

\$2 ~ Michelago Magpie 52~ ©

3 October 2026

from your Michelago Region Community Association

Table of contents p.4



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THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET 2026 – A GREAT GATHERING



Thank you to the generous people of Queanbeyan District Anglican Church for again organising the Blessing of the Fleet for Rural Fire Brigades and donating the barbecue and morning tea.

Bless all the firefighters. May everyone's gods protect them. May they continue to protect us with their selfless work. May their skills, teamwork and courage be undiminished. And may they be properly funded.

Their quick responses stop small fires growing and they give their all against the big ones, the bad ones – we remember 2020, when Namadgi was alight and Michelago a focal control point. Recent folk memory goes back to 2009 and 2003 and some residents remember further back.

The brigades attend road accidents. They train to deal with new materials in burning vehicles and new communication technology.

They support us and each other. We must all support them.

13 September, Michelago Railway Station About 100 people gathered for the service and social occasion on a beautiful Spring morning. NSW and ACT Volunteer Rural Fire Brigades present were Burra, Colinton, Guises Creek, Jerrabomberra and Michelago.

By chance, there were two motorcyclists from Corinella Fire Brigade and the CFA, Victoria. They'd just happened to be at the Michelago Café, saw the fire trucks go past and came to check out what was happening. They'd been participating with hundreds of bikies along the highway in the Wall to Wall ride that memorialises police killed on duty. As volunteers who protect communities, they found plenty of comrades.



Above: 1. Guises Creek Brigade. 2. Martin (Corinella) & David (CFA), Abby (Michelago Captain), Peter (Michelago Snr Deputy Captain). 3. Christchurch's Lucy sets up the barbeque.



Above: 1. Revd Mike Oborn & sister Virginia. 2. Captain Chris Barnes (Guises Creek). 3. Revd Mike sprays the trucks. 4. Michelago Deputy Captain Derek Giucci & Gerard Kelly.



L: All firefighters were asked to stand up and were enthusiastically applauded.

Queanbeyan Christchurch's Jana, the main organiser of the function, said the Corinella bikes/firefighters were so impressed that they want to bring a fire truck next year.

Fiona Tollis read the Acknowledgement of Country and a prayer for guidance, protection and comfort. The Revd

Michael Oborn of Queanbeyan's Christchurch conducted the service and gave the address, drawing parallels with Christ's love for all and the mission of the firefighters to protect and save people. The sentiments were endorsed in the RFS Captain's address, given by Chris Barnes of Guises Creek Brigade. Ruth Bishop read from Romans 5:6-10 (NRSV). Singers Theresa Hawke and Tim Shephard led the gathering in *Amazing Grace* and the hymn *Consider Christ*.

Then it was time for the words of the Blessing and spraying of the fire trucks with holy water and for a happy morning tea.



Above: 1. Marian & Gerard Kelly. 2. Cr John Rooney & Dr Michael Fett. 3. "Call me Mr Grumpy" aka Glen. 4. Grant of Guises Creek Brigade shows his brigade's logo on his hoodie.
Below: 1. Michael Scanlon & Leanne Thurling. 2 & 3. See, everyone was there.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Blessing of the Fleet 1, 2, 3	South East Printing & Community Bus 15
Bunnings Fire Brigade fundraiser 4	Michelago Hall: quick tips & hire info 16, 17
Michelago Brigade recruitment 5	Groceries etc at Michelago Servo 17
Fire season planning 6	See the stars: telescope night 21
MRCA sets 2026–27 priorities 7	Garden Group 21
For kids 6 and under, a perfect playtime 8	Illegal dumping: prevent or report 22
Feral Pigs project 9	SERVICES: Plumber, Craft supplies, JP,
Micalago Rd: Ryrie St to highway resealing 10	Internet, Mechanic, Painter, Printing,
Community Choir 10	Engineering & Crane Hire, Real Estate,
Captains Flat Railway Station: a sad story 11	Healing with animals, Easy way to pay rates.
Reduced C'wealth funding for councils 12, 13	About the MRCA & Michelago Magpie 23
Monaro Rail Trail 14	What's On? 24



BUNNINGS FIRE BRIGADE FUNDRAISER

Brien Hallett. Photo: Brien Hallett

Time for some Michelago Fire Brigade trivia: How many sausages does it take to prepare for a Bunnings fundraising barbecue? We'll return to the magic number soon, but in a smooth operation, RFS members made an early start at Bunnings Tuggeranong on Saturday 5 September to continue the Australian tradition of tempting shoppers with a sausage sanger in support of a good cause.

Despite the rain – and the fact that it was too early to plant tomatoes – trade was brisk and a steady stream of customers showed their support for the Michelago Brigade by devouring nearly a thousand dollars' worth of sausages wrapped in slices from 60 loaves of bread.

After final numbers were crunched, the fundraiser banked a profit of \$2,625. Brigade captain Abby McPherson said that while the New South Wales Rural Fire Service supplies vehicles and basic equipment, the brigade still relies on donations and funds raised from the community to provide other essential equipment such as torches, extra protective gear and welfare for our volunteer firefighters. *R: a fridge full of sausages.*

"This is particularly important as we prepare for what threatens to be a hot and dry fire season this summer," Abby told *The Magpie*.

The brigade appreciates the support of Bunnings Tuggeranong in providing this opportunity and was particularly delighted to receive a store gift voucher valued at \$150 from the manager. And, once again, sponsorship of \$500 from the Calwell Branch of the Community Bank Canberra and Regions (Bendigo Bank) assisted in the purchase of sausages and helped improve the profit margin. This generous contribution by the bank makes a real difference.

And how many sausages? The magic number is 1,100 or more than an RFS fridge-full, it turns out. So thanks to the Michelago School for storing what wouldn't fit in the fire-shed the day before.





MICHELAGO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

YOUR COMMUNITY-BASED RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

PROTECTS YOU NEEDS YOU

Interested in joining your local brigade?

*Meet new people, learn new skills and
make a difference in your community.*

The Michelago Rural Fire Brigade is part of
the **North West Group** within the Monaro District.

- **No experience necessary** – full training provided
- **Learn** practical firefighting and emergency response skills
- **Meet new people** and become part of a supportive local team
- Training is provided **free** through the NSW Rural Fire Service
- **Opportunities** to attend incidents, training and community events
- **Help protect** people, property and our local community
- **Work alongside** other brigades in the area, including Smiths Road
- **There are roles for everyone** – different skills, abilities and experience levels

Be in the community — be in the Brigade

Enquiries

Captain — Abby McPherson 0417 548 118



Find us on
Facebook



FIRE SEASON IS APPROACHING – ARE YOU PREPARED?

Abby McPherson, Captain, Michelago Fire Brigade



The Bushfire Danger Period for our local area comes into effect from the 1st of October 2026 across the Monaro.

With conditions drying out across our area, now is a good time to get your property and family prepared for the fire season ahead.

There are some simple things landowners can do now:

- Keep grass around homes, sheds and fences short.
- Clear leaves, bark and other flammable material.
- Clean gutters and trim vegetation around buildings.
- Make sure driveways and gates are clear for fire trucks.
- Check pumps, hoses and water supplies.
- Have a plan for pets, horses and livestock.

Most importantly, have a Bush Fire Survival Plan and talk about it with your family.

 Leaving early is the safest option. Know where you will go, when you will leave and what your trigger will be. Don't wait until a fire is close before deciding.

 If you plan to stay and defend, make sure your property is well prepared and you have the equipment, water supply and ability to do so safely.

Fire conditions can change quickly. Prepare now, know your plan and don't leave the decision until the last minute.

MODERATE	PLAN AND PREPARE
At MODERATE , most fires can be controlled. Plan and prepare and be ready to act if there is a fire.	
HIGH	BE READY TO ACT
At HIGH , be ready to act. Fires can be dangerous, so be alert for fires in your area.	
EXTREME	TAKE ACTION NOW
TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY	
At EXTREME , fires will spread quickly and become extremely dangerous. If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.	
CATASTROPHIC	FOR YOUR SURVIVAL
LEAVE BUSH FIRE RISK AREAS	
Under CATASTROPHIC conditions, if a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.	

NO RATING - The white bar is used on days when there is no fire danger, and means no action is required.



NEW MRCA COMMITTEE SETS PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR *Jo Gaha, Secretary MRCA*

The new Michelago Region Community Association Committee for 2026–2027 held its first meeting, at the Michelago Railway Station, on Monday 21 September. Our agenda was to discuss priorities for the year.

We took a close look at last year's priorities and achievements and MRCA's objectives.*

MRCA's objectives are to advocate and work

- To support better social and economic outcomes for the Michelago region, and
- For the preservation of the Michelago region's heritage infrastructure and natural environment.

MRCA will pursue these objectives

- By working collaboratively with other groups in Michelago and the Snowy Monaro region, and
- Through open and inclusive communication.

We noted that Michelago Landcare is becoming a subcommittee of the MRCA and this impacts our priorities. [Note Michelago Landcare AGM, 10 October, 3 pm, Railway Station. – Ed.]

Most of our discussion centred around community engagement and events: how to bring people together. We decided a priority will be to organise small events that bring our community together over food and music. We plan to begin organising these events and Michelago Creek rehabilitation working/planting bees at our next meeting.

Our priorities for this year:

- We will pursue the Michelago Creek rehabilitation and planting project using Landcare's allocated project money. We hope to involve the community in working bees.
- Maintain the Michelago Railway Station, applying for relevant grants as they become available.
- Monaro Highway safety to remain a priority. **
- Bring our community together at regular, small events involving music and food.

If you have read this piece, I hope you will consider the priorities the committee agreed and let us know your reaction to these priorities. We welcome comment and suggestions.



Please send them to

mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

*[See also *Magpie* 51 –Ed.]

** [See *Magpie* 27 & 28 –Ed.]

All issues of *Michelago Magpie* are under the News tab at www.michelagoregion.org.au



PERFECT PLAYTIME FOR PEOPLE 6 YEARS AND UNDER

Michelago School library. Sing, count, act, dance together, play with bubbles, then settle down to soak up a story ... it was a delight to be part of such a welcoming, happy, stimulating hour. The Magpie wanted to be a nestling again just to be growing up and absorbing the integration of words, melodies and movement.

Who is missing out on this wonderful time? Where were all the littlies and their grown-ups? The previous month, there were four children. This time, 16 September, there was just one (Evanda with her mother, Melanie) to enjoy the hour with the brilliant Barney, the Snowy Monaro Library's Program and Events Officer.



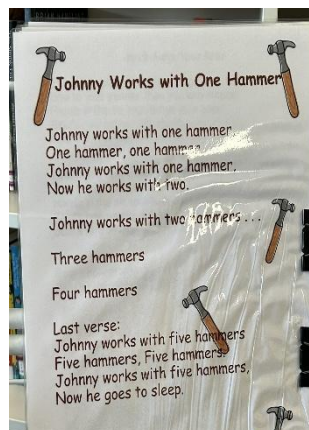
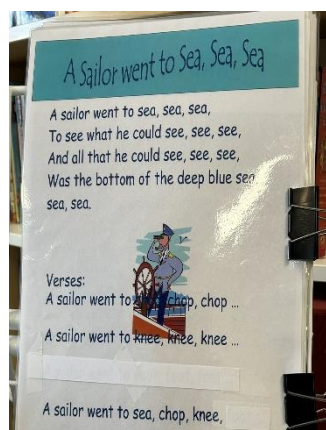
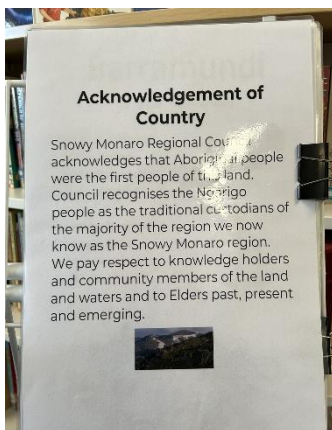
We all know the teapot song.



It's free, provided by the Council Library service. It's the second Wednesday of the month, 10.30 in the Michelago school's beautiful library (warm on the wintry 16th September). It's funded to the end of the year. Without a greater response, the powers-that-be will probably conclude it's not needed.

A large number is not necessarily the criterion of success, but interaction with others, if only a few, is socially important. So come, all you pre-schoolers. Bring your adult(s), light up your imaginations and have fun.

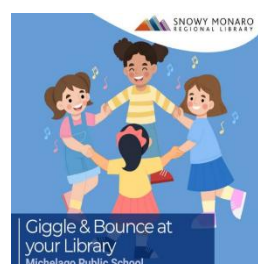
← *Barney starts with the Hello Song, inclusive, rhythmic and welcoming.*



After the Acknowledgment of Country, there's a boxful of action singalongs to choose from.

More children would be singing, dancing and following the actions in the songs. Little Evanda waved a hand and pointed. Her mother sang. The Magpie warbled.

Then came the shiny bubbles magic and a story.





FERAL PIGS PROJECT - PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS



Use the Feral Scan app: see below

16 September, Georgeanna Story wrote to the *Magpie*:

We haven't sorted the details & timing of the upcoming pig project yet but if you wouldn't mind including this brief introduction, that would be greatly appreciated.

Feral pigs have increased over recent years and the impacts are being felt across our region. Tackling this problem can be a costly and time-consuming exercise, relying on a combination of shooting, trapping and baiting to reduce numbers.

Through the Restoring the Upper Murrumbidgee River Program, South East Local Land Services has engaged Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare to deliver a feral pig trapping control program.

The target area is the Murrumbidgee River, from the ACT border to south of Bredbo and extends several kms either side.

The project will commence from October and we are calling for landholders to record sightings of pigs, pig damage and control through the FeralScan app (<https://feralscan.org.au/>). Records can help us understand where pigs are currently found and allow for targeted trapping.

We will be holding 3 information sessions across the region in October but if you have any questions before then, please contact Georgeanna at upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com.au.

Georgeanna Story, Landcare Coordinator

[Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee](#)

upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com or 0429 779 928

Sign up to our [Newsletter](#)

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



Photo credits and more information about these destructive pests:

<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/pest-plants-animals/pest-animals/feral-pigs>



Snowy Monaro Regional Council Media Release

SEPTEMBER ROAD RESEALING SCHEDULE, issued 2 Sept.



[Of all the roads listed in this public notice, we have noted just Micalago Road. The full list for the region is on the SMRC website. –Ed.]

Council's roads team are taking immediate advantage of the return of spring and warmer weather across the region, with road resealing works now underway.

Spring weather can be wet and unpredictable, so our contractor will be taking it day-by-day and heading out to wherever conditions best suit the work to be done.

This means we don't waste any time or any resources, but it also means we can't give specific dates for any of the listed roads.

- Micalago Road, Michelago — Section from Monaro Highway to Ryrie Street

Please observe all roadworks signage and traffic control measures while these works are underway. Visit www.livetraffic.com for the latest road updates and information.

Contact 1300 345 345 or email council@smrc.nsw.gov.au with any questions or concerns about the September road resealing schedule.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve and maintain our region's roads this spring.

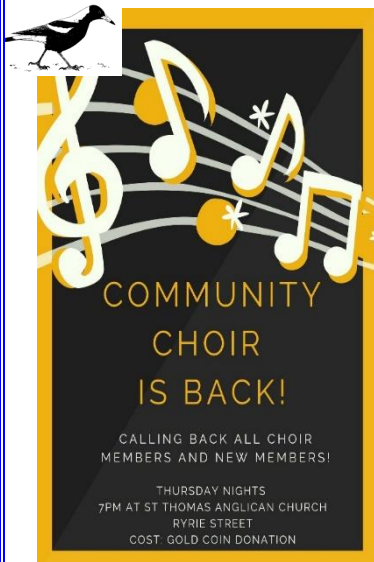
Media Contact

Communications Department

Phone: 1300 345 345 | Email: communications@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

MICHELAGO COMMUNITY CHOIR

Dee McFaul



The Michelago Community Choir recommences on Thursdays at 7 pm from 8 October 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.





CAPTAINS FLAT RAILWAY STATION – A SAD STORY

Erik Jochimsen

Photos: Erik Jochimsen

[Readers, recall Erik's article in Magpie 49 about his and his friend Tony Burns' nostalgic visit to Michelago Railway Station and the unfortunate bureaucratic wrangling that led to the closure of the Michelago Tourist Railway and thus the end of the beloved Canberra-Michelago tourist train. They were delighted to see Michelago's station in good repair. This is his email of 7 September. –Ed]*

On the 9/3/2026 I visited Captains Flat and toward the end of the day found the station and had a look.

I had not been to the town for several decades and from memory the station was previously occupied. That is no longer the case and its present state is a bit depressing.

It's an unusual station in that the station building is not on the platform, being a raised island with the station building lower at ground level to the side.

Previous occupants had extended the outer walls to the roof edges so the original station cannot be seen from the outside. The building has not been occupied for some time and vandals have at some stage kicked in the entry door.

I was able to walk around inside but there was no light at all, which was a bit eerie. With no torch, the only way I could see what was in front of me was to keep taking flash shots with my camera. Fortunately, I encountered no dead bodies or snakes.

While preserving history is admirable, I cannot see this happening for this station. It's too far gone and has too many issues like contaminated soil. I think the locals, whom I suspect are only there on weekends, are happy that the pub is still standing and they can get a drink and a pizza there. They're not likely to restore the station or even think about doing something with a train.

Regards Erik
Once was Track Manager, Michelago Tourist Railway.



**Magpie 49 on the News tab at www.michelagoregion.org.au*



REDUCED COMMONWEALTH FUNDING TO IMPACT COUNCILS

Snowy Monaro Regional Council media release 11 September 2026

Proposed grants commission methodology to impact ratepayers

Council has been advised that proposed changes to how financial assistance grants are distributed across NSW will result in Snowy Monaro Regional Council receiving \$5.1 million per year less in grants towards providing services to its residents.



If this methodology is put in place, Council will have to raise more money locally or reduce the levels of services currently provided to the community.

‘This a significant impact. A reduction in Commonwealth funding of that magnitude cannot simply be absorbed,’ said Mayor Chris Hanna.

Whether Council will make a submission and the outcomes Council will be seeking will be discussed at the September Ordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 17 September 2026 in Cooma.

‘As the governing body, we need to provide clear direction to staff on the approach we want Council to take with this issue,’ said Mayor Hanna.

‘While there needs to be equitable distribution of funding, I cannot see how a model that takes funding from councils with small populations spread over large areas and diverts it to large regional population centres can be the answer.’

Limited information is available on the new methodology and why it has resulted in such a change to funding.

Council has requested information on how the new model works from the NSW Local Government Grants Commission, which would allow the question of whether the new approach is justified to be properly assessed.

Councils were advised of the effects of the proposed changes on Friday 4 September 2026. The commission is only giving councils until Friday 9 October 2026 to prepare and lodge their responses — a very short timeframe.

‘It is well-known that the amount being provided by the Australian Government to address the fact that it costs more to provide services in rural, remote areas and sparsely populated areas is not sufficient, but this is not the response needed,’ said Mayor Hanna.

‘If the goal of the NSW Government is to boost the grants to some areas, that can’t be at the expense of the many small-population councils being shown as negatively impacted on the commission’s website’.

Information on the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's proposal can be found on the Office of Local Government website.

Visit www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-08/local-government-grants-commission-proposed-methodology-consultation-presentation.pdf to learn more about the proposed changes.

Media Contact

Communications Department

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

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Micalago Road





MONARO RAIL TRAIL INC. again, still ...

Here are the links for those for and against the proposed Michelago rail trail to explore.

[At the southern end - MRT President Frank Bakker tells the story.](#)

[At the northern end – Queanbeyan.](#)

[Landcare in the corridor- MRT advocate, Sandy Lolicato, comments.](#)

[Federal government Active Transport grant](#)

[Rail Trails Australia \(RTA\) – MRT and RTA member Peter Coumbis gives a summary](#)

[Strong Community Support for MRT at Nimmitabel](#)

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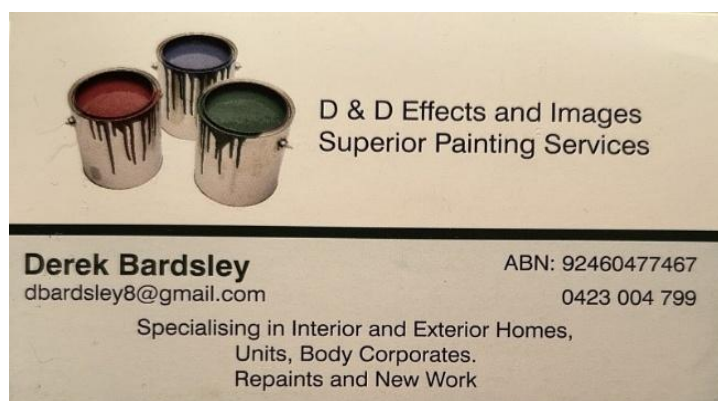


Call Pete's [Top Spec](#) for top car and truck care. Pete and his crew are the best.

Pete has two loan cars for your convenience while your vehicle is in his care. You need to book them ahead.

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Here's a free plug for an excellent service the *Michelago Magpie* has found, thanks to Muriel, the editor of *The Bredbo Bulletin*. (By the way, Muriel is retiring after years of producing that informative newsletter. Let's hope someone else takes it on.)



South East Printing is a business owned and run by Brian Coyte. It's at 76/80 Commissioner St, Cooma 2630. Phone: (02) 6452 2614. It's open Monday to Thursday.

Its website says it does small to large jobs, advertising 'photocopying, business cards, tax invoice books, large document creation, funeral stationery, stickers, corflutes or a great website.'

The *Michelago Magpie* has found the rates are very reasonable compared with our previous printer, so the MRCA has been able also to print extra copies of the *Michelago Magpie* when needed. Before we found Brian, we could not. The print quality is excellent.

The Community Bus

Brian has a sideline – he helps run a community bus! He's one of a committee of volunteers comprised of members of the Cooma Car Club and Cooma Rugby Club.

The committee members liaise with schools, sporting organisations and other community groups to provide them with transport.

The bus is very successful because the primary goal of the volunteers is to help children and others have an affordable way of going to sporting and cultural events. Chartering a bus at commercial rates would otherwise make attendance at such events unaffordable, especially for small schools.



With this community bus run by volunteer drivers (including Brian), parents and children can all travel together at a minimal cost that covers only petrol and running expenses.

Michelago Public School has been a beneficiary of this volunteer project for its swimming carnival at the Tuggeranong Pool.

Not only, but also ... recently, an Australian Federal Police team needed to go to Newcastle for a 4-day rugby event as players. Of course, that being a private trip, they hired the community bus.

R: Brian and the bus in Ryrie St.

Thank you to Brian and all the other volunteers.





MICHELAGO MEMORIAL HALL. Tips for Hall users

From the conscientious Hall Committee: this information is sent to all who hire the Hall.

Michelago Hall Quick Tips

A quick reference — please read before you visit



Contact our volunteer hall committee on:
michelago.memorial.hall@gmail.com

How to use



Keys

- Keys are in the lockbox - left of front door. You'll receive the code via email.
- Please return keys and re-scramble code.
- Keys include: front door, water pump, storage room, and sound system.



Water

Turn the water pump switch ON and OFF every time you use the hall.

- The switch is in the electricity box outside the hall, on the left side wall - use the red-ringed key.
- This powers hot water, taps and toilets. If water is slow, or not working, the pump needs turning on.
- Turn ON when you arrive, turn OFF when you leave.



Store room

The store room is behind the sliding doors on the right wall of the hall.

- Inside: chairs, tables, the sound system, and the projector remote controls.



Heaters

Turn heater switches ON at the wall. The switches are mounted high on the wall, in the corner opposite the store room.

- Turn OFF when you leave.
- If they don't work, check heater power is on in the electricity box outside the hall, on the left side wall.



Sound system

- Turn on the AV/Sound system circuit using the small red key - insert the key at the switch to the right of the kitchen door, mid-wall (same key as the water pump).
- Bluetooth can be used to connect your device to the sound system.
- The sound system is inside the store room (behind the sliding doors on the right wall).
- Speakers need to be rolled out of the store room and plugged into the wall power points near the kitchen door - these only work once the AV circuit is switched on.



Hotplates/oven

Turn the oven/stovetop switch ON at the powerboard inside the kitchen (behind the kitchen door).

- Hotplate switches are labelled.
- Oven light turning on means the power is working.



Rubbish

The red lid bin is outside the hall, through the kitchen door.

- For events, please take excess rubbish with you.



Before you leave

Please leave the hall tidy, as you found it.

- Turn off any switches you turned on (water and lights)
- Sweep the floor
- Wipe down surfaces
- Wash up anything used
- Brooms/mops are behind the kitchen door.



Questions or issues

Email the hall committee to let us know of any problems.

Michelago.memorial.hall@gmail.com

Thanks for helping to keep Michelago Hall running smoothly!



MICHELAGO MEMORIAL HALL

Michelago.Memorial.Hall@gmail.com or 0494 178 469 for bookings

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.



GROCERIES ETC AT THE MICHELAGO SERVO

As well as selling petrol and diesel, the service station's manager, Om, is filling a gap in the market by expanding supplies for the community. While reluctant to call it a 'general store', out of consideration for what is now called the Michelago Café, he is providing many items previously found on the latter's shelves.

As well as the expected assortment of chips, lollies, ice creams and milk, there are now groceries, general household supplies, stationery and assorted gifts. There's a hot food cabinet (e.g. Chiko rolls, dim sims, chicken nuggets), though this is not always full, as the staff don't like the items to dry out. There's coffee, too.

Some customers have wondered about the water on the floor of the women's toilet, which is currently closed. There is a leak of the clean water supply from under the concrete floor (it is not 'dirty' water). This can be fixed only by the owner of the building, Geocon, which is responsible for the building's structure. Geocon has so far been unresponsive about this.

Some customers have blamed the manager and his staff for this leak, so it should be known that it's beyond their control. All they can do is a short-term mop-up.

This business, with pleasant staff, is addressing a community need.

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, Florey
blackshaw.com.au

SCAN ME

FILL OUT THE
FORM AND I WILL
BE IN TOUCH



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FABCON

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Michelago NSW

HEALING WITH ANIMALS

Equine & Animal Assisted Therapy in a peaceful rural setting

Find Calm, Clarity & Connection



Equine Assisted Therapy

Build confidence, regulate emotions & develop self-awareness with our horses.

Animal Assisted Therapy

Connect with goats, chickens & cats to reduce anxiety and support wellbeing.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Sessions are completely tailored to you and your goals – no two are the same.

All sessions take place in a peaceful rural setting with our qualified practitioner and therapy animals.

Location: Kelly Road, Michelago

Price: \$150 per session

NDIS Self & Plan Managed Clients Accepted

Private Health Fund Rebates May Apply

Email to organise your FREE Discovery Call today!

No obligation – just connection.

quietstrengthco@outlook.com.au

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Online or direct debit

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Save time and make your Council payments easier and more convenient than ever.

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Payble is an Australian company that helps local governments improve customer payment experiences. Payble is safe and secure with PCI-DSS, ISO27001 and SOC2 certifications.

Here's how to get started in three simple steps.

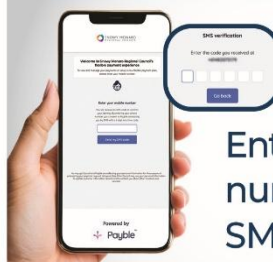
Step 1

Scan the
QR code on
your notice



Step 2

Enter your mobile
number and the
SMS security code



Step 3

Select the
payment option
that works for you



**Council is
here to help.**

Phone: 1300 345 345 | Email: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au | Office: 81 Commissioner St, Cooma
Mail: PO Box 714, Cooma NSW 2630 | Find us on social media.



SEE THE STARS – TELESCOPE NIGHT EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT (clouds permitting)

'Only in the darkness can you see the stars.' Martin Luther King Jnr.



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

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*

GARDEN GROUP

Jenny Wholohan

27 Sept. Tennis Clubhouse. We had a great time propagating herbs (sage, thyme, tansy, pineapple sage) and aromatic rose geranium, planting seeds and swapping seedlings (chilli, tomato, watermelon, cucumber, asparagus) and experiences.



It was fun sharing with friends old and new, including a new one, Rainer from Queanbeyan, who said she had 'the best' time. Rebecca's banana-choc muffins and hot chocolate warmed us in the cool weather.

All are welcome to join in (usually the last Sunday of the month). No need to bring anything; just join in the friendly chat. Enquiries: call me 0400 484 485.
L: Rainer, Belinda S, Anna B & Naomi check out the free plants.



ILLEGAL DUMPING – PREVENT OR REPORT

**Media release 11 September: Council receives EPA
Illegal Dumping Prevention Program grant**



The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is providing funding under round three of the Illegal Dumping Prevention Program to help Council address illegal dumping in the Snowy Monaro. Council is using the grant to step up surveillance, monitoring and education efforts across the region, with a focus on identified illegal dumping hotspots.

‘Whether it’s construction waste, asbestos, or even just household rubbish, illegal dumping is a real threat to community safety and the local environment in regional areas like ours,’ said Mayor Chris Hanna.

‘Ratepayers in the Snowy Monaro have been footing the clean-up bill for these criminals for far too long. Thanks to the NSW EPA, we’re putting illegal dumpers on notice: your days of taking advantage of this community are done.’

More frequent patrols and monitoring are already rolling out across the region thanks to the EPA grant, supported by the installation of new security surveillance hardware on site at illegal dumping hotspots.

Council is calling on the community to help us stamp out illegal dumping in the Snowy Monaro. Don’t let our home be treated like a tip. Report illegal dumping quickly and anonymously with RID Online at ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au or call 131 555.

For emergencies like dumped toxic waste, large chemical spills, or other life-threatening hazards — always call 000 first.

For illegal dumping that poses an urgent environmental or public health risk, notify Council 24/7 by calling 1300 345 345.

Visit grco.de/wasteinfoSMRC to learn more about waste and recycling in our region.

Media Contact

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



The SMRC link listed above is most informative about different types of rubbish and their responsible disposal.

Image: SMRC website



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: 3rd Monday of most months, 5 pm, Railway Station. Next: 19 October. 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* and/or get it in your email: 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. Choir is having a winter break. It will recommence 8 October.
- **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 See p.21.
- **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.17. 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 16 July. 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. Next: 19 Oct. 5 p.m. Railway Station.
- **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. October gathering cancelled (weather and long weekend).
- **Story, Rhyme & Dance Time** for kiddies. School. 2nd Wednesday. 10.30 –11.30. Next: 14 October. See p.8.
- **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.

October:

10 Oct. Michelago Landcare AGM. Railway Station 3 p.m.

25 Oct. 9-1. Burra car boot sale, Burra oval.



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This edition of the *Magpie* was printed in Cooma 0428 484 999