

HIGHLIGHTS

PICTURE PERFECT

Healesville is an unforgettable wedding venue that's the top pick for couples tying the knot

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

HOLE IN ONE

Club Members Ian McMinn and Greg Odermatt were snapped enjoying a leisurely session of golf at Healesville Country Club & Resort.

"We have been good friends and neighbours for eight years, and play golf together twice a week," Greg says. "I think Ian is a better golfer than myself, but we won't tell him that." Turns out Ian agrees.

● Five tips to hitting long irons like a pro, page 15



Savoury crepes, with tasty fillings like pulled lamb with gruyere, rocket and yogurt, are on the menu at Le Petit Gateau, 458 Little Collins St, city. Tuesday to Friday, 9am-3pm.

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ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

It is an exciting time at the Club, with the Spring Racing Carnival and the lead up to Christmas generating excitement and activity.

This month we are set to host an exceptional cricket lunch with an impressive panel of experts, including Sir Ian Botham (see page 5 for details). It has been a while since we have hosted a cricket lunch, and the return of this occasion is testament to the strong support and enthusiasm of our Club members, and it's a great event for colleagues and friends to come together.

I am looking forward to hosting four member information sessions at the City and Healesville properties in the upcoming weeks. These sessions are a great opportunity to learn about all the exciting things happening at your club. Along with the events and member interest groups, there are new things to discover, like Le Petit Gateau's irresistible savoury and sweet crepes, which are available Tuesday to Friday.

If you've been enjoying our midweek jazz events in the Wine Bar, the last one for 2023 is on 22 November, then we move onto our celebratory events for Christmas and New Year. We have family friendly activities, our traditional carol singers and a gift-wrapping service (see page 4) to add to the festive atmosphere.

On a sombre note, we share the sad news of the passing of our Carbine Bar manager, Geoff Druce, and we pay tribute to his dedication and contribution to the Club on page 9.

As we move into the busy season, please remember to book your reservations in advance. November and December are typically the busiest months of the year at both Club properties, so securing your spot ensures you don't miss out on the festivities. We're committed to providing you with the best experiences, and I look forward to seeing you soon at our upcoming events.

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HIGHLIGHTS
NOVEMBER 2023



Image: Getty

LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN

Embrace the festive spirit, with carols, kids' activities and gift wrapping at the Club

Christmas officially kicks off at RACV Club on 26 November, when the Christmas tree goes up in the City Club foyer. For Senior Club Events Coordinator Rebecca Walsh the tree is not just a visual delight, but it sets the mood for December.

"It towers above the Bistro, and you can see it from the library on Level 1; it looks magnificent," she says. "The whole month of December is a fun time to be at the Club. The weather is good – fingers crossed – and everyone's happy."

As the Christmas season unfolds, the Club has a lot in store. There will be Christmas carols in December, with the singers creating a heartwarming atmosphere throughout the Club.

"The week leading up to Christmas is packed with activities for kids, and there will be Santa photos and a gift-wrapping station," Rebecca says. "The Club will be a one-stop shop for all things Christmas."

The kids' activities are \$15 per child and run for half an hour, with multiple sessions. Club Members can park on site and relax while the children are happily occupied. "If you happen to arrive when a session is full, you can simply go off and have a coffee and come back when space is available," Rebecca says.

In addition, children can have their photo taken with Santa, with a

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Mon, Dec 18: **Christmas wreath decorating**

Tue, Dec 19: **Personalised photo frames**

Wed, Dec 20: **Christmas plaster painting**

Thu, Dec 21: **Tree decoration making**

Fri, Dec 22: **Gingerbread decorating with freshly baked gingerbread from Le Petit Gateau.**

● Dec 18–22, multiple sessions, 11am–1pm,
Tarrant Room, City Club. Bookings not required.

commercial photography service offering various packages.

The free gift-wrapping service is another bonus for Club Members. "You can go shopping in the CBD and come back to the Club and relax while your gifts are wrapped," Rebecca says. There's the choice of Wine Bar or Bourke Street Green for a festive drink or you can see what festive dishes are on Bistro's menu for December. If you're stuck for gift ideas, the lobby shop has a range of products for sale.

Rebecca says if you're looking for something special to do around Christmas, then the Club will be full of festive cheer.



ADD A CUE SPORT TO YOUR TALENTS

Learn how to play billiards or snooker with an expert. Triple world champion Robby Foldvari is running a practical and fun group coaching course. Private lessons are also available by appointment for individuals or small groups.

● **Wednesdays, 8 Nov to 29 Nov, 6.30pm–7.45pm, Billiards Room, City Club, \$50 per lesson or \$200 for four-week course. For details, email events@club.racv.com.au or book via [this link](#) or QR code.**



BE BOWLED OVER BY STAR PANEL

Sir Ian Botham (left) joins Australian cricketing superstars Belinda Clark, Damien Fleming and Brad Hodge to entertain and critique all things cricket over a long lunch. Get your colleagues or friends together for an entertaining afternoon. Ticket includes three-course lunch and full beverage package.

● **Fri 10 Nov, 11.45am–2.30pm, Level 17, City Club, \$120 pp, \$800 per table of eight. Book via [this link](#) or QR code.**

You'll find all the details about the latest events and activities, at racv.com.au/club-whats-on or scan the QR code.



PREPARE FOR COMEDY CHAOS

Get ready for an afternoon of pure delight, as bolshie Basil, domineering Sybil, and bumbling Manuel unleash chaos in the dining room. Inspired by the beloved BBC TV show, *The Fawlty Towers Dining Experience* is largely improvised, promising an interactive and unpredictable afternoon. Ticket includes three-course lunch, beverages and show.

● **Sun 19 Nov, noon–3pm, Club Pavilion, City Club, \$130pp or \$1235 for a table of 10. Book via [this link](#) or QR code.**



JOIN SANTA FOR FAMILY FUN

Santa is making an early visit to Healesville and he'd love to see you! His elves have organised great activities for the children and the reindeer are delivering a full festive buffet for all to enjoy. Ticket includes buffet, non-alcoholic beverages and activities. Alcoholic beverages will be available at bar prices. Note: this is a shared table event.

● **Sun 3 Dec, noon–3pm, Grand Conservatory, Healesville Country Club & Resort, \$80 adult, \$60 teen (13–17 yrs), \$40 child (5–12yrs). Book via [this link](#) or the QR code.**

A full-page photograph of a bride and groom walking down a paved path in a lush green park. The bride is wearing a white, sleeveless, floor-length gown with a full skirt and a long veil. The groom is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a tie. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is filled with tall trees and green grass, with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

PICTURE PERFECT

Ophelia and Peter Le had their photos taken in Fitzroy Gardens before their reception at RACV City Club.

From a proposal at Hanging Rock to a wedding reception at RACV Club, Ophelia and Peter Le have created many beautiful memories together

An overly ambitious hike had a romantic outcome for Ophelia and Peter Le. “We decided to try the Southern Circuit in the Cathedral Range and it was quite scary,” Ophelia says. “There was rock scaling for about a kilometre, and we weren’t prepared. We were nervous, and I broke down.”

A few months later Peter decided to help Ophelia overcome her fear with a less challenging walk. “We went to Hanging Rock, where the elevation is much lower, and that’s where Peter proposed.”

Within a month they had chosen their wedding venue. One of the key factors that made the RACV City Club a standout choice was the central location and exclusivity of Level 17. “We liked that we would have the entire floor rather than a partitioned area or separate room, which is the case with most hotels in the city,” Peter says.

With guests coming from all over Melbourne, interstate and overseas, there were also transport options, from public transport to taxis, and the convenience of onsite parking and accommodation.

They were impressed with the menu tasting two months prior to their sit-down dinner for 165 guests, but decided to upgrade to include floral arrangements for the table settings. “It was like a ballerina stand with flowers hanging off it and a lot bigger than we thought,” Ophelia says. “Our guests were like ‘Oh wow.’ The height was great because guests could see each other across the table.”

The ceremony was at Saint Dominic’s Church in Camberwell, and the couple stopped at Fitzroy Gardens for photos on the way to City Club. But even carefully planned weddings have hitches. “We had been up since 4am with a busy day ahead and little break in between,” Ophelia says. “When the canapes ran out in our suite for our bridal party, we requested more and the staff were happy to accommodate that.”



The floral arrangements were an impressive addition.

The couple say the way staff managed the schedule and offered personalised touches like keeping their food warm while they talked to guests, made them feel looked after.

“We hired a photo booth, and we were standing there for at least 30 minutes because all our guests wanted to get a photo with us,” Ophelia says. “One of the staff came over and asked: Would you like a drink? We can pull up some chairs for you if you need a break.”

The couple agree the reception was their favourite part of the day, with the seven-piece Baker Boys Band helping guests dance the night away. “We didn’t know what the room would look like beforehand, so it was a surprise for us as well as our guests,” Ophelia says. “To walk into a beautiful room filled with all our friends and family, and to see everyone having a really good time, that was very special.”

WEDDING PLANNING MADE EASY

Whether it's a low-key wedding with family and close friends or an elaborate affair with all the trimmings, couples often have trouble choosing a wedding venue.

One valuable source is the Australian Bridal Industry Academy's Wedding Industry Awards, which recognise the most trusted wedding vendors across the country. Businesses must achieve a customer satisfaction rating above 95 per cent to be a finalist.

More than 7200 newlyweds took part in this year's ABIA awards and voted Healesville Country Club & Resort the Best Club Reception and RACV City Club the runner up.

RACV Wedding Sales and Event Coordinator Tiana Veljović says the award is an honour for the team at Healesville. "It is confirmation that we achieved our goal to exceed the expectations of our couples," she says.

Of the couples who have chosen Healesville as their venue this year, about 94 per cent hosted both their ceremony and reception onsite, taking advantage of the accommodation rooms, day spa, golf course and post-wedding breakfast celebration options. "Our Gazebo perfectly frames the picturesque views of Mt. Riddell, Mt Juliet and the start of the Great Dividing Range, making it our most popular ceremony location," Tiana says. "Our Grand Conservatory marquee is the front runner for intimate weddings, whereas our spectacular Ballroom appeals for grand weddings with our premium chandelier, draping and uplighting available to create a magical and dreamy celebration."

Tiana's counterpart at City Club, RACV Wedding Sales and Event Coordinator Cassia Guimaraes Cardoso, says the awards give engaged couples a reliable guide to selecting the perfect venue for their special day. She recommends couples start looking for a venue 12 to 18 months prior to their desired date, especially if they want a spring or autumn wedding.

City Club appeals to couples looking for a central location for their guests, with easy access to public transport, onsite parking and accommodation. "We have a few locations at RACV City Club to offer for the ceremony, the most popular being our beautiful and exotic Club Library," Cassia says. She says having a coordinator onsite on the wedding day offers numerous advantages, including stress-free planning and execution of the day. RACV Club has a range of set packages or can tailor a package to help fulfil every couple's vision.



COVER
STORY

With panoramic views of the city, Level 17 at City Club offers couples a large and exclusive space.

LET US HELP YOU CREATE YOUR DREAM WEDDING

From a black-tie ceremony with sweeping ocean views to an intimate gathering in a native bushland setting, every couple will find an [RACV wedding venue](#) to suit them.



Healesville Country Club & Resort has numerous indoor and outdoor locations with stunning views to help stage the perfect wedding. Image: Matt Harvey.

Club Member Jan Raymond and her remarkable Jaguar-Lalla Special. Image: Blanche Clark



PLACE IN THE SUN

The Jaguar-Lalla Special evokes curiosity wherever it goes, and owner Jan Raymond has it on display at City Club while she celebrates a milestone birthday

In the foyer of City Club, a yellow Jaguar, affectionately known as the Lalla Special, commands attention. Owner Jan Raymond, who celebrated her 80th birthday at the Club with family and friends last month, is offering fellow RACV Club Members the opportunity to admire this striking piece of automotive history until mid-November.

Jan and her husband Gary have travelled the world, experiencing extraordinary adventures – like a two-week train trip from Tehran to Moscow, a 100-year Gallipoli Anniversary cruise from Athens to Venice, a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings in the United States, and an adventure to Machu Picchu.

But the simple pleasure of driving the Jaguar-Lalla Special, roof off during summer, is something special. “We only use it occasionally as it is an older car and we look after it” says Jan, who has been an RACV Club Member for 33 years. “It’s also reasonably difficult to drive, so I leave most of the driving to Gary.”

Exuding the timeless allure of early 1950s English sports cars, this vehicle traces its roots back to a 1950 MK V Jaguar. Guided by the original owner’s sketches and ideas, renowned Tasmanian classic car restorer Peter Leech built it over five years.

Completed in 1993, a classic XJ Jaguar twin overhead cam 3.8-litre

engine resides under the hood. The gearbox and wheels are borrowed from an XK 150, while the panel instruments come from a MK 10. The car also has a folding roof, side curtains, and a Tourneau cover. It has etched its place in history with six 1st place trophies, including honours from the Victorian and National Jaguar Car Club Concourses.

But what prompted Jan to buy the car? “Gary has always loved Jaguars and our grandchildren enjoyed riding in it too when they were little,” she says.

Jan’s purchase complements Gary’s car collection: “He owns an E-Type Jag, a Bentley convertible and a Maserati, so he has plenty of toys to play with,” she says. But Jan’s close-knit family also know what else brings her joy.

On her 80th birthday, two days before her celebration at the Club, her sons Joshua and Morgan surprised her with return business-class flights to Sydney for the four of them to enjoy lunch and champagne at Catalina Restaurant in Rose Bay.

“What a birthday,” she says. “We didn’t arrive back home in Melbourne till 10pm that night. My sons’ love, generosity and organisational skills combined to make for an overwhelming experience on a very special day.”

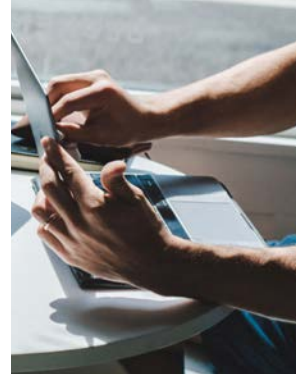
SECURITY MEASURES FOR MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS

RACV is enhancing security to protect its members' accounts. Soon you will need to use a two-step verification process to sign into your RACV online account or when you ring through to our member service team.

Two-step verification adds an extra layer of data protection by double-checking that it's really you. When you log in, you'll enter your email or member number and password as usual. This is the first layer of protection. Then we'll send a one-time code to your mobile or email. A similar verification process will also happen when speak with our team over the phone.

This code is the additional authentication layer that you'll be asked to provide to log into your account securely. It might sound complex, but it makes it harder for someone else to access your online accounts – including your personal details.

Each time you log in, we'll send a one-time code to the email address or mobile number you've registered with us. Without the code, you won't be able to log in, so it's important your contact details are up to date.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS TO STAY PROTECTED

For membership enquiries or to update your details, ph: 1300 501 501, email clubmembership@racv.com.au, or go to your online account at racv.com.au/login



Carbine Bar Manager Geoff Druce has been described as one of the Club's most beloved figures and his recent passing has deeply saddened those who knew him.

"Many of us had the privilege of working alongside Geoff. He demonstrated an unwavering professionalism and dedication to his role," Club General Manager Rob Everett says.

Geoff's journey with the RACV Club began in September 1976 when he joined as the Carbine Bar team leader in our Queen St location, marking the start of an incredible and enduring legacy within the Club. Despite facing health challenges over the past six to 12 months that limited his time at work, the days where Geoff was present were cherished by Club members.

Billiards Australia's David Pitt says Geoff took great pride in maintaining the eight tables at the RACV Club at both the Queen St and Bourke St premises. "During his career he brushed, padded and ironed well over 10,000 billiard tables, always at an unhurried pace," David says.

His secret was to iron one side of a table, then re-heat the iron so that it was equally hot for both sides of the table. While the iron re-heated he would start brushing and padding the next table."

Rob and David agree Geoff was instrumental to the smooth running of many tournaments. We will miss Geoff; he will leave a void, but we will remember him with care, warmth and fondness," Rob says.

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Geoff Druce knew all the regular members and visitors to the Billiards Room at City Club and greeted them by name.



# CROWD FAVOURITE

Chef Himanshu Sharda was the victor at the Four Chef Showdown and, as promised, he shares his winning recipe with Club Members

Healesville's Head Chef Himanshu Sharda grew up in Naugaon in the Himalayas and his nine-spice based dishes are among the most popular at Banyalla. His successful game plan for the inaugural Four Chef Showdown in September draw on these elements.

"I wanted to stick to my food philosophy of keeping it simple and elegant, along with the Naugaon nine-spice curry that is the feature of my story," he says. "The dish reflects what I call Aussie-Indo cuisine, which I believe plays a big role in our food cuisine in Australia."

## Naugaon coconut and coriander fish curry

Serves four

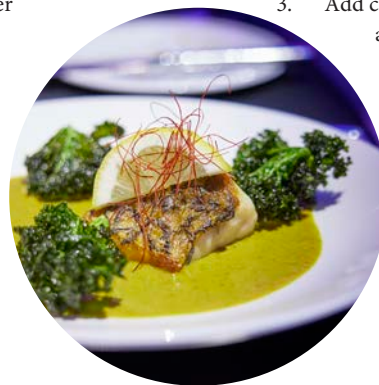
### INGREDIENTS

- 2 medium onions, roughly diced
- 7 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 bunch coriander
- 50g ginger, sliced
- 30g fresh turmeric
- 1/2 bunch spring onions, sliced
- 10g cumin seeds
- 1tbsp cumin powder

- 1 tbsp coriander powder
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp cardamom powder
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 large red chillies, roughly chopped
- 1 litre coconut cream
- 70ml coconut water
- 3 lemons (2 for juice, 1 for wedges)
- 4 x 180g barramundi fillets
- 8-12 kale leaves, fried

### METHOD

1. Heat olive oil in a medium-size pot on low heat. Once hot, add cumin seeds and stir for a few seconds until golden brown.
2. Add chopped onions, garlic cloves, ginger, turmeric, red chillies, half the spring onions and coriander roots. Lightly sweat, then add all the dry spices. Continue sweating the mixture on a low heat. Season as per taste.



3. Add coconut cream and water and simmer the mixture until the ingredients are soft, stirring the pot regularly to avoid the ingredients sticking to the base of the pan.
4. Add coriander leaves and rest of spring onions and simmer for few minutes.
5. Take off the stove and let it cool down.
6. Blend the sauce in a thermomix or food processor, finish it off with lemon juice and adjust the seasoning.
7. Season the barramundi with sea salt and cracked black pepper, and cook in a small amount of oil for about 2 minutes, skin down. Then cook the barramundi in the oven, on 180°C for 12-14 minutes or until cooked.
8. Quickly fry the kale leaves until wilted but still crisp.
9. To serve, pour 40-50ml of broth into a plate, place barramundi on top and serve with crispy kale leaves on the side, plus a lemon wedge. Bon appetite.





More than 150 RACV Club Members and guests attended the Four Chef Showdown at City Club. Along with the recipe for the winning dish on page 10, you'll find the recipes for the other dishes online. Scan the QR code for each link.

City Club  
Jason Camillo's  
Nonna Camillo's  
minestrone  
recipe



Executive Sous  
Chef Craig  
Dowling's  
corned beef and  
cabbage recipe



Pastry Sous Chef  
Josh Cochrane's  
white chocolate  
mandarin  
dessert recipe



## EXCLUSIVE CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS EVERY MONTH

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



## SNAPPED AT THE SHOWDOWN



Along with the cooking competition, Club members and guests enjoyed a four-course meal at the Four Chef Showdown event.







# BEST GAME IN TOWN



The AFL Grand Final Luncheon in September was an epic event, with a three-course meal and a panel of experts – (above right) Brian Taylor, and (top 1-r)) Mick Malthouse, Caroline Wilson, Simon Black and Tony Jones – entertaining members and guests with their insightful discussion. Images: Matt Harvey







Jazz legend Vince Jones and his band delivered a captivating night of standards and originals at a recent City Club dining event.



## 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](https://racv.com.au/club-whats-on) or scan the QR code.




Nikka Whisky Brand Ambassador Marcus Parmenter (above far left) introduced Club Members and guests to eight different whiskys at this special Members Dining Room event.





# SHEER BLISS



Healesville Country Club & Resort offers a tranquil escape. Images: Matt Harvey

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Prepare for summer and pamper your skin with a full-body treatment or a rejuvenating facial at One Spa in the city or at Healesville

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**M**elbourne's weather may be fickle, but summer is coming, along with the chance to reboot your skincare routine. Exfoliation, lighter moisturiser, and sunscreen are all recommended at this time of year, especially when there's a rise in heat and humidity.

But given everyone's skin is different, the expertise of a One Spa therapist can make a world of difference to your wellbeing. One Spa Assistant Spa Manager Nicole Naylor, who works at Healesville Country Club & Resort, says each guest's journey is customised to cater for their different needs and preferences.

"The therapists are not only highly skilled but also attuned to each guest's needs, ensuring that your spa experience is personalised and perfect," she says.

One Spa uses LaGaia Unedited products to deliver the best possible results. The Australian company has built a reputation for crafting premium skincare products with a focus on natural, high-quality ingredients and sustainable practices.

Nicole says each One Spa treatment is tailored to address specific concerns, be it skin issues, muscle tension, or the need for complete relaxation.



"The spa menu is filled with bespoke treatment options, including rejuvenating facials, soothing massages, detoxifying wraps, and much more," Nicole says. "All the treatments are designed to be both therapeutic and luxurious."

As you count the days down to Christmas, take the opportunity to relax and unwind at One Spa and embrace this summer with a radiant and glowing complexion. LaGaia products are sold at One Spa and a spa therapist can advise on which products are best suited to your skin.



## YOUR GUIDE TO GLOWING SKIN

### CLEANSE

A thorough cleanse purifies your skin, removing makeup, SPF residue, excess oil and debris that result from your day-to-day activities. One Spa therapists select your chosen cleanser after conducting an initial cleanse and skin analysis in accordance with your skin type and condition.

### EXFOLIATE

A gentle exfoliation aids the absorption of skin products and leaves your skin looking fresh and radiant. One Spa's therapists customise exfoliation treatments that suit your skin type and needs.

### HYDRATE

Proper hydration is key to supple and glowing skin. Drink ample water in the days leading up to your spa visit. The spa therapists will also provide hydration through treatments like hydrating masks and moisturisers during your session.

### PERSONALISED SKINCARE

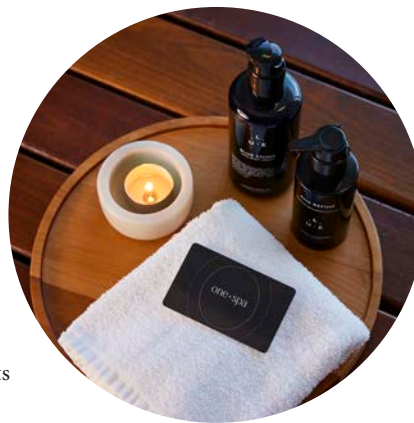
Discuss your skincare needs and concerns with the spa therapist. They will help you choose the ideal treatments, masks, and serums that cater to your specific skin type and address your concerns. Whether you need deep hydration, anti-ageing solutions, or acne management, LaGaia Unedited offers personalised solutions for each guest.

### SUN PROTECTION:

Summer and sun go hand in hand. However, it's crucial to protect your skin from harmful UV rays. Apply sunscreen with a broad-spectrum SPF to shield your skin from potential sun damage after your spa treatment.

### AFTERCARE

Your spa day doesn't end when you leave One Spa. To maintain the benefits of your treatment, remember to continue your skincare regimen at home. Use the products recommended by the spa therapists to prolong the effects of your spa experience.



WELLNESS

Scan the QR code to book a treatment at Healesville.



Scan the QR code to book a treatment at City Club.



## NEED A REJUVENATING ESCAPE?

Treat yourself to a sensory experience in the heart of the Yarra Valley or CBD.

Consider a One Spa gift card for someone special this Christmas.

Discover more at [racv.com.au/one-spa](https://racv.com.au/one-spa)



## FIVE TIPS TO HITTING LONG IRONS LIKE A PRO

Many golfers feel nervous about hitting long irons because they're hard to hit and often inconsistent. But you can approach your long iron game with confidence with these tips from golf professional Ben Eyton-Jones.

1. Make sure your stance is stable, with a slight bend in the knees for balance.
2. Bring your club back smoothly and swing through smoothly. The smoother your swing the more control you'll have over your club face to get the distance you're after.
3. Let the power come from your core.
4. Keep your head down and keep your eye on the ball.
5. Don't hit the ground before the ball. This will cause an erratic shot.

● **Golf lessons make a great gift for both seasoned players and novices. For details, email [healesville@golf.racv.com.au](mailto:healesville@golf.racv.com.au) or call (03) 5969 9451.**



Golf professional Ben Eyton-Jones offers lessons at Healesville Country Club & Resort.

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HIGHLIGHTS  
NOVEMBER 2023





Solo travel doesn't mean  
you have to go it alone.  
Image: Getty

# GO YOUR OWN WAY

Solo travel marries the thrill of discovery with the joys of forging new connections, especially if you join a group tour.

**T**ravelling solo is a liberating way to explore the world, with the chance to forge unique memories and go at your own pace. You have freedom to take off any time of year and go anywhere you want. You don't have to argue with anyone about which countries you should visit or how you should travel.

Independent travel doesn't mean going it alone, either.

RACV Travel and Experiences can introduce you to a suite of tours especially designed for solo travellers. RACV's trusted travel partners, Journey Beyond, Grand Pacific Tours, Intrepid and Globus, all understand how to create a balance between camaraderie and independence, making it possible to meet new people while still preserving your autonomy.

When it comes to Australia's iconic rail journeys, Journey Beyond has purpose-built carriages for the independent traveller. Their Gold Single option offers the lavish comfort of a private cabin on a premium train. It's an invitation to traverse the breathtaking landscapes of Australia while revelling in the company of like-minded solo adventurers.

Grand Pacific Tours echoes the sentiment, with specialised tours that encompass both adventure and companionship. Taking in the breathtaking landscapes of New Zealand, their Solo Traveller tours

## TOP OPTIONS FOR SOLO TRAVEL

You can travel on your own terms and still share the experience with like-minded people.

- Journey Beyond offers a Gold Single option on its iconic rail journeys.
- Grand Pacific Tours has Solo Traveller tours, which include a guaranteed single room.
- Intrepid and Globus offer optional single supplements on their tours, if you want a room all to yourself.

include a guaranteed single room. There is also reserved seating at all restaurants, so that you can enjoy fine food, great wine and meet new people in a comfortable environment.

For those with a more adventurous spirit, Intrepid has a treasure trove of opportunities. The company says that more than 50 per cent of travellers on their trips are travelling solo. Their tours take you into the



heart of far-flung places, where you can share in cultural exchanges and connect with local communities. Their most popular group trips for solo travellers include Morocco and Turkey.

Globus offers comfortable, stress-free travel and their solo travel itineraries span the globe. Their tours celebrate the essence of each destination and offer a blend of guided experiences and free time. Whether you're exploring the ancient ruins of Rome, savouring the delights of a Vietnamese street market, or embarking on a European river cruise, Globus ensures you have freedom and fun.

All of these offerings echo the idea that solo travel is not a solitary journey but a personal adventure. Going as part of a small-group tour has the bonus of safety in numbers, especially in an unfamiliar place.

Then all you need to do is turn up and enjoy your adventure, with time to share stories, laughter, and experiences – if you choose.



## ESCAPE

Left: Being part of a group tour is a seamless and safe way to explore countries like Vietnam.

## FIND YOURSELF A GREAT SOLO TRAVEL DEAL

RACV Club Members receive extra savings with RACV Travel and Experiences' trusted travel partners. Special deals for solo travellers are not always advertised, so call 1800 850 888 or book an appointment in store with one of our travel experts at [racv.com.au/travel](https://racv.com.au/travel) or via the QR code.



## RECIPROCAL CLUB

Cross the ditch and step back in time at The Hawke's Bay Club in New Zealand. The heritage-listed Edwardian building, on Napier's Marine Parade, was completed in 1906, and survived the devastating earthquake of 1931. The magnificent foyer has timber lined-walls and ceilings, ornate staircase, and a two-storey atrium.

The Club's modest accommodation – four bedrooms with shared bathroom facilities – makes a great base for exploring this region. Most of the town was rebuilt after earthquake, and it's a mecca for Art Deco enthusiasts. The club's accommodation is booked far in advance for the Art Deco Festival in February.

Although the Club doesn't operate a restaurant or have room service, there is a members' bar open Tuesday to Saturday, and a members' lunch on Friday that visitors are welcome to attend. The club is also located next to the Three Wise Birds Portside Bar. In the morning, set yourself up on the first-floor veranda with a coffee and watch the beautiful sunrise.

Hawke's Bay is one of the Great Wine Capitals of the world, and has more than 30 cellar doors across Hawke's Bay. Cycling along the Hawke's Bay Trails, which stretch over the Heretaunga Plains between the cities of Napier and Hastings



is a great way to see the area. A visit to Ahuriri for a sunset drink overlooking the inner harbour is highly recommended.

Golfers will find much to admire about the Cape Kidnappers Golf Course at Te Awanga, an 18-hole course perched on dramatic cliffs. For those who enjoy a beach walk, Hawke's Bay boasts 360km of coastline. There's so much to see, but you can keep it simple and unwind at the club over a game of pool on one of the two billiards tables at the end of the day.

● **RACV Club Members need to arrange a letter of introduction prior to visiting The Hawke's Bay Club. Details at [racv.com.au/club](https://racv.com.au/club) or scan the QR code.**





# WHAT'S ON NOVEMBER 2023

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## RACV CLUB UPDATE

with General Manager Rob Everett

**Wednesday, 6pm-7.30pm**

City Club

2

## RACV CLUB UPDATE

with Rob Everett (repeat)

**Thursday, 11am-12.30pm**

City Club

## SOCIAL 8-BALL NIGHT

**Thursday, 6pm-late**

Billiards Room, City Club

8

## MIDWEEK JAZZ AT THE BAR

**Wednesday, 6pm-8pm**

Wine Bar, City Club

## BILLIARDS & SNOOKER COACHING

First of four lessons with Robby Foldvari

**Starts Wednesday, 6.30pm-7.45pm**

Billiards Room, City Club

9

## OAKS DAY AT EUREKA 89

**Thursday, 12.30pm-3.30pm**

Offsite: 7 Riverside Quay, Southbank

10

## SUMMER OF CRICKET

with panel of cricketing greats

**Friday, 11.45am-2.30pm**

Level 17, City Club

## GEOFF DEWAR TROPHY

**Friday, 5.30pm-10pm**

Squash Courts, City Club

11

## DINNER DANCE

with Ruby Page & Joe Ruberto Jazztet

**Saturday, 6pm-10pm**

Members Dining Room, City Club

14

## EXPERIENCE & EXPLORE

**Tuesday, 11.30am-12.30pm**

Offsite: Old Melbourne Gaol

15

## RACV CLUB UPDATE

with General Manager Rob Everett

**Wednesday, 6.30pm-7.30pm**

Healesville Country Club & Resort

## BILLIARDS & SNOOKER COACHING

Second of four lessons with Robby Foldvari

**Wednesday, 6.30pm-7.45pm**

Billiards Room, City Club

16

## RACV CLUB UPDATE

with General Manager Rob Everett (repeat)

**Thursday, 11am-noon**

Healesville Country Club & Resort

## GLOBUS - WAYS TO TRAVEL EUROPE

**Thursday, 6pm-7.30pm**

Level 2, City Club

17

## FILM GROUP: MOULIN ROUGE

**Friday, 11am-1pm**

Theatrette, City Club

19

## FAULTY TOWERS DINING EXPERIENCE

**Sunday, noon-3pm**

Club Pavilion, City Club

22

## MIDWEEK JAZZ AT THE BAR

**Wednesday, 6pm-8pm**

Wine Bar, City Club

## BILLIARDS & SNOOKER COACHING

Third of four lessons with Robby Foldvari

**Wednesday, 6.30pm-7.45pm**

Billiards Room, City Club

23

## TRIBE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA LUNCH

with winemakers David and Liam Anderson

**Thursday, noon-3pm**

Level 2, City Club

24

## HOW MELBOURNE FELL IN LOVE WITH PASTA

with Dr Tania Cammarano

**Friday, 10am-1pm**

Offsite: Meet at Flagstaff Gardens



25

## CRAFT SERIES: EARRING WORKSHOP

**Saturday, 1pm-3pm**

Level 2, City Club

26

## SUNDAY FILM: THE HOLIDAY

**Sunday, 4pm-6pm**

Theatrette, City Club

28

## EXPERIENCE & EXPLORE

**Tuesday, 11am-noon**

Offsite: Polly Woodside

29

## BILLIARDS & SNOOKER COACHING

Final of four lessons with Robby Foldvari

**Ends Wednesday, 6.30pm-7.45pm**

Billiards Room, City Club

30

## TRAVEL TALK WITH APT TRAVEL GROUP

**Thursday, 11.30am-12.30pm**

Level 2, City Club



## MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

**SUPERVISED BRIDGE** Mondays,  
9.45am–1pm 6, 13, 20, 27 November  
Clubroom, City Club

**TRAVEL GROUP** Tuesday, 7 November  
10.30am–12.30pm Level 2, City Club

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** Wednesdays, 9.45am–1pm  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November Clubroom, City Club

**EVENING MAHJONG** Wednesday, 1 November  
7pm–9pm Clubroom, City Club

**MAHJONG GROUP** Thursdays,  
10am–1pm: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November  
Clubroom, City Club

**SOCIAL SQUASH GROUP** Thursdays,  
6pm start: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November  
Squash courts, City Club

**SOLO & MIND GAMES GROUP** Thursdays,  
9am–1pm: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November  
Clubroom, City Club

**BOOK GROUP 2** Saturday, 10 November  
11.15am start Clubroom, City Club

**BOOK GROUP 4** Wednesday, 22 November  
7.15pm start Library, City Club

**FILM GROUP** Friday, 17 November  
11am–1pm Theatrette, City Club

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



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Experience the magic of the holiday season like never before with an enchanting Christmas Carol event featuring the sensational singer, Tim Campbell. With a blend of traditional carols and original compositions, this evening promises to fill your heart with joy. Ticket includes two-course meal and show. Alcoholic beverages at bar prices. Note: this is a shared table event.

● Christmas Carols with Tim Campbell,  
Sun 17 Dec, 6pm–10.30pm, Level 17, City Club,  
\$80 per adult, \$40 per child. Book via [this link](#)  
or the QR code.



## FREE GROUP FITNESS

**MORNING PILATES WITH CARLA**  
8am–8.45pm ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
Mondays 6, 13, 20, 27 November

**MORNING YOGA WITH KATHY**  
8–8.45am ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
Tuesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 November

**MORNING MOVEMENT WITH FRAN**  
8am–8.45pm ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
Thursdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November



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



Scan the QR code, left,  
for facility opening hours and to  
book your next Club experience,  
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