

\$2 ~ *Michelago Magpie 51* ~ ©

2 September 2026

from your Michelago Region Community Association

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FUNDS FOUND TO FIX FRIGHTFUL PATH



The lumpy and sharp railway ballast on the railway station's path that's been unpleasant and dangerous for years will give way to a smooth stretch of yellow granite.

This high priority project to re-sheet the path is possible because of the Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund grant of \$11,600. MRCA President Kerry Rooney's persuasive application, stressing the railway station's historical and community importance, was successful.

This year, Snowy Monaro Regional Council, which administers Boco Rock, awarded 42 grants totalling \$288,000 to community groups across the region. More information is available at www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Community/Awards-Donations-and-Grants/Boco-Rock-Community-Enhancement-Fund



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MICHELAGO REGION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Hopeful and successful, this fragile flower, a grape hyacinth, is (or *was*, by the time of publication) flourishing in the indifferent asphalt at the railway station. It's unclear whether it's pushed its way through or the space was already there.

15 August. 3pm. The MRCA's AGM was attended by 7 supporters and, in apologising spirit, 8 others. This was, happily, more than the previous year.

By the cosy waiting room's fire, and nourished by tea and Tim-Tams*, attendees reviewed the year's considerable activities and achievements for the Michelago community.

These are detailed in the President's report on p.4.

The Returning Officer (Cr John Rooney) conducted elections for the 2026–27 MRCA Committee. The results follow.

*also Jaffa Cakes and Scotch Fingers, but alliteration wins.



President: Kerry Rooney, **Vice President:** Leanne Pattison, **Secretary:** Jo Gaha.

Treasurer: no nominations were received prior to the meeting. Kerry was nominated from the floor and accepted the position. Community members are encouraged to volunteer for the Treasurer's role. Email kerryarooney@gmail.com for more information.

Committee members: Adrian Ljubic, Di Fett, Markus Buchhorn, Tony De Salis, Jenny Wholohan. Legal eagle Ben Wickham has consented to continue as **Public Officer.**



***L: Local legend Ivan Colaric received a Community Spirit Award and a Bunnings voucher from Kerry for his work with the station's trees.
R: the award and voucher.***



***Below: (1) Some of the 2025–2026 MRCA Committee: Kerry Rooney, Sally Hughes, Leanne Pattison, Tony De Salis and Leanne Thurling. Sally and Leanne Thurling are retiring but will still help out from time to time.
(2) Di Fett. (3) Adrian Ljubic.***



***(1) Jenny Wholohan gave the 2025 Remembrance Day address.
(2) Markus Buchhorn, bushman.
(3) Jo Gaha in Remembrance Day poppy colours.***





REPORT ON THE MICHELAGO REGION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM, TREASURER'S ROLE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

Kerry Rooney

I would like to thank those members of the community who have helped us at events and working bees over the last year. It's such a pleasure to have a reliable cast of helpers who keep turning up again and again. We would love to see some new faces amongst them in the future reflecting the growth and changes in our community.

We welcomed three new committee members at our AGM: Jo Gaha, Markus Buchhorn and Adrian Ljubic. Jo has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Secretary. We are very fortunate to have such a talented trio join our little team.

We farewelled committee members Sally Hughes, Leanne Thurling and Leah Oliver who have each made a tremendous contribution. We will certainly miss them but hope they stay in touch as ongoing MRCA members.

Jenny Wholohan has retired as Treasurer but is continuing as a committee member.

At this point, I would like to call for nominations for the role of Treasurer (none were received prior to the meeting). This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Michelago community and influence the priorities of the association. Please email kerryarooney@gmail.com

Ongoing committee members were returned to the following positions: Leanne Pattison as Vice-President and Tony De Salis and Di Fett as ordinary committee members.

I have been returned as President and will fill the Treasurer's position until we find a new volunteer to take on that role.

At the AGM I was delighted to present two Community Spirit Awards for 2025-26.

I presented an award to Ivan Colaric, a well-known member of the Michelago community who has contributed over the years in so many ways. This year in preparation for the Heritage Market, Ivan spent several days pruning the trees in the railway station grounds. His expert knowledge as a landscape gardener ensured the job was done to perfection and that his helpers John Colaric and Adrian Ljubic received plenty of guidance.

The second award went to Leanne Pattison for her contribution as editor of the *Magpie*. In July this year, Leanne achieved a very notable milestone with the publication of the 50th edition of the *Michelago Magpie*. This is an incredible achievement. The *Magpie* will be a valuable social history of our region in years to come. The first edition was published in 2022 and since then it has grown in stature and content. Leanne writes the vast majority of articles and takes nearly all the photos. The *Magpie* has been published nearly every month since it started.



R: John Rooney and Ivan Colaric chatted by the fire in the cosy waiting room after the AGM.



MRCA ACHIEVEMENTS JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026



[If anyone asks, 'What does the community association actually do?', here is a list for the past financial year. Then they might ask, 'Can I help, even in some small way?']

This is a slightly summarised text of the President's report to the committee. –Ed.]

We can be very proud of four highlights:

1. Great Michelago Bake Off 16 November

What a successful event! Congratulations to Leanne Thurling in particular who championed the idea and took the lead. The amount raised was just over \$1,000 and this is in the bank for repairs to the station. In addition to our MRCA team (Leah Oliver, Jenny Wholohan, Leanne Pattison and Sally Hughes), Ian and Rebecca Hooley, Abby McPherson and her RFS team all helped to make it a great day. We had 53 entries. People had fun, old acquaintances were renewed and the baking was fabulous.

2. The Completion of the \$35,000 Caring for Heritage Grant

The major heritage project at the railway station was completed in November 2025. This \$35,000 project involved plastering, carpentry and painting. It was funded by the NSW Heritage Office and UGL Regional Linx. Certified by our heritage consultant as fully compliant with our heritage plan, the project was acquitted in December. It was administratively burdensome and took two years to complete due to factors beyond our control but the work by the three tradesmen is first class.

3. Heritage Market 3 May

This was a pilot project to test the railway station as a venue for a market. Held as part of the Australian Heritage Festival, the event was very successful. We estimate 800 people visited the market, generating plenty of profits for the 23 stallholders. Nearly all local community groups participated. Many people deserve thanks but today I will single out just a few: Leah Oliver and her husband Mark, and Ivan and John Colaric. They all did so much to help make the event a success.

The key learning for us is to fix the driveway. Profits for MRCA from the event were \$1500. Of this \$1100 was spent on permanent 'safety' signage and refilling the water tank at the railway station.

4. Michelago Magpie See Kerry's report, previous page

Financial Outcome for the last twelve months

Thank you to Jenny Wholohan who took on the role of Treasurer for 2025–26. Her income and expenditure statement is included in the AGM papers. [See the report in the AGM 2026 minutes on the website <https://www.michelagoregion.org.au/>]

Thank you once again to Brien Hallett for reviewing our financial reports and making helpful suggestions.

Summary of Activities Over the Year

Three Grant applications were submitted

- August 2025 – a grant application for \$10,000 was submitted to Jemena for railway station repairs. The application was not successful.
- April 2026 – Di Fett submitted our Volunteers Grant application (approx. \$1000) to cover insurance and internet fees but unfortunately we missed out.
- June 2026 – our Boco Rock application to re-sheet the driveway at the railway station requested \$11,600. This application has been successful. [See p1.]

Four Projects were completed

- July 2025 – the new sign for Clive Kelly Oval was installed (Boco Rock).
- November 2025 – the Caring for Heritage Grant works for plastering, carpentry and painting of the railway station were completed.
- April 2026 – the internal cladding for the tennis clubhouse had been completed (Boco Rock).
- April 2026 – a safety awareness program included the preparation of a risk assessment, the installation of permanent signage at the railway station warning visitors of dangers and the purchase of two fire extinguishers (self-funded) were completed. Thank you Sally Hughes for putting forward these ideas.

Website and Facebook

- Technical support is provided by Markus Buchhorn for our website and email. Thank you, Markus, once again!
- MRCA Minutes and *Michelago Magpies* are uploaded to the website by Leanne Pattison – thank you!
- I have created content for most local organisations on the website.
- We regularly use our MRCA Facebook page and the Michelago Noticeboard to publicise our events and activities.
 - Our MRCA Facebook page has 898 followers: 54% from Canberra, 12% from Sydney, 7% from Michelago. Women make up 66% of our followers, and the age group 35-54 make up 50%.

Four events organised by MRCA and three events by other groups at the railway station

- 14 Sep Railway Station Blessing of the Fleet: Michelago, Colinton, Burra & Guises Creek fire brigades. Hosted by Queanbeyan & District Anglican Church.
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day organised by MRCA. Attended by Michelago Public School. Thanks to Jenny Wholohan for the memorial address.
- 16 Nov The Great Michelago Bake Off organised by MRCA, masterminded by Leanne Thurling.
- 26 Jan 2026 Australia Day BBQ at the Oval – MRCA event funded by Council. Thanks to our BBQ 'chefs', Tony De Salis, Sally Hughes and Elizabeth Price.
- 4 April Easter Egg Hunt Hosted by Sam Walton, Fiona Tollis and others
- 25 April ANZAC Day organised by Gregg McFaul, Rob Smith, Dee McFaul's Community Choir and MRCA. Thanks to Leanne Thurling for her poetry.

- 3 May MRCA's biggest event in a long time, the Heritage Market at the railway station. Thanks to our MRCA team and vast cast of helpers too numerous to list.

Advocacy – three submissions were completed

- September 2025 - MRCA Submission to the *Residential, Commercial and Industrial Lands Strategy* reminded Council of the priorities in the Michelago Master Plan that have yet to be implemented:
 - Sealing of Micalago Road
 - Traffic calming measures on Ryrie Street
 - Michelago Creek Loop Trail/Path
- October 2025 MRCA Submission to the draft *Snowy Monaro Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy*. We made five recommendations
 - heritage assets managed by the volunteer groups should be included
 - Council retain a heritage consultant on an as-needs basis to support community groups manage heritage assets
 - Council advocates for the removal of the financial co-contribution for community groups applying for NSW heritage grants
 - Council introduces a heritage grant funded by the NSW Government
 - Developers be required to commit part of their development contributions to the maintenance of heritage assets on their property
- November 2025 MRCA wrote to the NSW Environment Protection Agency about the noise directive to Council for the Michelago Bank of Bins.

Kerry Rooney
President, MRCA

12 August 2026



NEW TANK FOR MEMORIAL HALL

Photos: Allan Lehepuu

Snowy Monaro Regional Council, responsible for structural upkeep at the Hall, offered to replace the old, rusted water tank and supply the base. The Hall Committee accepted, knowing that the work of clearing the site and employing a plumber for connections was its responsibility.

This work turned out to be a little more involved and expensive than anticipated, but volunteers, led by Hall Committee stalwart Allan Lehepuu, banded together for an excellent result.



Plumber Charles Hillman lent some helpful tools, then made the professional connections for improved water to all outlets in the Hall.

Helpers for the tank delivery were Markus and Julie Buchhorn, Stanton and Myles Hooley, Stephen Lucas and Brian (the truck driver/deliverer from Bushman tanks).

Other helpers at various stages were Anna Lucas and Hall neighbours Sam Walton, Sam Clarke and, at all stages, Allan Lehepuu.

L: Anna siphons water from the old tank before its removal.



Above: 1. Dodgy wooden platform under old tank. 2. Concrete pillars for platform support. 3. The almost-cleared site. 4. Some water for the new tank, supplied by Allan.



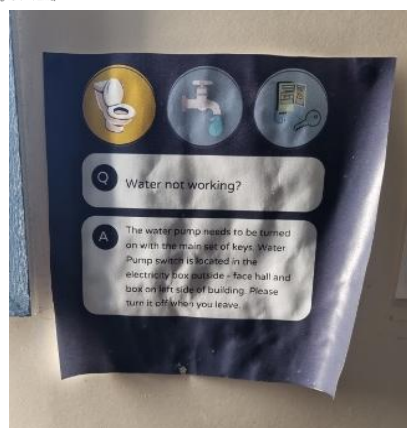
Above: 1. Goodbye to the old tank. 2. Base for the new tank being prepared. 3. Helpers had to remove the side fence and gate for the new tank's entry, then reconstruct them, including concreting the posts. 4. The glorious new tank waiting for rain.

This process has been another example of Michelago people working together to benefit the community.

The old tank had 8,500 litres capacity. The new one has 30,000 litres and awaits lots of rain. The Hall Committee thanks Snowy Monaro Regional Council for this essential upgrade to the Hall.



HELPFUL SIGNS AT THE HALL



The Hall Committee has posted various signs in the Hall to help users find and work various functions and how to turn them off when leaving.

The signs include one asking users to leave the Hall clean and tidy, including sweeping the floor.

This laminated one is outside. It has instructions for turning water on and off and is on the outside left, near the switches. *[Apologies for the shadows on the photo, but at least you know it's there if you need it. -Ed.]*



MRCA DONATIONS

All donations help, but MRCA particularly thanks two very generous ones from Peter Bobroff and Andrew Kemp. The committee really appreciates this help with running costs.



THANK YOU TO JENNY WHOLOHAN, ALLAN LEHEPUU AND NAOMI WALTON

These three wonderful people will retire from the Hall Committee at its AGM in October. All three have made huge contributions to the Hall's improvement over the past four years, helped with events, written successful grant applications for Hall improvements, participated in making those improvements and liaised with Council.

Just some of the more obvious improvements: acoustic curtains (that also look good), acoustic panels, secure doors for the storage area, a dishwasher, making the A/V system and cameras work, painting, and cleaning out redundant equipment. And the new water tank. Allan has fixed signs and latches at the tennis courts, repaired a net and put up the basketball hoop. Jenny has also helped keep the clubhouse clean for events like the Oz Day bbq.

Jenny was initially the secretary while Belinda was treasurer, then has been treasurer since Belinda retired. Naomi has been president and secretary (not at the same time) and maintained excellent contact with Council. Allan is Everyman, the lynchpin in making things (and sometimes people) work.

The Hall Committee is an S355 committee of Council, which will need to advertise for applicants for the three vacant positions (not specific office-holders) in a committee of six.

Cath Cotter is currently the very efficient organiser of Hall bookings, Fiona Tollis is the newest, and very welcome, president and Anna Lucas continues to be indispensable. People admiring the new Hall sign and the personally painted columns have Anna to thank.



A BELATED THANK YOU TO BELINDA SIERZCHULA

Belinda and her family have moved to Queanbeyan and are very much missed. The Magpie apologises for not specifically acknowledging her (again, huge) contribution to the Hall previously.

As well as being the treasurer, Belinda organised community events (who can forget the sauerkraut workshop?!), including the gingerbread houses for Christmas and fund-raising for a new fridge with the novel number-affle called 'A Grand In The Hand'. She also organised the sanding and resealing of the very sad Hall floor and persuaded her useful partner, Wayne, to help with practical jobs.

All in all, thanks to a brilliant committee, the Hall is in excellent condition. It will soon just need to have three more people to help run it. Hall hire rates: see p.14.

Below: 1. Belinda, Allan and Jenny cut up the numbers for the Grand in the Hand affle. (2) Numbers ready for the affle draw (Oct. 2022). (3) A very artistic gingerbread house (Dec. 2022).





BLESSING OF THE FLEET 2026

Sunday September 13th, 9.30 am
Michelago Railway Station
Ryrie St, Michelago

Join us for the Blessing of the Fleet.
Our local fire brigades will be blessed and prayed
for in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

Morning tea from 9.30
Coffee from Johnoz Coffee
BBQ Following service

Please contact queanbeyananglican@yahoo.com.au if you require further information



GET READY FOR FIRE SEASON – Kristy McBain, Member for Eden-Monaro

The latest Seasonal Bushfire Outlook, released by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), identifies an increased bushfire risk across parts of southeastern New South Wales. Following below-average rainfall and warmer conditions, much of the state is entering spring drier than usual. Our communities know all too well the impact bushfires can have.

While governments and emergency services are preparing for the season ahead, there are practical steps we can all take now. Please review your Bush Fire Survival Plan, understand the risks in your local area, and check in with family, friends and neighbours to ensure they have a plan, too.

To help communities get ready, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is holding Get Ready Weekend events across the state. These free events provide practical advice, information about local bushfire risks, and simple actions you can take to better protect your home and family. You can find an event near you at:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/get-ready-weekend-2026

I also want to thank our emergency services personnel, volunteers and support agencies, whose professionalism and dedication will once again be critical in keeping our communities safe.

If I can assist with any other federal matter, please give my office a call on 02 6284 2442 or send me an email at Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au.





MICHELAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPANDS

There are now 45 students, Kindergarten to Year 6, and there are already 5 enrolments for Kindy in 2027.

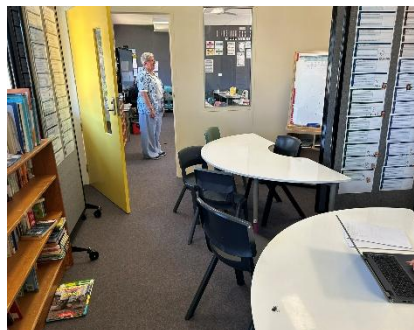
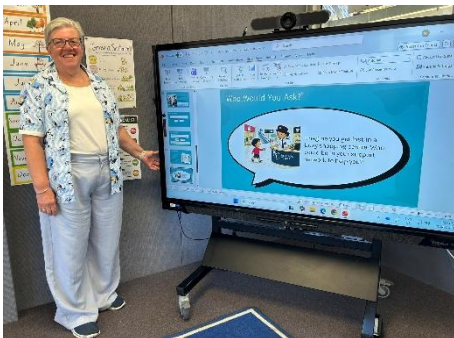
During the holidays, the old one-room portable was removed. School Secretary Jan said it was established in 1986. She knows because the man who delivered the new classrooms remembered bringing the original one.

The new school building is impressive. There are now two very large classrooms for multi-level teaching-learning, equipped with 'smart' whiteboards and linked by a flexible-use room for study, small groups or withdrawal.

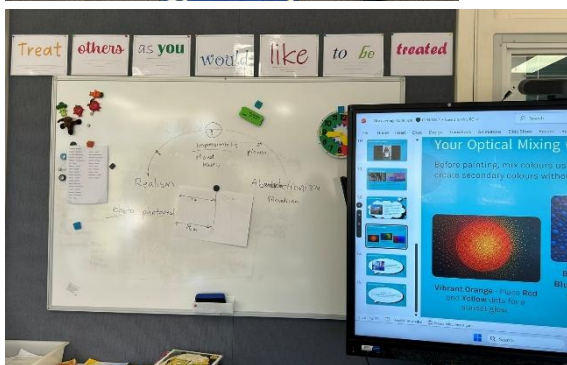
Both classrooms are language-rich across various curricula, stimulating, comfortable and welcoming. They evidence a busy, happy environment for academic and social learning.

There are no students in these photos. Education Department rules about photographing students have tightened because of the increasingly intrusive activities of social media. Not only do you have to receive general permission from a parent/guardian for any photos, but you must gain it for any specific photo that will be used for a specific purpose in a specific medium.

School Secretary Jan and Principal Geoff helpfully provided human interest for Magpie photos.



Above: 1. Jan in the senior classroom. 2. The linking room. 3. Geoff in the junior classroom.



Left: Art history, identities and techniques.

Below: Some of the inspirational messages at the reception desk from international notables. Magpie wonders whether the Education Department could also supply some Australian role models.





NEW SEATS DONATED TO THE RAILWAY STATION

One is near the Cenotaph and one is on the platform, outside the kitchen. Grateful thanks to the Burra Community Shed for these beautifully crafted community facilities.

A tribute from Gregg McFaul, copied from Michelago Facebook, is below.

"I would like to pass on my thanks to the Burra Community Shed for its assistance in building community seating at the Michelago Cenotaph. A real community cooperation project. Funds were raised for materials at the 'Moth' concert in Michelago in 2025.



A particular shout out to Rob Smith from Royalla, who was instrumental in getting the seating project going and in its construction, and to Ian Hooley in assisting the build. A huge thank you to Deborah and Greg, and Sandra and Glen for their donation of the cast iron seat ends for the benches. Thank you to all at the Shed for your support in this little project."

L: Photo credit unknown.



L: Ian Hume on the seat outside the kitchen.

Ian and his wife, Desley, had paused to look at the station on their trip from Sydney to Lake Eucumbene. Ian kindly agreed to add human interest to a photo of the other new seat. He said they always stop at the station on these trips, look around and let Lucy, their Chocolate Burmese, stretch her legs before she goes back in her carry-box. Thank you, Ian and Desley.

MICHELAGO COMMUNITY CHOIR

Dee McFaul



The Michelago Community Choir meets on Thursdays at 7 pm at the St Thomas church, next to the Police Station.

The choir is purely for getting to know other folk from Bredbo, Burra, Tinderry Mountains and Michelago region.

We sing for fun together, laugh together and generally just have a wonderful hour of joyful community. No experience is needed and all resources are supplied.

All we ask in return is your enthusiasm and a gold coin donation. Love to see all returning members and some new faces.

[Magpie understands that Choir is still on its winter break and will resume end of September. -Ed.]





BIRD FLU

Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc.

communications@wildcare.com.au

www.wildcare.com.au

Photos supplied by Wildcare. Black swans at Yerrabi Pond.



Merran Laver & Krystal Hemsworth

As you've no doubt heard in the news, the virulent H5N1 bird flu has arrived in Australia from migratory birds. At time of writing it has reached every state, affecting a range of mostly coastal birds, a few land-based native bird species, and has now affected mammals on the mainland, with a confirmed case in a long-nosed fur seal. It is spreading and by the time you read this, the numbers could be much higher. Several mass mortality events have been reported. It has not yet spread to farmed poultry, but this too could change.

Australia has been preparing for the arrival of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza since it began spreading across the globe in 2021 and has well-established national response arrangements in place to respond to animal disease incidents.

As of 22 August 2026 there were 298 confirmed events (rather than individual) of H5 bird flu in wild birds in Australia.

Symptoms of the flu in birds may include:

- Seizures or tremors
- Lack of coordination
- Abnormal posture, eg head tilt or twisted neck
- Swelling of head, neck, eyes
- Difficulty breathing
- Inability to stand or fly
- Swimming in circles



Wildcare Queanbeyan will continue to rescue native birds during this time and is liaising closely with the Dept of Primary Industries to ensure the correct protocols are followed.

While the current risk to human health is low, it's important for rescuers with Wildcare to maintain strict biosecurity procedures, so we can continue doing what we love – helping our vulnerable native animals.

We are currently seeking donations of PPE such as disposable gloves, P2/N95 respirators, eye protection/safety glasses, disposable coveralls, boot covers, hand sanitiser, rescue crates and bleach / F10 disinfectant. If you are able to provide any of these items, please contact our 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966. If you'd prefer to donate financially so we may be able to purchase these items, please head to our website www.wildcare.com.au/donate

Please always avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds. If you find a sick, injured or orphaned wild bird, or any other native animal, please contact our 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966 for advice and assistance.



MICELAGO 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.



GIGGLE & BOUNCE STORY TIME AT MICELAGO SCHOOL LIBRARY – FREE!

Next session: Wednesday 16 September,

10.30–11.30

SMRC Libraries are hosting a monthly story time ("rhyme time", "giggle and bounce") in Michelago.

Who: Under-school-aged children and carers.

Contact: Ira at Cooma Library

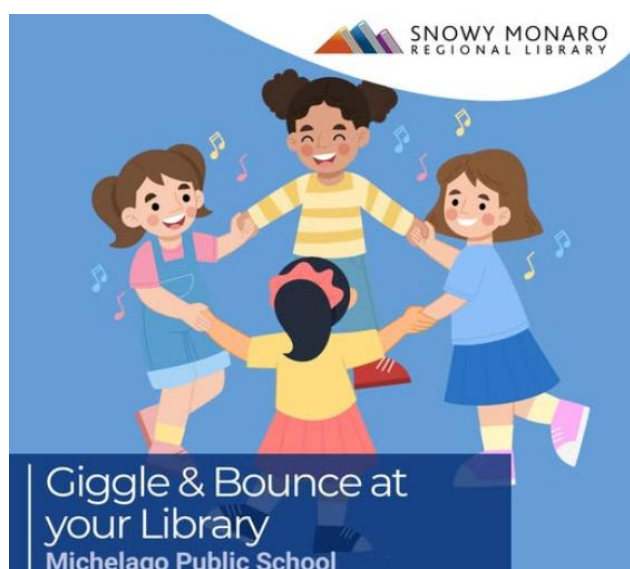
libraries@smrc.nsw.gov.au

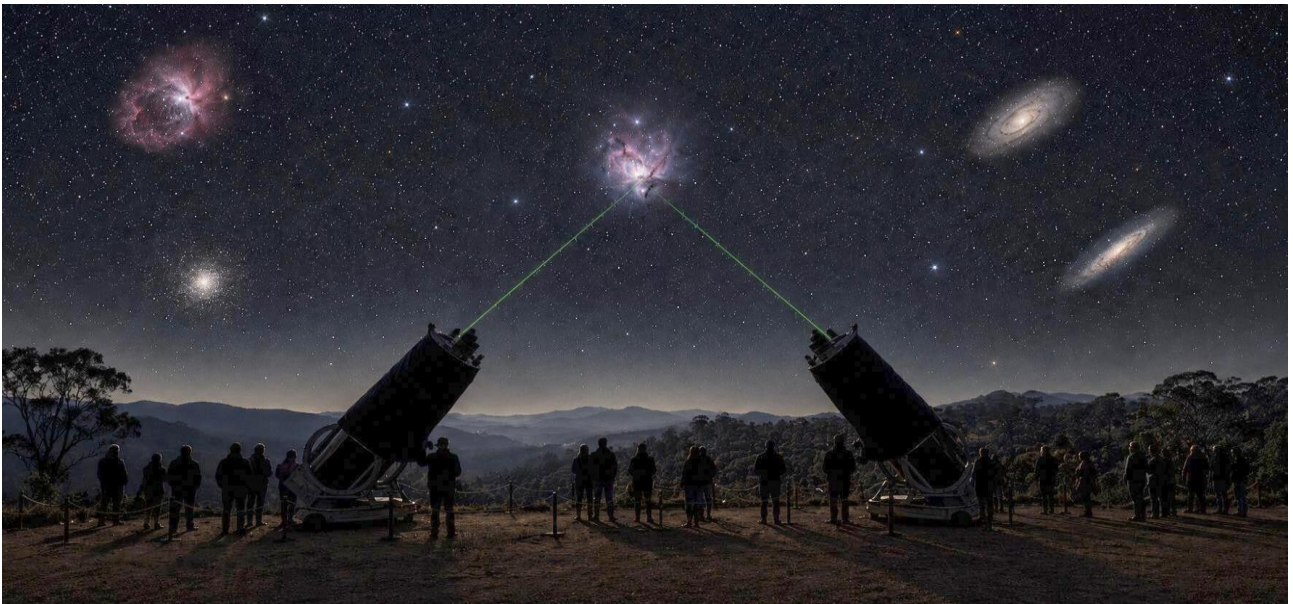
(02) 6451 1630

To continue this valuable outreach service, we'll need strong numbers. Unfortunately it does clash with the Bredbo Playgroup (but only one week of the month) so we hope you can make it.

Then: 14 October, 18 November, 9 December.

The children have really enjoyed these sessions, so do come along!





The image is obviously AI-enhanced, but the flat site, small stars and the hills are real. Added into the sky by AI are: Orion nebula, Eta Carina, Omega Centaurus and two galaxies (one edge-on and one face-on). And the crowd. [See also p.23.]

Peter has lasers that make it easy to point the telescope without bending to look through a sight. Fun fact: The bigger the telescope, the smaller the area of sky it can cover. Discover the stars! They're amazing and Peter can answer your questions.

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*



LOST YOUR PET? Help your pets find their way home

Snowy Monaro Regional Council. Media release Issued Tuesday 14 July 2026

An unlatched gate, a door left ajar, a short distraction. It doesn't take much for our pets to slip away and wind up lost. It's every pet owner's greatest fear, but there are a few easy things you can do to help make sure your pet always finds their way back home.

Council is sharing this information to help local pet owners know what to do if their pet gets lost, and what precautions to take to help keep your furry friends safe.

Step one – Get your pets microchipped

All puppies and kittens need to be microchipped before they're sold or given away. But depending on your pet's age and where you got them from, they might not have one. If your pet gets lost, it's a big help if you know their microchip number.

Check with your vet, breeder or rehoming organisation if you aren't sure. You can also take a look at any paperwork to see if it's listed.

Step two – Registration

Under NSW law, every dog and cat needs to be registered with up-to-date owner details on the NSW Pet Registry.

If you get a new pet, give one away, or just move house or change your phone number — it's important to jump online and quickly update your pet's details. You can also use the Pet Registry site to mark when your pet has gone missing, when they've been found, and more.

Visit <https://petreg.nsw.gov.au> to check your details. You can also contact Council for offline options.

Step three – Collars and name tags

It may be a bit old school, but there's a good reason pet name tags and collars have stuck around so long – they work. A collar and tag with your phone number is, cheap, simple, and it really does help if your pet gets lost. These days, there are even high-tech options with location tracking and alerts available.

Step four – What to do if your pet is lost

If your pet goes astray, keep calm and take action to put the word out. Call us on 1300 345 345 so our rangers can be on the lookout. Check your local community Facebook groups to see if anyone's spotted your pet. Make a post with photos and details so your neighbours can let you know of any sightings.

[If your pet is picked up and taken to the pound](#), Council's rangers will keep them warm, safe, and fed until we can reach you to organise collection. That's why it's important to make sure your details are up to date. If we don't know who to call, or we've only got an old number, it can be hard or impossible to find a lost animal's owner.

Take the time to make sure your pet can always find their way home.

Learn more at <https://petreg.nsw.gov.au> Visit our website for more local pet owner info at <https://qrco.de/SMRCpets> You can also contact Council on 1300 345 345 or at council@smrc.nsw.gov.au for help and advice about pet ownership in our region.

Media Contact

Communications Department

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



WOMBAT MANGE



 (02) 6299 1966

 wildcare.com.au

  @WildcareQBN

Wombats right across the Wildcare region are susceptible to a highly contagious condition that can cause a slow and painful death to affected wombats if left untreated – mange. The condition is caused by a mite which burrows into the skin, causing intense itching and skin irritation, resulting in open wounds, infection, dehydration, loss of body condition, fly strike in summer and hypothermia and pneumonia in winter.



Above: a wombat with mange before treatment.

Mange can spread rapidly through wombat populations. Unfortunately, due to the nocturnal and solitary nature of wombats, early signs of mange often go unnoticed. However, wombats with mange are often seen during the daylight hours in winter, and this is when they are noticed and reported to Wildcare Queanbeyan.

The good news is that mange doesn't have to be a death sentence for our local wombats. The Wildcare Wombat Mange Treatment team can treat mange-affected wombats safely and successfully in their natural environment, with simple and effective treatment methods, using a direct treatment if a wombat can be approached within two metres and indirect method via a burrow treatment device over the wombat burrow.

Wildcare Queanbeyan is keen to raise awareness about mange in the local community to encourage reporting and involve community members with treatment. If you would like Wildcare to conduct a

mange presentation in your local area, community centre or school, or would like to get involved with mange treatment, contact Wildcare's **Wombat Mange coordinator, Elena** on **0427 853 533** or email mange@wildcare.com.au

If you see a wombat with mange, please contact the 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966.

Wildcare Queanbeyan is run entirely by volunteers and funded by generous donations from the community. Vet bills, supplies, medication and petrol are all funded by our volunteers and these donations. We rescue, raise, rehabilitate and release sick, injured and orphaned native animals throughout the Wildcare service area of over 22,000km² in south-eastern NSW.

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

If you're interested to be a rehabilitator for native wildlife, go to www.wildcare.com.au to find out more.

Krystal Hemsworth, Communications Coordinator

communications@wildcare.com.au



MONARO HIGHWAY – AI-ASSISTED WARNING SIGNS

Thank you to the Wildcare member who forwarded Wildcare's June-July newsletter, which featured news from the ABC site. Excerpts follow.

'AI-assisted animal detection cameras and smart signage will be installed on a section of the Monaro Highway south of Canberra in a bid to reduce wildlife-vehicle strikes. The 300-metre trial area at Michelago is one of many wildlife hot spots in the region where Wildcare Queanbeyan volunteers regularly attend to injured animals.

The Protective Animal Warning System (PAWS) uses thermal and optical roadside cameras to detect animals close to the roadside and an AI computer vision-aided model identifies common species such as kangaroos, deer and wombats.

When an animal is detected, a smart road sign flashes up the words "Animal on road. Slow down" to alert approaching motorists in real time.

Transport for NSW will track whether there is a reduction in wildlife strikes in the test area.

The Monaro Highway from Bredbo to Williamsdale has recorded more than 1,000 dead animals removed from the road since 2020 and 37 vehicle crashes involving



animals since 2013. This location at Michelago has also been consistently raised by the community as a wildlife collision hotspot, particularly by tourists travelling to the Snowy Mountains.

An estimated 10 million animals are killed on Australian roads each year at a huge cost to motorists, insurers and native animals, as well as to wildlife volunteers.'



R: Vice President Christian McDonald and President Elena Guarracino at the trial site. Photos: ABC Canberra

Fact Sheet: [Monaro Highway AI-enabled smart roadside signage trial](#)

Wildcare has run information sessions about snakes, flying foxes, microbats and biosecurity strategies during August and has more planned. If you're interested in their activities, contact Merran Laver, Membership Secretary at membership@wildcare.com.au



UPPER MURRUMBIDGEE LANDCARE

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

www.uppermurrumbidgeelandcare.com

The Upper Bidgee Bulletin

The Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Quarterly Newsletter

The winter edition (16 July) of this quarterly newsletter is available online. You can join the mailing list: see address above.

Features include:

- Use of drones to monitor underwater habitat structures, to map and spot-spray areas inaccessible to helicopters and even to people, and to spread fertiliser and seeds.

The Bredbo area was used for the drone experiments. Forty hectares of African Love Grass was sprayed with flupropanate, which stays active in the soil for c.6 years. →

- The Southern Tablelands Tree Start Growers Network is heading into its third year and looking to grow 20,000 plants this season. The network supports members to grow 200 plants at home from September to March and then return for use in local revegetation projects.

All materials are supplied and ongoing support throughout the season is provided. September dates and meeting sites TBC.

- The Independent Review Panel (IRP) report on the environmentally significant water flow in the upper Murrumbidgee vis-à-vis energy production. The full draft IRP Report and consultation details can be found here:

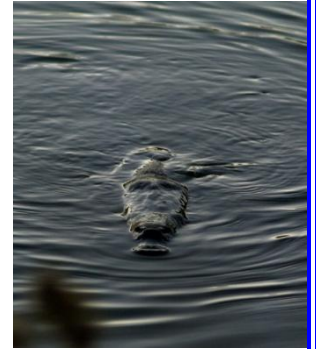
<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/draft-report-independent-review-of-the-snowy-water-inquiry-outcomes-implementation-deed>





*Left: The upper Murrumbidgee suffered from a widespread algal bloom in autumn 2026
(photo: Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch)*

- The results are in for the 2025/26 Koala Karaoke Citizen Science Project. A more detailed report will be provided to landholders who participated soon.
- The annual platypus survey starts soon. To find out more and some great platypus resources go to: <https://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/programs/platypus-month>
R: Platypus photo by Martin Chalk.
- UMLC European Wasp control project: dates in September and meeting sites TBC.
- UMLC and LLs feral cat education and control project: details TBC.



Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 51686917287.



WHY GO TO A CITY GYM? MICHELAGO HALL HAS IT ALL!



Saturdays at 8 am: Peter Daley, a qualified trainer, runs a multi-level interval training class. Sometimes he varies the interval training with a whole-class focus. He says it works for all ages. It costs only \$5, as he considers it a community contribution.

Call Peter just to check the class is on: 0417 427 494.

*L: Sue Drew has increased her strength at Peter's classes.
R: Stanton Hooley muscles up.*



Saturdays at 9.30 to 10.15: Heidi has a Pilates class that is very successful. A flyer with details is on the MRCA noticeboard outside the Michelago Café.

Melodie Neal
Justice of the Peace
0402 350 077
Micalago Road





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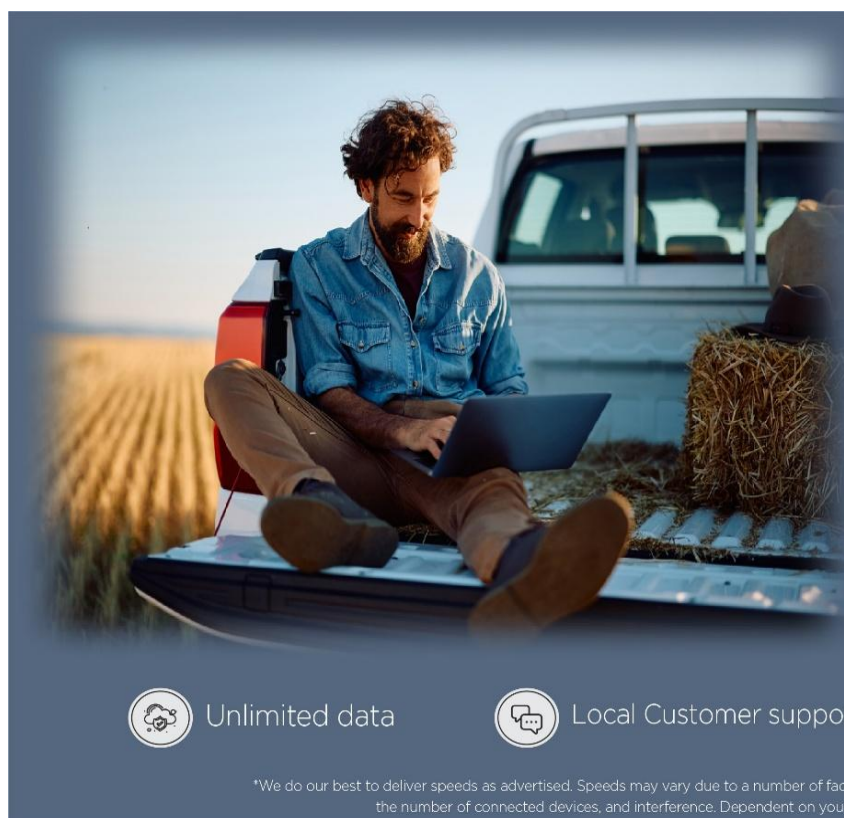
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REAL ADVICE FOR REAL ESTATE

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.

CHRIS CHURCHILL

0417 080 460

cchurchill@blackshaw.com.au

Unit 8 37 Kesteven Street, Flory
blackshaw.com.au



SCAN ME

FILL OUT THE
FORM AND I WILL
BE IN TOUCH



Call Chris Churchill. He has extensive experience with rural properties.

Call him for an obligation-free, helpful chat: 0417 080 460

cchurchill@blackshaw.com.au



STAR GAZING – a supplement to p.15

When I heard the learn'd astronomer,
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,
When I was shown the charts and diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them,
When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-room,
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,

Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,

Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

Walt Whitman 1819–1892



Stock image



AND DOWN HERE ON EARTH ...

Spring flowers make us sneeze
But for bees, they're the knees.
They all work for the hive,
To keep other bees alive.
Here, three share a camellia,
Without fighting, such wonder,
So can show us the stars
Are much closer than Mars.



HEALING WITH ANIMALS

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MICHELAGO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

**YOUR COMMUNITY-BASED RURAL FIRE BRIGADE
PROTECTS YOU|
NEEDS YOU**

*Are you new to the district? Please join us!
We can help you, your family and property: 'Prepare, Act, Survive'*

The Michelago Rural Fire Brigade

- is made up entirely of volunteers
- welcomes both male and female members
- values diverse skills and experiences
- has free, monthly training sessions
- has access to free training with the NSW Rural Fire Service Monaro Team
- collaborates with other rural brigades like Colinton and Anembo
- protects people and property against natural disasters
- provides fire protection for emergency services attending motor vehicle accidents
- issues fire permits
- participates in community fire-safety education programs
- is funded for trucks, equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through the Rural Fire Fighting Fund and Local Government
- works with the community.

Be in the community — be in the Brigade

President — Brent Wallis

Enquiries

Captain — Abby McPherson — 0417 548 118



FABCON

E N G I N E E R I N G

Anything to do with metal. Jack has a crane, too.



Webinar for trades businesses interested in working with Council

Tradies interested in working with Council are invited to join this webinar to learn about the benefits of joining our trades panel. *[If you're interested but missed the webinar, call Snowy Monaro Regional Council 1300 345 345 for information.]*

Thursday 3 September 2026 at 5.30pm.

ONLINE WEBINAR. Register now: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../smrc-trades-panel...>

This session will cover everything you need to know as a trades business interested in applying to join a new trades panel through the online VendorPanel procurement platform.

Businesses approved to join the panel will get the chance to be considered for Council trades work that isn't suited to a full open tender or expression-of-interest process.

The panel will become Council's main way of engaging trades contractors.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR BUSINESS.



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 and have been 2nd Wed of most months, Railway Station. New time & date are being organised for new committee. All 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.
- **Bredbo CWA Markets** 4th Sunday of the month, 9–3pm
- **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 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)** Next: Sun 27 Sept. 2pm, tennis clubhouse. Enquiries: SMS Jenny 0400 484 485 or jenny258@bigpond.com
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Currently every 2nd month, 3rd Wed 6 pm.
- **Hall bookings** Michelago.Memorial.Hall@gmail.com 0494 178 469. Hire rates p.14. Note 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 17 Sept. See *Magpie* 36 for how to order books/call Cooma Library (02) 6451 1630.
- **Massage** Michelle O'Leary comes to you with her massage table. 0401 535 414
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Usually monthly. New date & time tbc. See p.27.
- **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.
- **Story, Rhyme & Dance Time** for kiddies. School. Wednesdays 10.30–11.30. Next: 16 Sept. See p.14.
- **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.

September

Sunday 13: Blessing of the Fleet. Michelago Railway Station. 9.30 Morning tea. Johnoz Coffee Van. BBQ after the service. See p.10.



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