



RACV Club

HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2025

KEEPING
MEMBERS
CONNECTED

racv.com.au/club

LUNCH OF CHAMPIONS

Like the coveted AFL Grand Final,
RACV City Club's lead-up event
is an occasion to savour.

Treat your dad like a king at our Father's Day luncheon in the City Club Members' Dining Room on Sunday 7 September from 12pm. Plus, there's a special gift for dads.

CALL OR EMAIL US

CITY CLUB

03 9944 8888

club@racv.com.au

HEALESVILLE

COUNTRY CLUB

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STAY CONNECTED

For membership enquiries
or to update your details:

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racv.com.au/club-whats-on



WELCOME



ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

We celebrate winter's black gold bounty with our annual truffle dinner in the Members' Dining Room on Tuesday 5 August. Members can look forward to a lavish five-course extravaganza, with paired-wines option, showcasing truffles in all their culinary glory.

The hot-ticket AFL Grand Final luncheon on Thursday 25 September attracts a full house of our Aussie Rules faithful. With Master of Ceremonies Brian Taylor holding court, expert panellists Kane Cornes, Nick Riewoldt, Kate McCarthy and Hamish McLachlan, a spectacular menu and AFL-themed dessert, it's set to be a lunch of champions. See our cover story for more on page 6.

We'll have more news later this month on how our ballot system will work for our MCG corporate suite on Grand Final day.

Our Latin Fusion Fiesta on Level 17, City Club, on Friday 29 August promises to be an electrifying night of flavour and rhythm. Don't miss it!

We also treat our member dads like the kings they are with our Father's Day lunch event on Sunday 7 September in the Members' Dining Room. RACV Club's Rooms Division Manager, Sam Patrick, waxes lyrical about his love for fatherhood to Nate, 6, Lexi, 3, and Lucas, 1. There will be a delicious four-course set menu, with a selection of courses, and a special gift for dads. See page 8.

The Philippe Mouchel signature event at Healesville Country Club & Resort on 25 July was a huge hit with our members as they relished the Flavours of Normandy (Philippe's homeland cuisine). Our annual Bastille Day dinner in the Members' Dining Room was also a phenomenal success with foodies and Francophiles alike.

Our members have spectator access to the prestigious Australian National Snooker Championships, taking place from Saturday 23 August to Monday 25 August in the City Club's billiards room. Don't miss the premium shot making of this elite event.

It's fantastic to see so many members engaging with our member interest groups, from the Young Professionals to Investors' groups, or our mentoring program, there is something for everyone.

We will also have two new groups available for members to join soon: our Wine Circle and Ladies' Social Snooker and Billiards groups.

Head online to RACV Club's interest groups and activities to find out more.

I look forward to welcoming members at our many and varied Club events and activities in August.



Hearty fare and footy banter are on the menu at City Club's AFL Grand Final Luncheon. PHOTO: MATT HARVEY

RENEW YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND RECEIVE A \$200* TRAVEL GIFT CARD



Renew your RACV Club Membership between 1 July 2025 and 1 June 2026.

Use your gift card to plan your next adventure—whether it's ocean or river cruising, joining a guided group tour with like-minded travellers, or simply preparing for your trip with RACV Travel Insurance for added peace of mind.

DISCOVER OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF TRAVEL PARTNERS AND MANY MORE



Scan QR Code to learn more or
visit racv.com.au/renewal-offer



*Must be redeemed within 6 months of issue date in a single transaction. Cannot be transferred or redeemed for cash. Lost, stolen, or unused value will not be refunded or credited. The information provided is general advice only. Before making any decisions please consider your own circumstances and the Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determinations. For copies, visit racv.com.au. Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) Ltd AR 001243563 is an authorised representative of the issuer and receives commission for each policy sold or renewed. <RACV Travel Insurance> Issued by Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd ABN 80 000 438 291 AFSL 246 548. Terms & conditions apply, refer to the PDS.

DON'T
MISS



SPRING FASHION SHOW & HIGH TEA

Led by esteemed milliner Wendy Scully, this year's Spring Fashion Show will boast an array of Melbourne's finest industry professionals. Enjoy a luxurious high tea while models take to the runway to exhibit spring fashions from some of the city's most notable designers. Professional photography, live fashion drawing and more will complete this most stylish of afternoons. Ticket includes fashion show, high tea and beverages.

To book, scan the QR code.

● Fri 12 Sep, 12pm – 4pm, Level 17, City Club, \$95 per person, \$715 table of 8. [Book via link.](#)

LATIN FUSION FIESTA: A NIGHT OF FLAVOUR & RHYTHM



Our Latin Fusion Dinner is a celebration of bold flavours, vibrant culture and electrifying entertainment. Whether you're a food lover, music enthusiast, or just looking to spice up your night, this fiesta promises a warm, festive atmosphere and a night to remember.

To book, scan the QR code.

● Fri 29 Aug, 6:30pm–10pm, Level 17, City Club, \$140 per adult, \$1,050 table of 8. [Book via link.](#)

SPACE JAM WORKSHOP

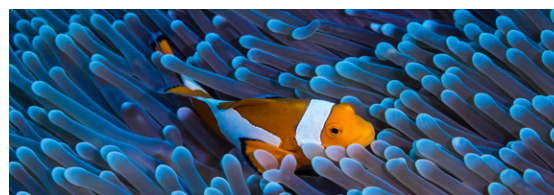


Blast off on an epic space adventure! Kids will explore our solar system, compare planet size and experience the thrill of launching rockets.

To book, scan QR code.

● Mon 22 Sep | 11am–12pm, Level 2, City Club, \$25 per child | \$35 two children. [Book via link.](#)

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – OCEAN LIFE VR



Our expert developers have created brand new content to get up close to dolphins, coral reefs, jellyfish and whale sharks! With accessible animations, 3D CGI and holograms this is a truly immersive way to learn. Recommended for ages 6 - 12 years old. Ticket includes VR lesson and snacks.

To book, scan QR code.

● Wed 1 Oct, 11am–12pm, Level 2, City Club, \$25 per child, \$35 for two children. [Book via link.](#)

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.



COVER
STORY

KICKING GOALS



The pressure-cooker environment of an AFL Grand Final produces fare to remember for the Aussie Rules faithful at our hot-ticket luncheon.



Match-day build-up, entertainment keynotes and a spectacular menu define the annual RACV City Club lunch event which, like the AFL Grand Final, has acquired legendary status during its decade-plus history.

Booking enquiries filter through early-to-mid year, building to a crescendo in late June when bookings open. Suffice to say the AFL Grand Final lunch at the Level 17 Ballroom, City Club from 12pm to 3pm (ticket price: \$180 per person; \$1,710 for a table of 10) on Thursday 25 September, always attracts a full house of devotees.

Join fellow members for an unforgettable afternoon featuring a premium three-course lunch, a curated beverage package and peerless entertainment.

Leading the charge is renowned AFL personality Brian Taylor (pictured left), corralling an elite panel of experts — espousing championship-level commentary. This year's line-up includes Kane Cornes, Nick Riewoldt, Kate McCarthy and Hamish McLachlan.

Fluid teamplay and menu highlights go hand in hand to create a winning event.

"Our amazing Catering & Events kitchen team are focusing on seasonal produce to highlight our fantastic Australian football Grand Final luncheon, showcasing Victorian lamb and supporting our local chicken farmers to get them back on their feet," says RACV Club's Executive Chef, Kyle Doody. "Expect an AFL-themed dessert offering of delicious jam doughnuts and more-ish macarons."

What the punters also seek to learn is what it is like to perform in the pressure-cooker environment of finals football. Fortunately, RACV Club member Nathan Brown, who played seven seasons with the Western Bulldogs and six seasons with Richmond, dispels any uncertainty.

"The one thing about a finals series compared to home-and-away is: there's no next week," Nathan says. "Every decision you make is amplified; every touch you have is under a microscope. The pressure and physicality are at another level."

Asked to name a career highlight, Nathan doesn't hesitate. "My proudest achievement was just playing AFL football," he says. "If you told me when I was 18 that I was going to play 219 games over 13 seasons and to play with and against many of my idols, I would have taken that in a heartbeat."

Nathan's prediction for this year's Grand Final matchup: the finals-experienced Collingwood versus the mercurial 'it' factor of the Western Bulldogs.

Only time will tell. For bookings, scan the QR code.

**BOOK
NOW**

Save your seat

Visit the [What's On](#) page or scan the QR code to find out all the details.



WORDS: NICOLE BITTAR PHOTOS: MATT HARVEY

FATHER'S DAY

MAKE DAD'S DAY

At RACV Club, we like to keep proceedings on an even keel. Our much-loved mums are understandably indulged on Mother's Day, so there's no greater equaliser than treating our dads like kings on their special day.

Mums receive the royal treatment on Mother's Day, and always, at RACV Club, which is why we also make a fuss of the fellows on Father's Day. After all, both parents work in harmony to create the foundation for happy families — at work and play.

RACV Club's Rooms Division Manager, Sam Patrick, knows this better than many. When he's not busy ensuring that our hotel operations run seamlessly, Sam is father to Nate, 6, Lexi, 3, and Lucas, 1 (pictured right) — and a better homecoming we could not imagine.

"My kids are quite young and I really enjoy coming home from work to their big, excited cuddles at the door," Sam says. "I'm very aware that this won't last forever, but it's definitely my favourite part about being a dad."

At work, the sight of children and their dads entering the lobby for breakfast or on holidays is special to Sam, particularly on Father's Day.

"I love that kids are spending time with their dads and that they choose to spend that day with us at the Club."

We celebrate Father's Day this year with a luncheon event in the Members' Dining Room, City Club, from 12pm on Sunday 7 September. Enjoy a selection of courses, a welcome beverage on arrival, live entertainment by multi-awarded Melbourne pianist Calvin Leung and a special gift for dads. Ticket price is \$155 per person.

The menu features an amuse-bouche of beer-battered fish or sardine with sage and lemon; first course is RACV gin-cured salmon served with new potato, pickled shallots, cucumber, sauce gribiche and lemon thyme.

Second course of Loddon Valley lamb cigar, brik pastry, smoked eggplant, black olives and beetroot sets the tone for a choice of dad-friendly main events.

Choose from 12-hour, grain-fed Southern Ranges short rib, sticky smoked soy and bourbon glaze,



beef-fat Binchōtan-charred leeks, black garlic aioli, crispy tempura onion rings and chive, served with local Victorian truffle mac and cheese. Optional fresh black truffle tableside service is offered for a \$25 supplement.

Or there's Humpty Doo barramundi, piperade, Spring Bay mussels, basil and herbed crust.

For dessert, indulge in a whisky mousse éclair, dark chocolate, salted caramel and pistachio.

If too much choice is never enough on Father's Day, it's business as usual at City Club Bistro, Banyalla and Riddell's Green at Healesville Country Club & Resort.

To book, scan the QR code.

Disclaimer: RACV will endeavour to accommodate requests for meals for guests who have food allergies or intolerances; we cannot guarantee completely allergy-free meals due to the potential of trace allergens in the working environment and supplied ingredients.

BOOK
NOW

Save your seat

Visit the [What's On](#) page
or scan the QR code to
find out all the details.



VARIETY

SINGING THEIR PRAISES

Channelling the pianocentric hits of megastars Billy Joel and Elton John, *The Piano Men* promises to put us ‘all in the mood for a melody.’

Lovers of polished piano performances and popular musical genres have a treat in store at RACV City Club. Melbourne group Jason Dean and Superband will take to the stage at Level 17 Ballroom on Saturday 20 September in a commanding performance of incomparable piano men Elton John and Billy Joel's best-loved hits.

Among the toe-tapping playlist that RACV Club members can look forward to, the hits include Elton John's *Rocket Man*, *Tiny Dancer*, *I'm Still Standing*, *Crocodile Rock*, *Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting*, *I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues*. As for Billy Joel's anthems, think *New York State of Mind*, *My Life*, *Honesty*, *You May Be Right*, *It's Still Rock and Roll to Me* and, of course, *Piano Man*.



"Both of these amazing artists wrote all their songs for piano and on a piano. It makes for 80 per cent of the show being based around the amazing arrangements of these two piano legends," Jason says.

Billy Joel was initially Jason's wellspring for playing and performing on piano, but Elton John's melodic and performative appeal soon took hold.

"I think Billy was definitely my idol growing up and as I played piano bars in my early performing years," Jason says. "But as we started performing our *Piano Men* show, Elton's songwriting and melodies made me become a massive fan of his hits and performances."

Playing at RACV Club is a first for Jason Dean and Superband — and they are excited about the production values. "I've visited (the Club) to take a look and it's a stunning venue — with great lighting and screens for a concert-style show," Jason adds.

Performing popular songs from most mainstream genres from the past 50 years, Superband features the talents of Tania Crealy, Joseph Fernand, Jason Dean, Karl Lewis, Dylan Boyd and Lynda Fenollar.

Each member of Superband has a minimum 15 years' experience and has performed locally, nationally and internationally — with acclaim.

Don't miss *The Piano Men — The Songs of Elton John and Billy Joel*.

Ticket includes a three-course meal, show and beverages. Child ticket is two courses. To book, scan the QR code.

● **Saturday 20 September, 6:30pm-10pm, Level 17, City Club, \$145 Adult (18+), \$95 Teen (13-17 years), \$70 Child (5-12 years).**

BOOK
NOW

Save your seat

Visit the [What's On](#) page or scan the QR code to find out all the details.



Escape to the Yarra Valley

Think mesmerising mountain views and tranquil surrounds.

RACV

Healesville Country Club & Resort



Ultimate Yarra Valley escape from \$499* for two nights

Your package at RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort includes:

- 2 nights' accommodation
- Daily breakfast for two at Banyalla
- \$25 dining credit per day, and more

RACV Members also receive:

- Bottle of sparkling wine on arrival
- Complimentary upgrade to the next room type
- 11am late checkout

Book by 31 January 2026 for stays until 1 February 2026.

[Book online](#) or call 03 5962 4899



Looking for something different?

RACV Club Members save up to 50%** across all RACV Resorts.



*T&Cs apply. Subject to availability. Valid to book until 31/01/26, for stays to 01/02/26. Restrictions and blackout dates may apply – check with property directly for details. Minimum 2 night stay applies. Surcharge applies on all Saturday nights and selected dates. Rates are based on 2 guests in a Lawn View Room. Extra guests incur a surcharge. Room upgrade is subject to availability at time of reservation. Any unused dining credit is forfeited at the end of the stay and cannot be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash. See website for full T&Cs. Club Member Discount: **T&Cs apply. Subject to availability. 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.

YOUR TRAVEL COMPANION

Travel and experiences: the term excites interest for our Club members before they even embark on their next adventure.

RACV Club members love to experience all that membership entails — and this includes travel benefits.

With RACV Travel & Experiences, members can explore their next destination their way. From tours and cruises to hotels and holiday packages, the RACV Travel & Experiences team offers something to suit your budget, needs and travel plans.

We also have access to packages with premium tour companies, including Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours, Cunard Cruise Line, APT Travel and Outback Spirit.

Discover a range of deals and offers to save on your next getaway. Members receive generous discounts according to their Club membership tier.

In addition, when renewing membership, they will receive a \$200 travel voucher the month following membership renewal. This can be put towards a trip if they book with RACV Travel & Experiences.

Club members Sue and Allan Aberdeen are inveterate travellers and often turn to RACV Travel & Experiences for guidance and assistance.

“We’ve booked quite a few cruises and tours through RACV Travel & Experiences,” say Sue and Allan.

“We enjoy doing the research and deciding on the travel plan before asking RACV Travel & Experiences to fine-tune, talk to the operators, give us quotes and make the bookings.

“They are always very responsive. And the (membership) discount is much appreciated; it being a worthwhile saving on our more expensive outings.”

Members Maryann and Rod Larkins love cruising and say RACV Travel & Experiences are their go-to port of call for all their cruising needs. This often includes their extended family of eight.



RACV members Maryann and Rod Larkins in Morea on their Tahitian Treasures Cruise.

“We take many cruises — and bookings are often time sensitive,” Maryann says. “RACV Travel & Experiences make it happen the way we want. Whether it’s a booking for my husband and I or a family group.”

● **RACV Travel & Experiences is located at 448 Little Collins Street, Melbourne (next to Le Petit Gâteau). Opening hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. We also have desks in Geelong and Ballarat. Call (03) 8613 9660, email club@travel.racv.com.au. For general enquiries, visit <https://travel.racv.com.au/enquiry>.**

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Reciprocal Club

Cercle Munster assumes prime position in the Grund quarter of Luxembourg City, a location replete with medieval heritage, is an intriguing destination and located in a suite of 17th century houses on the banks of the Alzette River, Cercle Munster assumes prime position in the historic Grund quarter. The elegant space, with its variety of dining options and function rooms, is a pleasure to visit.

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.

TWO-WAY STREET

Reciprocal Clubs embody a rich history of cultural, sporting, political and even industrial ties — with experiences that unite Club members on the world stage.

Stepping out of one's comfort zone, yet united by shared values, is a rare privilege afforded Club members by the 120 RACV Club-affiliated worldwide Reciprocal Clubs at their doorstep.

RACV Manager Club Membership Adele Lin offers firsthand knowledge of the unlimited member benefits of visiting these unique destinations.

"Private member Clubs are special places that we get the privilege to be able to experience across Australia and the world," Adele says.

A letter of introduction is mandatory when deciding to visit a Reciprocal Club. Strict attention to detail in terms of members' names and details, guest numbers and other visitation rights must be respected and abided by Club members.

Location and historical relevance are an attractive meeting point. Take, for example, Circulo Ecuestre Barcelona: a 6,000-square-metre palace completed in 1910 on the Balma Diagonal corner.

When in the United States' political capital, military buffs choose to stay at the Army and Navy Club, 901 17th Street, Northwest Washington. Part of the Five Star Platinum Club, it is only two blocks from the White House.

As a Club member, the overarching benefits of experiencing RACV Club-affiliated Reciprocal Clubs are limited only by imagination and are often destination-specific.

"You're gaining special access to other private-member Clubs — and each one is unique," says Adele.

Club members from Victoria and Australia can also feel safe in the knowledge that visiting an RACV Club-affiliated Reciprocal Club anywhere in the world offers a home away from home.

● For Reciprocal Club enquiries, call Club Membership on 1300 501 501 or visit <https://www.racv.com.au/racv-club/locations/reciprocal-clubs.html>.

Choose from our diverse set of Reciprocal Clubs worldwide:

1 ST JAMES'S HOTEL AND CLUB, LONDON

This five-star boutique hotel and club (pictured above) is mere minutes away from Mayfair, Buckingham Palace, Jermyn Street, Burlington Arcade, Bond Street and the Royal Academy of Arts.

The Club features 60 exquisitely appointed rooms and suites, an elegant bar and lounge, and exceptional dining.

Specials for bookings until 7 September include rooms starting from £360, inclusive of VAT and continental breakfast. There's complimentary upgrade at 2pm upon arrival (subject to availability); complimentary late checkout at 2pm (subject to availability); and 20% off food at Francatelli and Seven Park Place Bar and Lounge.

2 TOKYO AMERICAN CLUB, JAPAN

With 4,000 members, drawn from 50-plus nations, the Club offers a diverse range of cultural, business and recreational activities and amenities in the heart of the Japanese capital.

3 WASHINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB, SEATTLE

A five-star platinum club of America, with a broad range of accommodation and dining options. Five floors of athletic facilities plus a day spa, barber and sauna.

4 ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB, LONDON

The Club was founded in 1897 by motoring pioneers and has two magnificent clubhouses, in London and Epsom, Surrey. It offers first-class facilities in every respect.

5 NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB — CITY HOUSE AND TRAVERS ISLAND

City House features a 24-storey clubhouse, founded in 1868, with views over Central Park from the rooftop bar.

Travers Island is located on 33 idyllic acres (13.36 hectares) beside the Long Island Sound with casual and fine dining options.

PICTURE PERFECT

From 23 August to 19 October, the 2025 Ballarat International Foto Biennale returns with its most emotionally charged program yet.

Centred on the theme **LIFEFORCE**, this year's festival explores the energy of human experience through powerful portraiture, documentary photography and visual storytelling.

Three major exhibitions headline the 11th edition. British-Ghanaian photographer **Campbell Addy** presents *I Love Campbell*, an Australian-exclusive at the Ballarat Mining Exchange. His work blends fashion, identity and vulnerability in a bold celebration of images.

The Australian premiere of *ENNINFUL x MAPPLETHORPE* offers a rare look at 46 original works by legendary photographer **Robert Mapplethorpe**, curated by fashion icon **Edward Enninful**. This striking pairing of images invites new interpretations of beauty, control and desire.

Also debuting is *One-Way Ticket to Vietnam 1966–1968*, a world-first exhibition of **Catherine Leroy's** fearless photojournalism. Her images from the Vietnam War capture the emotional toll of conflict with unmatched intimacy.

At **RACV Goldfields Resort**, festivalgoers can experience four dynamic exhibitions. *Nii Journal* reclaims visual space for underrepresented voices, while **Hiromi Tango's** *Full Flower Moon* offers a sensory journey into healing and neuroplasticity. *Nature-ista* transforms the natural world into a fashion runway, and **Kathy Muhlhan's** double exposures of Lake Wendouree and dahlias evoke the romance of time and resilience.

"This year's program is a celebration of courage, creativity, and connection," says Mardi Nowak, Head of Visual Arts RACV. "From global icons to local legends, the Biennale invites everyone to see the world — and themselves — through a new lens."

Whether you're a seasoned art lover or a curious newcomer, Ballarat Foto 2025 promises a transformative experience in the heart of regional Victoria. RACV Club members receive discounted Ballarat Foto tickets with the code RACV2025.

WORDS: MARDI NOWAK, RACV HEAD OF VISUAL ARTS



Robert Mapplethorpe, *Lisa Lyon*, 1982 © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.



Catherine Leroy, *Jump*, 1967 © Bob Cole (courtesy Dotation Catherine Leroy)

A LIFE OF FIRSTS

RACV Club lifetime member, the Honourable Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at City Club, is a trailblazer in every way.



The Honourable Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM, better known to her friends as Peg, was the first Victorian woman appointed to a Superior Court of Record when she joined the bench of the Family Court of Australia in 1976.

Born in Tocomwal, New South Wales, in 1922, Peg (pictured above centre) and her family moved to Melbourne for educational purposes. She attained her law degree from the University of Melbourne as a mature-age student, having raised three sons and following the unexpected passing of her first husband, Dr Graeme Larkins, in 1959. She married fellow law student Theo Lusink in 1964.

Peg was articled to her mother, Joan Rosanove, who was the state's first female QC. The Joan Rosanove Prize is awarded annually to the highest-achieving female student in the Melbourne Juris Doctor.

After retiring from the Family Court in 1988, Peg lectured at Bond University and served on several tribunals and committees.

Peg attributes her long and richly rewarding life to a mixture of luck and attitude.

"I think it comes down to taking a second bite of the cherry after my first husband died and then remarrying, also very happily, and having a very active, full life," Peg says.

Peg considers her two happy marriages, raising three high-achieving sons and the support of her extended family as her greatest achievement, because, as Peg says, "when that's not working, nothing is."

Peg joined RACV Club on 1 March 1971 based on the recommendation of a fellow Corrs Chambers Westgarth partner.

"Everyone says I would have to be the best promoter of RACV Club," Peg says. "Of all the places I have been to, and there have been many over the years, all the RACV Club staff are always so happy and welcoming, no matter which RACV Club you go to. It must be a magnificent organisation to work for, because I don't think you ever leave, do you? It reflects itself and that's why I love going there."

On 27 May 2022, Peg held her 100th birthday celebration at RACV City Club.

It was such a successful night that three years later, Peg requested a similar event for her 103rd birthday. Given the smaller guest list, the celebration was held in the intimate setting of Bayside Room 5.

"It was such a pleasure to be able to host Peg's special day, as she is always so appreciative of everything you do," says RACV Club's Conference and Events Sales Coordinator, Kelly Chen.

Peg provided Kelly with her menu requests, which were shared and stunningly realised by RACV Club Chef de Cuisine Shayne Wong.

There were 18 attendees on the night, all of whom were the first generation of Peg's family. The celebration was widely described as a "triumph," including by the guest of honour.

WORDS: NICOLE BITTAR

Consensus was unanimous about RACV City Club's first Shoku No Kokoro dinner on Saturday 7 June: the night was a triumph in every sense. Everyone involved, from executive level to hospitality staff, were honoured to play their part in such a humbling and overwhelming culinary and entertainment experience. The event's mastermind and dedicated Japanophile, RACV City Club's Executive Chef, Kyle Doody was understandably ebullient. "I felt the room was especially electric with (Melbourne's premier taiko-drum ensemble) the Wadaiko Rindo, the range of sakés on offer and live cooking demonstrations," Kyle said. "We look forward to next year's dinner with great anticipation. Until such time, 'sayonara'."

OUT & ABOUT



The 501 Bourke Street's 20th anniversary black-tie celebration, which took place on Saturday 28 June in the Level 17 Ballroom, garnered rave reviews. Dressed to the nines, members and staff alike rejoiced in the spectacular menu and beverage selections, entertainment, quizzes, activities and the spirit of occasion of RACV's 122-year legacy.



ESCAPE

SEE YOU IN ULURU

A trip to Uluru is as enriching as it is inspirational, and we have all the tips to help you plan your perfect Red Centre getaway. Plus, RACV members save more on incredible Uluru travel experiences.



Uluru is more than just a stunning rock formation in the desert: it's a living cultural landscape, home to ancient traditions, stunning natural beauty and unforgettable outback experiences.

Uluru's power lies not just in its geological grandeur, but in the stories, ceremonies and spirit that surround it.

Once sitting at the bottom of an ancient sea, Uluru has the rare status of two UNESCO World Heritage listings, due to the significance it holds for the Anangu First Nations people.

Some travellers may only spend a day at Uluru, but at least three days are recommended to experience the region's full glory.

Explore Uluru by bike, camel, on a segway or a helicopter flight, but be mindful of the cultural considerations.

Uluru's summit was closed in 2019 to climbers, honouring the wishes of the Anangu people and preventing falls. Look for signs where photography is not permitted. Stick to trails, dispose of rubbish responsibly and please don't touch the rock art.

THINGS TO DO

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre is a great place to start, before accessing the walks and Talinguru Nyakuntjaku for sunrise views of Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

After sunset, the sky becomes the stage for spectacular light shows. The Wintjiri Wiru ('beautiful view out to the horizon' in Pitjantjatjara) drone show brings the Mala creation story to life using more than 1,000 drones choreographed alongside lasers, projections and narration.

Equally mesmerising is the Field of Light: an installation by British artist Bruce Munro that transforms the desert into a dreamscape outside the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

STARGAZING IS ALSO POPULAR

In Outback Sky Journeys, learn how to identify common planets, stars and constellations with the naked eye.

The Uluru Astro Tour uses stronger telescopes on a longer tour with guides.

In daylight hours, view Indigenous artworks at the Gallery of Central Australia, a small gallery with revolving exhibitions at the Ayers Rock Resort.



GENERAL TIPS

The best time to visit Uluru is between May and September, when daytime temperatures are milder (20-30°C) and nights are crisp – perfect for sunrise hikes, stargazing and outdoor dining. If possible, avoid the heat of summer, when trails may close.

SIDE TRIPS

The awe-inspiring beauty of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) is hard to ignore. About 45 minutes' drive west of Uluru, these towering domes are often less crowded but just as geologically and spiritually significant.

The best time to visit is early morning or late afternoon. Better yet, tackle the 7.4-kilometre Valley of the Winds Walk or the easier 2.6-kilometre Walpa Gorge Walk.

A day trip to Kings Canyon – a three-hour drive from Uluru – offers a striking contrast with its towering sandstone walls, palm-filled crevices and panoramic views that rival any in Australia.

FIND OUT
MORE

Book where you pay less

RACV Club Members enjoy discounts on the latest holidays when booking with RACV Travel & Experiences. Contact our travel agents in-store in Melbourne, Geelong or Ballarat, online or call (03) 8613 9600 (Monday-Friday) to book your stunning escape.



PHOTOS: TOURISM NT, KATE FLOWERS (LEFT),
PLENTY OF DUST, ULURU CAMEL TOURS (RIGHT)

WHAT'S ON AUGUST 2025



Join fellow members in your favourite pastimes with member interest groups.

1

INVESTORS' INTEREST GROUP
Friday 1 August, 10:30am – 12pm
Level 2, City Club

4

DOUBLE LECTURE: GREAT HOUSES AND CASTLES OF IRELAND AND WALES
Monday 4 August, 10am – 12:30pm
Level 2, City Club

5

ANNUAL TRUFFLE DINNER
Tuesday 5 August, 6pm – 10pm
Members' Dining Room, City Club

BUNNIK TRAVEL TALK
Tuesday 5 August, 6pm – 8pm
Level 2, City Club

6

MIDWEEK JAZZ AT THE BAR: LINDA TAYLOR TRIO
Wednesday 6 August, 6pm – 8:30pm
Wine Bar, City Club

7

SOCIAL 8-BALL NIGHT
Thursday 7 August, 6pm – 9pm
Billiards Room, City Club

9

SIP & SAVOUR: TEA & CHEESE
Saturday 9 August, 2pm – 4:30pm
Wine Cellar, City Club

CRAFT SERIES: BEGINNER CROCHET
Saturday 9 August, 11am – 1pm
Healesville Country Club & Resort

12

EXPERIENCE & EXPLORE: CHANDON
Tuesday 12 August, 12pm – 1:30pm
727 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream 3770

13

TIMO MAYER WINE DINNER
Wednesday 13 August, 6pm – 9:30pm
Private Dining Room, City Club

14

ANNUAL BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT LAUNCH NIGHT
Thursday 14th August, 6pm–9pm
Billiards Room, City Club

15

MARTINI MASTERCLASS
Friday 15 August, 2:30pm – 4pm
Members' Lounge, Healesville Country Club & Resort

FILM GROUP: THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN (2005)
Friday 15 August, 11am – 1pm
The Theatre, City Club

16

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER
Saturday 16 August, 6pm – 9pm
Level 17, City Club

20

MIDWEEK JAZZ AT THE BAR: AFTER DARK
Wednesday 20 August, 7pm – 9:30pm
Wine Bar, City Club

21

AUTHOR TALK: WASTED? WITH HAZEL EDWARDS
Thursday 21 August, 6pm – 7pm
Level 2, City Club

TRAVERSING CREATIVE INDUSTRIES: EMBRACING CHANGE & INNOVATION
Thursday 21 August, 12pm – 2:30pm
Club Pavilion, City Club

23

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP
Saturday 23 August, 9am – 10pm
Billiards Room, City Club

24

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday 24 August, 9am – 10pm
Billiards Room, City Club

BRIDGE CONGRESS
Sunday 24 August, 10am – 5pm
Level 17, City Club

ART OF LUNCH: BALLARAT FOTO
Sunday 24 August, 12pm – 3:30pm
RACV Goldfields Resort

25

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP
Monday 25 August, 9am – 10pm
Billiards Room, City Club

28

THE JEWELS OF A MODERN DAY PRINCESS: MORNING TEA
Thursday 28 August, 10:30am – 12pm
Level 2, City Club

29

LATIN FUSION FIESTA: A NIGHT OF FLAVOUR & RHYTHM
Friday 29 August, 6:30pm – 10pm
Level 17, City Club

30

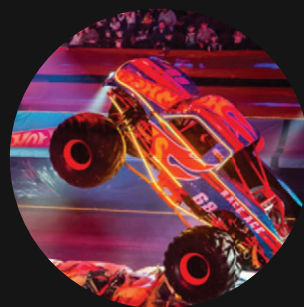
GARDEN SYMPHONY: WELCOME BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES WITH KAYE ROBERTS-PALMER
Saturday 30 August, 2pm – 4pm
Watts Room, Healesville Country Club & Resort

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS WITH RACV CLUB

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AUGUST

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 2 | Melbourne v West Coast |
| 2 | Collingwood v Brisbane |
| 3 | St Kilda v North Melbourne |
| 7 | Hawthorn v Collingwood |
| 7 | Melbourne Storm v Brisbane Broncos |
| 9 | Richmond v St Kilda |
| 9 | Carlton v Gold Coast |
| 9 | Hot Wheels Trucks Live |
| 10 | Hot Wheels Trucks Live |
| 10 | Melbourne v Western Bulldogs |
| 15 | Essendon v St Kilda |
| 16 | Carlton v Port Adelaide |
| 16 | Hawthorn v Melbourne |
| 17 | Western Bulldogs v West Coast |
| 20 | Tyler the Creator |
| 22 | Tyler the Creator |
| 23 | Cirque du Soleil |
| 23 | Tyler the Creator |
| 24 | Tyler the Creator |
| 25 | Keith Urban |
| 26 | Keith Urban |



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