

~ Michelago Magpie 29~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 6 August 2024

from your Michelago Region Community Association

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In this issue: DA for 1 Ryrie St 1–2 & MRCA submission 8–13; Snow 3–4; BRIDGE! 5; Council Corner 6–7; Woolly Bear 7, 25, 27; MRFB AGM 13–14; MRCA AGM 14–17; Writing competition for young people 17; Hall 19; Cemetery help 22; Pet rego rules 22–23; Magpie info 25; Gingerbread house Hall fundraiser 26; Senior Lunch Group 27; Parrots 27; Magpie calendar 28.

Services: Children's dance class 18; Jenny's sewing 19; Pilates 20; Yless4U 20; Gardening 21; Yoga 24.



No room for the inn

Development of 28 houses, 1 Ryrie St – issues of business, roads & recreation



A developer's plan to demolish the old inn at 1 Ryrie Street and replace it with 28 houses ignores the potential of the site's location for the creation of employment opportunities in Michelago.

See map on p10 in MRCA submission to Council.

The plan fails to capitalise on the location's prime position as the 'Gateway to Michelago' and the opportunity for tourist and visitor accommodation and some retail activity as set out in the Michelago Master Plan.

If every developer who owns land in Michelago builds only houses, Michelago will never be more than a dormitory suburb of Canberra. The population will grow while remaining bereft of nearly all services.

The developer plans to retain the service station.

Local and passing trade and socialising: The plans for 1 Ryrie Street include three housing blocks directly abutting the Monaro Highway. That land would appear on face value to be better suited to a pub, restaurant or tourist accommodation.

The community of Michelago wants somewhere to meet and socialise. Once the General Store's café closes after lunch, there is nowhere in the village to have a meal or a drink with friends.

Increased pressure on roads and intersections: the development will add to the traffic using the Ryrie Street intersection with the Monaro Highway. This will make it more important than ever to get the speed limit reduced on the Highway and the intersection improved.

Pocket parks / public playground:

The DA for the 28 houses does not include any plan for open space for a playground. The houses in the recently developed nearby street, Mount View, also have no open space.

This anticipates a sterile suburbia with only backyards for play and interaction.

The sports oval is the *only* public recreation space in Michelago. It's approximately one kilometre from the development and Mount View. There is a footpath for only some of the way. This is too far and, in parts, too difficult for parents with prams and small children to walk.

A socially conscious plan should include 'pocket parks'. These should be of sufficient size for a grassed area, seats and some play equipment. These are important open spaces for people's relaxation and socialising. They contribute positively to community ambience.

Community consultation: Planning documents were exhibited online, at all Council offices and at the Michelago General Store. Comments to Council closed 31 July.

The Michelago Master Plan adopted by Council in 2021 after extensive community input is intended to guide development that is in tune with the community's objectives. The *Magpie* urges developers to read the Master Plan closely.

The MRCA submission made to Council expands on the issues arising from this development plan.

[The MRCA's detailed submission on the development is on pp8-12.](#)**

The *Magpie* would be pleased to publish other submissions that were made to Council. Please send them to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au



27 July: Michelago snow on people, places, animals ... and veggies



L: Snowman and chocolate for Delilah and Lola. (Belinda Hayes)



Sculpture and horses (Alex Hansen)



Above: Silvered beet

L: A van Gogh sun at Stringybark Ridge.

(Kerry Rooney)

Below L to R:

Baroona landscapes (Tanya Higgins)

Clearview Rd views (Gary Morris)





The bridge linking Ryrie St and Micalago Rd is open! Wow!

The bridge and the road have been finished 😊

Speed restriction signs and drains are yet to go in.

Please, everybody, observe the 50kph limit. There will still be pedestrians and bikes on the road, with people walking their dogs and children going to school.



Above: The Ryrie St upgraded surface starts near the police station, then it curves to the bridge.



Above: The Micalago Rd approach/exit, the c.100m of sealed Micalago Rd towards the highway, then the c50 metres of sealed Micalago Rd to the old railway bridge.



Two side views from the bridge

The bridge is a huge achievement realised by sustained community pressure and political persistence, particularly in the last five years.
In summary, the Fire



Brigade's then-Captain Brent Wallis first alerted SMRC Councillor John Rooney to the need for a substantial crossing for fire truck access and the safety of other traffic. John and then Cr Tanya Higgins have pushed the project through Council and undone recalcitrant bureaucratic knots to greatly benefit the community's convenience and safety.



Councillor update – an update of ‘lasts’

Bridge

There will be no further updates regarding the Michelago bridge. Small but mighty, the bridge and extended Ryrie St now re-connect the village North to South, after decades of residents having to drive around via the Monaro Highway.

Quietly, and without fanfare, history was made this week with school children and families from Micalago Road using the connection to ride their bikes to school. At the next firecall, RFS volunteers from Micalago Road will be able to cross the bridge to efficiently report to the Michelago fireshed for duty, shaving valuable time off response times.

Driving south, you can see a beautiful vista sweeping towards the bridge, providing a wonderful vantage point for visitors to see the historical railway bridge.

I’m sure the community will join with me in thanking former Councillor John Rooney for tirelessly advocating for the bridge to be a Council priority and successfully seeking funding for its design and construction, as well as our local Federal and State members Kristy McBain and Steve Whan whose respective governments have provided the funding and support while we navigated the legislative requirements of using railway land.

I would also like to thank our Council bridge and road building crews, and the project team who, once we (finally) got the approval to construct from UGL, immediately swung into action and finished the project in record time!!

Until the speed signs go back up, I remind motorists that the speed for village roads is 50kmph, and to always be aware of cyclists and pedestrians sharing the road.

End of Council term

This will also be my last update as your local Councillor for this term of council. We have our last Council meeting on 15 August, and then go into ‘Caretaker’ on the 16th, which means no major decisions can be made until a new Council has been elected. There will also be a Council media ‘blackout’ as follows:

- No appearances in media or content by the Mayor or councillors in Council communications
- Reduced Council posts on social media
- A limiting of media releases and public notices to operational matters only
- Cancellation of non-essential events and ceremonies involving councillors
 - Councillor participation restricted to performing legislated role only.

R: Ron Hoenig, NSW Minister for Local Government, with Tanya in Sydney.



I will still be around if anyone has problems or issues they need me to help escalate, of course.

It has been my absolute pleasure to represent you on Council for the past (almost) three years. Thank you to everyone for trusting me and engaging with me.

I have appreciated your support more than you will ever know. I will be standing again, with my fantastic team of Labor candidates, so I may see you again on the flip side!

Tanya

SMRC Councillor

R: Tanya and team at Cooma Rotary markets



Local folk: Woolly Bear wows wayfarers

Michelago's Michael Scanlon has somewhat reluctantly become the carer of Woolly Bear, a poddy lamb whose aged mother died an hour after giving birth.

As there's no-one else to care for Woolly Bear, she accompanies Michael to work at the servo. Mother Michael juggles feeding, nappy changing and hand sanitising, all with serving customers.

Magpie was there 3 August to see passing travellers going all gooey.

Woolly Bear is 3 weeks old in these photos. More on pp25 & 26.



Only in Michelago.



Overview

The Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA) encourages Councillors and Council staff to carefully consider this development proposal and to respond to our objections and comments.

It is the biggest single development in Michelago village to date and will increase the number of dwellings by approximately half.

It is also the first major development following the adoption by Council of the Michelago Master Plan in 2021. As such, it is important that the proposed development is consistent with that Plan.

Accordingly MRCA objects to this Development Application because it totally ignores the Employment Opportunity Area recommended in the Michelago Master Plan for inclusion in the development of 1 Ryrie Street (Lot 1 DP 790570).

The developer's sole objective appears to be to maximise the number of dwellings on the site while still meeting the requirements of the Michelago Masterplan in terms of minimum block size. Hence 28 dwellings are proposed and nothing else.

This will create a dormitory style residential development totally dependent on Canberra for services and employment.

The developer has not considered the potential of this site as a Gateway location to Michelago which could contain commercial facilities, such as a restaurant or hotel, attractive to tourists, residents of the village and the surrounding rural population.

There is a service station on the site but the developer states they have no intention to invest in any improvements at all for this commercial activity. The service station certainly needs upgrading, including its entry and exit off Ryrie Street.

There is currently a disused restaurant and motel (*photo below*) on the site which the developer intends to demolish but does not propose to replace.



Comments and objections

With the above context in mind, here are MRCA's specific comments and objections:

1. MRCA believes the conclusions of Greys Consulting [Travel Assessment Impact Report](#) in this DA are invalid because they are based upon the erroneous assumption that the Monaro Highway is a dual carriageway with an 80 kph speed limit (refer to page 4 of the Greys report).
2. In actual fact, the [Ryrie Street intersection with the Monaro Highway](#) requires upgrading to improve safety. The turning lanes are short and narrow given the highway speed limit of 100kph. There are potholes on the edge of Ryrie Street at the intersection. Someone has helpfully set up witches' hats to warn turning traffic but no roadwork has been undertaken to repair it.
 - a. Currently there are 61 houses in the village, plus another 57 dwellings on Burra and Tinderry Roads (and offshoot roads) which use the intersection. Once the new bridge opens, that will bring another 56 households from Micalago Road into the village, as these residents will prefer to avoid the Micalago Rd intersection with the Monaro Highway as it has NO turning channels and is quite dangerous. When you add in another 28 houses from this particular DA, that brings the total using the intersection to 202 households. Other developments in the pipeline such as another 20 rural residential dwellings on Micalago Road /Karinya Plains Road and another 70 in the village will increase the number of households relying on this intersection to 292.
 - b. Average car ownership in Michelago according to ABS 2021 census data is 2.4 vehicles per dwelling. That means up to 700 vehicles will be using the Ryrie Street/Monaro Highway intersection.
 - c. While it may not be the responsibility of any single developer to contribute to the upgrade of this intersection, it must become a priority for Transport NSW in the very near future. In particular a reduction in the speed limit to 80 kph on the Monaro Highway at Michelago should be introduced now.
3. While thanking the developer for including the [collector road](#) in the development proposal, MRCA objects to the location of the road and recommends it is moved to the eastern side of the development site. See [Figure 1](#) below.
 - a. The collector road is intended to connect with the church (to the north) and other residential developments planned for the north-east of 1 Ryrie St. Unfortunately, the developer plans to position the collector road next to the service station. If extended north from there, it would bisect the length of the proposed buffer zone to the north and other roads would have to crisscross the buffer zone to connect with the other residential developments.



b. The buffer zone could have any number of uses compatible with riparian land – recreation, parkland, or a pony club, but a collector road bisecting its length would significantly diminish its flexibility and ambience. The Cooma Monaro DCP indicates the collector road should run along the eastern edge of the buffer zone, intersecting with Ryrie Street adjacent to the Mount View development.

Figure 1

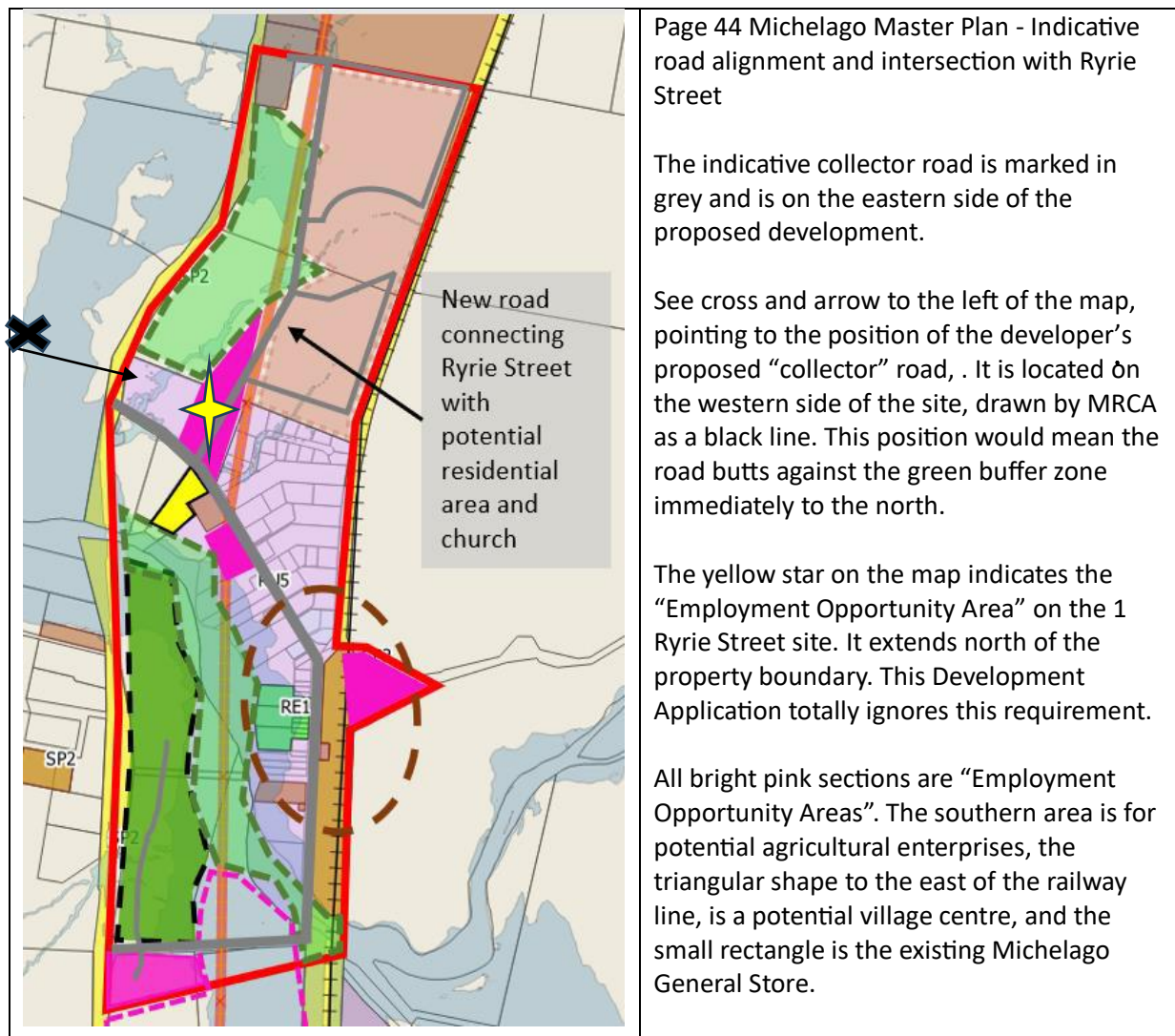


Figure 1 This map from *Michelago Master Plan* is also included in the *Cooma Monaro Development Control Plan*

4. **Employment Area:** MRCA objects to the fact that there is no potential for any retailers, accommodation, restaurant or bars on the site. This is certainly in conflict with the wishes of the community as set out in the Michelago Master Plan and with the intent of the *Cooma-Monaro Shire Development Control Plan 2014 (Amendment 4)*. See Figure 1 above for the map of employment opportunity areas.
 - a. A restaurant or hotel would have been a very welcome development for the Michelago region community which has nowhere to socialise or eat once the Michelago General Store café closes at lunch time. It would have helped attract tourists to the village. This is the perfect site for a restaurant or pub, given it is the 'Gateway' into the village
 - b. There are only two other locations in the village earmarked for commercial retail style activity, a small area adjacent to Burra Road across the railway line and the existing Michelago General Store. A third area is marked for agricultural commercial activity south of the village.
 - c. Page 46 of the Michelago Masterplan recommended that part of 1 Ryrie Street and part of Lot 13 DP11175 incorporate an Employment Opportunity Area with a mix of shops, tourist and visitor accommodation. An extract is below with yellow highlights added by MRCA.

4 Employment Opportunity Area

— Managing Future Change and Growth	— 1 Ryrie Street and part Lot 13 DP11175.	— Gateway to Michelago.
— Community and village life	— RU5 zone, currently supports Service Station, Motel, Pub.	— Mix of shops, tourist and visitor accommodation.
— Landscape and the public realm	— Approx. 6.5 ha (3.5 ha new development potential).	— Residential potential at 1 Ryrie Street.
— Access and movement	— Street plantings on Ryrie Street to enhance entry.	— Investigate for Aged Care/smaller assisted living development opportunities.
	— Investigate appropriateness of proposed new 'employment zones' or 'supporting zones' currently exhibited by NSW Government to update the Standard Instrument LEP.	— Essential to incorporate vehicle access and pedestrian/bicycle link to #2 off Ryrie Street.

5. The developer's plan acknowledges that a development of this size should incorporate open space for a small playground, but concludes the playground is not warranted because of all the existing alternatives: Michelago Oval playground is claimed to be 1.1kms away and children could apparently play in Michelago Creek, the paddock to the north of the development or in the grounds of the local primary school.

- a. MRCA believes none of these are viable alternatives to a playground which would be used by smaller children. There is no footpath to Michelago Oval. There is no access at all to Michelago Creek and both the Creek and the un-mowed buffer zone to the north would harbour snakes. The school grounds are not open to the public.
 - b. MRCA recommends that if the developer chooses not to include a playground, then it should fund a footpath along Ryrie Street to the Michelago Oval.
 - c. The Michelago Master Plan recommended a walking loop around the village and incorporating the Creek. A footpath the length of Ryrie Street would be a good start to this project.
6. Finally, MRCA objects to signage of 2.5 metres high proposed by the developer. This is not consistent with the rural nature of the village nor with existing developers' signs which are no more than one metre high.

Conclusion

MRCA supports the provision of additional housing in Michelago that is consistent with the rural nature of the village. Housing development should not exclude modest, commercial development that is desired by the existing population of the village and the rural surrounds.

MRCA objects to this development proposal as it totally ignores the site's potential as the gateway to Michelago and its previous use for a restaurant and motel. It is very difficult to see how the local community will benefit from the proposed dormitory style development.





Other submissions to Council about the proposed development

The MRCA is aware of several other submissions from local residents who have raised similar issues of concern. These have focused mainly on the lack of a planned recreation space/playground and the need for a hotel/restaurant.



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting

Brien Hallett



Despite the cold – and school holiday commitments – there was a good turnout for the fire brigade annual general meeting on Saturday, 13 July at the Michelago Memorial Hall.

President Brent Wallis welcomed more than 20 attendees, including Heath Hayes from the RFS Monaro District Office in Cooma.

Those present were updated with various reports about brigade activity from April 2023 to March this year (the RFS financial year).

In short, it's been a busy season.

During the previous year, members attended 26 callouts, including one structure and one grass fire, four motor vehicle accidents and a car fire, as well as assisting at four out-of-area deployments. In addition, there has been a strong commitment to training across the region.

The brigade finances are also in good shape following a successful Bunnings barbecue in September last year. Corporate donations from the Bendigo Bank and Ferst had also been gratefully received.

Following the reports, all positions were declared vacant and the following positions were filled:

Executive

President Brent Wallis

Treasurer Brien Hallett

Vice President Ian Hooley

Secretary Lee Harris

Field Officers

Captain Abby McPherson

Senior Deputy Captain Peter Butler

Deputy Captains Keith Howker, Duncan McNeill, Derek Giucci, Lee Harris



This was a successful meeting and the Brigade thanks Heath Hayes from Fire Control for providing the Monaro District overview as well as conducting the election of office holders.

The meeting also passed a motion to thank the outgoing captain, Keith Howker, for his service as captain. Members look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role as a deputy.

Following this year's AGM, a general meeting of members is proposed for October as the brigade gets ready for the fire season.

R: The newly elected Michelago Fire Brigade Captain, Abby McPherson. She is here shown helping out at the Michelago Public School's 2023 Christmas party. Abby has always shown keen interest in the brigade's community participation, as has President Brent Wallis (above).



MRCA Annual General Meeting

Michelago Railway Station, 27 July. The committee for 2024–25 was formally elected, with members who are staying on the committee welcoming some new faces to help continue the community-focused work.



Retiring President Di Fett summarised her previously circulated annual report, focusing on MRCA achievements and thanking the team for their community efforts.

Retiring Treasurer Kerry Rooney summarised her previously circulated financial report. This is a lengthy document, due to the change in the financial year under the new constitution.

The new team is President Kerry Rooney, Vice President Leanne Pattison, Secretary Sally Hughes, Treasurer Graeme Plath, with other committee members Di Fett, Leanne Thurling, Tony De Salis, Leah Oliver, Peter Butler and John Rooney.

It was a convivial meeting in the station's fire-warmed waiting room and with an excellent afternoon tea to add to the cheer.

The draft minutes of the meeting, with reports, can be accessed online by following this link [2024 Draft Minutes and Reports](#) More MRCA info on p21.

MRCA President's report for 2023–2024



President's report

Di Fett

Since our last AGM, the Michelago Region Community Association's band of volunteers has been working, as always, to further the interests of Michelago and region.

We've applied for and been awarded grants for improvement of community facilities, and we've acquitted large grants. We've made submissions to Council and governments about issues of importance to Michelago and region residents. We've supported other Michelago community organisations. We've organised and facilitated community events. And of course we've published a magnificent community newsletter, the *Michelago Magpie*.

When I say 'we', I mean the MRCA committee, a diverse group of locals who meet regularly at the railway station to nut out ways to support better social and economic outcomes for the Michelago region and to preserve the region's heritage infrastructure and natural environment.

Without the energies of the MRCA, Michelago and region wouldn't have, for example:

- a well preserved historical railway station for community use
- barbecue and seating facilities at the Michelago Oval
- a useable tennis court and clubhouse (credit to the Hall Committee for much work)
- sound buffers at the Michelago Memorial Hall
- a community noticeboard at the Michelago General Store
- new tables, chairs, patio heaters and shelving in the storage shed

- security/safety lights at the railway station
- a community-led, formally adopted plan for the future development of Michelago, and
- a vibrant, high quality local rag, the *Michelago Magpie*.

Without its community association, Michelago would not have been treated to a rich variety of community events, including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services, community dinners and barbecues.

The committee has been ably assisted by the highly talented Markus Buchhorn, who has transformed our clunky old website into a user-friendly place, Belinda Sierzchula, who reliably gets MailChimp to work for distribution of the *Magpie*, and the Gregg and Dee McFaul team, who make our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services warm, professional and well attended.

Welcome news! The bridge linking Ryrie Street and Micalago Road is finally finished! This is an important piece of infrastructure. The MRCA has supported the tireless efforts of former Councillor John Rooney and current Councillor Tanya Higgins to have it built. Michelago residents like Emily Green have also been a vital part of this community teamwork.

A complete list of MRCA campaigns and achievements, as well as everything of note that's happened in and around our little village, has been superbly chronicled in the *Magpie*, which I hope you have all been receiving. Rather than detailing them again here, I just want to say a hearty thanks to the wonderful MRCA team and to urge more members of the community to get involved.

The *Michelago Magpie* is the product of our secretary, journalist and publisher Leanne Pattison. It is a truly class publication and a great read, and its readership continues to increase. Communities across the world are bemoaning the loss of their local news sources, and yet Michelago has the *Magpie*. Leanne also produces meeting agendas and minutes and always circulates them in a timely manner, attends meetings of the Michelago Hall Committee on behalf of the MRCA and was responsible, with the Hall Committee (notably Jenny Wholohan and Allan Lehepuu), for the recent upgrades to the tennis club building via a grant, weed control and cleaning. She was nominated this year for an Australia Day Local Citizen of the Year award for her community work over several decades. Thank you, Leanne!

Most of the grants we've received are a result of the skill and hard work of our outstanding treasurer, Kerry Rooney. Kerry has a unique ability to plough through mountains of grant requirements to produce stellar applications that have Michelago successfully competing with much larger and better resourced communities for grant funding. Michelago's treasured Historical Railway Station stands looking beautiful and in good repair due to her tireless work on grants and a current grant will see internal restoration/painting and other improvements. Kerry has been responsible for obtaining grants, year after year, to keep the MRCA afloat, as well as for the large bushfire recovery grant that funded Michelago's new barbecue and other facilities and events, as well as the launch of the *Michelago Magpie*. The MRCA's finances are in great shape and properly reported on, thanks to Kerry. Thank you, Kerry!

Thanks also to the other committee members Tony DeSalis, Peter Holland, Sally Hughes, Sam Walton, and Robbie Wood. Sally kicked off our current letter writing campaign for

improvements to the safety of Michelago's Monaro Highway turnoffs, with letters to Steve Whan and Minister Aitchison from Mount Livingstone/Lawler Road residents. Tony has been a stalwart of the barbeque/sausage sizzle. All have made invaluable contributions – turning up at meetings, fundraisers and working bees through rain and shine, contributing ideas and knowledge, elbow grease, printing and spreading the Association's message. Thank you, team. I hope you will all stay involved!

Our region has a huge diversity of residents with a fabulous range of talents. I know there are other talented grant application writers, minute-takers, sausage-flippers, ideas generators and event organisers in this wonderful community. To those who haven't yet joined the MRCA, please consider doing so and consider nominating to become part of the leadership team by nominating for the Committee.

It's been a privilege to occupy the role of President of the MRCA. I look forward to watching the Association grow with the growth of Michelago and region and offer my support and encouragement to the incoming President and team.



Writing competition for young people

Heywire Competition



Heywire is a lived experience storytelling competition from the ABC, calling for stories from young people aged between 16 and 22 in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Entries must be a true story about an aspect of your life. Stories can be in any format: text, video or audio — whatever form suits you best!

Ready to enter?

Great! Entries are now open for our 2025 Competition and will close on September 1, 2024. The easiest way to enter is by filling out the form. [All details are on the link below.](https://www.abc.net.au/heywire/competition)

<https://www.abc.net.au/heywire/competition>





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Mondays 5.00pm - 6.00pm
Michelago Hall

Michelago Memorial Hall



Phone update: the Hall Committee has a new contact for bookings and enquiries:
0494 178 469

The next meeting is scheduled for 21 August. Matters being considered are a new sign above the portico, painting of the patched walls near the new, secure door to the storage area and facilitating use by community interest (not business) groups, possibly without a deposit bond fee.

Hire fees

This is what Council has published as hire fees for Michelago Hall:

Fee Description	Year 23/24 Fee	Year 24/25 Fee	Unit	Statutory	GST
Michelago Community Hall					
Election Hire - Non Local Government	\$0.00	\$380.00	per day	N	Y
Whole Hall	\$17.00	\$17.00	per hour	N	Y
Whole Hall (Incl.Cleaning Fee)	\$240.00	\$290.00	per event	N	Y
Refundable Deposit Bond (Public)	\$170.00	\$170.00	per event	N	N
Refundable Deposit Bond (Private)	\$250.00	\$261.00	per event	N	N
Equipment Hire (Urn, Chairs, Table)	By arrangement with Hall Committee			N	Y
	Last year fee By negotiation with Hall Committee				

This is what we sent as our proposed fee structure:

Whole Hall	\$17.00	per Hour
Refundable Deposit Bond	\$170.00	per Event
Whole Hall – Private Party/event (incl. Cleaning fee)	\$290.00	per Event
Refundable Deposit Bond (private)	\$250.00	per Event
Equipment Hire (tables, chairs, urn, etc) for out-of-hall use By arrangement with the Hall Committee.		



Jenny's excellent repairs & alterations service is temporarily unavailable



Jenny looks forward to re-facilitating your sartorial splendour as soon as she can.



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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



Cemetery help



Make your arrangements ahead of time with Council's cemetery services.

SRMC Media release issued Friday 14 June 2024



Did you know that Council can help you plan for the future by pre-arranging your final resting place at one of our cemeteries?

Speak with our team today to help ensure that your wishes are respected, and help make a difficult time for your family a little easier.

If you're considering making your final arrangements ahead of time, we encourage you to learn more about what's available. There are responsibilities you and your family need to be aware of, and fees and charges to keep in mind.

Michelago cemetery entrance – welcome!

Our team are here to help ensure your wishes are respected, including specific requirements for returned services personnel and your religion. For more information, or to discuss pre-planning options, please contact our cemetery services team on 1300 345 345 today.

Visit <https://qrco.de/cemeteriesSMRC> to learn more about the cemetery services available in our region.

Clancy Noakes, Communications Officer

Phone: 1300 345 345 | Email: communications@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

[For more information about Michelago cemetery, see *Magpie 27* –Ed]



Changes to NSW Government pet ownership rules

SMRC Media release 11 July 2024

Recently unveiled updates to NSW Government pet ownership regulations came into effect across the state on Monday 1 July 2024, with important changes that will affect current and future pet owners in the Snowy Monaro.

These changes to the regulations aim to improve pet management and make it quicker and easier to reunite lost animals with their owners.

Under the new rules, all cats and dogs in NSW must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or when sold or given away – whichever comes first. Pet owners are also required to register their

animals on the NSW Pet Registry by 12 weeks of age, or if their new pet is less than 12 weeks old, when they first take ownership.

This registration involves a one-off lifetime payment per animal, which transfers with the pet if ownership changes. Registration must be paid within 28 days to avoid late fees.

These updates also introduce additional fees for non-desexed animals.



Dog owners are now required to pay an extra charge if their pet is not desexed before six months of age.

For cats, an annual permit fee applies if the animal is not desexed by four months of age. Cats born before 22 July 2020 are exempt from this last requirement.

Creative Commons image

To streamline pet management, owners are encouraged to create an account on the NSW Pet Registry website. This online platform allows users to pay fees, update pet details, and report missing animals.

It's now easier than ever to keep your pet's information up-to-date on the registry. Keeping information updated will help keep your pet safe, so it's important to update your NSW Pet Registry account as soon as any change in ownership or address occurs.

Council encourages all pet owners to familiarise themselves with the new regulations and register for the new online NSW Pet Registry as soon as possible.

Visit the NSW Pet Registry website today at <https://petreg.nsw.gov.au> or learn more on the NSW Office of Local Government's website at www.petregistry.olg.nsw.gov.au

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please contact our ranger services team by email at council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or call us on 1300 345 345.

Clancy Noakes, Communications Officer – clancy.noakes@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au





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.

General Yoga

Sunday 9.30am

Michelago Hall

Cost: \$20 or \$12 concession

Absolutely NO toe touching, headstands or any other stereotypical yoga-y things required

PIC•COLLAGE

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.

Please note the change from Thursday 6.30pm to Sunday 9.30am

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

PIC•COLLAGE



Woolly Bear wows wayfarers ... continued from p7. See also p26



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.



Michelago Hall Gingerbread House Fundraiser

It may seem far too early to be thinking about Christmas but we've decided to start our Gingerbread House fundraiser super early this year with early bird prices to hopefully make it easier for anyone who'd like to purchase one but finds them a bit too pricey with the cost of living through the roof and all of the expenses that pop up in the lead up to Christmas! And let's be honest, Christmas will be here before we know it!

We'll be holding our annual Christmas craft & decorate your gingerbread house/cookies day on Sunday 8 December for anyone who'd like to come along to that (but you don't have to come to that to order one (or maybe a few) of these delicious gingerbread house kits!)

All gingerbread house kits are vegan and include four gingerbread walls, roof & chimney, foil baseboard, royal-icing mix, piping bag and instructions (printed on inside of outer wrap), cellophane + ribbon to wrap it all up!

Early bird price is \$35 per kit (RRP \$45.99 + postage) until 15 October and then the price will increase to \$42 per kit.



Kit options are:

- Standard Gingerbread House Kit
- Gluten Free Gingerbread House Kit
- Chocolate Gingerbread House Kit

To order your kit please pay your \$35 per kit (or a deposit of \$15 if you'd like to pay in parts) to the Michelago Hall bank account:

Account name: Michelago Memorial Hall

BSB: 032-724

Account no: 620287

AND message Belinda on 0411 043 027 or memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au with your name, phone number and which kit/s you'd like (also feel free to message Belinda if you have any questions at all)

Orders will close on 21 November for delivery by 8 December.





Woolly Bear meets a sheepish sheep dog ... cont'd from p26



Senior Lunch Group 5 August



There were a couple of absences in the usual crew, due to travelling and to flu. Not Covid.

Excellent tea and coffee, pies and an excess of chips. A big topic was the proposed development at 1 Ryrie St, with great emphasis on the need for recreation space. Also a pub, as there used to be, for socialising.

The SLG meets the first Monday of the month at about 1pm. You do not have to be a 'senior'! Come along. Get to know the locals. They're young at heart.



L: Random picture of King Parrots to fill up space.



~ 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.)

New activity: dance class for kids. Note Michelago yoga day and time change.

- **Choir** has stopped for the winter and will resume the first week of October on Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station).
- **Dance class for kids. Terms 3 & 4.** Mondays 5–6pm. Michelago Hall. Details p19. Free trial class.
- **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 p21. New phone number: 0494 178 469
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library. Monday, August 12, 26. Outside the school 9.45-11.30.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly 2nd Tues 6pm.
- **Pilates.** Details p20.
- **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:** Sundays 9.30am, Michelago Hall. \$20. Enquiries: Belinda 0411 043 027. For all bodies. Details p25. 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 1–2pm. Details p25. 0411 043 027

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

Sept 14: Council elections

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

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

