

~ Michelago Magpie 43 ~

4 November 2025

from your Michelago Region Community Association

All issues on www.michelagoregion.org.au

Print copies: \$2 supports heritage railway station upkeep



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Michelago Master Chefs, Aspiring Artisans, Brilliant Bakers, Culinary Creatives ...



The Great Michelago Region Bake Off!



Sunday 16 November, Michelago Railway Station

Fundraiser to repair Station's portico floor

Drop off entries to Station 9 to 10.30 am for judging at 11 am

Entry fee each section: Adults \$5, Kids \$2

Prizes for each category



Cakes auctioned after judging and prize-giving

CATEGORIES

All judged on taste and texture except #6



1. Chocolate cake
2. Sponge cake, filled
3. Fruit cake
4. Cake from your homeland / ethnic cake
5. Gluten-free cake
6. Decorated celebration / novelty cake (judged on appearance)
7. Any other sort of cake
8. Scones, any sort (6 on a plate)
9. Slice, any sort (6 on a plate)
10. Biscuits, any sort (6 on a plate)
11. Damper
12. Kids 12 and under. All entries 6 on a plate. Three categories:
(a) decorated cup-cakes (b) pikelets (c) biscuits.



- Pay when you drop off your entry: cash or card
- Entries displayed anonymously (matched numbers)
- Entries on disposable plates (we'll have some). Please list your ingredients.
- Raffle is separate: a cake-decorating kit the prize
- Cake-decorating demo by local artisan after judging
- Take your entry home after judging if you don't want it auctioned
- Judges: Leanne Thurling & Rebecca Hooley (Judges' decisions final)
- Auctioneer: Ian Hooley
- ~~Johnoz~~ Coffee Van 9–11 am
- Fire Brigade BBQ after cake judging.

Halloween, All Hallows' Eve, Hallowe'en, Samhain



From pagan Celtic origins about the end of long summer days, when the veil between the living and the dead was permeable, All Hallows Eve became Christianised to remember the departed faithful and saints (the 'hallowed') on the eve of All Saints' Day. In popular culture, it's now associated with the macabre and supernatural.

The ancient festival has had a long, evolving journey. In Michelago, this October 31st was an opportunity for creative dressing up and to have an evening of spooky fun for all.

Ghosts, goblins, witches, skeletons, vampires, pumpkin heads and other Michelago inhabitants gathered at the local store for an evening of trick-and-treating around the village before having a joyous disco evening at the Michelago Memorial Hall.

Thanks to the P&C workers, the Hall was festooned with skeletons, spider webs, jack o'lanterns, a large sign exhorting 'Happy Halloween' and colourful atmospheric lighting. New P&C President Alyssa Elrick and husband Beau provided a perfect BBQ.



*Below: P&C workers ...
L: Brooke Ovcар, Emily Green, Sarah Davis, Alyssa Elrick
R: Laura Howarth
Far R: Beau and Alyssa*





*Far left: Jasper Elrick wore an exoskeleton.
L: Sarah Tollis's little Lawrence was a pumpkin elf.
Above: Balloon pumpkin-heads smiled from the kitchen counter.*

Hall photos below: Alyssa Elrick





Michelago Bank of Bins – access hours reduced. EPA email address is below.



SMRC notified service users directly and issued a Public Notice on 23 October that 24/7 access would end on Friday 24 October 2025 and that the facility could be accessed daily only between 8 am and 6 pm after that date until further notice.

Why? NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has ordered Council to reduce noise pollution from the facility by reducing access to those hours. There will be further changes: see Council's letter below.

Council asks BoB users to cooperate to help reduce the level of noise. If it's not reduced, the EPA may order that the Michelago BoB be closed.

While users of the bins must comply with these changes, Council would like to work with the community and EPA to find the best compromise between operating hours and acceptable instances of noise. Council would like to hold a community "pop-up" event at Michelago to answer questions, take feedback and learn more about ways to work with the community to ensure the facility remains open.

Further info: contact Council 1300 345 345 or communications@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Late news: if you wish to contact the EPA, email info@epa.nsw.gov.au Please cc tanya.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au and mandy.thurling@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au so they can note what's happening and the Michelago community's preferences.

[In response to the MRCA's expressed concern about the issue, Sophie Schlachter of SMRC's Resource and Waste Administration, sent the following letter.](#)



M PO Box 714 COOMA NSW 2630
E council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
W www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
P 1300 345 345

Dear Michelago Region Community Association

Re: Michelago Bank of Bins Operation Hours Restriction, Fence and Community Pop-Up

We are writing to inform you and your members of some of the details regarding the changes to the Michelago Bank of Bins.

As you may have seen in the Public Notice issued to the community on the 23rd of October, Council are responding to a Prevention Notice issued to us by the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directing us to minimise the noise pollution emanating from the Michelago Bank of Bins (BoB).

The pollution has been measured and analysed by an independent consultant, whose recommendations we are following to reduce the levels of noise pollution at the site.

The first strategy being put into place is a restriction of the operating hours of the facility. We are requesting that users access the site between the hours of 8am and 6pm, only. These initial hours have been implemented based on EPA guidance and needed to be introduced immediately. However, they are only a starting point, and we plan to work with the community in conjunction with the EPA to determine the best compromise between operating hours and acceptable instances of noise. This may mean we have different operating hours on the weekdays compared to weekends, or that we can allow access an hour later and/or earlier in the day, than currently scheduled.

Whilst Council understands the implication of this restriction on the overall utility of the service, and the impact it will have on the way rural residents manage their waste, it is unfortunately imperative that we take this measure.

A security system is being installed at the facility in the next 4-6 weeks which will automatically lock the access door at 6pm and unlock it again at 8am. Council staff will have remote access to unlock the door at any time. Until that system is installed the operating hours are not enforceable. However, it has been communicated to users of the facility that if council are unable to satisfy the requirements of the Prevention Notice, the facility will have to be closed. We will provide users with more details about this system once the implementation plan is finalised.

The second strategy is to erect a small fence that extends from the north-western corner of the shed on Ryrrie Street, towards Burra Rd, ending behind the Emergency Assembly area. Residents will be required to access the entry door from the northern side of the shed off Burra Rd, once the fence is erected. Like the operating hours, this fence is being installed based on advice from an external acoustic consultant. The fence plan has been adapted to suit the site-specific restrictions of the location, including access requirements for the Rural Fire Service, and road safety regulations relating to 'line-of-sight' capacity for drivers exiting Ryrrie St onto Burra Rd.

The fence will be constructed with 'Hebel' material and painted light green in the first instance, to match the Michelago BoB shed. In the new year, council would like to work with the Michelago community to develop a mural that can be painted onto the wall. We will be in touch with your Association when the time comes, to seek your guidance on this project, and to help ensure the design represents the true values and interests of the Michelago community.

Council acknowledges that the Michelago BoB is a critical service for rural residents in the area and that it should remain accessible. Council views the closure of this facility as an unsatisfactory outcome, that is to be avoided. We ask that the community and, most importantly, the users of the facility respect the seriousness of this issue and adjust their usage of the facility accordingly.

Finally, we would like to offer to conduct a community "pop-up" event in Michelago, at which we can answer residents' questions, take their feedback, and learn more about the ways we can work together to ensure that the facility remains open. If this is something that you think would appeal to the community, please let either myself or our Communications team know as possible, and we will be in touch to organise the details.

Should you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact Council's Resource and Waste Department on 1300 345 345. Alternatively, you can email both the Resource and Waste Department or the Communications department via council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Schlachter
Administration, Resource and Waste Services



Update on The Moth

The Moth Committee 2025

The Moth raised \$315 towards the projected \$730 cost of a World War II plaque for the cenotaph. Thank you to all those who came along, gave at the door and thoroughly enjoyed the show, and thanks again to all the participants.



The Moth Committee thanks the *Michelago Magpie* for the pre-event publicity that contributed to the event's success and for the comprehensive coverage afterwards (see *Magpie 42*).



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

Carols 14 December, 6 pm, Michelago Railway Station



Singing is excellent for mind, soul and body. It's sociable. It's satisfying. It's community. It's the most fun you can have standing up.

You don't have to be able to read music. Come along and enjoy yourself with others who love singing and those who have found that they do, too.

The choir's fame is spreading. Its members will be performing at Bredbo on 13 December.

The main public event, though, will be carols at the Michelago Railway Station at 6 pm on 14 December.



Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

Gregg McFaul, Training Officer



Michelago RFS was invited to join Burra and Jerrabomberra Creek at Burra on 11 October for training. Burra put on a complex scenario and we had to navigate the 'unfamiliar expanses of the distant North' (at the other end of Burra Road).

L: Lee Harris, Jess McPherson, Chloe McPherson, Ian Hooley, Ben Kearns

Photos: Gregg McFaul



The Monaro is joining the digital age with the introduction of Mobile Data Terminals in trucks, although widespread availability of 4G or satellite data is still in the works.

L: a mobile data terminal

First Aid Training 6 December at Colinton Fire Shed

Nominations for this session closed 24 October, but enquiries about a future course are welcome. Enquiries: Gregg McFaul, Training Officer, Michelago.

gregg.mcfaul@gmail.com



Remembrance Day 2025

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

There will be a simple ceremony along the usual lines at the Michelago Railway Station. People are invited to gather at the station 10.30 for 10.40 a.m., lay a wreath if they wish, and then to meet for morning tea at the Michelago Store.



Michelago Gardening Group



Little green heads are popping up from the soil now. Most of them are plants of desire. There'll be many to share at the next gathering.

Interested? All you need to bring is your interest in growing plants and possibly doing some propagation.

Next date: 23 November, 2 pm at Lyn's amazing Bredbo property. Contact Jenny on 0400 484 485 for details.

L: There were many flower and vegetable seeds at the previous gathering of gardeners at the tennis clubhouse.



Michelago Cricket Club wins the first match of the season

The days are longer, the sun is shining (most of the time) and the thwack of leather on willow is heard in the land. The joy of a season of Sunday Social Cricket started at the Clive Kelly Oval on 12 October, when Michelago (10/267) defeated the Woden Warriors 10/129.

This was an excellent start to the season's Round 1 in A Grade. The MCC (not that London one) was promoted to A Grade after winning the B Grade Premiership of the 2022-23 season. The team didn't quite make the A Grade finals of the 2023-24 season but was truly competitive.

The team's performance is all the more remarkable in that they don't do mid-week training, unlike the Very Serious Canberra teams. They roll up on Sundays, coordinated by Captain Matt Williams, and give it a go.

If you'd like to join in, call Matt on 0408 005 784.

R: Adam hits his first six.

On the 12 October, the weather didn't play fair. It was so cold and windy that the *Magpie* feathers were too ruffled for more than a short stay. Some highlights:

- At first drinks, Michelago was 6 for 172. Respectable. Nathan had scored 139 and newcomer had 7.
- Back to the crease with a good partnership of Adam and Phil. Adam got 2 consecutive sixes and a few fours, then was out for 26. Phil hit a few fours then a six to get his 50 and was eventually out for 62.
- At 2.50 pm, Michelago was all out for 267.



- New ball. Note: they're \$64 each. The Dave Hanns fence is proving its worth.
- Big Phil and Nate charged in with bowling and made an immediate impression. First wicket: bowled Nate, stumped Matt.
- Sam took an excellent catch in the outfield.
- There was a brief pause in play with some magpie interference (the bird, not the newsletter) at mid-off. A Woden Warrior fielding near a tree had taken a brief comfort break to which the resident bird objected. Gotta love country cricket.



R. from top: Captain Matt waits to bat. Big Phil runs up. Nate delivers.



Above: Three Woden Warriors supporters were a friendly bunch.

L: Clay waits to bat and chats with Sam, who already had.



For Michelago supporters, here's the season's program, taken from www.ACTsocialcricket.com/a-grade/

Round 2, 26 Oct: Nine Inch Balls vs Michelago @Narrabundah

Round 3, 9 Nov: Michelago vs MHF Brewers @ Michelago Round 4, 23 Nov: Michelago vs CMCC Tuskers @ Michelago

Round 5, 7 Dec: Michelago vs Hazara Gliders @ Michelago

Round 6, 11 Jan: CMCC Allstars vs Michelago @ O'Connor 301

Round 7, 18 Jan: Michelago vs Pumpkin Booty @ Gordon 103

Round 8, 1 Feb: Michelago vs Nine Inch Balls @ Michelago

Round 9, 15 Feb: MHF Brewers vs Michelago @ Hughes 103. Then the semi-finals.

SMRC draft arts, culture and heritage strategy – MRCA submission 19 October



This is an important submission to Council for those interested in Michelago's history and its heritage markers. It's a thorough statement about the means of heritage preservation.

It's addressed to Ms Noreen Vu, Chief Executive Officer, Snowy Monaro Regional Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2026-29.

We were pleased to see a Strategy released for the arts and cultural sectors, as they play an important role in the community as well as potentially contributing to economic outcomes through increased visitor numbers to the region. The heritage of the Snowy Monaro region also has the same potential to attract visitors and to sustain the cultural life of communities.

Our submission focuses on the heritage elements of the Strategy. This is because the Michelago Region Community Association (MRCA) manages an asset listed on the State Heritage Register. Our role as a small volunteer organisation managing a heritage asset gives us insights that may be useful to Council in revising this draft Strategy.

Shortcomings of the Strategy

In the introduction (page 5) of the draft Strategy it is claimed the Strategy 'recognises the inherent value of our region's history, and the imperative to protect and preserve our places, knowledge, traditions, and objects for future generations.'

We would suggest this is a rather ambitious statement considering the limited number of actions in the draft Strategy to support the management of heritage assets, other than those owned by Council.

In Action 1.2.3 the Strategy only offers to provide information to a limited number of organisations in a narrow way.

In Action 4.1.5, the Strategy offers to 'promote' Heritage NSW's grants but fails to acknowledge the challenges in accessing these grants and fails to offer any support to applicants.

In Action 5.3.3, the Strategy proposes a Council-centric idea to advocate to the NSW Government for the removal of a co-contribution requirement for Council's applications to Local Government Heritage Grants. We support this proposed action. In addition, Council should advocate for similar treatment for volunteer organisations which must provide co-contributions when applying for NSW Heritage Grants, even when managing assets owned by the NSW Government.

The Strategy incorporates a stocktake of Council-owned heritage assets, which is good to see. However, it ignores the region's assets that are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register that in some cases may have more heritage value to the region than some of the assets owned by the Council. Given the Strategy is intended to be a Strategy for the Region, and not solely for the Council, this seems odd.

Given our views on the shortcomings of the draft strategy, we offer some recommendations.

MRCA Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

The Strategy should fully recognise the challenges faced by the volunteer sector in managing heritage assets. Regardless of the ownership of the assets, these heritage items can be a very important part of the local area's history and community infrastructure.

ANZAC Day 2025 →

Rationale

Our specific 'case study' may help shed light on the challenges facing volunteer organisations.

The Michelago Railway Precinct was listed on the NSW Heritage Register in 1997. Our community association leases the railway station from the NSW government and must deal with UGL on a regular basis. UGL is the company responsible for managing NSW's Country Rail Network.



The lease requires MRCA to maintain the buildings and grounds. The railway station was constructed in 1887, so maintenance requirements are like painting the Harbour Bridge – once you finish, it's time to start all over again!

MRCA needs grant funding to undertake this work. UGL will not support any grant applications unless we have the agreement of NSW Heritage and SMRC. NSW Heritage will not agree to any work unless we either go through an onerous and costly heritage approval process (which requires input from a heritage consultant) or unless we have specific written advice from a heritage consultant advising the work will not impact on heritage values.

Consultants charge fees. Volunteer organisations cannot afford them.

If the future continues like this, MRCA may have to hand back the keys, and allow UGL to build a high fence around the railway station, denying the community access and leaving the lovely old buildings to the relentless mercy of vandals and weather.

Some people may ask, would this really matter? The answer is yes, it would matter because:

- In Michelago, the railway station is the only heritage-listed building accessible by the community and suitable for community activities. The others are all privately owned.
- The railway station is situated in the middle of the village and is the site of many of Michelago's major community activities.
 - ANZAC Day and other commemorative services take place there each year as the Cenotaph is in the railway station grounds.
 - Other annual community events at the station include the Blessing of the RFS Fleets, Christmas Carols, Easter Egg Hunts and Halloween activities.
 - We also hold some small fundraising events at the railway station.

Recommendation 2:

The Council hires a heritage consultant on a retainer basis to provide free advice to volunteer organisations to:

- support their applications for grant funding and
- to meet requirements for conservation plans for heritage assets listed on the NSW Heritage Register.

Rationale

Remembrance Day 2024 →



MRCA applied for a NSW Heritage Grant in 2022 for conservation work at the railway station. We were successful. However, before any work could commence we had to hire a heritage consultant to develop a Conservation Scope of Work and Heritage Impact Statement.

Only then could we go through the NSW Heritage approval process and commence work. The Statement was produced by Pip Giovanelli, who was at that time the Heritage Adviser to the SMRC. Without his input, the project would have failed the first hurdle.

Recommendation 3:

Easter Egg Hunt 2025 →



Council advocates to NSW Government, including Heritage NSW, for the removal of the co-contribution requirement for NSW Heritage Grants for NFP organisations managing NSW government-owned assets on the NSW Heritage Register.

Rationale

A requirement of the NSW Heritage Grant is a 50% matching contribution. In 2022 MRCA applied for a grant of \$34,000. There is no way we could afford to provide \$17,000 in matching funding.

We approached UGL, the company managing the Country Rail Network for the NSW Government and they agreed to match the funding. However, when the time came to start work, we faced multiple challenges in accessing UGL's support.

Initially, they wanted to on-board our tradesmen and pay them directly. This would have reduced the value of the grant as they would have taken some funding to cover admin costs. One of our heritage-qualified tradesmen was unable to complete UGL's rigorous on-boarding process. Again, the whole project was nearly derailed.

It took a full year of negotiating with UGL before they finally decided to give MRCA the funds as promised and let us employ the tradesmen directly.

The railway station is a NSW Government asset. The NSW Government should show some leadership in the management of its heritage infrastructure and remove this requirement for a co-contribution from NFP organisations that are conserving the government's own assets.

Recommendation 4:

The Council introduces a Snowy Monaro Heritage Grant in partnership with Heritage NSW, funded by the NSW Government.

R: The station's waiting room was cleared ready for painting.



Rationale

It is easier for local organisations to deal directly with their local councils than to wait in a very long queue for the attention of a Sydney bureaucrat. Moreover, the NSW Government grants are generally designed for large organisations with paid staff who can more easily navigate complex grant processes.

Recommendation 5:

Council should require developers who own land with heritage-listed assets to allocate part of their development contributions to the preservation of important heritage buildings.

R: Derek Bardsley was starting to paint the kitchen last week.



Rationale

Action 5.1.4 in the draft Strategy suggests arts and cultural assets should be included in a review of Council's Developer Contributions Policy. We would like to add heritage-listed buildings to that action. It should happen now where developers own the heritage assets.

Two of our most important heritage buildings in Michelago are on land owned by a large Canberra-based developer. These are the Hibernian Inn and the Police Barracks and Lock-Up which are on the eastern side of the Monaro Highway immediately north of the church at Michelago. The infamous Clarke Gang members drank the Hibernian Inn dry during their shambolic robbery of Michelago village in 1866.

These buildings were the site of the original village of 'Micilago' before it moved to its present location on Ryrie Street after the arrival of the railway in 1887.

In Summary

In its present draft version, we believe the Strategy does not contain enough meaningful actions to adequately justify the inclusion of 'Heritage' in its title. We hope that some of our recommendations could be included in the final Strategy.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely
Kerry Rooney
President, Michelago Region Community Association



Local Land Services' property planning events – Michelago 14/11 (see below)

The LLS is an Agency of the NSW Government's Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The MRCA received the email below 16 October. More workshops are anticipated for next year.

Enquiries: Louise MacDonald P: 0474 862 241 E: louise.macdonald@lls.nsw.gov.au



'Property planning isn't just about farm productivity - it's about understanding your land is part of a larger ecosystem, and that healthy connections between soils, water, vegetation and wildlife help the landscape to function for the good of the environment and human society.

Understanding these connections leads you to better decision making which can save you hours of effort and lots of money.

*L: Natural resource management: fencing.
Credit: Local Land Services*

There's so much more to it than that and we want to take you on a journey, exploring your goals and the capabilities of your land. And this spring, we kick off our Introduction to Property Planning workshops, a practical, hands-on introduction to understanding your land and building a resilient, productive property.

Whether your goal is to manage livestock, build biodiversity, or simply enjoy the lifestyle benefits of your land, these workshops will help you:

- * understand your landscape
- * make informed decisions
- * connect with local experts and fellow landholders

Who should attend?

These workshops are designed for new landholders, and anyone interested in improving their property. We'll also guide you to additional Local Land Services workshops and services tailored to your stage in the land management journey.

Take the first step toward a thriving, resilient property and register for an Introduction to Property Planning Workshop [1] near you!



Workshop date at Michelago is 14 November, 9am to 3 pm in the Memorial Hall.

Please register at <https://events.humanitix.com/property-planning-workshop-michelago-2025>



LLS Events

Louise also included this QR code to the LLS events page where you can see and register for this and other LLS upcoming events.

Prepare your recipes for the Great Bake Off!



2MNO – presentation to Probus



12/9. Community radio presenter Kerry Rooney spoke to the Cooma Ladies Probus Club at Cooma's Ex-Services Club about the history and function of Cooma-based 2MNO.

Kerry presents her program, called *The Week That Was*, from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. It features jazz, blues, some folk and country, and pop and rock from the 60s to the 90s.

The title refers to how she selects the music – various anniversaries and other significant dates about musicians or recordings. She also plays an active role in 2MNO's administration.

Her talk explained the functions of community radio, 2MNO's history and outside broadcasts, and a survey of who listens to radio (75% of Australians over the age of 15) and who to community radio (25%, i.e. over 5 million).

Community radio must broadcast at least 25% Australian content. The first community radio started in Adelaide in 1974.

Kerry explained Marconi's troubles with his 1895 invention of radio after he went to England, where he hoped to seek investment after finding no backers in Italy.

However, an over-zealous border official confiscated and destroyed his equipment as potentially dangerous, thinking that Marconi could be an Italian anarchist come to blow up targets in England.

Poor Marconi had to find the right materials and re-invent his radio. The rest, to apply the old cliché, is history.

Kerry listed and emphasised the importance of the local businesses' financial support, thanking them and the volunteer operators who make 2MNO possible.

You can hear from the Mayor once a month on 2MNO and send in your questions for him to goodmorningmonaro@2mno.org.au You can also send community notices for broadcasting to the same address.

Cooma Ladies Probus Club welcomes new members from all over the region, not just Cooma.

They organise many activities and meet monthly at the Ex-Services Club, 106 Vale St Cooma.



L: *Guglielmo Marconi. The inventor of radio.*

Image: *Wikipedia*



The Sad Tale of a Motor Fan by H. A. Field

Young Ethelred was only three
Or somewhere thereabouts when he
Began to show in diverse ways
The early stages of the craze
For learning the particulars
Of motor bikes and motor cars.

It started with a little book
To enter numbers which he took,
And 'though his mother often said
"Now do be careful, Ethelred.
Oh dear, oh dear what should I do
If anything ran over you?"
Which Ethelred could hardly know
And sometimes crossly told her so...

It didn't check his zeal a bit
But rather seemed to foster it.
Indeed it would astonish you
To hear of all the things he knew.
He'd guess the make and get it right
Of every car that came in sight.
He knew as well its MPG
Its MPH and LSD,
What gears it had, what brakes and what;
In short he knew an awful lot.

Now when a boy thinks day and night
Of motor cars with all his might
He gets affected in the head
And so it was with Ethelred.
He took long drinks from mug and cup
To fill his radiator up.
And went about upon all fours
And usually, to get indoors
He pressed a button then reversed
And went in slowly back most first.

*This was one of the two poems that
engineer and machine enthusiast Ian
Hooley presented at the recent Moth.
The other, 'Portrait of a Machine', redolent
of a machine-run dystopia, is by Louis
Untermeyer (see Magpie 42).*

He called himself a Packford Eight
And wore a little number plate
Attached behind with bits of string
He looked just like the real thing.
He drove himself to school and tried
To park himself (all day) outside.
At which the head became irate
And caned him on his number plate.

And then one day an oily smell
Hung around him and he wasn't well.
"That's odd," he said, "I wonder what
Has caused this rumbling pain I've got?
No car should get an aching tum
From taking in petroleum."
At that he cranked himself but no...
He couldn't get himself to go.
He merely whirred a bit inside
And gave a faint chug-chug, and died.

Now since his petrol tank was full,
They labelled him inflammable
And wisely saw to it that he
Was buried safely out at sea.
So if at any time your fish
Should taste a trifle oilyish
You'll know that fish have lately fed
On what remains of Ethelred.



Thank you for your contribution, Ian 😊



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
Ph: 02 6235 9523 Email: reception@snugglespetresort.com.au

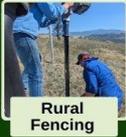
Call us to arrange an inspection of the facilities for true peace of mind!



Supa Gas supplies & BBQ bottles are now available from Combined Rural Services

COMBINED Rural Services

Michelago NSW 2620



Rural Fencing



Shearing & Crutching



Livestock Handling



Weed Spraying

RURAL CONTRACTING & FARM MANAGEMENT

combinedruralservices2620@gmail.com Ph: Will Kelly on 0400 706 264

We are now supplying Supa Gas in Michelago. Pick-up is 24 Ryrie Street, delivery also available upon request.

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 3 pm till 7 pm

Saturday: 8 am - 12 midday

For collection outside of these hours please call Will on 0400 706 264.




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Apprentice of the Year 2008 & 2009

M: 0423 004 799

Derek is Heritage-qualified and is painting the interior of the Michelago Railway Station. This project is funded by the Heritage NSW grant detailed pp. 7-11 and in previous Magpies.



HPR

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0458 845 123 | charles@hpr.net.au

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Clothing not quite fitting right?

Pants too long?



Jenny's Super Sewing is temporarily unavailable.

There's so much going on with Landcare and our natural environment this Spring. For all the news on the Growers Network, Koala Karaoke, Artists for Aquatic Action and more, access a link below. For now, here's an update on the dreaded European Wasp and a Chemical Cleanup.

European wasps

Georgeanna Story, UMLC

Are you concerned about European wasps? You are not the only one! European wasps are invading our backyards, impacting our lifestyle and can cause hospitalisation. We are also seeing an impact on our native invertebrates, especially our native pollinators. Control options are available, including poisoning nests, poison baits and pheromone lure traps. Like all pest control programs however, European wasp control is more effective when conducted at a landscape scale. Community control programs have proved successful at reducing European wasps across a region.

The Braidwood European Wasp Offensive has been running for a number of years and recorded a dramatic reduction in wasps. This community-driven program has proved so successful that Landcare, Bendigo Bank and QPRC have joined forces to expand the program across the Queanbeyan-Palerang region. We asked the community about their experiences with European wasps and 97% of people have had seen or had issues around their home. Three quarters of people were concerned about impact of the wasps on their lifestyle and impact on native bees and many have engaged in some form of control. Working with neighbours to maximise the impact of control also ranked highly.

The Landcare program aims to support coordinated wasp control across the region by providing wasp lure traps at cost. Lure traps contain pheromones that are specific for European wasps, thereby minimising any effect on native invertebrates and reducing the need to handle poison. Trap and lure will be available for \$25 at a series of collection sessions in Royalla, Queanbeyan, Carwoola and Bungendore. Dates and times will be advertised shortly.

upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com www.landcare.nsw.gov.au

www.facebook.com/uppermurrumbidgeelandcarecommittee



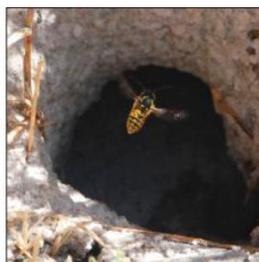
How to identify European wasps and find their nests



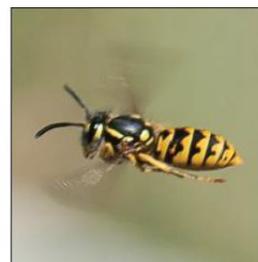
Black antennae,
bee-shaped body,
about 15mm



Feeding on human
and pet food



Flying in and out
of a single hole in
the ground



Raised legs
during flight



Household Chemical Clean-out: 30 November, 11 am–2 pm

Antia Brademann, Cooma Waterwatch



'Have you got a stash of old chemicals lurking in your garage or garden shed? It's time for a spring clean! This year's annual Household Chemical Clean Out will be on **30 November, 11–2pm** at the Cooma Landfill, 8448 Monaro Highway, Cooma.

The event gives residents of the Snowy Monaro Regional Shire an easy way to dispose of potentially hazardous materials safely and responsibly and free of charge. You can take household quantities of the following household chemicals and items, up to a maximum of 20 litres or 20 kilograms of a single item.

Accepted items include:

- Solvents and household cleaners
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Pool chemicals
- Motor fuels
- Fluorescent globes and tubes
- Acids and alkalis
- Paint and paint-related products
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Car and household batteries
- Motor oils and cooking oils
- Unknown/unlabelled chemicals can also be disposed of if following the clean-out disposal guidelines.

The Household Chemical Clean Out is a NSW EPA initiative to ensure that harmful chemicals are disposed of safely. This has many benefits, including preventing the risk of chemical spills that could pollute our environment and end in our waterways, affecting water users downstream. Even seemingly small spills can have a big impact. For example, one litre of oil can pollute a million litres of water. If disposed of properly, used oil can actually be cleaned and recycled for future use.

The upper Murrumbidgee catchment south of the ACT is one of the future sources of water supply for the Canberra region, and so local action to keep our catchment healthy will benefit many water users!'

For more information, go to <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Recycling-and-reuse/household-recycling-overview/household-chemical-cleanout> or call the Snowy Monaro Regional Council on 1300 345 345 or send an email to council's resource and waste team at council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au



And time to get ready for the Bake Off!





An important service for senior citizens



Commonwealth Home Support Programme

Council offers Snowy Monaro residents local access to Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services.

The CHSP is an Australian Government initiative that helps older people live independently in their own homes and communities.

How to get support

- Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 or visit www.myagedcare.gov.au
- You'll get a call to organise your assessment appointments
- If you're eligible, the final step is a home visit from Council for a property assessment and to establish your personalised care plan
- Your needs and required support services are reviewed once a year

Available services

- Personal care and support
- Light housework
- Meal preparation
- Meals on Wheels
- Shopping assistance
- Transport
- In-home or centre-based respite
- Social engagement
- Home maintenance
- Home modification

Eligibility

- Open to ages 65+, or 50+ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons
- Living at home and needing help to continue living independently

Learn more online at <https://qrco.de/CHSP>, or contact Council on 1300 345 345.



Wildcare communications@wildcare.com.au



Krystal Hemsworth, Communications Coordinator at Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc., would like to remind travellers of the hazards of native wildlife on our roads and how to manage the risks. The main points of her email to the *Magpie* are below.

Each year, Wildlife responds to hundreds of accidents involving native animals, mainly kangaroos, and is concerned to help keep us and our unique animals safe.

Kangaroos are most active during dawn and dusk, usually travel in mobs (so where there's one, there could be others) and can leap across roads unpredictably, so drive cautiously then. Note wildlife signs, placed where wildlife crossings are common, and slow down, especially around corners and along verges.

Don't swerve if one jumps in front of you, as you can lose vehicle control. Brake firmly and in a straight line.

If there's an accident, pull over safely and turn on hazard lights. If it's not safe to stop, note the location and call Wildcare as soon as it's safe to do so.

Check for injuries to yourself, your passengers and, from a safe distance, the animal. Do not approach an injured kangaroo, as they can be dangerous when scared or hurt. If the kangaroo is alive and injured or is deceased and a female, contact the 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on (02) 6299 1966 for assistance assessing the kangaroo or advice with checking the pouch.

L: Miracle boy Alphy, who came in as a pinky. Thanks to rescuer Shelby and carer Kylie.



R: Echidnas and wombats are on roads, too.



Michelago Memorial Hall

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.





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 can be read on www.michelagoregion.org.au

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Advertisements: businesses can purchase advertisement space for \$20.00 per issue (about a quarter or half a page, depending on space). Full-page ads are \$30. All proceeds help the MRCA maintain the heritage-listed Michelago Railway Station. Non-business ads are free.

Contributions: photos (jpg preferred, please) and news items are welcome. Please send them to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au Please give your name and put *Magpie* in the subject line. Published items will be attributed.

If you have events or activities planned and would like them listed in the *Magpie's* What's On? list, please email them to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au
The MRCA committee reserves the right to edit contributions for length and clarity.

Aims: to publicise community events and activities and promote community identity. Yes, the Facebook pages do that, but the *Magpie* tries to give a more cohesive, detailed picture, and one that builds up a Michelago history.

Photos and articles, unless otherwise accredited, are by Leanne Pattison, *Magpie* Editor.



Michelago Region 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 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.
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: 12 November. 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.

Advertise in the *Magpie*: contact the Editor newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

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

- **Choir** Thursdays, 7–8 pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St. Occasional cancellations: call Jenny 0400 484 485 to check.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com
- **Dance class for kids.** Unavailable this year. Recommencing 2026. 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 See p. 7.
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6pm. AGM 19 Nov. or contact memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au or 0494 178 469
- **Hall bookings** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au 0494 178 469. Current hire rates p.22.
- **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 4th) 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: 20 November.
- **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 general meeting 10 December.
- **Pilates** Saturdays, 9.30-10.15 am in school term. Hall. See 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 to check.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass 5.30, Saturday 29 November.
- **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.

- 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 in *Magpie* 41, pp. 14–15.

November

- 8–9 & 15–16. Annual Garage Sale Trail. Find out more: www.garagesaletrail.com.au
- 14. Local Land Services property planning event. Hall, 9 am to 3 pm. See pp. 11–12. Please register.
- 16. The Great Michelago Region Bake-Off. See p.1.
- 30. The Big Chemical Cleanout. See p. 13.



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