

~ Michelago Magpie 28 ~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 4 July 2024

from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on www.michelagoregion.org.au Print copies at shop \$2

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In this issue: Campaign for safer intersections 1–4; Budget cuts update 5; Bridge 5; MRCA AGM 6–7; Irises 7; Russell Cotter 8–11; Funding applications 12–13; Donations 12; School 14; RFS 15; Hooley update 15; Snr Lunch Group 15; Rubbish 16; Local folk 16; Magpie & MRCA info 19; Redfin 20; Cemetery update 21; Historical headstones 22; Bushrangers & church 23; Magpie Calendar 24. **Services:** Sewing, Yoga, Yless4U, Gardener, Pilates 16–18.



Dangerous intersections with Monaro Highway need turning lanes

Now that the bridge is a done deal, MRCA is turning its focus to a campaign for safer, wider verges and turning lanes at intersections with the Monaro Highway. Action? See p4.

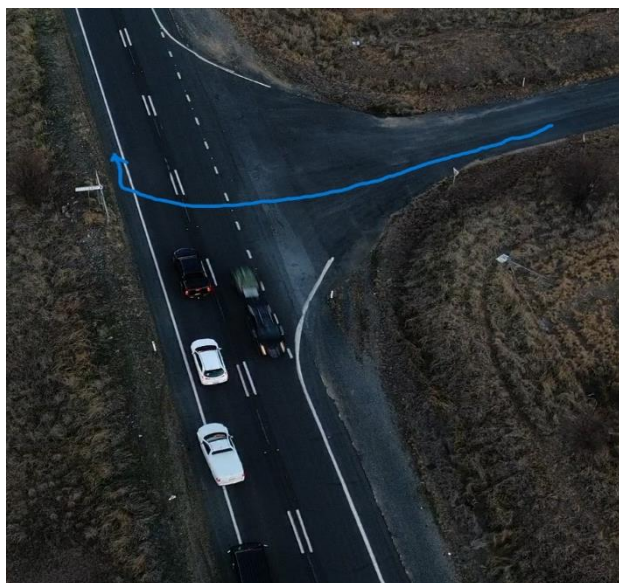
Clearview Road has *no pullover room* for cars to turn right safely from the highway.



Above: The circled black car, brake lights and indicator on, wants to turn right into Clearview Rd. It must wait in the middle of the highway for northbound oncoming traffic to pass, as there is only a half-car width on the left of the left-hand white line. Meanwhile, cars behind it bank up or, as here, squeeze past on the left. They sometimes rashly pass on the right of a car that's waiting to turn right. They sometimes mistake the turning car's right indicator as a driver's signal to pass on the right. Further, turning right out of Clearview Rd has no safe zone on the other side.

There needs to be a truck's width safety lane on BOTH sides of the highway for cars to enter and exit all side roads. See next page ...

Further to the p1 photo, there's a steep bank on the left of that view, so a car having to urgently pull into that narrow space is in further danger.



L: Cars exiting Clearview Rd to turn right need a safety lane to pull into on the other side of the highway when there's heavy traffic.



The highway is increasingly busy. On Fridays and Sundays there's to-and-fro coast traffic. Ski season is a nightmare. The Monaro is a major artery for trucks. They're all doing 100+ kph.

Above R: The Pony Club Rd (aka Cemetery Rd) exit/entrance is just as bad as Clearview Rd's.



The ground view from the Clearview Rd intersection also shows no room for cars from the north to wait on the left for safe turning into Clearview.



Trucks can obscure the indicator light on a turning car from traffic behind. In a recent incident, an impatient SUV passed such a truck that was slowing behind a southbound car turning right into Clearview. The turning car had a narrow escape and the driver a frightening experience. There have been many such incidents.

Micalago Rd: given there are over 50 households on Micalago Road (plus those on Karinya Plains Rd), its intersection with the Monaro Highway should be urgently upgraded with the addition of dedicated turning lanes.

Funding is available for safety upgrades to the Monaro Highway – announcements have been made by Steve Whan, member for Monaro and Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

However, all the funding to date has been provided to Bredbo, Cooma, Nimmitabel and Bombala. Our northern end of the Monaro Highway has been totally neglected. See Steve Whan's April media release here [Work to start on more major Monaro Highway safety upgrades \(stevewhan.com.au\)](http://stevewhan.com.au)



*L: Turning right into Micalago Rd across traffic.
R: turning right out of Micalago Rd across traffic.*



Cars turning into and out of Micalago Road have a slightly wider, but insufficient, area than those in Clearview Rd. There is insufficient safety lane room on either side. When they turn north into heavier traffic than here shown, they must dash to the very narrow opposite side to wait for northbound traffic to pass.

Mt Livingstone Road:



The issues are the same here. Turning out of or into Mt Livingstone Rd in either direction is dangerous when there is other traffic. Note the gravel verge.

There are other such places.



Other intersections have a slightly widened verge, but often gravel. Baroona Rd has better turning lanes, though short, but is situated on a crest, so is well known as a frightening spot. That road should enter the highway further down the hill.



L: Contrast Poveys Rd. Its sealed turn-in lane is c.200m long.

R: Contrast Bumbalong Rd. Its sealed turn-in lane is even longer than Poveys Rd's. Also, it's at least as wide as a whole lane in the actual highway.

That is to say, drive towards Cooma and see road safety improving. Michelago is the poor relation in the shire family. Cont'd ...



The MRCA has initiated a letter writing campaign to our parliamentary representatives with the cooperation of residents on some of the affected roads. Anyone not involved in that campaign could also write to Steve Whan, local Member for Monaro << monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au >>

Another target for letters urging action is Jenny Aitchison, the NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads – you will have to upload your letter on line here and complete the online form:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-regional-transport-and-roads>

Multiple letters from residents will certainly have more impact with the politicians than just one letter from your community association. One resident actually had a phone-call response from Steve Whan's office.

Here are some ideas that you could consider including in your letters:

- Ask for urgent upgrades to intersections
- Tell them how many residents or households are on your road
- Describe the intersection of your road with the Monaro Highway and the shortcomings
- The behaviour of through traffic (cars, trucks, caravans) on the highway
- The increasing traffic on the highway
- Visibility
- Dangers and/or frightening incidents you've experienced
- *In addition to safe turning lanes*, you could ask for an 80 kph speed limit, north and south of the Ryrie St turnoff to the village, and this to include the highway from Willows Rd to Micalago Rd.

Unless we speak up, the people of Michelago will continue to be overlooked by the politicians.



SMRC budget & roads MRCA spoke up loudly for the maintenance of Michelago's roads.

MRCA lodged a submission with Council arguing for equitable treatment of rural roads: see it on www.michelagoregion.org.au/topics/ It also

- lobbied the Mayor at the consultation session
- assisted residents with their submissions
- was interviewed and quoted about roads in articles by *The Monaro Post* and *About Regional* << <https://aboutregional.com.au/snowy-monaro-council-proposes-to-abandon-maintenance-of-low-traffic-roads/452220/> >>
- was interviewed about roads by ABC Radio South East (which broadcasts into the Cooma region)
- encouraged residents to write letters to the Editor, *The Monaro Post*.

We're still waiting to see the final decision on roads coming out of the 27 July budget meeting. Minutes are yet to be published. We don't know how Michelago region roads are classified.

The recommendations that went to Councillors included:

1. Change the service level of preventative maintenance for gravel road maintenance so that:
 - (a) Regional and collector roads will receive a maintenance grade on an annual basis
 - (b) Local roads will receive a maintenance grade each two years

- (c) Minor access roads will receive a maintenance grade each three years or as required.
- 2. Change the service level for the unsealed road network maintenance so that:
 - (a) Failures across the road network that remove two wheel drive access currently in existence will be addressed
 - (b) Safety risks assessed under the Council's risk management framework as extreme risks across the network will be addressed
 - (c) Failures across the network other than as set out above will be prioritised based on risk and usage and be addressed only when it is considered funds will remain available at the end of the financial year.

Cr Higgins commented on her Facebook page, 29.6.24:

'Roads are now treated appropriately in this new draft budget. All roads will receive regular maintenance, and repairs will be triaged appropriately.

Thank you everyone who used their voice to highlight the importance of road access in rural areas.

And a massive thank you to the Hon Kristy McBain, as the significant increase to the Roads to Recovery grant has allowed Council to better fund its road network for the next four years. As your Labor Councillors, Councillor Lynda Summers and I have used every opportunity to advocate hard for improved road funding to rural councils – Kristy has listened, and delivered for us.

Revisions to the draft Budget are a direct outcome of Council staff, Councillors, our local members and the community working together.

It's powerful stuff.'

The MRCA's detailed submission to Council is on www.michelagoregion.org.au/topics/



Bridge progress



*23 June. From the air and on the ground.
There's now a lot of road building going on at
the Ryrie St side.*





AGM of MRCA – Why should we care? Why should we attend? Please read on ...

27 July, 3pm, Michelago Railway Station

Committees have come and gone for many years and have achieved a lot for Michelago. They have focused on different things but have always been comprised of community members who have had Michelago interests at heart.

Now we need some new people on the committee – see the end of this article.

What has this committee done?

Finances: We are a very small organisation and our revenue is mainly derived from grants which the Committee has worked very hard to win and to implement for the Michelago community.

- We have fully acquitted the 2021 bushfire grant which provided \$78,000 for the BBQ facilities at the Michelago Oval and paid for initial issues of the *Michelago Magpie*, marquees, heaters, chairs and tables as well as a number of community BBQs, events and dinners.
- We have successfully applied for the following grants: 2023 SMRC Donations and Sponsorships \$1500, Essential Energy \$2750, NSW Heritage Grant \$17,000 with matched funding from UGL of \$16,390, 2024 SMRC Donations and Sponsorships \$2000. Total: \$39,640. These grants are assisting with the maintenance of the Michelago railway station, including Heritage NSW approved upgrades, and its operating costs.
- We continue to apply for grants and the latest is an application to the Boco Rock Enhancement Fund to improve the fence at the Michelago Oval and provide some modest signage to recognise local cricket heroes, Dave Hanns and Clive Kelly.
- To help out the Michelago Memorial Hall, we applied for a grant on their behalf to improve the acoustics in the Hall. We were successful in getting a \$9,925 grant for the Hall in 2023.
- This committee has not organised any fundraising fairs, despite occasional requests. Briefly, the reasons are (a) the enormous amount of time and work involved and (b) increasing restrictions by insurance companies. (See *Magpie 24* for a full account.) The Car-Boot Sale last year at St Patrick's Church was a small-scale, fairly successful event, though.

Other community action:

- In response to our request, members donated \$515 to the Hooley Fire Appeal BBQ in 2024.
- The Ryrie St-Micalago Rd bridge is at last being built, thanks to continued pressure from the MRCA in collaboration with Cr Tanya Higgins, who has networked and pressured tirelessly to continue the groundwork of former Cr John Rooney. Not everyone in Ryrie St is happy about increased traffic, but the bridge is essential to join the two parts of the township.
- The *Michelago Magpie* is a voice for the community, representing various events and interests. It was started in response to many requests for a newsletter.

- The railway station, Michelago's main heritage building, has been cared for and improved, becoming more of a venue for community events.
- There is now a new website for community and visitor information. Same address as the old one: www.michelagoregion.org.au Thanks to Markus Buchhorn for setting it up. We are gradually adding to it. Minutes of MRCA committee meetings are on it as public documents. All issues of the *Magpie* and of previous newsletters are also posted.
- The new constitution (see *Magpie* 25) for incorporated associations is established by the NSW Fair Trading Act. It's relevant and automatically updated.

And so to the AGM, 27 July, 3pm at the Michelago Railway Station

The committee needs new members. The President (Di Fett) and the Secretary (Leanne Pattison) will stand down. The Treasurer (Kerry Rooney) would very much like a change in jobs.

The President is a leadership role. The Secretary's essential job is timely presentation of agendas and minutes. The Treasurer needs to keep financial records – some book-keeping skills are all that's necessary. Non-office holder committee roles are supportive and often bring their own initiatives to discuss.

It's up to each committee to decide what it will do. Activities all depend on available time and commitment. All members of this committee have shared jobs collaboratively and with goodwill.

Di, Kerry and Leanne will stay on to give support.

Leanne is willing to continue the *Michelago Magpie* for the foreseeable future (how far she can see is another matter).

Friends of the Railway Station group

We would also welcome new committee members interested in helping with the railway station.

Please pay the membership fee (\$10 single, \$15 family p/a). It means you can vote, be on the committee *if you want*, and receive occasional info. Payments can be made to MRCA BSB: 633 000, Account No. 126 401 058. Membership form is here: www.michelagoregion.org.au

Do come along. It's good to belong.



The railway station's irises



MRCA Committee member Tony De Salis has noted that the irises need digging up, dividing and re-planting. He thinks maybe some new ones should be planted, too.

He is willing to work on this *with help*. Watch the *Magpie*, Facebook and the shop's notice board for a date.





Farewell to Russell Cotter

17 May 1941 – 13 June 2024

St Patrick's Catholic Church, Michelago, 27 June 2024

Eulogy by his niece, Trish Thomson R: *The Russell many of us remember.*

Old photos supplied by Trish Thomson, Leah Hanns-Davis and Kerry Rooney. Thanks to Gary Morris for colour restoration on some.

'Vincent Russell Garrett was born in Cooma hospital on 17 May 1941 to parents Vincent and Margaret Cotter. Russell's siblings were John (later known as Fr Mel), Patricia, Kathleen, Moya and Agnes, my mother. My Mum coincidentally passed away on this day 8 years ago and Russell passed away on his dear Mum's anniversary, 13 June.



Below: Bill Braybrook & Russell

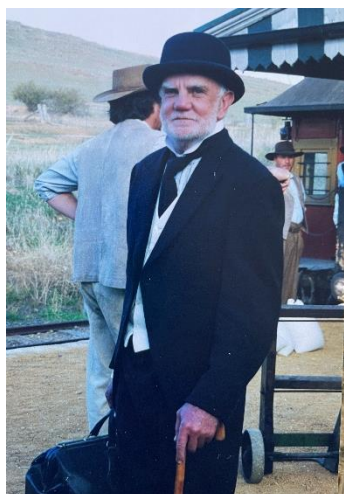


Russell lived in Michelago for 78 years. He was an expert rabbit trapper, fox and kangaroo shooter. He was an excellent shot – one shot, one kill. When brown snakes snuck out from under the house, the outdoor loo, hayshed or wherever, their lives ended that day. He taught me how to shoot when I was about 8. He would string up empty tin cans in the apple tree. The slug gun was off-sight, so I had to learn to aim down and to the left. Russell was a good teacher but my only victims were tin cans.

Russell never had a drivers licence. Instead, he rode horses in his younger years, drove his old Fergie tractor, walked everywhere and then he got his pride and joy, a Yamaha quad bike. He managed to dice with death, illegally crossing the busy Monaro Highway 4 to 6 times a day, often with his 303 strapped on. He would drive through the creek, park the quad and walk up to the shop to buy his newspapers, have coffee and lunch.



Russell & mother Margaret



At the annual Michelago Fair, Russell would give demonstrations of his stock whip cracking expertise. He was also the unofficial cemetery weed sprayer, a task he took quite seriously.

You may have noticed the photo of Russell all dressed up (*at left*) – he was an extra in the 1999 movie *Passion: the story of Percy Grainger*, who was a poet and musician, filmed in the UK, Sydney, Canberra and here at Michelago Railway Station! Blink and you will miss him, but he was thrilled to be involved and he was proud of those photos.



For the past 5 years, Russell lived at Heritage Care in Queanbeyan, where he received exceptionally good care, with all staff treating him with kindness, patience and respect. The highlight of Russell's day was receiving his newspapers. He enjoyed letting staff know the current prices of beef and lamb. Up until the last 6 months, he was still winning the weekly carpet bowls games and enjoyed playing cards with other residents.

Russell first entered Heritage for respite care and was in a shared room with one other man named Max. They each had a TV. Russell was wait-listed for a single room, which he was offered after about 6 months. When I got the phone call about the single room, I went straight to see it. It was just around the corner from his current room. I thought it was great and could picture him being comfortable there with space for his books and wall space for his pictures. Russell looked at the room and said he was happy to move, so I completed the paperwork on the spot. Staff planned to move him that afternoon. A few hours later, I received a flustered phone call to say 'Russell won't move.' I asked to speak to him and asked what the problem was. He said 'I'm not leaving Max. I press the bell when he needs help.' So he remained there with Max.

Visiting Russell in his room could sometimes be a headache, literally. Max is from Albania, has dementia and very limited English. He would have his TV on the Albanian 24-hour news channel at maximum volume and Russell would have his TV on The Price is Right, or some other noisy show, also at maximum volume! I think you get the picture. It was the battle of the remote controls, specifically the volume buttons!

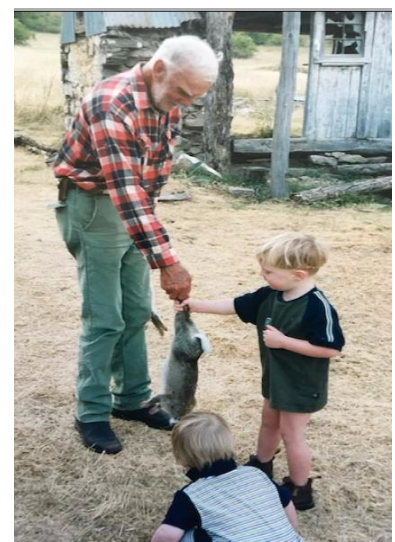
Russell's best mate was David Hanns, who very sadly passed away suddenly in March. We were here in this beautiful church for his funeral. Unfortunately, Russell was too unwell to attend. I think Dave grew impatient waiting for Russell to join him so they could resume their mateship, with beers, on the other side. I truly believe Dave came down at 10.30pm on 13 June and said 'Come on, Russ! Come with me!' They are now reunited in Heaven, sharing/fighting over the crown of The Mayor of Michelago.

Farewell, dear Russell – the Man, the Myth, the Legend.'



Above: Russell at left & his mate Dave Hanns in the middle.

R: Here, have a dead rabbit.





L: Yet another funeral at the historical St Patrick's Church.



R: The traditional job of friends and relatives – filling in the grave.

Russell's wake at the Michelago Memorial Hall



L: Trish, Russell's niece, with Kerry.



R: Leah, Dave Hanns' daughter, with her cousin, Ryan.



People came from far and wide to farewell Russell, many to catch up on family networks – Cotters, Kellys, McTernans and their extended families.



In her eulogy, Trish acknowledged people who had been important to Russell: 'I would like to acknowledge the great care and love shown to Russell by MANY locals. I am hesitant to mention names, as I cannot cover everyone, but a



heartfelt thank you to the Hanns family, Pat, Jim, Michael, David, Margaret, Mark and Simon and his wife Leanne. The Cotter family, Bill and Colleen. In recent years, Liam Cotter was a great help to Russell with his cattle, fencing etc. All of the staff who worked at both the Michelago Inn and the Michelago General Store, including Cheryl, Sally and Tom. Russell's neighbours, Pat, Kurt and Fiona, James and Ceara. Without the assistance of MANY, Russell would not have been able to stay in Michelago as long as he did.'

L: Russell on his 80th birthday at Heritage Care, Queanbeyan.



Donation boxes at the shop



Thank you yet again to the kind people who have contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of the Michelago Railway Station by donating to the box for the station and buying the *Magpie*. Some people have obviously given donations to the *Magpie* as well.

On 11 June, the MRCA banked \$118.65 from the station's box and \$243.65 from the *Magpie* box.



Application to fund the oval's fence and complete the clubhouse lining

This is the application for Boco Rock funding for the Dave Hanns fence at the Michelago Oval and to complete the lining of the tennis clubhouse next to the tennis courts.

Magpie hasn't published applications before. This one is published to show the thought and time that goes into stating a persuasive case for official bodies with money to give some to us.

The case must be stated strongly – there are many other community bodies applying for limited funds.

PROJECT / EVENT DETAILS:		SECTION 3
Project title: Improving Michelago Oval Precinct		
Project location: Michelago Cricket Oval (Clive Kelly Oval)		
Is the project on council land?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If the project is on council land you must complete section 5
Description of the project: For example include information such as: What is the objective?		
<p>There are three elements to the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To construct a 1.8 metre high netting fence on the western side of the cricket oval. The current fence does not stop balls from being hit into the neighbouring paddock and creek. The fence will be in memory of Dave Hanns, late President of the Michelago Cricket Club and former team captain who died suddenly this year just weeks after Michelago won the premiership of the ACT Sunday social competition. Dave had been lobbying locally for a new fence and his team and community wishes to proceed with it. Dave was a charismatic and colourful character, very well known throughout the Michelago community and very popular with his cricket team and many other mates who used to gather at his informal men's shed in the village.2. To install two signs at the oval. One sign will display the new name of the oval, ie Clive Kelly Oval after the local cricketing legend following Council's recent decision and community consultation process. The other sign will be placed on the new fence in memory of Dave Hanns.3. To line the two external walls of the central viewing area in tennis clubhouse with corrugated steel. This will protect the existing fragile lining while keeping most of the historical timber posts and supports visible. The tennis courts and clubhouse are co-located with the cricket oval.		
Anticipated Start Date: September 2024		Anticipated Finish Date: December 2025

Explain how your project delivers improvements to the community (required):

Michelago has had a cricket club since the mid to late 1800s. We have been playing cricket at the present oval since the 1920s/30s after the land was donated to Council for a playing field by the Kelly family. The tennis courts, originally on Ryrie St were then relocated to the oval precinct. What was originally a cricket pavillion for spectators was moved from the northern end of the oval, to the southern end and became a tennis shed and more recently extended with the addition of a kitchen and toilet facilities (another MRCA project) and now optimistically renamed a Tennis Clubhouse. Our recreation facilities in Michelago are limited. But they have all been supplied by the generosity, hard work and enthusiasm of our small local community. We would like to celebrate this heritage, by recognising two local heroes. We want to honour a legendary local cricketer, Clive Kelly, whose father and uncle donated the land for the oval and Dave Hanns, a recent local hero who championed the Michelago Cricket Club over the last twenty years. Communities should have pride in their local heroes. The upgrade to our oval precinct through the addition of a fence, signage and minor upgrades to the Tennis Clubhouse are long overdue.

Explain how the project will support local economic development (if applicable):

This project is about a minor but important improvement to our sports infrastructure. Visiting cricket teams would contribute to local businesses and therefore have a beneficial effect on economic development.

However as outlined in the Michelago Master Plan, a boardwalk or walking path is anticipated to run beside Michelago Creek which would include the corridor next to the cricket oval. Should our fencing project receive funding from Boco Rock, we will have a gate through the fence to allow Landcare and the local community to access the creek area and to start upgrading it with weeding and planting. This will make Michelago a more desirable place to live and work in the future.

In addition the Council is currently installing a new bridge on Ryrie Street to connect the village with Micalago Road, thus providing a route for traffic to explore the village. Beautification of the creek corridor will entice more people to visit and spend money locally which in turn will lead to business development.

Explain how the project will support local tourism development (if applicable):

In the short term there may be little effect on tourism development. However Michelago is located within 30 minutes drive of Tuggeranong and 40 minutes drive to Cooma. We already have many tourists who stop at the Railway Station - everyday they stop there for lunch or a rest. The railway station is directly across the street from the cricket oval. With this fencing project, we hope to open up the creek area to easier access. We will collaborate with Landcare which has plans to remove weeds and plant native vegetation beside the Michelago Creek adjoining the cricket oval. That will increase the attractiveness of our village for tourists. Every journey commences with a few small steps.

Identify your capacity to deliver this project/event (required):

(E.g. background of applicant /organisation - size, prior experience, Who will do the work? Who will oversee and track progress of the project/event?)

Michelago Region Community Association has delivered many grant projects successfully. For example, we received a Boco Rock grant in 2019 and managed a \$30,000 project of maintenance and upgrades to the Michelago Railway Station. In 2023 we successfully completed another major project - a Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund project worth over \$70,000. This involved the construction of barbeque facilities, shelters and seating at the Michelago oval as well as a series of community events to assist recovery after the horrendous fires of 2019-20. MRCA applied for the grant and managed the construction project. We are a resilient little community and we do know how to deliver.

The Michelago Railway Station is maintained largely by grants gained by the MRCA. The Hall Committee's many projects to improve the Hall in the last couple of years have been paid for more by grants and fund-raising events than hire fees.



Many volunteers have written applications over the years. The one above is by Kerry Rooney.

The Boco Rock Fund is independent of Council. Be assured that its money doesn't disadvantage our roads.

L: the foil-lined, incomplete back wall of the clubhouse's open room.

The ceiling to cover the bird-perch rafters was funded by Boco Rock two years ago.



Term 2 Week 7 12 June 2024

Excursions and camps are important social and educational experiences for school students, and Michelago's school students are all being catered for.

Years K–2 went to the Thredbo River for a Teddy Bears Picnic, joining up with Bredbo and Berridale Primary Schools. Two rangers entertained the students, showing them bush treasures.

Then the mini-campfire event at the school delighted students with roasted marshmallows and story-telling, followed by a relay with lots of teamwork and even more fun activity through cooperative fort-building with chairs, blankets and pillows and imaginative play.



Years 3–6 went to Borambola for a Sport & Rec Camp, which was full of fun and challenging activities demanding problem-solving and teamwork. They included kayaking, fencing, archery, rock climbing, a mud run (imagine!) and a mini Olympics.

L: Students at Borambola Camp

Years 5–6 are gearing up for the Uluru Leadership Trip, for which there'll be a fundraiser later this term. There's a donations box at the shop for support of this exciting experience.

The above are just a few highlights *Magpie* has summarised from the school's newsletter about recent activities at the school.

Thanks to Principal Geoff Smith for sharing it with the Magpie.



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

Training officer Gregg McFaul

May and June have been quiet for the RFS. On 8 June, there was a combined training organised by Colinton, which included Bredbo, Smiths Rd, Anembo, Michelago, Jerra Creek and Lake George.

It was a really interesting day, including vehicle operation in the wet, pumping, structure fires, first aid, and an introduction to impending technologies (at least for the Monaro) of breathing apparatus, and data terminals.

It was really terrific to see so many people from across the brigades getting together for a social BBQ and informative training session.

Photo courtesy of Colinton Fire Brigade



Progress for the Hooleys



Marion and Ian's new temporary accommodation is nearing completion.

Ian has promised an update when it's ready.

The community's collective fingers are crossed that all will be well for them soon.

L: In mid-May, Ian showed photos of the newly fitted bathroom.



Senior lunch group



L: June

R: July



First Monday of the month, 1pm, Michelago shop. Informal. Come along, have a great coffee or pot of tea, chew the fat (or a toasted sandwich) and catch up with the local news.



Rubbish news from Council

Visit <https://qrco.de/wasteinfoSMRC> to get the latest bin collection calendar for your area, and learn more about waste and recycling in the Snowy Monaro.

As a reminder, please ensure that your bins are placed at least one metre apart and never dispose of hot ashes or batteries in your kerbside bins.

CreativeCommons



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



Local folk

27 June. Sophie, a fairly new and very welcome newcomer to the village, was snapped peacefully feeding very new baby Isabella in the sunshine outside the Michelago shop. The devoted canine attendants are Harley and Storm.

Only in Michelago.





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.

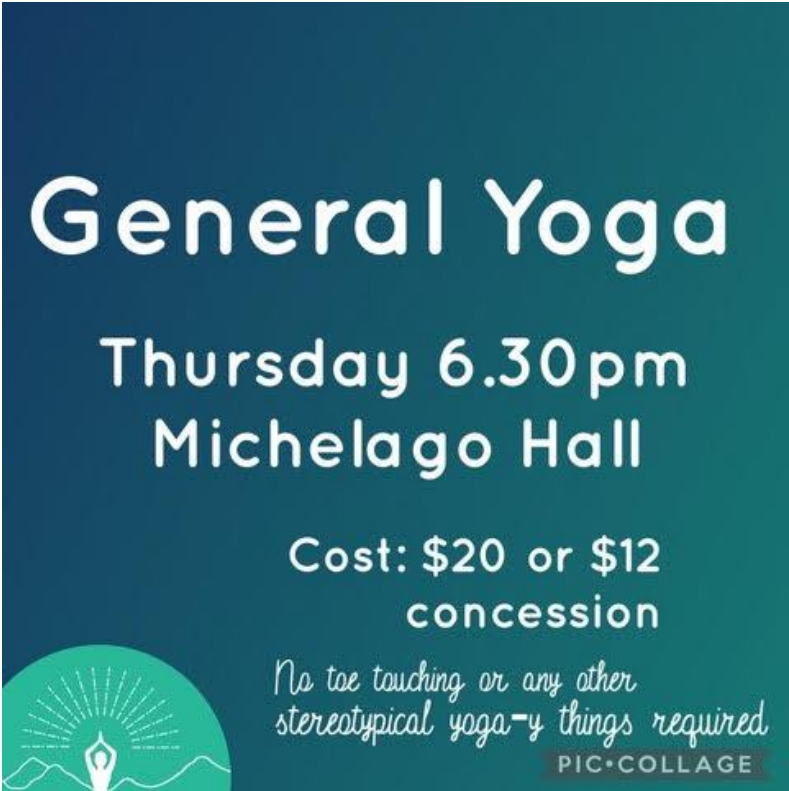
Yoga can help to decrease stress and improve your overall mental health & wellbeing, help with managing back pain, assist in the recovery from injuries or just generally improve your overall strength, mobility and balance.

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.

If you'd prefer a change from Thursday to Sunday, maybe at a different time, text Belinda (**0411 043 027**) to register your interest.



General Yoga

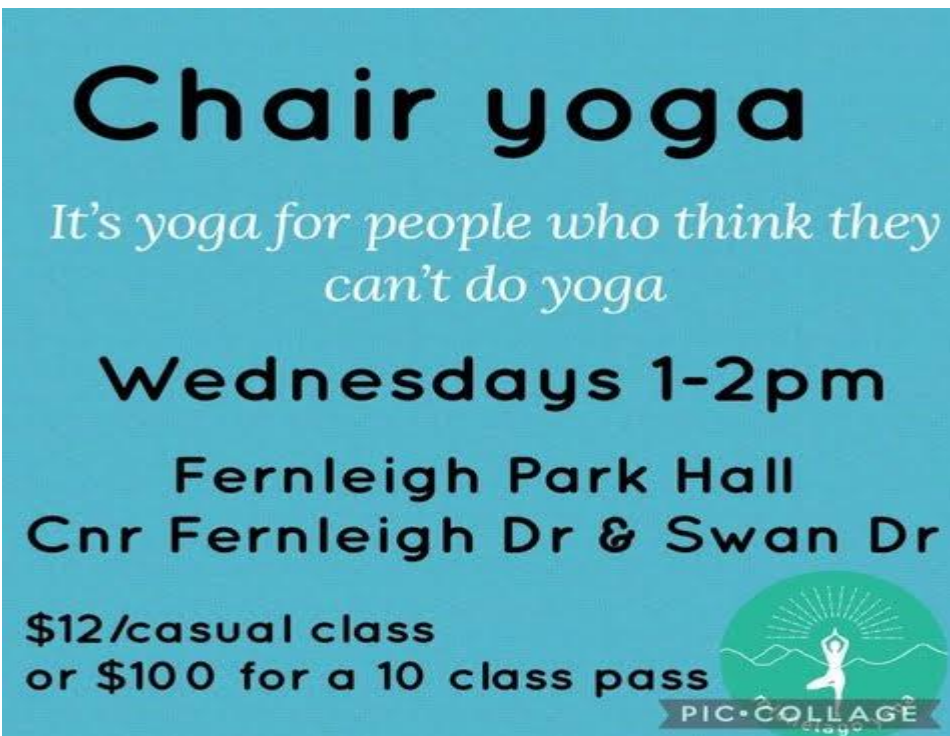
Thursday 6.30pm

Michelago Hall

Cost: \$20 or \$12
concession

*No toe touching or any other
stereotypical yoga-y things required*

PIC•COLLAGE



Chair yoga

*It's yoga for people who think they
can't do yoga*

Wednesdays 1-2pm

Fernleigh Park Hall

Cnr Fernleigh Dr & Swan Dr


\$12/casual class
or \$100 for a 10 class pass


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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



Help keep the Upper Bidgee (upstream of the ACT) Redfin-free!

Antia Braddeman, UMDR



Redfin perch are a popular recreational fishing species and are even regarded as a 'good eating fish'. But Redfin perch are also an introduced species which carry the EHN virus. Once Redfin numbers increase in a waterway the EHN virus can be magnified to levels that can spill over to other fish species including Murray and Trout cod, Macquarie perch, Galaxias, silver perch and trout. The virus is particularly devastating for Macquarie perch (affectionately also referred to as the 'Macca'). In fact EHN is so devastating to the Macca that it has ceased to persist in all waterways where Redfin are present.

Up to now, Redfin have been found in Canberra's urban lakes and upper Murrumbidgee River downstream of the ACT border. Recently, however, there has been talk that Redfin have been found in the upper Murrumbidgee upstream of the ACT. A Redfin incursion in this part of the catchment will have severe consequences for both these fish species.

Last year the UMDR ran several angling days, where recreational fishers targeted sites where Redfin have been found and area where there was favoured habitat. Luckily, none were detected but we need people to be on the look-out. If a Redfin perch is found in our waterways, please get in touch or report it via the Feral Fish Scan website or app (see link below).

Our community can also help to keep the Upper Bidgee Redfin free by making sure Redfin perch are not transferred to our area whether as live bait or stocking into farm dams. The problem with farm dams is that Redfin can spread downstream if the dam spills. This is how Redfin were originally transferred to the Canberra Region. If Redfin are present in a farm dam upstream of the ACT we would love to know because it is still possible to contain the pest by treating the dam before they spread further downstream.



L: Top Pro angler Andy McGovern and volunteer anglers assisted the UMDR to fish for redfin in October 2023 (Photo Credit: UMDR). To find out more, please contact Antia on 0429 778 633 or upperbidgeereach@gmail.com

Feral Fish Scan can be found at www.feralfishscan.org.au where you can report a sighting.

*This article is reprinted from the quarterly **The Upper Bidgee Bulletin**.*

upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com www.landcare.nsw.gov.au

www.facebook.com/uppermurrumbidgeelandcarecommittee





Cemetery update – lightning does strike twice

Following great interest in the *Magpie* 27 report on the Michelago Cemetery Committee's AGM and associated stories (some verified), two reporters sought and found the blasted headstone featured in the story about a man possibly called Simpson.

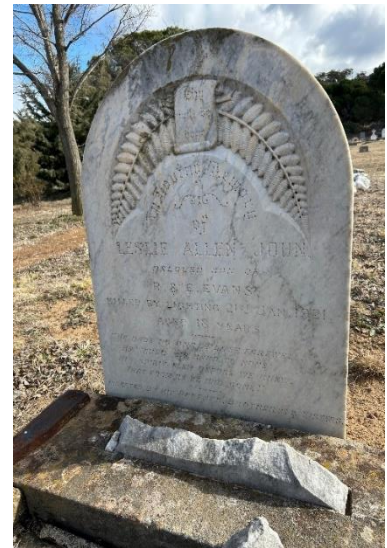
We hate to spoil a good story, but the truth *appears* to be a little different. First, his surname was Evans.

The grave is near the cemetery's highway boundary. Clearly, there's one broken headstone, but two? We think a second lightning strike on the headstone is unlikely, but ...



Research below by Kerry Rooney

The original story in 1921 was reported across Australia in over 25 newspapers. Young Jack died while out rabbiting on Micalago Station. The family lived in Michelago village and when he didn't come home for tea, his brothers went out to search for him. They found his body under a large tree that had been shattered by a lightning strike.



Jack Evans was the baby of the family, the youngest of ten. Imagine the horror of his family when he was struck by lightning and killed at just 18 years of age.

Young Jack was buried in the Michelago Cemetery. What happened next is hard to believe. His headstone was struck by lightning and shattered to pieces!

In this version of the story, a new headstone was erected. In the photo, you can see some large shards and the base of the original headstone.

The inscription on the present headstone reads:

In loving memory of Leslie Allen John, beloved son of R & E Evans
Killed by lightning 21 Jan 1921.
Aged 18 years

"He bade no one a last farewell,
He waved his hand to none.
His spirit flew before we knew
That from us he was gone."

Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters.



Historical headstones



There's a wealth of stories in the Michelago Cemetery.

In what might be called Cotter Corner, where Russell Vincent Garrett Cotter was laid to rest, Cotters abound (or, rather, lie).

L: The original Garrett (it's clearly a family name), born 1802, came from County Cork to NSW in 1822 and died in Michelago in 1886.



R: Here's a sad one.

Little Garrett was born 30 March 1870 and died 20 April 1870.

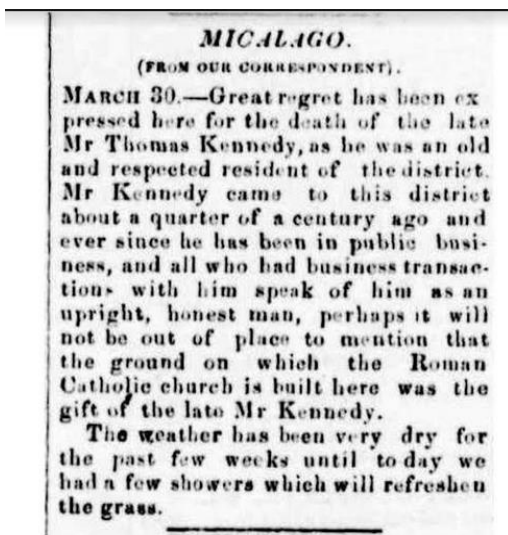


More local history: the innkeeper that built a church and his visit from the Clarke gang

Kerry Rooney

Thomas Kennedy acquired land in Micalago in 1853 and with his wife, Mary Maher, opened an inn a few years later.

Although the local population was still small, Micalago needed a church as well as an inn. The Kennedys had a solution. They not only donated the land, but Thomas also built a small stone church and in 1865 St Patrick's opened just down the road from the Hibernian Inn.



The local parishioners paid off the debt owing to Thomas for the church's construction.

At around the same time, the Ryrie family of Micalago catered to the needs of the Anglican population and built the weatherboard church of St Thomas. (*Magpie* will do a feature on this charming little building later.)

On 1 June 1866, Micalago made headlines across the Australian colonies when the notorious Clarke gang bailed up the Kennedy's inn, rounded up the locals, mainly women and children, and held them all at gunpoint.

Some of the bushrangers then went across the road to rob and vandalise Levy's general store and assaulted the shopkeeper working there. Afterwards, they forced their captives to help them drink the bar dry, before riding off with their booty to their hideout at Jingera in the Tinderry Mountains.

Here is an excerpt from a long report of the event in the *Queanbeyan Age and General Advertiser*:

Early in the evening, about dusk, four horsemen were seen to come down from the direction of the Tinderras, and leaping the fences just below the Roman Catholic church, to pursue their way steadily through the street or road to the Queanbeyan end of the township.

Here they commenced their systematic sticking-up. The first house they approached was Mrs Lenane's, a widow, and ordering her and a labouring man in her employ to march before them, they proceeded further.

The next place they visited was Reddan's, whom they also ordered on before them. They then called at the lockup, and senior constable Moran's wife being the only person there, she was added to the number of their prisoners.

Finally they reached Kennedy's Inn, where they left their prisoners in charge of one of the Connells.

The Hibernian Inn, still standing beside the Monaro Highway today, was built in 1872 and became the second building of the same name to house the Kennedy's inn-keeping business.

Thomas Kennedy died in 1875 at the age of 55 and Mary retained ownership of the business until her death in 1894, aged 82. After various owners, the property was sold to the De Salis family around 1900 and renamed Soglio.

Sources: *Sydney Morning Herald* 5 June 1866, *Argus* 9 June 1866

Below: the old church, then and now.





~ 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.
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings:** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au Current hire rates: see *Magpie* 27.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library. Monday, July 1, 15, 29. Outside the school 9.45-11.30.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2nd Tues 6pm. No July meeting.
- **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. If interested in a change to Sundays, maybe at a different time, text Belinda.
- **Yoga (Chair Yoga)** at Fernleigh Park Hall, near Googong on Old Cooma Rd, Wed 1–2. Details p17. 0411 043 027

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

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

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

Sept 14: Council elections

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



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



Erratum: *Magpie* 27, p2. 'CMRC' should read 'SMRC'.