



RACVClub

DECEMBER
2023

HIGHLIGHTS

GOOD TIDINGS

Be part of the festivities and good cheer at the Club this holiday season

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

SURF'S UP

Enjoy the fruits of the ocean at Banyalla. Healesville's signature restaurant is serving up sensational seafood dishes that are perfect for summer. Savour Pacific appellation oysters and spanner crab with Nam Jim dressing, or Moreton bay bugs with plum, mint and betel leaf citrus salsa.

● Discover what else is on the menu on page 11.





From the Healesville Country Races to the Summer of Cricket Luncheon, we reflect on this year's events and accomplishments on page 6.

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ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

As I reflect on the past year, I feel immensely proud of the team here at RACV Club, their accomplishments and the support you, the member, are providing us.

My team and I were delighted to host several member information sessions at the City and Healesville properties last month, and it was wonderful to meet members in person and hear their stories and receive their helpful feedback.

This year, RACV Club has held many great events, launched new initiatives and celebrated awards. The awards included the Australian Bridal Industry Academy's Best Club Reception for Healesville, and two Victorian Accommodation Awards for Excellence: Superior Accommodation of the Year for City Club and Regional Hotel Restaurant of the Year for Banyalla. Also, the Members Dining Room and the Wine Bar both retained their 3 and 2 'wine glass' status respectively.

Although changing work patterns have affected volumes of City Club traffic, we've seen the return of Club favourites, such as the AFL Grand final luncheon, President's Cup Golf at Healesville and Healesville Country Races.

Other new initiatives have included monthly Club Member benefits for accommodation, dining and other deals, a corporate box experience at both the MCG and Marvel stadiums, and live cooking events such as the Italian Masterclass and Four Chef Showdown. We've seen the launch of Sojourn's 'So Good Saturdays', in partnership with Four Pillars distillery. We've also recently upgraded our iconic Billiards Room, firmly establishing it as the premier facility in Victoria.

We have a lot to look forward to at RACV Club. We are planning to improve accommodation facilities at Healesville and upgrade the Members Lounge bar, which will support the increasingly popular Members' Aperitivo Hour each day. There is also a planned extension to the Shared Workspace area at City Club.

It's been a memorable year, and I'd like to thank every member for their contribution. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

CALL OR EMAIL US

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For membership enquiries
or to update your details:

PH: 1300 501 501

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clubmembership@racv.com.au

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BOOKINGS & OPENING TIMES

racv.com.au/clubbookings

EVENT LISTINGS

racv.com.au/club-whats-on

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Instagram icon



Scene set for Gabriel Gaté event in August.
Image: Ben Weinstein

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

The upcoming year is set to be a whirlwind of excitement, with entertainment, exploration, and opportunities to connect

Next year starts with a 'thwack, thwack, roar' as tennis aficionados once again secure their Australian Open seats, with the Club providing an exclusive opportunity to witness the Grand Slam action live. Junior tennis lessons will be on offer at Healesville Country Club & Resort, along with junior golf, junior fit gym and aqua play for the summer school holidays.

And that's just the beginning! Lunar New Year marks the start of a series of dining events, with favourites such as Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Bastille Day returning, along with Gabrielle Gaté's French-themed dinner at Healesville.

Club Events Manager Melissa McCallum says the 2024 program offers something for every member, with surprises in the works. "The Club has a consistent line-up of events that members love, and we're passionate about bringing those back next year," Melissa says. "But we're equally excited about new opportunities, like the Scottish-themed Burns Night." (See page 9 for details.)

She advises members to keep tabs on the What's On page, which is updated weekly. "Next year we are introducing early bird pricing for some events, so we're encouraging members to take advantage of that."

The Club is expanding its craft series and introducing new exploration opportunities, including a bus tour of the Western Treatment Plant. Drag Bingo will return in March, and Healesville Country Club & Resort Head Chef Himanshu Sharda will defend his "most popular

KIDS' ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY

- Aqua Fun, Thu 18 Jan, 2pm-3pm, Ages 8+.
- Junior Golf Session, Fri 19 Jan, 10am-11am. Ages 6+.
- Junior Tennis Lessons, Mon 22 Jan, 9am-10.30am. Ages 5+.
- Junior Fit Gym, Wed 24 Jan, 10am-11am. Ages 8+.

All activities at Healesville Country Club & Resort.
Bookings via racv.com.au/club-whats-on

dish" title at the second Four Chef Showdown, when it relocates from City Club to Healesville in April.

The Summer of Cricket Luncheon, most recently held in November, will be fine-tuned, offering a unique storytelling experience that differs from the more analytical approach of the AFL Grand Final Luncheon in September. The Healesville Country Races in March are booked out, so plans are afoot to make this event bigger in 2025. Member interest groups and the mentoring program also resume in February and March, respectively. If you're interested in being part of one these groups or activities, contact Club Events: clubevents@racv.com.au.

"We've been listening to members through surveys and member information nights, and the aim is to provide a diverse range of experiences that cater to members' varied interests," Melissa says. "Next year there will be events marked as suitable for singles, with designated tables and chances to connect with others. Members guide us, and we're thrilled to deliver what they want in 2024."



RING IN THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE

Embrace the glamour of the jazz era for a fine dining experience; revive the psychedelia and jumpsuit for a Swinging Sixties party, or refine your own look for a night of dancing with family and friends. Whichever event you choose, the Club is the perfect place to welcome in the New Year.

- **Great Gatsby Themed New Year's Eve, 31 Dec, 7pm-12.30am, Members Dining Room, City Club, \$190 adult.**
- **'60s Style New Year's Eve, 31 Dec, 7pm-12.30am, Ballroom, Healesville County Club & Resort, \$195 adult.**
- **Going Out On Top with The Baker Boys, Sun 31 Dec 7.30pm-12.30am, Level 17, City Club, \$230, \$180 (13-17 yrs), \$90 (5-12 years).**



SEE THE GRAND SLAM ACTION LIVE

Book your tickets to the 2024 Australian Open directly through RACV Club. Club members have access to upper baseline seats at Rod Laver Arena, including the women's and men's finals, thanks to AO Travel. Tickets are available for Day and Night sessions for Rod Laver Arena only.

- **Fourth Round: Sun 21 & Mon 22 Jan; Quarter Finals: Tue 23 & Wed 24 Jan; Semi Finals: Thu 25 & Fri 26 Jan; Final: Sat 27 & Sun 28 Jan. Prices on enquiry via [this link](#) or the QR code.**



You'll find the details for the New Year's Eve events listed above, along with all the latest events and activities, at racv.com.au/club-whats-on or scan the QR code.



START YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY

Van Gogh's *Starry Night* is one of the world's most famous paintings, and you have the chance to create your own luminous night sky at this creative workshop. It's part of the Club's expanding craft series. An acrylic painting workshop like this one is a great place to start if you want to flex your creative muscles or try a new hobby. Ignite your creativity, mingle with fellow art enthusiasts, and depart with your unique masterpiece. Ticket includes bubbles, light snacks, and your painting.

- **Sat 27 Jan, 2pm-4.30pm, Tarrant Room, City Club, \$90 per person. Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.**



CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

The Dragon is a symbol of luck and success, making 2024 an auspicious time for new beginnings. So, if you've never been to the Club's annual Chinese New Year Dinner, 2024 may be a good time. Experience a delectable five-course set menu prepared by our esteemed guest chef, Leslie Chan, and savour a complimentary glass of sparkling wine on arrival.

- **Sat 10 Feb, 6pm-8pm, Members Dining Room, City Club, \$160 per person. Book via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.**





CLUB GENERAL MANAGER ROB
EVERETT (BACK ROW FAR LEFT)
WITH 12 OF THIS YEAR'S MENTORING
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

YEAR IN REVIEW

From the unveiling of City's Club's foyer artwork to special dining events, jazz nights, the mentoring program and Le Petit Gateau's birthday celebrations, it has been a big year.



SANGUINE WINE WORKSHOP



BASTILLE DAY DINNER AT CITY CLUB



SO GOOD SATURDAYS AT SOJOURN



BUBBLES & BOUQUETS



PRESIDENT'S CUP AT HEALESVILLE



NIKKA WHISKY DINNER



HEALESVILLE RACES IN MARCH



AFL GRAND FINAL LUNCHEON

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023

Here are some of the major events, celebrations, accomplishments and wins for RACV Club Members and staff this year

COVER
STORY

SIGNATURE DINING EVENTS

Jan: Chef Jelena Grujovic and guest chef Leslie Chan stage a grand Chinese New Year feast.

Feb: Valentine's Day Dinner sparks love and appreciation in the Members Dining Room.

Jul: Bastille Day Dinner takes over Members Dining Room with French classics and matched wines.

Aug: Truffle Dinner creates enticing aromas in Members Dining Room.

Aug: Celebrity Chef Gabriel Gaté hosts the 11th annual French-themed night 'Explore the French Alps' at Healesville Country Club.

Sep: AFL Grand Final Luncheon entertainment with host Brian Taylor and panel: Mick Malthouse, Caroline Wilson, Simon Black and Tony Jones.

NEW EVENTS

Apr: So Good Saturdays, in association with Four Pillars, introduced at Sojourn.

Jun: More school holiday events: mobile zoo, cartooning drawing and snooker lessons, alongside our popular cooking classes.

Jun: Italian Migrant Journey Dinner & Masterclass expands to Level 17.

Jul & Aug: Corporate Box experiences at both Marvel Stadium and the MCG.

Aug: Drag Bingo delights crowd.

Aug: Craft Series introduced.

Sep: Silver service in Members Dining Room.

Sep: Four Chef Showdown, with entertaining competition and dinner format, on Level 17.

Nov: Summer of Cricket Luncheon with Sir Ian Botham, Brad Hodge, Belinda Clark and Damien Fleming.

POPULAR EVENTS

Feb: In Conversation with artist Victoria Hempstead about her new artwork in the City Club foyer.

Mar: 'In Concert' series returns after three-year hiatus with *Some Enchanted Evening*.

Mar: Healesville Country Races back with aplomb after two-year hiatus.

May: Melbourne Symphony Orchestra presents Joe Chindamo and Zoe Black at Club Pavilion, City Club.

Oct: Nikka Whisky Masterclass in Wine Bar and Nikka Dinner in Members Dining Room.

MAJOR AWARDS

Aug: Healesville Country Club & Resort voted Best Club Reception at Australian Bridal Industry Academy's Wedding Industry Awards, with RACV City Club runner up.

Aug: RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort wins Regional Hotel Restaurant of the Year for Banyalla, and RACV City Club wins Superior Accommodation of the Year at Victorian Accommodation Awards for Excellence.

Sep: Members Dining Room retains its "three glass rating" at the Wine List of the Year Awards.



BASTILLE DAY
DINNER



LE PETIT
GATEAU

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Aug: Le Petit Gateau celebrates 16th birthday.

Sep: Billiards Tournament Launch Night for 100th anniversary of the competition.

SPORTING CHALLENGES

Jan: Squash players compete in in-house Alan Clancy Cup competition.

Feb: President's Cup golf at Healesville.

Jul: Tour de Rev spin class challenge at City Club Fitness Centre.

Sep to Dec: Annual Club Billiards & Snooker tournaments.

Oct: Squash players compete for Geoff Dewar Trophy



BANYALLA
STAFF

MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

Jan: Bridge Club's annual challenge.

Jun: Member Interest Groups showcase.

Nov: Mentoring Finale Dinner held to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's participants.

GIFT GUIDE



ONE SPA INDULGENCE

A One Spa gift card offers a choice of restorative and revitalising treatments, plus a range of skincare, wellness and lifestyle products.

● Ph: 03 9944 8884 or
email city@onespa.racv.com.au



FESTIVE SPIRITS

Fruity cocktails or fresh G&Ts are on the cards with Four Pillars. Choose from the Club Gin, Christmas Gin, Yuzu or Olive Leaf.

● Lobby shop, City Club



CRYSTAL CLEAR

Enhance someone's enjoyment of wine with a set of Chef & Sommelier Krysta extra strong crystal glasses, as seen in the Club's bars and restaurants.

● Lobby shop, City Club



PURELY GOURMET

Foodies will appreciate Mount Zero's locally grown gourmet produce. Perfect for the festive table or as part of a Christmas hamper.

● Lobby shop, City Club



LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S LIFE

Kenshi Life Changing Candles is a social enterprise, which means this great gift also helps refugees and those facing food insecurity.

● Lobby shop, City Club



EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Looking for a unique gift experience? Take your loved one to a special dining event, craft workshop, movie or lecture.

● Visit racv.com.au/club-whats-on

A PLACE TO SHARE IDEAS

We welcome RACV Club Members to visit the Club Events staff at the City Club Library.

From Monday, 4 December, members have the opportunity to find out what is coming up at both Club properties, enquire about Member Interest Groups and share ideas for any events or groups we could do in the future.

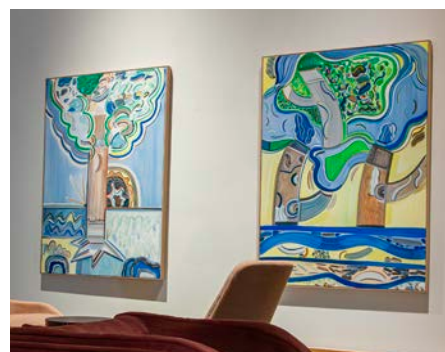
We welcome the opportunity to engage with as many members as we can. We are also pleased to advise that the City Club Library will be open from 8am until 8pm daily from 1 December. The extended hours give Club members greater access to resources and facilities. The current self-checkout process makes borrowing and returning library items fast and easy.

● Visit us from 4 December in the City Club Library. Schedule alternates weekly: Monday to Thursday, 9am–4pm, then Tuesday–Friday, 9am–4pm.



INSIDER
NEWS

Take advantage of City Club's free gift wrapping service in December. We'll wrap your presents, whether store bought, hand made or from the lobby shop, while you have a leisurely lunch, refreshing drink or attend the children's activities.



See the works of Ember Fairbairn, left, and Emily Ferretti, above, in the latest Gallery Lounge exhibition, Our Abstract World.

A PORTAL TO CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Get a fresh perspective on the organic world through mesmerising and thought-provoking abstractions. The latest City Club Gallery Lounge exhibition, Our Abstract World, is on until 25 February 2024. Curated in partnership with the esteemed Sophie Gannon Gallery, Our Abstract World features the works of Melbourne-based artists Ember Fairbairn, Emily Ferretti, Fred Fowler, Jordy Van Den Nieuwendijk, and Vera Möller. RACV chefs have created sandwiches and carefully designed miniature gateaus to match the new artwork, and these are available in the Gallery Lounge, Monday to Friday, 9am–3pm. If you're interested in buying any of the artworks, the QR codes on the wall labels next to the artworks will take you to the Sophie Gannon Gallery website. This is the first of four exhibitions in 2024, offering members and visitors a premium gallery service as they enjoy the RACV Club facilities.

● Our Abstract World, in association with Sophie Gannon Gallery in Richmond, until 25 February 2024, Gallery Lounge, City Club. See the RACV Art Collection at racv.com.au/art



Image: Getty

SLANGE VAR – CHEERS!

Who's up for some haggis, neeps and tatties - and a wee dram? Expect some fine Scottish fare and whisky at our inaugural Robert Burns dining event

WHO WAS ROBERT BURNS?

Robert Burns was an 18th century Scottish poet and lyricist. A pioneer of the Romantic movement, his work inspired liberal and socialist movements throughout Europe. He has become a cultural icon in Scotland, and his work is still celebrated today by Scottish descendants and ex-patriots around the world, including Australia.

WHAT IS HIS BEST-KNOWN POEM?

Burns has several famous poems, most written in 'light Scots dialect'. *Auld Lang Syne* is the most notable, often sung at Hogmany (New Year's Eve). His poem *Scots Wha Hae* is the unofficial national anthem of Scotland. His *Ode to the Haggis* honours the famous Scottish dish.

WHY DOES HIS WORK RESONATE TODAY?

Burns's engagement with the human condition imbues a timelessness into his writing. His themes of love and nature, the latter within the context of the Industrial Revolution, have always had broad appeal.

WHAT INSPIRED THIS DINING EVENT?

The Club has many Scottish members, or members with Scottish heritage, and many have expressed interest in attending a Scottish-themed event at the Club. The Club previously had an annual St Andrews Day event at Healesville, which was always well attended.

WHAT IS HAGGIS?

Haggis is like a crumbly sausage, with a coarse oaty texture and a peppery flavour. It's often served with neeps (mashed turnip) and tatties (mashed potato) and washed down with a wee dram of whisky.



A TOUCH OF ROMANCE

Don't be surprised if the Robert Burns dinner puts you in the mood for a special dinner on St Valentine's Day. After all, one of Burns' best known poems is *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose*.

● **St Valentine's Dinner, Members Dining Room, Wed, 14 February 2024. Look out for details online on the What's On page in the New Year.**

WHAT ENTERTAINMENT WILL THERE BE AT THE BURNS NIGHT DINNER?

There will be some background on Robert Burns, a reading of his poetry, and a bagpiper will perform traditional songs. We encourage all members to wear tartan, and yes, kilts are allowed!

● **Burns Night Dinner, Thu 25 Jan, 6.30pm-9pm, Members Dining Room, City Club, \$140 pp. Bookings via [this link](#) or the QR code.**



SUMMER SIZZLERS

Combining regional flavours with gorgeous views, Banyalla's new summer menu is laden with fish and seafood as well as top-grade cuts and local produce. Get started with the likes of Moreton bay bugs, which are served with plum, mint and betel leaf citrus salsa, then head to the dazzling duck breast, nestled in a bed of compressed watermelon, burrata and pomegranate. This dish tastes as good as it looks.

Banyalla was named Regional Hotel Restaurant of the Year at the 2023 Victorian Accommodation Awards for Excellence, so find out for yourself what makes Healesville's signature restaurant so special. Head Chef Himanshu Sharda has reinvented his trademark Nuagaon dish for summer. This time his delicious nine-spice sauce is the perfect companion for a smoked lamb rack and goat croquette. Complete your epicurean adventures with a Yarra Valley wine. Restaurant staff can advise on new releases and local gems.

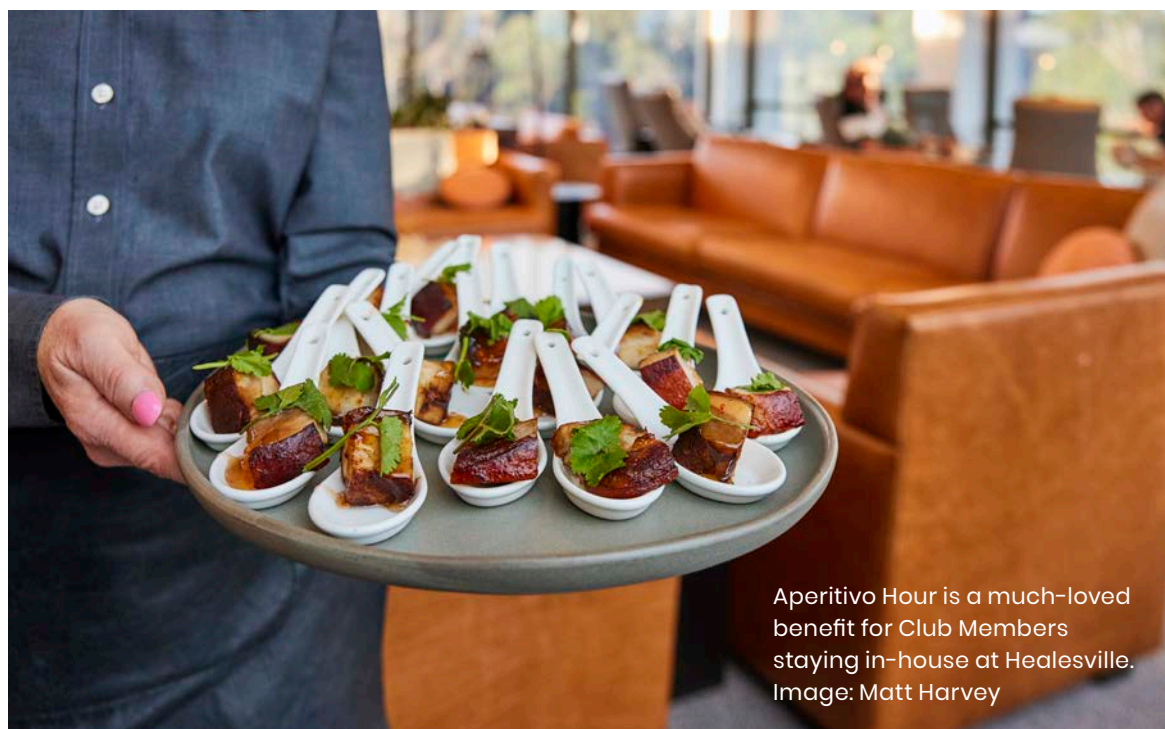
● **All Club Members receive a discount on food and beverages at Banyalla. Receive 10% off when you pay by cash or card, or 15% off when you charge directly to your Club account.**



EAT &
DRINK

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 at via [this link](#) or scan the QR code.



Aperitivo Hour is a much-loved benefit for Club Members staying in-house at Healesville. Image: Matt Harvey

A COUNTRY RETREAT LIKE NO OTHER

A haven of relaxation and refinement in the heart of the Yarra Valley, RACV Club Members have exclusive access to the Members Lounge at Healesville Country Club & Resort. Serviced between 10am and 3pm, you can enjoy light snacks, and refreshments, while taking in the stunning views. Soak up the atmosphere on a Sunday afternoon while pianist Galliano Somavilla plays timeless melodies. In-house guests enjoy a complimentary Aperitivo Hour between 5pm and 6pm each day.

● **Members Lounge, Healesville Country Club & Resort, serviced 10am–3pm daily.**



Sir Ian Botham and RACV Managing Director and CEO Neil Taylor, left, and Brad Hodge, Belinda Clark and Damien Fleming, above.

CRICKET FANS UNITE



Club Members and guests enjoyed the opportunity to hear about the experiences of Australian cricketing greats Sir Ian Botham, Brad Hodge, Belinda Clark and Damien Fleming at the Summer of Cricket Luncheon at City Club. Images: Latham Smith





ART TALK

Artist Marcel Cousins joined RACV Art Curator Ellen Wignell (above) for a talk to celebrate the Gallery Lounge exhibition, Secret Gardens. Marcel Cousins talked about his varied practice, the influence of Japanese art and his artworks in the RACV Art Collection. Club members and guests were treated to an array of creative canapes that matched the artworks.



SPECIAL DINING EVENTS AND JAZZ NIGHTS

Whether your passion is sport, jazz, whisky or fine food, you'll find a Club event to suit you. Discover the latest events online at racv.com.au/club-whats-on or scan the QR code.



Musicians Howard Cairns, John Scurry and Eugene Ball entertain Club members and guests at one of the Wine Bar Wednesday jazz sessions.

WINE BAR JAZZ





Capital City Trail. Image: Getty

Summer is a great time for scenic rides, and exploring new places, so why not incorporate cycling into a stay at City Club or Healesville for an enriching experience?

Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a casual rider, Melbourne has lots of well-designed bike trails that offer an enjoyable way to explore the city.

January, in particular, is one of the best times to ride a bike around inner Melbourne, with fewer cars on the road during the school holidays.

Rather than driving to City Club, you could consider cycling from the suburbs or catch a V/Line train from a regional area. Melbourne's bike-friendly infrastructure and relatively flat terrain makes it accessible to riders of all fitness levels, providing an enjoyable and efficient workout. Club Members can take advantage of City Club's Mobility Hub and store their bikes safely while dining or staying in-house at the Club.

If you're nervous about cycling around the city, it's easy to dismount and wheel your bike to a designated bike path or somewhere where you feel safe to carry on your journey.

At Healesville Country Club & Resort, bicycles are available free of charge to use around the Club and to cycle into Healesville village. That's one of the many family friendly things you can do at the Club.

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your helmet, pump up those tires, and embark on a two-wheeled adventure, using the Club as your base.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The RACV Mobility Hub (above) is an end-of-trip facility that Club members can use at City Club.
- The arevo app by RACV makes planning your journey easy with intelligent bike maps.
- In the event of an accident or mechanical fault, RACV Bike Assist can help get you moving again.

TOP BIKE TRAILS

NEAR CITY CLUB

Capital City Trail: This iconic trail loops around the heart of Melbourne, taking riders on a 29km journey through parks, gardens, and waterfronts. It's a perfect way to see the city's landmarks at a leisurely pace.

Beach Road: For those seeking a coastal experience, Beach Road is a must-try. Stretching along Port Phillip Bay, this route provides views of the bay, and the flat terrain makes it suitable for riders of all skill levels.



WELLNESS

NEAR HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT

Healesville: Bicycles are available free of charge to use around the Club grounds and cycle into Healesville village. Nearby Queens Park is a safe place for children to do laps, with bumps and obstacles to make it fun, and it's great for scooters too.

Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail: This trail passes through picturesque landscapes and is suited to a wide range of cyclists. At 40km in length, it can be done in sections, such as the 2.4km cycle from Launching Place to Yarra Junction.

O'Shannassy Aqueduct Rail West Loop, Warburton: For the intermediate mountain bike rider, this 30km trail promises a mix of flat, open areas and steep roads that will get your heart pumping. A relaxing spa and sauna back at the Club is recommended after this one.



ENJOY AN ACTIVE HOLIDAY THIS SUMMER

View the special accommodation packages on offer at City Club, left, and Healesville Country Club & Resort, right.



INTRODUCING NEW PREMIUM 5-STAR ROOMS

From the moment you step into one of the refurbished accommodation rooms at RACV Royal Pines Resort, you are greeted by a contemporary aesthetic that complements the natural beauty of the Gold Coast surroundings.

The stylish furnishings, inviting sofas and tasteful decor elements contribute to a space that invites relaxation and rejuvenation.

The spacious King and Twin Rooms, Spa and Executive Rooms feel softer and more subdued, with tranquil views of the championship golf course or lush Queensland hinterland.



Come and experience this premium accommodation for yourself. The resort has always been the perfect base for exploring the region; now it's also a beautiful place to retreat to at any time of day.

● RACV Club Members save with an exclusive discount on accommodation at this premium 5-star Gold Coast resort.*
RACV Resort accommodation discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is subject to availability and blackout dates.

Opening hours and more information via the QR code or
racv.com.au/travel-experiences/resorts/royal-pines-gold-coast/accommodation



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Combine a white Christmas with the spectacle of the Northern Lights. Image: Getty

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? Make it happen in 2024 with an unforgettable tour that takes in the Northern Lights or Europe's vibrant Christmas markets.

Europe in winter is magical. Scandinavian countries like Norway, Sweden and Finland transform into dazzling, snow-covered wonderlands, with the Aurora Borealis dancing in the night skies of the Arctic, making a camera essential for any tour.

In central Europe, Christmas markets steeped in local history and culture come to life with festive lights, carols and traditional foods.

If you're after a white Christmas, the further north and further inland you go in Europe, the higher your chance of seeing snow. Lapland, located in the northernmost region of Finland, not only has snow, it's one of the world's best places to witness the Northern Lights. Group tours, like the [6-day Globus Finland Escape](#), give you access to experienced guides who can take you to the best viewing spots and teach you about the science and folklore surrounding the lights.

If you want to up the ante, consider [APT's 22-day Northern Lights and Lapland with Magnificent Europe](#), which combines immersion in Finnish culture with a 14-night river cruise. Along with two nights' accommodation in a snug glass igloo at the start, you'll visit Ranua Wildlife Park, where you can see polar bears, wolves, lynx, and sea eagles.

NEVER TOO OLD TO VISIT SANTA

Regardless of your age, no visit to Lapland is complete without meeting



As a symbol of Christmas, the sight of reindeer is a delight. Image: Shutterstock.

Santa Claus. At the Santa Claus Village, you can cross the Arctic Circle, send postcards with the Arctic Circle postmark, and explore Santa's enchanting home. If you grew up singing *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, then a visit to a reindeer farm will make that tradition meaningful. Here, you can take a gentle reindeer sleigh ride, feed the reindeer, and learn about the Sámi people, who are the Indigenous people of the northern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula.

For the adventurous, you'll find tours that include husky sledding and snowmobile safaris, while [APT's 22-day tour](#) has a more leisurely approach, with a visit to Arktikum science museum in Rovaniemi and a guided exploration of Helsinki's architecture, including Oodi Library and the Opera House.

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS

For a fairy-tale experience, consider a tour that explores Central Europe's festive markets. Held annually in November, December and sometimes early January, Christmas markets are a popular attraction in Germany, Austria and many European countries.

With [Intrepid's 8-day Europe Christmas Markets tour](#), you'll experience the holiday season as locals do in Germany, Austria, and Hungary, seeing the contrast in traditions across the three countries. There are 20 different Christmas markets in Munich alone, and you'll be introduced to the best of them. You can savour treats like mulled wine, gingerbread, and sausages, and do all your Christmas shopping, with unique handmade ornaments, woodwork, glassware, and textiles to bring back home for family or friends.

There are many advantages if you choose a trip to Europe between mid-November and January, including winter travel deals and less tourists. You'll also get to enjoy the festive season in a unique and memorable way.

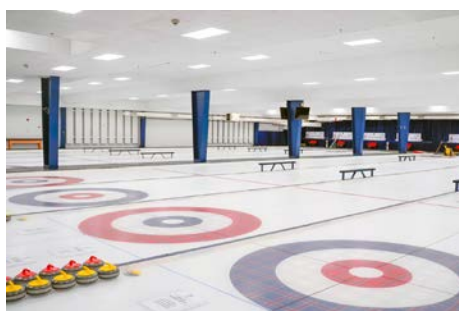


ESCAPE

Left: Christmas markets in Europe, like this one in Cologne, combine dazzling architecture, unique gifts and winter warming foods. Image: Shutterstock

DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS?

Get your Christmas list ready to deliver personally to Santa next year with a European holiday that includes Finland. RACV Club Members receive extra savings with RACV Travel and Experiences' trusted travel partners. Call 1800 850 888 or book an appointment to speak with one of our travel experts at racv.com.au/travel-store or via the QR code.



RECIPROCAL CLUB

Enjoy a white Christmas or an active summer in Canada. The Glencoe Club in Calgary, Alberta, has a comprehensive selection of athletic and recreational services, including squash courts, an indoor pool, a golf course and a fitness centre that can be enjoyed year round.

What sets Glencoe Club apart from many reciprocal clubs around the world, is its curling sheets (pictured below left) and ice skating rink. As early as October, large fluffy flakes fill the skies of Calgary and hats, gloves, socks, boots and other warm clothing become the norm. According to the local weather bureau, each year there's a 60 per cent chance that the city will experience snow on Christmas Day. If you want guaranteed snow, Banff National Park is 127km away, with gondola rides up snowy peaks, and sleigh rides on offer during winter.

Back at Glencoe Club there are other indoor facilities that make this club special: six indoor tennis courts, an indoor playground and an indoor golf centre with simulators. For families, childcare for children aged eight weeks to six years of age is a big attraction.

Along with two restaurants, in summer you can enjoy a refreshing drink, ice block or snack poolside at 29 Degrees. Your reciprocal privileges are valid for 15 days per year.

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



WHAT'S ON DECEMBER 2023

1

DOUBLE LECTURE

Gossipy Jewels and Gilded Houses
with Adrian Dickens

Friday, 10am-12.30pm

Level 2, City Club

2

KENNETH PARK WALKING TOUR

Bridges over the Yarra River

Saturday, 10am-noon

Offsite: Meet at Hamer Hall

SO GOOD SATURDAYS (pictured below).

Two sessions

Saturday, noon-2pm & 3pm-5pm

Sojourn, New Chancery Lane



3

FAMILY FESTIVE LUNCH & ACTIVITIES

with visit from Santa

Sunday, noon-3pm

Grand Conservatory, Healesville Country Club

5

KENNETH PARK WALKING TOUR

Bridges over the Yarra River (repeat)

Tuesday, 10am-noon

Offsite: Meet at Hamer Hall

SOCIAL 8-BALL NIGHT

Tuesday, 6pm-late

Billiards Room, City Club

6

MIDWEEK JAZZ AT THE BAR

Wednesday, 6pm-8pm

Wine Bar, City Club

9

SO GOOD SATURDAYS

Two sessions. Last chance for 2023.

Saturday, noon-2pm & 3pm-5pm

Sojourn, New Chancery Lane

11

CANCER COUNCIL'S THE LONGEST DAY

Golf fundraising day. Contact Pro Shop
for details, 03 5969 9451.

Monday, book a time.

Healesville Country Club & Resort

16

CRAFT SERIES

Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday, 2pm-4pm

Level 2, City Club

17

CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH TIM CAMPBELL

Sunday, 6pm-10pm

Level 17, City Club

18

SANTA PHOTOS AT CITY CLUB

Monday 18 Dec to Friday 22 Dec, 10am-2pm

Tarrant Room, City Club

GIFT WRAPPING AT CITY CLUB

Monday 18 Dec to Friday 22 Dec, 10am-2pm

Level 1, City Club

CHILDREN'S XMAS ACTIVITY

Wreath decorating

Monday, sessions every 30 minutes, 11am-1pm

Tarrant Room, City Club

19

CHILDREN'S XMAS ACTIVITY

Festive frame decorating

Tuesday, sessions every 30 minutes, 11am-1pm

Tarrant Room, City Club

20

CHILDREN'S XMAS ACTIVITY

Festive plaster decorating

Wednesday, sessions every 30 minutes, 11am-1pm

Tarrant Room, City Club

21

CHILDREN'S XMAS ACTIVITY

Christmas decorations

Thursday, sessions every 30 minutes, 11am-1pm

Tarrant Room, City Club

22

CHILDREN'S XMAS ACTIVITY

Gingerbread decorating

Friday, sessions every 30 minutes, 11am-1pm

Tarrant Room, City Club



31

SIXTIES STYLE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Enjoy 1960s-inspired music and food

Sunday, 7pm-12.30am

Ballroom, Healesville Country Club & Resort

GREAT GATSBY THEMED NEW YEAR'S EVE

Jazz era styling and music

Sunday, 7pm-12.30am

Members Dining Room, City Club

GOING OUT ON TOP - NEW YEAR'S EVE

with the Baker Boys Band

Sunday, 7.30pm-12.30am

Level 17, City Club

MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

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

TRAVEL GROUP Tuesday, 14 December
10.30am-12.30pm Level 2, City Club

DUPLICATE BRIDGE Wednesdays, 9.45am-1pm
6, 13, 20 December Clubroom, City Club

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

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

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

BOOK GROUP 2

Returns in Feb 2024

BOOK GROUP 4

Returns in Feb 2024

FILM GROUP

No screening in December

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



NAME OF THE GAME

Relive the magic of Benny, Bjorn, Agnetha, and Frida with stunning harmonies, fabulous costumes, and a rocking band for one night only at RACV Club. All tickets include concert, drinks, and canapes. This is a shared table event and suitable for singles, with a pre-event dining option in Members Dining Room.

● Saturday 9 March, 7.30pm-9.30pm. Doors open 7pm, Level 17, City Club, Tickets from \$90. Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.



FREE GROUP FITNESS

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

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

SPECIAL XMAS CLASSES

REV IT UP WITH DAVE - ONE TIME ONLY!
Wednesday 13 December, noon-1pm
City Club Fitness Centre

BODY PUMP WITH ADELE
Monday 18 December, noon-12.45pm
City Club Fitness Centre



Scan the QR code, left,
for facility opening hours in
December and January,
or visit [racv.com.au/
clubbookings](https://racv.com.au/clubbookings).



Scan the QR code, left, to book
for a group fitness class at the
City Club Fitness Centre.
racv.com.au/club-whats-on



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

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RACV

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