

~ Michelago Magpie 44 ~

3 December 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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The Great Michelago Region Bake Off



Clockwise from left: Josh Kunkler wins the 'Cake from your Homeland' award. Ian Hooley, auctioneer (Photo: J Dobkin). Entries in the 'Any other cake' category. Janet & John Kelly (Photo: J Dobkin).

Sunday, 16 November The Bake Off at the Michelago Railway Station was a big success. It seems that everyone loves cakes and baked variations. Many people crowded into the station's waiting room to look at and comment on the 53 anonymous, numbered entries before the judging and the auction.



At 11 am, the waiting room doors were closed for the two judges, Leanne Thurling and Rebecca Hooley, to start their very difficult task. They had to adhere to their two criteria of taste and texture and took tiny samples from each entry. Only the two entries in the 'Celebration or Novelty' category were judged on appearance.

Deciding the winner of the 'Cake from your Homeland' was the most difficult task. Josh's Baumkuchen (or German Tree Cake), a multi-layered taste sensation with almond, mascarpone, vanilla, flour, chocolate and amaretto, only just edged out the divine Basque Cheesecake.



Inevitably, some entrants were disappointed, especially children whose ingredients were mixed with heart, soul and high hopes. The youngest entrant, only 5, had worked hard on his biscuits' intricate icing patterns. All entries were appreciated and admired, but the judges had to make their hard decisions. If there's another Bake Off, there might be consolation prizes for young competitors who don't win.



Ian Hooley, auctioneer extraordinaire, urged the bidding upward amid laughter and friendly competition. The highest bid was \$55 for Catherine Kelly's fruit cake, the winner in that category.

MRCA President Kerry Rooney posted the following report on Michelago Facebook two days later.

We would like to thank our wonderful community for your very generous support of The Great Michelago Bake Off on Sunday. Thanks to you, we raised over \$1,000 to help replace the floor of the railway station porch.



We were surprised to receive over 50 entries and amazed at the quality of your bakes, from adults and children. As a result, judging was difficult and the auction took longer than expected. We are already thinking of ways to streamline the process for next year. Nevertheless, everyone really seemed to enjoy the chance to spend time with friends and family in the happy vibe of our freshly painted railway station.



Special thanks go to our judges Leanne Thurling and Rebecca Hooley for making the tough decisions, our auctioneer Ian Hooley who sold all the tempting treats and Abby McPherson and her Fire Brigade team for cooking us a BBQ lunch. Thanks also to the musicians, Brigitte and Sam. Finally, thanks to our organising team, Leanne Thurling, Leah Oliver, Leanne Pattison, Jenny Wholohan and Sally Hughes. [And Kerry Rooney –Ed.]

Congratulations to the Award Winners below AND congratulations to all the talented and magnanimous bakers who participated – you truly made our day a delight.

- Star Baker and Best Chocolate Cake: Coralee Kelly
- Best Celebration/Novelty Cake: Dale Hoh
- Best Fruit Cake: Catherine Turnbull
- Best Cake from your Homeland: Josh Kunkler
- Best Sponge: Kate Venables
- Best Cake in 'Other' Category: Janet Kelly
- Best Scones: Jing-ting Chan
- Best Slice: Anne-Louise Pollard
- Best Biscuits: Karen Marriner
- Best Gluten Free Cake: Anne-Louise Pollard
- Best Damper: Russell Toovey
- Best Kids Decorated Cup Cakes: Toby
- Best Kids Biscuits: Aurora
- Best Kids 'Other': Millie
- Raffle Winners: 1st prize Michael Scanlon, 2nd prize Kate Venables



Millie



Star Baker Coralee & Leanne Thurling



A few takes from the Bake Off. Photos: K Rooney & L Pattison



Pud was amazed at winning two prizes. The demonstration cake-decorating delicacy was gifted to young Harry. Michelago RFS Captain Abby, Brian Newby and Brien Hallett provided many BBQ lunches. Brigitte and Sam volunteered their musical talents and received gifts of home-made Christmas cake, pickles and jams from Leanne T.



Remembrance Day 11.11.2025



The weather was cool and windy but community hearts were warm at the Michelago Railway Station as we marked Armistice Day, the end of World War I, a war in which over 60,000 Australians lost their lives.

The small number of grown-ups was supplemented by the entire Michelago Public School. The students were a credit to themselves and their teachers.

Year 6 student Bracks read the traditional poem *In Flanders Fields*. Olivia and Charlotte, also in Year 6, laid a large bunch of flowers at the cenotaph.

Jenny Wholohan gave the memorial address, telling the story of her great-grandfather, who fought in France and was killed in action towards the end of the war. Her story is printed on p. 9.

L: Ivan Colaric, as always, made his floral tribute himself.

MRCA President Kerry Rooney was MC, also coordinating the playing of the Last Post, the Rouse and the National Anthem. Leanne Thurling lowered and raised the flag.

The orderly crocodile of children walked back to school and everyone else enjoyed morning tea in the station's freshly painted waiting room.



Above: Jenny reads the tribute story of her great-grandfather. Bracks reads In Flanders Fields. Leanne T. recites her poem Silence. Olivia and Charlotte lay the school's flowers.

Below: Cr Tanya Higgins and Ivan Colaric. Children were interested in Michael Fett's old army truck, a WWII 1944 Chevrolet C15A 'Blitz' 4WD, built as an artillery command vehicle. Three happy faces.



Christmas doings – see also [What's On](#) p. 20

14 Dec. St Patrick's Catholic Church Community BBQ 1pm for 2pm. BYO food, drinks. Santa visit.

13 Dec. 5.00 pm Carols at Park, Bredbo. Michelago Community Choir (p. 16)

24 Dec. Christmas Eve Mass, St Pat's, 7pm

Michelago Choir carols 2024 →

24 Dec. Christmas Eve, child-friendly Christingle service, 6 pm, St Thomas's Anglican Church





Major grant project completed at the Michelago Railway Station



Above: The north wall of the kitchen. From L: (1) All old, cracked plaster removed 20.2.25. (2) Plasterer Alistair's fine job 28.2.2025. (3) Painter Derek's fine job in prescribed Heritage colours 14.11.2025.



From L: Derek at work in the former ticket office.

Leah and Leanne P help re-hang the historical photos in the newly painted waiting room before Remembrance Day.

After Derek Bardsley's excellent painting, the MRCA Committee restored the photos and furniture in place ready for Remembrance Day.



L: The station's sign at the wedding of Therese Kelly & Craig Bingley, 17.2.24. (Photo: James Braszell)

R: The sign restored by Derek Bardsley in November 2025.



L: The station's kitchen door before restoration and painting, Nov 2019.

R: Myles Gostelow reconstructed the door early 2025. Derek Bardsley painted it Nov 2025.

(Door photos: K Rooney)

Thank you to Heritage NSW for a Caring for Heritage Grant. Thank you to UGL Regional Linx for matching the grant funding. Thank you to Alaistair Saunders, our plasterer, to Myles Gostelow, our carpenter, to Derek Bardsley, our painter, and to Pip Giovanelli, our heritage consultant.





Due to space constraints, this report on the Michelago Fire Brigade’s successful fundraiser in September had to be held over from the last bumper issue of The Magpie.

Now that we are well and truly in the fire season, here it is!

It was all hands to the tongs on the last Saturday in September (27th) as the Michelago Rural Fire Brigade held a fund-raising barbecue at Bunnings Tuggeranong.

Michelago Firies – and chefs – at the Bunnings grill: Captain Abby McPherson, Brian and Elspeth Newby, Chloe McPherson, Senior Deputy Captain Peter Butler, Deputy Captain Duncan McNeill and Treasurer Brien Hallett

It may have been Grand Final Weekend down south, but fine – if windy – Spring weather ensured a large turnout of customers eager to sample some \$1500 worth of sausages that ended up on the grill. And all were sold!

While figures are still being finalised, the fundraiser is set to bank a profit of more than \$3,000.

Brigade captain Abby McPherson said that while the New South Wales Rural Fire Service supplies vehicles and basic equipment, the brigade still relies on donations and funds raised from the community to provide other essential equipment such as torches, extra protective gear and welfare for our volunteer firefighters.

The brigade appreciates the support of Bunnings Tuggeranong in providing this opportunity.



Sponsorship from the Calwell Branch of the Bendigo Bank assisted in the purchase of sausages and helped improve the profit margin.

And a special shout-out to Belinda Hayes and the team at the Michelago General Store and Licensed Cafe for supplying industrial-scale quantities of tomato sauce.





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!



The little church has excellent acoustics. That's why it's the venue for choir practice. It's also central and available. Choir members usually leave a gold coin in appreciation.



Michelago Memorial Hall

At the Annual General Meeting of the S355 Hall Committee on 19 November, Returning Officer Brien Hallett declared the following officers elected: President Fiona Tollis, Secretary Naomi Walton, Treasurer Jenny Wholohon, Booking Officer Cath Cotter. Anna Lucas, Allan Lehepuu and Leanne Pattison continue as committee members.

Among other items, the committee agreed to (1) purchase a new net for the tennis courts to replace the one that's gone beyond being held up with plastic clips, and (2) ten palings to help hold up the fence on the left of the hall. The fence will eventually have to be replaced, but that major work will be Council's responsibility.

The S355 Committee has submitted a list of necessary major repairs to Council. The committee is responsible for minor repairs and purchases (see *Magpie 40*).

Here's the usual handy information about Hall hire.

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.



Local fund-raising events can hire the hall at a reduced fee.

The tennis courts are free for community members to use. The Hall Committee is responsible for minor maintenance of the tennis courts and clubhouse and asks that players who have tightened the nets before a game loosen them when they finish playing. Please also close the gates and take any rubbish with you. BBQs: please clean them after use. Instructions are on the side.



This is the story of my great-grandfather, Michael Joseph WHOLOHAN.

He was born in 1881 and lived in Ultimo, Sydney, with his wife Maud and their 5 children.

He enlisted on 23 July 1917 at age 36 with no previous military service. Like so many volunteer soldiers from Australia, he may have seen this as not only a service to his country, but probably his only chance to see something of the world.

Three months later, on 31 October, he left Sydney on board *HMAT Euripides*, bound for England, where he arrived 26 December, then marched to a training facility the next day.

Above: 'Saying good-bye, Port Melbourne, HMAT Euripides'. Image & caption: Australian War Memorial.

Whilst training in England, on 1 March 1918, Michael was found Guilty of being Absent Without Leave for 24 hours. He was admonished by Major Eckersley and punished with the loss of 1 day's pay (I imagine his wife Maud may not have been amused). Unfortunately, there are no other details about this like, why did he do it, was he alone, where did he go – we'll never know.

On 1 April, he was shipped to France, marched to the No.1 Overflow Camp at Calais and, 3 days later, attached to the 13th Infantry Battalion. This particular Battalion had been raised in Sydney in September 1914 as part of the 4th brigade under the command of then Colonel John Monash. The Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli, in the late afternoon of 25 April 1915, staying till being evacuated in December, and later being sent to the Western Front in June 1916 as part of the 4th Australian Division.

So, less than 6 months after leaving his wife and 5 children in Sydney, Michael was actively fighting on the fields of France.

This period 'in the field' included a battle at Hamel which proved a brilliant success for the Australian troops – all objectives were obtained and 1,400 German prisoners were captured as well as many weapons. Australian troops suffered 1,062 casualties and 800 were killed – all in just 2 hours!

Michael's time fighting in France lasted 11 weeks when, on 4 July 1918, he was involved in the action at Hamel and was killed by a shell.

Thankfully, the Australian Imperial Force records have on file a number of statements that were subsequently provided by other soldiers who were present at the time of his demise. Some words from a couple of them:

Pte T Brown – About 3.30am, after the objective had been gained and they were digging in, a shell burst near Wholohan and hit him badly in the leg. The informant of this was about 50

yards away and saw him shortly after he was hit. He was conscious and spoke to the informant who lifted his head up and gave him a drink. He also asked how he felt, and Wholohan replied 'I think I'm gone'. He later died at the Casualty Clearing Station.

Pte R Riddell – I saw him killed by a shell. He lived about one hour after being hit and was conscious almost to the end. He was constantly speaking of his wife and children ... A cross was erected and the Padre of the Battalion conducted the Service. I helped bury him beneath a row of trees near where he fell.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Unfortunately, we don't know many details of what happened to his wife Maud, but she must have received support to carry on with 5 children (possibly through Legacy and the local church). I certainly know that one of their sons, Joseph Abbott Burton Wholohan would grow up to marry Sylvia May Helsby (my grandparents) whose eldest son Burton was my Dad.

Michael Joseph Wholohan was just one of an immense number of people from Australia and other Allied countries who went to the other side of the world to fight in World War I. They were fighting, not only for their fellow Aussies then, but also for those of us here today. They knew that whatever their sacrifice ended up being, it was also for all of the generations that would follow. Which is why we must always Remember ... LEST WE FORGET.

Above: there are no photos of Jenny's great-grandfather Michael, but this one shows his son, Joseph, Joseph's wife, Sylvia, and Burton, who became Jenny's father.



Silence



A breeze across the poppy fields
The sounds of battle quiet
The ghosts of soldiers never leave
Mates forever by their side
In foreign lands they gave their lives
Their families left to grieve
We gather now to pay respect
And think of those now free
Stand still and straight this armistice
In silence at this hour
Remember those who gave their lives
For the peace we live with now.



Leanne Thurling



Michelago Cricket Club vs The Brewers – Clive Kelly Oval – 9 November

A breathless account of Round 3 ... (Round 4: see p. 15)

At 12.30, the opposition won the toss and elected to bat. At 2.30, after 35 overs, they were 8 for 151. Not bad for them. Not great for us. 'Gives us something to chase,' mused Captain Matt.

Nate, 'a cagey bowler', took 2 wickets, Phil 5, and Mo clean bowled a Brewer at 2.45. Then the last wicket was a celebrated run out. At 2.47, the Brewers were all out for 165.

3 pm. Michelago to bat. At 3.18, Tee (aka T-bone, aka Talal) was gone for 8. After 4 overs, we were 2 for 20. Then Mo hit a 4 ... and again! 'Bloody good cricketer, Mo.' Then oh, no! Big Phil was uncharacteristically out for a duck. At 3.25, we were 3 for 32 off 6 overs.

Mo kept slogging: a 6, a 4, another 4! Niv hit a beauty that was headed for a 4 but was chased to the boundary for 2 by a Brewer despite Captain Matt politely pleading 'Go, ball, go!'

At 3.45, we were 3 for 61. 'We need 100 to win,' said Matt.

Then Niv was out for 23 and we were 3 for 65. Sam hit an absolute screamer headed to the Dave Hanns fence but was caught by a flying Brewer on the boundary. Duck. At 5 for 67, Mo was caught behind for 30. 'We're in trouble,' said Matt.

At 4 pm and 6 for 71, new young players Tim and Zac ('the PH imports, yeah, played a bit of cricket at school') took the crease. Michelago held its collective breath, but the newbies did well. Tim hit a big one that stopped just short of a 4, so 2 runs.

At drinks, we were 6 for 77.

Some canny, varied bowling from the Brewers. At one point: 'Balls are keeping low, not bouncing on the pitch.' 'Yeah, that's where the stubbies are buried.'

Zac was out for 7 – 'a regulation catch in the gully' – then Tim the same at the 23rd over.

8 for 84. Mushi was out for 1. Then it was Ian and Ish batting and Ish hit a lovely 4 ...

But we were all out for 89 at 4.45 pm. Michelago lost by 70 runs to the Brewers' 165. A good, enthusiastic match, with the teams shaking hands, as usual, at the end.

Want to join in? Call Captain Matt on 0408 005 784. For the season's schedule, see *Magpie 43*.



Clockwise from R: Ian & Matt. Niv eating a chocolate bar at drinks. Sam packs up the kit at the end. Zac & Tim happy with their first match. Nate pads up. Niv batting.





Little Bush Bubs



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!



Senior Lunch Group



The group meets on the first Monday of the month at 12.30 for lunch and a sociable get-together.

They sample cuisine at different local venues and sometimes bring their own to share at the Michelago Railway Station. To find out the next place, call Janet Kelly 0414 785 865.

They're casual, friendly meetings that initiate and maintain community links. All seniors and not-so seniors are all welcome.

L: November's lunch at the Bredbo Inn celebrated Janet's birthday with a cake made by Coralee, who won the Star Baker award at the Great Michelago Region Bake Off.



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Wild wind woe



26 November. Tempestuous winds tore down trees around the district.

The eucalypt at the front of Cheryl Kenyon’s house was halved (*Left*). It was there when she and Brian came to the village, so it’s more than 50 years old. The fallen half just missed the letterbox and fence.



Will Kelly and Josh Kunkler were emergency help to clear the road. Josh also lopped

the cypress overhanging Cheryl’s shed to forestall further likely damage.

Another tree casualty was next to Tinderry Rd (*Right*). *Photo: Allan Lehepuu.*

The huge cypress overhanging St Patrick’s Church is safe for the moment, but a minor poplar fell on the front fence – a warning. The cost of removing the big cypress is awaiting approval from the parish finance committee in Queanbeyan.

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Michelago Cricket Club, Michelago's only sporting team – come and support

Check out the fortnightly matches and results at www.ACTSocialcricket.com/a-grade/

Clive Kelly Oval – Round 4 – 23 Nov. Opposition: the CMCC Tuskers.

Even though there were a few missing this week, Captain Matt found 11 for a team (including himself and Ish, who interrupted a house-move to come). They batted first and played with their usual deceptively casual commitment to win by 13 runs.

After the first innings, in which the Tuskers helpfully dropped 5 catches, they needed 112 to win. Niv, Phil, Mo, Clay and Mushi's fierce bowling got them all out for 98 by 4.45. Young Mushi took the final wicket, to great celebration. There was some snappy fielding, including an amazing one-handed catch by Tee on the boundary. We all watched it arcing over ... and, yes!

Next home game is against The Hazara Gliders in Round 5 on 7 December.

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



Above: Niv (seated) and Phil keeping score while not being demon bowlers.



L: The teams always line up to shake hands and thank their opponents for a good match. That's cricket.



Garden Group – 23 November

Jenny Wholohan



At Lyn's Bredbo property, we all had a great time, starting with a walk around both the established and new (in progress) gardens. Lyn has put in a huge effort, not only in gardening, but in her many metal sculptures to add even more interest.

We spent most of the afternoon doing some propagation from cuttings. For some, this was their first go at creating new plants. A lot of knowledge was passed on.

In the new year, we hope to visit a couple of other gardens and do more on propagation and other gardening topics, if not in late January, then definitely in February. *L: Lyn with a garden installation made from old shovels.*



Thank you

Thank you to the generous donors who keep the appeal boxes at the General Store filling up. The Michelago Railway Station and *Maggie* sales boxes both support the station's upkeep. The Michelago Fire Brigade and the Michelago Public School's P&C always need support, too.

On 23 November, the MRCA banked \$188.80 from the Railway Station and *Maggie* boxes.



Bredbo Carols in the Park 2025!

FREE ENTRY
Bredbo Park
13th December

Crafts for the kids from 4pm.

Carols from 5pm with Cooma District Band Michelago Choir

Santa approx. 6pm

BYO food, drinks and chairs/ picnic blanket!

Santa gifts to the hall by 11th Dec, \$20 limit!



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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 gives snake advice for country folk

Krystal Hemsworth
Communications Coordinator

Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc.
communications@wildcare.com.au
www.wildcare.com.au



[Photos and their captions were also supplied by Wildcare. –Ed.]

Spotting a snake in your yard, near a shed or out in the paddock can be startling but it's actually something to celebrate. What you're witnessing is a timid and often misunderstood native animal going about its normal routine.

Snakes are so shy and nervous, with no interest in humans they simply see us as a threat. Instead, it's an opportunity to consider why it might be there.

Snakes spend time in areas that provide food, shelter and water, and if your property offers these resources, it's an inviting place for them to pass through.

Removing a single snake will not solve the issue if the underlying attractants remain. Another snake will simply move in - and you may never see that one. The most effective way to reduce the risk of unwanted encounters is to make your property less welcoming to prey animals such as rats and mice, and less accessible to snakes seeking shelter.

- Reduce things that attract vermin: accessible grain, chook food, rubbish, and open compost.
- Remove hiding spots: loose sheets of tin, holes in shed walls, piles of bricks or timber.
- Improve visibility: trim bushes about 30 cm above the ground to help you see where you are stepping.

Be sure to dress appropriately when working outside - loose leg jeans and solid boots are a good start, and don't put your hand anywhere you cannot see into. If you do encounter a snake, what you should do depends on where it is.

- Outside in the open: from a safe distance, you can gently encourage it to move on with a gentle spray from the hose.
- Inside a shed: especially those with dirt floors or gaps, the snake often knows exactly how to slip away and is likely already gone.
- Inside your house: close the door, place a towel under it, remove pets and children, and call for help.

Keeping the snake in sight is crucial. If you can keep eyes on the snake until a rescuer arrives, they will have a better chance of removing it.

Snakes are an important part of our ecosystems, and Wildcare is able to rescue, rehabilitate and release native snakes. If you need help with a snake, call out 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966 and one of our trained and licensed snake rescuers can help.

To provide critical care to sick, injured and orphaned native animals across our 22,000km² service area, Wildcare relies on the generous donations from the community. These donations are crucial to continue this service.

If you are able to support our mission, please consider donating to our public trust. Go to www.wildcare.com.au for full details.



L: Snakes are just passing through, much like this Eastern Brown snake.

R: Rocky the Tiger Snake was rescued from a drain earlier this year and recently released back into his local habitat.



Magpie P.S. How to treat a snake bite? Google yielded several sites with similar advice, e.g. www.stjohnwa.com.au This site has clear points about what to do, what not to do, and signs and symptoms of a snake bite. Worth a look if you're unsure what to do. At least, for the shopping list, it seems we must have several elasticised pressure bandages on hand.



Monaro Rail Trail

The MRT Inc. updated the MRCA in early October on their plans. The email includes the following information.

'It seems a long time ago now, but in August 2015, the Monaro Rail Trail proposal became a formal organization – MRT Inc. Ten years later, has anything happened? Well, yes.

Bombala at the southern end of the proposed trail is the first point of construction and at the northern end, the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council has applied for funding to construct 20 km of trail. Meantime, some of the historic timber rail bridges in the rail corridor have been lost to demolition.

However, interest in rail trails grows and, in this newsletter, we tell you of a new informal group of rail trail enthusiasts who have formed up to lobby not only for the nine RT proposals in southern NSW but for all RT proposals in NSW.

Thank you for your interest! *Photo: Monaro Rail Trail site*



There's more on the MRT website <https://www.monarorailtrail.com.au/>

The site includes information on the Bombala grant, bridges, another grant application, rail trails for Southern NSW and meetings with councils QPRC and SMRC.

The website includes the link to the media release from Snowy Monaro Regional Council:

'On 20th February 2025, Snowy Monaro Regional Council resolved to reinstate investigations into the feasibility and potential future construction of the Monaro Rail Trail (MRT) Project. This decision has been welcomed by trail supporters throughout the region in recognition of the economic, recreation and social benefits the trail will bring to local communities.'

[Read the Media Release](#)

Magpie comment on the above Rail Trail Inc. item:

At its November meeting in Bombala, the SMR Council received and noted a report about contamination that had been commissioned by the Council as part of its due diligence process for the construction of 3.5 to 5 kms of rail trail at Bombala. The Council also agreed to release the report for public viewing. In summary the report appears to contain nothing to prevent the project from proceeding. *Magpie* understands that Council will now need to prepare a business case for the NSW Government.

It is very interesting to read that no section of the Bombala rail trail will be constructed in the Bombala rail heritage precinct. There are two benefits to this: it avoids disturbance of the old infrastructure which could potentially disturb contaminants now safely buried. The second benefit is the preservation of the heritage structures which are part of the region's valuable transport history. *Magpie* assumes this would also apply to Michelago, if and when the rail trail comes through. One would hope that this would see the proposed Monaro Rail Trail circumventing the heritage listed railway precincts along the whole corridor.



[Creek weed control by Landcare](#)

[Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee](#)



Georgeanna Storey, Landcare coordinator, notified Michelago Landcare on 28 November that the team had finished working on the blackberry and small willows along the Michelago creek's crown land and would then move down towards the river.

She added: 'There were some substantial blackberry bushes that will hopefully show signs of dying off over the next couple of weeks.'

The contractor, Matt Kent, was then going to 'tackle some of the serrated tussock, St John's wort and African lovegrass from behind the oval to the railway bridge.'

upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com 0429 779 928

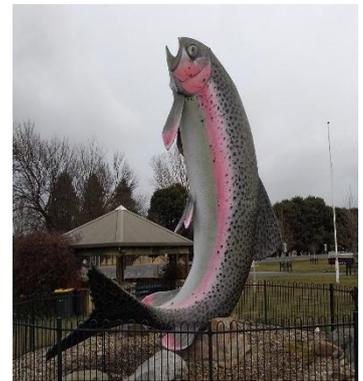
Sign up to the newsletter of Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare: [Newsletter](#)



What is Michelago's Big Thing?

It's a big country and it's full of 'Big Things'.

There's The Big Prawn at Ballina, The Big Potato at Robertson (Photo credits: visitnsw.com), The Big Pineapple (Credit: Alizada Studios), The Big Lobster (Credit: en.wikipedia.org), The Big Banana at Coff's Harbour, The Big Cane Toad (Credit: Mackay Region), The Big Bullock in Rockhampton (Credit: Tourism Events Queensland), The Big Melon at Chinchilla, The Big Trout at Adaminaby (Credit: Said Swans – own work CC BY 4.0, https) There's a Big Galah somewhere. (Actually, some say there are big galahs everywhere.)



Now Bredbo, our neighbour, known as The Village of Poplars, has The Big Poplar. It's an impressive sculpture in the Bredbo Park, near the tennis courts. It's 7 metres tall and 1.8 metres wide. A real landmark.

Come on, Michelago. Don't be left out. Think local, think big. Is there a Big Thing here already? Should there be one? If so, what could it be?

Send suggestions, photos or maybe sketches of what you envisage to the *Magpie* at newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au

← *The Big Poplar*

Public Notice

Council's 2024/2025 Financial Statements

Issued Wednesday 5 November 2025

In accordance with Section 418 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), Snowy Monaro Regional Council advises that the ordinary Council meeting to be held on Thursday 20 November 2025 will include the presentation of Council's audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Reports for the year ended 30 June 2025.

A summary of the Financial Statements is provided below. Round brackets indicate a negative number.

Due to email formatting limitations, please [visit Council's website](#) for the full Financial Statements summary table.



	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
Income Statement		
Total income from continuing operations	126,809	129,485
Total expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	100,365	71,369
Operating result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	26,444	58,116
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	28,903	28,084
Net operating result for the year	(2,459)	23,935
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(40,584)	(14,821)
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	102,880	125,282
Total current liabilities	(24,780)	(46,221)
Total non-current assets	1,760,159	1,643,752
Total non-current liabilities	(37,918)	(33,058)
Total equity	1,800,341	1,689,755
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	4.13	3.11
Operating performance ratio (%)	(28.22)%	(8.19)%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	3.27	22.36
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	9.90%	8.29%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	52.30%	147.43%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	52.41%	47.58%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	13.54	13.48



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 – please join/renew.



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: 10 December. 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
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings** memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au 0494 178 469. Current hire rates p.8.
- **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: No info for Dec.
- **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.

December

- Sun. 7. Michelago C.C. vs Hazara Gliders A @ Michelago. 12.30 until done. Round 5.
- Sat. 13. Michelago Community Choir sing carols, Bredbo, Bredbo Park 5 pm.
- Sun. 14. St Patrick's Community BBQ 1pm for 2 pm. BYO food & drinks. Santa visit.
- Wed. 24. Christmas Eve Vigil. 7 pm. St Patrick's Catholic Church.
- Wed. 24. Christmas Eve. 6 pm. St Thomas Anglican Church. Christingle Service, child-friendly.



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