

~ Michelago Magpie 37~

5 May 2025

from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on www.michelagoregion.org.au

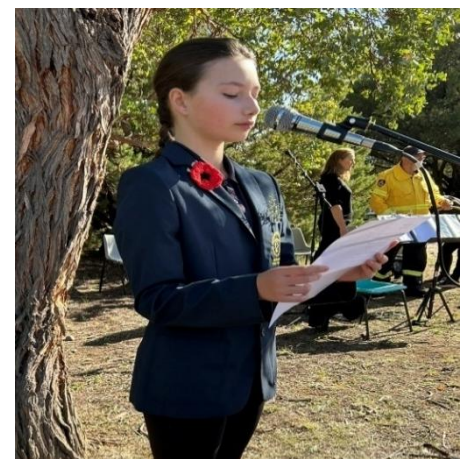
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ANZAC Day – 25 April 2025 – Michelago Railway Station



Above: Olivia Ausserlechner, a Year 6 student at Michelago Public School, read 'In Flanders Fields'. Students had made the blue and red poppies below from quick-dry clay. The blue ones symbolise the animals that died in war, linking with the horse and dog atop the cenotaph (p. 5). The tin hat is Ian Hooley's only memento of his soldier father.





The Michelago Community Choir sang The New Zealand National Anthem (in both Māori and English), the Australian Anthem and *To a Grateful World*. There are now 14 in the choir, including 2 from Bredbo and one even from Canberra. It's becoming known as fun and informal, while being very focused on learning and achieving. Thank you, Dee. (See p.16)

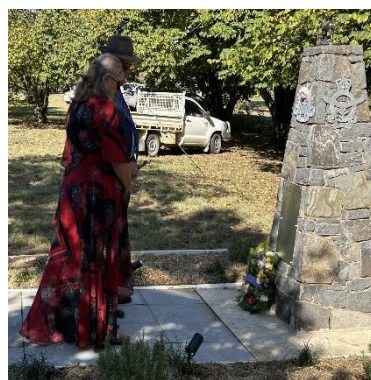


L: Brendan Jackson gave the address, including a poignant tale about a father and son separated by war.

R: Leanne Thurling read her new ANZAC Day poem (see p.5).



Below: Wreaths were laid: Ivan Colaric, Crs Higgins and Rooney, the RFS, the school and various children.



It was a glorious Autumn day. The solemn ceremony was perfectly organised and run by Jo Jackson. Afterwards, the crowd enjoyed the generous morning tea (thank you to all the cooks), mingled and chatted. It was a positive community event.



L & above: Brendan & Jo Jackson and friends.

Below: Happy Michelagoans.





Patriotic shirts:

L: Derek Giucci

R: John Taylor



L: Kerry Rooney & Honorary Station Master Lindsay Richmond (see Magpie 36) with Kerry's booklet on the history of the station. It's \$10 a copy. Funds go to station upkeep. For a copy, email kerryarooney@gmail.com

R: Tony De Salis admires the well-researched booklet.



L: Beth and Judy Bobroff.

Beth wears her grandfather's medals. Judy wears the Silver Star, the highest USA award for bravery, awarded to her father, Major Floyd Tacklind.

Major Tacklind's troop ship had been en route to the East Indies when the Japanese offensive (Singapore fell on 8

February 1942) caused a retreat to Darwin. That's why he was there when Japanese planes attacked on 19 February 1942. The US soldier manning the defensive machine gun post was killed and Major Tacklind took his place.

The Lone Pine



L: Ivan Colaric stands next to the Gallipoli Lone Pine that he donated to the Michelago Railway Station about 8 years ago, when it was just a seedling. It was grown from seed of the original Lone Pine – a significant gift.

R: This photo and its caption are from Magpie 2. Remembrance Day, November 2021.

Jenny Wholohan stands by the Gallipoli Lone Pine gifted by Ivan Colaric. Her great-grandfather died in the Battle of Hamel, northern France, 4 July, 1918.



L: The warhorse and dog statuette that tops the cenotaph on special occasions is lent by Ivan.

R: a quiet moment after the ceremony.



April 25

Leanne Thurling

On April 25 each year, before the rise of sun
And the darkness of the night has turned to day,
As the magpies start to stir with the warbling of their song
And the morn's first rays peek gently through the haze,

Australians right across this land will gather at this hour
To remember those who served and to honour
The sacrifices made that have kept our country safe,
For without them life may not be as we know now.

All the fresh-faced boys who had joined to fight the war
Barely old enough to shave or wear long pants
Had left the shores of home – for adventure they were bound
But the reality of war was what they faced.

Young women wearing veils, dresses long with shoulder capes
Had volunteered to nurse the wounded men.
They worked in tents and hospitals beside the battle grounds,
On ships and trains, wherever they could mend.



To many countries they were sent, to fight for England's cause --
The Empire held this country in its hands,
But Australia's fledgling nation always answered to the call
As men of every colour took a stand.

And what does ANZAC mean, when we speak about this day?
Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.
In the dawn of 1915 on April 25
We remember those who died on Turkey's shores.

But ANZAC has evolved to remember all the wars
And conflicts where Australia played a part
With medals for the brave and all who gave their all,
But we hear the sound of mothers' breaking hearts.

And all the men and women who have served this country well
In times of strife have stepped up to the plate.
They've put their country first and have given of themselves
With courage as they fought alongside mates.

So let us not forget the importance of this day
As the world around us changes evermore
And let us not forget the sacrifices made
Of those who bravely join to fight those wars.



Mothers Day Devonshire Tea



Mothers Day Devonshire Tea

Sunday 11 May, 10–2

Michelago Historical Railway Station

Two freshly baked scones with jam & whipped cream



Unlimited plunger coffee and tea

Served on vintage crockery, linen tablecloths and vases of fresh flowers in a cosy room with open fire and soft music in the background.

Bring Mum for an old-fashioned Devonshire Tea and feel like you have stepped back in time.

Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a donation to the Railway Station for its maintenance. Cash or card payment.

Tables are limited, so be quick to reserve one.

Call Leanne T: 0419 495 485





Easter Egg Hunt – go!



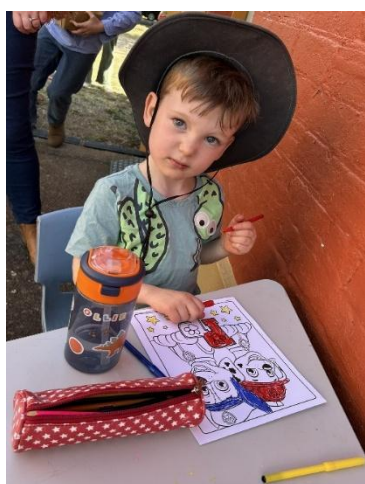
Easter: time to smell the roses.

Saturday 19 April. Busy Bunny Sam Walton and Assistant Bunnies Fiona, John, Joanna and Emma Tollis organised this happy community event for the fourth consecutive year.



In lovely, calm Autumn weather, 50 children scavenged multi-sized chocolate eggs from trees, grass and bushes. Bigger children helped the little ones. The grown-ups enjoyed the free, fresh, buttered hot cross buns, tea and coffee.

The fee for egg hunters was \$7.50 single and \$21 family. After costs, funds supported the Michelago Railway Station's upkeep.



Cenotaph lighting



Local electrician Derek Giucci, with helpers Bronwyn Gattringer and Ivan Colaric, dug the trench. This was hard work in the

stoney ground. Then he laid the cables to start installation. Beautiful result!

All equipment was donated by Derek's suppliers and Derek and his helpers worked as volunteers.

A list of the generous suppliers follows.

R: The cenotaph lit at night. Derek took this photo after rain, so there almost seems to be a Pool of Remembrance.

Photos: Kerry Rooney and Derek Giucci



Donations for Michelago Cenotaph garden lights at the Michelago Railway Station

1. Electrical wholesalers

- Rapid LED: four garden lights around cenotaph.
- Voltex Electrical: digital time clock for turning lights on and off.
- Middys Electrical Fyshwick: garden light cabling.

DCG Electrical would like to thank all the above suppliers for their donations.

2. DCG Electrical

- Underground conduit for garden-light cable protection across driveway, materials for garden-light control box.

3. Ivan Colaric

- Future water line for cenotaph plants, remediating of trench work, and gravel.

The MRCA gives grateful thanks to the above donors for enhancing the Michelago community's cenotaph at the historical Michelago Railway Station and especially to Derek for his initiative.



A Mongrel Act – theft at the Michelago Railway Station

Someone unauthorised somehow obtained the key code for unlocking the railway station and stole a folder of CDs stored there for a future event.

It's a treasured, personal collection, built up over years. The owner is very upset and angry. So is the MRCA Committee, both on the owner's behalf and because they are responsible for looking after the railway station.

The code has now been changed, of course.

To the thief: please repent your selfish, irresponsible action and return the folder of CDs. Leave it under shelter at the station or drop it into the General Store. No questions asked. Thank you.



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Community Loom project

Local artist and craft-person Leah Oliver, with her children Annabelle and Nora, made this arresting street art above Clive Kelly Oval.



People are invited to weave found natural objects into it. The sign notes that 'Autumn can be a beautiful time in our small community' and asks you to 'respect what others have added. This is a fun project for all. It will remain until it starts to break down. Thank you for sharing the treasure you find.'



Federal election – meet the candidates – Kristy McBain

We reported on the March 23 meet-and-greet at the Michelago General Store of Jo van der Plaats, LNP candidate for Eden Monaro (see *Magpie* 36). On 5 April, residents met with Kristy McBain, who has now retained the seat of Eden-Monaro for the Labor party.



The main issues discussed were roads, roads and roads.





Council Corner

The Council meeting on 17 April in Cooma was a chaotic one indeed. Five Councillors walked out of the meeting in protest at what they believed to be an unlawful motion brought forward by one Councillor in relation to his neighbour's property.

As if that wasn't enough, after the Council meeting ended, a brawl erupted amongst the onlookers in the Council Chamber and at least one Councillor joined the fray. Police were called and statements were taken.

A full report of the meeting can be found in the April 18 edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in an article titled '"Dribbling blood": Council meeting involving serial pest ends in brawl.' Check it out on www.smh.com.au There's a paywall, but some complimentary articles are allowed.

Quite apart from the above article, it's alleged that councillors are totally fed up with the behaviour of the so-called 'serial pest' and the consequent inability of Council to deal effectively with much of the normal business.



Bank of Bins update

At the Council meeting before the one referred to above, Council voted against Cr Thaler's motion to close the bank of bins in the village and to find a new location. Council had already sought an alternative location, but none could be found. Council staff can now proceed to repair the damage and it is hoped that the bins will reopen soon.



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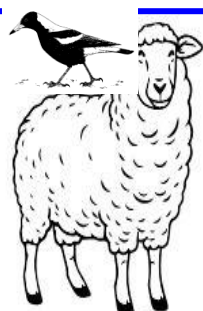
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Altering hems, resizing, repurposing, adjusting a formal garment
- the right fit makes all the difference!

Also mending/patching clothing, and adjusting household items.
Whatever your need, get in touch and I'll see what can be done.

*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.*

Contact Jenny: Ph. 0400 484 485 Email: jenny258@bigpond.com





Michelago Public School

Principal Geoff Smith

We've had an amazing term at Michelago Public School, achieving so much already, thanks to our wonderful community and dedicated staff. To celebrate the end of Term 1, we held our annual Easter Hat Parade and Easter Egg Hunt – and what a day it was!



Mrs T hid more than 300 eggs across the school grounds, each one colourfully decorated and marked with names and dates. Some eggs dated back as far as 2010 — and even earlier! Students enjoyed the day in their casual clothes, or 'mufti' as we like to call it, adding to the festive atmosphere.

It was fantastic to see so many parents joining us for the parade, supporting their children and admiring the incredible creations. A huge thank you to our wonderful families who put in the hard yards to help make this event so special.

Also, a big congratulations to Fiona T who won this year's P&C Easter raffle and a special thanks to those who bought tickets to support our school

We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Photos: Geoff Smith



Michelago Railway Station – heritage restoration

Kerry Rooney



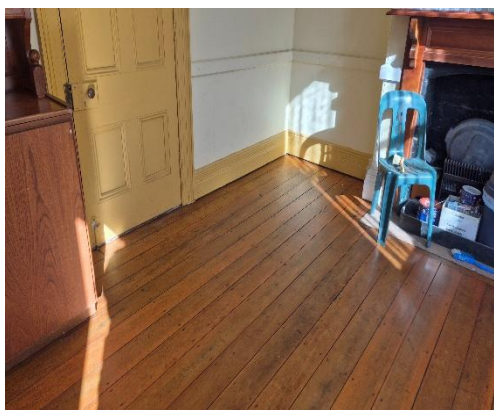
The Michelago community thanks UGL Regional Linx for supporting restoration work at our heritage railway station.

From its control centre located in Orange NSW, UGL Regional Linx runs the Country Rail Network (CRN) on behalf of Transport NSW.

Michelago Railway Station is just one of the 356 heritage sites in the CRN that are the responsibility of UGL Regional Linx. Following the completion of recent restoration work at Michelago, UGL has contributed \$16,390 to help pay the skilled tradesmen.

The work so far includes the complete reconstruction of three doors, sanding and resurfacing the kitchen floor, replacing damaged skirting boards and architraves and plastering walls previously damaged by water. More remains to be done, such as repairing and painting the Michelago sign. Other funding is coming from a heritage grant from the NSW Government.

The NSW CRN includes 2,386 kilometres of operational rail lines that are used for passenger and freight services. In addition, there are 3,139 kilometres of non-operational line and 27,000 hectares of land and infrastructure that require upkeep. This portfolio includes 1,312 level crossings (300 active), 1,200 property assets (including 356 heritage sites), 600 rail under-bridges and 384 over-bridges. Throughout the network, approximately 996km of branch line is predominantly used for grain haulage.



Above: The sanded and resurfaced kitchen floor, the reconstructed doors of the storage room (awaiting paint), and the rehabilitated original handle on the kitchen door. This is all impeccable work by heritage craftsman Myles Gostelow of Tharwa.

Photos: Kerry Rooney

Other photos of the project in process have been in previous issues of the *Magpie*.



Writing local history – tales, tips and traps

Kerry Rooney

Join me for an author's talk at 2 pm on Saturday 17 May at the Frank Pangallo Heritage Library, 253 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan.*

Get tips on how to write your local history or family history.

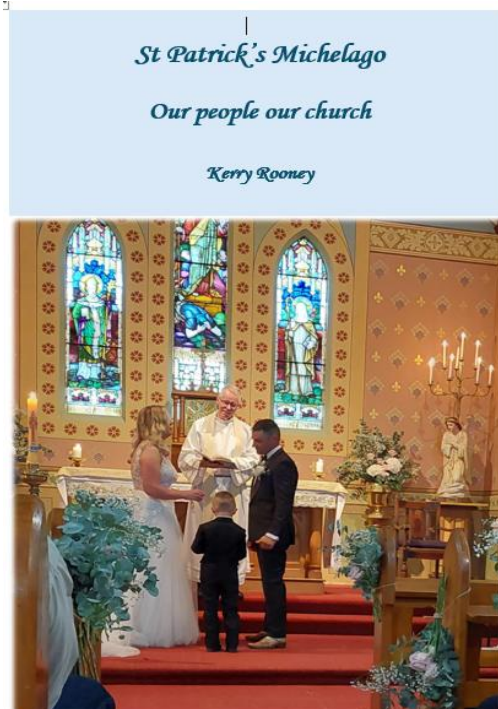
Hear the story of Irish settlement in Michelago and how this small community built their first churches and first school. The story was told in a publication called *St Patrick's Michelago: our people, our church*, which was released in 2024.

Discover the heritage value of this rural church – a hidden gem on the highway between Queanbeyan and Cooma.

Tickets are free.

To make your booking follow [this link to the event on Humanitix](#).

*This event is being hosted by the Queanbeyan Frank Pangallo Heritage Library as part of the 2025 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.





Democracy Sausages and coffee ... and a Federal Election

3 May, Michelago Public School. The P&C and MRCA collaborated again to bring the community the election's essential bbq accompaniments, starting 8 a.m.

Thanks to the P&C's Sarah and Tim Davies and MRCA's Elizabeth Price, Tony De Salis, Kerry Rooney, Sally Hughes and Leanne Pattison.



DEMOCRACY SAUSAGE



L: Senior electoral officials from Kiribati, Fiji and Timor Leste, with their Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) colleagues, observed voting in Michelago.

It was a very welcome visit. Polling place manager Anna Bunston and her team of Jo, Jayne, David and Adam were delighted with the interest shown.

Below: Michelago's election day was a friendly and family affair. Our two local SMRC councillors, John and Tanya, have different political affiliations but are mates who can work together for the region (see also p.16).



Below: Finn is a seasoned Magpie star. He loved his chocolate muffin from Johnoz coffee van.





The barbecue profit will go equally to the P&C and upkeep of the railway station by the MRCA.

Action on Ryrie St speeding – two Michelago Councillors work together *Tanya Higgins*

1 May. As part of Council's deliberations on the 2025-26 Budget and Delivery Plan, Councillors Higgins and Rooney took advantage of a proposed amendment to fund investigation of traffic-calming options for Bombala and convinced fellow councillors to include Michelago.

Cr Higgins has been trying to get Council to find a solution to stop vehicles speeding along Ryrie Street for the past three years. Cr Rooney championed this cause during his previous term at Council. At this meeting, Tanya seized the opportunity to secure funding for Michelago. John was quick to back her up and told fellow Councillors he would not vote for the motion unless it included Michelago! After strong debate, the motion was passed.

The Draft Budget will be put out for Community Consultation this week. Councillors seek your support to tell Council that this work should be included in the Budget and work be undertaken during the next financial year. This will allow SMRC to be 'shovel ready', i.e. in a position to apply for State and Federal Road Safety Grants.

Put your views on the Draft Budget on the SMRC site's 'Your Say'.





TERM 2 MAT PILATES

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Starts 3 May 2025

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Registration is for the specified dates listed on the registration
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Register using QRCode or via
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Contact Heidi via
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Michelago Memorial Hall Bookings

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

The Hall has all facilities for your function.



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.



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

Singing is the most fun you can have standing up. Try it and compare.

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*. Dee is a helpful, supportive teacher.

Choir members love it so much, they've voted to continue through the winter term. The little church is warm. Come along.



Koala Karaoke – Citizen Science Helping Koala Research

Cameron Kirk, Land Services Officer, Koala Habitat Restoration & Protection, Local Land Services

5 April, Michelago General Store. Representatives from the Snowy Monaro Cold Country Project hosted a morning tea information session about the local koala population. Sally Miller from the NSW Koala Strategy, Georgeanna Story from Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare and Cameron Kirk from South East Local Land Services met with some local community members to discuss the ongoing efforts to monitor and protect the local koala population, which inhabits a broad area reaching from Kybeyan to Tinderry Nature Reserve and beyond.



Did you know that our local koalas are much bigger than the koalas elsewhere in NSW? We have a unique population, whose unusual size and tendency to chew the bark off trees sets it apart from koalas elsewhere in Australia. They eat a wide variety of our local eucalypt species but will sit in just about any tree that provides shade and a comfy seat. This is especially important when they are travelling long distances across the grasslands of the Monaro, where they will gravitate towards the small islands of trees that dot the plains.

In 2022, the koala populations of Queensland, NSW and the ACT were listed as endangered. This has made the work of the Cold Country Koala Project more important than ever. As part of the

NSW Koala Strategy's commitment to doubling the koala population by 2050, the Cold Country Koalas Project aims to support local communities to conserve koala populations by offering funding opportunities to protect and improve existing koala habitat and providing opportunities for everyone to get involved in koala conservation.

However, before the Koala Strategy can measure progress, baseline data is needed to determine how many local koalas there are. This is where the koala karaoke comes in.

The koala karaoke is a survey that is being conducted across the Snowy Monaro, utilising audio monitors that detect the mating calls of male koalas. Alongside survey work with drones, detection dogs and visual surveys, the koala karaoke is helping discover the full extent of the population.

That is where the citizen science initiative comes in. Landholders can volunteer to host these audio monitors on their properties during the mating season, from October to February, to see if the koalas are using the area. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming monitoring season, you can contact South East Local Land Services Kirrily Gould on 0429 692 550 or at kirrily.gould@lls.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Finally, the Koala Strategy encourages people to report koala sightings if they manage to spot one of the cuddly critters.

The ISpyKoala app is available for iPhone and Android and lets citizen scientists report when they find koalas. This app is responsible for nearly 25% of all koala records we have in the Snowy Monaro.

Don't fear if you don't have the app, as you can also send the details of your sightings to Kirrily at Local Land Services. She can help submit the report for you.

Photos: Kerry Rooney



Gardening Group

The happy, busy group of dirty-fingernailed people have decided that 'Seed Savers' was not inclusive enough.

This is because of feedback from some gardeners who've said 'We don't save seeds', so haven't come along. Hence the name change.

It's a gathering of people who talk about gardens, ask and give advice about plants and generally delight in these topics away from the worries of the world.

As one said, 'It's much nicer to worry about weeds than wars. Plants make peace.'

Yes, some save and swap seeds and propagate plants from them, but they also share plants, cuttings and produce. Some just join in the talk – bugs, rabbits, mulch, compost, pruning, frost ... there are many garden topics.

See the What's On page at the end of the *Magpie*, p.20.

P.S. Rebecca's cucumbers were delicious!



Autumn windflowers



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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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.



Community Association 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 Wednesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. Next: 14 May. All Michelagoans are welcome. The minutes are on the website: www.michelagoregion.org.au



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.

Regular Venues, contacts and times can change; information is here as received.

- **Choir** Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St. See p.14.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com
- **Dance class for kids.** Unavailable Term 2. To resume Term 3. Enquiries: Alyssa 0401 920 271.
- **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. Currently every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au 0494 178 469. Current hire rates: p.14.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$10. 'Works for all ages.'
- **Library** Mobile library. Monthly on Thursdays to collect pre-orders outside the school 10.30–11.30. See SMRC site & *Magpie* 36. Next two Michelago drop offs: 22 May and 19 June.
- **Massage** Michelle O'Leary comes to you with her massage table. 0401 535 414
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly, 2nd Wed 6pm. Next: 14 May.
- **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.)
- **Gardening Group** (formerly **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 gathering** Sun 18 May, 2pm, tennis clubhouse. See p.16.
- **Senior Lunch Group** 1st Monday of the month, 12.30 pm. 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.

May

- **Thurs 8 May.** Free webinar, 6.30 pm for 1 hour: Compost & worm farming. By Sustainable Gardening Australia for SMRC. Reserve place: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/compost-and-worm-farming-introducing-black-gold-tickets>
- **Sunday 11 May, 10-2.** Mothers Day Devonshire Tea. Railway Station. \$15 each. Includes donation for railway station maintenance. Please book for catering: call Leanne T: 0419 495 485. See p. 6.
- **Sunday 11 May, 2-5pm.** Mothers Day Paint 'n' Sip. Michelago General Store. 'Unlimited bubbles & charcuterie.' 3-hour guided painting session. \$110. Book at www.artbynetty.com/book-online See Facebook Michelago Notice Board.

