

*RACV Club*

MARCH  
2024

# HIGHLIGHTS

# THINK INSIDE THE BOX

Experience the magic of the MCG and see your favourite sport  
from inside a Club-exclusive Corporate Suite

Keeping **members** connected  
[racv.com.au/club](https://racv.com.au/club)

# JOY OF DANCE



The Members Dining Room at City Club is the setting for all kinds of dance, from the Lion dance for Lunar New Year (page 12), Highland dancing for the Robert Burns Dinner (pictured), to the Club's much-loved Dinner Dance events.

● Discover the joy of dance at the Club. See more photos from the Robert Burns event on page 13. Check the What's on page via [this link](#) for upcoming special events or scan the QR code.



Club Members and guests celebrated Lunar New Year in the Members Dining Room. Page 12.

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**ROB EVERETT** RACV Club General Manager

We've wrapped up a busy summer period at the Club, with both properties bustling with activity. It was wonderful to see members enjoying themselves, especially for Chinese New Year and on Valentine's Day. Be sure to check out the photos on page 12.

With the advent of autumn, the Yarra Valley and other wine regions are gearing up for wine harvest season, and members can take part in the Sanguine Wine Experience on 23 March (see page 9).

For those excited about the approaching AFL season, I am thrilled to unveil a new addition to your Club's offerings. This year, we proudly present a corporate box at the iconic MCG, providing an unparalleled viewing experience for our members and their guests. Details on page 6, with a link to available tickets and pricing.

March also heralds the arrival of the Melbourne Grand Prix, a highlight on the city's calendar and another busy time for the Club. Additionally, I am looking forward to the Healesville Picnic Races and meeting members in our very own marquee. The food prepared by our talented Healesville chefs always adds to the occasion, with members and guests able to talk and mingle, and get close to the action.

The President's Cup golf tournament is shaping up nicely, with solid numbers and a fantastic course awaiting participants this month (see page 11). Then before you know it, it will be Easter, with special dining events at Bistro and Banyalla (page 9), and children's activities at both properties for the school holidays (page 10).

As you can see, there is an array of exciting activities and events awaiting you at the Club. Don't forget to always tap your membership card at Club entry points and sign in your guests.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. I hope this new season brings you and your family new adventures and good times.

**CALL OR EMAIL US**

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# LIFE AS A SYMPHONY

Singer Kate Ceberano.  
Image: Justine Walpole

Celebrating music, travel and food, our author talks this month are set to be insightful and entertaining

As well as the opportunity to hear from someone quite extraordinary, the author talks at RACV Club are intimate events that deepen your connection to the books.

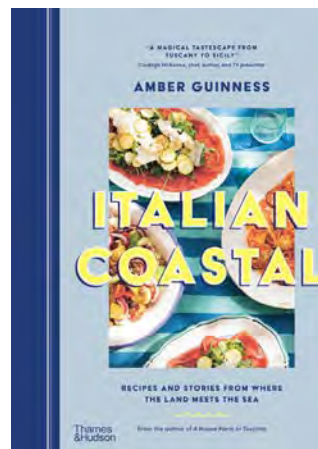
The two books featured this month are entirely different – one a memoir and the other a cookbook – but both authors have interesting life stories and valuable insights to share.

Singer, songwriter, performer, and artist Kate Ceberano's illustrated memoir, *Unsung*, celebrates 40 years of song writing and recording and features song lyrics, stories, paintings and embroidery.

Northern Books' co-owner and Marketing Manager Kristin Gill says Kate is a "loud and proud" Melburnian who's willing to talk honestly about the challenges she's faced, both professionally and personally. "She reinvented herself as an artist during COVID, and this book is about her courage and creativity," Kristin says. "And it's about Kate; it's honest and authentic, and that's exactly who she is."

Kristin says the event later in the month with Amber Guinness will appeal to members who love food-related events, like the upcoming Four Chef Showdown sequel or the Donna Hay talk last year.

"Amber is so warm and engaging and this book is beautiful," Kristin says. "It's about food and travel, and if you can't be on the Amalfi Coast



Food writer Amber Guinness

or in northern Sicily, you can live vicariously through the stories and recipes and photos in her book."

Kristin, who has more than 30 years' experience in the publishing sector, says being in the same room as someone you admire or whose writing you admire can be a fulfilling experience. "Finding out why the book was written, the inspiration behind the characters or story, and the anecdotes along the way; everyone loves those insights, and when an author reads from their book it brings that book to life," she says,

Club members will be able to buy a copy of the author's book at the relevant event and get it signed on the night as a bonus.

● Visit the What's On page via [this link](#) or QR code to find out about the upcoming author talks.



DON'T  
MISS



## ABSTRACTIONS FROM NATURE

Our second Gallery Lounge exhibition for 2024 focuses on an exploration of performance and nature. Through the lens of photography, Australian artists Robert Ashton, Honey Long & Prue Stent, and Murray Fredericks engage with the natural world through a performance of bodies, endurance, and intricate artist intervention. Admire the work up close and from afar, while enjoying a tea or coffee and an intricate cake that's been inspired by the exhibition.

Left: *Blaze #22, Packers Lake, Great Darling Anabranch*, 2023 (detail) by Murray Fredericks.

● **Performing Nature, Fri 1 Mar– Fri 24 May 2024, City Club, Gallery Lounge.** Tea and coffee available, Mon–Fri, 9am–3pm. Explore the RACV Art Collection via [this link](#) or scan QR code.



## IMMERSE YOURSELF IN LEARNING

Art is one of the major attractions of Paris, and with so much to learn about the movements and masterpieces that have shaped the city, it's little wonder that a double lecture is required for an overview of this fascinating topic. The same can be said about Egypt - the focus of another Kenneth Park double lecture.

**Kenneth Park Double Lectures, Level 2, City Club**

● **Paris, an Artist's City, Thu 7 Mar, 10am–1pm, \$45pp.**

Book via [this link](#).

● **Egyptian Style, from Ancient to Revival, Thu 11 Apr, 10am–1pm, \$45pp.** Book via [this link](#).



See all the latest Club events and activities at [racv.com.au/club-whats-on](https://racv.com.au/club-whats-on) or scan the QR code.



## EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL EXPO DEALS

Prepare to be inspired with more deals to more places. Meet with our trusted travel partners, hear about exclusive expo deals, and talk to our expert travel consultants at the RACV Travel Expo. Whether your next holiday is here in Australia, or the other side of the world, you can pinpoint your next cruise, tour, holiday package and more all in one place.

● **2024 RACV Travel Expo, Sat 16 March, 9am–4pm, Level 2, City Club.** Visit [racv.com.au/travelexpo](https://racv.com.au/travelexpo) or scan QR code.



## NIGHT OF FINE WINE AND DINING

Discover a world of culinary excellence at our Degustation Night in the Members Dining Room. Savor an extraordinary eight-course gastronomic experience, complemented by amuse bouche and canapés.

Elevate your evening with optional matching wines at an additional \$80 per person, enhancing each dish with perfect pairings for a truly unforgettable dining adventure.

● **Degustation Night, Fri 19 Apr, 6pm–10pm, Members Dining Room, City Club, \$180pp.** Book via [this link](#) or scan QR code.





# THINK INSIDE THE BOX

Experience the magic of the MCG and watch cricket, footy and rugby  
from inside the RACV Club Suite

For the first time ever, we are extremely proud to announce that RACV Club is offering its Club Members exclusive access to a corporate suite at the iconic MCG to see some of the finest sporting events in Australia.

RACV Club General Manager Robert Everett says the RACV Club Suite is a major new member benefit that extends the Club experience beyond its City and Healesville properties.

"We're absolutely delighted to be offering Club members a first-class sporting and lifestyle experience," Rob says. "Connecting with members is at the heart of everything we do at the Club and being able to provide an exclusive space where members can come together outside the Club is very exciting."

For footy-mad members, this means the chance to barrack for their favourite team in style, with all the comforts of a Club-hosted corporate suite, including grazing-style menus, premium beverages, premium Level 3 viewing, private bathroom facilities, and official AFL programs for all attendees on the day.

Club members will have the chance to buy tickets for themselves and their guests (subject to availability) to attend AFL games, cricket matches, and any other sporting in the corporate suite, which accommodates 14 people.

Club Engagement & Experience Manager Melissa McCallum says Club members can book to see their favourite team or treat friends, family or colleagues. "If you have a birthday or an anniversary or a special occasion coming up, then you might consider the corporate box as the host venue," Melissa says.

There will be some matches where the tickets are sold as part of an exclusive Club accommodation package. Otherwise, the 14 tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets for Round 1 of the AFL season, which kicks off on 14 March, will be released first, with other tickets released as each round approaches. "As we get closer to the finals series and find out those fixtures, we will be able to release those tickets," Melissa says.

"But, of course, we know that the biggest game of the year is the AFL Grand Final, and we are looking forward to hosting Club members at that game this year. We hope some big Victorian teams make it in."

The Club also has access to the corporate suite for the NRL State of Origin match and the Boxing Day Test, which this year is against India.

"The Boxing Day test is guaranteed to be a great competition and a great atmosphere, and we're excited that Club members will be able to share that experience with each other," Melissa says.

Ticket prices will reflect each match, with those big games such as ANZAC Day or Easter Monday priced accordingly.

“Like anything, the higher demand creates a premium price tag, but our ticketing structure and prices are absolutely to the benefit of Club members,” Melissa says.

As excitement builds for the start of the 2024 AFL season and you ponder big questions like: “Will Melbourne finally achieve its potential? Can coach Damien Hardwick deliver the Gold Coast Suns a flag? – start thinking about the game you most want to see in style.

“RACV Club membership now gives you access to one of the most recognisable sporting venues in the world,” Melissa says.

“It’s an all-inclusive box, a bit of Club away from Club, with members sharing good food and drink, and good times together - it will be the perfect Club experience.”



## JOIN US IN THE RACV CLUB SUITE AT THE MCG

For an intimate premium experience, take advantage of RACV Club's exclusive suite at the MCG for a memorable match day experience. Booking details and pricing via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.



## MAJOR EVENTS AT THE MCG

AFL may be the biggest game in town – with a record gross attendance of 8.1 million attendees last year – but there are must-see rugby league and cricket matches to mark in your calendar too.

### March 14–17: Round 1

- The MCG plays host to four great games. Carlton and Richmond will play each other as has become tradition on Thursday, followed by 2023 Premiers Collingwood hosting Sydney in a Friday Night blockbuster. Essendon meet the Hawks for Saturday afternoon footy, before Melbourne and the Bulldogs close out the round on Sunday.

### April 25: Essendon v Collingwood

- The MCG comes alive on Anzac Day for the traditional clash between Collingwood and Essendon. More than 90,000 fans attended the sold-out event last year.

### May 25: Sir Doug Nicholls Indigenous Round

- A celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions to the game. The Dreamtime at the ‘G match between Essendon and Richmond on Saturday May 25 includes entertainment.

### June 26: State of Origin

- Game Two of Rugby League’s State of Origin Series, with Australia’s greatest sporting rivals, Queensland and New South Wales, going head to head.

### September 28: AFL Grand Final

- There can only be one winner.

### December 26: Boxing Day Test – Australia v India

- Absolute bucket-list item for cricket and sporting enthusiasts.





# CALLING ALL FOODIES

Four Chef Showdown winner Himanshu Sharda is back to defend his title, taking on three City Club chefs. Whatever the outcome, an entertaining night is guaranteed

**F**ire up your appetite and put on your food judge's hat because Four Chef Showdown is back for an epic sequel, this time at Healesville.

The culinary face-off pits Healesville's Executive Chef Himanshu Sharda against City Club's Executive Chef Jason Camillo, Executive Sous Chef Craig Dowling and Pastry Sous Chef Josh Cochrane, with Club members and guests choosing the winning dish on the night.

"Our philosophy at Healesville of keeping it simple won't change," Himanshu says. "Let them come with a strategy."

The four chefs will be under pressure, preparing their chosen dishes on stage, with nowhere to hide if something goes wrong.

Himanshu will have the advantage of being familiar with the kitchen, ovens and equipment at Healesville. But he is magnanimous when it comes to his competitors.

"We are one team in the end; we wouldn't let them struggle," he says. "It will be Healesville hospitality at its very best for them, along with some surprises."

Members and their guests will enjoy a four-course meal – paired with wines chosen by Club Sommelier Camm Whiteoak – and appraise each dish along the way on its flavour, texture and presentation.

Each chef will tell a compelling backstory about their favourite dish, adding an entertaining element to this special dining experience.

Will the coveted trophy stay at Healesville or will one of the City Club chefs claim victory? You be the judge.

● **Fri 12 Apr, 6.30pm-10.30pm, Ballroom, Healesville Country Club & Resort, early bird pricing: \$120pp, \$900 for table of 8. Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.**

## PERFECT PAIRING OF SPIRITS WITH FOOD

Enjoy an intimate evening of exceptional food and distilled spirits in the Wine Bar. Archie Rose Distilling Co. Ambassador Paul Slater will introduce you to the distillery's unique gin, whisky, and rum, with a small dish complementing the character of each spirit. If in doubt about the merits of pairing food and spirits, come along and discover how to take dining to the next level.

● **Wine Bar Wednesday: Archie Rose Experience, Wed 27 Mar, 6.30pm-9pm, Wine Bar, \$70pp. Book via [this link](#) or the QR Code.**





# EASTER FEAST

Traditional or chocolate? Your favourite hot cross bun awaits at Le Petit Gâteau, whether you prefer raisins and cinnamon or Swiss chocolate pieces inside.

● **Hot cross buns are available at Le Petit Gâteau from March 12-29. For details or to order, email [orders@lepetitgateau.com.au](mailto:orders@lepetitgateau.com.au)**

For an extra special family treat, celebrate Easter Sunday in Bistro at City Club, with a seafood and carvery buffet, followed by a spectacular chocolate and easter egg buffet created by Le Petit Gâteau.

Alternatively if you want a relaxing day in the countryside, Banyalla's buffet features Easter classics, seafood, and a visit from the Easter Bunny (you might want to keep that a surprise for the children on the day).

**Sun 31 March, noon-2pm**

● **Bistro, City Club, seafood and carvery buffet with a chocolate and easter egg buffet, \$125 per adult, \$60 child (5-12 years). Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.**



● **Banyalla, Healesville Country Club and Resort, \$125 per adult including glass of sparkling wine on arrival, \$115 teens (13-17 years) & \$45 child (5-12 years). Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.**



Unmissable: Le Petit Gâteau's hot cross buns, and the Easter buffets, either at Bistro or Banyalla.



## FOOD, WINE AND CULTURE

Unwind in the Wine Bar, try the Club's latest culinary creations, and discover the finest distilleries. See the latest events at [racv.com.au/club-whats-on](http://racv.com.au/club-whats-on) or scan the QR code.



# GRAPE ESCAPE



Cricket legend Allan Border and his wife Jane are among those who have joined the annual hands-on harvest at Sanguine Estate - and now Club members have the chance to do some grape stomping of their own. Enjoy a unique and fun harvest and winemaking day at the picturesque estate in Heathcote. You'll hand pick grapes from the designated "RACV Club Members vine row", learn about the winemaking process, and receive a tutored tasting of wine. The grapes you pick will be left to ferment in a French oak barrel labelled with an RACV Club plaque, and ultimately become an RACV Club wine.

● **Sanguine Wine Experience, Sat 23 Mar, 9am-5pm. \$85pp, includes winery experience, pastries and light lunch, and transfers from City Club. Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.**

Left: Jane and Allan Border enjoy harvest time at Sanguine Estate. Image: Adrian, Archivist Media. Book for a similar experience via the QR code.



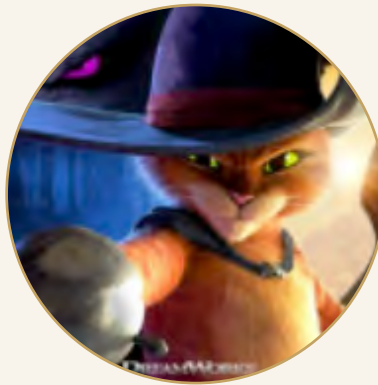
COOKING



GOLF



MOVIE



CIRCUS



PAINTING



# PLAY ALONG

Children are spoilt for choice with these special school holiday activities at the Club

TENNIS



AQUA FUN



STORYTIME



Looking for school holiday fun in April? Along with the Club's popular offerings at City Club, Healesville Country Club & Resort has a bunch of children's activities.

Leisure Manager Con Kalogiannis says Healesville, with its golf course, tennis courts and swimming pool, is the ideal setting for family-friendly lessons and sessions.

"The golf session we offered for children in January was so popular we had to run another session, and parents were keen to know when the next one would be. It was the same thing with the tennis lessons."

Healesville's school activities in April include junior golf sessions for two different age groups, a junior tennis session, an aqua fun session, and an interactive storytelling session that's sure to fire young imaginations.

"We also have the jumping pillow and bowling green at Healesville, and outdoor areas for children to run around," he says. "There are plenty of ways to get kids active and spark their interest."

Con says the four-hole short course is a place where Club members

can learn how to play golf or practise without feeling pressured. "That's where we hold the lessons for kids and for many of them it's the first time they've held a golf club," he says.

"They learn the basics of the game and how to hit a ball, and those who participated during the summer school holidays had a great time." The ProShop provides junior equipment for the lessons.

"Families can come out to Healesville to enjoy the school-holiday activities, have a meal at Riddell's Green, and explore the grounds or check out some of the other attractions in the region," Con says.

There are also plenty of reasons for families to visit City Club. Along with a screening of *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* in the Theatre, there are Kids' Cooking Classes, a Kids' Painting Workshop, and a Circus Workshop for 4- to 9-year olds.

● Visit the What's On page via [this link](#) or QR code to find out about the children's school holiday activities.



## FROM SCRAMBLE TO PRESIDENT'S CUP



Aim high: you are invited to participate in two friendly competitions this month on the Michael Clayton-designed 18-hole course. Scan the QR code and book via the What's On page.



Liven up your golf game and have fun with two different formats this month at Healesville Country Club & Resort. We're hosting a qualifying event for The Scramble, a friendly team golf experience on 9 March, followed by the President's Cup on 24 March, which is our prestigious annual event that follows a Stableford format. These golf competitions are a great way to play the game and meet new people.

- **The Scramble: qualifying event, Sat 9 Mar, 7.30am registration for 8am shotgun start, \$50pp.**
- **RACV President's Cup Golf, Sun 24 Mar, 7.30am registration for 8am shotgun start, \$50 golf season pass holder, \$70 Club member. Both events at Healesville Country Club & Resort. Book via the [What's on page](#).**

## STAY FOR OUR COUNTRY HOSPITALITY

View the special accommodation packages at RACV Country Club & Resort. Add a little sparkle with the Club Experience Package or try the Healesville Regional Retreat. Find out more via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.



## MASTER PASTA: LEARN FROM THE BEST

Do you want to learn how to make perfect pasta? Here is your chance. Healesville's Executive Chef Himanshu Sharda is running hands-on cooking masterclasses at Healesville Country Club & Resort, starting with pasta next month. Learn how to craft pasta from scratch and find out about the different types.

- **Cooking Masterclass: Perfecting Pasta. Choose from two sessions: Mon 8 Apr, 12pm-1.30pm or Mon 15 Apr, 5pm-6.30pm, Healesville Country Club & Resort, \$100pp. Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.**





# PAINTING THE TOWN RED

A symbol of good luck, the lion dance brought joy and happiness to Club members and guests celebrating the Lunar New Year in the Members Dining Room



# BURNS NIGHT



## OUT & ABOUT

There was a terrific turnout of tartan for the inaugural Burns Night Dinner in the Members Dining Room at City Club. From haggis and whisky to bagpipes and highland dancing, the night was a huge success.



Left: Scottish poet and lyricist Robert Burns' poetry sits beside a bottle of GlenAllachie whisky, helping set the scene for the special dining event.

## EXCLUSIVE CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS EVERY MONTH

RACV Club Members have exclusive access to monthly offers and a vast range of benefits across both Club properties. See the latest offers via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.



# JAZZ LEGEND



Mt Riddell was the perfect backdrop for the equally iconic Vince Jones, who was accompanied by John Mackey on saxophone, Ben Robertson on bass, Matt McMahon on piano, and Felix Bloxsom on drums. Thanks to a great working relationship with the organiser behind Bennett's Lane, JazzLab and Melbourne International Jazz festival, we're able to host international-standard artists for Club Members and guests to enjoy at exclusive events.

# YOUR NEXT BEST MOVE

As the organiser of the new Club member interest group for chess, Robert Chambers reflects on what he loves about the game

**C**hess is a beautiful game. With 64 squares, six varieties of pieces, two opponents, and one unchanging set of rules, at its heart chess is a simple game.

Within those metrics however, chess has long proven to be one of the most mentally engaging and even exciting games commonly played. The game's simple rules counterintuitively allow for infinite complexity when two opponents vie to win.

I fell in love with chess as a high school student. I would arrive well before the first class every morning to battle it out across the board with a group of friends. We pushed each other to improve, and I quickly realised this game was not so simple.

My interest in the game grew to include the world of professional chess, and I have followed the peaks and troughs of my favourite pro players ever since. Viswanathan Anand, Fabi Caruana, and of course Magnus Carlsen have been longtime favourites to watch.

Stemming from its fundamentally basic rules, chess is accessible to players of every standard. From a novice to a seasoned pro, anyone can enjoy the game at their own level given the right opponent.

Our new Healesville Chess Club is the latest initiative to revive Member Interest Groups at our beautiful Healesville Country Club & Resort. Meeting on the second Monday of the month, starting 8 April, chess sets will be provided in Banyalla's lounge area from 10.30am.

Since joining the RACV Club Events Team I have come to freshly appreciate the camaraderie and spirit of improvement that games of any style can offer. I hope to share that spirit with Club members and meet some of you across the board soon.

**Robert Chambers**  
Member Engagement Coordinator  
RACV Club



● Healesville Chess Club, second Monday of each month, starting 8 April, Healesville Country Club & Resort. Enquiries: [events@club.racv.com.au](mailto:events@club.racv.com.au)



Left to right:  
Squash President Geoff Chambers, trophy presenter Kaye Clancy, Tim Boylan, Dylan Barry, John Daniell, Darragh O'Donoghue, and RACV Club General Manager Rob Everett.

## HOT SHOTS SHINE ON COURT

Named in honour of a much-loved Club member and keen squash player, the Alan Clancy competition goes from strength to strength each year. RACV Squash Section President Geoff Chambers says the standard of play is increasing appreciably, with a full complement of players - eight teams of four players - competing in the January event this year.

"The event has become the highlight of the RACV squash year," Geoff says. "It's eagerly anticipated for the elements of enjoyable squash; the opportunity to witness the skills of fellow members with all four courts occupied; and the wonderful social spirit concluded by communal suppers in Bistro, which are enthusiastically attended."

The 2024 Alan Clancy Trophy winners were Dylan Barry, Darragh O'Donoghue, Tim Boylan and John Daniell.

### DIFFERENT WAYS TO MEET AND CONNECT

From Member Interest Groups, Social Squash and Social 8-ball to the Craft Series and Steeped in Conversation on the second Tuesday of every month, there are myriad ways to meet like-minded Club members. Discover the Club's Member Interest Groups via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.



### STARS ARE BORN

Inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh, Club members and guests created their own masterpieces at an acrylic painting workshop in December.

The Club's Craft Series continues in 2024, with different crafts to try throughout the year. See the What's On page for details.

● Next up: Still Life Drawing, Sun 17 Mar, 2pm-4.30pm, Tarrant Room, City Club, \$90 per person. Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.





Lake Louise in Canada is considered one of the world's most beautiful lakes.

# TOP TRAVEL TRENDS

From the majestic landscapes of Canada and medieval marvels of Italy to the cultural riches of Asia, travellers are seeking diverse experiences

In an ever-evolving world, travel trends can guide us towards new horizons and unforgettable experiences. Whether it's cruising through Oceania's pristine waters, exploring the Canadian Rockies, enjoying the cultural riches of Italy, or taking a leisurely jaunt through Vietnam or Japan, these are some of the travel trends worth following.

## LEISURELY ADVENTURES

Cruising has long been a favourite pastime for Club members seeking luxury, comfort, and exploration all rolled into one.

Cruising around Australia and the South Pacific has emerged as a particularly popular trend in recent times, with experiences as diverse as visiting tropical islands, seeing New Zealand's dramatic fjords, and discovering the gems of Australia's Top End and Kimberley region.

In contrast, European river cruises are favoured by those who love seeing stunning landscapes and historical towns at a leisurely pace. Great rivers to roam include the Danube, Rhine, and Seine.

## RUGGED WILDERNESS AND MUSEUMS

For nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts, the rugged wilderness of the Canadian Rockies and Alaska is an irresistible draw. Home to towering mountains, sparkling glaciers, and abundant wildlife, these pristine

regions invite adventure and exploration. Canada's four distinct seasons offer activities year-round.

Banff and Jasper top the list of Canada's 46 national parks, with hiking and cruising the most popular ways to soak up the scenery.

Lake Louise and Moraine Lake are considered two of the world's most beautiful lakes, while Icefields Parkway is one of the world's most spectacular driving routes.



King George Falls in North Kimberley

Don't forget the museums and indigenous cultural experiences. There's the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, and the vibrant indigenous art scene in British Columbia.

Alaska distinguishes itself by its epic proportions: it has Mendenhall, the largest glacier outside Antarctica, and Denali, America's tallest peak, as well as the largest grizzly bear population in North America - with a guided tour at Katmai National Park & Preserve being one of the best - and safest ways - to view them.

## ART HISTORY AND WORLD-CLASS WINES

For travellers with a passion for culture, history, and gastronomy, Italy is a perennial favourite. While some popular destinations within Italy can become packed with tourists during the peak season of summer, the country's allure extends far beyond its well-trodden paths.



Small-group tours are one way to savour regional cuisine and explore hidden corners of Italy's cities and countryside, including the medieval hills of Tuscany, the beautiful Amalfi Coast, and the tranquil Italian Lakes.

### ANCIENT TEMPLES AND VIBRANT STREET MARKETS

Travellers are drawn to Vietnam's rich cultural heritage, breathtaking natural beauty, and delicious cuisine. This country of nearly 100 million people boasts a long and storied history, reflected in its ancient temples, colonial architecture, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long in Hanoi and the ancient town of Hoi An.



From trekking in the remote villages of Sapa to exploring the vibrant street markets of Ho Chi Minh City, it offers a diverse range of experiences to suit every traveller's preference. Vietnamese people are also renowned for their hospitality, and compared to many other travel destinations, Vietnam offers excellent value for money.



### TRADITIONAL CHARM AND FUTURISTIC APPEAL

Japan's appeal lies in a combination of traditional charm, cutting-edge technology, rich cultural experiences, and scenic landscapes. Journey from the neon-lit streets of Tokyo and electronics stores of Akihabara to the tranquil temples of Kyoto and natural beauty of Hokkaido's snow-capped mountains and hot springs.

The contrast between historic sites and contemporary architecture is part of Japan's signature appeal, as are its tea ceremonies and ikebana (flower arranging), and festivals, such as Gion Matsuri with parades and floats in Kyoto and the Sado Island Galaxy Art Festival. Japan has become a must-visit destination for Australian travellers.



Top destinations: San Gimignano, a medieval town in Tuscany; and two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Hoi An in Vietnam (far left); and Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto, Japan. Images: Supplied

## GET EXTRA SAVINGS ON YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY

RACV Members get extra savings when booking through RACV Travel & Experiences. Call 1800 850 888, email [info@holidays.racv.com.au](mailto:info@holidays.racv.com.au) or visit the team of travel experts in store, Mon to Thu, 9am-5pm, 448 Little Collins Street, Melbourne CBD. Scan the QR code for details.



## RECIPROCAL CLUB

Barcelona is a hub of food, fashion and cuisine, with lots of special events and festivals throughout the year. But did you know it's also the location of one of RACV Club's most charming reciprocal clubs?

Círculo Ecuestre was founded more than 160 years ago, in 1856, by a group of horseriding enthusiasts, and the club then became a meeting place for politicians and leading figures in Catalanian society.

Today it offers RACV Club Members a central place to stay in Barcelona, although, with only 12 double bedrooms, there is limited availability. Even if you stay somewhere else in this Mediterranean city, it's worth visiting Círculo Ecuestre for a meal or a drink at the bar. The club is housed in a Modernist urban palace, which, like Antoni Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, has some unique architectural elements. Original features from the beginning of the 20th century include a marble staircase, Venetian mirrors, and Murano glass chandeliers.

Among the many reasons to visit Barcelona this year include the 2024 Spanish Grand Prix in June, the Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup Barcelona from August to October, and the 48H Open House Festival when more than 100 buildings open their doors in October.

NB: Círculo Ecuestre closes for three weeks in August every year.



● RACV Club Members need to arrange a letter of introduction prior to visiting Círculo Ecuestre. Details at [racv.com.au/club](http://racv.com.au/club) or scan the QR code.



# WHAT'S ON MARCH 2024

1	Friday, exhibition begins	Performing Nature, Art exhibition, until 24 May	Gallery Lounge, City Club
	Friday, 10am-noon	Experience & Explore: Coombe Yarra Valley	673-675 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream
2	Saturday, 2pm-4pm	Family Film: <i>Shrek</i>	Theatrette, City Club
5	Tuesday, 6pm-late	Social 8-Ball Night	Billiards Room, City Club
6	Wednesday, 11am	<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i> Theatre Package	Members Dining Room, City Club & Athenaeum Theatre
	Wednesday, 6pm-8pm	Midweek Jazz at the Bar	Wine Bar, City Club
7	Thursday, 10am-1pm	Kenneth Park Double Lecture: Paris, an Artist's City	Level 2, City Club
9	Saturday, 8am-12.30pm	The Scramble - Qualifying Gold Event	Healesville Country Club & Resort
	Saturday, 7.30pm-9.30pm	BABBA!	Level 17, City Club
12	Tuesday, 11am-noon	Experience & Explore: State Library Victoria	328 Swanston St, Melbourne
13	Wednesday, 1pm-3pm	Monthly movie: <i>Downton Abbey</i>	Theatrette, City Club
	Wednesday, 6pm-8pm	Midweek Jazz at the Bar, Alma Zygier	Wine Bar, City Club



14	Thursday, 5.45pm-8.30pm	Author Talk: Kate Ceberano with Brian Nankervis	Level 17, City Club
15	Friday, 11am-1pm	Film Group: <i>Lion</i>	Theatrette, City Club
	Friday, 7pm-9.30pm	Drag Bingo!	Level 17, City Club
16	Saturday, 9am-4pm	RACV Travel Expo	City Club
17	Sunday, 2pm-4.30pm	Craft Series: Still Life Drawing	Tarrant Room, City Club
19	Tuesday, 11am-noon	Experience & Explore: State Library Victoria	328 Swanston St, Melbourne
20	Wednesday, 6.30pm-9pm	Midweek Jazz at the Bar, Margie Lou-Dyer	Wine Bar, City Club
23	Saturday, 9am-5pm	Sanguine Wine Experience	Bus transfers from City Club to Heathcote and back
	Saturday, 10am-5pm	Healesville Country Races	Meet at Healesville Country Club & Resort
24	Sunday, 7am - 2pm	RACV President's Cup Golf	Healesville Country Club & Resort
27	Wednesday, 6.30pm-9pm	Wine Bar Wednesday: Archie Rose Experience	Wine Bar, City Club
31	Sunday, noon-2pm	Easter Sunday buffet	Bistro, City Club + Banyalla, Healesville Country Club & Resort

# MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

**SUPERVISED BRIDGE** Mondays,  
9.45am-1pm: 4, 11, 18, 25 March  
Clubroom, City Club

**TRAVEL GROUP** Tuesday, 5 March  
10.30am-12.30pm Level 2, City Club

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** Wednesdays, 9.45am-1pm  
6, 13, 20, 27 March Clubroom, City Club

**EVENING MAHJONG** Wednesday, 6 March  
7pm-9pm Clubroom, City Club

**SOCIAL SQUASH GROUP** Thursdays,  
6pm start: 7, 14, 21, 28 March  
Squash courts, City Club

**SOLO & MIND GAMES GROUP** Thursdays,  
9am-1pm: 7, 14, 21, 28 March  
Clubroom, City Club

**BOOK GROUP 2** Saturday, 9 March  
11.15am start  
Clubroom, City Club

**BOOK GROUP 4** Wednesday, 20 March  
7.15pm start  
Library, City Club

**FILM GROUP** Friday, 15 March  
11am-1pm  
Theatrette, City Club

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



## PATIO PERFECTION

Discover the secrets to a thriving green space with well-known garden designer Kaye Roberts-Palmer. Explore the art of maximising small spaces with companion planting, pot selection, and microclimate insights for your patio or balcony garden. Includes Q&A session and tea/coffee.

● **Patio & balcony gardening**  
Sat 27 Apr, 2pm-3.30pm, Level 2,  
City Club | \$15pp. Book via [this link](#)  
or scan the QR code.

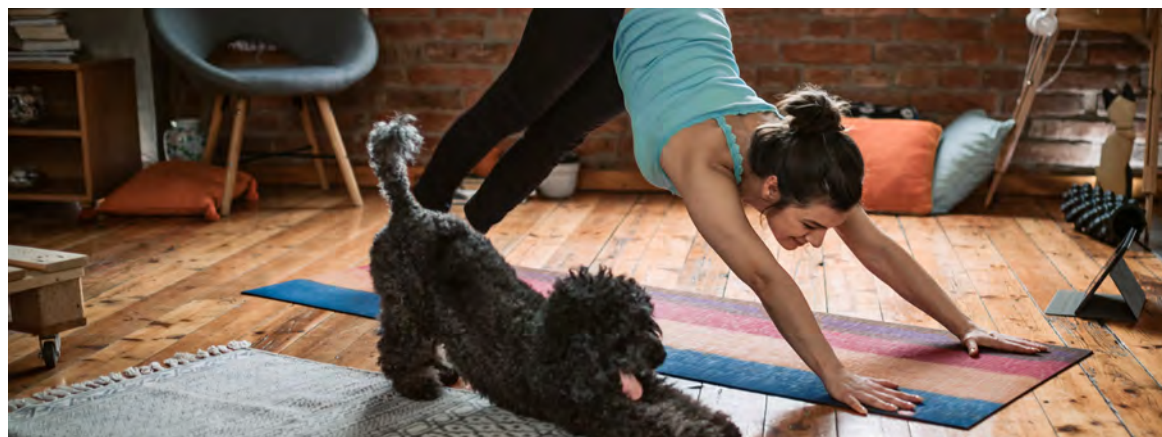


## FREE GROUP FITNESS

**MORNING PILATES WITH CARLA**  
8am-8.45pm ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
Mondays 4, 11, 18, 25 March

**MORNING YOGA WITH KATHY**  
8-8.45am ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
Tuesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 March

**MORNING MOVEMENT WITH FRAN**  
8am-8.45pm ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
Thursdays 7, 14, 21, 28 March



Scan the QR code below for the latest events and activities at the Club or visit [racv.com.au/club-whats-on](http://racv.com.au/club-whats-on)





# TRAVEL EXPO

RACV CITY CLUB | 16 MARCH 2024 | 9AM-4PM



## Pinpoint your next holiday

Chat with our trusted travel partners, hear from the experts, and discover exclusive expo offers.

## Win a holiday with Intrepid

Register and attend to go in the draw to win a Vietnam tour for two (valued at \$6,410\*).



**FREE ENTRY**  
**REGISTER NOW**

\*Terms and conditions apply. Vic residents only. Competition closes at 16 March 2024 at 4PM. Draw will take place at 485 Bourke Street Melbourne 3000 at 2PM on 18 March 2024. Winner will be published on the RACV website at [www.racv.com.au/competitions](http://www.racv.com.au/competitions) on 18 March 2024 and notified by phone and/or in writing. For full terms and conditions, please refer to [racv.com.au](http://racv.com.au).

**RACV**

**TRAVEL &  
EXPERIENCES**