

~ Michelago Magpie 38~

5 June 2025

from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on www.michelagoregion.org.au

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In this Magpie: Seal Micalago Rd! p1. Two Mothers Day events 5 & 7. 'The Wonder of its Age' 10. 'Serial pest' banned from Council 11. RFS 11. New SMRC CEO 12. Researching family histories 13 & 19. Senior Bunnies 15. Choir 16. Railway Station plumbing 21. Michelago School's excursion to War Memorial & Botanical Gardens 22. *Magpie* info 23. MRCA info 23. What's On? 24. Service ads throughout.

Plumber 7. Real Estate 8. Magpie ads 15. Library 16. Fencing etc, Internet, Sewing 17. Pilates, Hall hire 18.



Making a case to seal Micalago Road

Kerry Rooney

More and more Canberra folk are leaving suburbia behind to pursue their dreams of rural tranquillity. Micalago Road lures them with its golden avenue of poplars, a rustic railway bridge and the majestic backdrop of the Tinderry Mountains.

It's an easy commute on the Monaro Highway back to their workplaces. In response, local landholders are keen to subdivide and develop more properties to meet their demand.

Literally after the rubber hits the road, Micalago Road residents are discovering the realities of underfunded rural councils in New South Wales.

Not nearly enough infrastructure expenditure leaves our large cities where most taxpayers live.

Then the expenditure allocated to the regions must be shared across a vast geography of roads, bridges and culverts.

Left: From the highway: Micalago Road in an earlier Autumn, after grading.

Photo: Emily Green.



Michelago Roads	
Road	No of Houses
Ryrie St	61
Burra Rd *	8
Edworthy Rd	3
Tinderry Rd	20
Calabash Rd	6
Coffeys Rd	3
Jinjera Rd	6
Pollards Ln	5
Egans Rd	6
Micalago Rd	50
Karinya Plains Rd	6
Kelly Rd	9
Blackflat Rd	5
Willows Rd	6
Clearview Rd	9
Mt Livingstone Rd	2
Lawler Rd	11
Baroona Rd	16
Riverview Ln	4
Ryrie Hill Rd	12
Ryans Rd	3
Direct Monaro Hwy	24
Total 2024	275
Total Motor Vehicles**	660

* Burra Rd also has two school buses and is alternative route if Monaro Hwy closed

**Average no of motor vehicles per dwelling in Michelago is 2.4 (ABS 2021)

In our case, Snowy Monaro has an enormous length of road to maintain but only a small population of ratepayers.

The busiest unsealed road in the Michelago region is Micalago Road. It is also the road where most new development is happening.

As a result, the gradual but relentless increase in daily traffic from cars, trucks and service vehicles has overwhelmed this dusty little road, resulting in large potholes and appalling corrugations.

The Council's grading schedule is woefully unable to cope.

Added to that is the fear that trucks might one day start returning to fill the old quarry.

Road safety has deteriorated.

Some drivers speed in order to reduce the impact of the corrugations, risking an accident in loose gravel.

When the road is wet, some cars slide off the road, sometimes into fences or mailboxes.

Lots of traffic has diverted through the village, to the detriment of Ryrie Street residents, especially those who use the shared pedestrian zone near the new bridge.

Other Michelago residents worry about more traffic in the school zone endangering their children.

Safety has been imperilled when the condition of Micalago Road has impeded ambulances. Shockingly, in one case, an ambulance could not reach a medical emergency on Micalago Road and the resident had to be evacuated by helicopter.

In another case, after an accident on a property, the ambulance had to drive at snail's pace to protect the injured patients from added trauma from the rough road.

In another case, following surgery, a resident could not return home for weeks because the rough road would risk their recovery.

MRCA has written to Council twice, asking that Micalago Road be given priority for sealing.

We have actively encouraged residents to write to Council, requesting the upgrading and sealing of Micalago Road be included in the Council's Operational Plan for 2025 – 26.

We believe the road should be sealed as far as the Karinya Plains Rd intersection, but we have suggested it be done in affordable segments, starting with the section from the Monaro Highway to the railway bridge.

Many residents have written in response to the MRCA's request: **there were 90 letters by Council's 3 June deadline.**

The case for change is very compelling. We thank those who have written letters for contributing so positively.

We thank Emily Green for contacting all the residents of Micalago Road.

We thank Cr Tanya Higgins for her advocacy behind the scenes to get additional road funding for Snowy Monaro and we thank Cr John Rooney for preparing a motion for the sealing of Micalago Road to be considered by Council on 19 June.

We ask all Snowy Monaro Councillors to vote for the motion.

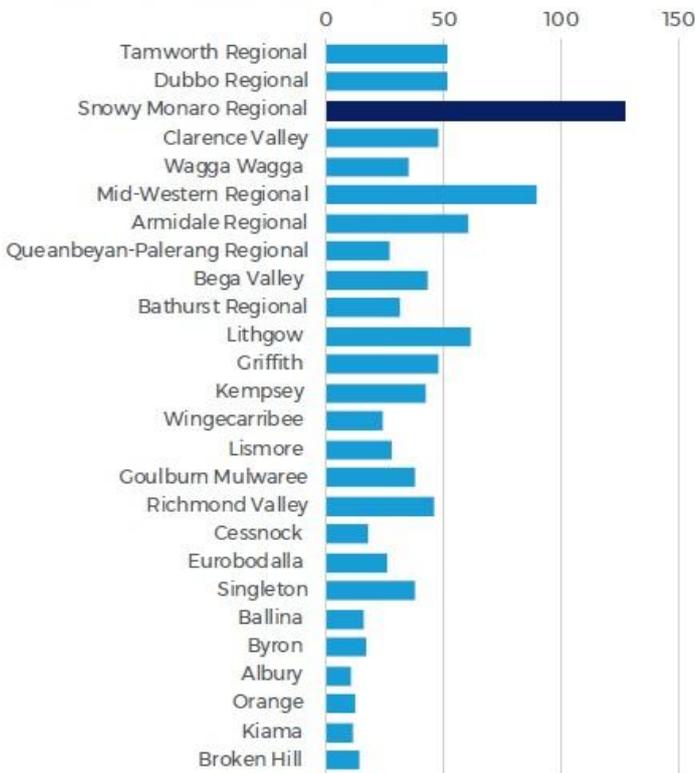


A winter's Micalago Road with ridges and a few demonstration potholes. Photo: Emily Green

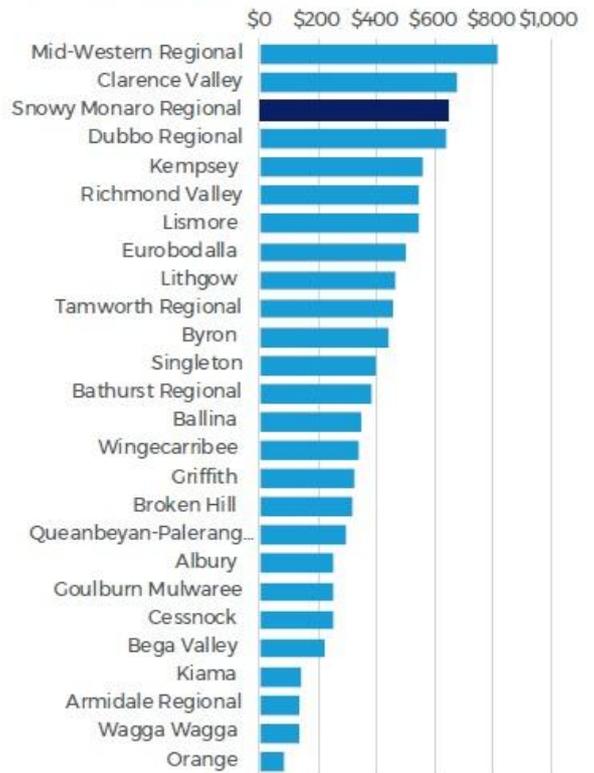
See the charts below benchmarking Snowy Monaro Region with 25 other councils. Snowy Monaro has more than double the length of road per person than any other council.

Source: SMRC Roads Network Fact Sheet 2022.

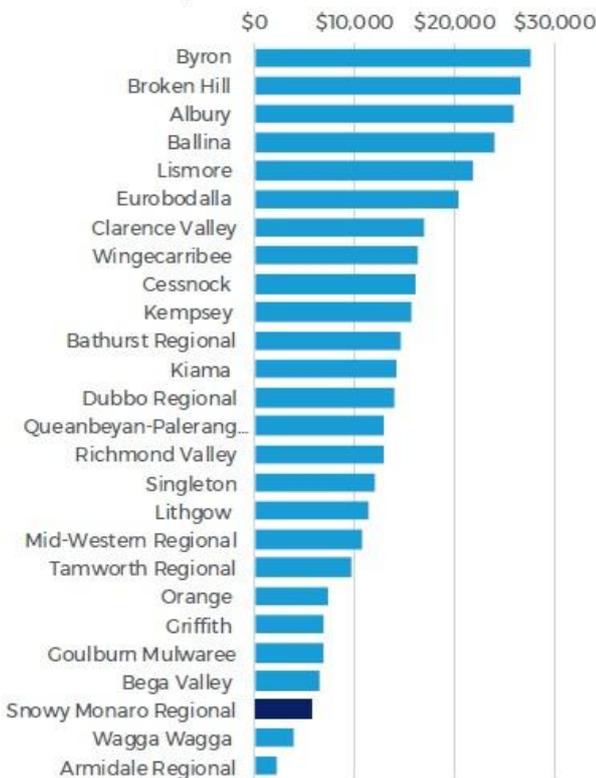
Metres of Road per person



Investment per capita (\$)



Investment per klm (\$)



Road Length (Km)





Meet and eat, drink and draw, paint and create Mothers Day masterpieces



11 May. Artist Netty Graham conducted a carefully structured, 3-hour workshop at the General Store for novice and more experienced painters. There was the starting point, the process and the aim. The first stage was drafting the proportions of the basic shape, the skeleton on which to build the final cow character. Each artist had the postcard picture to show the desired result. Constructing what at first seemed a fairly simple picture required different brushes and various techniques of paint application, colour mixing, shading and brush strokes. This was skill learning. Netty demonstrated each step, her explanations clearly amplified through her personal microphone. Between steps, she toured the artists to instruct, encourage and praise.



Concentration was such that participants barely left their easels for refreshment from the charcuterie. However, the General Store's Elves circulated with additional free bubbles and the occasional coffee.

While following the prescribed model, artists yet produced very individual results – so many beautiful bovines!



L: There was a half-time quick raid on the grazing board to fuel artistic energy.

R: Elfi, Netty's mother, was the essential assistant updating water and paint supplies.



Netty used a large, separate board as well as the whole portrait to clearly demonstrate the many steps (more than shown here) to layer the components of the eye and then bring it to life with the essential white dot,





Far L: the model.

L: Naomi's version (which the Magpie prefers for character).

Above: Belinda and two Elves.



Mothers Day Devonshire Tea at the Michelago Railway Station



There was vintage china, linen tablecloths, vases of fresh flowers, soft music, tea, plunger coffee and utterly delicious scones, both pumpkin and plain, topped with jam and cream.

This was an old-fashioned, genteel event that preceded the Paint 'n' Sip gathering at the General Store.

The station's waiting room, fire-cosy and elegant, was a welcoming place.

Leanne Thurling said the secret of her superb pumpkin scones is buttermilk.

L & R photos: Kerry Rooney



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Twenty people enjoyed the Devonshire Tea food and atmosphere. The MRCA thanks Leanne Thurling for her contribution to the community role of the Michelago Railway Station.

Real estate advice you can trust – Chris Churchill of Blackshaw

Call for an obligation-free chat: 0417 080 460

RURAL EXPERIENCE COUNTS

With over 12 years experience selling homes and properties in and around Michelago, Chris is a trusted agent who can make a big difference in your real estate journey.

Give Chris a call for an obligation-free chat about how he can assist you with your property needs.



CHRIS CHURCHILL

0417 080 460

cchurchill@blackshaw.com.au

Unit 8 37 Kesteven Street, Florey

blackshaw.com.au

SCAN ME

FILL OUT THE FORM AND I WILL BE IN TOUCH



cchurchill@blackshaw.com.au



The Wonder of its Age returns

Kerry Rooney

In early colonial years, it took weeks for news to reach the far-flung settlements of NSW.

The electric telegraph was revolutionary, allowing almost instantaneous communication. Cheap and simple to build, the telegraph rapidly crisscrossed NSW, arriving in Michelago in 1878. Of course, the bulk of communication still happened by postal mail services, using horse-drawn coaches or trains.

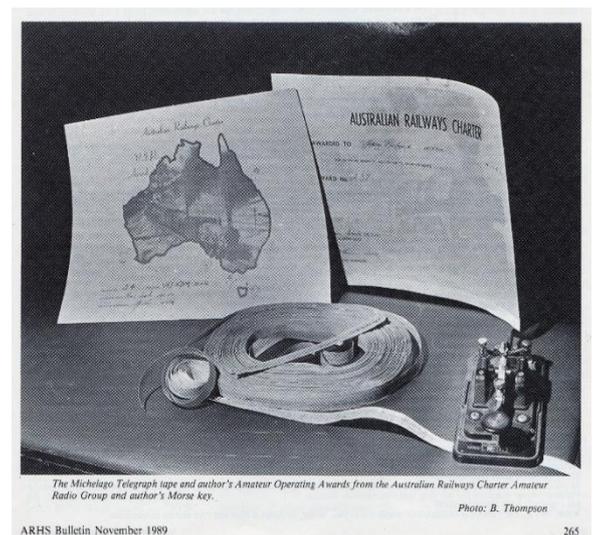
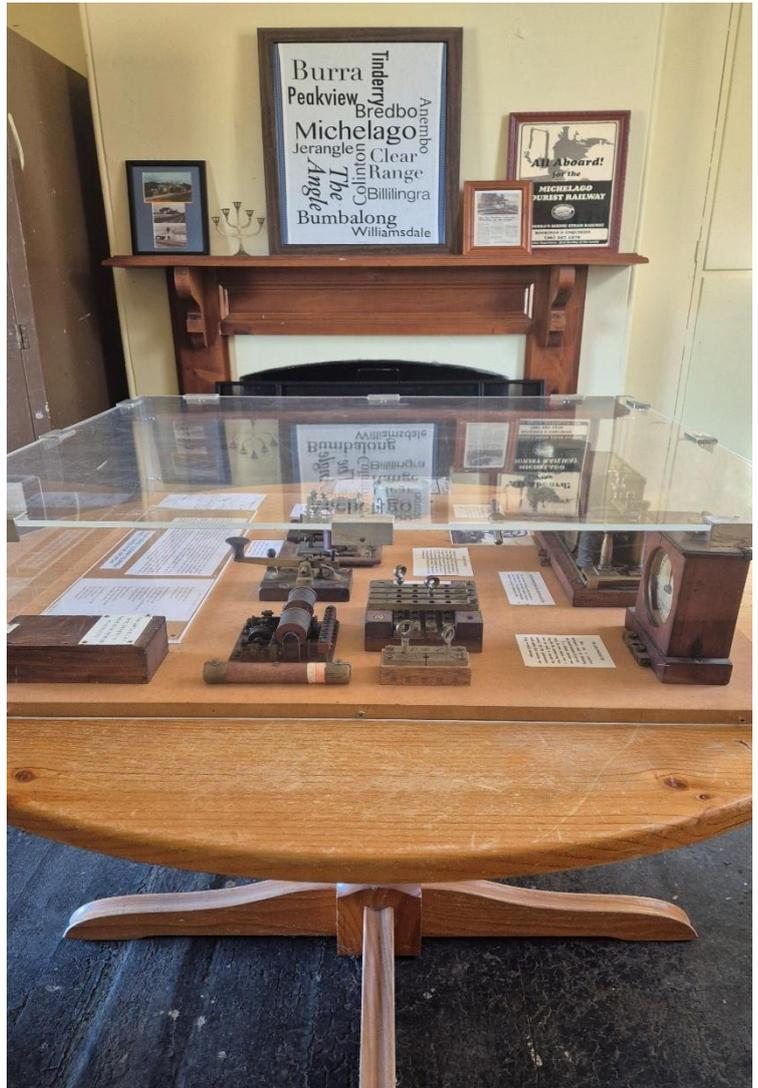
Fast forward to the 1980s and the restoration of the Michelago Railway Station.

That's when volunteers from the Australian Railway Historical Society made an unexpected discovery.

In the ceiling of one of the buildings, they found a roll of used telegraph tape dated from 1890. The telegraph would most likely have been operational from the opening of the station at Michelago in 1887.

That fragile piece of history has now led the Canberra Rail Museum to give a special display of railway morse telegraph equipment to the Michelago Region Community Association on the condition it is displayed at the Michelago Railway Station, as above.

Last week, on 28 May, Lindsay Richmond and colleagues from the museum in Kingston ACT loaded the exhibit into my Land Rover for its trip to Michelago. If only it could have been transported by train!



The provenance of the equipment is significant. It was donated to the Canberra Rail Museum by James Dargan of Sydney. He was a long-term employee of the NSW Government Railway's communication department and a noted published historian in this field.

How did it work?

The railway telegraph used Morse code, a series of audible clicks and pauses, known as dots and dashes. A good operator could receive and transmit 30 words per minute.

The railways used the telegraph to communicate train schedules, track conditions and emergencies. In the case of single-track railways, telegraphs were used to communicate the status of train 'staff and token' systems, ensuring that only one train travelled on the track at a time.

As well, the railway telegraph was used for normal communication until it was replaced by Telecom's telephone network in the 1950s.

Photos: Kerry Rooney and supplied.

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GT. WESTERN RAILWAY.

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An Exhibition admitted by its numerous Visitors to be the most interesting and attractive of any in this great Metropolis. In the list of visitors are the illustrious names of several of the Crowned Heads of Europe, and nearly the whole of the Nobility of England.

"This Exhibition, which has so much excited Public attention of late, is well worthy a visit from all who love to see the wonders of science."—Morning Post

The Electric Telegraph is unlimited in the nature and extent of its communications; by its extraordinary agency a person in London could converse with another at New York, or at any other place however distant, as easily and nearly as rapidly as if both parties were in the same room. Questions proposed by Visitors will be asked by means of this Apparatus, and answers thereto will instantaneously be returned by a person 20 Miles off, who will also, at their request, ring a bell or fire a cannon, in an incredibly short space of time, after the signal for his doing so has been given.

The Electric Fluid travels at the rate of 280,000 Miles per Second.

By its powerful agency Murderers have been apprehended, (as in the late case of Tawell.)—Thieves detected; and lastly, which is of no little importance, the timely assistance of Medical aid has been procured in cases which otherwise would have proved fatal.

The great national importance of this wonderful invention is so well known that any further allusion here to its merits would be superfluous.

N.B. Despatches sent to and fro with the most confiding secrecy. Messengers in constant attendance, so that communications received by Telegraph, would be forwarded, if required, to any part of London, Windsor, Eton, &c.

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Morse Code Alphabet
The International Morse code characters are:

A .-.	N -. .	0 -----
B -... .	O ---	1 .- .- .-
C -.-. .	P .- .- .	2 .. -.-
D -.. .	Q -.-. -	3 ... -.-
E .	R .- .	4 -
F ..- .	S ...	5
G --- .	T -	6 -
H	U .. -	7 - - . . .
I ..	V ... -	8 - - - . .
J .- .- .	W .- .- .	9 - - - - .
K - . -	X - . . -	Fullstop - . - . - .
L .- . .	Y - . - .	Comma - . . - . -
M - -	Z - - . .	- - . . - -



L: Side view of the lever for tapping the code.

R: A telegraph operator with printer for the received code.

Creative Commons images





Council meetings temporarily relieved of 'serial pest' (ref. Magpie 37, quoting Sydney Morning Herald)



Media Release. Tuesday 6 May 2025

'Councillor Andrew Thaler issued notice of suspension'

Snowy Monaro Regional Council received advice from the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) on Monday 5 May 2025 that Councillor Andrew Thaler has been issued notice of his suspension from office, effective Wednesday 14 May 2025, for a period of three months.

The suspension order, issued under section 440I(2)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, further requires under section 440I(2)(d) of the act that Cr Thaler formally apologise for acts of misconduct within 14 days.

The apology must be made in writing to individuals named in online comments that were posted to a social media account under Cr Thaler's control on 5, 6, 12 and 14 March 2025, and be provided to Council for distribution to the wider community.

Cr Thaler was given the opportunity to make a submission to the Office of Local Government prior to this disciplinary action being undertaken.

Quotes from Chief Executive Officer Stephen Dunshea:

"As CEO, I appreciate the OLG for taking action. This suspension notice will assist me in safeguarding the health and well-being of our staff and elected councillors.

"Respect and decency are not negotiable. These principles must be upheld by each of us as public servants – people who serve the public – no matter our position within the structure of government or public administration.

"Without respect and decency as the starting point, the position of local government within the community and in public life is put in jeopardy." "

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ABN 72 906 802 034

Visit our website for more news, information, and public alerts:
www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/News-and-Media/News-articles



RFS: Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Abby McPherson

In May, the brigade attended three grass fires, one of these being at Smiths Road.

Officers assisted in running the RFS Drivers course in conjunction with Monaro District. This was conducted at Berridale's off-road training facility.

Training: see [What's On?](#) P. 24

Gregg McFaul





New CEO for Council

[The following is the full article from the SMRC website.]



'Snowy Monaro Regional Council has announced the appointment of Noreen Vu as the organisation's new permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO), following a unanimous councillor decision at the May Ordinary Council Meeting held Thursday 15 May 2025.

Ms Vu will assume the role from Monday 14 July 2025, following the conclusion of current interim CEO Stephen Dunshea's contract.

Currently serving as General Manager at Weddin Shire Council in the Central West of NSW, Ms Vu's appointment comes on the back of a competitive and exhaustive recruitment process undertaken by Council over the last several months.



"I'm so excited to welcome Ms Vu aboard as Council's new CEO," said Mayor Chris Hanna.

"The depth of our new chief executive's experience across all three tiers of Australian public service and her impressive academic qualifications in numerous disciplines really made her the stand-out candidate in a very competitive pool of applicants."

Ms Vu brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Council, having worked across strategic planning, policy development and asset and utility management within the federal, state/territory, and local government sectors.

The new CEO previously served in an executive role at Coonamble Shire Council, where she oversaw the portfolio of environment, strategic planning and community services.

As Council continues its work to build a stronger and more sustainable organisation that works in closer partnership with its community, Ms Vu's demonstrated ability to engage with people at a grassroots level was a key deciding factor behind her appointment.

"I'm excited to connect with the community here in the Snowy Monaro, and to continue Mr Dunshea's work to ensure that our staff are valued and respected. I appreciate the councillors' confidence and look forward to working closely together with the governing body to achieve our vision for Council," said Ms Vu.

Ms Vu brings her substantial academic background to Council, holding bachelor's degrees in Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage) and Applied Science (Ecotourism), with master's degrees in Planning, Environmental Law, and Business Administration.

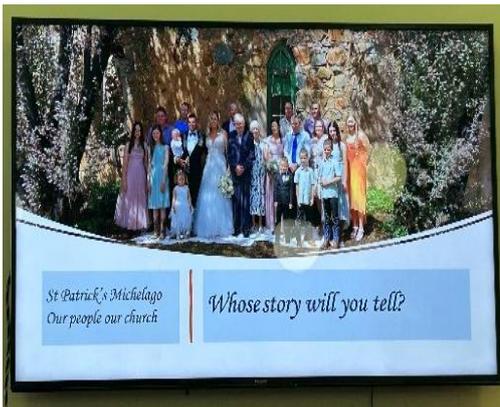
Mayor Chris Hanna said, "On behalf of the Snowy Monaro, I'd like to extend our warmest welcome to Ms Vu and give our sincere thanks to Stephen Dunshea for all that he's done to get Council on a positive track in his time as interim CEO.

"We wish him all the very best for the future and look forward to this exciting new chapter for our region and our organisation." '



Researching family histories – tales, traps and tips

Queanbeyan Heritage Library, 17 May. Presentation by Kerry Rooney.



Photos and family stories. Everyone has some. Many of us often intend to record them, but don't get around to it.

Do we want to record them to create a context for ourselves and our immediate family and a sense of tribal belonging? To have fragments of the past speak to us? Do we want to speak to the future?

We can hand this research on and, if we also tell our *own* stories and those of our immediate families, then they will speak to later generations when we cannot.

In writing her local history, *Our People, Our Church*, Kerry's focus was first a history of St Patrick's Church. The church was central to the community, and she then found particular interest in telling the stories of those who now have no voice.



Some of those voices came through anecdotes that older family members had heard in their youth about their forebears.

There were, for example, the two sisters who lived on neighbouring farms and whose parents had fled the potato famine in Ireland. They would visit, then one would walk the other home and then, their talking unfinished, would turn around and walk back ... and again. It was a wonder they each ever reached their own separate homes.

Not knowing quite where she would end up, Kerry found that setting boundaries (the church, original settler families) was important for controlling the unanticipated wealth of material, some researched and some contributed.

The result was a significant publication about local history.

Because it was interesting to so many people, 100 copies were printed (by Quik Copy, Phillip, ACT) and sold for just \$25 to cover costs, with any profits to go to St Patrick's Church, Michelago.

L: Kerry and Brigid Whitbread, librarian at Queanbeyan Heritage Library



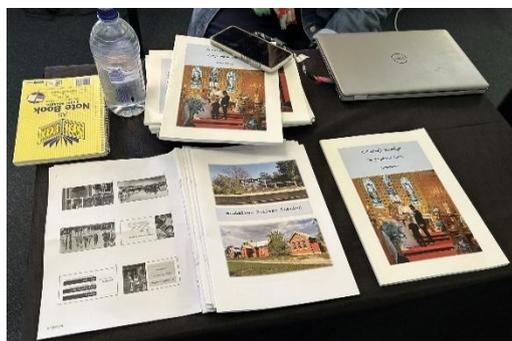
Kerry explained steps in her process, illustrating it with photos, and extrapolated to advice for people thinking of documenting their own families, whether it be just a few pages and photos or something bigger than at first envisaged. Some of her points follow.

Why 'publish' your work?

- Tell the story of people who have no voice. If you don't tell your family's story, who will?
- Don't take your research to the grave. You may not be a trained or confident writer and the task of writing your family history can seem overwhelming, but just start with a few steps and see how you go.
- Build upon the good work of others, e.g. your aunt's collection of family photos, your grandmother's handwritten letters, a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings.

Lessons she learned

- Talk to more people, and sooner
- Libraries can help with research
- File your research so you can find it easily
- Remember that women can be invisible in family records, either not mentioned or known only by their husband's name (*see slide reproduced below*)
- Set boundaries
- Start it. Determine to finish it. Yes, it will have mistakes, but finish it.



L: Kerry's history of the Michelago Railway Station and the much longer work, 'Our People, Our Church'.

R: Many people stayed afterwards to chat and look through the two booklets.



Oh, and why did Kerry start this project about the local church and its people from the mid-1800s, instead of something simpler, like just her family? Michael Scanlon, caretaker of St Patrick's Church, had suggested just a couple of pages about the church's history, to be available at the church's car-boot sale (the one that transferred to the Memorial Hall because of rain). After an intense two weeks, the 'couple of pages' became 94.

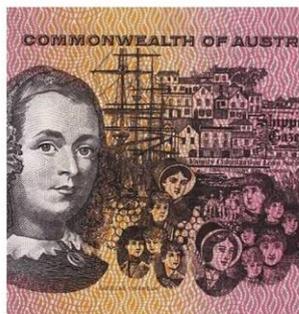
MICALAGO.

OBITUARY.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mrs. William Kelly, at her residence, Spring Vale, near Micalago, on Sunday last. Mrs. Kelly was the widow of the late Mr. W Kelly, formerly a resident of Garryowen, Queanbeyan, and we believe sister of Mrs. Graham, lessee of the Queanbeyan Railway Station refreshment room. The deceased reached the advanced age of 80 years and brought up a large and respectable family. Her remains were interred in the Micalago Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.—*QUEANBEYAN OBSERVER.*

"I have just left the Home Office, and have obtained a passage per Waverley for forty-nine souls, and I have no doubt but other ships will soon follow. I enclose you a list of the names and particulars of those families, which I will thank you to go published for the information of their relatives in the colony."

List of Emancipists' Families who have obtained a free passage to proceed by the ship *Waverley*, bound for Hobart Town;—to sail from Dublin, July 1, 1817.

Catherine Agnew, 3 sons; husband's residence, Maneroo, Steward Riley's Station.
Alicia Agnew, 2 sons and 2 daughters; husband's residence, Maneroo, Steward Riley's Station.
Margaret Carran, 1 son and 2 daughters; husband's



L: One of Kerry's illustrative slides. Catherine (née Cameron) was named in her death notice only as Mrs William Kelly.

Women - invisible or left behind

Catherine Kelly (nee Cameron) – her name was never used in her death notice.

Caroline Chisholm brought out wives & children to join transported convicts. Others would have never been reunited.

Some useful references for the research are shown on pp. 19–21



Senior Bunnies at The Snow Bunny



2 June. As usual on the first Monday of the month, the Seniors Lunch Group gathered for food and chat at 12.30.

They graze in various pastures. This one was The Snow Bunny at Bredbo.

The service was a little slow because the place was packed. The helpful, hard-working staff put this down to the ACT public holiday, but snow season might



see a similar demand. The food was very good: superb pizzas (Vegetarian Supreme above), high-stacked burgers (choice of meat or fish), fish 'n' chips, and chicken wings and bits. Good coffee. There was a wide range of nibble things and drinks. The management is applying for a liquor licence.

If you're senior-ish and would like to know more community people, please join in. For the location of the next gathering, call Janet on 0414 785 865.



Bank of Bins



The ruthlessly vandalised shed doors of the bank of bins have been repaired.

The photos show that this was not a minor operation and is a significant cost to Council.

Bollards are being installed to stop such an offence happening again.



Many Michelagoans have been enjoying the temporary return of the rubbish-collection trucks on Saturday mornings. They've provided opportunities for social gatherings there at the top of Clive Kelly Oval and at the General Store.

However, 8 to 10 on Saturdays doesn't suit everyone; the bank of bins provides greater convenience for more people.



Photos: Kerry Rooney

Advertise your business or event in the *Michelago Magpie*

Advertisements are \$20 per issue of the *Magpie*. Email an attachment of your design and wording to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au Available space varies.

Publicity for community events is free.

If you'd just like to have an event listed as upcoming in the What's On page, there's no charge. Just send the brief details to the *Magpie* Editor, Leanne Pattison, at the address above.



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

Singing is excellent for mind and body. Singing in a choir is even better – it’s the ultimate team.

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.



SNOWY MONARO
REGIONAL LIBRARY

Outreach Service Requests

See also p24.

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



RFS
Planning a burn on your property?

You need to notify: rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify

Plan and notify before you burn!

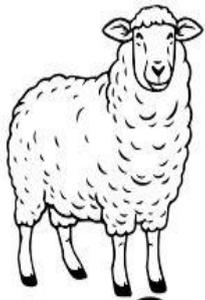
Planning a burn on your property?

It’s a great way to manage your land and reduce fire risk, but safety comes first. Before you light up, you must notify both your neighbours and the NSW Rural Fire Service at least 24 hours in advance.

It’s quick and easy. Just head to rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify

Giving notice helps avoid unnecessary emergency call-outs and ensures our firefighters are ready when they’re really needed.

Plan ahead. Notify before you burn.



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Up to 50Mbps

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New!!

Up to 100Mbps

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Locally Based Helpdesk



Internet Packages to suit all needs!

Plans starting from
\$35 per month

LOCAL SEWING SERVICES

Save yourself \$\$ by keeping items useful for longer, and help to minimise waste.

Clothing not quite fitting right?

Pants too long?



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





TERM 2 MAT PILATES

HAVE YOU BEING THINKING ABOUT GIVING THIS A GO?
ITS A RELAXED, SUPPORTIVE AND
FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT,
BE PART OF IT

Saturday mornings 9:30 – 10:15
Michelago Community Hall
Starts 3 May 2025

10 Week Term starting May 3 - July 5
Total upfront payment is \$150

Registration is for the specified dates listed on the registration
notice. Bring a pilates mat and water bottle

*** No refund for non attendance ***

Register using QRCode or via
bit.ly/PilatesMichelagoT2



Contact Heidi via
FB **ReformU Pilates** or
mobile 0416 568 653



Michelago Memorial Hall Bookings

memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au

or 0494 178 469

The Hall has all facilities for your function.

Hall hire rates

- \$17.00 p/h. Refundable Deposit Bond: \$170.00 per Event
- Private Party/event: \$290.00 per Event
Refundable Deposit Bond (private event): \$250.00 per Event
- 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.



Council has notified all Hall Committees in the shire that rates will rise slightly at the start of the new financial year.



Some resources for family and community research

Continued from p. 14. These were some of the essential resources in Kerry's research.

Essential: Trove.nla.gov.au – enter your search term, e.g. a name or event

BOXING

Lawler's bad luck in Olympic trial

(BY JOHN BARLOW)

Michelago boxer, Lawrie Lawler, must surely be the unluckiest sportsman in Australia.

At least this is the opinion of all who saw him lose his New South Wales middleweight championship and, with it, the chance of representative honours at the Tokio Olympics, at the N.S.W. Leagues' Club last Thursday night.

The combination of a cut eyebrow and a too hasty referee cost Lawler the biggest chance of his career, when he had victory in sight. Lawler's opponent, Robert Stewart, of Sydney, ran into immediate trouble when a powerful right cross thudded

Queanbeyan Boxers To Star On Canberra Programme

On Saturday night, at the Turner Drill Hall, the Canberra Police Boys' Club will present a combined boxing, wrestling and vaudeville programme.

The show will be similar to that recently promoted by the club at Yass.

On that occasion, four hours of non-stop action resulted, and was voted one of the best nights of variety entertainment ever staged in that town.

Heading the boxing bill on Saturday night, is New South Wales middleweight champion, Lawrie Lawler, who will meet Phil Sablowski, of Wollongong.

Sablowski, runner-up in the 1960 Golden Gloves tournament, is rated by his trainer as perhaps the only amateur in the state capable of fully extending the Michelago puncher.

The type of fighter who

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Newspapers & Gazettes

Lawrie Lawler

Advanced search

Australian champion

Michelago boxer, Lawrie Lawler, who registered the most impressive performance of his career at the Hobart Town Hall on Friday night when he knocked out the former New Zealander, Roy Skuse, to become amateur middleweight champion of Australia.

Earlier in the week, Lawler had won his way to the final by outpointing South Australian representative, Allan Zealand.

Roy Skuse, twice light-heavyweight champion of New Zealand, had created an impressive record after coming to Australia some months ago and experienced little difficulty in taking the Victorian middleweight title.

A strong, hard punching "southpaw," Skuse was freely favoured to add the Australian championship to his list of fistic achievements.

However, Lawler had ideas of his own and began confidently against his much bigger opponent, launching a

Trove.nla.gov.au

Newspapers provide a wealth of historic content
Example Lawrie Lawler of Michelago 1960s

For the Monaro and Canberra region



Canberra & District History >

Private group · 4.9K members

Joined ▾

Invite



Monaro Pioneers >

Private group · 5K members

Joined ▾

Invite



Our Agnew family >

Private group · 151 members

Joined ▾

Invite

You

Chats

Photos

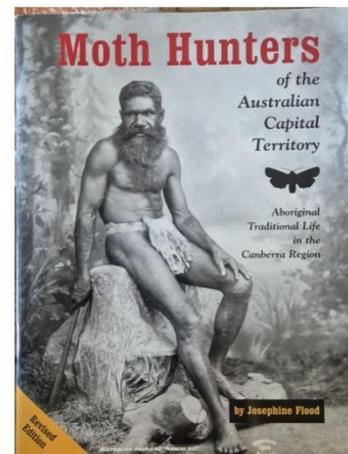
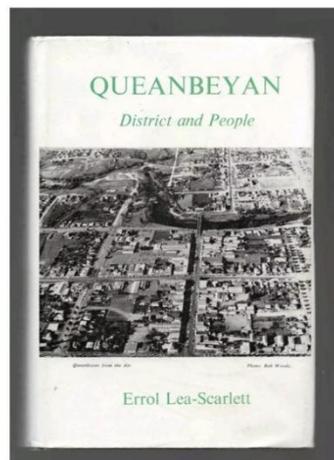
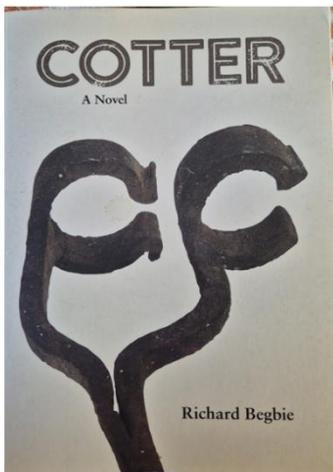
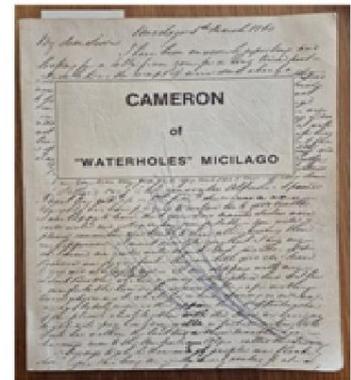
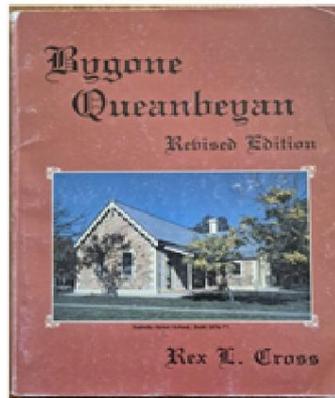
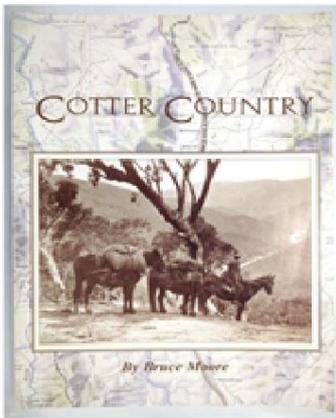
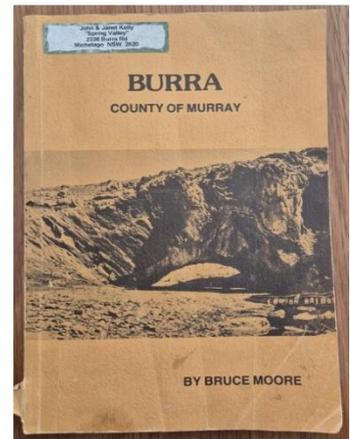
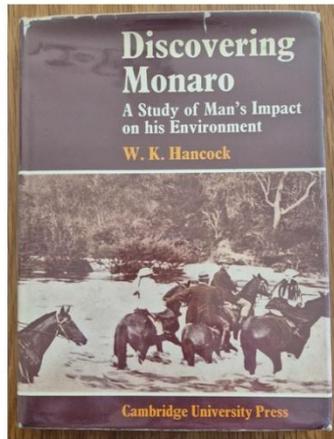
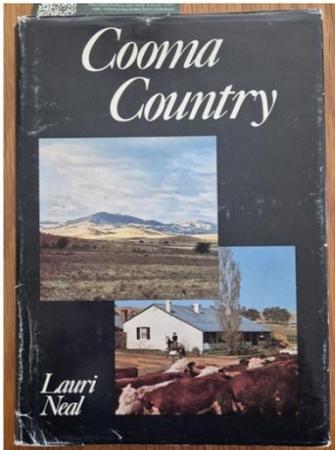
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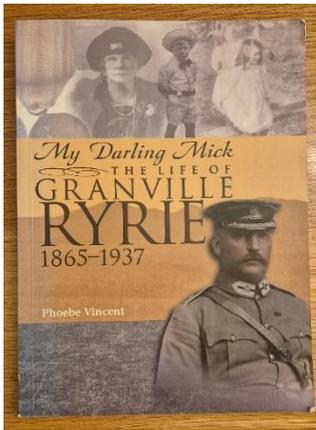
Write something...



History of the Monaro District >

Private group · 6.1K members





Kerry says this book is essential reading for anyone interested in Monaro history; Granville Ryrie was a man of extraordinary achievements and had a formative influence on the Michelago region.

Adding to her review below, Kerry writes: 'Thanks, Brien Hallett, for reminding us of the biography of Michelago's most extraordinary character, Granville Ryrie.'

Through letters to his darling wife, this biography tells the story of Granville Ryrie, born in 1865 at Micalago Station. After schooling in Sydney, he worked as a jackaroo in western NSW where he took a strong interest in the local aboriginal culture. He became a highly decorated soldier and a hero to his men: wounded in the Boer War, and again at Gallipoli, Major

General Sir Granville Ryrie led the 2nd Light Horse in the Middle East. He was both a NSW and Federal politician.

As assistant Minister for Defence he worked tirelessly to get government support for veterans. Notably the first Australian-born High Commissioner to London, he could tell a good yarn and talk straight, skills which earned him standing ovations at the League of Nations in Geneva. He died in 1937 and was buried at Michelago after a state funeral in Sydney.

Michelago Railway Station – more essential maintenance



Plumber Charles Hillman (see p. 7) has connected the tank's hose to the pump. This means that the volunteers who are rostered to water the box hedge in dry weather won't have the frustration of the previous gravity-feed dribble.

Charles also adjusted the slope of the gutter at the north end of the station, so that the fascia will no longer be damaged by rainwater flowing onto it.

There will be a better flow of water from that gutter to the tank now, as he also cleaned a lot of muck out of the gutter, including three plastic bottles. It's unclear why anyone would put/throw rubbish up there.

Station guardian Kerry consulted Charles about replacing some damaged guttering on the signal box. The railway station is heritage-listed, so the guttering has to match the rest.



Payment for the plumbing work comes from the MRCA's general funds, not from the Heritage NSW grant that is paying for the plastering and woodwork restoration (see previous *Magpies*).

The MRCA is very grateful for donations to the station.





Michelago Public School's excursion to the War Memorial and Botanical Gardens

Principal Geoff Smith

This week, our K-2 students embarked on an exciting adventure to the National Botanical Gardens in Canberra! They participated in a fascinating program exploring how native plants are used for food and utensils. Highlights included a visit to the bee hotel and a comparison of the diverse landscapes within the gardens.



Meanwhile, our 3-6 students honoured our history with a visit to the War Memorial, where they participated in a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They explored the WWI Commemorative Wall, discovering the names of service members from Michelago, and enjoyed a tour of the WWI exhibition. To cap off their day, they engaged in a scavenger hunt at the Sculpture Garden and took a leisurely walk along the Anzac Parade sculptures.

It was a fantastic day filled with learning and appreciation and everyone had a wonderful time!

Photos: Geoff Smith



MICHELAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL

20 Ryrie Street
Michelago NSW 2620

02 6235 9153





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 briefly (free) on the *Magpie* What's On page, please email them to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

The MRCA committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length and clarity.

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Community Association information

To join the MRCA, first download the membership form from the home page at www.michelagoregion.org.au and email it to mrca@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: 11 June. 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.
- **Gardening Group (formerly Seed Savers)** Enquiries: SMS or contact Jenny 0400 484 485 or jenny258@bigpond.com
- **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. See p. 16 for how to order books.
- **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: 11 June.
- **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.)
- **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.

August

- AGM of Michelago Region Community Association, Michelago Railway Station. Date tba.

September: a special event is being planned. Watch this space.

