

\$2 ~ *Michelago Magpie 49* ~ ©

30 May 2026

from your Michelago Region Community Association

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MICHELAGO RAIL HERITAGE ON DISPLAY FOR MARKET DAY, 3 MAY

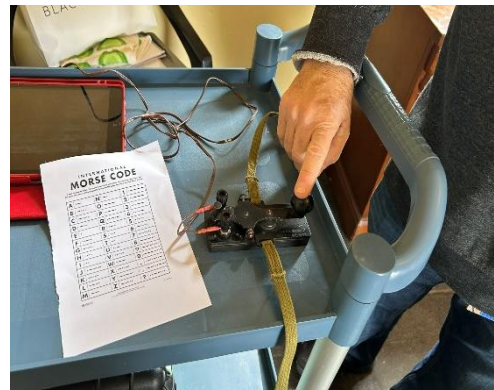


Kiandra Clydesdales horse-&-cart rides (Credit: G Morris), Michelago Community Choir, This Lush Corner stall.



Far left: The former waiting room is hung with historical photos and pamphlets.

L: Brendan and Chris with the telegraph machine in the former ticket office. Brendan shows the button for tapping morse code messages to the machine, which can send messages and both receive and print them. Next to it is the printed code for each letter. Children were excited to tap and print their names.

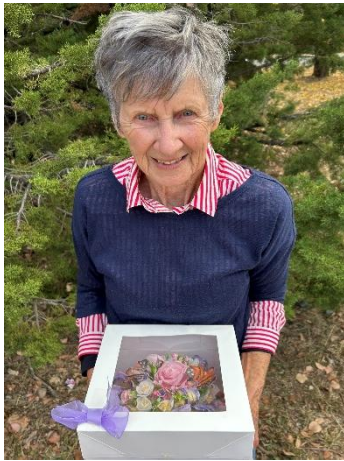


Above: Kerry conducted two information tours about the features and history of the railway station. The MRCA's two generous sponsors for the event were Yless4U, represented by Stephanie and Jason and the Bendigo Bank, represented by Tejas Sapate and Jude Butchers.



1. **Colinton Fire Brigade Captain Tony Campbell and Michelago Brigade Snr Dep. Captain Peter Butler. Thank you to Colinton members who smoothly managed the traffic.**
2. **Michelago Fire Brigade did the BBQ. Thanks to Chloe, Jacinta, Brien, Brian and Derek.**
3. **Master barista Jonno of Jonnoz Coffee Van supplied coffee, tea and baked goodies.**

Heritage Market photo credits: Gary Morris, John Rooney, Matthew Martin, Anna Clanchy, Leanne Pattison.



1. Sue Drew won the Amazing Cake Raffle, to her great delight. It was drawn by Jason Green at 2.20 pm. 2. Wolfie, Janet and Marian rested on the seat donated by Greg Whittle. 3. Parking was calm and orderly.



L: Visiting from Snuggles Pet Resort, Noel & Lana Martin's miniature horses were a big attraction.



R: Estimate of attendance over 4 hours was 800.

STALLS FOR ALL, local and nearly local





There were things to wear, to make, to eat, to plant, to cook, to decorate your home, to hang, to light your days and nights, to write loving notes on, to adorn and amuse yourself, and to play and to wash with. The MRCA's White Elephant (aka Trash 'n' Treasure) stall hosted the unusual combination of two tables of delicate crystal and fine chinaware with another two tables of pre-loved odds-and-ends. But wait, there's more ...



L: To her wonderful cakes, Bredbo's Dale added this 'steam punk' shoe. → It has slots to hold one's precious rings. Just when you thought you had everything you needed ...



The Magpie apologises if any stallholders have been missed.



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All issues of the *Michelago Magpie* are on www.michelagoregion.org.au



APOLOGY: Mila, the Michelago Public School's Year 6 student who read the traditional poem *In Flanders Fields* so beautifully at the recent ANZAC Day service, was mis-named as Dana in *Michelago Magpie 47* (p.7). Mila, please accept the editor's apology.





OUR FIRST RAILWAY MARKET: WHAT'S NEXT?

Crowds of people turned out to enjoy the Heritage Open Day and Market at the Michelago Railway Station in May.

What a day it was! Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

As a result, we've had lots of calls for a Spring or Christmas market. Likely dates would be 29 November or 6 December.

Now is your chance to get involved. Come on board, join our team and help plan the next community market.

Email us at mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

Or download a membership form from www.michelagoregion.org.au and follow the instructions for joining up.

It's time to start planning.

Kerry Rooney
President
Michelago Region Community Association



FEEDBACK ABOUT THE EVENT

Almost without exception, stallholders had a profitable day. The general public enjoyed themselves. Community groups raised plenty of much-needed funding.

We received excellent feedback on the organisation of the event and our communication with participants. Clearly, our publicity worked very well given an estimated 800 people attended.

The RFS BBQ, the coffee van and the horse and cart rides were very popular all day. The heritage elements proved popular amongst history and railway buffs who enjoyed the telegraph exhibition and station tours.

One objective was to test the feasibility of the railway station as a venue. Much work was done with tree-logging, pile burns and safety signage in addition to the usual mowing and trimming.

Even so, the venue came up short. The surface of the driveway, the main thoroughfare for pedestrians, presented real difficulties for many people, strollers and walkers. The large sharp stones from layers of railway ballast are the problem. A new surface is a priority.

Other feedback for improvements included: more food choices, help for the coffee van operator, signage pointing to stallholders at the venue and 'Market' signs at the highway entrances to Michelago. **THANKS TO THE MANY WHO MADE THE MARKET HAPPEN: SEE P.11**



RAILWAY STATION HISTORY



If you missed picking up this informative booklet, extensively illustrated with historical photos, email the author, Kerry Rooney: kerryarooney@gmail.com

The station is central to Michelago's history. The recent restorations by craftsmen were approved by Heritage NSW, made possible by a grant from that government agency and matched by funding from UGL Regional Linx, the company managing NSW country rail.

At just \$5, this Michelago souvenir is a bargain. The \$5 covers printing costs and a small profit that goes to the station's maintenance.



VALE TIM WALSH

Glenn Fowler

The Michelago Cricket Club is mourning the loss of one of its stalwarts, Tim Walsh.

Walshy, a Burra resident, played more than ten seasons for the club, as a leg spinner and opening batsman. He played in Michelago's A-grade premierships teams of 2002/03 and 2003/04 and, after moving back to Victoria for a decade, returned to be part of the B-grade premiership side of 2023/24.

Walshy was skilful, intelligent, inquisitive, funny and loyal. He is survived by his wife Pam and two sons Sam and Jono. He was 45.

The team looks forward to honouring Walshy at its first game of the season in a few months' time.

Walshy is at the front next to Dave Hanns, raising his yellow beer can.



MICHELAGO COMMUNITY CHOIR IS NOW ON WINTER BREAK



Starting again in August, the Michelago Community Choir will gather on Thursdays at 7pm at the St Thomas Church, next to the Police Station, Ryrie St.

Folk from all over the region are welcome. They sing, have fun and laugh. It's a wonderful hour.

No experience is needed. All resources are supplied. We ask only your enthusiasm and a gold coin donation for use of the church.

At the 3 May Heritage Market, the songs performed were: 1. *Banaha*, a Congolese folk song, sung in a round, 2. *Miaou* (in a round), 3. *Doo Doo Canon*, 4. *Drunken Sailor*, 5. *Wellerman*, 6. *Come Hear the Band*, 7. *Hallelujah*.



THREE STATION STORIES

The station has many visitors. The Magpie happened to be there on consecutive days when two groups with special historical connections came, and later a third admirer with community links.



11 May. The family group of (from left) Sarah, John, Leanne and Robert were at the station. Leanne's father, John Barnes, was one of the volunteers from the ACT division of the Australian Railway Historical Society. He spent countless hours at the station doing renovations.

L: The small plaque is on the verandah beam above the light.



[Thank you, Leanne Barnes, for this story.](#)

'Thank you for spending time with us last week and allowing us to go through the rooms of the station. Michelago Railway Station has been an important part of our lives for almost 40 years, so here is the background to why that is so.

My father (John Barnes) was a Historical Railway Enthusiast and when we moved to Canberra in the early 1980's, Dad joined the Canberra Railway Historical Society refurbishing carriages, stations etc. During the early 90s Dad worked with Lindsay Richmond and other members to refurbish the Michelago Station.

When Dad died of MND in 2001, his wish was to have his ashes scattered on the railway tracks – we did this on Boxing Day 2001 and put up the plaque that is still there today.

Over the last 25 years our families from interstate and overseas have spent many occasions like birthdays, anniversaries and Fathers Day celebrating and remembering Dad by having a picnic on the station and leaving flowers on the tracks. My husband and I were also married on the station. Late last year my mother, Kath Barnes, died at 91 and her wish was to be reunited with Dad, so in late January this year our families again gathered to spread Mum's ashes where we had laid Dad to rest all those years ago. That was why we had gathered on the station when we met you – to remember Mum on Mothers Day.

A few years ago we were having our picnic on the station on Dad's anniversary when a contractor for NSW Trains visited the station as part of a project looking at old, unused stations and whether they were worth keeping and what they were being used for.

We talked with him about the history for us and why the station was so important and he wrote a report and took photos to support the project, and we agreed that there were probably many stations, and many families with stories like ours and how important it was to maintain stations and remember their long and valuable history for future generations.

Although we have never lived in Michelago, it will always be a very special place for our family, and it was really lovely to see that you had received a grant to do up the station once again and it is being used for so many community events. It is looking amazing and I know that would make Dad very happy.'

[Thank you, Erik Jochimsen, for your story.](#)

'On Tuesday 12th of May, I and my friend Tony Burns (buying the ticket on the next page) visited the Michelago Station. There we met Leanne Pattison who took photos of us and listened to our stories of the Michelago Tourist Railway (MTR). We are both railway enthusiasts, having been members of the Australian Railway Historical Society, ACT division (ARHS ACT). We are also connected through family friendships.

I joined the society in the early 90s at which time it was running trains to Michelago. Around that time, bridge problems occurred and we started running just to Royalla with the intent of fixing the bridge issue and resuming a Michelago service. Unfortunately, the bridge issue was never resolved.

Around 2000, I became the track manager of MTR, meaning I coordinated volunteers going out and repairing the track, in addition to controlling vegetation over the entire distance from Queanbeyan to Michelago. This was a massive task for us all to do in our spare time for no pay.

Within the ARHS ACT, there were some that only wanted to focus on locomotives and others that only wanted to run trains. As we were by then able to use state rail, they felt we should not continue with MTR. They lobbied to close MTR and there was lots of nasty politics within the society. It was put to a vote and the members clearly indicated they wished to continue with MTR.

Unfortunately, those who wanted to close MTR held powerful positions within the society and also had influence within state rail. They used their positions and influence to make MTR unworkable. Eventually, we lost the line lease and that was the end of MTR.

Those who wanted to close MTR took control of the society and steered it around the restoration of one locomotive. In the process of doing that, they radically changed the direction of the society, which resulted in the ARHS ACT going bankrupt.

Decades of dedication, hard work and financial sacrifice; all gone because of the obsession about one locomotive that was designed to haul coal trains and could never be financially justified for passenger trains in this district.'



'Are we still
angry about
what
happened to
MTR?

**YOU BET WE
ARE.'**





Erik and Tony appreciated the MRCA's repairs and refurbishments at the station, loved the recently installed telegraph and reminisced about people and features shown in the re-hung historical photos.



R: Tony looks from the waiting room to the ticket office: 'Could I buy a ticket, please?'



21 May. Anika Reid was seen relaxing on the station platform around lunchtime. She had her chair, a blanket and a good book.

She's from Canberra and has friends she visits in Michelago. She said she often comes to the station because it's beautiful and the ambience is so peaceful.



HAZARD REDUCTION BURN, TINDERRYS

Peter Butler, Snr Deputy Captain, Michelago

On Tuesday the 28 and Wednesday 29 April, RFS brigades from Anembo and Michelago participated in a hazard reduction burn in the Tinderrys, assisted by helicopter support dropping aerial incendiary devices into inaccessible terrain. *Photo: P Butler*



The burnt area was bordered by Macintosh and Leipens Fire Trails running off Calabash Road. The purpose of the HR burn was to reduce built-up fuel loads in that area in preparation for the upcoming 2026-27 fire season.



A big thank-you to the crews that participated from both brigades.

L: Multi-use Clive Kelly Oval. The helicopter refuelled from the tanker. Photo: K Rooney



HAZARD REDUCTION BURN'S SMOKE

K Rooney



19 April. The Cassidy's Creek burn was a short distance east of Burra Road. At one point, it burnt down to the roadside. Nearby properties were blanketed by thick smoke on and off for a week.

Photos: smoke at a Burra Road residence.





HAZARD REDUCTION BURN, CASSIDYS CREEK

*Michelago Captain Abby McPherson
Report and photos*

Lee Harris and I recently attended the Cassidys Creek Hazard Reduction in Tinderry National Park, working alongside NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) crews along the Monkellan Fire Trail.

The hazard reduction was undertaken to help reduce fuel loads and improve protection for the park and surrounding areas ahead of future fire seasons. Crews monitored conditions throughout the operation to ensure it was carried out safely and effectively.

It was a valuable opportunity to work alongside NPWS and see planned fire management activities in action. Days like these highlight the importance of collaboration between agencies and proactive fuel management to help reduce bushfire risk and support community safety.



RAILWAY MARKET 3 MAY – THANKS OWED TO MANY

Kerry Rooney

I'd like to thank these amazing people and groups who helped make the market a success.

- Ivan Colaric, John Colaric, Adrian Ljubic, Michael Kelly, Gerard Kelly, Allan Lehepuu, Josh Kunkler, Catherine Turnbull, Matilda Turnbull. Also Tony Campbell and the Colinton Fire Brigade and the Cooma Correctional Centre. They prepared the grounds, provided water, directed traffic.
- Our MRCA team: Leah Oliver, Leanne Pattison, Leanne Thurling, Sally Hughes, Michael Scanlon, Elizabeth Price. Plus our family members: Mark, Anna, Damien and John.
- Donors: Michael Kelly, Leanne Thurling, Alpine Aviation (Martin & Sally Hughes) and sponsors Bendigo Bank and Yless4U.
- First aid: Bronny Gattringer and Chloe McPherson
- Telegraph 'exhibitionists': Lindsay Richmond, Brendan Jackson, Chris Carroll and Derek Gucci.
- Publicity: community radios 2MNO FM 93.3 and QBN FM 96.7 and the Cooma Visitors Centre.
- Hall Committee for lending equipment.
- Community group participants: Michelago Fire Brigade, our Community Choir, our School P&C, Landcare and Queanbeyan Red Cross.
- Last, but not least, Mayor Chris Hanna, Dep Mayor Tricia Hopkins and Cr John Rooney for attending.



TELESCOPE NIGHT – EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT (clouds permitting) Peter Bobroff

Where: 231 Mt Livingstone Rd, Michelago, NSW.

From Michelago village, south on the Monaro highway, turn right (west) into Mt Livingstone Rd, up the hill to the T-junction with Lawler Rd, turn right, then 400m, up the rise, take the second gate (with the light on it). Track is not too bad if taken slowly. To big shed on the hill.

Who to contact: Beth Bobroff 0400 142 074 or Peter Bobroff 0431 561 677, pjb@flix.com.au

When: best to arrive before sunset, at least on the first visit.

Wear: it is usually colder than you'd think. It's often 3 degrees colder than in the valley.

Why: light from some of the visible galaxies has taken 10 million years to get here and it will be disappointed not to reach your retina.

What's there: plenty of telescopes, chairs etc. **Warm** inside the shed.

Watch out for the wildlife on the roads. **Wet** your whistle on tea, coffee and anti-freeze.



*'...Where the air is clear as crystal, and the white stars fairly blaze
At midnight in the cold and frosty sky ...'*

From A B Paterson's The Man from Snowy River

Images AI-generated onto a real site with real telescopes.



MORE FOR TRAIN FANS

Photo credit: CRM website

The Canberra Railway Museum newsletter, *Back on Track*, is published monthly. Here it is: [CRM Newsletter](#)



The Museum is at 2 Geijera Place, Kingston, ACT. Contact is webmaster@canberrarail.org.au The historical displays are beautifully maintained.

Lindsay Richmond, who has had strong links with the Michelago Railway Station for many years, and Jordi, the newsletter editor, kindly promoted our Heritage Market in the recent edition.

Lindsay has twice been awarded the title of Michelago Honorary Station Master.



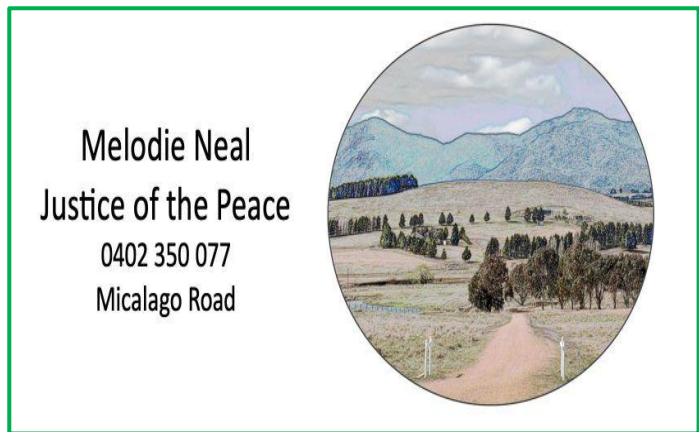
THE MONARO RAIL TRAIL ... AGAIN, STILL

A lot of local folk are for it. Many, it seems, are not. Here's the cheery introduction to their latest newsletter (6 April) and the link for all their news:

'Hello supporters and stakeholders! This newsletter will bring you up to date with how the MRT proposal is developing. Thank you for your interest!'

For further information please see: <https://www.monarorailtrail.com.au/>

[Magpie summary: Minor progress at the Bombala end; no progress at the Queanbeyan end.]



SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL – MEDIA RELEASE 14 MAY

NSW Government seeking feedback on proposed major planning changes

Public consultation is underway on the NSW Government’s proposal to establish a single statewide Community Participation Plan (CPP), which if adopted, would replace the more than 100 local council-level CPPs currently in place across NSW. The proposed major change to the NSW planning process is intended to make development approvals more consistent and more efficient.

By reducing the amount and length of consultation required for minor and routine proposals and introducing one single unified approach for the entire state, the NSW Government expects that the new process would make the process better for all.

Key changes proposed by the NSW Government

- Extending the minimum consultation time for state plans from 45 to 60 days
- **Exemptions from neighbour notification requirements for some development types including two-storey dwellings, dual occupancies, and residential flats**
[Emphasis added – Ed.]
- Where development types are exempt from neighbour notification, the applicant must notify neighbours within seven days before commencement

What is a Community Participation Plan?

A key part of the planning and development process, CPPs set out the kinds of development that require public notification and consultation, what that notification and consultation process needs to look like, and the length of time people have to provide their feedback on local development matters.

Learn more and have your say today

Council encourages everyone in the Snowy Monaro community to learn more about the significant changes being proposed by the NSW Government.

Visit www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition for further information, FAQs, full draft plans and documents, and to have your say today.

Submissions close 5pm Wednesday 3 June 2026.

While this is not a Council initiative, we are promoting the consultation and proposed statewide CPP due to the significant impact the proposed changes would have on local development and consultation matters.

Media Contact

Communications Department
1300 345 345 | communications@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au



THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

The Michelago Region Community Association thanks the generous people who contribute to the donation boxes at the Michelago Café. One box is specifically for the Michelago Railway Station upkeep and the other is for sales there of the printed *Michelago Magpie*, which is on the back counter next to *The Monaro Post*. These sales contribute to the station, too.

On 12 May, amounts banked at Calwell's Bendigo Bank were \$25 from the Railway Station donation box and \$65 from the Magpie box.

The price of the printed Magpie is \$2, which covers about two-thirds of the printing cost. It's clear that some people have been putting in more than \$2. Thank you so much! 😊

The Michelago Service Station's manager, Om, has kindly agreed to have a few copies for sale.

Selling or buying? Chris can help.

RURAL EXPERIENCE COUNTS

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

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

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Local pick up available - Michelago Village.
www.thislushcorner.com



BOCO ROCK COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

What's the finance for the fund? It's not your rates. Here's some information copied from the Boco Rock website:

Applications are now open for this annual round of grants. To see if your community group can apply for some financial support, control + click the link below.

What is the Community Fund? The fund was created following State Government approval of the Boco Rock Wind Farm project undertaken by Tilt Energy (the proponent). To offset any potential residual amenity impacts associated with the project, the proponent contributions constitute all of the funding, which is administered by Snowy Monaro Regional Council (Council).

Who can apply? Individuals, businesses and not for profit organisations may apply. Funding is open to projects or events in the Snowy Monaro local government areas per the condition of the development approval.

<https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Community/Awards-Donations-and-Grants/Boco-Rock-Community-Enhancement-Fund>

Contact Council with any questions: 1300 345 345 for further information or visit Council's website: <https://qrco.de/bocorock>

The MRCA and the Memorial Hall have financed several projects in the last few years through this fund. The Hall Committee has, for example, purchased acoustic panels and curtains and had the floorboards refurbished. It's also installed a ceiling in the tennis clubhouse (necessary because of bird poo on the floor and seats due to the rafters being so handy for avian roosting) and covered the dodgy foil on the back wall with corrugated iron to match the side walls. That grant also covered the cost of replacing three termite-ridden bench supports.



These projects and others have all been recorded in the Magpie.

About the Boco Rock Wind Farm, which finances the grants: <https://tiltrenewables.com/boco-rock-wind-farm-community-and-benefit-sharing/>

L: Photo on the Boco Road site of the old flour mill, Nimmitabel, recently restored by Council . We don't know how it relates to the wind farm, but maybe BR funding helped the restoration.



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Pacawoolly is a small alpaca stud in Michelago specialising in fine alpaca yarn (in natural alpaca fleece colours) and handmade items.



'How good is our poo!'



MICHELAGO MEMORIAL HALL – NOTE UPDATED EMAIL

Bookings: Michelago.Memorial.Hall@gmail.com or 0494 178 469

Here's the usual handy information about Hall hire.

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 \$260.00.
- 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 close the gates and take any rubbish with you.

BBQs: please, please clean them after use! Instructions are on the side. Sorry, there's no water supply at the oval. Please take your own.



The Upper Bidgee Bulletin

The Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Quarterly Newsletter

www.facebook.com/uppermurrumbidgeelandcarecommittee upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com



MEDIAEVAL FAIRE

Burra Community Association

Saturday, 20 June. 2 – 6 pm (plus setup and pack up times)

Apply for a stall: contact Sam at cattledoofarm@gmail.com

BCA is trialling a new event, a mediaeval faire, to be held in conjunction with the winter solstice bonfire.

Are you a crafter? So many crafts have their origins in the medieval period, and if you are a woodworker, glass-worker, candle-maker, dyer and spinner, forger, tin-smith, book-binder or other medieval-based craft, then you are invited to apply for a stall. If you can actively demonstrate what you do, that's even better.

To all: costumes are not only welcome but encouraged. Mediaeval, Renaissance, Roman, faerie, pirate ... just dress up and have fun with it!

[Thanks to Burra's Facebook page for the info and knight's helmet picture.]



SECURITY CAMERAS FOR MICHELAGO RFS SHED

Brien Hallett



The Michelago Rural Fire Brigade has recently been the recipient of a generous donation from Bunnings Warehouse at Majura Park.

The brigade executive was recently visited by Bunnings manager Karen McMahon who presented two CCTV security cameras to be installed at the fire-shed.

As Captain Abby McPherson told the *Magpie*, 'These cameras will be a practical way to ensure that we can look after our equipment and continue to protect our local community.'

Above: (L to R) at the handover are Brigade Treasurer Brien Hallett, Captain Abby McPherson, Karen McMahon from Bunnings Warehouse and Vice-President Ian Hooley.



GARDEN GROUP

24 May, 2pm. Gardeners are a hardy lot. Ten gathered at the Michelago tennis clubhouse adjacent to Clive Kelly Oval on a wintry day. The Michelago and Bredbo mobs have good get-togethers. The focus is on the common interest of growing stuff, but other local topics can come up, of course. Many of us wouldn't otherwise meet much or at all, given geography and other concerns, so these occasions are socially satisfying.

It was cold, drizzly weather but what do we care when we're wearing five layers, have cups of hot tea accompanied by cakes and slices (thanks to those who also cook), can swap optimistic seedlings and winter veggies and learn from each other about what to plant where, and why celery does better in one place and not another, and whether rampant calendulas are pretty or a pest, and what's the best spot for camellias, why some succulents are less frost-tender than others, and admire the late leeks, and how on earth did the chooks get out and scratch up the broccoli, and who went to Costa's seminar in Cooma where they found they knew as much about making compost as he does (though he did have a tip about how to take its optimum temperature, involving a plastic tub of water sitting in the middle of the pile – you poke a thermometer in it and aim for about 35 degrees, right? – but why bother if the worms look happy? If it's a bit dry, water it. If it's a bit wet, chuck on some mulch. Autumn leaves are good mulch and fertiliser (Ivan said so when we visited his arboretum; see Magpie 47) . And so on.

Next: Sunday 21 June, 2pm, tennis clubhouse. No need to bring anything. Just yourself.

Thank you to coordinator Jenny. Check out the [What's On?](#) page for more details.



(1) Just some of the growing and ready-to-grow things people shared. (2) Ready-to-eat, delicious things. (3) Lyn explains making garden beds from truck wheel-rims (a Costa tip). Note the new Wayne-made wall cladding, with thanks to Boco Rock for funding.



EXERCISE FOR EVERYBODY'S BODY

See also What's On? p.24

At 8am on Saturdays at the Michelago Memorial Hall, there's a one-hour HIIT class run by Peter Daley, a qualified and insured instructor. It costs only \$5 (to cover hall hire) as Peter sees the class as a community contribution.

It's good for all ages and bodies. Despite the HIIT label (High Intensity Interval Training), people can exercise at their own level, so they *could* call it Low & Gentle Interval Training.

Peter usually sets up a circuit for different exercises but also does group instruction. He stages the workouts with warm-ups, breaks and cool-downs.



As is proper for any exercise class, participants need to fill out a questionnaire to say that they're in good health.

L: Lights off, heaters on for the relaxation phase at the end.



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Access cards now required at Michelago Bank of Bins

Council has upgraded the Michelago Bank of Bins access control system.

As of the end of February 2026, you now need a Council-issued personal access card to enter the facility.

No card? Here's what you need to do

If you haven't already applied

- Contact council@smrc.nsw.gov.au to request your card
- Pay the refundable \$100 deposit
- Receive your card by registered mail

If you have applied, but have not received your card

- Email council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au with your details
- Check in at the Michelago General Store post office to confirm that your key isn't awaiting a signature for collection

Don't forget: Access hours have changed

As a reminder to all Bank of Bins users, the NSW EPA has directed Council to limit access hours at Michelago Bank of Bins to reduce the amount of noise coming from the facility.

Michelago Bank of Bins is open to paying customers with a personal access card from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week.

Questions? Concerns? Need help? Please contact Council on 1300 345 345.



WATER FOR MICHELAGO?

Councillor John Rooney put a motion to Snowy Monaro Regional Council on Friday 22 May about the desirability of water supply to Michelago. The motion was carried unanimously, so is now a resolution of Council to authorise the CEO to commence negotiations with the ACT and NSW Governments to procure a source of water.

Cr Rooney notes that 'if a supply of water can be procured, it will set the stage for further growth in the Michelago region in the medium to longer term.'

It's important to note that this would be at least a five-year prospect.

The motion:

'Council authorises the CEO to commence negotiations with appropriate ACT and NSW authorities to obtain a source of water to supply settlements in the Northern Monaro.'

Background:

'The lack of town water is a critical factor limit in the growth of settlements in the Northern Monaro. Without town water, commercial premises find it very difficult to offer customers an appropriate level of service. This deters investment in hotels, service stations, restaurants and other shops and businesses. Lot sizes must be kept fairly large, even within villages, to allow sewerage treatment in septic tanks.'

In the south-eastern region of NSW, the only settlement within commuter distance of Canberra that has not experienced high growth is Michelago. With other nearby towns such as Yass, Queanbeyan, Bungendore and even Braidwood filling up fast, Michelago is the 'next cab off the rank'. A great opportunity exists for developers to build another large-scale village development to meet the future demand for housing within the Canberra commuter belt.

However, this cannot happen without a reliable water supply. The Murrumbidgee is nearby but already committed to other users and may not be available. Googong dam is further afield but still within a usable distance. It is a very large reservoir of fresh water that has not yet been fully committed, although other potential users in Bungendore are looking at it.



Googong Dam 2006. Credit Wikipedia

Some years ago, a developer expressed interest in accessing water from Googong Dam for a large village development near Michelago. The CEO should investigate whether the opportunity for sourcing water from Googong still exists.

Snowy Monaro is known for being a very large but thinly populated region. Additional development that brings hundreds or even thousands more ratepayers into the region is a path to financial sustainability. More water is the key to unlocking this future growth.'



Michelago Magpie information. Get the Magpie free by email: send name and email address to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au Print copies are \$2. 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 *Michelago 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, *MM* 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

Questions? Please email.

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 **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. 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.
2. It's sociable – you know what's happening, who's doing what, and you participate only if you want to.

The MRCA Committee <http://www.michelagoregion.org.au/mrca/>

Meetings are open: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. Next: 11 Feb. 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.

- **Bingo**: 1st Monday of the month. Licensed café & store. Happy Hour, dinner 6 pm. Bingo 7 pm.
- **Bush Bubs** get-togethers for young mums and bubs. Michelago Café, Wednesdays, 10.30.
- **Choir** Thursdays, 7–8 pm in school term, St Thomas Church, Ryrie St. Occasional cancellations: call Jenny 0400 484 485 to check. See p.7.
- **Colinton Fire Brigade** Training 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1pm. 4574 Monaro Hwy, Colinton. Contact: secretarycolintonrfs@gmail.com
- **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.
- **Garden Group (was Seed Savers)** Enquiries: SMS Jenny 0400 484 485 or jenny258@bigpond.com Also p.19.
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6 pm.
- **Hall bookings** Michelago.Memorial.Hall@gmail.com 0494 178 469. Current hire rates p.17. See new email.
- **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. Call Peter to check class is on.
- **Library Outreach Service**. Monthly, 4th Thursday to collect pre-orders outside the school 10.30–11.30. Next delivery Thurs 18 June. See SMRC site & *Magpie* 36 for how to order books.
- **Massage** Michelle O'Leary comes to you with her massage table. 0401 535 414
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly, 2nd Wed 6 pm. Next: 8 July.
- **Pilates** Saturdays, 9.30-10.15 am in school term. Hall. See flyer on shop noticeboard.
- **Pony Club** Monthly 2nd Sunday. Enquiries: President: Romney (0428 297 514, romney.kelly@outlook.com) or Secretary: Sarah Nockles (nockles.sarah@gmail.com). Also see <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au>
- **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. Vigil Mass. Last Saturday of the month, 4 pm.
- **St Thomas** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3rd Sunday 11 am.
- **Trail Riders** Usually monthly, 1st Sat. Check details on Tinderry tab of Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). President: John Harris. 0417 246 289 << jh1950@me.com >>

Coming happenings that we know about. Venues and times can change.

Sat. 6 June, 2pm. Bingo. Bredbo Pub. Bookings essential: Bonnie or Racquel 0411 332 240.

Sun. 21 June, 2pm. Garden Group. Michelago Tennis Clubhouse. See p.19.

Sat. 20 June, 2–6. Mediaeval Faire, Burra. See p.16.

Sun. 28 June. Bredbo CWA Market, 9–3. (4th Sunday of each month).

August Sat 15, 3.30pm, Railway Station. MRCA AGM. Please come and contribute to the committee. Helpful hands and minds are welcome.



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