

~ Michelago Magpie 35~

5 March 2025

from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on www.michelagoregion.org.au

Print copies \$2 at Michelago General Store

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Double Chance Sporting Gymkhana – Michelago wins the Clear Range Cup



Bredbo Sportsground 1 & 2 February

by Romney Kelly

Photos: Allison Sunderland

Michelago Pony Club held its annual sporting gymkhana at the Bredbo showgrounds. We had a record number of 80 entries, which is our highest attended event since Covid. The weather was fantastic and a great weekend was had by all.

Entries included local riders and those from as far away as Tamworth. The event was sponsored by local business Hanson Rural Contracting.

Huge congratulations to Michelago Pony Club, which won the Clear Range Cup for the first time since 2013! This is testament to the rebuilding our small club has gone through over the last few years.

There were Age Champions, the Flag Spectacular Winner, the Fastest Barrel winner and Junior and Senior Sportsperson Winners.



L: Michelago's Pat Kelly on Archie, competing in the Bending race.

Pat later qualified for the finals in the Flag-race Spectacular, in which there were 80 competitors.



L: Michelago's Lizzie Kelly on Stella, competing in the multi-skill Scudahoe event. The Scudahoe involves jumping as well as bending around poles and barrels.

Stella is a lively 30 years old!

Below L: The proud Michelago participants and the Pony Club committee.



There are more photos on the Michelago Pony Club's Facebook page.

Michelago Pony Club meets monthly, 2nd Sunday.

Enquiries: Secretary: Romney (0428 297 514) or President: Rhys (0401 778 004).

michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com

Also <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au>



Michelago Cricket Club cruises again

Sunday 2 February.

The focus. The determination. The camaraderie. The acceptance of error. The celebration of triumph. Give it a go and she'll be right. This is social cricket.

It was a hellishly hot day out on the Clive Kelly Oval but you wouldn't have known it from the unrelenting efforts of bowlers and batters. Cooling relief arrived at 4pm with The Calwell Doctor.

The Canberra opponents were The Tuskers, they of the assertive elephant-shirts. The MCC's shirts showed a contrasting, understated elegance: white, shoulder flashes, the club's name. *At right. Models Mushy and Mo. Mushy, a promising young player, trained with Sydney Thunder at the Big Bash early in the season.*

Cut to the chase: Michelago won by 20 runs. In this A Grade comp., 3 of the 5 losses (and one forfeit; not enough players) were very close, but it seems the team won't have quite enough points to get into the finals.

For some of the atmosphere of this match, *Maggie* gives you some scattered notes.

Mo opened the batting with a quick 30 runs. 'Beautiful at square leg, mate!' Niv Turner did a quick-fire 62 and Manny got 46.

At 2.40pm, with Mick Wren batting (out for 47), the MCC was 4 for 208 with 8 overs to go. 'We're aiming for 250 or so,' said Ben.

A relaxed someone said, 'Oh, I'm in, am I? Better get a hat, then.' Everyone gets a go.

Phil hit three fours in a row, then a massive six that 'went to the base of the Tinderries', said Captain Matt, then was caught for 28.

Eric Bowman ('Bowie'), has been playing since 1993: 'He's a cricket legend,' said Ben.

Our lot was all out for 247 at 3pm. The Tuskers needed 248 to win. Let them try. 'We're all over 'em like a cheap suit,' opined Matt. Then, needing emphasis, 'Like a seagull on a chip.'



Mo opened the bowling for an extended stretch and Pete Wren, the diving wicket-keeper with two knee replacements and once-fractured feet, took a beauty of a catch. Mick Wren clean-bowled the middle stump of the Tuskers' captain, who'd stuck it out for 17 overs, frustrating for us. Then Mick started bowling 'offies', i.e. off-spin, turning right. That did it.

Simon Mann ('Manny'), ex-ACT Comets player, 'took the batter's moustache off.'

L: Mick Wren batting.

At half-time drinks, after 20 overs, The Tuskers were 3 for 123. Bit of a worry.

Then Mick got an lbw in his second over and Niv stumped another.

Then Manny unexpectedly changed from pace to spin – not what the batter had expected!

So the Tuskers were 7 for 157 after 25 overs, i.e. needing 90 to win.

Things were looking up.

Young Aiden bowled like an express (*at right*) and Talal took the catch. Then Adam and Phil took wickets.

Then we dealt the final blow: their last batter was stumped by wicket-keeper Niv. All out for 225.

There were some questionable decisions triggering unrest in the Michelago bunker when the visitors were umpiring, but it's not cricket to really carry on about it. And in the end, a win is a win.

Time for the barbecue and a beer.

Note: The MCC team plays seriously but also has fun. It welcomes new members. It claims to be the only multicultural team in the ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association.

Unlike the Very Serious Canberra teams, Michelago doesn't do mid-week training. If you'd like to join in, call Captain Matt on 0408 005 784.

Competition details: <https://actsocialcricket.com/>



L to R: Mick Jordan reads the previous Magpie report. Young Aiden can kick a half-time mean footy as well as bowling beautifully. Tim Walsh serves a sausage sandwich to Aiden.

The last match bodes well for next season

16 February, Bonython. Michelago lost creditably to the Canberra Warriors, so didn't quite make the finals. All team members are proud of their first season in A Grade.

Captain Matt reports: 'We batted first and set them 235, which they managed with two overs remaining. Some very questionable umpiring from them marred the day a bit.

We had a huge crowd there with all the guys getting their families out to support. Must have been 60 people there at one point. I'm keen to continue next season.'



The Dave Hanns Pavilion and its sign – when too much cricket isn't enough

Michelago's Clive Kelly Oval, Sunday 23 February



The MCC team, Hanns family members and other supporters gathered to install and celebrate the sign for the pavilion.

L: Niv Turner, drawing on his previous career as a sheet-metal worker, designed and organised the sign. It's rock-solid and made of 'mild steel', which will rapidly develop a rust-like, aged-look patina.

One part of the 'pavilion' to give credence to the sign was not quite ready to be securely placed and its colour is disputed (see below). The other part was temporarily mislaid when a well-meaning community member assumed it had been dumped.

The glitches were accepted in good cheer and the excellent sign was applauded.



L: Niv and Eric check the comfort of the Pavilion Part I. It's actually an old bus-station seat, one of many discarded years ago by the ACT Government because they didn't conform to new OHS regulations.

The sign was dedicated by Captain Matt and Glenn Fowler (occasional player and enthusiastic supporter) giving short speeches recalling Dave Hanns' revival of the MCC, his unflagging enthusiasm and occasionally mysterious record-keeping. Glenn recounted special memories of Dave's colourfully colloquial barracking.

Matt presented end-of season awards, stressing that everyone deserved awards for being part of such a strong team, all members of which appreciate each other, and looked forward optimistically to next season. He urged continued community support, citing the team's appreciation of this, especially at the last match, and thanked Baba G's Farm** for sponsorship.

The Clubman Award went to Adam Bye, who was visibly astonished and honoured.

The Bowling Award was deservedly won by Mo id Ifan and the Batting Award by Mick Wren. Matt recalled some of Mick's batting feats, particularly his 135 not out in the match against the Canberra Tuskies.

By popular acclaim, the informal Butter Chicken Award was for Mo's mother-in-law, Maddi.

**



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Above: awards to Adam, Mo and Mick. Butter Chicken appreciation.



Above: Ishy & Matt with last season's B Grade Premiership trophy (see Magpie 25 & 26). Sad – it has to be returned after a year's display at the Michelago General Store. Maddi, Mushy, Ishy, Mo and children Ari and Zavi.



L: The Hanns family around the Dave Hanns Pavilion sign.

R: Happy Adam Bye with his Clubman award.



Lighting up the Cenotaph



Derek Giucci, local electrician, has generously volunteered to install lights at the cenotaph in front of the Michelago Railway Station. The lights have been donated by one of his clients, for which the MRCA gives thanks.

He explained his plan to the February MRCA Committee meeting, which gratefully agreed.

R: Remembrance Day 11.11.2024





Councillor Corner

The *Magpie* understands that Council business has been so disrupted by the behaviour of certain councillors new to the regulated protocols of meeting etiquette, political priorities and, indeed, to even the elements of civilised discourse, that very little Council business has been achieved.

What the appalling behaviour has achieved is the exhaustion of men and women of goodwill who want rational discussion and have been used to working together for the good of the shire.

The two Michelago Councillors cannot, understandably, comment publicly on this situation.



Bank of Bins – MRCA letter to SMRC Councillors

Subject: Reasons to vote NO to the motion to relocate the Michelago Bank of Bins:
Council Meeting Monday 3 March [*Breaking: vote on BofB motion deferred to 20 March –Ed.*]

Dear Councillors,
With copy to CEO

I am writing to ask you to vote NO to Councillor Thaler's motion to relocate the Michelago Bank of Bins (BoB). This motion will effectively stop work on repairing the BoB while a futile search takes place for an alternative location. There are no alternative locations unless SMRC has the budget to acquire land.

This motion is very unpopular in Michelago.

A Facebook post on the Michelago Noticeboard on 16 Feb about the relocation of the bank of bins received 64 comments. None of these comments supported the motion. Here are some examples of the responses:

- If the BoB is relocated due to noise and traffic complaints, will the RFS Shed and Community Hall be next? (These buildings are all co-located.)
- It's ridiculous to allow the actions of one individual's vandalism to change the location of the BoB to the cost of the community.
- There are no other locations despite Council having searched for one in the past.
- A resident who lives 100 metres from the BoB said they have no problem with it.
- Another nearby resident said they have no problem either and they walk past the BoB daily and have never experienced any foul smells.
- Yet another village resident said they visit the RFS shed (next door to the BoB) and Community Hall (directly across the street from the BoB) regularly and have never noticed the BoB smelling
- A compromise could be a curfew for use of the bins to reasonable hours.

This motion will cause an unwarranted delay to the repair of the BoB, costing Council more money in terms of additional wages for staff in the form of overtime rates for Saturday mornings and additional fuel costs for additional trips for two trucks from Cooma to Michelago.

When Council originally consulted Michelago residents on the introduction of the BoB, residents were told emphatically that Council could not afford to continue paying overtime rates to send two to three staff to Michelago with the waste and recycling trucks every Saturday. Normally, when the BoB is operational, the Council recycling and waste trucks collect from the BoB on their same trip to Michelago to do the kerbside collections for the village residents.

This motion will cause an unwarranted delay to the repair of the BOB, costing residents money in terms of higher fuel costs to travel to Bredbo, in many cases a round trip of over 80 kms. This motion will delay the badly needed repairs to the bins causing residents who cannot get into Michelago regularly on Saturday to stockpile waste and recycling at home for weeks until they can make the journey to Bredbo Transfer Station.

For many Michelago regional residents, Bredbo Transfer Station is well over 40 kms away from their homes. Many Michelago regional residents work on Saturdays or have commitments to take their children to sporting activities.

I urge you to vote in the interests of the community of Michelago and at the same time, save Council from unnecessary additional expenditure.

Regards

Kerry Rooney

President, Michelago Region Community Association

www.michelagoregion.org.au



Heritage restoration

The long-awaited repairs to the heritage-listed Michelago Railway Station began on Wednesday 19 February. They've been approved by Heritage NSW. Alastair Saunders, skilled in heritage restoration, began the process of repairing plaster.

The necessary repairs and restorations were pinpointed by heritage consultant Pip Giovenelli in 2023 (see *Magpie* 22 and 24). Heritage NSW agreed to fund them with \$16,390.00 if UGL, which has oversight of NSW regional rail, agreed to match the funding. UGL has at last agreed to do so



after the tradesmen's work is done. Now the work can begin. On Sunday 16 February, MRCA volunteers Graeme, Miz, Sally, Kerry and two Leannes readied the station for the restoration work by cleaning out unnecessary items and packing up the useful and historically precious ones.

19 and 20 February: Alistair prepped the walls, removing the old, damaged plaster in readiness for the repair work.



Above: Alistair wore protective gear against the plaster dust.

L & R: Two of the places where he removed damaged plaster: the kitchen and the former ticket office.



Myles Gostelow, fine furniture designer and craftsman of Tharwa, will effect repairs to damaged areas of the station's woodwork, namely skirting boards and doors. Some will need to be replaced. He'll do his work after Alistair has finished the plastering.

L: Myles examines a sad skirting board removed from the station.
Photo: K. Rooney

Painting of the plastered areas awaits quotes from approved painters who can match the present colour.



National Trust ACT visit 26 March

The two organisers, Mary Johnston and Linda Roberts, met MRCA Committee members on 7 February at the Michelago General Store to discuss arrangements for the National Trust (ACT Branch) visit on 26 March.

It's an active branch of people interested in historical sites and the stories about them. Mary and Linda expect about 35 participants in their tour to Michelago.

Members of the Canberra Region Heritage Researchers (CRHR) have been researching the history of the Michelago Cemetery and those buried there. Their guides for this upcoming tour will be Kelly Paxman and Tony Maple, who met Liam Cotter while visiting the cemetery with a small group in 2024 and were impressed with his knowledge of the local history. Liam will be their special guest.

After the cemetery, the group will tour the heritage-listed Michelago Railway Station. The Trust has asked Kerry Rooney (née Kelly) to talk about the history of Michelago and the station. Invited members of the old settler families will contribute stories, too.

Leanne Thurling (née Coffey) will bring her coffee van and cater morning tea.

Note: because of crowding and catering, this is not an open event.



L: MRCA Committee members Sally, Leanne T. and Kerry with Mary and Linda, 7 February.

R: Liam Cotter with Mary Paxman, a previous visitor with the Canberra Register of Historical Resources. Photo: Tony O'Leary



For previous news about the fascinating Michelago Cemetery, see *Magpies* 27 and 28. All issues are on www.michelagoregion.org.au under the News tab.



Clive Kelly Oval as Community Central

Negotiations are in train by Adrian Ljubic to develop the old storage shed (photo below) as a Men's Shed, part of the NSW Association of Men's Sheds. Being part of the Association would attract some funding for facilities. There's already more community activity at the oval, as the bridge has made the bike and walking track readily accessible to South Michelago residents.



The tennis courts, clubhouse, MRCA barbecues and Dave Hanns Pavilion add to the attractions.

R: Emily and Matilda Green of Micalago Rd often go for an evening pedal.



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SCAN ME

PEEL OFF THE PAPER AND I'LL BE IN TOUCH



Tennis Clubhouse upgrade



Wayne Hatcher, bricklayer and master of many construction skills, has stepped in to help the Hall Committee upgrade the clubhouse. Roscoe Cowling, long a central Michelago figure, had quoted for an MRCA Boco Rock funding grant but then decided to retire after many years working around Michelago.

The grant was to cover the silver foil on the back wall and the inside of the two half-walls at the front with corrugated metal to match that on the side walls.

Wayne had to stop the work when he discovered active termites in one of the back bench's timber supports. There's now a warning sign against people sitting on it and Wayne has placed barriers to the bench. The Hall Committee is now liaising with Council staff for termite treatment. This could take a while: the Council department responsible for arranging termite treatment for the Memorial Hall cannot do it for the tennis clubhouse. That has to be done through the staff in charge of sportsground facilities. Of course.



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

Info forwarded by Gregg McFaul



There'll be a joint training exercise with Colinton Brigade, Saturday 8 March, 1200.

Due to the long weekend, Michelago training will be the 3rd Sunday, 16 March, 900.

Lots to see and do, including a refresher on flood rescue kits and a drive around our area.

Report on Michelago-Burra training 8 February: see p. 22



Federal election – Eden Monaro – meet the candidates

The MRCA President, Kerry Rooney, has liaised with the Michelago General Store to arrange meet-greet-question sessions with the candidates for the two major parties. It's possible that other candidates could have similar opportunities.

Jo van der Plaat, Liberal candidate, will be there on Sunday 23 March at 11 am.

Sitting Labor Member, Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, is very keen to visit Michelago and will confirm a date asap.



L: Jo van der Plaat



R: Kristy McBain



Michelago Community Choir Thursdays, 7–8 pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St.

Wonderful! Three more people have come to enjoy the singing hour on Thursday evenings – two ladies and a young man. Teacher-conductor Dee and other choir members are very happy!



They're sad, though, that two established members have left because of other commitments, but hope that more will come for the joy of singing together.

Remember, singing is the most fun you can have standing up.

And it's just one hour per week. Not to be missed.

No experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a sense of adventure. You don't even have to be able to read music. There are lovely people there and everyone is very welcome.

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

Go on. Come along. You know you want to.



Michelago Memorial Hall – weddings, parties, anything!



Fully functional kitchen, wi-fi, sound system, screen, toilets, acoustic panels, lots of chairs and tables, stage, beautiful floorboards, solar panels, new curtains, fresh paint, suitable for both small and large events ... what's not to like?

There are still projects the dedicated Hall Committee is working on, but they're mainly outside.

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.

Bookings: memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au or 0494 178 469



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If you would like to learn to sew, or have a sewing machine but not sure how to get the most out of it, please get in touch to book yourself a lesson.



Exercise for all ages

More exercise: there's Pete's HIIT class, 8 am Saturdays, the Hall. See 'What's on' p.24

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Classes are dependent on
● ages and
● interest

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0416 568 653



Review of draft Community Monaro Strategic Plan 2042

Council is seeking feedback on this forward-looking Plan. Comments close Monday 24 March 2025.

The draft plan is available on the YourSay page and you can submit comments on that page. You can also email your comments to

corporateplanning@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Check the link: <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/community-strategic-plan-2042-review>

If you would like to share your comments with MRCA, please email them to

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Regional Library Service (formerly the Mobile Library)

For a full explanation of the change in this service, see *Magpie 34*.

Michelago's drop-off/collection time and place for pre-ordered books are now always Thursdays 10.30 – 11.30am, Michelago Public School.



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Outreach Service Requests

You can request books and other items for delivery by the Library Outreach Service 4 ways

- To reserve online, visit www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Library
- To order by email, contact books@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
- To order by phone, call (02) 6451 1630
- Hand a list to the library staff member





Council Media Release 28 February

Did you know that Council's weed control program on its network of roads, reserves and operational lands is almost entirely funded by your rates? Unfortunately, in the current climate it is very difficult for government agencies and landowners alike to attract funding to manage widespread weeds and so the cost of control is typically down to work by the landowner. On occasion, funding is made available through specific programs and Council embraces these opportunities to reduce the burden on its budget, enabling available funds to be redirected to other maintenance and construction projects.

Like all land managers, Council has an obligation to manage state and regional priority weeds on its lands. State and regional priority weeds are defined either within the NSW *Biosecurity Regulations 2017* or within the South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan and include weeds like orange hawkweed, parthenium weed, Coolatai grass, Spanish heath and gorse, to name a few. Widespread weeds such as serrated tussock, African lovegrass, St John's wort, blackberry and thistles are no longer designated as state or regional priority weeds.



L: Coolatai grass

R: gorse

Credit: SMRC website



Most weed control on Council land is not undertaken because of a legal obligation, but instead as a good neighbour policy. Like many landowners, Council manages a variety of weeds on its land to protect its assets and to limit spread to neighbouring lands. Roadsides are a well-known vector for the spread of weeds and Council manages weeds on roadsides to limit this spread for the benefit of the broader community.

As part of its recent cost-saving measures, Council further reduced its weed spraying budget in the 2024-5 financial year to \$540,000. With this budget reduction came some hard decisions and a reduction in service levels in some areas. Specifically, Council has rationalised its weed control program by reducing the number of contractors engaged to control weeds, by reducing expenditure in areas where weeds are prolific on adjoining lands and by further prioritising the weeds that it controls.

'Our budget for spraying (priority) weeds on Council lands is directed primarily towards protecting the region's agricultural and environmental assets from the impact of weeds', Council's Biosecurity Coordinator, Brett Jones, said. 'That means that the vast majority of weed control efforts occur in the areas to the south, east and west of Cooma, with only a skeleton budget retained for managing weeds to the north of Cooma.'

Mr Jones said 'We have applied other cost-saving measures like boom-spraying road verges. This practice, where appropriate, serves to both reduce vegetation height along the road verge for safety reasons and it controls a lot of the weeds that would otherwise have to be spot sprayed at greater cost. In addition to that, it reduces our reliance on slashing, which has a significantly greater impact on our budget and is a primary vector for the spread of weeds.'

The cost savings were introduced as a result of Council's financial challenges and its focus on becoming more financially sustainable into the future. With over 2,500kms of roads to manage and a short growing season for most weeds, Mr Jones warns that 'in many cases Council's weed spraying activities simply will not occur in a timeframe or to a standard that we have achieved in the past. We will, however, continue to prioritise the control of African lovegrass and other widespread weeds in the higher quality agricultural areas where they are not well established.'

Please contact Council's Biosecurity Coordinator, Brett Jones, for further information.

brett.jones@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 345 345.

Media contact: Clancy Noakes, Communications Officer.

clancy.noakes@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Want to know more about weeds? Readers are encouraged to access the very informative SMRC site (see the link below) for descriptions and photos of State and Regional Priority Weeds (in categories of Prevent, Eradicate and Contain), as well as Garden Escapees and Environmental weeds. Just enter 'weeds' in the search bar and scroll.

<https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/>



Speed limit in Ryrie St



Most drivers are doing the right thing. Others are perhaps so excited by the drive-through experience facilitated by the new bridge that they feel Ryrie Street is a freeway. It's not.

It's a narrow, shared zone in a suburban street. Along it, people ride their bikes, walk their dogs and children, go for a stroll and exit their driveways in their cars – just as they did before the advent of the bridge.

The sign says 50. A more appropriate speed limit would be 40. Thank you for driving carefully.



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Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare



The December 2024 issue of the quarterly newsletter, *The Upper Bidgee Bulletin* is full of news about caring for the environment.

If you would like to be on the mailing list, contact Georgeanna Story 0429 779 928 or upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com More information about activities is on these links: www.landcare.nsw.gov.au and www.facebook.com/uppermurrumbidgeelandcarecommittee

Contents in this issue include: Southern Tablelands Tree Start Growers Network, the Queanbeyan River Corridor, The Capital Region Gang-Gang Network, improving fish habitats along the Upper Murrumbidgee, The Threatened Species bus tour, recording platypus sightings and the Sustainable Farms Achievements Report.



*Improving fish habitats,
Upper Murrumbidgee:*

*Far L: bank-attached log
sills going into the water.
L: Habitat awnings
installed on the
Murrumbidgee at Bredbo.
Photo credit: UMDR*



*L: Plastic possum-guards on a Gang Gang
nesting tree with possum activity.*

The first occupied nest hollow in the Queanbeyan region was at the Queanbeyan Golf club, first reported by an arborist pruning trees. As there were possum scratch marks, management allowed installation of the guards. The adult female Gang Gang 'popped up to check us out.'
[Photo credit not named.]



Michelago Landcare

The Michelago Landcare AGM will be held in late March, date to be announced. Notice of 21 days must be given. It will be publicised on Facebook's Michelago Notice Board.

President Markus Buchhorn says that projects being planned include Michelago Creek restoration and use of a newly acquired pig trap.

The gates in the recently built Dave Hanns fence at the Clive Kelly Oval will enable access. Pig traps: see *Magpie 33* (p.15) for the Royalla Landcare report on feral pigs. *R: Creek (sometimes floodplain) land.*





On Saturday, 8 February, several members of the Michelago RFS brigade ventured out to Burra to join in an area familiarisation and a series of skill-honing exercises in conjunction with numerous members of the Burra brigade.

The day started in a very relaxed manner with casual discussion between members over morning tea in the Burra shed.

Following this, a brief inspection of the Burra shed facilities was made, and briefings were given by several senior members of the Burra brigade in the shade of their new barbecue shelter.

Several fire trucks from both brigades then travelled in convoy to undertake a general reconnaissance of the area and to inspect possible staging areas for possible use in fire events.

The trucks were deployed to hypothetical grass and housefire scenarios based in the rapidly expanding new residential area at Mount Burra, where the residents of two properties graciously allowed us access to simulate fighting of fires hypothetically advancing towards and threatening their homes.

At the conclusion of the exercise, all the participants adjourned in mixed groups of members from both brigades in several of the trucks, sharing knowledge, tactical methodologies and experiences whilst rolling back to the Michelago shed for sandwiches, cakes, drinks, further discussion and expressions of appreciation for the organisers.

The event, although rather casual and social in nature, was acclaimed as highly successful and enjoyable and a valuable opportunity for members of different brigades to get to know one another better.

It was agreed that the easy-going and informative nature of the event made it both interesting and enjoyable, and that further events of this kind would be highly beneficial to all involved.



Photo: Ian Hooley



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 \$10.00 per issue (3-issue payment preferred). Advertisement size depends on space available). 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

To join the MRCA, first download the membership form from the home page 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. Next: 11 March. All Michelagans are welcome. The minutes are on the website: www.michelagoregion.org.au



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Australia Day – further comment

There were some interested comments about the Magpie 33 article published from The Spectator of 25.1.2024. The Magpie takes no stand on the various arguments but, for balance, publishes the following complementary view written by journalist Chloe Sargeant and published 25 January 2022 on www.sbs.com.au/voices

‘The conversation surrounding changing the date of Australia Day from January 26 has become steadily more mainstream in the last few years. Australia Day or differently-titled holidays celebrating the Aussie identity have been celebrated on a range of dates throughout our history.

In the past few years, large-scale Invasion Day rallies have made mainstream headlines, youth radio station triple j announced they would be moving the Hottest 100 from January 26 in order to depoliticise the music countdown and make it available to all Australians, and usage of the #ChangeTheDate hashtag on social media has become widely recognised.

While the conversation remains ongoing with strong voices on both sides of the issue, it might be worth delving into the historical adaptability of the date. Many Aussies are steadfast that the national day has been celebrated on January 26 since the moment British boots landed on Aussie soil, up to this very moment - but this isn't actually the case.

So, here's a round-up of just some of the dates we've celebrated 'Australia Day', or similar holidays that celebrated Australia's founding or Australian identity.



History source: Australian War Memorial

Australia Day - 30th July. The first ever official national day that was actually named 'Australia Day'! On July 30 in 1915, the first official Australia Day was held, which was actually to raise funds for the World War I effort.

Ellen Wharton-Kirke, from Manly NSW, made the suggestion to Premier Sir Charles Wade, reportedly due to the enlistment of her three sons. According to the [Australian War Memorial website](#), "Mrs Wharton-Kirke had seen the generosity of the Australian people during other fundraising days and saw an 'Australia Day' as a way of drawing on the pride of Australians in their soldiers' recent achievements at Gallipoli. 30 July 1915 was the date agreed upon, and events were held across all of Australia."

Australia Day - 28th July. In 1916, the Australia Day committee that had formed (to organise the war effort fundraising the year before) determined that it would be held on July 28.

Anniversary Day - 26th January (NSW). Previous to 1888, New South Wales was the only place that celebrated Australia Day (then called Anniversary Day) on January 26.

These celebrations were all Sydney-centric (other states and territories had their own celebrations to mark their founding). For example, Governor Lachlan Macquarie held a 30-gun salute at Dawes Point to mark 30 years as a colony in 1818.

In 1837, the first Sydney Regatta was held. In 1838, crowds of people attended the event and to see the hoisting of the New South Wales flag. South Australia, Western Australia, and Van

Diemens Land (Tasmania) were toasted as sister colonies, despite having their own celebratory day.

In early colonial times, the 26th was also called 'First Landing Day' or 'Foundation Day' by some and would be celebrated by European immigrants (particularly ex-convicts) by holding anniversary dinners. Some would begin their festivities the night of the 25th, with [records](#) existing of ex-convicts participating in "drinking and merriment" to celebrate their new home from as early as 1808.

Hobart Regatta Day - 1st December (TAS) This annual event, which is still going (and is the longest-standing public holiday in Australia) was once Tassie's annual celebration of being Australian. Tasmania has celebrated Hobart Regatta Day since 1838, as it commemorates the anniversary of Abel Tasman's discovery of Tassie, in 1642. Since 1879, Regatta Day has now been held in January or February.

Foundation Day - 1st June (WA). Now called Western Australia Day, the date of this holiday actually moved around every year. It was held on the first Monday in June, to commemorate the founding of the Swan River Colony in 1829.

Lieutenant-Governor James Stirling, who was aboard the merchant vessel *Parmelia* and sighted the coast on June 1 (officially proclaiming the Swan River Colony June 11), thought an annual celebration was necessary to unify the members of the colony.

It was called Foundation Day up until 2011. After a series of law changes, which recognised WA's Indigenous peoples as the original inhabitants of the land, the day was renamed to Western Australia Day in 2012.

Proclamation Day - December 28 (SA) Proclamation Day was a celebration of the date the government was established in South Australia as a British province in 1836. This was South Australia's 'founding day' celebrations until 1910, when they officially unified with other states to celebrate Australia Day on January 26. However, formal celebrations for Proclamation Day are still held at Glenelg North on December 28.

Australia Day - 26th of January. All of the states and territories of Australia were celebrating the national day together by 1935, 83 years ago, although it was still known as Anniversary Day in NSW and Foundation Day in other areas.

First Nation Peoples have been protesting the date for almost the same amount of time, with the first official 'Day of Mourning' being held by the Australian Natives Association in 1938.

In 1938, the Sesquicentenary - or 150th anniversary - of British colonisation of Australia was widely celebrated in all state capitals. The main celebrations were held in Sydney, but newspapers from other states show that language had now evolved around January 26 to be a national date of significance.

Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* [told its readership](#) that the date was not of interest just to NSW anymore: "Sydney has the pageantry, but the event it recalls and reconstructs is significant to all Australians. A nation was founded when Governor Phillip landed at Port Jackson. To that nation

we all belong" was written under the headline, "A dream that came true".

In 1946, the Commonwealth and state governments agreed to unify all the state-based Australia Day celebrations and celebrate on January 26 as a country; the public holiday was taken on the Monday closest to the 26th.

Australia Day officially became a public holiday for *all* states and territories only 24 years ago, in 1994.'

Source: <https://www.sbs.com.au/voices/article/the-many-different-dates-weve-celebrated-australia-day/vuhb3ar1c>



Michelago Public School

Principal Geoff Smith

Photos: Geoff Smith

We are delighted to welcome students back for another promising year at Michelago Public School. The academic year has commenced with great enthusiasm as students actively engage in their studies across all subjects.

We have already enjoyed our annual visit from Healthy Harold, which provided valuable lessons in health and well-being, and our students participated enthusiastically in the swimming carnival held at Captains Flat. We are also proud to report that our talented students represented our school admirably at the district carnival in Cooma, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship.

We recently completed our combined schools day, which was a resounding success. This event brought together teachers and students from Cooma, Adaminaby, Nimmitabel, and Bredbo Public Schools, fostering collaboration and enriching our students' educational experience. We are welcoming teachers and students from these schools to MPS in Week 9 of term.

Looking ahead, our Years 3 to 5 students will soon be preparing for the NAPLAN assessments, which are an important part of their educational journey.



As we embark on this new year, we also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Miss Robbie and Whittaker, who left our school at the end of 2024, and we warmly welcome Mrs Gittoes to our teaching team. Her addition will enhance the learning experience for our students.

With so many engaging activities and initiatives on the horizon, we are optimistic about the opportunities that await us in 2025. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide the best educational experience for our local learning legends at Michelago!



What's on?



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. Resumed 13 Feb after a summer break.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com
- **Dance class for kids.** Term 1, Mondays 5–6pm. Michelago Hall. Details p.13.
- **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. Note change for March: 3rd Sunday, due to the long weekend. See p.9.
- **Hall Committee** general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au 0494 178 469. Current hire rates: p.12.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library** Mobile library. Thursdays to collect pre-orders outside the school 10.30 –11.30. See p.14 for major changes.
- **Massage:** See p.14.
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly 2nd Tues 6pm. Next: 11 March.
- **Pilates** Saturdays, 9.30-10.15 am, Hall. See p.14 and flyer on shop noticeboard.
- **Pony Club** Pony Club Monthly 2nd Sunday. Enquiries: Secretary: Romney (0428 297 514) or President: Rhys (0401 778 004) or email michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au> (Note changes to previous posts.)
- **Seed Savers** Enquiries: SMS or contact Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au or Jenny 0400 484 485 or jenny258@bigpond.com Next meeting: Sunday 16 March, 2-4pm, tennis clubhouse.
- **Senior Lunch Group** 1st Monday of the month, 1pm. Location varies. Call Janet 0414 785 865.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Updates on Michelago's Facebook Noticeboard.
- **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). President Don Munns 0407 235 407. Membership: contact Secretary Heidi Dreyer 0434 197 122.

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

March

- Sun 23, 9-1pm. **Working bee, Railway Station** – general cleanup. Helping hands welcome!
- Sun 23, 11am. Michelago General Store. **Jo van der Plaats**, Liberal Party candidate for Federal Government election. See p.11.
- Wed 26. **Visit by the National Trust (ACT)** to Michelago Cemetery and Railway Station. Event by invitation only, due to size of group and catering.
- **Michelago Landcare AGM.** Date tba. See p.17.

