

HIGHLIGHTS

JAN-FEB 2025

FALL IN LOVE

From Le Petit Gâteau's unique Valentine's Day cake to dinner celebrations and other indulgences, there are many ways to fall in love with your Club



IMAGE: Celebrate Lunar New Year at the Club. Visit racv.com.au/club-whats-on

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WELCOME



ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

Happy New Year to all our valued members! We hope your Christmas and New Year celebrations were filled with joy, laughter, and memorable moments.

It was truly wonderful to see so many of you enjoying your Club during the holiday season, especially on Christmas Day, which remains the busiest and most festive day of the year for members and staff. Your support and participation continue to make these occasions extra special.

As we step into 2025, what an exciting time it is to be in Melbourne! With the Australian Open underway, the city is alive with energy, and it's fantastic to see Melbourne bustling with an international tennis crowd. We can't wait to bring you even more memorable experiences this year, starting with two events for Lunar New Year. Along with a seafood buffet on Level 17 on January 28th, we are thrilled to welcome chef Leslie Chan back to lead the festivities in the Members Dining Room on January 29th.

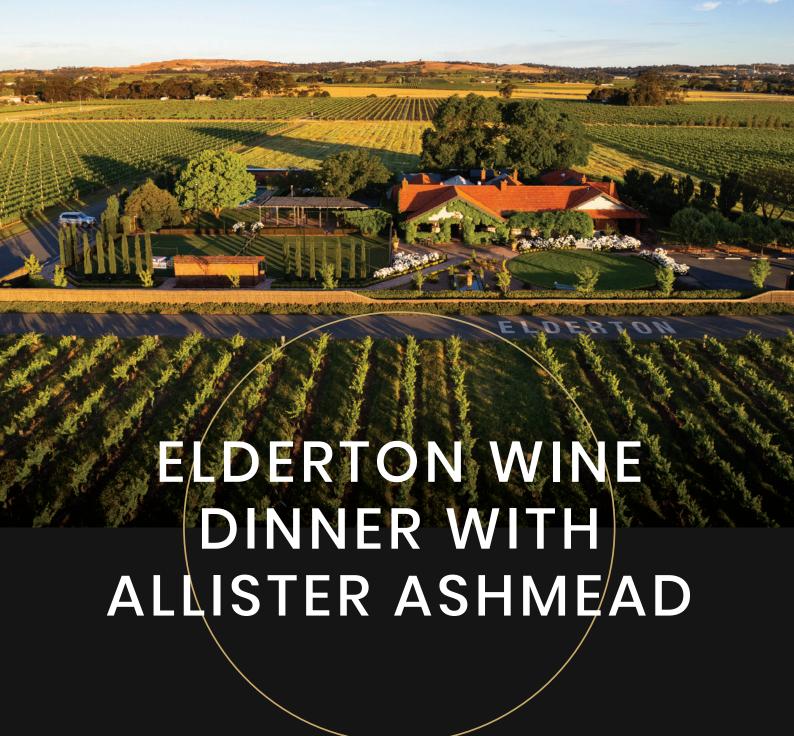
The Club's Member Interest Groups, which offer members a way to share their passions with like-minded people, are back in action for 2025, and you'll find a schedule on page 18.

Looking ahead, our exclusive marquee event at the Healesville Country Races is booked out, but keen golfers can still participate in the annual President's Cup Golf event at Healesville Country Club & Resort. For those with a romantic streak, Valentine's Day falls on a Friday this year, and we have something extra special in store at our Club properties (see page 9). You can also indulge in a limited-edition Le Petit Gâteau cake to celebrate the occasion. Visit the 'What's On' page for all the latest details about upcoming events.

Our Club Suites at Marvel, MCG, and Rod Laver are gearing up for a busy 2025. Get ready, too, for further exciting announcements about our new premium experiences program, which will offer Club members priority access to some of Melbourne's most iconic events.

We're excited for everything the year holds and wish you all a fantastic and prosperous 2025 ahead!





Join us for an exclusive evening featuring the wines of iconic Barossa Winery Elderton. Chief winemaker and owner Allister Ashmead will be hosting an evening of premium wine, great conversation and matched dishes created and presented by Executive Chef Kyle Doody.

Venue: Private Dining Room at the RACV City Club **Date & Time:** Thursday 6 March | 6.30pm-9pm

\$140 per person, ticket includes four-course meal with paired wines. Highly sought after wines will be available for attending members to purchase at competitive prices.



Scan the QR code to book or visit racv.com.au/club-whats-on





UP-SKILL FOR FUN AND GAINS

Beginner bridge lessons are back! One of the Club's largest member interest groups, the RACV Bridge Club hosts sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. This is your chance to learn the game and get involved. The Beginner Bridge course comprises eight lessons, to be held on Monday afternoons.

Starts 10 Feb, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Level 2, City
 Club, \$160pp. Session dates: 10, 17 and 24 Feb,
 and 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 Mar. Book via this link.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH

Celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) with three remarkable women – Kate Ceberano, Jenna O'Hea, and Caroline Brunne, who will share their inspiring stories and experiences at the Club. Enjoy a two-course lunch with beverages, a performance by Kate, and celebrate, connect, and be inspired.

Thu 6 Mar, noon-2.30pm, Club Pavillion,
 Level 2, City Club, \$90pp. Ticket includes meal,
 beverages and giveaways. Book via this link.

THE ULTIMATE TINA & TOM TRIBUTE SHOW

Experience an energetic evening celebrating two legends of music. Tina Turner and Tom Jones have profoundly influenced the music scene since the 1960s and this tribute show reflects their fun and sassy flair. It will be a memorable experience for audiences young and old. Tickets include show, light bites, and beverages. A pre-show dining option is available in the Members Dining Room at City Club.

• Sat 15 Mar, 7pm-9.30pm. Doors open 6.45pm, Level 17, City Club, \$90pp. Book via this link.

ART OF LUNCH EVENT

Enjoy an exclusive dining experience and learn about women from the RACV Art Collection - the focus of the Club's next Gallery Lounge exhibition. Hear from three key artists, sip outstanding wine, and delight in culinary masterpieces made in response to the artworks.

 Sat 29 Mar, 12.30-3.30pm, Private Dining Room, City Club, \$140 open to members & non-members. Includes lunch and beverages, set menu - dietaries will be accommodated.
 Book via this link. FIND OUT MORE

What's on at the Club

Don't miss your chance to attend the exclusive member events this month. Scan the QR code to find out more and reserve your spot.





The Club Mentoring Program has offered Club member Peter Tippner a unique way to broaden his professional network and navigate career challenges.

"Participating in the program has been a highlight of my time at the Club so far," says Peter, who works in the automotive industry. "The program was professionally run, and the matching between mentor and mentee was done in a considered manner that resulted in outcomes at the end of the program that I didn't anticipate."

A business leader from a relatively young age, Peter says he had few peers to discuss work challenges with other than his wife.

"As they often say, it can be very lonely at the top," he says. "After increasingly getting tired of listening to me talk about work at home, my wife made a comment that really resonated with me: 'You need to get yourself a mentor.'"

Peter joined the RACV Club in 2023, with the intention of signing up for the structured 14-week Club Mentoring Program, which is free to Club members. He was part of the July 2024 intake.

"The RACV Club Mentoring Program not only allowed me the time and space to focus on professional goals and development, but also personal growth opportunities," he says. "My mentor and I met fortnightly, and the time dedicated to this has paid dividends many times over in both my professional and personal life."

The Club Mentoring Program attracts Club members of all ages and stages of career, from young professionals and those seeking a career change to business leaders and retirees. The program is a win-win for both mentors and mentees, with often unexpected benefits for both participants.

PHOTO: MATT HARVEY

BOOK NOW

Build your network

The RACV Club Mentoring Program gives professionals an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise. To register your interest for the 25 March intake, go to racv.com.au/club-mentorprogram



The Young Professionals Group, for RACV Club members aged 18 to 40 years, enjoyed an end-of-year get-together in Bistro at City Club.



Then designing a cake for Valentine's Day, the pastry chefs at Le Petit Gâteau combine romance with decadence. Layers of luxury ingredients, including vanilla mousse, raspberry crémeux, and red velvet sponge are combined with the tang of berry compote and the smoothness of white chocolate Chantilly. Delivering a melt-in-the -mouth texture, this year's incarnation is made for sharing with loved ones.

But perhaps you wish to celebrate Valentine's Day in other ways?

Whether you're in the mood for a glass of champagne, opting for a romantic evening or simply spending time with those who matter the most, you can have your cake and eat it too! Enjoy one of the dining options at City Club or a romantic three-course menu on offer at Banyalla in Healesville.

City Club Executive Chef Kyle Doody says there will be Valentine's Day events in Sojourn, Wine Bar, and Members Dining Room, giving Club Members the choice of laid-back fun, casual dining, or a more indulgent and sophisticated experience.

"Melbourne's bars and restaurants are usually bursting at the seams on Valentine's Day, and we wanted to give Club members the chance to celebrate in different ways, whether it's with loved ones or someone special," he says.

Celebrate at Sojourn Restaurant with a five-course Lovers Lunch, or a shared six-course Valentine's Day Dinner, with a complimentary glass of sparkling.



There are two sittings for the dinner option in Sojourn, either from 5.30pm or from 7.45pm. There will be live music and a small gift to take home.

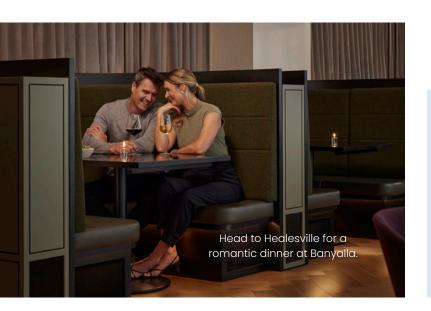
In Wine Bar, enjoy a five-course shared menu and complimentary glass of sparkling, a special gift to take home, and a live harpist, while in the Members Dining Room you can savour a five-course set menu, with a choice of main and a dessert to share. A string duo will contribute to the ultraromantic occasion, and you'll get a small gift to take home.

Kyle says Valentine's Day is a reminder to love and appreciate that special person or significant others in your life.

"We all have busy lives and schedules, so having a day where we can make time for ourselves and our partner, with a chance to show our appreciation for everything they do for us is a wonderful thing," he says.

Valentine's Day is a key date on the Club calendar, along with Easter and Mother's Day. These signature events book out fast, so keep an eye on the What's On page for details.

PHOTOS: MATT HARVEY



BOOK NOW

Make a date

Visit the What's On page to book your Valentine's Day celebrations. racv.com.au/club-whats-on

Le Petit Gâteau's Valentine's Day cake is available to order 12-14 February. Email: orders@lepetitgateau.com.au, call 03 9944 8893 or order in person at 458 Little Collins Street, \$64 each.



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 OR
- A 4-night cruise staycation with Princess® and RACV Royal Pines Resort.

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YOU CAN DO IT

While New Year's resolutions often drive people to join the gym, establishing a habit is the key to long-term fitness success

t is common to start the new year strong with fitness resolutions, but maintaining motivation beyond January or February can be challenging.

Personal trainer Fran Furci, who works at City Club Fitness Centre, says the key to long-term fitness success is finding exercise you enjoy and making it a habit.

"Life happens and fitness routines can get derailed," says Fran. "The thing is to establish that habit and to continue it on throughout the year, and a Personal Training Package can be perfect for that."

She says people feel better within a couple of weeks once they start regularly exercising. But she emphasises that it's important to have a holistic approach that includes proper nutrition as well as exercise.

For those new to the gym or returning after a long break, personal training sessions are a great way to work out your needs and goals, learn how to use equipment properly, avoid injury, and build confidence.

"PT sessions can be beneficial for people with different fitness levels and goals," Fran says. "Many gym members have sedentary jobs, and I tend to focus on helping them strengthen their backs to counteract the effects of sitting all day, which helps improve posture, while with older clients the focus might be on improving their range of movement."

She says people who have PT sessions tend to continue their fitness journey.

"I also teach a lot of group classes, so I normally encourage my clients to come to my classes as well and get the benefits of a range of movements, and the chance to meet other members at the gym."

PHOTO: MATT HARVEY

BOOK NOW

PT Offer

Discover the benefits of a personal trainer with this special deal for Club members who have Fitness Centre access. Buy a 10 pack of Personal Training sessions and get an additional 2 sessions of the same value FREE (12 sessions in total).

PERSONAL TRAINING PACKAGES*

10 x 30min = \$630, plus 2 free 10 x 45min= \$790, plus 2 free 10 x 60min = \$930, plus 2 free

*Limited to one package per Club member.
Packages must be purchased by 28 February
2025, and sessions must be redeemed by August
31 2025. Call City Club Fitness Centre on 03 9944
8860 or email fitnesscentre@racv.com.au.

OUT & ABOUT

t was delightful to see Club members
– and Club Manager Rob Everett
(middle right) – enjoying Christmas
Day events in Bistro, Members Dining
Room and Level 17 at City Club, and
Banyalla at Healesville. Healesville
Country Club & Resort's Annual
Christmas Dinner for vulnerable Yarra
Valley community members was also a
resounding success (see bottom row).



















CELEBRATING GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AT THEIR HAPPY PLACE

lub member Basil Lim and his wife Kim celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort in January.

The couple were joined by their children and their spouses, and grandchildren, with the party of 14 enjoying a fine meal in Banyalla's Private Dining Room.

Basil says RACV Healesville has always been a happy place for him and his wife since becoming Club members in 1990.

"It has peaceful, beautiful scenery, a bit of country atmosphere, and the people are friendly. It's modern, and many things we need are available and it's not far to travel," he says.

"We have many good memories from Healesville, and we wanted to share these happy memories with our most-loved family and to introduce them to this happy place."

Plans are afoot for the family to celebrate his forthcoming 80th birthday at Healesville too.

"In our opinion Healesville is an ideal venue for milestone events like 'big' wedding anniversaries and 'big' birthdays, when family and close friends come together to help celebrate intimately."

So, what is the secret to a long marriage?

"Simply 'give and take'," Basil says. "Be humble to each other - no ego or no point scoring – patience, and no need to set high standards for each other."

Squash players of all levels are taking part in the annual Alan Clancy Cup.

Over four weeks on Thursday nights around eight teams of at least four players will compete in the in-house competition.

The Cup has been running for 30-plus years and is named in honour of the late Alan Clancy, a much-loved Club member and keen squash player.







Save on the Gold Coast



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*Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability. Valid to book and stay until 30/11/2025. Restrictions and blackout dates may apply – check with resort directly for details. Minimum night stay applies. Full payment required at time of reservation, no refunds or cancellations on bookings. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. RACV Members receive 40% off the standard room only and bed & breakfast rates on selected room types when booking direct. Club Member Discount: Discount valid off standard room only and breakfast rates. When booking a RACV Club member rate, Club membership number must be quoted at time of booking and membership card presented upon arrival to the property. Member must stay in the room for member rate to apply. Member rates are limited to one room per night per membership. Additional rooms will be charged at the applicable rate.

nclude

RECIPROCAL CLUB

Sri Lanka offers a captivating blend of natural beauty, rich culture and historical significance that makes it a must-visit destination.

In this country of lush rainforests, tea plantations and golden beaches, you'll also find one of RACV Club's reciprocal clubs, The Hill Club in Nuwara Eliya. Also known as the "Little England of Sri Lanka", this fabulous gateway is nestled in the scenic beauty of the misty Blue Mountains. Nuwara Eliya is one of the few remaining monuments that remind you of the colonial occupation of Sri Lanka. More than a century old, this cosy, comfortable holiday home has an interesting history behind it. Today it reflects a combination of exclusivity in style and class and modern service, a utopian mixture of the old and the new.

As well as offering accommodation, Club members can enjoy a variety of activities, including an 18-hole golf course, billiards, tennis, and a gym. The Hill Club reading room contains a rare collection of books, which could be borrowed for reading pleasure.

The best time of year to visit is from December to April.

Other nearby
attractions include
Lake Gregory, Victoria Park,
Moon Plains, Seetha Amman Temple, Haggala
Botanical Gardens and Pedro Mountain.

You can also enjoy cycling and tea culture tours. Find out how to enjoy the best of Sri Lanka, whether it's a family holiday, hiking tour, foodie experience or safari. Talk to the RACV Travel & Experiences team about the group tours on offer and discover how to unlock discounts and inclusions.

FIND OUT MORE

Arrange your introduction

RACV Club Members need to arrange a letter of introduction prior to visiting The Hill Club in Sri Lanka. Details at racv.com. au/club or scan the QR code.





Important notice about club accommodation bookings

We wish to inform Club Members that the direct booking standard cancellation policy is changing for City Club and Healesville Country Club and Resort:

HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB AND RESORT

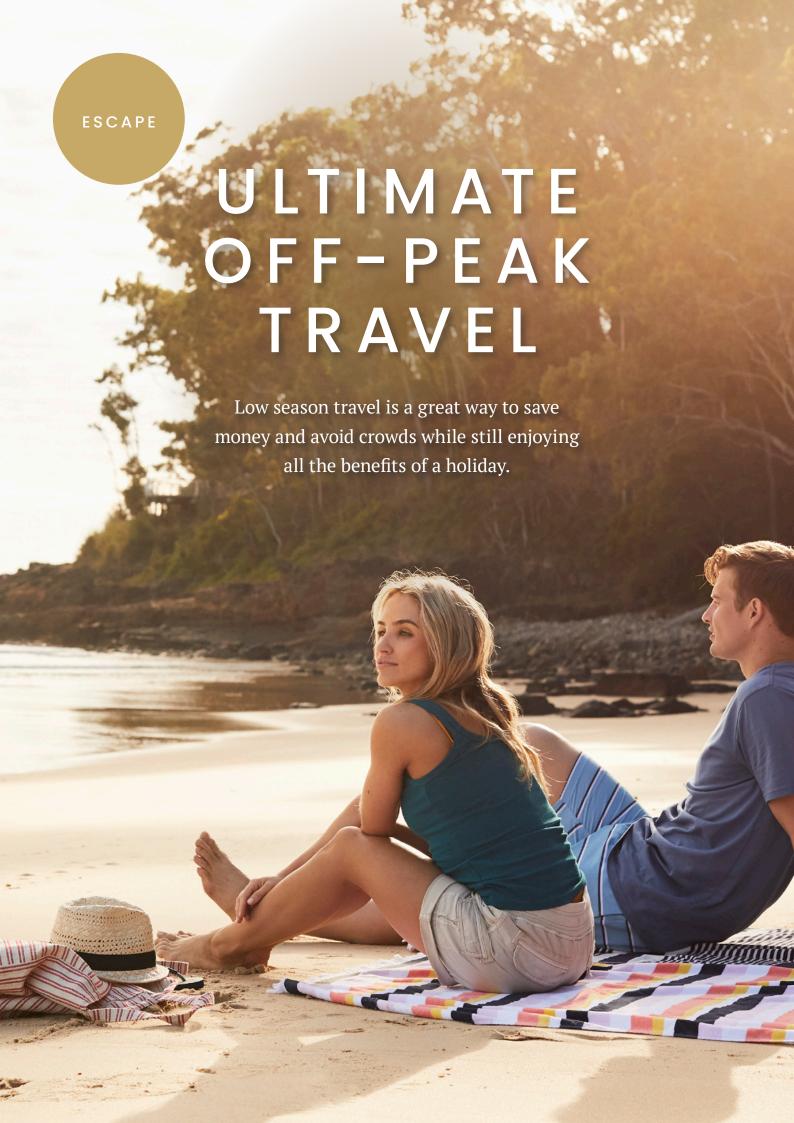
You will be charged 80 per cent of the total price of your stay if you cancel in the two days (14 days for peak periods and special events) prior to arrival.

CITY CLUB

For arrivals on or before 30th June 2025: You will be charged 80 per cent of the total price of your stay if you cancel after 2pm the day before arrival. For existing bookings, we will still honour the current cancellation policy.

For arrivals on or after 1 July 2025: You will be charged 80 per cent of the total price of your stay if you cancel after 2pm the day before arrival (14 days for peak periods and special events).

No changes to cancellation policies for third party bookings or non-refundable bookings. For more details and terms and conditions, please visit https://www.racv.com.au/travel-experiences/resorts/policies.html





ong airport queues. Expensive theme park tickets. Inflated flight prices. These experiences can be the downside of travelling to a beautiful destination in summer. If you have ability to travel during the 'shoulder' or 'low' season, there's a good chance your experience will be unparalleled when it comes to access, affordability, benefits, and your own unique travel experiences.

Here are the best perks of travelling during the off-peak season.

CHEAPER RATES

One of the biggest benefits of travelling off-peak is that you can often find much cheaper rates for flights, hotels, and other travel expenses. This is because demand is lower during off-peak times.

<u>RACV Resorts</u>, for example, have a range of deals for midweek stays, and incentives for staying longer and making the most of your time away.

MORE FLEXIBILITY

Off-peak travel can mean more flexibility with your travel dates and times. Although it usually pays to book well in advance, you may be able to get some special last-minute deals during low season.

BETTER TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

There's less chance of queues and delays at the airport, and your mode of transportation – bus, train, plane – may not be as busy. <u>Upgrade to first-class</u>, anyone?

FEWER CROWDS

You can avoid the crowds and queues that often come with peak travel times, such as hordes of families waiting in lines at <u>Sovereign Hill</u> or <u>Disneyland</u>, or a sea of people when viewing <u>fabulous artworks</u> that you've travelled overseas to see.

MORE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

Travelling to popular destinations such as Noosa, Italy or Koh Samui outside of peak season gives you a

better chance of enjoying the weather without the incessant heat, humidity, and crowded beach areas and cafes.

Consider visiting Phillip Island in winter to view the world's largest little penguin colony from the comfort of the RACV Penguins Plus Viewing Platform and enjoy coastal views from the warmth of <u>RACV Inverloch</u> Resort's Radius Restaurant.

HELPING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Destinations such as <u>Bangkok</u> or Mornington Peninsula are popular during summer, but tourism businesses still need you during the low season.

In <u>Hawaii</u>, tourism contributes to more than a quarter of the state's entire economy, while it is the main industry of <u>Bali</u> year-round.

For local experiences, see the autumn leaves at Healesville, cosy up in a café at Goldfields in winter, or head to that winery near <u>Cape Schanck</u> in spring.

MORE PERSONALISED SERVICE

With fewer travellers around and local businesses happy for more customers, you may also be able to enjoy more personalised service from hotels, restaurants, and other travel providers who will want your business.

> FIND OUT MORE

Discover the best off-peak deals

Plan your next getaway with RACV Travel & Experiences.





JANUARY

21

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF RACV RECIPROCAL CLUBS

Tuesday 21 January, 10am-12.30pm Level 2, City Club

25

BURNS NIGHT 2025

Saturday 25 January, 6pm-10pm Level 17, City Club

28

LUNAR NEW YEARS' EVE

Tuesday 28 January, 6pm-9pm Level 17, City Club

29

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Wednesday 29 January, 6pm-10pm Members' Dining Room, City Club

30

DOUBLE LECTURE: FOUR BALTIC CITIES
Thursday 30 January, 10am-12.30pm
Level 2, City Club



What's on at the Club

Don't miss your chance to attend the exclusive member events this month. Scan the QR code to find out more and reserve your spot.



MEMBERS INTEREST GROUPS

INVESTORS INTEREST GROUP Friday, 7 February, 10.30am-12pm Level 2, City Club

HEALESVILLE BOOK GROUP 1 Tuesday, 11 February, 10.30am-12pm Library, Country Club

HEALESVILLE BOOK GROUP 2 Tuesday, 4 February, 10.30am–12pm Library, Country Club

SUPERVISED BRIDGE Mondays, 9.45am-1pm 3, 10, 17, 24 February Clubroom, City Club

TRAVEL GROUP Tuesday, 4 February 10.30am-12.30pm Level 2, City Club

EVENING TRAVEL GROUP Tuesday, 18 February 6pm-8pm Level 2, City Club

DUPLICATE BRIDGE Wednesdays, 9.45am-1pm 5, 12, 19, 26 February Clubroom, City Club

BEGINNER + COACHING BRIDGE Wednesdays, 1.30pm-3pm 5, 12, 19, 26 February Clubroom, City Club

MORNING MAHJONG Thursdays, 10am-12pm, 6, 13, 20, 27 February Clubroom, City Club

EVENING MAHJONG Wednesday, 5 February 7pm-9pm Clubroom, City Club

SOCIAL SQUASH GROUP Thursdays, 6pm start: 6, 13, 20, 27 February Squash courts, City Club

SOLO & MIND GAMES GROUP Thursdays, 9am-12.30pm 6, 13, 20, 27 February Clubroom, City Club

STEEPED IN CONVERSATION Tuesday, 11 February, 11am-12pm Gallery Lounge, City Club

BOOK GROUP 2 Saturday, 8 February, 11.15am start Clubroom, City Club

BOOK GROUP 4 Wednesday, 19 February, 7.15pm start Library, City Club

FILM GROUP Friday, 21 February, 11am-1pm Theatrette, City Club

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MONTHLY DRINKS Thursday, 6 February, 5pm start Wine Bar, City Club

VIRTUAL ART GROUP Tuesday, 11 February, 5.30pm-6.30pm Online, via Zoom

FEBRUARY

4	YARRA VALLEY OUTBACK SPIRIT EXPERIENCE	14	VALENTINE'S DAY – MEMBER'S DINING ROOM Friday 14 February, 6pm-10pm
4	Tuesday 4 February, 10:30am-4:30pm Bus departs from/returns to City Club	14	Members' Dining Room, City Club
	SOCIAL 8-BALL NIGHT Tuesday 4 February, 6pm-9pm Billiards Room, City Club		VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH - SOJOURN Friday 14 February, 12pm-3pm Sojourn, New Chancery Lane, City Club
5	MIDWEEK JAZZ: AFTER DARK Wednesday 5 February, 7pm-9.30pm Wine Bar, City Club		VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER - SOJOURN Friday 14 February, choose from two sittings: 5.30pm or 7.45pm Sojourn, New Chancery Lane, City Club
6	BRYAN ADAMS Thursday 6 February, 7.30pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena		VALENTINE'S DAY – WINE BAR Friday 14 February, 6pm–9pm Wine Bar, City Club
	DINE ON THE HALLOWED TURF Thursday 6 February, 5.30pm - 9.30pm MCG		VALENTINE'S DAY - BANYALLA Friday 14 February, from 5.30pm Banyalla, Healesville Country Club & Resort
7	LUKE COMBS Friday 7 February, 6pm - 11pm Marvel Stadium	15	BRYAN ADAMS Saturday 15 February, 7.30pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena
8	LUKE COMBS Saturday 8 February, 6pm - 11pm Marvel Stadium	18	THE PRODIGY Tuesday 18 February, 7pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena
	ARTIST IN CONVERSATION: BEYOND TEXTILES Saturday 8 February, 2:30pm-4pm Library, City Club	19	SIGNATURE SERIES - SIR IAN BOTHAM Wednesday 19 February, 6:30pm - 10pm Banyalla Private Dining Room, Healesville Country
	CRAFT SERIES: BEGINNERS CROCHET Saturday 8 February, 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm Level 2, City Club PUNT ROAD WINE MASTERCLASS Sunday 9 February, 10.30am-1.00pm Bus departs from/returns to Healesville Country Club & Resort	20	Club & Resort KYLIE MINOGUE Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena
		DRAKE Sunday 9 February, 8pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena	21
10	DRAKE Monday 10 February, 8pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena		FILM GROUP: THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (2011) Friday 21 February, 11am-1pm
	BEGINNER BRIDGE COURSE 8-week course, starting 10 February, 1:30pm-3:30pm Level 2, City Club		Theatrette, City Club
		22	KYLIE MINOGUE Saturday 22 February, 7.30pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena
11	CONTROVERSIAL CLASSICS WITH SUSANNAH FULLERTON Tuesday 11 February, 11am – 1:30pm Level 2, City Club	27	EXPERIENCE & EXPLORE: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALK Thursday 27 February, 10am-11:30am Meet at the Visitor Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens
12	DRAKE Wednesday 12 February, 8pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena		GAME SHOW LIVE - MUSIC & MOVIES Thursday 27 February, 6:30pm - 9:00pm The Pavilion, City Club
13	DRAKE Thursday 13 February, 8pm - 11pm Rod Laver Arena		,

Book a holiday that stays with you



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K'gari Escape

- 3 nights at Kingfisher Bay Resort and 1-night at K'gari Resort.
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