

HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2026

ESCAPE TO HEALESVILLE

Discover the delights of this Yarra Valley heartland in all its autumnal glory.

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MEMBERS
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NEW-SEASON FLAVOURS

At City Club, members and their guests are spoilt for choice with a range of tempting specials at our food-and-drink outlets.

Drop by Bistro on Monday for steak night; Tuesday's pasta special; international dish for Thursday; and, fittingly, on Sunday there's a succulent roast of the day. Members' Dining Room offers an express lunch menu and Carbine Bar has a Thursday special of juicy parma served with chips, salad and choice of beverage. Bourke Street Green also follows suit with a Tuesday pasta night, Wednesday steak night and Thursday parma special.

As if that weren't enough, Sojourn Restaurant is offering an exciting new autumn menu (pictured) and visit Wine Bar for an after-dinner digestive to savour. For all enquiries, call (03) 9944 8888.

PHOTO: Rocco Ancora Photography



WELCOME



ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

Autumn marks a special time for members at RACV Club, especially if they are planning to visit Healesville. We showcase the golden season in the Yarra Valley heartland, with stunning scenery, relaxation opportunities and fantastic food-and-drink options at the Club.

We also look forward to the scintillating Four Chef Showdown on Saturday 11 April at RACV Healesville. This popular event pits the culinary prowess of our top chefs against the clock in an *Iron Chef*-style contest where Club members determine the victor.

Our collaboration with Hellyers Road Distillery, including two premium, single-malt creations for exclusive member enjoyment, extends to a whisky launch and tasting at City Club on Thursday 23 April and a whisky launch dinner at Healesville on Tuesday 28 April (including an accommodation special rate at Healesville Country Club & Resort for attendees).

Don't miss dinner with Stephanie Alexander and Annie Smithers on Tuesday 21 April at Level 17, City Club, celebrating 30 years of kitchen classic *The Cook's Companion*.

Speaking of legendary women, Mother's Day on Sunday 10 May is one of our favourite calendar dates. We celebrate with annual luncheons/high teas at City Club and Healesville, specialty cake to order from Le Petit Gâteau and a host of popular events (including our Italian dinner and Back in Time with the Treblettes dinner-dance in May). Consider purchasing a One Spa gift voucher for some spa therapy to truly make Mums' Day.

With our new mentor-and-mentee intakes on the horizon, mentor induction groups 3 and 4 will be finalised on 20 and 21 May, respectively. We invite interested members to email mentoring@racv.com.au.

The AFL season is in fine form and our corporate suites at the MCG and Marvel Stadium are filling up for each new round. There are also showstopping concerts in focus from our Rod Laver Arena corporate suite, including Jimmy Barnes' *Working Class Man* 40th anniversary tour on Friday 10 April. Visit our What's On page on the RACV Club website to secure your spot.

Looking ahead, don't forget to reserve your seat for our enthralling Japanese dinner at City Club in June. There is also our highly anticipated signature dinner event taking place in the coming months, with chef extraordinaire Philippe Mouchel at the helm for the second year in a row. Watch this space.

One Spa Healesville is the perfect sanctuary for your autumn escape and Mother's Day gifts. PHOTO: Matt Harvey



BOOK
TODAY

RACV CAPE SCHANCK RESORT

Your next golf getaway starts here.

If you are dreaming of a golf escape where championship play meets five-star comfort, RACV Cape Schanck Resort delivers the ultimate stay-and-play experience on the Mornington Peninsula.

Designed by legendary course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., the 18-hole, par 70 championship course is as strategic as it is spectacular. Elevated tees frame sweeping coastal views, tree-lined fairways reward accuracy and cleverly positioned bunkers demand thoughtful shot selection. Coastal breezes rolling in from Bass Strait ensure every round feels fresh and engaging, no matter how many times you play.



Proudly ranked 38th in Australia by Ausgolf, the course has earned its place among the nation's most respected layouts. Standout moments include the testing back-to-back par 3s early in the round and the breathtaking elevated tee shot on the 14th, where panoramic peninsula views provide a moment to pause before you play on. It is a layout that challenges low handicappers while remaining enjoyable and playable for social golfers.

Arrive early to make the most of the facilities. Warm up on the driving range, fine tune your short game at the chipping area and practice bunker and settle your nerves on the putting green before stepping onto the first tee. With public play available seven days a week and convenient same day online tee times, planning your golf getaway is effortless.

The real luxury comes when you pair your round with an overnight stay. Retreat to spacious, five-star accommodation overlooking the ocean or fairways, dine at the resort's restaurants and unwind at One Spa or the indoor pool after a day on the course.

Gather your golf group or plan a well-earned break for two. At RACV Cape Schanck Resort, the fairways are calling.



BOOK
NOW

**Club Members save
up to 50%* on stays.**

Plan your next golf getaway and experience five-star coastal luxury at RACV Cape Schanck Resort.

You'll save up to 50%* on standard accommodation rates as an RACV Club member.

To book, visit our [website](#), scan the QR code or call 03 5950 8000.



*Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability. Restrictions may apply – check with property directly for details. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. RACV Club members receive up to 30% off, Access and Legacy members receive up to 50% off the standard room only and bed & breakfast rates when booking direct. One room only can be booked per RACV Club membership. Guest must present current RACV Club membership and ID at check-in to confirm membership and receive this discount.

DON'T
MISS



JIMMY BARNES – WORKING CLASS MAN 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Jimmy Barnes is coming to Melbourne to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his iconic album, *Working Class Man*. Don't miss this legendary tour from the comfort of our corporate suite.

● **Fri 10 Apr, Suite access from 6:30pm, Rod Laver Arena, Corporate Suite, Ticket includes food and beverage package | \$450 per person**

[Book via link](#) or scan the QR code on this page.

SWING JAZZ SUPPER



Dance the night away on Level 17 with the Pearly Shells swing orchestra! Enjoy hits from the golden age of Basie, Ellington, and much more.

Ticket includes two-course dinner, beverage package (select beer, wine and soft drink) and live performance.

● **Sat 18 Apr, 6:30pm – 9:30pm, Level 17, City Club, \$135 per person.**

[Book via link](#) scan the QR code on this page.

ARTIST IN CONVERSATION – TANIA MAJOR



Enjoy a glass of wine and delight upon canapés inspired by the *Contemporary Currents* exhibition, while learning more about Tania Major's background as a former young Australian of the year and her new paintings in the exhibition.

● **Thu 14 May, 6pm–7:30pm, Library, City Club, \$40 per person**

[Book via link](#) or scan the QR code on this page.

COME FLY WITH ME: AN ITALIAN DINNER



Enjoy a two-course Italian dinner, inspired by the flavours of old-world Italy and the swagger of New York's Golden Age. As the evening unfolds, live Rat Pack-style music sets the mood – think Martin, Davis and Sinatra, performed with style, soul and swing. Sip wine, savour great food and soak up the unmistakable atmosphere of an old-school Italian New York.

● **Sat 23 May, 6:30pm–9:30pm, Level 17, City Club, \$135 per person.**

[Book via link](#) or scan the QR code on this page.

FIND OUT
MORE

What's on at the Club?


Don't miss your chance to attend these exclusive member events. Book via the [What's On page](#) or scan the QR code.





ESCAPE

TRACKING OF A LEGEND



The Ghan is a legendary train journey between Darwin and Adelaide that crosses through Australia's Red Centre. Here's what you need to know about The Ghan to make the most of your trip.

The Ghan is a moving and unforgettable train travel experience that evokes a romantic connection to our great southern land.

“On a journey like The Ghan, it’s easy to be seduced by the incredible landscapes of the Australian outback as you travel between Adelaide and Darwin,” says David Donald, Executive General Manager, Rail, at Journey Beyond.

“It’s not just about watching the scenery as you pass through, though. There are also opportunities to immerse yourself in those landscapes on the all-inclusive Off Train Experiences, whether it’s a cruise along Nitmiluk Gorge, a cultural walk at Standley Chasm, lunch underground in an opal mine in Coober Pedy, or dinner under the stars at the old Telegraph Station in Alice Springs.”

It’s also a great way to travel responsibly by supporting Australian communities, learning from Indigenous guides and reducing your reliance on car and aeroplane travel.

RACV Members save on The Ghan trips with RACV Travel and Experiences.

WHAT IS THE GHAN?

The Ghan is one of the world’s greatest train journeys. The railway stretches for 2,979 kilometres between Adelaide and Darwin, with stops at iconic locations like Alice Springs and Katherine.

The Ghan is a shortened version of the train’s original name, The Afghan Express. It’s named after the pioneering Afghan cameleers, who blazed a trail into Australia’s Red Centre more than 150 years ago.

Donald says that it’s the landscapes and colours that set The Ghan apart from other rail trips. “The Ghan as it goes through the heart of the country has all those hot reds, pinks, honey yellows and ochres,” he says. “It has so much history behind it, too: The Ghan turns 100 in only a few years. The history, the ambience, the scenery, the hospitality; travelling on The Ghan makes you feel like you’re connecting with the country in a different way and seeing it in a new light.”

HOW LONG DOES THE GHAN JOURNEY TAKE?

The full Ghan journey is the three-day trip from Adelaide to Darwin, extending to a four day journey in 2027 with a brand new itinerary visiting the Flinders Ranges, recently named one of the world’s top travel destinations by Lonely Planet. “The southbound journey is called The Ghan Expedition and lasts four days, including an iconic outback dinner under the stars at the historic Telegraph Station in Alice Springs, and a day exploring the fascinating opal mining town of Coober Pedy,” explains Donald.



There are also shorter rail journeys between Alice Springs and either Darwin or Adelaide.

There are several holiday packages, where you can extend your journey with additional stops and experiences, like the eight-day Top End Explorer, the 11-day Red Centre Spectacular, or the 14-day Ultimate Territory Tour.

Finally, The Ghan and PONANT rail and sail tours last 18 days and pair the legendary train journey through Australia’s Red Centre aboard The Ghan with a cruise aboard PONANT’s Le Lapérouse boat from Darwin to Broome.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED, COURTESY OF THE GHAN

FIND OUT
MORE

Book where you pay less

RACV Club members enjoy discounts on the latest holidays, which can also be combined with the \$200* renewal travel eGift card for additional savings.

Contact our travel agents instore at 448 Little Collins Street, Melbourne (next to Le Petit Gâteau), online or call (03) 8613 9600 (Mon to Fri) to [book your escape](#).





COVER
STORY

24 HOURS AT RACV HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT

Take 24 hours. Fill it up with your selection of seasonal food and drink, leisure and recreational pursuits – and a little exploration – and you have the recipe for rejuvenative success, wherever you may go.

Breathe easy as you amble into the sprawling stone-paved foyer and central reception at RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort. A constantly evolving collection of Australian contemporary artworks, the feature classic car to the right and picture window overlooking eye-catching maples and landscaped grounds bid the visitor to venture further within.

ACCOMMODATION

There are a range of spacious and comfortable resort rooms with stunning Yarra Valley views. Choose from lawn view room to premium mountain view room, which sleep up to three. There are also interconnecting family rooms, which sleep up to six.

Accommodation includes a generous complimentary buffet breakfast, featuring fresh and compote fruits, bottled or freshly made juices, cereals, chia puddings and yoghurts, Bircher muesli, house pastries, waffles and breads, filled bagels and charcuterie platters. Hot options include a range of eggs, herb-flecked grilled tomatoes, sausages, house beans and more, all served with your choice of tea, coffee or hot chocolate.

Guests also receive free parking, gain access to a free shuttle bus service to the Healesville township from 10:30am to 5:30pm on Thursday to Sunday with stops at (main street) Green Street and Four Pillars Gin distillery, use of bicycles and EV charging station.

Reception is open 24 hours to cater to your every need. Service and check-in are warmly welcoming, professional and highly efficient. Don't be surprised if the staff know you by name – they are friendly, helpful and aim to please.

DINING AND BARS

Indulge your inner foodie by partaking of the best on-site food-and-drink experiences. Follow up by exploring regional highlights.

LUNCH AT RIDDELL'S GREEN AND LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Reward yourself with casual drinks, snacks and family favourites after a day on the course or exploring Yarra Valley's attractions. These include nature walks and art trails, world-class winery and gallery visits, admiring the wildlife at Healesville Sanctuary or immersing the artistic senses at TarraWarra Museum of Art and the Eva and Marc Besen Centre. Sample pork-belly caramelised bites with kimchi slaw and chilli caramel (\$21) from the Riddell's Green autumn menu.

The Members' Lounge, exclusive to Club members, is serviced daily from 11am to 3pm. While staying onsite, indulge in complimentary drinks and canapés at Aperitivo Hour between 5pm and 6pm, where new connections are formed and long-term associations are revived.

DINNER AT BANYALLA

Healesville Country Club & Resort's premiere dining experience, Banyalla, offers award-winning cuisine, beverages and exceptional service.

Fancy a little epicurean delight before dinner? A food-and-drink-matched treat is offered from 3pm–5pm in the Banyalla Bar, with a wide selection of local and French wines, premium whiskies and delicious cocktails.



Savour innovative dishes championing local Victorian produce while large windows maximise the surrounding Mount Riddell views. Try the entrée of pan-seared Japanese scallops, vermouth cream, pea purée, crispy smoked pancetta and lemon oil (\$19) from the new autumn menu.

If you'd prefer to stay in, a seasonal room service menu is available until 9pm to cater to your cravings. Tuck into some beautifully prepared comfort food and drinks while viewing an extensive list of latest-release in-house movies. Housekeeping service, including a pillow menu to suit every sleeping position, is available.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STAY

Whether you're looking to get active or unwind, Healesville Country Club & Resort has a range of facilities for your leisure pleasure. Reserve your preferred spa therapy, including rituals, massage packages, water therapy, facials and more, at One Spa, located on level one.

Play a round of tennis or golf at our championship 18-hole golf course with your friends. Tee times are available seven days. There are discounted green fees for in-house guests and in-house Club members play free of charge. Indulge in retail therapy at the pro shop, including activewear and swim accessories, plus light refreshments to take away.

The fitness centre, located on level one, offers gym facilities for patrons over the age of 16 and a range of fitness classes, including aqua aerobics. For a list of classes, contact gym reception. Discover the aquatic zone, featuring an indoor pool, sauna and steam room, open Monday to Friday from 5:30am to 9pm and weekends and public holidays from 7am to 9pm.

Challenge your loved ones to a friendly game on the bowling green, visit the billiards room on level one or games room (featuring free arcade games) on level two.

We recommend pre-booking One Spa, golf and tennis courts to avoid disappointment.

● For all booking enquiries, call (03) 5962 4899.



TOP FIVE AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

1. View an abundance of autumn leaves at Maroonah Reservoir Park.
2. Commune with the local wildlife at Healesville Sanctuary.
3. Visit Tarrawarra Museum of Art for a visual feast, finishing with a wine tasting at Tarrawarra Estate.
4. Warm the senses with a gin sample menu at Four Pillars Gin.
5. Enjoy a scenic stroll at Toolangi State Forest.

FIND OUT MORE

What's on at the Club?

Don't miss your chance to attend these exclusive member events. Book via the [What's On page](#) or scan the QR code.



WORDS: NICOLE BITTAR PHOTOS: MATT HARVEY



THE PERFECT RECIPE FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Celebrate Mum with an unforgettable Mother's Day at the RACV Club. Enjoy thoughtfully crafted menus and precious moments in the Members' Dining Room or Sojourn.



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

*T&Cs apply. Visit racv.com.au/club-whats-on for more information. Limited tickets available.

RACVClub

RECIPROCAL
CLUB

THE SLOANE CLUB CHELSEA, LONDON

Established in 1922 by Princess Helena, a daughter of Queen Victoria and a passionate advocate for women's welfare, The Sloane Club began life as the ex-Service Women's Club — a welcoming sanctuary offering affordable accommodation and companionship to women who had served in the armed forces. After opening its doors to male members in 1976, The Sloane Club became the private members' institution we know today.

For much of the 20th century, the Club remained a discreet hub of community and connection in Chelsea, cherished by its members. Its heritage-rich, 18th-century building on Lower Sloane Street stood as a testament to British tradition and hospitality.

Then came the major refurbishment beginning in early 2024, under the creative direction of Russell Sage Studio. With the ethos of "one space for the whole self," the Club was revitalised across multiple dimensions. New spaces include an all-day dining restaurant and terrace, Helena's; The Demob Bar; The Library; 66 refurbished bedrooms and suites; and brand-new wellness facilities featuring a state-of-the-art gym with the latest Technogym equipment, a studio for class-based exercise, an infrared sauna with a cold 'shock' shower and luxurious en-suite changing rooms. New elegant private dining rooms have also been added.

A fine-dining restaurant, Venus, and a striking first-floor terrace, Lila — covered by a retractable glass roof—also opened their doors.

Today, The Sloane Club embraces a holistic blend of tradition and modernity — from elegant dining venues and flexible co-working areas to cutting-edge wellness suites and reimagined rooms inspired by Chelsea's historical mews. This transformation ensures the Club remains a vibrant, inclusive home for community, creativity and personal renewal — as it enters its second century with reinvigorated purpose and style.

Reciprocal Club

RACV Club members need to arrange a letter of introduction prior to visiting Reciprocal Clubs. Details at racv.com.au/club or scan the QR code.




Where could your travel eGift card take you?

RACV Club Members get extra savings on their holiday when booking with RACV Travel & Experiences.

Redeem your \$200[^] travel eGift card, included with your membership renewal and save even more.

RACV
TRAVEL &
EXPERIENCES

 Nitmiluk Gorge, Northern Territory

Call **03 8613 9600**, visit racv.com.au/travel,
or enquire **in-store** at your local RACV travel agency
for personalised service from our expert agents.

[^]Terms, conditions and restrictions apply. \$200 eGift card issued to Club members who renew their membership before 1 June 2026. See RACV website for details.

MEET THE MANAGER

The Food & Beverage Operations Manager at RACV Healesville is inspired by hospitality excellence and guiding the next generation of service specialists.

Katrina Reynolds has only been with RACV since July 2024, but her status is legion.

Accomplished, efficient and always willing to go beyond in the service of Club members and guests indicates a more solid tenure in the RACV Club firmament, yet with the lightest touch.

“I’m late to the world of RACV, but I’m so glad that I’m here,” she says. “Joining the RACV Healesville team has been one of the best things I’ve ever done. I have loved every minute of it — and I know I’ll be here for a while — it feels like ‘home’.”

The pairing of wine and hospitality go hand in hand, Katrina adds. As such, she is in the perfect place.

“The most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing our members and guests return to enjoy a meal, a glass of wine or host an event with RACV Healesville — it all comes back to creating little moments they will remember.”

The people focus, within the Club team and wider community, drew Katrina to her role. Upon further research of the RACV organisation, she realised that the potential to connect and expand on her capabilities would be limitless.

“I started in Conferences & Events, which allowed for lots of creativity and fun; taking an interest in the restaurants and bars here at Healesville,” she says. “I’m lucky to have been able to expand into these areas.”

Another area of passionate pursuit is Katrina’s ability to foster excellence in her team, particularly younger staff, many of whom are new to hospitality.

“Allowing them to find the beauty within service ‘done well’; providing proper training and seeing them grow and find the confidence in themselves” is its own reward. “It really is wonderful to see their interactions with our members and guests,” Katrina says.

The commute to and from work also provides impetus to excel: “I live just outside of the Yarra Valley, but find the beauty of driving in and out of the Valley every day so breathtaking, as it is always changing.”

WORDS: NICOLE BITTAR PHOTO: MATT HARVEY

MOTHER'S
DAY

MAKE MUMS' DAY

Mother's Day on Sunday 10 May is fast approaching — and we showcase all the ways you can make this year's celebration a day to remember.



Celebrate mothers, grandmothers and the motherly figures in your life with a cavalcade of special events, delicious food and drinks and blissful spa therapy at RACV Club.

Mother's Day is one of our favourite calendar dates, with a host of annual food-and-drink celebrations at Healesville and City Club, and showstopping events this month, including the popular Italian dinner and Back in Time with the Treblettes dinner-dance.

You could also keep an eye on our What's On page for our series of author talks, including the Crime Writers' Panel (Sarah Bailey and Mali Cornish) on Thursday 7 May from 5:45pm-8pm in the City Club Library.

Invite Mum to book an invigorating spa treatment with a One Spa gift voucher, which she'll love you even more for.

GLORIOUS FOOD AND DRINKS

Healesville Country Club & Resort is hosting a weekend of Mother's Day festivities. At Riddell's Green and the Members' Lounge, enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea (or coffee) for \$24 per person, all weekend

High tea on Sunday in the cocktail lounge, featuring a delectable array of sweet and savouries, unlimited tea/coffee with glass of sparkling on arrival for \$99 per person (from 2pm-4pm), is not to be missed.

[Banyalla](#) is offering an elegant set menu for lunch (arrivals at 12pm for 12.30pm food service). The three-course menu, with a glass of bubbles on arrival, includes: amuse-bouche, set entrée, choice of three mains; set dessert; petit fours; and a special gift for mums. Priced at \$150 per person.

When in the city, Sojourn Restaurant is offering a luxurious high tea experience, including a selection of teas/barista-made coffee, glass of sparkling on arrival to start the celebration, live entertainment, deluxe sweet and savouries and a special gift for Mum. Priced at \$120 per adult (13+) and \$80 for children aged three to 12 years. Please act quickly as spaces are limited for the two booking sessions: 11:30am-1:30pm and 2:30pm-4:30pm.

Treat Mum and the family to lunch at [Bistro, City Club](#), including live entertainment in the foyer, from 11:30am. Seasonal menu is available at à la carte pricing.

Celebrate Mother's Day in the [Members' Dining Room](#) with a delightful three-course, set-menu luncheon. The menu offers amuse-bouche on arrival, set entrée, a choice of main and set dessert.

Ticket includes three-course set menu, live entertainment and a gift for Mum. Complimentary glass of sparkling included for guests aged 18+.

Lunch from 12pm-3pm is priced at \$170 adult (18+), \$130 teen (13-17 years) and \$60 child (5-12 years).

MOTHER'S DAY CAKE

Ensure her day is sweet with a Le Petit Gâteau specialty cake that regales Mums and all sweet tooths. This year's creation, featuring the classic combination of white chocolate, vanilla bean and strawberries, is priced at \$90 and serves 10-12 portions. To order for collection between 4 and 15 May, email orders@lepetitgateau.com.au, call (03) 9944 8893 or visit in person at 458 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

BACK IN TIME WITH THE TREBLETTES

Melbourne's sassiest vocal trio brings the best of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s to life with dazzling harmonies and vintage flair. Ticket includes beverage package, main meal and bottomless Le Petit Gâteau ice cream.

● **Sat 2 May, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Club Pavilion, City Club, \$90 per person.** [Book via link](#) or scan the QR code on this page.

COME FLY WITH ME: AN ITALIAN DINNER

Continue the celebrations on a high note with the annual Italian dinner at City Club. Enjoy fine Italian cuisine and wines in a two-course dinner, inspired by the flavours of old-world Italy and the swagger of New York's Golden Age.

● **Sat 23 May, 6:30pm-9:30pm, Level 17, City Club, \$135 per person.** [Book via link](#) or scan the QR code on this page.

ONE SPA TREATMENT

One Spa offers a range of relaxation treatments and beauty therapy that can be booked with a gift voucher at a time to suit your Mum. She can choose from facials, massages and beauty or full-body therapies that are customised for invigoration and rejuvenation. For enquiries, email city@onespa.racv.com.au or healesville@onespa.racv.com.au.

WORDS: NICOLE BITTAR PHOTO: MATT HARVEY

BOOK
NOW

Save your seat

For all booking enquiries, visit the [What's On](#) page or scan the QR code on this page.





STAFF IN
FOCUS

MEET THE CHEF

When steering the good ship RACV Healesville, the ever grounded and versatile Head Chef draws on life experience.

In the same breath, RACV Healesville Head Chef Tony Milton says he worked on the luxury cruise liner Queen Elizabeth 2 for six years and more recently at Coombe Yarra Valley.

Two more disparate workplaces are hard to imagine, but this 13-year Healesville local and vegetable-growing, poultry enthusiast has his feet planted on terra firma.

Starting the role in November 2025, Tony was motivated to join RACV for its preferred-employer reputation and the opportunity to reinterpret his repertoire.

“One of my signature dishes is braised duck with chai spices,” he says. “I also enjoy cooking from my garden and getting seasonal inspiration from fresh-food markets.”

Similarly, Tony aims to bring a fresh approach to the kitchen team — leading by example.

Tony credits living and studying abroad as the catalyst for his culinary career.

“I started working as a chef after studying cooking in Paris for two years and realising that this was the life for me.”

WORDS: NICOLE BITTAR PHOTO: MATT HARVEY

The professional discipline and language barrier proved a learning curve that he mastered in the classroom and real life.

“I studied at the equivalent of William Angliss in Paris (École Grégoire-Ferrandi) — and I was in the first class of international students held at the college,” Tony says, proudly.

“I had basic French language skills, but I learnt to speak more fluently by being an au pair for a family with three kids — and living in the wonderful city.”

The QE2 experience was a lesson in life and career development that laid the foundation for excellence.

“Working on the QE2 was an amazing life experience, combined with the challenge of cooking for over 1,500 passengers and 1,000 crew,” Tony says.

“The work on the QE2 prepared me for a chef’s life through having to manage multiple food outlets, production kitchens, rough seas and supply issues!”

Tony is compelled to produce new dishes and older favourites for the feeling he derives from watching guests enjoy his creations.

“When I see guests enjoying food with flavours that I have put together and dishes that I have created, I feel an overwhelming sense of contentment.”

OUT & ABOUT

Throughout the spectacular 2026 Australian Open in January/February, Club members got up close and personal to the championship trophies and all the tennis action in our Rod Laver Arena corporate suite. They were also treated to fully catered food-and-drinks packages that were a love match for everyone's taste buds.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



More than 850 guests, including 40 Club members, came together in February at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground for the 2026 MCG Network Arena Dinner, making it the largest Arena Dinner in the event's history.

Our partnership with the MCG Network continues to grow each year, bringing together network partners and key stakeholders for an evening of connection and entertainment on the hallowed turf of the 'G.

ACV Club's premier art event, Art of Lunch, was staged to a rapt gathering of art and food lovers on Saturday 21 February at City Club. This event showcased *Where Memory Transforms*, an exhibition about heritage and cultural connections, featuring Kate Beynon, Melissa Nguyen, Lindy Lee, Guan Wei and John Young. Delicious dishes by the Club's culinary team were artfully inspired by the works on display.

PHOTOS: MATTO LUCAS



WHAT'S ON
APRIL
2026



Join the mentoring program as a mentor or mentee to advance your professional skills and network with other members. PHOTO: Matto Lucas.

2

SMOKE & OAK: PACIFIC CIGARS MASTERCLASS
Thursday 2 April, 6pm–7:30pm,
Level 17 Balcony, City Club

5

EASTER SUNDAY AT BISTRO
Sunday 5 April, from 12pm,
Bistro, City Club

7

SOCIAL 8-BALL NIGHT
Tuesday 7 April, 6pm–9pm,
Billiards Room, City Club

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – SLIME TIME
Tuesday 7 April, 10am–11am,
Barak Room, Healesville Country Club & Resort

8

MIDWEEK JAZZ – GRANT SIEDLE TRIO
Wednesday 8 April, 6pm–8:30pm,
Wine Bar, City Club

10

**HEALESVILLE LOCAL BUSINESS SERIES:
TARRAWARRA ESTATE**
Friday 10 April, 5pm–6pm,
Private Dining Room,
Healesville Country Club & Resort

11

FOUR CHEF SHOWDOWN
Saturday 11 April, 6:30pm–10:30pm,
Ballroom, Healesville Country Club & Resort

14

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – COME TO YOUR SENSES
Tuesday 14 April, 11am–12pm,
Level 2, City Club

15

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – SOUND SENSATION
Wednesday 15 April, 11am–12pm,
Level 2, City Club

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – ART EXPLORERS
Wednesday 15 April, 1pm–3pm,
Level 2, City Club

16

**KENNETH PARK DOUBLE LECTURE:
GREAT MUSEUMS & GREAT LIBRARIES: OLD & NEW**
Thursday 16 April, 11am–1:30pm,
Level 2, City Club

17

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – TEEN ART CLASS
Friday 17 April, 11am–12:30pm,
Level 2, City Club

FILM GROUP – ABOUT SCHMIDT (2002)
Friday 17 April, 11am–1pm,
Theatrette, City Club

18

SWING JAZZ SUPPER
Saturday 18 April, 6:30pm–9:30pm,
Level 17, City Club

21

**DINNER WITH STEPHANIE ALEXANDER
(THE COOK'S COMPANION) AND ANNIE SMITHERS**
Tuesday 21 April, 6pm–9pm,
Level 17, City Club

22

**EXPERIENCE & EXPLORE:
SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET FOODIE TOUR**
Wednesday 22 April, 9:30am–11am,
South Melbourne Market

MIDWEEK JAZZ – AFTER DARK
Wednesday 22 April, 7pm–9:30pm,
Wine Bar, City Club

23

RACV CLUB WHISKY LAUNCH & TASTING – CITY CLUB
Thursday 23 April, 6pm–9pm,
Wine Bar, City Club

25

PIPECLAY ANZAC DAY LUNCHEON
Saturday 25 April, 1:30pm–3:30pm,
Bourke Rooms 1 & 2, Level 2, City Club

28

**RACV CLUB WHISKY LAUNCH DINNER
– HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT**
Tuesday 28 April, 6:30pm–9:30pm,
Banyalla Private Dining Room,
Healesville Country Club & Resort

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS WITH RACV CLUB

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APRIL

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Apr | North Melbourne v Carlton |
| 4 Apr | Richmond v Port Adelaide |
| 5 Apr | Western Bulldogs v Essendon |
| 5 Apr | Melbourne v Gold Coast |
| 6 Apr | Hawthorn v Geelong |
| 8 Apr | A Day to Remember & Papa Roach |
| 10 Apr | Jimmy Barnes |
| 10 Apr | Gather Round |
| 11 Apr | Machine Gun Kelly |
| 12 Apr | Pierce the Veil |
| 16 Apr | Carlton v Collingwood |
| 18 Apr | Hawthorn v Adelaide |
| 19 Apr | North Melbourne v Richmond |
| 19 Apr | Melbourne v Brisbane |
| 23 Apr | Western Bulldogs v Sydney |
| 24 Apr | Richmond v Melbourne |
| 24 Apr | Mumford & Sons |
| 25 Apr | Mumford & Sons |
| 25 Apr | Essendon v Collingwood |
| 26 Apr | St Kilda v West Coast |
| 30 Apr | Collingwood v Hawthorn |

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BARNES

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EXPERIENCES



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