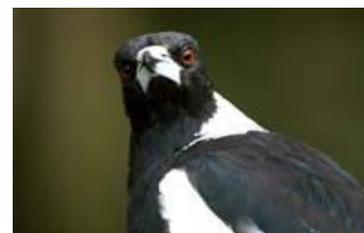


# Michelago Magpie 45 ~

28 January 2026

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**

**In this Magpie:** Bank of Bins 1. More rubbish info 2. Michelago Cricket Club 4 (Round 7 p.4. Round 6 p.5. Round 5 p.6). Dung Beetles 7. Australia Day 9. UGL inspection 10. Michelago's Christmas 11. Michelago or Michelangelo? 12. More services, greater choice 13. Forgotten River 14. SMRC Draft Property Review & Rationalisation Strategy 16. Home Support for Seniors 19. Grassland Detectives (LLS) 20. Station's portico floor 21. Memorial Hall 21. Choir 22. The fire season ahead 22. Magpie & MRCA info 23. What's On? 24.

**Services:** Craft supplies & workshops, Plumber, Painter, Chimney Sweep, YLess4U, Real Estate.

**Come to support your local cricket team's last home game for the season: p.4.**

**Michelago Bank of Bins: issues, measures and meeting with Council**



**One complaint about noise.  
Just one.**

After that complaint to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Council reduced access hours in response to the EPA directive to reduce noise. The EPA has the legislated power to mandate environmental requirements.

The EPA has decreed that the Michelago Bank of Bins (BoB), one of 14 banks of bins across the Snowy Monaro Regional Council (SMRC) region, will be closed if SMRC does not take further noise-reduction measures.

It is taking Council time to introduce the other measures recommended by the noise consultant who inspected the site.

These measures are: card access instead of a code for registered users, restricted access hours, a restricted parking area and a fence between the parking area and Rylie St.

**Saturday 10 January, 8 am to 12.** Mayor Chris Hanna, Deputy Mayor Tricia Hopkins, Councillor Tanya Higgins, Tony Murray (Chief of Community Services), Sophie Schlachter (Resources and Waste Services Administration) and Dayna Green (Education Engagement Officer) were at the BoB to answer questions from people who rely on the BoB for their rubbish collection and are concerned about the implications of the measures that SMRC has to take. Of the c.110 BoB registered users, 27 came, all with reasonable worries about access means, access hours, cost and, of course, any impact on their rates.

**Above, from top: 1. Julie & Aldo talk with Sophie and Tony. 2. Stanton & Rebecca read the FAQ sheet (p.3)**



**The FAQ sheet on p.3** has been sent to registered users. It answers the questions asked of the Council representatives, but most people at the meeting particularly emphasised the rates issue.

The cost of the noise-reduction measures will **not** be passed on to BoB users. Funds to ensure compliance with the EPA's 'request' will be from the existing Resources and Waste Fund.

The reason for the change from a keycode number to an access card system is to stop access to the BoB outside the hours 8am–6pm.

Otherwise, there would be nothing to prevent anyone from using the BoB at any time, day or night.

The access card will also stop the assumed code-sharing.

The Council staff stated that this apparent sharing has led to (a) people who don't pay for the rubbish collection using the facility and (b) an excessive amount of rubbish for Council workers to collect weekly.

*R: 1. Cr Tanya Higgins and Sophie Schlachter.*

*2. Tricia, Mayor Chris Hanna and Tony Murray inspected the BoB and were happy with users who had flattened their cardboard boxes.*



## **The EPA?**

To know more about the EPA and its powers, go to [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

For a start, try clicking on Licensing and Regulation. It's a big area.

For topical info, you could enter 'noise' into the search bar and find 'Read what you can do about noise pollution in your area and the rules around noise.'

Further, you'll find: 'Noise is a concern for many people in NSW. Many calls to the [EPA's Environment Line](#) are about excessive noise near people's homes or workplaces, especially late at night and in the early morning.'

And, helpfully, 'The impacts of noise depend on the noise level, its characteristics and how it is perceived by the person affected.'



## **More rubbish stuff**

A pre-Christmas email from Council had, apart from pleas to squash down wrapping and packing material from all your presents, links to its site for helpful advice about its rubbish facilities.

'We've got everything from simple bin guides you can print out ... through to full waste management policies and strategies.

Head to <https://qrco.de/wasteinfoSMRC> and have a click around. You might be surprised about what you find.' (There's also [handy info](#) re batteries, recycling centres and 'tricky waste types'.]



# Changes at Michelago B.O.B

## Frequently asked questions

### **When will the access code stop working?**

The code will stop working once the access card system commences operation. The current implementation go-live date is Monday 9 February 2026.

### **Will there be changes to how often the bins are emptied?**

No, there will be no changes to collections schedule.

### **What is the initial cost of the card?**

\$100 deposit, refundable upon return and cessation of service.

### **What is the replacement cost if I lose my card?**

\$20 replacement for a new physical card, and the lost card will be deactivated.

### **When can we purchase and receive our access cards?**

From Friday 16 January, you can pay for your card by phone (card posted to you) or in person at the Cooma Council Office (collect card on the spot).

### **How many cards can a household have?**

Each household is limited to one card to help ensure cards are only used by paying community members.

### **Will the opening hours stay the same with the card system?**

Yes, the hours will remain the same (8am – 6pm). In the future, we may adjust the hours based on community feedback and EPA approval.

### **Is the Bank of Bins charge going to increase in the next financial year?**

Yes, the Bank of Bins charge will increase next financial year, as it does annually in line with CPI and other rates. The exact amount hasn't been set yet and will be published and placed on public exhibition as part of the draft 2026–2027 Fees and Charges, for community feedback.

### **What happens if I leave my card, or card and keys inside the shed and then exit the shed?**

Call Council on 1300 345 345, and we can unlock the door remotely for you.

### **Where should I park after the fence has been installed?**

Council asks that residents park off Burra Rd, on the north side of the shed, only. Please do not park on the Rylie St side.

24/7 Customer service line

1300 345 345

PO Box 714 COOMA NSW 2630

E [council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)

W [www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)





## Michelago Cricket Club, Michelago's only sports team, now in A Grade, the country cousins in the ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association

**Last home game is 1 Feb: Michelago vs Nine Inch Bails at Michelago. Please come and support the team. Bring a chair and maybe your barracking voice to Clive Kelly Oval. Have a picnic or bbq. The game starts at 12.30 and goes until it finishes.**

**If we win it, we'll make the semi-finals. And then ... the finals? DARE TO DREAM!**

There are a few matches to catch up on since *Magpie 44*, but we'll start with the most recent one, Round 7, played Sunday, 18 January. Because we won 😊

Then we'll time-travel back for Round 6 and Round 5 for the Cricket Tragic.

### Round 7: Michelago vs Pumpin Booty (really) at Gordon – 18 January

Michelago wins the toss, elects to bat and is off to a sizzling start, with Nathan on 44 before being stumped, Mo out for 28 and the score at drinks 6 for 121.

Adam and Shane settle in for a steady partnership with some neat defensive play enlivened by three 4s from Adam and one from Shane.

At 2.12, we have 132. Nice. Need more. At 2.25, 9 overs to go. Niv Turner umpiring. Another driving 4 from Shane at 2.40, then steady, steady, then another 4 at 3.04.

No! Adam edges it to first slip ... who drops it. Whew! Adam's on 24 with four overs to go.

Shane takes a risky run, not quite back to his crease ... sharp intake of breath – will it be a Cameron Green? Snappy fielding by the Booties, but no, Shane makes it home, just.

The runs are adding up. Slow and steady.

Adam's clean bowled at 29 and not pleased, but no batter ever is. He's done well.

*R: Matt records the batting order.*

Young Mushi, a demon bowler, is rashly out for 2. Captain Matt shakes his head. 'I tell them, wait for the ball you like. No penalty for letting it go. But the young ones are like "See ball, hit ball."'

Sam starts with a high 4 and ends the innings with 6 not out.

Total: 197.

*R: a team huddle after taking a wicket.*

Michelago bowling. Their first batter is run out by Sam. Then their two bats do the slow and steady thing, gradually building runs. 'Soaking up the overs, but they could find themselves short at the end,' muses Matt. At 3.50, they have 25 runs off 7 overs. 6 balls in an over.

Mo, Mushi, Shane, Koran and Phil attack but the opposition holds. At 4.30 drinks, they need 107 to catch us. It's doable. The game's in the balance. Phil says, 'They've got a couple of batsmen who know which end of the bat to hold.' Now *there's* a problem!

Lots of field talk, the boys supporting each other. Good teamwork.

Out! Bowled Shane, caught Nathan. Matt: 'A lazy shot. This bloke doesn't want to score.'



*The Magpie was there.*



Now they start belting the ball, taking risks to raise the run rate.

Mo gets two wickets, one an lbw. Then he cleverly works on keeping the runs down 'by putting the ball where it's hard to hit,' says Matt, so there are lots of dot balls (i.e. no runs). At 5.35, they'll need 34 runs from the last over. It's gettable. Maybe.

*R: Mushi bowling.*

Out! Bowled Koran, caught Adam. 12 balls left. Then Mushi gets two out, the second caught by Shane. We have one wicket in hand, i.e. we need one more and they'll be all out. And they need 14 off the last over to win ... nah? Matt is pacing the boundary, urging. 'Come on, boys, come on.' He'd be chewing his fingernails but for keeping his hands in his pockets in the biting wind.

And Adam clean bowls on the second last ball! We win by 10 runs.

**Final scores:** Michelago 8 for 197, Pumpin Booty 10 for 187.



*Above: Mo, Adam, Koran  
Clockwise from bottom: 1. The teams shake hands at the end.  
2. The Michelago camp.  
3. The Pumpin Booty camp (a friendly lot).*



### Round 6: 11 January – Michelago vs CMCC Allstars

The other lot won: 10/202 to Michelago's 10/132 at O'Connor, but the score doesn't tell the full story. The *Magpie* was absent (so no pics). Captain Matt has kindly supplied this report.

*Matt Williams*

'We won the toss and elected to bowl. Had them 6 for 80 at drinks then bowled them out for 202 in the 38<sup>th</sup> over. Did not get off to a good start, losing a few wickets early. We had a new player join us this week, Blake Faunce. WOW, this kid can play!

We were 9 for 52 then Blake got started and was hitting the ball to all areas of the ground with ease. At one point it looked like he was going to win the game single handedly. He ended up 96 not out.

We ended up getting bowled out in the 30<sup>th</sup> over, 69 runs short. We were missing a few of our top order batsmen this week with work commitments, so that didn't help.

We will be back next week at full strength and, with young Blake wielding the willow the way he does, I think we can give the finals a real good shake this season.

We will be back at Michelago for our last home game of the year on Sunday 1 February.

Would be good to see some local support at the ground for the last game.'

[P.S. Blake wasn't available for the Round 7 game, but will be back for Round 8 at Michelago, our last home game before the semi-finals. Do come along and support the locals –Ed]



#### Round 5: Michelago vs Hazara Gliders – 7 December

Y' know, it's pretty demoralising when a team you've defeated before in a fair game turns up and utterly trounces you.

You go along to the village green (or brown, atm) for the usual entertaining game of give-and-take of social cricket. One in which everyone's cheerful, willing to have a go, supportive. Everyone gets a go. Old and young, spring chickens, ageing roosters. Some winners, some losers. Both teams appreciating each other's efforts. Great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. And what do you find?

The opposition, on the day, had one outstanding bowler. He took out seven of our players. All bowled out. 'Basically unplayable,' said Matt. 'This guy,' said Adam (or possibly Niv), 'could land a ball in the middle of a sheet of A4 paper, wherever you put it.'

We were one short, but it didn't matter in the end. Captain Matt played (despite the bad knee) and top-scored with 10.

Big Phil took 2 wickets in his first over. Hope bloomed. Then Shane took one. 'Thought we were on for a bit there,' said Matt.

Michelago batted first and made a total of 44 runs. The Gliders overtook that with 47 and the loss of only 3 wickets.

All over by 2 pm. Roosters to feather dusters. Until next time. Have a beer and go home to watch the Test.

Bright spot: a new player, Hiru, came along to check us out. He'd read about the team in the *Maggie*.

In this social cricket, sometimes people aren't available – family, other sport, moving house ... all the usual life stuff – so we need more players.

If you've ever played this great game and would like to enjoy it again, call Matt on 0408 005 784. You'll be very welcome.

Or just roll up with a chair and drink and possibly a picnic to support your local team. It's very casual and sociable and you get some vicarious exercise.



*Thoughtful Niv and Matt*

*R: The Hazara Gliders were happy with the Round 5 result. Of course they were.*

**Remaining games:**

Round 8: 1 Feb vs Nine Inch Bails at Michelago (last home game)

Round 9: 15 Feb vs MHF Brewers at Hughes 103

Semi-finals 1 March ...

[www.actsocialcricket.com/a-grade/](http://www.actsocialcricket.com/a-grade/)



**Dung beetles for soil salvation**

*Matt Trevenar*

I bought my property on Micalago Rd at the end of 2024. Upon first viewing the property and neighbouring properties in the area I had a vision of what I wanted my land to look like and what I wanted to do in the future with it. Problem was, where to start?

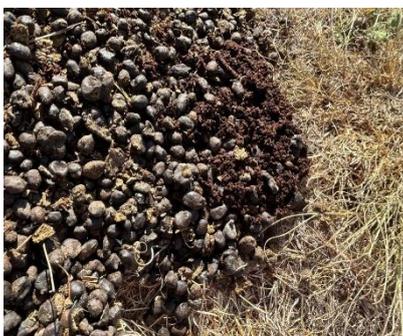


After spending weeks on my trusty little Husqvarna and Toro mowers in the scorching heat to cut back the waist high weeds and grass, I then spoke to Markus at Michelago Landcare to walk me through exactly what I had growing on the land. Turns out it was mainly serrated tussock, and the bane of our existence – Lovegrass.



After doing some research on the pest of the grass we all know and despise, I contacted a rural contractor who suggested using fluproponate to kill the weeds. I took his suggestion on board and after nearly choking on the cost at the register when purchasing the product, I bit the bullet, telling myself this is what needs to happen to fulfill my vision.

I got myself a little boom sprayer and attached it to my quad bike and off I went, full of hope.



After going through the first amount of poison and only getting half of the front end of the property poisoned, I again had to go and get more, really hurting my positive attitude and giving me serious doubts.

On the way home from the store, I remember thinking there must be a better way of doing this, as I cannot keep bleeding money!

I started doing some research at home after work, such as searching on the web and watching YouTube videos and finally I watched an episode of Landline on ABC where I came across a man talking about regenerative land care and farming practices.

In this episode, he was talking about the benefits of Dung Beetles. After watching the episode and absorbing the information he shared, I thought, 'What a great idea. This is possibly what I'm looking for!' *From the top: 1. Matt has widespread Scotch thistle, serrated tussock and lovegrass. 2. A scoop of beetles in their medium ... 3. and onto the poo pile.*



I did a bit of research on this guy who turned out to be John Feehan, an ex-CSIRO scientist who had over 60 years' experience with Dung Beetles.

His research shows that Dung Beetles are not only Earth's little garbage disposables, but they also aerate the land and unlock phosphate previously stored in the ground, which not only do we rely on for food production, but for it encouraging natural grasses to return to the land by relocation of nitrogen and phosphorus.

There were also many other positive benefits for the land.

After reading all the information I could regarding the beetles, I remembered something Markus had mentioned to me a few months earlier regarding the effect alpaca manure had on the love grass and tussock and I thought to myself, 'I wonder?'

I decided then that I was going to trial conventional 'nuking' on the section of land I had already poisoned but would try the rejuvenation on the other part of the land.

I contacted John Feehan and had a chat to him about whether Dung Beetles would be suitable in our area. He assured me these little guys would be beneficial in any part of Australia, and how much they would save me in the long run as, after a few years, I would have almost no need to drench livestock, as the beetles would decimate the parasites in the manure and land and rejuvenate my property, along with destroying the fly population.

I was sold; I put in an order for approx. 1200 beetles right there and then!

I released the beetles on 17 December 2025 with the goal of not only improving my property but with the hope that the beetles would spread and hopefully create new colonies all over Michelago, thus benefitting the entire community, especially the farmers in the area.

For more information, use this website: <https://dungbeetleexpert.com.au/>

[Matt obtained some alpaca poo from 'Pacawoolly' in Clearview Rd. –Ed]

---

### More information about Dung Beetles

<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/insects/dung-beetles/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/21/country-diary-the-sacred-giants-of-the-dung-beetle-world#img-1>



*L: Dung Beetles make poo into balls, roll them to their burrow and lay eggs in them. The larvae eat the poo.*

[National Geographic kids](#)

*Photo: Beverly Joubert*

Wikipedia also has much information.



## Australia Day 2026, Clive Kelly Oval

Calm weather. Convivial company. Music. Traditional bbq of Aussie sausages and onions. Coffee van and lamingtons. Whip cracking. Junior tennis. About 40 people. Perfect. Thanks to bbq team of Kerry, Tony, Sally, Elizabeth and Leannes. Thanks to Council for financial support.



Photos: K Rooney and L Pattison

So much to enjoy! Gymkhana 31 Jan, 1 Feb & MCC's last home game 1 Feb.



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**Michelago Pony Club**



Above: the perfect cricket setting at Clive Kelly Oval.

The gymkhana events start 9.30 am Saturday. The flag spectacular starts Sunday at 8.30 am. The cricket starts 12.30 pm. Which team bats or bowls first depends on the toss.



## The landlord inspects the station

Kerry Rooney

On Tuesday 20 April, Alan Bennett from UGL Regional Linx carried out the annual inspection of the Michelago Railway Station.

Alan inspects every railway station in NSW on behalf of UGL, from the large stations that are on active rail lines, to little ones like ours where, sadly, the trains stopped years ago.



While he noted plenty more work to be done, Alan explained that Michelago gets accolades in UGL for our management of the station.

Photos of our railway station are on rotation internally in UGL with other well-managed examples.

*L: Alan, with MRCA President Kerry Rooney, inspects the asbestos boards of the former signal box.*

## Beautiful craft supplies and workshops



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We offer a curated range of sustainable and ethically made fibre art supplies. Chosen for their quality, sustainability, and connection to traditional craft, helping you create beautiful, lasting pieces.

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Get in touch for free local pick up in Michelago Village.

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[www.thislushcorner.com](http://www.thislushcorner.com)





## Michelago's colourful, clever and musical Christmas



There were more decorations around the village but, unfortunately, there are no photos of those.

Photos of interesting items or events can be sent to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au) (jpg preferred, please).



The Community Choir's Christmas Carol Walk along Ryrie St in lovely weather was a joyful event. Many watchers, including children, joined in. Choir members were delighted.

*Choir photos: Allan Lehepuu and Leah Oliver*





## Michelago or Michelangelo?

A friend emailed: 'When I googled how far away from Canberra you are, I got this most hilarious summary from AI. It is just oh so helpful!

If you bump into Michelangelo over Xmas, do try and get a selfie!!'

*' "Michelago" most commonly refers to a historic village in the Monaro region of New South Wales, Australia, south of Canberra, known for its rural charm, outdoor activities and past railway significance, though it could also be a misspelling of the famous Renaissance artist Michelangelo (Buonarroti).*

*The Australian village offers hiking, biking, and a quiet escape, preserving heritage buildings and rural landscapes, while the artist Michelangelo created masterpieces like the Sistine Chapel and David, deeply rooted in Catholic faith.'*

### Have you seen this man?



Possibly loitering confusedly at St Patrick's Catholic Church, waving a paintbrush at the undecorated ceiling, muttering 'Non è La Sistine, but it'll do.'

*R: St Pat's, Michelago*

*L: Mug shot of Michelangelo by Daniele da Volterra, c. 1545*



## Need a plumber? You need Charles.



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E: [Charles@hpr.net.au](mailto:Charles@hpr.net.au)



## More services, greater choice

Michelago is fortunate. There is now greater choice in food, household convenience items, small gifts and other services. The Licensed Café and Store (aka the Shop) and the Service Station (aka the Servo) have expanded their offerings to the community and passers-by and have further interesting plans.

The Shop – Belinda Hayes, owner and manager

*Photos from Facebook. Credit unknown.*



- Bingo with prizes: first Monday monthly, from 2 Feb. Dinner & Happy Hour 6–7 pm. 7–8/8.30 Bingo. Come for dinner, you play for free. If just to play, \$20 pp.
- Open 7 days: 8 am to 6 pm weekdays, 8 am to 4 pm weekends. Kitchen closes 2.30 pm.
- Excellent coffee available all the time.
- Australia Post mail collectible after processing.
- Stock: bread, milk, eggs, some meats and the basics you need.
- Lunch orders for the primary school children.
- Stockfeed basics again after the shed gets some TLC.



The Servo – Om Kumer Bhatt ('Call me Om'), new owner, and Amit, manager



As well as a fresh, clean look and a wider range of convenience goods, there's a new coffee machine and plans to serve hot food. Children are reportedly excited about the slushie machine.

Open 6 am to 8 pm, weekends 7 am to 7 pm.

*Photos: K Rooney*





## **'The Forgotten River An open letter from the Upper Murrumbidgee River'**

<https://australianriverrestorationcentre.cmail20.com/t/d-l-giduhjk-hrkrqllty-r/>

*[This organisation is asking for letters of support to pressure politicians. They don't seem to be asking for money. Follow the link above for more information and to read some of the letters. The following item was forwarded by a Magpie subscriber –Ed]*



**To the people who depend on me,**

**I wrote to you once before, when I was running dry. You listened. You spoke up. You fought for me. And together, you secured commitments that were meant to keep me alive.**

**I am writing to you now because those commitments have not been honoured.**

**I am the Upper Murrumbidgee River. I flow from the mountains, through gorges, valleys, and open plains, sustaining your communities along the way.**

**I am the ACT's third-largest source of drinking water. I support farms, families, and livelihoods across this region. Critically endangered Macquarie perch live in my waters, alongside Murray cod, platypus, and rakali.**

**For thousands of years, I have been part of Ngarigo and Ngunnawal Country.**

**In December 2019, when I stopped flowing at Tharwa Bridge, emergency drinking water had to be trucked into the township. My pools shrank, my fish were stranded and I was on life support.**

After that, something remarkable happened.

Through The Forgotten River campaign, governments promised \$55.6 million to help me survive. Of that, \$30 million was specifically set aside for drought response - up to \$10 million per year for three years starting in 2024–25 - to release water when I need it most.

Because of your advocacy, a Drought Operating Framework was secured. It included clear triggers. When my flows dropped too low, water would be released from Tantangara Dam to protect endangered species, maintain deep refuge pools, and prevent me from drying completely.

That was the deal. This December 2025, I reached those drought triggers. Water should have been released. It wasn't.

Six years of promises. Six years of waiting. And I am still in the same condition I was in in 2019.

An Independent Expert Panel has now confirmed what you can see with your own eyes: I am in abysmal condition. On average, 93% of my natural flow is diverted at Tantangara Dam. In some years, up to 99% is taken.

I am watching Macquarie perch struggle in shrinking pools. I am watching my riverbed fill with sand. I am watching life disappear. So, I need your help – again.

Why has the water not been released? Why has the \$30 million secured to protect me during drought still not been used? Why are commitments made to the river, its people, and its wildlife being ignored?

I need you to ask the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments these questions.

Please go to The Forgotten River website and share your comments.

Tell decision-makers that promises to rivers matter. That drought planning only works if it is acted upon. That a river cannot survive on words alone.

Your comments will be sent directly to the governments responsible by The Forgotten River campaign and will demand accountability and action.

I am still here but I am running out of time.

— The Upper Murrumbidgee River

**Add Your Voice – Demand Action**

<https://australianriverrestorationcentre.cmail20.com/t/d-l-giduhjk-hrkrqllty-r/>



## Have your say: Draft Property Review and Rationalisation Strategy

### MEDIA RELEASE

Issued Monday 19 January 2026



Snowy Monaro Regional Council is seeking community feedback on its new draft Property Review and Rationalisation Strategy, endorsed for public exhibition at the December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting on Friday 19 December 2025.

Council is responsible for a large number of properties across the Snowy Monaro and the cost of managing and maintaining this property portfolio is significant.

#### What you need to know

- Nothing is changing right now
- We are asking for your feedback before making any decisions
- Responses are open now until 11.59pm Monday 16 February 2026
- Visit [www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au](http://www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au) to learn more and have your say.

The draft strategy lists operational properties, with locations, costs, and our recommendations for the future of each site.

Council has undertaken this review of our property portfolio in response to recommendations from recent financial and operational reviews. Your feedback will help ensure that we're making the right **decisions for the community, Council's financial sustainability, and local service delivery.**

**This consultation is the first step in the process.** The draft strategy has been created specifically to serve as a starting point, and these plans will change based on community feedback received over the coming weeks and months.

Have your say on the draft Property Review and Rationalisation Strategy today. Visit [www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au](http://www.yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au) for all the details and to access the easy online survey form for you to share your thoughts.

#### Media Contact

Communications Department

Phone: 1300 345 345 | Email: [communications@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au)

## RURAL EXPERIENCE COUNTS

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See p. 23 for details.



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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](http://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.



Local Land Services NSW. Michelago, Friday 30 January, 9–12.

Below is a screenshot; if the RSVP or QR doesn't work, call Andy Taylor 0427 750 891 or email [andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au)

## Local Land Services



## Grassland detectives: tracking elusive dragons and snakes

Join us in the search for elusive grassland earless dragons and little whip snakes. These rare species are vital to our grassy ecosystems, and your participation helps protect them.

On the day, you will learn:

- to identify grassland earless dragons and little whip snakes
- to understand their habitats and role in nature
- how to safely check if you have these species
- how to contribute to citizen science
- land management actions to help them survive.

This field event is in open grasslands. To participate, please bring sturdy boots, sun protection and water. There are no toilets or catering at these sites.



### Date, time and location

Both events are from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Friday 30 January: Michelago TSR  
Opposite corner of Michelago Road and  
Monaro Hwy, Michelago

Saturday 31 January: Gidleigh TSR  
179 Hoskinstown Road,  
Bungendore

### RSVP

[Register online](#) or by  
scanning the QR code.



### Contact

Andy Taylor, Senior NRM Advisor  
[andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au)  
0427 750 891



## The Great Bake Off fundraiser to repair the station's portico floor

The Michelago Railway Station's ancient portico floor is in danger of collapse and at least one of the supporting joists will need replacing. The Bake Off raised funds to help with this.

Traffic on it over many years, albeit less than when there were trains running, has resulted in wear, splintering and depression. Rather than risk a foot-disappearing accident, the MRCA Committee wants to replace the worst of the boards.

This can be done without the arduous process of gaining Heritage NSW approval, as heritage consultant Pip Giovanelli has determined that the boards are not part of the original building. In fact, the present portico space was originally a closed room. That design can be seen on Carcoar station (at right), built at around the same time, in the days when country trains were a going business.



*Above: Image from Carcoar Facebook page.*



*Michelago photos at left: Kerry Rooney*



## Michelago Memorial Hall

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.

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.





## Michelago Community Choir



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

During school term, choir practice is on Thursdays, 7–8pm, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St, next to the police station. (See also p.24) 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.



The little church has excellent acoustics, is central and available.

That's why it's the venue for choir practice. Choir members leave a gold coin in appreciation.

## The Fire Season ahead for the Michelago Region *Captain Tony Campbell, Colinton Brigade*

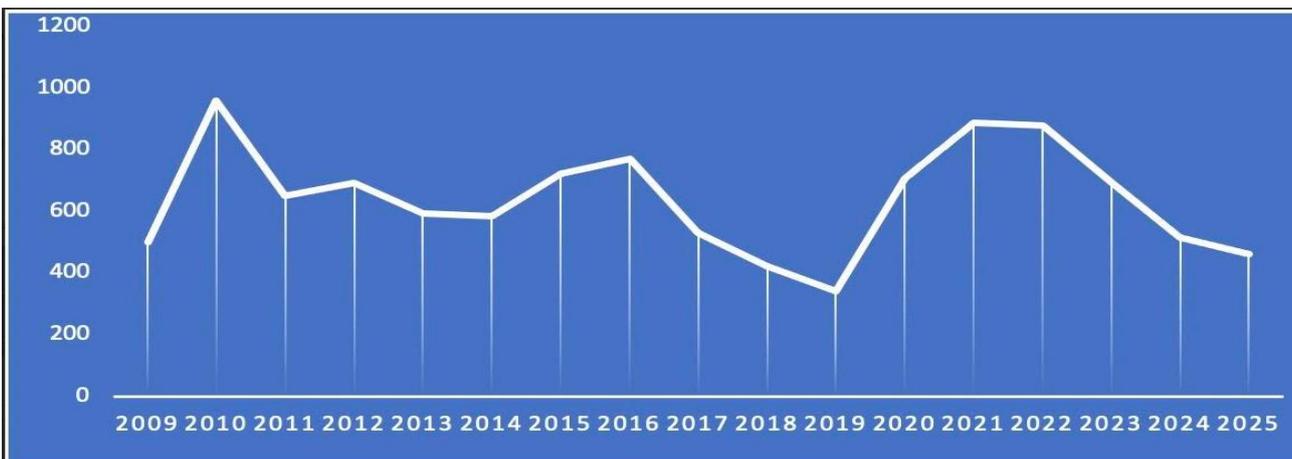


Recent rains have given our area some welcomed relief. Heavy rains fell and paddocks received some needed rain. While this is great, fire events often are started when people become unintentionally complacent. Most times when I talk to residents who have had a fire, they will say, 'I had no idea it would take off the way it did.' It's a sickening feeling for sure.

Love Grass that has covered local paddocks will burn even when green due to the oil content within it. Despite how paddocks and bushland look at the moment, we are a long way off having a reasonable level of moisture in the ground. In 2025 we received 455 ml of rain. Our average annual historical rainfall is 668 ml. Our drought factor is 75/100, which is considered serious. The higher the drought factor, the less moisture is feeding vegetation and this, in turn, means vegetation becomes more combustible.

In short, residents still need to apply caution when lighting a recreation fire, welding, using angle grinders, driving over long grass, slashing/mowing and any other activity that could cause fire.

A big shout out to the Brigades that faithfully show up to protect the Michelago Region when fire events and Motor Vehicle Accidents occur. Michelago, Colinton and Anembo work closely together.



Fun Fact: our average historical rainfall has ranged from 220ml (8.6 inches) in 1895 to 1054ml (41.5 inches) in 1950.



## Magpie information

Get the Magpie free by email: send name and email address to [newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.michelagoregion.org.au) and email it to [mrca@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto: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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. Next: 11 Feb. All Michelagoans are welcome. The minutes are on the website: [www.michelagoregion.org.au](http://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](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, 7–8 pm in school term, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St. Occasional cancellations: call Jenny 0400 484 485 to check.
- **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.** 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](mailto:jenny258@bigpond.com)
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 6pm.
- **Hall bookings** [memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au](mailto:memorial.hall@michelagoregion.org.au) 0494 178 469. Current hire rates p.21.
- **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: No info yet for 2026.
- **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 11 February.
- **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 to check.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass 5.30
- **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.

#### Jan-Feb

Cricket: Michelago's last A Grade home game for the season, 1 Feb, from 12.30 to the end. Clive Kelly Oval. See p. 4.

St Patricks Catholic Church. Mass: Sat Jan 31 @ 5.30 pm. Sat Feb 28 @ 5.30 pm

Gymkhana: Michelago Pony Club competing. Bredbo Oval. 31 Jan & 1 Feb. See p. 9.

Gardening Group: 22 Feb. Visit to Ivan Colaric's gardens, Micalago Rd. See above listing.

#### April

St Patrick's Catholic Church. Easter Vigil. April 4 @ 5.30 pm.

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