

~ Michelago Magpie 27~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 1 June 2024

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In this issue: 25 May meeting with Council 1–4; Council Corner 4–5; Financial sustainability fact sheets 5–7; Council Corner 4–5; MRCA & roads 7–9; Turning lanes off highway 9; MRCA AGM 9–10; Hall 10–11; Tennis court 11; Railway Station 11–12; Council applauds volunteers 12; Oval fence 13; Cemetery AGM 14–15; Bridge progress 16; Errata 16; Choir's winter recess 18; Magpie & MRCA info 19; Magpie calendar 20. **Services:** Sewing & Yoga 17; Yless4U, Gardening, Pilates 18.

Comments & submissions to Council close 11.59pm, Monday 3 June – see email link below



Council's proposed budget cuts: roads, roads, roads ... Road photos: Kerry Rooney



... and library, mowing, weed spraying, but mainly roads ... see pp2–9.

The Council's published plan is to stop maintaining unsealed roads with less than 35 cars per day and sealed roads with less than 150 cars per day. This would mean that *no maintenance* would be done even when something goes wrong on the road.

We think that most roads around Michelago will fall below these thresholds. People need to tell Council that this plan is totally unacceptable.

What if flood damage makes your road impassable? General wear and tear? Access for the fire brigade, ambulances, school buses, yourselves? Property values? Legal liability if you fix the road yourself? **Give your comments via this link before 11.59pm, Monday 3 June:**

<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draft-smrc-budget-and-operational-plans>



Without maintenance, all unsealed roads will soon look like these.

Proposed service changes and fact sheets: revenue sources & spending: pp5–7.



Michelago General Store 25 May: CMRC community consultation

Mayor Chris Hanna, Councillors Tanya Higgins, Narelle Davis and Tricia Hopkins, and Council staff Ashleigh Prowse and Gina McConkey gave their time and knowledge patiently and generously.



Approximately 80 people came and went during the advertised hours of 9 to 11. Questions, concerns and complaints kept councillors and council staff busy. There was plenty of printed information and many feedback forms were collected.



Some people were surprised to find council staff just as concerned as residents about the financial situation, and seeking solutions with the least impact. Solutions are, of course, hard to find.



Local governments keep in touch with one another and it's no surprise that all councils are feeling the pinch. There are annual meetings of Local Government NSW (LGNSW), and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). There's also the Country Mayors' Conference and frequent individual meetings with politicians Steve Whan and Kristy McBain.



So, why do successive state and federal governments ignore the plight of regional NSW councils?

L: Good heavens, where is this road? It's in Queanbeyan Palerang shire. It's Burra Road, and it starts just over the border from Snowy Monaro shire.

Queanbeyan Palerang is approximately half the size of Snowy Monaro and has three times the population. That means a lot more ratepayers per km of road.



It was an excellent morning for the shop's business.

The staff made 70 coffees.



<https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draft-smrc-budget-and-operational-plans>



Council Corner – May update

Cr Tanya Higgins

Draft 2024-25 Budget

As most people will know, the draft 2024-25 Budget is out for consultation with the community, until 3 June 2024. Council has conducted numerous pop up meetings in towns and villages around the local government area.

On Saturday, many people joined us in the Michelago General Store to discuss some of the service reductions which are being proposed in an attempt to balance the budget (ie only do what we have funding to do).

Frustratingly, this includes Council doing **NO MAINTENANCE** on unsealed roads that get less than 35 cars daily on them, and sealed roads with less than 150. To put it in context, that would affect the roads that most Michelagoans use.

I would suggest that our roads are a daily necessity, not a 'nice to have', and that roads are the most important service council provided to people in rural areas. Without a safely navigable road, we are cut off from employment, education, health services, recreation, emergency services, friends and family.

As one of your local Councillors, I am doing all that I can to ensure that our roads are not going to be abandoned by Council. There has to be another way of spreading the cost over more roads. A compromise must be found. But make no mistake – the money will need to come from somewhere else.


I need as many people as possible to write in to Council giving your views about what should be SMRC's spending priorities and necessities, and what are the 'nice to haves' to you – that is, the (non-statutory) things we shouldn't fund.

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

For Cr Higgins' bridge update, see p16.



Summary table of proposed changes



Proposed Service Changes 2024-2025

In previous years, Council has been spending more than the revenue coming in, which is not sustainable. The Council is making a concerted effort to reduce spending, increase revenue, and provide a balanced budget.

Some significant changes have occurred within Council since Council adopted the last suite of strategic planning documents. Council's integrated plans need to consider the impact of these and whether changes are needed in Council's strategic direction.

The Towards Excellence Project has been instrumental in identifying the services we provide to our community. It has helped us distinguish between our legislative obligations and non-regulatory services, often called 'nice to have' services.

The revised draft of the DP 2022-2026 identifies service changes and reductions that aims to improve Council's financial position, for which community feedback will be sought.

Changes to service level




Service Delivery	Key Changes
Weed spraying on roadsides	Reduce weed spraying on roadsides
Ranger Services	Triage complaints and only respond to medium level risks. Barking dog complaints only investigated when time allows
Parking education	No longer undertake parking education programs
Mowing of open spaces and recreation	Inconsistent mowing across the region occurs. The proposed changes will impact in different areas to increase or decrease the mowing frequency
Unsealed road grading maintenance	Unsealed roads with an estimated traffic volume of <35 vehicles per day no longer maintained
Sealed road maintenance	Sealed roads with an estimated traffic volume of <150 vehicles per day no longer maintained

Changes to services provided

Service Delivery	Key Changes
Economic Development	Reduction in economic development activity
Economic development donations	No longer provide event support grant applications to the value of \$50,000
Fleet Mechanic	Removal of vacant fleet trainee position
Mobile Library	Removal of the mobile library service
Library Services	Cooma Library will no longer be open on Saturdays
Youth Services	Engage with a third party to provide youth support services
Community Development Strategic Planning	No longer provide Community Development Strategic Planning and committee support
Road Safety Officer	No longer fund the Road Safety Officer position
Donations and sponsorships	No longer provide Council funded donation and sponsorships

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Financial Sustainability

Fact Sheet 1

In an effort to improve community understanding of Council's financial challenges, below is a general overview of where Council's revenue currently come from, where funds are spent on average and a snapshot of our current services.

In summary Council is

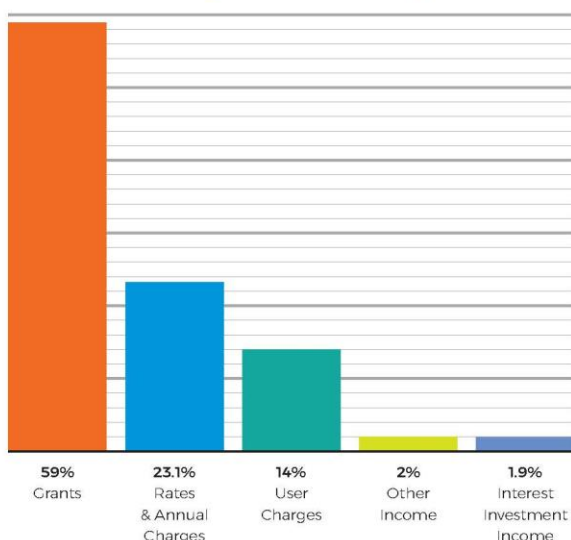
- Currently spending more on services than we can afford
- Not investing in areas we should be
- Too reliant on government grants

Your rates account for less than a quarter of our total income.

We need to address these challenges starting now. We need to look at what's important and do that well.

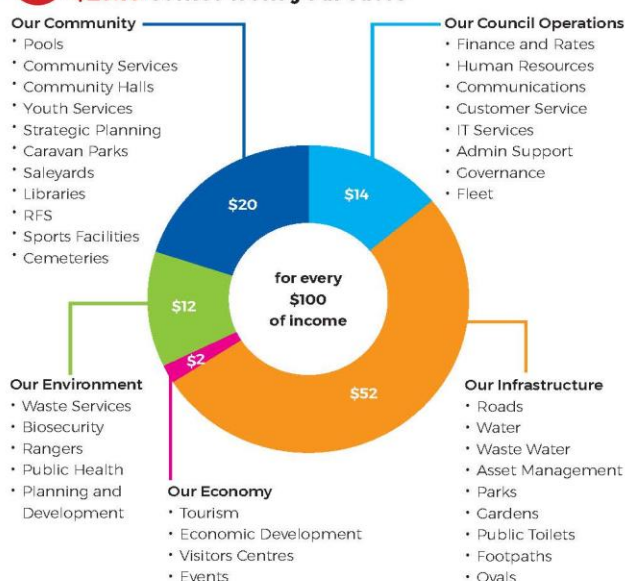
Next week we will provide a comparative rates and services overview to other similar regional Council's.

1. Where we get our money*



2. Where we spend our money*

For every \$100 of all Council income, only \$23.10 comes from your rates



3. What we do

931km Sealed Roads	1716km Unsealed Roads	127 Bridges	18 Pedestrian Bridges	7184 Culverts	310km Water Pipes	40 Supply Reservoirs & Dams	3 Water Treatment Plants	11 Water Pump Stations
8 Sewage Treatment Plants	32 Sewage Pump Stations	9 Waste Facilities	696,088 Bins Collected	4 Council Offices	3 Public Libraries	1 Mobile Library	24 Community Halls	5 Swimming Pools
35 Playgrounds	385ha Parks and Natural Reserves	19 Recreation Fields	7 Showgrounds	2 Saleyards	6 Caravan Parks	2 Visitor Centres	21 Public Toilets	23 Cemeteries

*Data above is based on average income and expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year.



Financial Sustainability Fact Sheet 2

Welcome to Part 2 of our special series on Council's financial challenges.

This information provides important context for the community to understand how we compare to other councils in terms of rates and service levels. The facts are, our residential, farmland, and business rates sit well below many neighbouring council areas. Yet at the same time, we are currently providing more services on average than what's typical for a council our size.

This highlights the fundamental challenge: we have overcommitted ourselves with the services we provide for many years, beyond what our revenue income can cover. Over time, this has reduced our cash reserves, increased our operational and maintenance costs, and put simply, we are trying to do too much with too little.

As we approach our second year of the special rate variation, Council is not willing to increase rates beyond what has been approved. What we must do is look at the services we will provide into the future. Our financial deficit highlights that we cannot keep doing all we are doing. Challenging decisions must be made to rein in costs and build a more sustainable council.

Rates comparison

Residential | Average Rates



Farmland | Average Rates



Business | Average Rates



Total Annual Rates Comparison

Average Annual Rates Bill Totals



Special Rate Variation Comparison

Comparison of Special Rate Variation Increases



Comparative Service Levels

CRJO Average¹ Group Average² SMRC

Pools per 10,000 people



Community Halls per 10,000 people



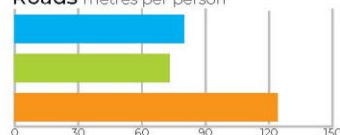
Libraries per 10,000 people



Parks/Open Space m² per 10,000 people



Roads metres per person



Library Resources³ per person



Data source: NSW Office of Local Government comparative data 2021/2022 and NSW Libraries comparative dataset 2022/2023.

Note 1: The Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) is the regional government body for the South East NSW region. Member councils include Bega Valley, Hilltops, Upper Lachlan, Eurobodalla, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Goulburn Mulwaree, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys, Wingecarribee and Yass Valley, plus associate members Wagga Wagga City Council, East Gippsland Shire Council (Victoria) and the ACT Government.

Note 2: Group incorporates similar size councils in NSW.

Note 3: Library Resources refers to physical assets held in library collections and made available to the public.



Letter to Monaro Post 21/5

Dear Editor

What use is a local council if it does not maintain roads?

Roads are critical infrastructure. Motor vehicles are effectively the only form of transport in this region.

In Snowy Monaro, 65% of households use cars to get to work. The average for NSW is only 46%. And 64% of Snowy Monaro households own two or more cars – for NSW that figure is only 52%.

In spite of these facts, the Snowy Monaro Regional Council has apparently decided that half our roads are unnecessary evils and it will stop maintaining them. That's right! The Council's Operational Plan 2024-25 explains that it will maintain only 52% of sealed roads and 53% of unsealed roads.

If you are amongst the unfortunate residents who live on an unsealed road with less than 35 cars per day, your road will no longer be graded. Similarly, if you live on a sealed road with less than 150 cars per day your road will not be maintained.

There are no ifs, buts or maybes in the Council's plan that is out for consultation.

I would like to know if Council has consulted the school bus companies that drive our country kids to school every day, over unsealed roads that are already rough. Has Council consulted the emergency services? How far will roads deteriorate before an ambulance can't get to your property or home to save a life?

Kerry Rooney



And a letter circulated to the community 22 May from the MRCA executive committee ...

Hi MRCA Members and Friends

Mayor Chris Hanna and Deputy Mayor Tanya Higgins will be at the Michelago General Store this Saturday 25 May from 9 – 11 am to discuss the Council's proposed budget cuts and to hear from the community.

I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to have your say.

Budget issues that are likely to affect the Michelago region include:

- Proposal to stop maintaining unsealed roads with less than 35 cars per day
- Proposal to stop maintaining sealed roads with less than 150 cars per day
- Abolition of the mobile library
- Reductions to roadside weed spraying
- Changes to mowing of recreational grounds and open spaces
- Abolition of the Donations and Sponsorships grant which has helped cover costs of maintaining the Michelago Railway Station over recent years.

If you have concerns you should also submit them in writing to the Council. There are a number of ways to do this.

Write to the CEO david.hogan@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au and copy the Mayor and all Councillors (their email addresses are at www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Council/Councillors)

- Submit your comments via the Have Your Say page <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draft-smrc-budget-and-operational-plans>
- Submit your comments to me at kerryarooney@gmail.com and we will include your concerns in a submission from MRCA.

The full set of budget and planning documents are available on the Council Have Your Say page.

[Attached to this letter were the documents that are reproduced on pp 5–7 of this *Magpie*. They provide a short summary of the proposed changes to services and an explanation of why Council is in this challenging financial situation –Ed.]



Turning lanes off Monaro Hwy – coming campaign for road safety by MRCA

Everyone local knows what it's like to turn onto or off the highway, whether you're turning across traffic, or slowing down to exit on the left. And the traffic is getting heavier.

There have been scary experiences and near misses for years. Fatalities are a matter of time.

These roads need long, wide turning lanes: Willows, Cemetery, Clearview, Micalago, Mt Livingstone, Baroona. If you think your road should be on this list, please tell us by writing to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

The highway is the business of the NSW Government, not Council.

Next month, after submissions to Council about the proposed budget cuts are due, the MRCA will start campaigning for turning lanes for these side roads off the Monaro Highway.



MRCA Committee needs some new faces

First, please be a member: see p19. It's easy & cheap!

The current committee has achieved a lot for the community in the past few years.

President Di Fett does not plan to stand for re-election, but might stay on the committee.

Treasurer Kerry Rooney wants to relinquish the treasurer's role. She would assist as part of a new committee through support with the railway station, grant applications (currently the role of the treasurer) and lobbying on local government issues important to Michelago.

Secretary Leanne Pattison will not stand for this position again, but will continue producing the *Magpie* for the moment and will stay on the committee, including being the MRCA liaison with the Hall Committee.

Committee members without office (Sally Hughes, Tony De Salis, Peter Holland, Robbie Wood, Sam Walton) are considering their plans. It's hoped they'll continue to contribute.



In short, it's clear that the Michelago Region Community Association will need a new president, treasurer and secretary. As the association is incorporated, it's legally required to have people in these positions.

What is required of these positions?

- **President:** this is a leadership role. The president represents the MRCA.
- **Treasurer:** maintain up-to-date financial records and submit regular reports to the committee. Prepare annual financial statements. Apply for grants.
- **Secretary:** attend to agendas and minutes of meetings. It's important that these be done promptly. The association is publicly accountable.

The MRCA must have a minimum of three meetings per calendar year. The previous constitution required monthly meetings. Business can be transacted outside meetings, via telephone or other means.

For reference to the new constitution, go to www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

The Annual General Meeting will be at 3pm on Saturday, 27 July, Michelago Railway Station.

Jobs are shared out in a cooperative way. Everything depends on what time and energy people feel able to contribute.

Please consider giving some time to support your community association.



Michelago Memorial Community Hall

Photos: Allan Lehepuu

The Hall Committee continues to maintain and improve this central community facility.

The solar battery has been installed. The acoustic panels project has been acquitted by President Naomi. Council has promised to fund an emergency power inlet, the mysteriously broken carpark bollard has been replaced by Council (*see left*), some heater elements need to be replaced, and a cleaning fee for large events will be added to the hall's hire fee. Hall hire rates are on p16.



There's now 'how to use the hall' information posted in the kitchen. This includes instructions about the pump and the solar system. It will be sent with hiring info, too. Thank you, Naomi.

The annual SMRC Donations and Sponsorships Grants will finish this year. This is a casualty of the necessary budget cuts. Last year, the Hall's grant partially funded the dishwasher and its installation. This year, the Hall Committee applied for money for

a new name-sign above the portico (the present one is old and sad) and for materials to paint the patched wall (right-hand side from the entrance). Council has funded the full quote: \$1458.62. It even includes sandpaper.

Here is a belated thank-you to Allan for installing the timber supports for the new acoustic curtains: thank you, Allan!

Reminder that the previously publicised new phone number for Hall hire bookings is currently non-operational. Please email to request hiring: memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au

Following the resignation of one member of the Hall Committee, due to her other commitments, Council will advertise for applicants to fill the position. There are supposed to be seven members on the S355 Committee. Current members are Naomi Walton (President), Jenny Wholohan (Secretary), Belinda Sierzchula (Treasurer), Cath Cotter (Hall bookings), Anna Lucas, Allan Lehepuu and Leanne Pattison (MRCA liaison). *R: new solar batteries*



Care for community assets



L: Rubbish on the tennis courts 23 May.

This is only a recent example. On the whole, people do the right thing, but why doesn't everyone use a public bin or take their rubbish to their own bin?

If there were a bin at the oval, emptying it would be another volunteer job.

There are bins near the public dunnies at the top of the oval. The Council truck does not empty these. Ivan and John Colaric do it and are surprised at some items (eg soiled nappies).



Michelago Railway Station

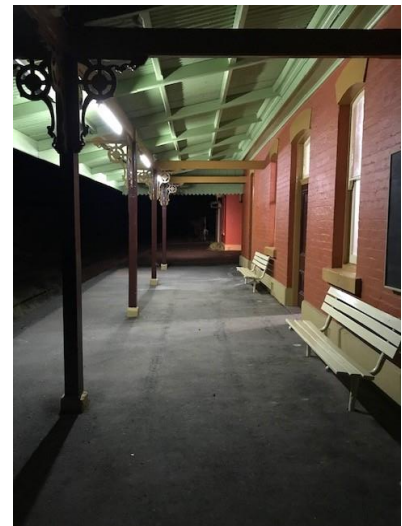
Donations and Sponsorships Grant: this yearly funding opportunity has long been an essential support for the station's rental from UGL (and previously from John Holland) and for the costs of electricity, which have increased for everyone. It has also helped to cover maintenance costs.

The MRCA's 2024 application for \$2,000.00 with the project title 'Community access to Michelago Railway Station' has been granted. Due to Council's budget cuts, this is the last year of the scheme.

This will make it more important for the MRCA to look for some new fundraising opportunities.

The station has been maintained and improved in recent years, thanks to much volunteer activity. It has become increasingly favoured as a venue for community activities and is often visited by the large number of people interested in historic buildings.

Magpie readers are aware of the recent grant of \$17,000 from the NSW Historic Society, an amount generously promised to be matched by UGL. Two craftsmen (a plasterer and a carpenter) skilled in historic restoration and recommended by consultant Pip Giovanelli (see *Magpie22*) are expected to be contracted by UGL.





Council's recognition of volunteer workers

Media release 22 May 2024: Celebrating and recognising all who choose to make a difference.

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is celebrating the tireless efforts of our region's volunteers this National Volunteer Week, currently underway across the country until Sunday 26 May 2024.



This year's theme, *Something for Everyone*, highlights that these selfless community members come from all walks of life, and the huge number of different ways that anyone can get involved to make a difference.

Mayor Chris Hanna said volunteers are the backbone of the Snowy Monaro region.

'From those who give their time to drive community members to essential medical appointments, to our brave and committed RFS members – our region's volunteers really show what our community here in the Snowy Monaro is all about,' said Mayor Hanna.

On behalf of a grateful region, Council extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to volunteers throughout the Snowy Monaro for their generous and vital work.

The importance of these contributions to rural and regional areas like ours cannot be overstated. Whether it's delivering meals to the elderly through Meals on Wheels, helping to maintain trails and public spaces, or assisting at our libraries and visitor centres – every minute volunteered has an enormous positive impact.

'I encourage everyone to take a moment this National Volunteer Week to thank a volunteer making a difference in our community. To all our volunteers – thank you for your dedication, generosity and for making the Snowy Monaro a better place every day,' said Mayor Hanna.

The Snowy Monaro has a strong culture of volunteering, with the 2021 Census showing volunteering participation rates well above state and national averages.

Council offers information on a range of volunteering opportunities across the region.

To learn more, visit <https://qrco.de/SMRCvolunteers> or contact Council by email at council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 345 345.

Clancy Noakes | Communications Officer

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New fence for the oval?



The MRCA is applying for a Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund grant for a new fence for the western (creek) side of the oval and obtained quotes from two expert local fencers.

A 1.8 metre high fence is proposed, to extend from the northern end of the green shed to the cricket nets, and to incorporate a farm gate near the shed (for vehicles) and a pedestrian gate about half-way along.

L: The current fence.

This proposal has the enthusiastic support of the Michelago Cricket Club (MCC), the members of which anticipate an end to players hitting sixes into the creek or its weedy surrounds. Cynics (realists?) anticipate that a new fence will just provide an enticing challenge for big hitters.

Whatever the case, it would stop many balls being lost and be a vast visual and safety improvement.

An up-to-date fence with the two gates would also anticipate development on the creek side. Such development is tentatively planned by Landcare and is a feature of the Michelago Master Plan (remember this?).

The plan is to call it The Dave Hanns Fence.

However, there is no guarantee that, even if the grant application were to be successful, current heritage and environment regulations would allow the fence to be built. Let's hope bureaucracy sees civic sense.



Rob Hansen (at left with Kerry) and Will Kelly inspect the site prior to their quotes.



Note that the Boco Rock funding is not dependent on Council and thus does not contribute to the ongoing financial crisis.



Tennis clubhouse improvement, too?

Included in the above grant application for the new fence is a smaller one for partial lining of the clubhouse's open room walls.

The back wall and the inside of the front half-walls need lining with corrugated steel, as are the two side walls. At present, they are lined with foil, which is easily damaged (and has been in one section).



In November 2022, Boco Rock funded a new ceiling covering the rafters, thus stopping bird poo droppings. (See *Magpie10*, p7.) As a result, the open room has at last been used for meetings and by tennis players.

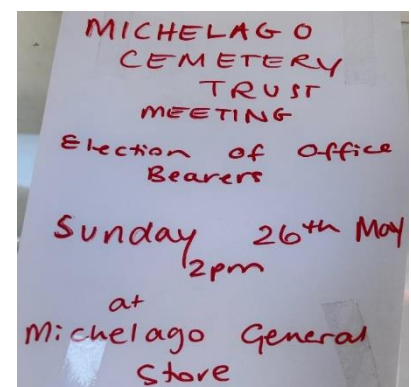


S355 Cemetery Trust Committee AGM

Sunday 26 May, Michelago General Store

The Cemetery Trust is, like the Michelago Memorial Hall's committee, an S355 Committee, governed by SMRC regulations, so must have an AGM. Lingering Covid has caused a long delay.

R: Notice of the meeting was posted on the increasingly used MRCA Community Noticeboard at the General Store.



Ron Coffey, retiring Chairperson, conducted the election.

Those elected were:

Chair: Liam Cotter

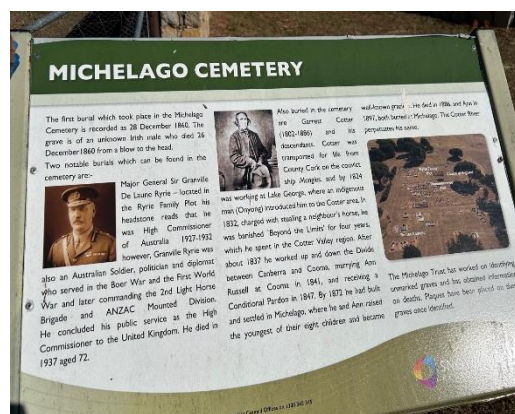
Treasurer: Liam Cotter (re-elected)

Secretary: Fiona Tollis (re-elected)

Committee members: Ben Wickham, Susan Tillack, Linda Apps, Ron Coffey.

Left: Fiona, Susan, Michael, Ron, Liam, Linda, Di.

As there were no membership restrictions, interested community residents Michael and Di Fett, Linda Apps and Leanne Pattison could nominate candidates and vote.



L: Michelago Cemetery entrance and the history board that gives Ryrie and Cotter family contexts and an early map of plot layouts.

Continued ...

The only other formal business was to vote for the purchase of a ride-on mower. This would save Liam from transporting his machine to the cemetery to mow the c.1.5 hectares. The cemetery land also extends up the hill – plenty of room left.

Where to house the mower? There might be sufficient funds to buy a small shipping container. It was wistfully observed that the Bredbo cemetery has a proper shed for equipment – ride-on mower, whipper snipper and other tools.

In a lively meeting about housing the dead, there were some local history highlights and anecdotes. Here are some.

Facts

- Ron has been chairperson for 33 years. The meeting thanked Ron for his service.
- Before Ron's long tenure, Bill Cotter (Liam's father) was chairperson and Ron was treasurer. Before Bill Cotter, Ray Coffey (Ron's father) was chairman.
- As the new chairperson, Liam is continuing a community tradition. The meeting speculated that he was also establishing a family one.
- Ron complimented Liam on his meticulous record-keeping of cemetery finances.
- Liam has been treasurer for 'a long time'.
- By Council OHS decree, graves are now dug with a back-hoe instead of the back-stressing labour of locals. Against long tradition, the decree also forbids people to fill in the grave. This was ignored at Dave Hanns' recent funeral, when shovels were provided for the many who wanted to follow custom. (Prohibitions coming on digging one's own garden?)
- You can buy a burial plot from Council for \$400, but that's just a booking fee – you have to pay the balance after your death.
- The graveyard was segregated: Catholics here, Protestants there. This might (ie it's not necessarily a fact) reflect the more active sectarianism of former days, from both brands, and the preponderance of Irish settlers.

Anecdotes

- There used to be many Michelago boarding houses and eight 'pubs' in the 1800s as essential support to all the hopeful hunters for alluvial gold with claims along the river.
- There was a bloke, possibly called Simpson, who was fatally struck by lightning a way south along the Monaro Highway. His family erected a handsome gravestone somewhere down near the bottom end of the cemetery. Alas, it was destroyed by lightning. Ron Coffey and Bill Cotter, advanced recyclers, stuck it back together. The resurrection job was also the victim of a lightning strike. Ron and Bill, reading the heavenly room, took the hint and left it alone.
- In the days when locals would dig the grave, there was one that wasn't quite big enough for the coffin. Apparently, someone had to put their boot to the box for 'a bloody good shove' to push it in.
- A coffin was once not put in quite straight. It went in sideways, opened and the body fell out: 'There were men there who you'd never thought would cry ...'
- There were the two McMahon girls who'd been to a dance at a local boarding house (later Russell Cotter's residence). It was a moonlit night and they decided they'd walk home via a shortcut through the cemetery. Two blokes got wind of this, covered themselves with white sheets and pranced around behind a gravestone. When the girls recovered (legend does not say how long this took), they swore blind there had been three figures.

The *Magpie* might explore more aspects of local history down the track.



Bridge progress



24 May. It's starting to look like a bridge!

Access between Micalago Road and Ryrie Street will soon, soon-ish be a reality.

Nearby residents have asked for reassurance from Council engineers about drainage off the anticipated road.

[Cr Tanya Higgins' update 28.5.24](#)

The bridge work is well underway now, so I have asked about the work on Ryrie Street which council will do once the bridge is finished. I have been told it will be 2 lanes of sealed road to Micalago Road, with the bridge being single lane.

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



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 FY 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.



Errata – Magpie 26

- 1. Michael Fett wore the medals of his late grandfather, not those of Di's grandfather.
- 2. The name of the speaker at the ANZAC Day ceremony has not been found. It would be good to give her credit.
- 3. Stanza 16 of Leanne Thurling's poem, *Again*: 'Medway' should be 'Midway'.

Erratum – Magpie 25

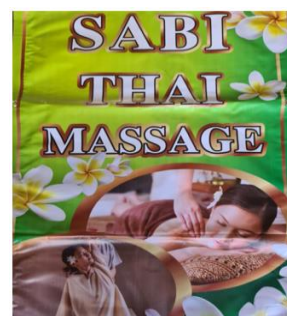
In Leanne Thurling's poem *Arnie*, for 'ropes', read ROPS, meaning 'rollover protection system'. This occurs twice.

The *Magpie* apologises for the errors and the omission.



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.





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



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.



Connecting Rural Families

30/15 Unlimited

\$80 per month

New!!

Up to 50Mbps

\$ 99 per month

New!!

Up to 100Mbps

\$129 per month



Locally Based Helpdesk



Internet Packages to suit all needs!

Plans starting from

\$ 35 per month



GARDEN STUFF



Johnno does gardens

pruning, digging, planting, landscaping, topiary, paving, mowing,
selective weed spraying, general maintenance

Forty years of experience

Call for a quote: John Colaric 044 822 0311



After a successful initial programme, Pilates instructor Heidi will be starting more Pilates instruction classes on Saturday, 15 June at the Michelago Memorial Hall, 9.30 to 10.15.



Late news: Michelago Choir

The choir will be in recess over winter and will resume in the first week of October. See the *Magpie* Calendar, p20.



MAT PILATES



TRY PILATES IN A SUPPORTIVE SMALL GROUP SETTING.
IMPROVE YOUR FLEXIBILITY, BALANCE AND STRENGTH.
MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE - 12

Join in the fun on Saturday Mornings 9:30-10:15.

June 15, 22, 29 and July 6 Pay as you go sessions.
\$15 per session at Michelago Memorial Hall.

Waiver must be completed before class starts.
Please arrive 10 minutes early to complete a waiver and payment.

More information contact
ReformU Pilates
0416 568 653



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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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 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



~ 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** will now stop for the winter and resume the first week of October on Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station).
- **Fire Brigade** training usually second Sunday of the month, 9am–1pm. Contact details: MRCA notice board at the Michelago General Store BUT no training Sunday 9 June. See below for 8 June. Next Shed Night 20 June.
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings:** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au Current hire rates: see p16.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library. Monday, June 3 & 17, 9.45–11.30. Outside the school.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2nd Tues 6pm. Next: 11 June.
- **Pilates.** Details p18.
- **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 for 2024 due to lack of enrolments.
- **Seed Savers.** Seed Savers is hibernating until further notice. Enquiries: please SMS or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au
- **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:** usually 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 p17.

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

June 8: Michelago RFS training will be combined with Colinton, Bredbo & Smiths Rd. 12.00 start at Colinton. Possibly also with NSW F&R. Please RSVP on RFS Active

July 13: Michelago Fire Brigade AGM, Saturday 2–5pm, Michelago Memorial Hall.

July 27: MRCA AGM, Saturday 3pm, railway station. Details p10.

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



Email the details to the editor: newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

