

~ Michelago Magpie 32~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 1 November 2024
from your Michelago Region Community Association

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Official opening of the Ryrie St-Micalago Rd Bridge

Photo: Kerry Rooney



The ceremonial party. L to R: John Rooney, Ian Hooley, Peter Butler, Brent Wallis, Sophie Wallis, Kristy McBain, Abby Macpherson, Emily Green, Tanya Higgins, Narelle Davis.

Yes, the bridge had been open to traffic for some weeks but, after such a long campaign for this important piece of infrastructure, the MRCA considered an official recognition and celebration was appropriate. Rituals are important. All concerned take pride in the achievement.



L: Team mascot Sophie held the Ceremonial Red Ribbon steady for the Hon. Kristy to do the Ceremonial Cutting.

R: With proud father Brent, Sophie was awarded the Ceremonial Red Bow.



MRCA President Kerry Rooney spoke to the crowd, recalling the long campaign for the bridge's completion and recognising the vital roles of Councillors John Rooney and Tanya Higgins and the then-Captain of Michelago RFS Brent Wallis, as well as members of the Michelago community, with particular mention of Micalago Road resident Emily Green.

She then introduced the Hon. Kristy McBain, the Member for Eden-Monaro, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, who complimented the Michelago community on their persistence and achievement, thanked them for the opportunity to officially open the bridge and cut the Ceremonial Red Ribbon with the Ceremonial Scissors.

Then everyone (about 40 people) wandered to the Michelago Railway Station for an excellent afternoon tea, including bubbly for extra celebration.

Thanks to Michelago RFS Captain Abby Macpherson for lending the CAT1 fire truck, to Peter Butler for driving it (with the occasional Ceremonial Siren) and to Kerry Rooney for organising the occasion.

Thanks also to Kerry for making two large trays of sandwiches and the grazing platter, Janet Kelly for two slices and Di Fett for a cake. Everything was appreciatively eaten.



L-R: the last of the crowd walking to the railway station; Kristy with the feast; Kristy and Ian Hooley

Many think that the bridge should be named after the movers and shakers who made it happen, but 'the Wallis-Rooney-Higgins-Green-MRCA Bridge' ...?! Council apparently calls it the Ryrie Street Bridge, but it's important for Micalago Rd residents, too. It's probably just 'the bridge'.

Enjoying the celebration ...



Chris and Dot Higgins



Margaret Poole and Laura Higgins



Fiona Tollis and Emily Green



L to R: Sue Harris, Sally Hughes, Ruby & Dorothy Badrock; Wally Kalthofen, Mark Mills, Cheryl Kalthofen; Cr Rooney helps clean up.

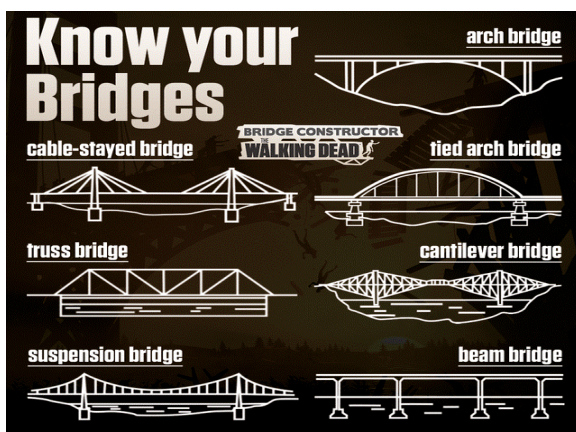


L: Meanwhile, out the back of the station ...

R: Tanya and John congratulate each other on achieving the bridge.



Other bridges



L: image credit unknown

Michelago Bridge





Councillor Corner

CMRC Councillors Tanya Higgins and John Rooney

The new term of Snowy Monaro Regional Council began with a bang on 10 October 2024, when the new Councillors met for the first time at a contentious swearing-in ceremony.

Despite continuous challenges to every aspect of the proceedings from some new members, the two Michelago candidates were eventually sworn in as Councillors: Cr Tanya Higgins (formerly Deputy Mayor 2021 to 2024) and Cr John Rooney (formerly Mayor 2017-19 and Councillor 2019-21). A secret ballot was held to elect Cr Chris Hanna as Mayor and Cr Tricia Hopkins as Deputy Mayor. Neither Tanya nor John contested either position.

Several new Councillors called for an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 17 October 2024 to discuss (as a matter of urgency) Council's Unreasonable Complainant Policy, the resignation of Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) David Hogan and the process for recruiting an interim CEO while a permanent replacement was found.

This meeting, like the first, was long and contentious. The new Councillors challenged everything, disputed the roles of staff, struggled to comply with standard meeting procedure and insisted on reading out lengthy passages from the Local Government Act and other documents.

Next week [*i.e. from Monday 25 October –Ed*] we have Local Government Training courses running all day on Tuesday and Wednesday. We sincerely hope that the new members will attend to gain a better understanding of their roles and meeting procedures. Tanya and John are well versed already but are keen to get a refresher course as the Local Government environment is complex and highly regulated.

Coming up:

- Monday 25 October: meeting the residents of Smiths Road
- Tuesday and Wednesday: Local Government training
- Saturday 9 November: Coffee with the Councillors, Michelago General Store 10:00 to 11:00 am



Michelago is fortunate to have two experienced Councillors who have agreed to work together to get the best outcomes for Michelago and Snowy Monaro. Although Tanya and John have different political affiliations, they agree that party politics are not really important in local government. We look forward to meeting more of our fellow Michelagoans and helping them get what they need from Council to ensure the Michelago region and its village prosper.



Remembrance Day 11 November – 10.45, Michelago Railway Station

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we traditionally gather to observe a minute's silence to remember the official ending of the end of World War I in 1918, the war in which so many Australians gave their lives. Now it commemorates all who died in war.



WWI was once thought to be the war that would end all wars. If only.

Donations for morning tea afterwards at the station would be much appreciated.



Owzat! It's cricket season again

27 October. Michelago Cricket Club (MCC), last year's mighty B Grade Premiers in the ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association, had their second match of the season and their first on home ground. They played a Canberra team, aptly named The Conquerors.

Success has a downside: the team's premiership has pushed it up into A Grade, with two defeats. Still, they're strong in spirit and working on tactics. Realistic Glenn pronounced 'If you do something silly in A Grade, you'll be punished for it.' Seems harsh, but others agreed.

The team of Matt, Avi, Ben, Nathan, Adam, Glenn, Pete, Phil, Mick and Jake were bowled out 9 for 60 but got in 18 overs: 3 for 61.

Captain Matt proclaimed Adam 'man of the match' – 15 not out.

The rest of the matches scheduled at Michelago will be 24 November, 19 January and 2 February. Locations of 'away' matches (variously at Bonython, Gordon, Watson and O'Connor) are on the ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association site. Matches are 40 overs.

The MCC team plays seriously but also has fun. It welcomes new members. If you'd like to join in, call Captain Matt on 0408 005 784.



L: Captain Matt keeps score. Dave Hanns' photo keeps watch at the front of the table.

R: Adam, still not out, leaves the pitch for the drinks break.

Below: a great team





Car Boot Sale and Farmers' Market – Sunday 17 November 10am–2pm

St Patrick's Church Monaro Highway Michelago – Contact Michael 0409 369 997

Come along for a community day out. Meet other people from Michelago.

There'll be a cake stall, a sausage sizzle and a coffee van, plants and some local produce. It's a chance to do some early Christmas shopping.

There are still some spots available for stallholders and local produce sellers. Perfect timing for a Spring Clean. Turn pre-loved goods into cash. Sell your excess produce.

Limited powered sites available \$30 each (bring own power cord). A car space is just \$20. Let's bring our community together!



Christmas raffle for Michelago Public School

Emily Green & Sarah Davies



Michelago Public School P&C's Christmas Raffle: we had so many amazing prizes donated for our Northern Territory Trip that we have split them up and created this fabulous raffle just in time for Christmas.

Tickets will be available to purchase from the school or the general store and each family from the school will also have tickets for sale.

All funds raised go directly to school initiatives. We thank the community for their continued support of our school and our students.

Next page: see details of the amazing prizes!

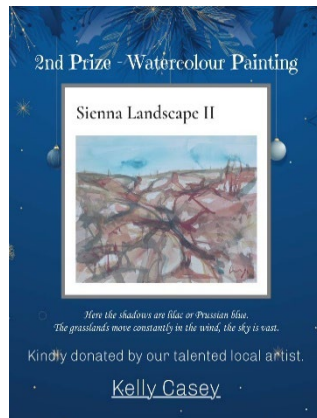
Michelago Public School P&C
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
\$5 each or 3 for \$10
Raffle drawn 12 Dec

6 Amazing Prizes

1st Prize - Trek Bike Marlin 4 Gen 2	4th Prize - \$200 Joe's Boots
2nd Prize - Sienna Painting	5th Prize - \$150 Pink Silhouette Hair Salon
3rd prize Tinderry Glamping weekend	6th Prize - \$100 Horseland Voucher

Tickets available at the School & Michelago General Store

School's Christmas raffle prizes



Gingerbread Houses – they're fun* and a Hall fundraiser



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 (but you don't have to come to that to order one – or many! – 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!

Gingerbread house kits are \$42 per kit (RRP \$45.99 + postage)

Kit options are:

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



To order your kit, please pay your \$42 per kit

(or a deposit of \$17 if you'd like to pay in parts) to the 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 and which kit/s you'd like (also feel free to message if you have any questions at all)

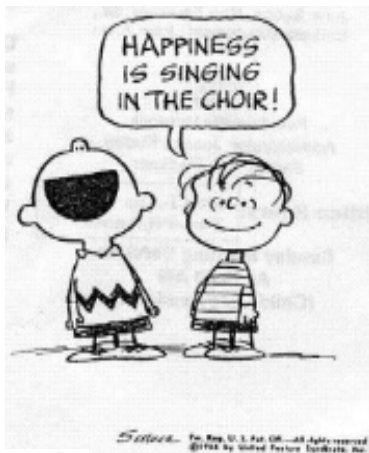
Orders will close on **21 November** for delivery by 8 December.

PS There'll also be free Christmas-card making, very popular last year. **See Magpie 31, p6.*





Choir – sing and feel good



Thursdays 7—8p.m. St Thomas Church, Ryrie St.

Michelago's Community Choir is a fun way of connecting with others and experiencing the joy that singing together brings. If you haven't experienced that pleasure before, now could be your time!

No experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a sense of adventure. There are lovely people there and everyone is very welcome.

Even if you feel unsure, it could be worth giving it a go to see if it's good for you.

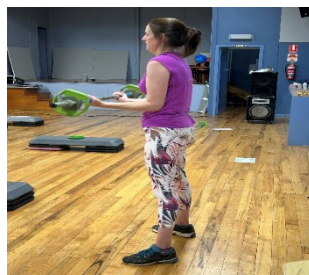


Exercise and feel good – Saturdays at the Michelago Hall

Pete's high-intensity interval training (HIIT) 8am to 9, then Heidi's Pilates class at 9-ish for an hour each give an excellent all-body workout. Some people went to both when *Magpie* attended 12 October.

The 'high' in 'high intensity' is optional, as people can work at their own level and Pete monitors and advises at the work stations.

Pete's and Heidi's details are in the calendar (p16).



Be in the community and feel good – Senior Lunch Group, 1st Monday



There were eight young-in-heart, so-called 'seniors' meeting at 1 p.m. at the Michelago General Store on 10 October.

There was fervent conversation about the Rural Land Use Strategy, opinions about road safety improvements and other topics ranging from government to gardens.

Feel free to come along and chat. At the General Store, try Belinda's truly excellent, home-made beef pies.

If you haven't been before, you can call Janet on 62 359 116 or text 0414 785 865 to confirm the venue.



Bocce – Sunday, 10 November, 2pm, then see if that suits

Gregg McFaul

Michelago SOCIAL Bocce. Would people be interested in getting together to play bocce over summer at Michelago's Clive Kelly Oval, by the MRCA BBQ?

Why bocce? Well, it's easier to play than pronounce (but perhaps harder to master). It's fun. It's sociable. It is suitable for all ages and abilities. It doesn't need the construction of a special court. It leaves one hand free to hold a drink or a sausage-inna-bun.

And it complements a 'village lifestyle' – just ask people in little European towns about how they have socialised since forever.



What is bocce?

It's a ball sport belonging to the boules family. Developed into its present form in Italy, it is closely related to English bowls and French pettanque, with a common ancestry from ancient games played in the Roman Empire. ('Apart from health, education, roads, and aqueducts etc, what HAVE the Romans ever done for us?')

The balls are made from wood, metal, or plastic and are 70-107mm diameter and weigh 600 - 900 grams. So they are a heavy grapefruit. A set contains 8 balls and the smaller jack (target).

Where is it played? Bocce is traditionally played on a natural soil, gravel, grass, or asphalt court about 25m long by 4 m wide, but any agreed available rectangle big enough to gently toss a ball about will do. You mark the 4 corners of the 'court' with cones or something. There are as many variations to the rules as there are ethnic regions to play the game. Just agree what version you are playing before tossing the jack.

How do you play? Rules can be flexible if agreed, but here's the go.

- The game is between two teams of 1 to 4 players per side. Each team throws 4 balls total OR each player tosses two balls each.
 - The balls are tossed underarm. Have a quick look at social media for Trevor Chappell bowling circa 1981 to see a text book definition of underarm bowling (oh, the national shame!). A bit like lawn bowls except the ball is lobbed, not necessarily rolled.
 - The winner of a coin toss starts.
 - First the jack is set – tossed about 2/3 the way down the court. Then the first team throws their first ball, aiming to get as close to the jack as they can. Then the other team throws.
 - The team which does NOT have their ball closest to the jack throws until one side has thrown all their balls. Then any remaining balls are thrown.
- OR
- Teams take it in turns to throw (like lawn bowls).
- The aim is to get as many of your balls closer to the jack than the nearest opponent ball.
 - Parts of the game: a match consists of a set of frames, each consisting of all the balls being thrown and the progressive score tallied. The trailing team gets to set the jack (and go first) in the next frame.

Matches can be first to 7, first to 13, a set number of frames ... whatever floats your boat.

- **What day of the week?** First time, Sunday 10 November, 10am. Then discuss whether a week night after work during daylight saving, or a Sunday, or both, or not bothering at all.
- **Ball storage:** sets could be left at the tennis clubhouse (possibly in an old filing cabinet), at own risk, and used by different groups as desired. An old set you don't want would be perfect.

Any special clothing? Just closed-toe 'sensible' footwear. Hat, sunscreen.

Anything else?

- Agree not to inconvenience others, e.g. cricketers, tennis players, dog-walkers.
- No intra- or inter-state comps or Brisbane 2032 – just Michelago social fun.
- Not a formal club, i.e. no fees, insurance, committee.
- Have a get-together in the tennis pavilion/clubhouse if the weather is wet or the General Store if weather is *really* wet.
- Bring an extra bocce set if you have one.
- Please pass the idea on. Hope to see you 10 Nov, 10am.



Landcare

Here's a link to *The Upper Bidgee Bulletin* for all the news about the region.



- <https://mailchi.mp/4736ab24f196/upper-bidgee-bulletin-summer-6741971?e=80d1ba92c9>

Some of the articles:

- Monaro Tree Start Growers Network
- Actions to help our Murrumbidgee River
- Platypus survey
- Cultural burns
- Working Together for the River Forum 27 November, 2024 (9am-5:30pm)**
Queanbeyan (registration needed)
- Royalla: designing and enhancing farm dams 9 November (register)
- Landcare visits schools for bush tucker workshops

****Direct link for River Forum registration is on p16 under the heading 'One-offs'.**

R: Adam shows the Michelago School's children how to make bush soap.

Photo credits: Upper Bidgee Bulletin





Seed Savers

Sunday 27 October. Like Spring, the Seed Savers emerged strongly from their hibernation.

Fifteen people gathered at the tennis clubhouse* to ask questions, share seeds, seedlings and knowledge and, of course, afternoon tea with muffins, biscuits and a deliciously garlicky dip.

The next meeting will be Sunday 17 November, 2-4pm, at the tennis clubhouse. This is the same date as the Car Boot Sale & Farmers' Market at St Patrick's Church (see p6), but that event will be 10-2.

Feel free to come just for garden chat. Any questions, call Jenny 0400 484 485.



These are some items shared in the great variety of vegetable and flower seedlings.



L: Jenny and Sally liked the cricket atmosphere in the background.

R: Naomi was pleased with tomato seedlings she germinated from last year's crop.



The tennis clubhouse is again a comfortable and convivial place for casual meetings, thanks to the Hall Committee and MRCA'S attentions.

*There's no tennis club any more, but the name seems to stick. Some people call it the pavilion. Whatever, it's a good spot.



Australia Day 2025 – planning

It's still a way off, but Council's forward-planning people have again offered the MRCA the chance to apply for a \$200 grant to fund an Oz Day barbecue.

As last year's event was successful (and involved minimal paperwork, for a change!), the MRCA has applied again and anticipates success.



While the MRCA will provide sausages, bread, sauces and drinks, people are of course welcome to bring their own supplies and share the barbecue.

Last year's event was enlivened by Ian Wholohan's singing, as well as by some tennis and very casual cricket. Ian is a professional songbird, but provided this much-appreciated service free 😊. *L & R: Australia Day 2024*



Michelago Memorial Hall

The Hall Committee has been doing ongoing maintenance, yard tidying and tree trimming. Allan has removed the torn shelter-sail. It was beyond salvaging as a sail or for any other use, so has become rubbish.

Council will fund mowing only once per year and the work is often too much for the committee's volunteers, who have their own jobs. Further, the lack of a pre-school means a lack of kiddies' helpful parents. Therefore, the committee has decided to pay for the service *when* Hall funds permit.

Hall hire rates

- a) \$17.00 p/h. Refundable Deposit Bond: \$170.00 per Event
- b) Private Party/event (incl. cleaning fee): \$290.00 per Event
Refundable Deposit Bond (private event): \$250.00 per Event
- c) Equipment Hire (tables, chairs, urn, etc) for out-of-hall use: \$1 per chair, \$5 per table.
Other equipment by arrangement with the Hall Committee.

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Garage Sale Trail: planning for 9–10 and 16–17 November



Community Update

Friday 20 September 2024

Clear out and cash in: Garage Sale Trail returns to the Snowy Monaro

Get ready to declutter, make some money, and contribute to a more sustainable future as Australia's biggest secondhand treasure hunt returns to the Snowy Monaro for another year this November.

Registrations opened last week for the 2024 edition of the Garage Sale Trail, a nationwide event promoting reuse and recycling. Local residents are encouraged to host their own sales or join group sales in their neighbourhood across two big weekends from 9–10 and 16–17 November 2024.

Teaming up with your neighbours to create a street sale is a great way to boost your impact, and more importantly, boost your sales.

'The yearly Garage Sale Trail is a fantastic opportunity for our community to connect, earn some extra cash, and keep valuable items out of landfill,' said Aimee Moy, Education Engagement Officer at Snowy Monaro Regional Council. 'Whether you're looking to sell pre-loved treasures or hunt for bargains, there's something for everyone.'

Participants can expect to find a wide range of items, from designer fashion and mid-century furniture to cookware, vinyl records, children's items, and tools. On average, sellers make around \$457 from their sales, proving that what's pre-loved can be both planet and pocket-friendly.

Registration is free and easy. Sellers receive access to how-to guides and promotional resources to help make their sales a success. Shoppers can plan their trail using the Garage Sale Trail website, ensuring they don't miss out on any hidden gems.

'By participating in the Garage Sale Trail, our community is taking a simple yet effective action to build a circular economy here in the Snowy Monaro,' Moy added.

'It's a win-win situation – declutter your space, make some money, and contribute to a more sustainable future.'

This year, Snowy Monaro Regional Council is planning to host two secondhand group sales – one in Jindabyne and another in Cooma – as part of the trail. These Council-run events will complement the individual and group sales organised by residents.

We'll share all the details about our events a little closer to the date.

To register your sale or find out more about the Garage Sale Trail in the Snowy Monaro region, visit www.garagesaletrail.com.au

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Magpie information

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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.

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

Other images are taken from free Creative Commons.



MRCA information

MRCA'S priorities for 2024–5, agreed by the new MRCA Committee meeting 14 August: advocacy for improving road safety, advocacy for implementation of the Michelago Master Plan and maintenance of the railway station, including implementation of heritage grant.

To join the MRCA, first download the membership form at www.michelagoregion.org.au

It's only \$10 p/a single and \$15 p/a family.

Joining or renewing, you can pay by EFT: BSB 633000 Account number 126401058

Account name: Michelago Region Community Association Inc.

Please remember to 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 Tuesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagans 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** Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station). See p8.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com
- **Dance class for kids.** Terms 3 & 4 Mondays 5–6pm. Michelago Hall. Details p15. Free trial class.
- **Michelago Fire Brigade** training usually second Sunday of the month, 9am–1pm. Contact details: MRCA notice board at the Michelago General Store. Captain Abby 0417 548 118
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Monthly or every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au 0494 178 469. Current hire rates: p12.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library.** Mobile library. Monday, Nov. 4 & 18. Outside the school 9.45–11.30.
- **Massage** See Thai massage below.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly 2nd Tues 6pm. Next: 12 Nov.
- **Pilates** Saturdays, 9 am, Hall. See flyer on shop noticeboard.
- **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 out of hibernation. Enquiries: SMS or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au or call Jenny: jenny258@bigpond.com See p11.
- **Senior Lunch Group** 1st Monday of the month, 1pm, usually at the Shop. See p8.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Saturday 9 November, 5.30pm. Updates on Michelago's Facebook Noticeboard.
- **Thai massage** Railway Station. Cancelled due to family illness. Resuming possibly mid-November.
- **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** Both classes (general yoga and chair yoga) are cancelled until further notice.

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

November

- **Bocce** Sunday 10 Nov. 2pm. See p9–10.
- **Car Boot Sale and Farmers' Market** Sun 17 Nov, 10–2pm. St Patrick's Church. See p6.
- **Seed Savers** 17 Nov. 2–4pm, Tennis Clubhouse, Clive Kelly Oval. See p11.
- **Garage Sale Trail** 9–10 & 16–17 Nov. Sponsored by SMRC. www.garagesaletrail.com.au See p13.
- **Michelago Cricket Club** Next home game 24 Nov. 12.30pm. Clive Kelly Oval. See p5.
- **Landcare Forum: Working together for the river** 27 Nov. See p10. Direct link for booking:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-together-for-the-river-forum-2024-tickets-1028672937447>

December **Gingerbread Houses & Christmas Craft.** Sunday 8. Hall. See p7.

