelago Creek, from the railway to its junction with the Murrumbidgee. There is clearly a lot of interest in what Landcare offers, and the opportunities it brings to our region.

From the second half of the year we aim to run more events, more regularly. These will include workshops (suggestions welcome) and we plan to hold a film night in mid-June. The main long-term project is to start to rehabilitate and enhance the Michelago Creek side area below the Michelago Oval, and make it an area that connects the village to the creek, with a trail through something ecologically richer than the confusion of grasses, dying trees, and weeds there now. The MRCA is also considering some work to repair and upgrade the fencing, which would include a suitable gate, and will coordinate with Michelago Landcare. This work would further tie in with the Council Masterplan that references a walking/riding track parallel to the creek – but we're still waiting to see any details on that. Once the project is started, we can apply for additional funding from a variety of sources and build a wonderful area there for our families to enjoy in the future. To help this get started, we plan some working bees and barbecues, followed by planting in Spring and ongoing maintenance.


Hope to see many of you get involved! Contact me at Landcare@michelagoregion.org.au

As always, Landcare membership is easy: Family \$16.50/year: <https://bit.ly/MADLfamily>

Individual 11/year: <https://bit.ly/MADLindividual>

We're also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/michelagoanddistrictlandcare> and setting up a dedicated page on the new Michelago Region website:

www.michelagoregion.org.au Keep an eye on the *Michelago Magpie* for future updates!




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Michelago Magpie Calendar ~

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

Previous issues of the *Magpie* are on 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). After a short break, choir practice will resume 9 May.
- **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 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings:** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au Current hire rates: see p22.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library. Monday, May 6 & 20, 9.45–11.30. Outside the school.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2nd Tues 6pm. Next: 14 May.
- **Pilates.** From 4 May for six weeks, \$100. 9.30–10.15. Details p17.
- **Pony Club.** Monthly 2nd Sunday. Enquiries: Rhys (0401 778 004) or Alisha (0422 623 304) or email michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/>
- **Pre-School** – cancelled. See Hall report p3.
- **Seed Savers.** Usually 3rd 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 Seed Savers is hibernating until further notice.
- **Senior Lunch Group.** 1st Monday of the month, 1pm, the Shop.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Monthly Masses will recommence in October. Updates on Michelago's Facebook Noticeboard.
- **Thai massage.** Railway Station. Cancelled due to family illness but to resume when possible.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3rd Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders:** usu. monthly, 1st 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. Details p22.

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

- **SES Info session re spontaneous volunteering.** May 5, 2–3pm. Colinton Fire Shed. Afternoon tea from 1.30. Details p15. RSVP 1 May.
- **Discussion at shop** 11 May, morning, with council staff and Cr Tanya Higgins at the General Store about draft Active Transport Plan re improving safety in Ryrie St.

**** 'threepeats':** *Magpie* is reliably informed that this means winning three premierships in a row, and doing that twice.



Get your events and news in the *Michelago Magpie*.

Email details to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

