

# ~ Michelago Magpie 41 ~

3 September 2025

from your Michelago Region Community Association

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

**Print copies: \$2 supports heritage railway station upkeep**

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**Services:** Car mechanic, Real Estate, Plumber, Painter, Sewing, Fencing & Stock, Yless4U 15-16. Snuggles cattery 13.



## Blessing of the Fleet 2025: 14 September, 9.30 at the Michelago Railway Station

All local community members are invited to attend this event.



Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church

# BLESSING of the Fleet!

Sunday 9.30 am  
September 14th  
Michelago Railway  
Station, Ryrie St



You are invited to join us for the Blessing of the Fleet. Our local volunteer fire brigades will be blessed and prayed for in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

Morning tea from 9.30  
Coffee from Johnoz Coffee  
BBQ following service

Please contact [queanbeyananglican@yahoo.com.au](mailto:queanbeyananglican@yahoo.com.au) if you require further information.

Last year's Blessing of the Fleet, on a blessed Spring day, was very well attended.

Fire trucks from many brigades were blessed with holy water, as were numerous bystanders.

This year, there'll again be morning tea, starting at 9.30, then the service, then the barbecue.

Johnoz Coffee Van will be there, too.

The food and coffee will all be supplied by the generous people of the Queanbeyan District Anglican Church.

*Image provided by QDAC.*



*Above: Happy scenes from last year's Blessing of the Fleet*



## **Seal Micalago Road – continue the campaign**

The MRCA will continue to push for sealing the road. Sealing would stop the dust, the traffic hazards and the rapid deterioration of the surface (that now needs frequent grading).

The continuing residential developments increase the urgency.

Sealing needs serious money from a State Government serious about constituents' welfare.

### **Micalago & other roads: To seal or not to seal**

To seal or not to seal: that is the question –  
 Whether 'tis cheaper in the longer run to suffer  
 The holes and ridges so rudely ripped by traffic  
 Or take objection against the dribbling funds  
 And by opposing, augment them? To swerve, to slide  
 No more, and with some bitumen get to end  
 The clouds of dust and thousand chassis shocks  
 Our cars are heir to, is a consummation  
 Devoutly to be wished. To drive, to *love*  
 Perchance, the government: *ay, there's the rub*;  
 For in that yearn to love, what dreams may come  
 Of graders, tar-spreading trucks and surface smooth  
 That give us pause to bear the funding shortfall  
 And developers' money that oft is turned awry,  
 So petitioners' plans all lose the spur of action?

For want of such road-making we all suffer  
And thus our inherent hue of resolution  
Is sicklied o'er with grumpy resignation  
To help us rather bear those roads we have  
Than campaign for the bloody things again.

© Leanne Pattison 2025 (inspiration: W. Shakespeare)



*'An artist's impression of an unmade road in wet weather.'*

[https://tringlocalhistory.org.uk/Tring/c\\_chapter%2001.htm](https://tringlocalhistory.org.uk/Tring/c_chapter%2001.htm)



### ***Submission to the Residential, Commercial and Industrial Lands Strategy***

*[Submissions to the Draft Strategy closed 1 September, as noted in the previous Magpie –Ed.]*

Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA) is pleased to provide this submission in response to the draft *Residential, Commercial and Industrial Lands Strategy* (the Strategy) of Snowy Monaro Regional Council.

**The Strategy proposes no changes to the 2021 Michelago Masterplan (the Masterplan).** Our comments therefore focus on further implementation of the Masterplan. We would like to ensure Michelago is given equal priority with other villages in the Snowy Monaro in regard to investment in infrastructure and services. This also accords with the Strategy's very first principle:

**'Growth and infrastructure and services are aligned to promote liveable, walkable communities, make efficient use of existing and planned infrastructure and services, and minimise environmental impact.'**

### [The Bridge Connecting Ryrie Street and Micalago Road](#)

Regarding infrastructure and services, the Masterplan's highest priority was the bridge connecting Ryrie Street to Micalago Road. The bridge was completed in 2024, joining the two main population centres of Michelago for the first time in decades. Direct access to and from the village is very much appreciated by the community, especially by families with schoolchildren and Fire Brigade members. We thank all those involved in making it happen.

Now we would like to work with Council to prioritise other projects identified in the Masterplan.

### [Sealing Micalago Road](#)

The next highest priority in the Masterplan is the sealing of Micalago Road. This has become more urgent with the re-opening of the quarry and the large increase in trucks on the narrow, dusty road. We have written separately on this matter on several occasions but want to reiterate its importance in this submission.

We are pleased for the community of Smith's Road that their road is currently being upgraded and sealed. It certainly has needed improvements. However, we would like to place on the record our disappointment that developer contributions from Micalago Road were used for this work.

We read about the diversion of Micalago Road developer contributions in appendices to the Council Business Papers for the meeting of 19 June 2025. The Business Papers did not explain the basis for the decision nor the criteria used to prioritise Smith's Road over Micalago Road.

We ask that existing and future contributions from Michelago be quarantined for Michelago's priorities.

### [Traffic Calming Measures on Ryrie Street](#)

Speeding traffic along Ryrie Street makes pedestrian safety a major concern for residents of the village and parents of children attending Michelago Public School and catching school buses from the village.

Road safety around the village playground is also an issue.

MRCAs recommends the urgent installation of chicanes or other appropriate measures to slow traffic. We understand the Council's forward delivery program has capacity for this work. We have written to the Traffic Committee of Council asking for the installation of chicanes at the school and at the playground. Traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings were costed in the *Michelago Local Infrastructure Development Contributions Plan* at \$100,000.

### [The Michelago Creek Loop Trail and Shared Path](#)

The opening of the new bridge was accompanied by new road works which do not allow room for pedestrians to walk beside the road. Ryrie Street near the bridge is a narrow, shared pedestrian zone. In short, we are short of safe space for walkers, runners and cyclists.

A major new development of 28 houses is proposed for Ryrie Street. The proposal argued against including a playground in this development. The proposal appeared to advocate that children should roam freely down to Michelago Creek and other locations. However, there are no footpaths, trails or tracks near this development site.

The Masterplan included a proposal for a Michelago Creek Loop Walking Path. This was costed in the 2022 *Michelago Local Infrastructure Development Contributions Plan* at \$2.75 million. A heritage trail was also proposed in the Masterplan.

The Michelago Creek Loop Trail was included in the 2022 *Snowy Monaro Regional Trails Masterplan*. It also proposed a heritage trail component.

MRCA would like to collaborate with Council to begin scoping out this project and developing the concept in consultation with the local community.

Ideally, we should aim to have all plans and approvals in place so that the project is shovel-ready should grant opportunities arise in the future.

The project is beyond MRCA’s capability to manage alone. Most grant programs require DAs to be in place before applications are lodged. This in turn would require well developed drawings and plans, which in turn would require a source of funding well beyond the budget of a small community association. Developer contributions could assist with this initial stage of the project.

*Below: extract from Michelago Local Infrastructure Development Contributions Plan*

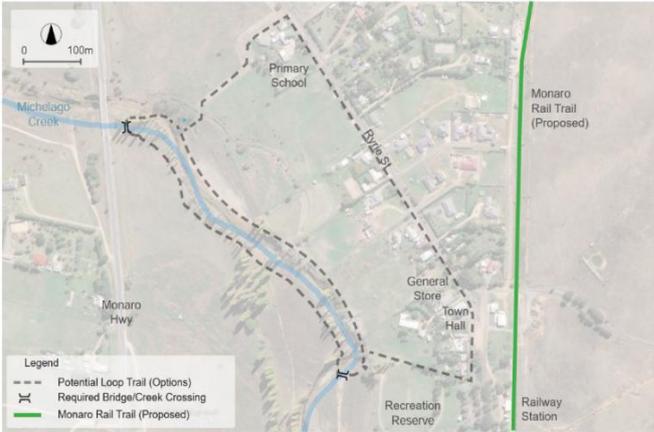
**NATURE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

It is anticipated that in the 20 years to 2041, the population in Michelago will grow by up to 690 people. It is anticipated that 160 additional dwellings will be created in the Village with the potential of 80 additional dwellings to be created in the rural residential precinct south of the Village. A modest amount of infrastructure upgrades will be required throughout the Michelago area to support this growth. This plan sets out the infrastructure and embellishments that will be funded (wholly or partly) by new development and the rate of contributions that will be levied.

*Below: extract from Snowy Monaro Regional Trails Masterplan*

**Strategy C8 Michelago Creek Loop Trail:** Pursue the development of a Local level recreational trail in Michelago. **Proposed Hierarchy**  
Local

**Rationale**  
The development of precinct trails at key towns along the proposed Monaro Rail Trail will leverage further economic benefit to locations such as Michelago.  
Due to growing demand for rural properties in places like Michelago, Council has initiated a masterplan process to guide the future development of the town to ensure that it evolves purposefully. The *draft Michelago Masterplan* (June 2021) identifies the opportunity for a loop trail along Michelago Creek, and development of a heritage trail highlighting the town's key heritage sites. The loop trail concept would require provision of footbridges over Michelago Creek. Further development of this concept will need to consider land tenure constraints and environmental sensitivities of the riparian zone. It is recommended that the costs associated with the local trails and bridge over Michelago Creek are incorporated into the development contributions plan.



**Actions**

	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Partners	Priority
C8.1	Proposal, Framework and Concept Plan: Develop a proposal, framework and concept plan for the preferred option for a recreational trail in Michelago, connecting key community facilities and showcasing the town's heritage and natural environment. Include associated costs in the development contributions plan.	Long	Medium	SMRC, Developers, Community	Medium

## BOOLBOOLMA CROSSING: BRIDGE WORKS ON TINDERRY ROAD

Allan Lehepuu



**10/08/2025:** Work was happening on the new bridge on Tinderry Road crossing the Queanbeyan River at Boolboolma Crossing. The new bridge is part of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council's bridge renewal program, funded by the NSW Government.

The temporary bypass has water about 250mm deep at normal flow, so take care when using the bypass.

One thought – if you can't see the boulders, don't bother trying to cross!



**L: First temporary bypass, since washed away. (10.1.2025)**

**R: The old causeway breaking up.**

*Photos: Allan Lehepuu*



### SMRC wants your feedback ...

'This is a reminder to help us out and shape the future of your Council by letting us know what you think about our draft Code of Meeting Practice. The closing date for comments is 12 September. Visit [www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au](http://www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au) today to get involved.'

Comments on the draft Residential, Commercial and Industrial Lands Strategy (notification highlighted in the previous *Magpie*) closed 1 September. The MRCA submission is on pp. 3–5.



## Bluegrass and Folk at the Michelago Memorial Hall, 26 September

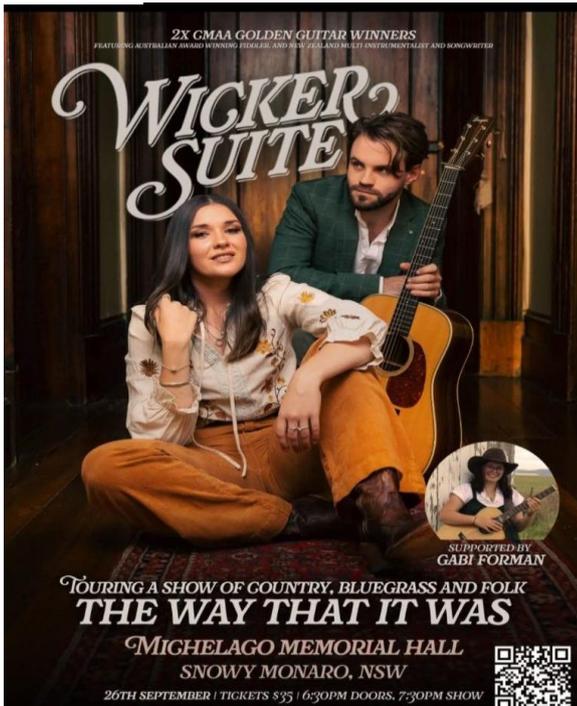
6.30 pm Doors, 7.30 pm Show, Tickets \$35

Book: [www.sticktickets.com.au](http://www.sticktickets.com.au) or pay at the door.

Monaro muso, Gabi Forman of Berridale, will be the opening act to support Wicker Suite.

Their ad includes the following from Gabi:

“I am delighted to announce that I have been asked to be support act for multi-Golden Guitar winning duo – including Keith Urban supporting fiddle player Gabi Louise – Wicker Suite at Michelago as part of their The Way it Was tour of regional areas on Friday 26th September. This is amazing for both Michelago and the Snowy Mountains region, so get in early and buy a ticket for a fantastic night of folk and Bluegrass and country music. I will be playing originals and covers.”



## The Michelago Moth

20 September, 6 pm, the Hall

It'll feature the choir *and* lots of local talent, maybe including you! Join in!

Cost: \$5 per person, capped at \$20 for a family, with soup and rolls for dinner and lots of entertainment.

Please contact Jo on 0431 878 328 to register your act for the evening.

Can you sing a song, play an instrument (gum leaf, anyone?), share a story, read a poem, tell a few jokes, perform a short skit? Have a go. Just do it!

**Call Jo: 0431 878 328**

It's for a good cause. This event is to support fundraising for the addition to the railway station's Cenotaph of a World War II plaque of Michelago service people in time for Anzac Day in 2026.

What's a Moth? See explanation in Magpie 39, p. 10.

<https://www.michelagoregion.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MAGPIE-39-29.6.2025.pdf>



**The Moth. Be in it.  
Or just come to enjoy it.**

Can you whistle a tune  
Can you just dance a jig?  
It's not way too soon –  
Come on, give a fig!



Can you mime that you're trapped  
In the walls of a box  
Or do a fast rap  
About chasing a fox?



Can you do the chook dance  
To an old Elvis track  
While taking the chance  
Of wrecking your back?

And the trad Highland Fling?  
Maybe not with the swords!  
But if that's not your thing,  
Try a poem by Burns.



Can you tell any story?  
A short one will do.  
It might be a furphy  
Or it might all be true.

Can you tell us the story  
Of granny and gramps  
Way back in your history  
And their nest of bull ants?

Can you tell us the story  
Of that giant redback  
On the seat of the dunny  
In the loo out the back?



Or the big kangaroo ...  
On your veggies he fed,  
And the old wombat who  
Dug under the bed.

Can you juggle some balls,  
Spin a hoop, crack a whip?  
There won't be cat-calls  
If you make the odd slip.



The school said you were born  
To play the recorder.  
You liked the French Horn  
But couldn't afford 'er.

Try Waltzing Matilda,  
Our real National Song.  
Have a go, it won't kill ya  
And won't take very long.

You could read a small verse  
But nothing with slime.  
It couldn't be worse  
Than this ghastly rhyme.

There's Mulga Bill's Bicycle  
Or the Snowy River horse.  
Poetry so excitable –  
You could do a lot worse.

If you've a voice that can roar,  
It'll be fun for us all –  
You'll bust open the door  
And the curtains will fall.

So get your finger out  
Of wherever it's stuck –  
Your bum or your snout,  
And trust to your luck.

You know you can do it  
And it's in a good cause.  
You could even just wing it.  
You'll still get applause.

Or just sit and clap  
As others perform.  
Hold supper in your lap  
And cheer up a storm.

So come, support the Moth!  
It should be a lark.  
Escape from your sloth  
And raise dough for the plaque.

© *Leanne Pattison*

**Call Jo: 0431 878 328 to be in the Moth**



## Annual General Meeting of Michelago Region Community Association Inc.

13 August, 6 pm at Michelago Railway Station. Thirteen people attended.

### Election results for 2025–26

President: Kerry Rooney. Vice President: Leanne Pattison. Treasurer: Jenny Wholohan. Secretary: Leah Oliver. Committee members: Sally Hughes, Leanne Thurling, Tony De Salis, Di Fett.

Ben Wickham has agreed to continue in the role of Public Officer.

Priorities for the coming year will be decided by the newly elected committee. It's likely that they will include those detailed in the President's Report at the AGM, viz Monaro Highway Safety and implementation of the Michelago Master Plan (see *Magpie 40*).

Link to the Michelago Masterplan: [www.michelagoregion.org.au/topics/](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/topics/)

### Objectives of MRCA



MRCA's objectives are to advocate and work

- to support better social and economic outcomes for the Michelago region, and
- for the preservation of the Michelago region's heritage infrastructure and natural environment.

MRCA will pursue these objectives

- by working collaboratively with other groups in Michelago and the Snowy Monaro region, and
- through open and inclusive communication.

Anyone in the region can join: membership form: [www.michelagoregion.org.au/meetings/](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/meetings/)  
Members have no obligation to actually *do* anything. If they want to, they can sometimes help out in community projects (see below). They get the occasional email about what's happening.

The MRCA recently asked members about their reasons for supporting Michelago's community association. Sally's response below epitomises others' answers.



### 'Why I joined the MRCA'

*Sally Hughes*

I feel like one tiny piece of a jigsaw puzzle and that we all fit together somehow to make us a community. I just want to be a part of that and to help here and there.

*R: Sally (foreground) helped mulch the railway station's hedge during the cleanup prior to the National Trust ACT visit.*



I joined the MRCA having appreciated the improvements it has made to our community and then wondering if I could get involved in some way with the heritage work at Michelago Railway and the community's future priorities.

The project I have most enjoyed is the visit of the ACT National Trust this year and the opportunity that gave us to learn more about Michelago's interesting history.

Joining the MRCA is a way to meet new people who also like to call Michelago home. The organisation is keen for people of all ages to join and to bring their ideas for how they would like to see their region evolve.



## Splatter Gun for weed control – demo for poisoners

**24 August. Clive Kelly Oval.** This workshop, attended by eight local people, was a partnership between Local Land Services (LLS) and Landcare. Georgeanna is the Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare coordinator. The workshop was run by Bella Hart of LLS.

The excellent workshop included a demonstration dummy run (i.e. just with coloured water) of the splatter gun for landowners wanting to control blackberries.

Michelago Landcare (ML) President Markus Buchhorn said that ML will soon have a splatter gun. It will be paid for by a Crown Lands grant and available to lend to ML members.

### What is a splatter gun?

The Land for Wildlife site (South-East Queensland) notes that:

**'Unlike other foliar spray methods, the splatter gun is designed to shoot a stream of herbicide, not a spray nor even a splatter.**

### Notes provided at the workshop by Bella Hart of LLS included the following important advice

**Components:** Drench gun applicator that sprays in a consistent stream, feed tube and springs, plastic backpack container with straps or a backpack holder. You need surfactants/adjuvants.

**Pros:** covers a blackberry bush quickly, can spray up to 10m so is great for large bushes, large droplet size is less impacted by wind so is easy to aim, uses less water than a high-volume, low-concentration application (e.g spot spraying). A good kill is possible with approx. 10% of leaf area covered.

**Cons:** not compatible with all chemicals, not for all weeds, not suitable for use near waterways (depending on chemical choice – the higher chemical concentration poses a higher risk of environmental harm), uses more chemical per plant (the mix costs c. 10c per plant more than a spot spray chemical mix).

**Compatible weeds:** common applications are blackberry, lantana, boneseed, bitou bush, camphor laurel, tobacco bush.



Generally, splatter guns are suitable for large-leaved weeds, depending on the chemical used. Read the label of your chosen chemical for a more specific list.

**Compatible chemicals:** always mix to the rate on the label. The following should have label rates for a low volume, high concentration application for a splatter gun. These are just 3 examples; there are many other compatible chemicals.

- Glyphosate (common brand names include Roundup, Weedmaster Duo, Crucial, Knockout 450).
- Picloram + Triclopyr (common brand names include Grazon, Conqueror, Raizon, Shredder).
- Fluroxypr (common brand names include Neon and Fireball).

**Method:** use a surfactant\*\* or adjuvant\*\* and mix and apply according to the label rate. Chemical can be sprayed on the bush by making crosses, stripes or grids on the face of the bush every 1 to 2 m along to cover c. 10% of the bush's leaf area.

Ensure you cover the height and full perimeter of the bush, walking all the way around the base. Check on past work and change your application to judge the least amount of chemical needed to kill the plant.

**Work, health and safety:** always wear the PPE advised on the label. Wear eye and face protection, gloves, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when using a splatter gun.

**Comparison between chemical rates:** based on a rough calibration, if 50 medium sized blackberry bushes were sprayed using a spot spray and splatter gun application, the following rates using Nufarm Conqueror (Triclopyr + Picloram) and Hot-Up adjuvant would apply:

- Spot spray (~ \$0.22 per plant as of Feb 2025):
  - 100L water
  - 350mL chemical
  - 250mL adjuvant
- Splatter gun (~ \$0.32 per plant as of Feb 2025):
  - 17.5L water
  - 58.25mL chemical
  - 43.75mL adjuvant.



*Above: Participants experimented with the splatter gun.*



*Left: Alicia and Bella of LLS. Georgeanna Story and Markus Buchhorn*

**Blackberries before and after splatter-gunning**

*Photos & notes: Bella Hart, Land Services Officer*



*Using 'Conqueror': at left, 9 days after spraying. At right, 17 days after spraying.*



*Using glyphosate: at left, 9 days after spraying with 'Glyphosate 450'; at right, 17 days after spraying. Glyphosate takes longer to act than 'Conqueror.' For a more conclusive observation on effectiveness, more follow-up photos are required.*



Enquiries: <[isabella.hart@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:isabella.hart@lls.nsw.gov.au)>

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[\*\* 'A surfactant is a compound that lowers surface tension, enabling substances like oil and water to mix, and is essentially a surface-active agent'. [Google AI]  
\*\* Adjuvants: 'Wetters/spreaders ... enhance adhesion to and spreading of spray droplets on target surfaces by reducing the surface tension of the pesticide formulation and improving coverage ...' [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.  
- Ed.]



**Snuggles**



**Pet Resort**

# *New Cattery Now Open*

The quality facilities, care, and service you have come to know and expect at Snuggles Pet Resort's luxury dog suites has been become even more luxurious with the addition of our new cattery!

- Extra large rooms – over 9 m3!
- Light, airy & modern, with lots of large windows, natural light and sunny outlook.
- Multiple levels for cats to play, hunt, run, jump and just sit and watch the world go by from on-high.
- Different sized rooms to suit all customers and budgets.
- Some suites have their own outdoor covered patio that is as big as the inside suite!
- Reverse cycle heating and air-conditioning to maintain the ideal temperature all year round.



## *Snuggles Pet Resort*

6015 Monaro Highway, MICHELAGO, NSW, 2620 Web: [www.snugglespetresort.com.au](http://www.snugglespetresort.com.au)

Ph: 02 6235 9523 Email: [reception@snugglespetresort.com.au](mailto:reception@snugglespetresort.com.au)

*Call us to arrange an inspection of the facilities for true peace of mind!*



## Michelago Memorial Hall

Fiona Tollis has kindly applied to fill the vacancy on the Hall Committee following the resignation of highly valued member and Treasurer Belinda Sierzchula. Belinda and her family have moved to Queanbeyan.

Council has now voted to appoint Fiona. Jenny Wholohan has taken on the role of Acting Treasurer.

The S355 Committee has submitted a list of necessary repairs to Council (see *Magpie 40*).

Here's the usual handy information about Hall hire

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

The Hall has all facilities for your function.

### Hall hire rates

- a) Daytime: \$18.00 p/h. Refundable deposit bond: \$170.00 per event.
- b) Evening Event: \$295.00 + refundable deposit bond \$260.0.
- 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.



## Landcare weed control project – Michelago Creek woody weed control

Michelago Landcare has once again secured funding to tackle weeds along Crown Land sections of the Michelago Creek and Murrumbidgee River.

In 2023 Landcare invested \$20,000 into the health of the creek and river by engaging a professional weed control contractor to control blackberry, small willows and box elder.

It is now time to follow up that work and expand works further up the creek and Michelago Landcare has secured funding through Crown Lands to do just that.

We are in the process of asking landholders who are neighbours of the Crown Lands of the creek or river to provide consent for the work to occur beside them. The map below outlines the area for control. If you neighbour any of this area and have not been contacted directly, please let us know. We are planning for the work to occur towards the end of September.

This work will also support our planned planting project to enhance and improve the creek area beside the Clive Kelly Oval.

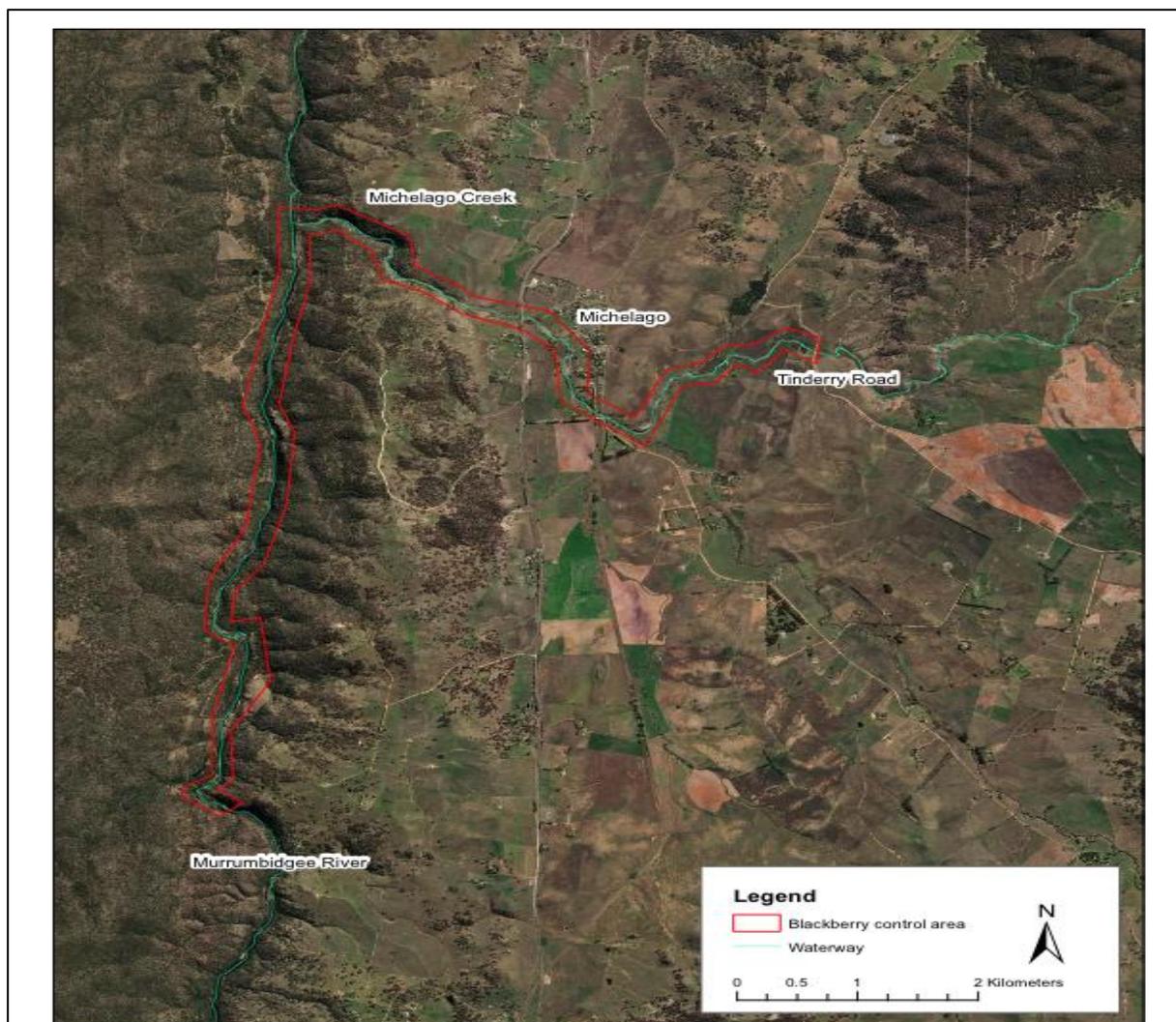
As with the previous project, only small saplings will be targeted and no tree that is providing bank stabilisation will be affected.

While the work is restricted to Crown Land, we do seek consent from neighbouring landholders. If that consent is not provided, there will be no work completed adjacent to that property.

So, if you are happy for us to control woody weeds along your boundary, please complete and return the consent form below.

We anticipate two control periods. The first will be towards the end of September (weather permitting) and the second towards the end of the year.

For any questions, please contact Markus on 0417 281 429 or [landcare@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:landcare@michelagoregion.org.au) or Georgeanna on 0429779928 or [upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com](mailto:upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com)





## 'Nature-based experiences' – the NSW Government is promoting eco-tourism

An MRCA member forwarded the *Magpie* an email about a NSW Government-sponsored webinar, the participants in which discuss various ideas about promoting and running 'nature-based experiences'.

When she asked for more detail, the contact's answer was, in part, as follows:

*'The Creating Nature-Based Experiences webinar was promoted broadly to NSW visitor economy businesses of all types, including those who may not currently operate nature-based experiences but are curious about how to incorporate natural elements into what they offer. It's designed to inspire, share practical ideas and spark opportunities for experience development, whether directly or through partnerships.'*

*You're more than welcome to watch the webinar at any time via this link.'*

### [Creating Nature-Based Experiences – Webinar](#)

E [serina.udipikar@dnsw.com.au](mailto:serina.udipikar@dnsw.com.au)

D 02 9931 1531

M 0419 139 743

[www.sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com) [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com) [www.bensw.com.au](http://www.bensw.com.au)

It's a pictorially lavish website which proclaims a 'vision' for the NSW visitor economy. Four people who run eco-businesses give their tips for success about half-way through.



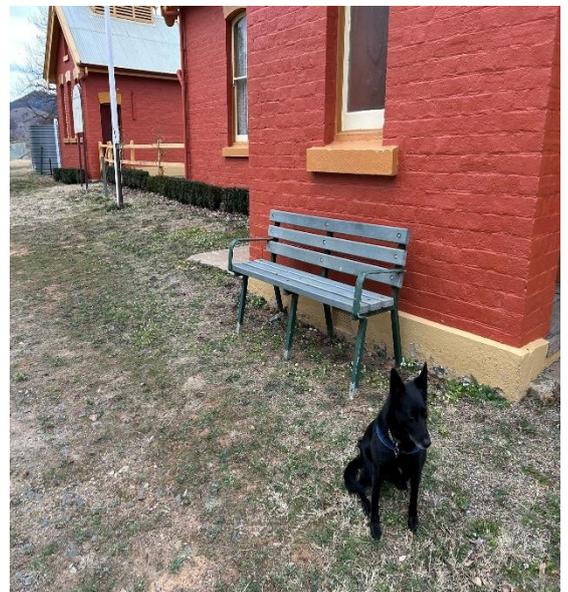
## New seat for Michelago Railway Station visitors

Local resident Greg Whittell has generously donated a new seat for the railway station. Its former habitat could be somewhere in Canberra.

He's sited it in front of the porch of the railway station. It's comfortable and its green colour coordinates well with the station roof and the environment. Thank you, Greg!



It has a view to the station's trees, the cenotaph and Clive Kelly Oval, thus facilitating a nature-based experience.





## Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

*Gregg McFaul, Training Officer*

Michelago has attended two grass fires and two motor vehicle accidents on the Monaro in August.



From Michelago Brigade, thank you to Colinton for hosting the District Exercise for everyone this side of Cooma.

It was a big turn out to an excellent and challenging exercise, which saw crews from Anembo, Bredbo, Colinton, Michelago and Smith Road participate.

Crews had to tackle simulated grass fires, property protection and motor vehicle accidents. Everyone appreciated all the hours put in to organise, run and cater the day. We also send a big thank you to the property owners who let us visit and use their property.



## Spring is here!

*The lovely Australian wattle ..... Is the emblem of our land.*



*You can stick it in a bottle ..... Or hold it in your hand.*

**Photos: Kerry Rooney**



## Paying rates made easy – advice from Council



# Paying rates made easy

Online or direct debit

## Save time and avoid the hassle: Pay your rates the easy way with Payble®

Our new Payble® payment platform gives you fast and flexible options for paying your rates.

Save time and make your Council payments easier and more convenient than ever.

### Features include:

- Options for weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment instalments
- Automatic on-time payments by direct debit from your bank account, credit, or debit card
- SMS reminders for scheduled payments and due dates
- Online updating of payment and contact information

*Payble is an Australian company that helps local governments improve customer payment experiences. Payble is safe and secure with PCI-DSS, ISO27001 and SOC2 certifications.*

### Here's how to get started in three simple steps.

#### Step 1

Scan the QR code on your rates notice



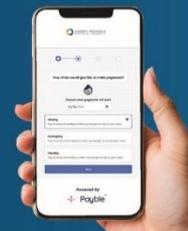
#### Step 2

Enter your mobile number and the SMS security code



#### Step 3

Select the payment option that works for you



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Web: [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au) | Office: 81 Commissioner St, Cooma  
Mail: PO Box 714, Cooma NSW 2630 | Find us on social media.



# The Upper Bidgee Bulletin

The Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Quarterly Newsletter

Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission AABN51686917287

Information from Georganna Story, UMLC.

Their email address is: [upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com](mailto:upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com)

## Upcoming activities

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GROWING PLANTS?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE SOUTHERN TABLELANDS TREE START GROWERS NETWORK?**

Upper Murrumbidgee and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare are partnering with and Wagtail Natives Nursery to support local volunteers across the district to grow native plants from home.

From Cooma to Michelago, Bungedore to Braidwood, the aim is to support over 100 volunteers and propagate some 20 thousand plants for revegetation projects in the Southern Tablelands region. Landcare will provide the training and resources to grow the plants. Growers will be part of a supported network, led by a friendly local nursery manager, with the growing season kicking off from September 2025 to March 2026.

**COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF 200 SEEDLINGS?**

Send EOI by QR Code or Visit <https://forms.gle/gTEM3Yxs7trqy7Sz8>  
 Contact [upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com](mailto:upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com)  
 0473 407 079

**Cooma Landcare:** Regular working bees are held on the second Saturday of the month 2pm–4pm and fourth Friday 9am–11am. \*\*

**Queanbeyan Landcare:** Regular working bees. \*

**Numeralla Landcare:** Wildlife of Numeralla and AGM. Contact ULMC (address above) for details.



This project has been assisted by the NSW Government Environmental Trust and Koala Strategy Programs



MARY MACKILLOP today



Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

**National Landcare Conference:** Sunday 21 September – Wednesday 24 September, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition. Contact [upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com](mailto:upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com) for details

\*Contact [queanbeyanlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:queanbeyanlandcare@gmail.com) for details. \*\*Contact [coomalandcare@gmail.com](mailto:coomalandcare@gmail.com) to confirm details including site location.



## Michelago Community Choir

Sing for your well-being – for your mood, soul and body.

It's on Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station).

You don't have to be able to read music.

It's companionable and satisfying and you'll be very welcome.

Come and try it.

😊 P.S. They need more blokes!



## Little ones and their mothers – come along, meet, mix, chat



WELCOME TO  
**LITTLE BUSH  
BUBS**

*it takes a village - ours just  
happens to be Michelago*

**WEDNESDAY**  
10:30AM  
MICHELAGO GENERAL STORE

Whether you're a first-time mum or adding another little one to the mix, Little Bush Bubs is all about connection, support and getting out of the house!

In our little village, community matters. We believe in showing up for each other, swapping stories, sharing laughs (maybe some tears) and building local friendships that go beyond the baby milestones.

Our meet-ups are casual – no pressure, no judgment. A safe and easy spot where the babes and toddlers are welcome and you can meet other local mums who get it!

**Come as you are – we can't wait to meet you!**



## **Construction begins on new Fire Control Centre. SMRC Media release 7/8/2025**

The Snowy Monaro is on track for improved emergency response and management from mid-next year, with construction work officially underway on the NSW Rural Fire Service's (RFS) new Monaro Fire Control Centre in Cooma's Polo Flat precinct.

Due for completion in June 2026, the new centre will include an interagency emergency operations hub housing improved and expanded facilities for personnel, aerial equipment, training, storage, emergency communications and more.

On the back of an \$8.5 million grant from the NSW Government in 2022, initial planning and investigations for the RFS-managed project began in July 2022 in collaboration with Snowy Hydro and Snowy Monaro Regional Council. The centre is being built to the latest design standards, providing our first responders and the communities they protect with the innovative, modern facilities and infrastructure needed to keep the Snowy Monaro safe when disaster strikes.

Following the conclusion of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry conducted in the wake of the 2019/2020 bushfires, the NSW Government allocated the significant funding required for the new centre to the RFS. Preparations for the project were completed in April 2025, and construction is now underway ahead of the project's estimated completion date in June 2026.

Council and Snowy Hydro were immediately supportive of the project and worked together with the RFS to identify and make available a suitable site for the facility in Cooma's Polo Flat industrial precinct. The RFS has provided a further \$6.5 million from its primary funding source, the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund, to ensure the Monaro Fire Control Centre can be built to the latest and highest standards for facilities of this kind.

Funding for this significant investment in the Snowy Monaro's emergency response capability is thanks to the NSW Government, Snowy Hydro, and Snowy Monaro Regional Council.



To learn more about this project, please visit the project page on Council's website.

*Image Credit: NSW Rural Fire Service*



The Magpie likes all these following businesses.



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#### Pete's Top Car Care

Pete has two loan cars for while your car is being serviced, but you need to book ahead to reserve one.

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 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




### Real estate advice you can trust.

#### Chris Churchill of Blackshaw

Call for an obligation-free chat:  
0417 080 460

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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.*

Contact Jenny: Ph. 0400 484 485 Email: [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com)



## Rural Contracting

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## What's on?



Please send quick updates of what's coming up, what's on and any corrections to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) If the *Magpie* knows about it, it will be here.

Advertise in the *Magpie*: contact the Editor [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au)

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

- **Choir** Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: [secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com)
- **Dance class for kids.** 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.
- **Gardening Group (formerly Seed Savers)** Enquiries: SMS or contact Jenny 0400 484 485 or [jenny258@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com) Recommences 21 Sept. See below.
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 6pm. AGM tba.
- **Hall bookings** [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) 0494 178 469. Current hire rates: p.17.
- **HIIT** (high intensity interval training) exercise class with Peter (0417 427 494). Hall. Sat 8am. \$5 just to cover Hall hiring cost. 'Works for all ages.' See article in *Magpie* 40.
- **Library** Mobile library. Monthly on (usually 4<sup>th</sup>) Thursdays to collect pre-orders outside the school 10.30 –11.30. See SMRC site & *Magpie* 36 for how to order. Next drop-off date: 18 Sept.
- **Massage** Michelle O'Leary comes to you with her massage table. 0401 535 414
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 6pm. Next general meeting 10 September.
- **Pilates** Saturdays, 9.30-10.15 am in school term. Hall. See flyer on shop noticeboard.
- **Pony Club** Pony Club Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Enquiries: Secretary: Romney (0428 297 514) or President: Rhys (0401 778 004) or email [michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:michelagoponyclub.secretary@gmail.com) Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au> (Note changes to previous posts.)
- **Senior Lunch Group** 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11am.
- **Trail Riders** Usually monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. Check details on Tinderry tab of Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). 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.

#### September

- The Michelago Moth. Saturday 20 at 6 pm. Michelago Memorial Hall. Evening. \$5 each or \$20 family. Fundraiser for Cenotaph WWII plaque. See pp. 13-14.
- Garden Group recommences 21 Sept. 2pm. Clubhouse, Oval. See above.
- Wicker Suite + Gabi Forman. Bluegrass + folk. Sat 26, from 6.30. Hall. See p. 13.
- Michelago Landcare: weed control along the creek, thanks to a Crown Land grant. Date tba. Neighbours to be contacted closer to the time. See also Landcare notice pp. 14-15.



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