

RACV Club

AUGUST
2024

HIGHLIGHTS



GAME ON

Inspired by the world's best athletes? Whether it's running, cycling, swimming, tennis or golf, the Fitness Centre can help you achieve your personal best

Keeping **members** connected
racv.com.au/club

THANKS, DAD

Celebrate Father's Day with family and friends in the Bistro. The main buffet will be a feast of seafood and non-seafood options to satisfy every tastebud.

Sun 1 Sep, noon-2.30pm, Bistro, City Club, \$150 adults, \$120 teen, \$55 child. Book via [this link](#).

● Don't forget, Le Petit Gâteau will be selling a superlative Father's Day cake to help families celebrate. To order, email: orders@lepetitgateau.com.au or call 03 9944 8893.





The 'Golden Tastes: A Culinary Celebration with Gabriel Gaté' reflects the excellence and friendship at the heart of the Paris games. See September *Highlights* for photos of the sold-out event.

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ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

I am delighted to announce that Andrew Whalan has joined Healesville Country Club & Resort, bringing a wealth of experience to his role as Club manager (see page 10). Keep an eye out for some of the wonderful signature events that he has planned to help showcase the beautiful Yarra Valley.

Winter's black gold bounty was celebrated in the Members Dining Room in July with the Annual Truffle Dinner, a decadent four-course dinner that I thoroughly enjoyed and given the amount of empty plates sent back to the kitchen, I believe members will agree it was the best one yet.

I was also proud to present the awards at the Annual Squash Club Championships. It's always an honour to recognise the achievements of the Club's squash community. The squash courts are one of the Club's hidden gems, and new players are welcome, with social squash on Thursday nights.

As for my own sporting endeavours, I took part in the three-hour "Tour de Rev" spin class—our annual homage to the Tour de France. Our humble event was a huge success, and it was great to participate and talk to Club members. We all felt a sense of accomplishment and celebrated with a glass of bubbles and a ham and cheese croissant—the perfect way to end the event and recover on a Saturday afternoon.

Our MCG suite continues to receive very positive feedback. We will have more news on how our ballot system will work for the AFL Finals Series later this month. Stay tuned for updates. While on the topic of footy, we would like to remind you of one of our signature events, the AFL Grand Final Lunch. This event takes place on the Thursday before the Grand Final and always features a great lineup of AFL greats (see page 4).

Don't forget to keep checking your member benefits. It is a great way to make the most of your membership and take advantage of all that the Club has to offer.

I look forward to welcoming you back to the Club soon and hopefully seeing you at any one of our upcoming events and activities.

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racv.com.au/club-whats-on



IMAGE: BRIAN TAYLOR AND
TONY JONES AT LAST YEAR'S
GRAND FINAL LUNCH.
WORDS: DANIELLE NORTON



ULTIMATE FOOTY

AFL commentator Brian Taylor talks about his footy days, media career, and why he loves the Club's Grand Final Lunch, which features a stellar panel of experts this year

For the past decade, AFL commentator Brian Taylor has been the MC of the Club's annual AFL Grand Final Luncheon. He says the reason it's such a success is that everyone wants to be part of Grand Final week, whether they're a player, an umpire, a spectator, or an RACV Club Member.

"The event is about the characters, colour and mystique that goes with football," Brian says. "We always have speakers who can actually entertain, and it's always about people enjoying themselves."

This year's panellists are Erin Phillips, Jonathan Brown, Issac Smith and Garry Lyon, four high-profile names in AFL.

Taylor describes them as 'incredibly capable players'. Three of the four have won multiple premierships and Gary Lyon is an AFL Legend at the Melbourne Footy Club, and a commentator with Fox footy.

"The RACV Club venue has a good vibe; it's intimate but we can fit larger numbers in. It's right in the heart of the city; a Grand Final week doesn't get any better in terms of position," says Brian.

Reflecting on his career, Brian says structure is one of the most important lessons he has learnt during his time as a footy player. "I think what football clubs do for young guys and women is that they formulate a structure in their lives, whether that be in sport, business life or retirement life."

Brian has been at the elite level for the two parts of his career. "From a

physical point of view, when you're a young guy, to be competitive at the absolute pinnacle of the sport is a very, very difficult thing to obtain and an even more difficult thing to hang on to for years. Only the very, very best last for between 10 and 15 years."

But Brian admits that being an AFL commentator for over 30 years is no walk in the park.

"Sustaining a career as a commentator requires being able to reinvent yourself every five or six years as the game develops and changes direction. You have to be able to go with it, enjoy it and make it better."

He predicts that the three most likely teams to play in the 2024 Grand Final will be Sydney, Brisbane and Carlton.

● **AFL Grand Final Luncheon, Thu 26 Sep, noon-2.30pm, Level 17, City Club, \$160pp or \$1520 table of 10. Three-course meal/beverage package. Shared table event suitable for singles. Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.**



● **The RACV Club Suite at the MCG is the place to be for the footy finals. Visit our dedicated webpage via [this link](#) to book into any available matches when tickets are released.**



SCENIC LUXURY CRUISES TRAVEL TALK

Imagine being on an ultra-luxury river cruise exploring Europe's charming cities and waterways. Discover how to make it a reality with an all-inclusive Scenic river cruise. Don't miss out on 2025 Earlybird European River Cruising deals at a special Club event with RACV Travel & Experiences. Beverages and canapes included.

● **2025 Europe River Cruising, Thu 22 Aug, 6pm–7.30pm, Level 2, City Club. Free for Club members. Book via [this link](#).**



SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Warmer weather, longer days and blooming flowers: if you love spring, then celebrate with Bubbles and Bouquets. Sam from Flo & Co is back with her popular class, in which Club members and guests learn how to create their own stunning arrangements with the new spring florals. Ticket includes drinks and canapes, and your unique floral creation to take home.

● **Bubbles and Bouquets, Sun 15 Sep, 2pm–4pm, Club Pavilion, \$100pp. Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code below right.**

See all the latest Club events and activities at racv.com.au/club-whats-on or scan the QR code.



TIME TO REFLECT AND CONNECT

Artist Kent Morris (left) is the focus of the next exhibition in the Gallery Lounge at City Club. He'll be talking to RACV Art Curator Ellen Wignell at the complementary Artist in Conversation event. See the exhibition and enjoy the canapes made in response to the artworks. This exhibition encourages reflection, with Indigenous philosophies, knowledges, and relationships navigating a connected pathway for the future.

● **Kent Morris: Artist in Conversation, Sat 14 Sep, 2.30–4pm, City Club Library, \$25pp, includes beverages and canapés. Book via [this link](#). Exhibition runs 23 August to 17 November.**



IT'S NOT SPRING WITHOUT HATS

Milliner Wendy Scully returns with a troupe of local designers and models to show off the latest trends. Dress up and indulge in a glass of bubbles and a high tea with friends and fellow Club members. It will be an afternoon of spring delights with the opportunity to have your photo taken as a keepsake. Ticket includes fashion showcase, high tea and beverages.

● **High Tea: A Spring Hats & Fashion Showcase, Wed 9 Oct, Club Pavilion, City Club, \$70 pp, \$560 table of 8, Book via [this link](#).**



IMAGES: MATT HARVEY

GAME ON

Inspired by the world's best athletes? Whether it's running, cycling, swimming, the Fitness Centres at City Club and Healesville can help you achieve your personal best

For many of us it's an accomplishment just to turn up for a swim, spin or personal training session. We have no desire to compete or get medals, we simply want to be fit and healthy. But if you're looking for renewed motivation and focus when it comes to exercising, you can draw inspiration from the habits and discipline of the best athletes in the world.

SETTING GOALS

World-class athletes have dedication and commitment to clear and challenging fitness goals. Your own goal may be as simple as making the commitment to go to the gym three days a week.

TRAINING DISCIPLINE

There's always a reason not to go to the gym, but you never regret going. Adopt a disciplined approach in your gym workouts by planning structured training sessions. If you're unsure of what plan will work for you, talk to one of the personal trainers at a Club Fitness Centre.

VARIETY AND CROSS-TRAINING

Top-performing athletes incorporate a variety of training methods. Diversify your workouts by trying new exercises and incorporating cardio, strength or flexibility training.

MENTAL TOUGHNESS

Push through apathy and difficult times and stay committed to your fitness journey. Studies show that persistence, drive, high self-expectations and resources such as self-belief and optimistic thinking contribute to mental toughness.

HEALTHY COMPETITION

Talk to Club members who regularly use one of the Fitness Centres and they will tell you one of the things they love is the sense of community and camaraderie. Train with other people and encourage each other towards improvement.

CELEBRATE PROGRESS

Whether it's hitting a new personal best or improving your endurance, take pride in your achievements. Taking the time to celebrate your successes, however small, can boost your self-confidence and motivate you to achieve more.



So, now that you have the mindset of a champion, try a sport at the gym. There are machines for running, cycling, and rowing, as well as weights and resistance machines, and the pool for swimming. If you want to exercise outdoors, then there's tennis and golf at Healesville.

It's the perfect time to take up squash, too—it will be part of the Games in Los Angeles in 2028 for the first time.

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR FITNESS

Finding inspiration for your fitness journey can come from a world-class athlete, famous author or fellow Club member

Club Member David Castro has developed some seriously good habits over the past two years, with an impressive fitness routine at the City Club Fitness Centre. He swims three days a week, participates in Run Club twice a week, does a cardio class, and cycles between home and work. In July he completed his first half marathon as part of the Run Melbourne 2024 event.

“I drove into the City Club just before 6am on the Sunday, got dressed, ran down to the Rod Laver Arena as a warm-up. Did the half marathon, and then went back to the RACV, had my shower and my children were there, and we had a buffet breakfast in the Bistro as a celebration,” David says.

“My wife Sandra and my children are also members of the Club. My son, Indiana, who's a student at Melbourne University, uses the gym three days a week; my daughter Kia attends boxing fitness with Amy, and my wife does sessions, too. RACV Club is a big part of our lives.”

David attributes his motivation and drive not only to the personal trainers and fellow Club members who support him, but to Japanese author Haruki Murakami and his memoir *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running* as well.

“There are great things in that book, but one of the things that really struck me was how the only person you're competing against is your past self,” David says. “I use that a lot to work out what my past self was like and always try to improve. It not necessarily about your times; it's about your mental ability, your general health and wellbeing.

“The half marathon was interesting because the first 12km was really good, but the next 9km was a tough; it was a hard slog. The last two kilometres I pushed through and got there because I wanted to get under two hours, and I did it in 1 hour 54 minutes.”

Run Club's coach Renee Quayle has helped him achieve beyond his own expectations. “Part of Run Club has been about learning to push through, to extend yourself, to get out of your comfort zone, and succeed,” he says.

A Club Member of nine years, David says everyone in the Fitness Centre is fantastic: “Dave, Jo, the reception staff, Tasha, Jenny; it's a great community.” That praise extends to other areas of the Club too.

“Surendra who runs the Bistro always says hello and we have a chat, and it's the same with Doug who used to be in the Fitness Centre and now works on reception. We enjoy going to Healesville and Cape Schanck as well. It is one of these clubs where we really enjoy attending and using all the facilities.”

'In long-distance running the only opponent you have to beat is yourself, the way you used to be.'

- Haruki Murakami



The Club has personal trainers and group fitness classes to support your fitness journey. Scan the QR code for City Club (above), and Healesville (below) for more details.



David Castro says the City Club Fitness Centre a key part of his fitness and wellbeing



Executive Sous Chef
Craig Dowling loves
sharing his culinary
knowledge with
members.

WORDS: DANIELLE NORTON

CHEF SHARES TOP TIPS

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than learning the art of pasta and then enjoying the fruits of your labour with a glass of wine and good company?

City Club adult cooking classes with Executive Sous Chef Craig Dowling are launching in September, starting with two sessions on the art of pasta making.

It's a chance for Club members to learn about the history and craft of making filled pasta and noodles, under the guidance of the Club's expert chefs.

TV shows like *Masterchef* are inspiring people to learn new kitchen skills and cook great food. Healesville Country Club & Resort has been running adult cooking classes for the past six months and these have been very popular with members.

Craig plans to run up to four classes each year at City Club, focusing on different cooking styles, baking macarons, meat preparation and more.

These city-based classes offer a fun and leisurely activity for a Sunday afternoon.

Craig loves sharing his knowledge and passion for food. He's seasoned at running the Club's much-loved children's cooking classes, which are held every school holidays. For youngsters the focus is on building skills and having fun, with such activities as biscuit decorating, sausage roll preparation or muffin baking. For teenage sessions, he provides mystery boxes of ingredients and encourages participants to use their imaginations to create a meal.

For adults attending City Club classes, the decision-making has been done—all that's needed is an apron and a good attitude on the day.

The first two classes will explore the history of pasta. Participants will learn how to make a variety of shapes and sizes of pasta.

Craig has worked in many kitchens during his career where other chefs have shared their secret tips and tricks. He will demonstrate his "foolproof" way of making pasta and give advice about how to work the pasta dough, how best to rest it, and how to put it through the cutting machine, so that participants can feel confident working with pasta at home.

Participants will learn how to fill pasta shapes - and make a range of ravioli, pappardelle, cavatelli, fettuccine and more. Craig promises that people will have "pasta coming out of their ears" to take home with them.

"There's going to be wine; there's going to be food, and it's a good opportunity to eat the fruits of your labor. You'll also have the chance to meet other Club members."

● **Culinary Masterclass: Pasta, Sun 8 Sep or Sun Oct 6, both sessions 3pm-4.30pm, Members Dining Room kitchen, City Club, \$120 per person. Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code on page 9 for the What's on page.**





EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Express Set Lunch in the Members Dining Room is a perfect way to escape the cold. Enjoy a winter warming soup, a roast from the carvery trolley, and/or a delicious dessert in the Members Dining Room. It's a chef's selection for each course.

● **Every Thursday and Friday lunch until the end of August, noon-2pm, Members Dining Room, City Club, \$50 for 2 courses, \$60 for 3 courses** Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code below right.

Book for special dining events at racv.com.au/club-whats-on or scan the QR code.



RIVER CRUISE DINING EXPERIENCE

Set sail on a culinary voyage aboard the luxurious *Spirit of Melbourne*, exclusively for RACV Club Members and guests.

Appreciate the city skyline from a different perspective and indulge in a delicious dinner, with locally sourced ingredients, and exceptional service.

It's a great way to celebrate spring in Melbourne. Soak up the last of the sun's rays and raise your glass to encroaching twilight. Ticket include four courses, beverages, and the cruise. This is a shared table event that is suitable for singles and families.

● **Fri 25 Oct, 6.30pm-9.30pm, Southbank Promenade, Berth 2, \$165 Adult (18+), \$110 Teen (13-17rs), \$85 Child (2-12yrs).** Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code for the **What's on page**.



ANDREW WHALAN IS
LOOKING FORWARD TO
MEETING CLUB MEMBERS.

IMAGE: MATT HARVEY

PASSION AND PURPOSE

Andrew Whalan brings a love of wine and golf and a passion for hospitality to his new role as Healesville Country Club & Resort Manager

If you want to meet Healesville's new manager, Andrew Whalan, there's a good chance you'll find him in the Members Lounge in the afternoon. "I think that's the best opportunity and perfect forum to interact with Club members and get to know them better, and hear how they're going with the Club," he says.

"I'm also excited and happy to go to the new member events as well with (General Manager) Rob Everett and meet people there. I think the Club has a spectacular offering that's really good value at both properties, so my hope is that more people will join the Club after experiencing what we can do at Healesville."

Andrew says he fell into hospitality as an 18-year-old, loved it instantly, and worked in pubs and other places. "But I always knew there was more," he says. He trained as a sommelier, honed his skills at award-winning Jacques Reymond Restaurant in Melbourne, owned a CBD café/restaurant for two years, and joined RACV 10 years ago.

"After training across the division, I moved into the projects team and worked with Cape Schanck Resort Manager Dean Newell to commission the new building, which opened in 2018, and I was operations manager there until last month," Andrew says.

His new role presents a chance to synergize the best practices from his tenure at Cape Schanck Resort with the unique charm of Healesville. "I've always loved the extra care and special nature of Club," he says. "When I was approached about taking on Healesville, I was excited because it's a beautiful property in the Yarra Valley, in wine country, so that suits me, and I have the opportunity to do some great work there."

Andrew believes the Yarra Valley's history as Victoria's first wine region makes it special. "I think we can work with local wineries and restaurants and providers and start to utilise the Country Club as a hub for people to experience everything that the Valley has to offer," he says.

He welcomes feedback from Club members, saying that proved to be a powerful tool for quality improvement at Cape Schanck. "Club members value the Club more than anyone else, so when I get feedback from them it's because they want the Club to be the best it can be, and I and the team will respond to that."

General Manager Rob Everett says he is delighted to have Andrew join the wonderful team at Healesville. "He brings a wealth of experience, a passion for hospitality and a commitment to excellent service for members and guests," he says.

"Healesville is an important part of the RACV Club's long and rich history. It's the first property that I worked at with RACV, and I'm keen to maintain its legacy. I believe Andrew can carry on that mantle."

MEMBERS LOUNGE BENEFITS

Relax and unwind at Healesville Country Club & Resort in the Members Lounge. It's open seven days, 10am-8pm, with food available 10am-3pm. Club Members staying inhouse can enjoy a daily complimentary Aperitivo hour, 5pm-6pm.

COMPETING FOR THE BIG TITLE

Down one end of the Billiards Room, amid the soft clinking of balls and murmur of conversations, Club members Michael O'Meara and John Isaac are going head-to-head in the Club's Annual Snooker Tournament. This year's competition started in June with 75 players and now Michael and John are in the final 16. It's a knockout format that aims to create fair competition regardless of skill.



"It's handicapped, which is great for all skill levels," Michael says. "The top players are handicapped backwards, and others are handicapped ahead of them, so it gets people involved in the tournament rather than being beaten by the best player all the time." John, a Club member since 1967 and former RACV President and Chairman, adds: "There are some very good players in the Club, so the purpose is to make everyone even."

Michael and John say the tournament, which has been held annually since 1926, is a great chance to socialise with other women and men in the competition. Three-times World Champion and resident professional Robby Foldvari, who oversees the tournament, says it can be tricky working out individual handicaps, which are based on past results and experience. Sometimes players can have "a bad-hair day", as Michael describes it, altering the outcome.

"Matches are played over two cumulative frames," Robby says. "There has been a lot of black ball games in this tournament." In other words, there has been plenty of exciting close matches, the black ball being the last ball remaining on the table to be potted to decide the outcome.

Michael and John play both billiards as well, and Michael explains the difference. "They're totally different games. Snooker is a more negative game, where you're trying to put your opponent in a bad spot, as well as potting balls, whereas in billiards, it's more attacking, more positive," says Michael. John adds: "I prefer billiards to snooker because there is much more variety in what you can do." Michael also takes part in the Social 8-ball on the first Thursday of the month. "It's an easy game to play and good fun too," he says. "There's a bottle of wine or something else as a prize for the winner." He says the Billiards Room is an extraordinary venue. "I don't know anywhere else in Australia that would have eight full-sized tables."

The tournament will progress towards its final stages this month, with the remaining players setting their sights on the title.

YOUR CUE TO JOIN THE FUN

Come to the Billiards Room for Social 8-Ball, Thu 8 Aug, 6pm-9pm, \$20pp. Book via [this link](#). Or the Annual Billiards Tournament Launch Night, Thu 15 Aug, 6pm-9pm, \$15pp. Book via [this link](#).



The Club's Annual Billiards Tournament kicks off on 15 August, and while the cake (above) to celebrate last year's centenary is all gone, there'll be finger food at this year's launch, along with a lightning tournament and prizes as a warm up for the main tournament, which you can sign up for on the night.

JOURNEY TO BLISS

Discover a holistic approach to wellness with an Akwaterra massage.
Find out how this technique works, and why it's beneficial.

Among the restorative treatments at One Spa, you'll find rituals and therapies that incorporate Akwaterra massage techniques. One Spa Manager Erin Giulieri explains that Akwaterra massage combines elements of various traditional and holistic treatment techniques.

The Advanced Performance Facial, for example, pairs potent actives and antioxidants with invigorating chilled Akwaterra massage techniques for the ultimate facial experience, while the One Spa Serenity Ritual takes you on a two-and-a-half hour journey with an Akwaterra face and body exfoliation, full-body massage, customised facial, pressure-point scalp, and neck and shoulder massage.

1 ORIGIN

Akwaterra massage is a therapy originating from France that involves the use of ceramic vials to stimulate the skin.

2 TECHNIQUE

The ceramic Akwaterra massage tools can be used both warmed and chilled. One Spa's Knowing Touch Massage therapy, for example, is a full-body massage blending Swedish, Ayurvedic and deep-tissue massage techniques, incorporating both warmed and chilled ceramics to relax the mind and ease the discomfort caused by tight, sore muscles.

3 PHILOSOPHY

Akwaterra massage emphasises a holistic approach to wellness, aiming to not only relax and rid the muscles of toxins but also to promote balance and harmony within the body.

4 BENEFITS

Similar to other forms of massage therapy, Akwaterra massage may offer benefits such as stress reduction, improved circulation, pain relief, enhanced flexibility, and overall relaxation.

5 EXPERIENCE

One Spa therapists have been trained in Akwaterra massage techniques, ensuring you have an optimal experience. During an Akwaterra massage, you can expect a customised and tailored approach to your treatment.

When you book a treatment at One Spa, your therapist will explain what to expect from a session. They will answer any questions you might have before you surrender yourself to the attention you deserve.



NEED A REJUVENATING ESCAPE?

Treat yourself to a sensory experience in the heart of the Yarra Valley or CBD.

Consider a One Spa gift card for someone special.

Discover more at racv.com.au/one-spa.

Scan the QR code, left, to book a treatment at Healesville, and right for City Club One Spa.



KEEP YOUR BRAIN IN THE GAME

Keeping your brain stimulated is important for your cognitive health. It's one reason why many Club members participate in Member Interest Groups like bridge and chess. But there are other ways you can look after your brain, too.

Counsellor and wellness coach Maggie Flanagan's interactive Super Brain Workout covers topics such as brain awareness, stress reduction, socialising, movement and feeding the brain. Learn how to have a holistic approach to your daily routines, and embrace a brain-protective lifestyle. Workshop includes tea and coffee.

● **Maggie Flanagan, Super Brain Workout, Thu 15 Aug, 11am-1pm, Level 2, City Club, \$20pp. Book via [this link](#).**



STEALING THE SHOW



Bestselling authors Amanda Hampson, Michael Robotham and Sarah Bailey. Images: Matt Harvey



Why do Australians love a good dark thriller or crime novel? Amanda Hampson, Michael Robotham and Sarah Bailey did their best to solve the mystery. The Partners in Crime event was a chance for Club members and guests to meet the three bestselling writers, mingle and enjoy canapes and a drink, and get one or more books signed on the night.

● Don't miss our next Author Talk: **A Decade of Art and Love**. Christabel Blackman will give insight into the art and relationship of her parents, Charles and Barbara Blackman. Mon 9 Sept, 5.45pm-8.30pm, Library, City Club, \$35pp. Book via [this link](#).





Fearless parents and children embraced the chance to get up close and personal with snakes and lizards at the Reptile Encounters event at Healesville during the school holidays.

IN THE HOUSE

A visit to the Justin Art House Museum was a unique opportunity for Club members and guests to step inside the private home and gallery of Charles and Leah Justin, who are passionate collectors of contemporary art.



BOOK AHEAD AND DON'T MISS OUT

See all the latest Club events and activities at racv.com.au/club-whats-on or scan the QR code.



CROSSING OVER TO BRIDGE

RACV Bridge Club Congress Convenor Mary Stoney explains why bridge is a compelling game

Club member Mary Stoney encourages RACV Club Members of all ages to consider learning bridge through the lessons run at the Club. She says bridge has given her a purpose after retiring some four years ago.

"I have a long way to go in learning all the different rules, so it presents a challenge each time I play with my partner to get our system right," she says. "The game takes my mind off everything around me and I find it enjoyable and relaxing when I play."

Mary says the RACV Bridge Club brings together like-minded members and their guests from all walks of life.

"Bridge skills vary from learners to advanced players," she says. "It is a great environment in which to play or learn bridge. I have made many friends over the years."

The RACV Bridge Club will host the 8th Annual Red Point Swiss Pairs Congress at City Club on 25 August.



Mary explains that hosting such an important event enables a bridge club to become recognised within the bridge world in Victoria and often interstate. "It showcases our Club rooms and the environment in which we play, plus all the facilities the Club has to offer its members," she says.

Mary has been the Congress Convenor since the RACV Bridge Club held its first congress in 2014.

"I have enjoyed seeing the Congress attract very good bridge players as well as those wishing to attend their first Congress," she says. "This has assisted the Congress to grow in entry numbers over the years. It is now recognised as a great Club Congress to attend and Bridge Victoria wants us to continue making it as big as possible."

● **Bridge Congress, Sun 25 Aug, 10am, Level 17, City Club, \$60pp. Entries close 19 August. To enter, email: clubevents@racv.com.au**

Beginner Bridge Course Program commences Monday 7 Oct, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Level 2, City Club, \$200 per person. Book via [this link](#).

The Sun Deck aboard APT
Solara (artist's impression)

WORDS: DANIELLE NORTON



LUXURY CRUISING

The next generation of ultra-luxury river cruising has arrived, with the promise of elevating your European holiday to the next level

Imagine being on a river cruise ship, cocktail in hand, watching the sun set over Budapest, Vienna or Amsterdam. Not only that, the bar and restaurant in which you're sitting has been hydraulically lifted to give you an immersive 360-degree view. Welcome to the Grüner Bar & Dining experience, a world-first innovation in river cruising onboard two brand-new European river ships, the APT *Ostara* and APT *Solara*.

As Australia's largest cruise and tour operator, APT wanted to create a European experience that Australians would truly appreciate. With interiors conceived and created in Melbourne by the world-renowned, award-winning Hecker Guthrie design team, these elegant, timeless vessels meld European elegance with an unpretentious Australian ease.

Each ship carries up to 154 guests serviced by 60 crew and they'll sail the Rhine, Danube and Main Rivers from April 2025.

Helping raise the standard of luxury travel to new heights, the unique ships boast a trio of uniquely designed, luxuriously appointed suite options: Twin Window, Balcony, and the lavish Owner's Suites.

APT *Ostara* and APT *Solara* also offer five-star dining experiences across six stunning restaurants. Inspired by regional cuisines, the venues will set a new standard for culinary adventures on the iconic rivers of mainland Europe. The quality of ingredients will be exemplary, with the finest, seasonal produce sought from the regions through which you travel.



Balcony Suite (artist's impression).



The Owner's Cellar (artist's impression).



The range of venues onboard is similarly memorable. At Bistro Saison there's a European neighbourhood atmosphere, offering classic fare from local regions. The Owner's Cellar is an intimate wine cellar for up to 16 guests. The exclusive set menus feature courses matched with specialty wines only available in the private cellar.

Annie's Table is a communal style venue with high quality familiar favourites. For breakfast and lunch The Salon is also a relaxed space designed for activities and socialising. For flame-grilled meats, seafood and vegetables, Daystar Deck has fresh seasonal salads and fun cocktails, all served al fresco as the serene landscapes of Europe float by. For those times that in-room dining appeals, it's complimentary for all guests.

APT *Solara* and APT *Ostara* will have outstanding service standards, offering one of the highest guest-to-crew ratios on European rivers with one crew member for every 2.5 guests. The new ships also set a new standard in sustainability, with systems in place to save fuel, optimise energy, and reduce waste.

For timeless luxury and exclusive experiences with APT, book a river cruise journey in 2025 with RACV Travel & Experiences.



Bistro Saison (artist's impression).



Annie's Table (artist's impression).

PREPARE FOR THE BEST WITH RACV TRAVEL & EXPERIENCES

RACV Club Members receive extra savings with RACV Travel and Experiences' trusted travel partners. Book a wide range of holidays and experiences instore, online at racv.com.au/travel or call 03 8613 9600. Scan the QR code for details.



RECIPROCAL CLUB

Nestled below Arbutus Ridge in Vancouver's historic Shaughnessy neighbourhood, The Arbutus Club has been a landmark in the city since its inception in 1964. Today, the Club is a thriving, modern community centered upon a mission of putting families first.

Situated on 3ha, The Arbutus Club features a world-class recreation complex spanning three floors, with recreational services, and world-class dining available to reciprocal members visiting the Club.

The Club has 11 tennis courts (indoor and outdoor), pickleball courts, two gymnasiums, an ice rink, a mini rink, a six-lane 25m swimming pool, a Pilates studio, a fitness centre, and five squash courts.

Book a treatment in the luxurious Spa at Arbutus, relax with a massage in the Physiotherapy & Wellness Centre, or enjoy some retail therapy in the carefully curated Shoppe. With a hot tub, steam room, and sauna, The Club provides the essentials for a calming, fun-filled adventure in Vancouver. With three food and beverage outlets on offer, you can enjoy breakfast in The Bistro, a local craft brew in The Lounge, and dinner in The Fireside.

The best time to visit Vancouver largely depends on what you want to experience. For the best combination of pleasant weather, outdoor activities, and fewer crowds, late spring (May) and early autumn (September) are often considered the ideal times to visit Vancouver. For beach lovers, you can't beat summer in Vancouver, but keep in mind this is peak tourist season.

● **RACV Club Members need to arrange a letter of introduction prior to visiting The Arbutus Club. Details at racv.com.au/club or scan the QR code.**



WHAT'S ON AUGUST 2024



1

LOW TIDES ARTWORK DISPLAY
Until 18 August
RACV City Club, Gallery Lounge

2

GOLDEN TASTES: A CULINARY CELEBRATION WITH GABRIEL GATE
Friday 2 August, 6.30pm-11pm
Ballroom, Healesville Country Club & Resort

4

KENNETH PARK WALKING TOUR: AROUND ABOUT PARLIAMENT HOUSE
Sunday 4 August, 10am-12pm
Meeting point: Entrance to Princess Theatre

5

KENNETH PARK: ART NOUVEAU & ALPHONSE MUCHA
Monday 5 August, 10am-1pm
Level 2, City Club

7

AUTHOR TALK: TWO REMARKABLE STORIES OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVAL
Wednesday 7 August, 5.45pm-8.30pm
Club Library, City Club

JAZZ AT THE BAR
Wednesday 7 August, 6pm-8.30pm
Wine Bar, City Club

D'ARENBERG WINE DINNER WITH CHESTER OSBORN
Wednesday 7 August, 6.30pm-10pm
Members' Dining Room, City Club

8

SOCIAL 8-BALL NIGHT
Thursday 8 August, 6pm-9pm
Billiards Room, City Club

11

CRAFT SERIES: PLAY WITH CLAY
Sunday 11 August, 2pm-4.30pm
Tarrant Room, City Club

13

OUR SYSTEM OF TRIAL BY JURY: STORIES FROM THE JURY POOL ROOM
Tuesday 13 August, 12 pm-2.30pm
Club Pavilion, City Club

14

MONTHLY MOVIE - WICKED LITTLE LETTERS
Wednesday 14 August, 1pm-3pm
Theatrette, City Club

15

MAGGIE FLANAGAN - SUPER BRAIN WORKOUT
Thursday 15 August, 11am-1pm
Level 2, City Club

ANNUAL BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT LAUNCH NIGHT
Thursday 15 August, 6pm-9pm
Billiards Room, City Club

19

DOUBLE LECTURE: JANE AUSTEN & JEWELS OF THE REGENCY
Monday 19 August, 10am-1pm
Level 2, City Club

20

DEFY IMPOSSIBLE: BE UNSTOPPABLE
Tuesday 20 August, 3.30pm-5pm
Level 17, City Club

BRIDGE INTER-CLUB: RACV CLUB VS MCC
Tuesday 20 August, 10am-2pm
Level 2, City Club

DOUBLE LECTURE: VITA SACKVILLE-WEST & BUNNY MELLON
Tuesday 20 August, 10am-1pm
Level 2, City Club

21

WHISKY DINNER WITH BILL LARK
Wednesday 21 August, 6.30pm-10pm
Wine Cellar, City Club

JAZZ AT THE BAR
Wednesday 21 August, 7pm-9.30pm
Wine Bar, City Club

24

GROWING HERBS FOR HEALTH WITH KAYE ROBERTS-PALMER
Saturday 24 August, 2pm-3.30pm
Level 2, City Club

25

BRIDGE CONGRESS
Sunday 25 August, 10am-4pm
Level 17, City Club

27

EXPERIENCE & EXPLORE: ROBIN BOYD HOUSE
Tuesday 27 August, 11am-12.30pm
290 Walsh St, South Yarra, 3141

MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

SHARE MARKET INTEREST GROUP Friday, 2 August, 10.30am-12pm Level 2, City Club

HEALESVILLE BOOK GROUP Tuesday, 6 August 10.30am-12pm Library, Country Club

SUPERVISED BRIDGE Mondays, 9.45am-1pm: 5, 12, 19, 26 August Clubroom, City Club

TRAVEL GROUP Tuesday, 6 August 10.30am-12.30pm Level 2, City Club

DUPLICATE BRIDGE Wednesdays, 9.45am-1pm 7, 14, 21, 28 August Clubroom, City Club

BEGINNER + COACHING BRIDGE Wednesdays, 1.30pm-3pm 7, 14, 21, 28 August Clubroom, City Club

EVENING MAHJONG Wednesday, 7 August 7pm-9pm Clubroom, City Club

SOCIAL SQUASH GROUP Thursdays, 6pm start: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August Squash courts, City Club

SOLO & MIND GAMES GROUP Thursdays, 9am-12.30pm: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August Clubroom, City Club

HEALESVILLE CHESS GROUP Monday, 12 August, 10.30am-12pm Banyalla Lounge, Healesville Country Club & Resort

STEEPED IN CONVERSATION Tuesday, 13 August, 10am-11am Gallery Lounge, City Club

BOOK GROUP 2 Saturday, 10 August, 11.15am start Clubroom, City Club

BOOK GROUP 4 Wednesday, 21 August 7.15pm start Library, City Club

FILM GROUP Friday, 16 August 11am-1pm Theatrette, City Club

Scan the QR code below for more information about Member Interest Groups.



WEDDING EXPO

Join us at our wedding expo and discover why RACV City Club is an award-winning venue.

Connect with the best wedding suppliers, see the set up for different rooms, watch a bridal gown runway, and get the inspiration you need, whether it's for yourself, or to help a relative or friend. Find out about exclusive deals and offers on the day.



● **RACV City Club Weddings Showcase Event, Sat 14 Sept, 10am-2pm, Level 17, RACV City Club. To reserve your entry, email weddings@racv.com.au**



Scan the QR code, left, for the latest events and activities at the Club or visit racv.com.au/club-whats-on



Scan the QR code, left, for facility opening hours and to book your next Club experience, or visit racv.com.au/clubbookings.

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per person



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*Terms & conditions apply. Offers are subject to availability & prices subject to change. Advertised prices are per person twin share & include all advertised savings. Price based on 14 July 2025 departure (Cat. E). Flights not included. Price correct as of 11 July 2024. Price includes a Limited Time Early Payment Discount of \$1,000 per person which is valid when you pay in full 10 months prior to departure. Offer ends 31 August 2024 and is valid on new bookings only. See website for details. Image – artists impression.