

# ~ Michelago Magpie 33~

The Michelago Region Newsletter – 7 December 2024  
from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

Print copies \$2 at Michelago General Store

Ask for emailed Magpies at [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)

**In this issue:** Car boot sale & farmers' market 1-3. St Pat's history book 4. MCC 5-6. Dave Hanns fence at oval 6. Halloween fun, local folk, interstate visitor 7. Remembrance Day, Christmas carols 8-9. Councillor Corner, MRCA achievements 2024 10. Servo upgrade, Ads disclaimer, Senior Lunch Group 11. Christmas at the shop 12-13. School presentation & raffle draw, gingerbread houses 13. Hall 14. Feral pigs 15. Nasty weeds 16-18. Wildcare 18. Oz Day BBQ 19. Oz Day history 19-20. Seed Savers. St Pat's Christmas BBQ 22. Magpie info, MRCA info 23. Calendar [what's on](#) 24.

**Services:** Massages, Yless4U 21. Dance, Gardening 22.



**Car boot sale & farmers' market 17 November**



**Robbie Wood and Michael Scanlon (co-organiser with Kerry Rooney and caretaker of St Patrick's presbytery) admire Kerry's book, 'Our People Our Church' (see p4).**

**The car boot sale planned for the St Patrick's Church grounds became a mini-fair at the Michelago Memorial Hall because of the otherwise welcome rain. Efficient contingency planning**

ensured a fairly smooth relocation. The Hall, an adaptable venue, was full of tables, while less rain-sensitive stalls functioned in the car park.

There was a huge variety of goods – knick-knacks from cupboard and garage clean-outs, plants big and small, cottage-industry products and food. The RFS barbecue, expertly managed by Will, Nathan and Gerard, had just a few sausages left. Leanne and Pud's coffee van was busy all day. Julie's garlic and Catherine's Christmas cakes sold very well. Michelle O'Leary gave massages.

Kerry Rooney's just-published local history, *Our People Our Church*, was in demand for \$25 and will need a second printing. (See also p4.)

Funds raised by the car boot sale and book will contribute to the St Patrick's restoration fund.



***Above: There were tools behind this mystery sign. Ivan with Julie and her gigantic garlic.  
Michelle works massage magic on Stanton Hooley.***





***The Hall and carpark accommodated 16 stalls.***

***Dale of the brilliant 'Bredbo Cakes & Bakes'***

***Below: Ivan's trees, Janet and Marion's church cake stall and Dot's hand-crafted toys – all winners.***



***Below: the baristas at work and at play; candles in every scent; Rebecca Hooley's skin-care balms.***



***L: Josh Kunkler is a new local face on Michelago's Trash 'n' Treasure scene.***

***He does tree pruning and removals, fixes lawn mowers and makes things out of recycled wood and scrap metal.***

***His advertisement for scrap metal is on the MRCA noticeboard at the Michelago shop.***





## Local history: *Our People Our Church* by Kerry Rooney

This publication is a comprehensive history of St Patrick's Catholic Church and its association with early settler and continuing families in Michelago.

Kerry started with the modest plan of printing a small handout compiled of existing historical documents and photos. She wanted to have it ready for the car-boot sale that Michael Scanlon, caretaker at the presbytery, had planned for the church grounds.

The best-laid plans ... but given that Kerry had already done a lot of additional research, and with recently contributed photos, the 'small handout' turned into a handsome 94-page book.

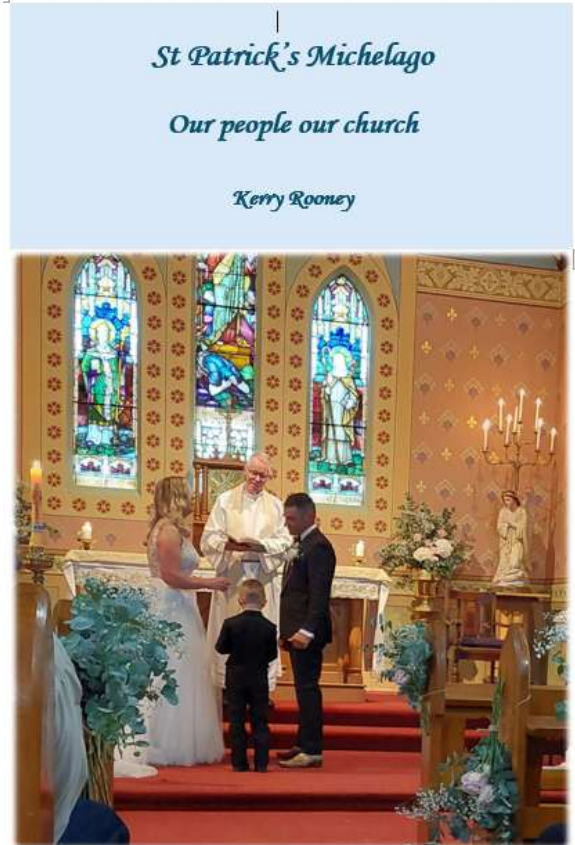
The car-boot sale morphed into a successful mini-fair at the Michelago Memorial Hall, thanks to a threatening weather forecast.

That is, one plan evolved and the other adapted, both achieving excellent results.

The book starts with an overview chronology of St Patrick's, followed by sections of particular focus. They include the early settlement of Michelago, the first church, the later building's development, major repairs, the parish priests, donors and their gifts, the role of women, anniversaries and other important events. There are many photographs, old and new, of this beautiful and historical church and of families.

Kwik Kopy (Phillip, ACT) has produced the high-quality, softcover edition of this significant work. The price is \$25 plus postage. Once costs are covered, Kerry will donate money to support local work at St Patrick's Church.

For orders, contact Kerry at [kerryarooney@gmail.com](mailto:kerryarooney@gmail.com)



**Above: The opening of the new church, 28 April 1907. The first church is in the background. The thirteen stained-glass windows came later and were all gifts from several Kelly and Cotter families.**



## Michelago Cricket Club

24 November. For the MCC, newly promoted to A Grade after winning the B Grade premiership last season, this was the fourth game of the season and its second on home ground. There were some brilliant moments from our team in this close loss to the Woden Warriors.

There were three such moments just while the *Maggie* was there: Mick Wren scored 53 (after being 135 not out in last week's Canberra match) and Nathan Vince clean bowled beautifully in the second innings. Alex Williams took what Captain Matt called 'a screamer' of a catch.



Final scores: MCC, batting first, all out for 179. After second-innings drinks, the Woden Warriors were chasing 49 to win, which they did. Michelago held them to short runs for a while, but then a series of fours and sixes by the opposition, a couple of dropped catches and a successfully disputed run-out eventually ensured a Warriors win.

*L: Nathan bowling.*

*Below: Nathan celebrates the clean bowl.*



It was a brave MCC performance, showing they're competitive against tough A Grade Canberra teams who are all young and train regularly.

The other matches scheduled at Michelago will be 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. If you'd like to join in, call Captain Matt on 0408 005 784.



*Far L: Matt with young Alex Williams, Matt's cousin. He's only 2 weeks out from the UK and had a go, playing instead of Matt. Full marks for a good game in the taxing heat – he'd come from London's 5°.*

*L: Long-time Michelago resident Pat Kieren is a strong supporter.*

Next home games: 19 Jan & 2 Feb, 12.30pm.





**L: Woden Warrier Ashik Xavier rested in the shade of the MRCA barbecue.**



**R: Both teams searched the creek land for a lost ball. The home team helpfully alerted the visitors to brown snakes, which hastened the search. It was a toss-up between fear of lethal snakes and loss of a \$50 ball. Courage award: they found two.**



### **How good is the new fence at Clive Kelly Oval**

How good? The team couldn't find enough printable superlatives. Captain Matt's 'bloody beautiful' sums them up. He also complimented Will Kelly on 'a superb job of fence building'.

As shown above, there are some high-hit sixes that even the new fence won't stop. Still, there were at least four that it did, facilitating playing time and game satisfaction. Searching snakey country is a rural experience that Canberra teams might rather not have.

The fence extends from the storage shed to the nets, is 1.8m high and, as well as achieving its aim, vastly improves the look of the sportsground.

The MRCA grant application for the fence's funding, written by MRCA President Kerry Rooney, specified that a new fence would honour local legend, the late Dave Hanns, who captained and managed the resurgent MCC (see *Magpie* 26) and planted many trees at the oval.



After the game, Kerry asked the MCC team what inscription they'd prefer for the memorial plaque, which will go on the middle of the fence near the small gate.

They decided 'In memory of Dave Hanns' plus his life dates would be best.



**L: Kerry chats with the team.**

The MRCA is grateful for the fence's Boco Rock funding.



## Halloween 31 October 2024

Belinda Hayes

Halloween in Michelago has been growing year on year. This year there were approximately 80 kids accompanied by Mums, Dads and carers, so it was a social gathering with people mingling and meeting new locals.

Organised again by Laura Howarth, the children met at the store and went on a group walk on the Michelago Halloween Trail heading towards Mt View and back down to the railway station. All the adults worked together to keep a safe eye on the kids as they strolled.

As Cr Tanya Higgins mentioned in her post on Facebook, it was reminiscent of childhood in the 70s, with no phones or devices on site and children playing in the streets.



This year the store hosted a sausage sizzle to put some food in the kids' bellies before all the candy.

Dale Hayes (the store husband) was on the BBQ, ferociously cooking to keep up with demand while Belinda, Lisa and Jess were taking orders and making sandwiches.



## Local folk



4 September. Two lovely lawyers were loving the lattes at the local.

Ben is the Michelago resident. Jacqui was visiting and enjoying a country weekend.

Both were catching up on Michelago news in *Magpie 32* and praised the new bridge for the access it provides.



## Interstate visitor

6 November. Many folk stop by the historical Michelago Railway Station. Some show interest in old railway stations and some just park in a convenient, peaceful place for a while on their journey.

Bob from Adelaide was doing both. He parked for a day with his mini-caravan, had a snack at the shop and strolled around the village. He likes to take photos as a record of where he's travelled.

He was fascinated by the old photos in the station, which the *Magpie* editor, who was watering the station's hedge, showed him. Go well, Bob.







## Remembrance Day 11.11.2024



Remembrance Day was on a Monday and not a public holiday, so fewer adults attended than usual. There was a very special attendance, though – the entire Michelago Public School. The teachers walked the 48 students in an orderly crocodile to the railway station to be part of the traditional ceremony.

For many, this was their first experience of the cultural ritual that specifically commemorates the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I and which has come to signify, with Anzac Day, remembrance of all who gave their lives to defend freedom.

Three poems were read. Year 6 student Sophie Higgins recited the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which she had memorised. This poem is always part of the remembrance ceremony. Gisela Lausberg read Leanne Thurling's poem *Silence*, written for last year's Remembrance Day and which could well become a regular part of the day. LTCOL

Werner Lausberg, the MC, gave *The Ode of Remembrance*.

Rob Smith, representing the RFS, presented the Commemorative Address. He spoke to the children in particular.



Above: Rob gives the address, Sophie recites 'In Flanders Fields', Gisela reads 'Silence'.

Below: wreath laying – Aldo, Sophie, Cr John (for SMRC)







*Rob, Werner, Cr John. Kerry, Leanne P, Jenny, Leanne T. The children return to school.*

Thank you to John Colaric for donating the mowing of the station grounds.

### Silence

*Leanne Thurling, 2023*



A breeze across the poppy fields  
The sounds of battle quiet  
The ghosts of soldiers never leave  
Mates forever by their side  
In foreign lands they gave their lives  
Their families left to grieve  
We gather now to pay respect  
And think of those now free  
Stand still and straight this armistice  
In silence at this hour  
Remember those who gave their lives  
For the peace we live with now.



### **Christmas Carols with the Michelago Choir**

14 December, 5.30 pm, Michelago Railway Station. Gold coin donation for the station, please.

For the third Christmas in a row, there'll be sweet songbirds at the station. With director and teacher Dee in charge, they've had many months of weekly and enjoyable choir practice.



They say they really missed it during the winter recess, as singing together is fun and satisfying. There are some specials they've been saving for this event.



So come along, bring a picnic, maybe sing along, feel the joy 😊



## Councillor Corner



November's Council meeting was held in Jindabyne and, without any staff briefings prior, it took a record-breaking six hours to debate all the agenda items. It was a long drive back at dusk for Tanya. John stayed overnight in Jindabyne so he could attend a networking event with Snow FM after the Council meeting.

Among their achievements in that long meeting, they approved a Development Application for more housing in Jindabyne, as well as selecting which committees each would serve on.

Tanya is working on the Monaro Region Interagency (community service supports), as well as Social Housing Committee and Reconciliation Action Working Group. John is serving on the Local Traffic Management Committee and the Executive Bushfire Management Committee.

John has attended the first meeting of the Local Traffic Management Committee. He put the committee on notice about all the traffic issues of concern to the Michelago community, namely turning lanes, lower speed limits on the Monaro Highway and in the village *and* deterring trucks heading for the quarry from using the Ryrie Streed bridge as a shortcut.

Most of you will have noticed the traffic counters in the village. They're before the school, before the Ryrie St bridge and along Micalago Road. These are measuring traffic numbers, vehicle types and speeds.

This will be very important data, as John and Tanya work towards making the village streets safer. It also helps Council plan for future infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

John and Tanya held a 'Meet the Councillors' coffee morning at the General Store. Issues raised included Ryrie St speeds, large trucks cutting through the village using the new bridge (and single lane road) as well as ways to improve the playground.

The next meeting is Thursday 12 December in Cooma.

As the end of 2024 approaches and we enjoy all the Christmas season brings, John and Tanya would like to wish you all a joyful, restful and safe Christmas.

Tanya Higgins and John Rooney  
SMRC Councillors and Michelago residents



## MRCA: what we did July to December 2024



1. Lobbied politicians on Monaro Highway safety issues.
2. Lodged a submission on a major Ryrie St development application.
3. Organised democracy sausage sizzle, bridge opening and Remembrance Day ceremony.
4. Applied for Boco Rock grant that has funded the new fence at the oval.
3. Published the Michelago Magpie and maintained the Michelago Railway Station.





## Servo upgrade

Three readers were delighted to report a major improvement in village infrastructure, viz servo-civilised new concrete and bitumen surfaces, though someone lamented the loss of heritage potholes.

Pictured is servo attendant Asad Anwar, who explained that the owner simply assented to decades of complaints.



## Business advertisements

*Magpie* prints advertisements for businesses for the small fee of \$10 per issue (note that funds support the railway station's maintenance).

Please send details to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) if you would like to advertise your business. Community volunteer organisations can advertise free.

Although the *Magpie* does not directly endorse businesses, their advertisements are accepted in good faith.

Please note that we will no longer advertise the IT business 'JCTec Solutions'.



## Senior Lunch Group

The first Monday of the month, 1pm, is the meeting date. Everyone is welcome. It's all quite informal.

People usually gather at the Michelago General Store, but they grazed in a different paddock 4 November, trying out the Bredbo Pub →→



There was a special Christmas lunch at the Michelago Railway Station on Monday 2 December at 12.30pm. People brought food to share. It was BYOG but the urn was on for sober tea and coffee. The kitchen has a fridge and microwave – all mod cons for a small event.

Call Janet if you need to check anything about future gatherings: 0414 785 865.



*L: The Senior Lunch Group's self-catering is astoundingly good.*

*R: John Kelly has many stories about local history.*





## Christmas celebration at the Michelago General Store, 1 December



It was a relaxed, friendly gathering both inside and in front of the Michelago shop. After heavy rain the day before, the weather became warmly polite.

The Community Choir's carols were beautiful, expressed with heart and skill under Dee's professional leadership.

Santa came, of course, with a ho-ho-ho and a bell and the Michelago Fire Brigade provided an excellent barbeque.

*Below: Aurora spread her sparkles. Finn focused on his lolly. Finn, Ruby, Matt and little Dotty Badrock.*



*Below: Ian had a big sausage. Will had a new face. Brien snapped the RFS. Santa took a selfie.*



*Below: Lachlan and Jess were busy. Anna and Emma liked Cath's cakes and jams. Santa was on the level.*







*L: The shop's verandah accommodated 6 stalls.*

*R & below: Cheryl Kalthofen has produced excellent photos in various sizes, perfect for cards and gifts, of the Michelago Railway Station. Some are framed. She also has alpaca-themed notebooks.*



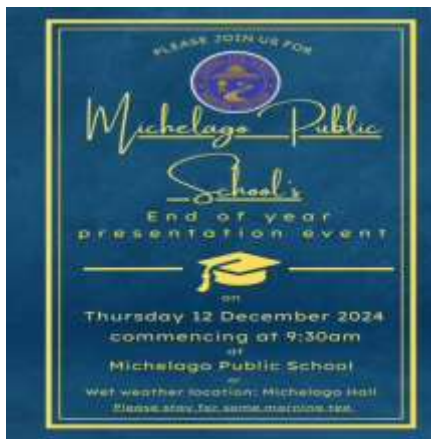
*R: Our Fire Brigade is always child-friendly.*



Thank you to Belinda Hayes for organising this event.



## Michelago School's End-of-Year Presentation and Christmas raffle draw from 9.30am, Thursday 12 December



This will be at the school or, if there's wet weather, at the Michelago Memorial Hall.

The *Magpie* understands there'll be a few short speeches, some prizes, one or two plays with talented student actors entertaining the crowd and the draw for the Christmas raffle.

The raffle tickets for the excellent prizes sold well at the General Store, so there's much anticipation.

There'll be morning tea afterwards.



## Reminder: Gingerbread houses and Christmas craft at the hall on Sunday 8 December, 2-4pm



If you didn't order a house kit, feel free to pop in and see the unique architectural and design talents of those who did.

Hansel and Gretel's witch, eat your heart out.



Your children might like to make a Christmas card from the free materials on the craft tables. *Photos from 2023 fun.*



## Michelago Memorial Hall – it's the place and space for your events

The acoustic curtains! The acoustic panels! The polished floor! The dishwasher! The security doors to the storage room! The solar panels and battery! At the car boot sale, so many people who hadn't been in the hall for ages exclaimed over the improvements. Maybe they'd seen reports in the *Magpie*, but seeing is believing.

Nearly all improvements have been paid for by funding grants, supplemented only a little by fundraising. The current Hall Committee members have worked as a team to make the hall more of a community asset.

The latest is the new sign above the portico. It and the in-progress interior painting to cover repair patches (and a bit more) were funded predominantly by an SMRC Donations & Sponsorship grant. Secretary Jenny Wholohan wrote the successful grant application and Anna Lucas organised the signage.



*Below: before and after. Best face forward!*



*Above: The interior painting to cover repaired patches (blu-tak, nails, holes, scratches) has started.*



### Hall hire rates

- a) \$17.00 p/h. Refundable Deposit Bond: \$170.00 per Event
- b) Private Party/event: \$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.

Hall bookings [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) or 0494 178 469

**Michelago Memorial Hall – weddings, parties, anything!**





## Feral pigs, the Terror of the Tinderries (and everywhere)

Saturday 29 November. This comprehensive workshop at the Michelago Memorial Hall was hosted by Michelago and Royalla Landcare groups and funded by South East Local Land Services as part of the South East Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2024–2028.

Maryke Booth, Chair of Royalla Landcare and Markus Buchhorn, President of Michelago Landcare, organised the workshop. It was efficiently run by Georgia Bowmer and Louise MacDonald. For info further to that below, contact Maryke at [royallalandcare@gmail.com](mailto:royallalandcare@gmail.com)

Interested landholders might like to download the free app FeralScan, a community pest animal recording and management tool for monitoring, recording and communicating information about pest species and that promotes collaboration through local targeted pest animal management. It contains thousands of records, photos and printable maps. Users can join/create private groups to see detailed reports from other people in their local area.

The website [www.feralpigscan.org.au](http://www.feralpigscan.org.au) also has much useful information about resources and records, plus helpful glovebox guides.

The workshop covered baiting, trapping, humane treatment of animals, releasing and possible care of non-target animals, WHS for the trappers, firearms, targeted shooting of pigs for instant death and disposal of carcasses. Many slides (see pics of 4 below) illustrated aspects of these topics thoroughly and clearly.



*L: Maryke shows one of the folded traps. They're available for loan. Users need to provide their own bait and star pickets.*

*R: Georgia and Louise had an attentive audience.*



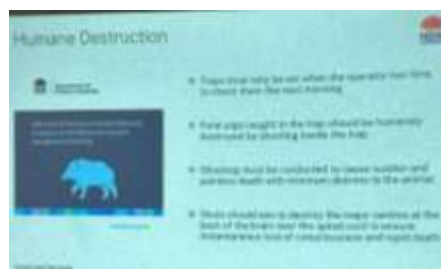
*L: Setting up a trap. Michelago and Royalla Landcare each have a trap to lend.*

*R: Pigs in a trap. The door latch prevents escape.*



*L: Pigs eating bait leading to a trap.*

*R: Reviled though they are, they should be destroyed humanely.*





## Nasty weeds – Council info



SMRC is again running a weekly information series on invasive and potentially devastating weeds.

Clancy Noakes, the Communications Officer, issues media releases that are fully informative. *Magpie* has featured some but hasn't always room to publish them in full.

Clancy gives the following general information before advice on two more weeds.

*This series of articles provides our community with information and advice on new, emerging and established invasive plant species threatening our region.*

*Whether you're living on the land, living in town, or just passing through – we all have a part to play in protecting our natural environment and agricultural land from invasive plants and weeds.*

*Council is here to help. If you have questions about any weeds, contact our specialist biosecurity officers for advice and assistance. Our staff provide a free, onsite weed identification and advisory service.*

*Call 1300 345 345 or email [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) to speak with the team.*

*Can't identify a weed? Send in some photographs or arrange a free onsite inspection and one of our staff will promptly respond.*

*Download the free NSW WeedWise app for detailed information on how to identify and manage weeds. Visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds)*

*Visit the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website for information on weed control methods at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control)*

*Visit our website at <https://qrco.de/SMRCweeds> for more information about weeds and biosecurity in the Snowy Monaro.*

**Alligator weed** This media release from SMRC was issued 8 November.

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) is a potentially devastating weed that grows in water and on land, affecting both waterways and floodplain areas. Native to South America, alligator weed is a perennial plant that grows on land in damp soil, or on water as dense floating mats. Alligator weed affects water flow, water quality, native plants and native animals, and has

major economic and social impacts. Overseas experience indicates that alligator weed's potential impacts in Australia could be devastating.



Alligator weed leaves are shiny, dark green with a distinct midrib and are on opposite sides of the stem. The flower heads are small, white and papery to touch. The flowers occur at the end of a stem up to 9cm long and arise from the leaf-stem junction. One of the most distinguishing features of alligator weed is its hollow stem.



Dispersal occurs through the transportation of plant fragments on recreational equipment like boats and kayaks, or excavated material like sand and soil. Interestingly, the plants produce no viable seed in Australia. Spread occurs entirely through the movement of plant fragments.



Alligator weed is high on Council's alert list due to its known presence within the Australia Capital Territory, Sydney, Newcastle and isolated sites around Batemans Bay, Nowra and the Illawarra.

If you suspect the presence of alligator weed, you are required by law to immediately contact Council's biosecurity team on 1300 345 345. As alligator weed is not currently known to occur within the Snowy

Monaro region, responding immediately gives us the best opportunity to eliminate any incursion and limit the impact on our community.

Do not try to control alligator weed yourself prior to contacting Council. It is very difficult to control and poorly performed control efforts can help spread the weed and exacerbate the problem.

Alligator weed is subject to a Biosecurity Zone in NSW. Outside of Greater Sydney and parts of the Hunter, land managers must eradicate the weed or destroy as much of the weed as practicable and suppress the spread of remaining plant material.

prevention is the best control option. Take precautions when introducing sand and soil to your property and clean down boats and other recreational equipment before transporting them.

### **Silverleaf nightshade** Media release 16 November

Silverleaf nightshade is a Weed of National Significance and is prohibited from being sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale anywhere in the state of New South Wales.

The plant is drought tolerant, favouring areas with an average rainfall of 300–560mm. It grows upright year-round and ranges from 10cm to 1m in height, with prickly stems and silvery hair-covered stems and leaves. Leaves have wavy edges and can grow up to 15cm long and 0.5 to 2.5cm wide.

Flowers grow in a star shape with five petals. Colouration ranges from blue, through pale lavender to white. The inside of the flower contains yellow stamens (the small thin bits inside flowers with pollen balls at their top). The plant produces toxic berries that last through winter, with colourations proceeding through green to yellow to orange to red and finally brown.

Silverleaf nightshade is spread by root pieces and seed. All parts of the root can form shoot buds. It is one of the most difficult weeds to kill and displays allelopathic qualities, impeding the germination and growth of plants around it.

Silver leaf nightshade has established in areas west of the Great Dividing Range, though only exists at isolated sites east of the range. It is recorded on one property within the Snowy Monaro region and is actively managed with the objective of eradication.

Silverleaf nightshade can:

- Significantly reduce summer crop yields through direct competition
- Reduce winter crop yields by depleting soil moisture
- Invade pasture and reduce sub-clover growth
- Reduce annual pasture growth in autumn and winter
- Poison stock if they eat ripe berries
- Be expensive to control
- Spread easily though both seeds and tiny plant fragments

What must you do if you detect silverleaf nightshade on your land?

Due to its isolated occurrence in south-eastern NSW and its impact on the economy, environment and community, the Southeast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023–2027 specifies that silverleaf nightshade should be eradicated. This objective applies to all land within the Snowy Monaro region.



What can you do? Learn to identify silverleaf nightshade and notify Council's biosecurity team immediately if you suspect its presence

- If introducing stock onto your land, hold them in a controlled and observable space for two weeks before moving them into clean pasture
- Clean machinery
- Carefully consider where you source hay, grain and other supplies
- Limit the number of feed-out areas and monitor them closely
- Consider weed risk when agisting stock on or off your property
- Maintain strong, competitive pastures to help suppress weed seedlings
- Do not let livestock eat fruiting plants



**Wildcare Australia Inc.**

If you have or see a sick or injured native animal, you can call the voluntary organisation Wildcare for help.

Locals are advised to call the Queanbeyan branch on the 24/7 helpline: 02 6299 1966. The volunteer there will put you in touch with a local representative to assist the animal.

*Photo credit: Wildcare website*







## Australia Day, Sunday 26 January 2025 – free BBQ! From 11.30am



Once again, Snow Monaro Regional Council has provided \$200 to help fund a sausage sizzle and drinks at the MRCA barbecues on the Clive Kelly Oval, not far from the new Dave Hanns fence! Thank you, SMRC.

*R: 2024 Australia Day*

You can enjoy the SMRC-funded snags and/or bring your own stuff to cook. The MRCA/Hall Committee might organise some music, too.

There are often disagreements about Australia Day – what it's about, its name and when or even if we should have it. The *Magpie* takes no stand on these issues, but a community barbecue on a holiday (yes, it's Sunday next year) is always a nice idea.

Thank you to Allan Lehepuu for providing the following extract from an interesting article. It's by Kurt Mahlburg and from *The Spectator* of 25.1.2024



### '26th of January Celebrations Have a Long History

An argument commonly heard in Australia Day debates is that the 26th of January only became a nationwide public holiday in 1994. However, this deceitfully worded claim obscures the long history of Australia Day.

In the early 19th century, the name "Australia" had not yet come into common use, so we can hardly expect that the 26th of January was known as "Australia Day" back then. Instead, in that era, it was called "Foundation Day" and was celebrated for the founding of the British Colony of New South Wales — the only British colony that yet existed on New Holland.

As early as 1808, the colony's immigrants —and especially emancipated convicts — were observing the 26th of January with "drinking and merriment" to "celebrate their love of the land they lived in". Successful colonists began holding anniversary dinners on this date, with one such event being documented in the Sydney Gazette in 1817.

The year 1818 marked the 30th anniversary of the First Fleet's arrival in Sydney Cove, prompting Governor Lachlan Macquarie to put an official stamp on the 26th of January celebrations. This included a holiday for all government workers, an extra allowance of fresh meat, and a 30-gun salute at Dawes Point — traditions that were continued by subsequent governors.

Soon, sporting events also became associated with the 26th of January, including what would ultimately become the Australia Day Regatta in Sydney Harbour, held for the first time in 1837.

The following year was the 50th anniversary of the colony. As part of the celebrations, the 26th of January was declared as Australia's first public holiday. The Regatta was held again, this time with crowds dotting the Harbour's foreshores. A 50-gun salute was staged at Dawes Battery, the Royal Standard was hoisted, and at night, rockets and fireworks lit up the Sydney sky.

In 1888, when the 100th anniversary rolled around, every colonial capital in Australia except Adelaide celebrated the 26th of January as “Anniversary Day”.

In 1901, the colonies federated to become the Commonwealth of Australia. The idea of celebrating a national holiday called “Australia Day” took a while to catch on, but by 1935, all of the states were celebrating the 26th of January as Australia Day.

In 1938, on Australia’s 150th anniversary, the day was proclaimed an official holiday, and in 1988, on the 200th anniversary, it became a national public holiday.

So, what about the year 1994? That was when the parts of the country that had been celebrating Australia Day on the closest Monday to the 26th of January agreed to observe the holiday on the actual date.

Don’t believe the naysayers. The 26th of January has been associated with Australia’s founding and nationhood from the earliest of days.

### *We All Became Citizens on the 26th of January*

The 26th of January is significant for an additional reason: It was the day, in 1949, that Australian nationality came into existence. Before that time, all inhabitants of Australia (including all Aboriginal Australians born after 1921) were British subjects with British passports and an obligation to fight in British wars.

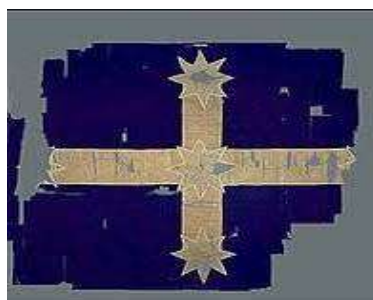
However, when the *Nationality and Citizenship Act* came into effect on the 26th of January, 1949, all of us — non-Indigenous and Indigenous — officially became Australian citizens.

It is also for this reason that citizenship ceremonies have long been held on Australia Day — a day when immigrants who have chosen to call Australia home celebrate their newly conferred Australian identity and make the following pledge:



*From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.*

We all became Australians on the same day, which is another reason why Australia Day should continue to be celebrated on the 26th of January.’



*Then again, there was once this one, too .*





## Thai massage at the Michelago Railway Station



Somsri Khaochong has returned to offer her excellent massage skills to the Michelago community again. She's available for appointments on most Wednesdays.

Somsri works regularly at Sawasdi Thai Massage near Bunnings in Tuggeranong.

Full body / Neck, back & shoulders / Remedial / Thai Oil / Feet / Aromatherapy.

Rates: ½ hour \$35, 1 hour \$65, 1½ hours \$90

Appointments are essential. Call Tony De Luca's phone: 0427 308 239. If that's out of range, call or leave a message on 02 62308 239. Eftpos is available. Cash preferred.

Next massage day is Wednesday 11 December. There are still some afternoon appointment times available.



**Connecting Rural Families**  
30/15 Unlimited  
**\$80** per month

**New!!**  
Up to 50Mbps  
**\$ 99** per month

**New!!**  
Up to 100Mbps  
**\$129** per month

Locally Based Helpdesk

Rural Internet Solutions  
www.yless4u.com.au  
(02) 62303699

**Internet Packages to suit all needs!**  
Plans starting from  
**\$ 35** per month



**KNOTS BE GONE**  
'Live your better body!'  
**MICHELLE O'LEARY**  
Relaxation/Remedial  
Sports/Pregnancy  
**QUALIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST**

ABN58595345587  
HOME VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT **0401535414**




**KIDS DANCE CLASS**

Classes dependent on ages and interest

**TERM 3 & 4**

**FREE TRIAL CLASS**

Michelago Dance classes

For More Information, contact us :  
Michelagodance@outlook.com  
0401920271

**Mondays 5.00pm - 6.00pm**  
Michelago Hall



### GARDEN STUFF



Johnno does gardens

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

Forty years of experience

Call for a quote: John Colaric 044 822 0311



### Seed Savers

The 15 November gathering of gardeners was totally washed out. Two couldn't even get out of their properties.

They'll try again for 17 December, 2-4pm, again at the tennis courts' clubhouse. There'll be growing plants galore. Summer is really busting out.



### St Patrick's Christmas BBQ

Be there 22 December, 3pm for a convivial gathering in the church and presbytery grounds. Enjoy the garden, too. Expect a visit from Santa, who seems to be spending a lot of time in Michelago.

All are welcome. Contact Michael for further information: 0409 369 997.

*R: Catherine Turnbull loves the roses in front of the presbytery.*







## Magpie information

Get the Magpie free by email: send name and email address to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au)

**Copyright:** all *Magpie* articles and photos are © of the authors and photographers. That means they may not be reproduced for public dissemination (eg Facebook) without permission of the authors/photographers. If so reproduced, items must be attributed. To copy photographs of private individuals, unless they are crowd shots, you must have the permission of those portrayed or, in the case of children, written permission of their parents/guardians. Such individuals have given their consent to publication of photographs only to the *Magpie*.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

To join the MRCA, first download the membership form at [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagans are welcome. The minutes are on the website: [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](http://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. Resumes Feb after a summer break.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: [secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com)
- **Dance class for kids.** Terms 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 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings** [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) 0494 178 469. Current hire rates: p14.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library** Mobile library. Monday, Dec. 16. Outside the school 9.45–11.30.
- **Massage** See Thai massage below.
- **Massage** Michelle O'Leary. Home visits by arrangement. Call 0401 535 414. See p21.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 6pm. Next: 10 Dec. No meeting in January.
- **Pilates** Saturdays, 9 am, Hall. See flyer on shop noticeboard.
- **Pony Club** Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Enquiries: Rhys (0401 778 004) or Alisha (0422 623 304) or email [michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com) Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/>
- **Pre-School** Cancelled for 2024 due to lack of enrolments.
- **Seed Savers** Enquiries: SMS or contact Belinda: 0411 043 027 or [hello@michelagoyoga.com.au](mailto:hello@michelagoyoga.com.au) or email Jenny: [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com) See p22. Next Meeting: 17 Dec, 2-4pm, tennis clubhouse.
- **Senior Lunch Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 1pm, usually at the Shop. See p11.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Updates on Michelago's Facebook Noticeboard.
- **Thai massage with Somsri** Railway Station. Wednesdays. Appointments: call Tony 0427 308 239.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders** Usually monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.)

#### December

- **Gingerbread Houses & Christmas Craft.** Sunday 8, 2-4pm. Hall. See p13.
- **Christmas carols** with the Michelago Choir. Sat 14. 5.30 pm See p9.
- **St Patrick's Christmas BBQ.** 22 Dec. 3pm.
- **St Patrick's Christmas Mass** 24 Dec. 5pm

#### January

- **Australia Day BBQ** 26 Jan. From 11.30am. Clive Kelly Oval. Free, funded by SMRC. See p.19.
- **Michelago Cricket Club** Next home games 19 Jan & 2 Feb. 12.30–4.30pm. Michelago's Clive Kelly Oval. See p5.
- **Car boot & produce sale** 27 Jan, 10am–3pm. St Pat's Church. Details: call Michael 0409 369 997.

