

HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2021

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

TREAT YOUR LOVED ONES
TO A CLUB EXPERIENCE

KEEPING
MEMBERS
CONNECTED

racv.com.au/club

WELCOME

Celebrate everything you love



JOHN SLATTERY Club & Membership Committee Chairman

The reopening of many parts of the Club offers the chance to celebrate the important people in your life. We have [events](#) at City Club and Healesville, indulgent One Spa treatments and great accommodation packages that offer a special way to make someone's day. There are also exciting developments at City Club, with the imminent opening of a new bar and restaurant (page 4), while Healesville's Grand Conservatory (page 6) offers a fabulous new indoor-outdoor dining experience, with sweeping views across the Great Dividing Range. On page 8 you'll find information about Healesville's new Club Members' Lounge Aperitivo service and the new summer menu in the Members' Dining Room at City Club. Many of our Member interest groups have reconnected, including the Young Professionals group, with some great events planned this year (page 10). If you're a parent of young children, take advantage of our swim lessons and keep them safe around water (page 12). As you start to venture out more, rediscover what makes Melbourne great with a stay at City Club (page 14).



ROB EVERETT RACV Club General Manager

I hope you enjoyed a relaxing start to the year. It has been wonderful to see some familiar faces around the Club and we look forward to welcoming you back this month, with some exciting developments at both Club properties.

In addition to recent improvement works to the Club, we will soon reopen the refurbished Wine Bar. Members will enjoy a premium look and feel in one of my favourite venues. We are also excited to announce that a new outdoor dining space will be installed at the bottom of New Chancery Lane (page 4). Our first two Member dining events of the year are on this month and we are hosting a second [Lunar New Year dinner](#) on Saturday, 13 February after the Friday night dinner sold out. See details about our Valentine's Day dining events on page 6 and book to avoid missing out. A big welcome back to our Members' interest groups and I thank them for their patience and support of the Club. Lastly, a friendly reminder that Members always need to bring their Member card. This ensures easy access at Club entry points, while assisting the Club team with contact tracing. I look forward to seeing you at the Club soon.

CALL US OR SEND AN EMAIL

CITY CLUB
● 9944 8888
● club@racv.com.au

HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
● 5962 4899
● healesville@racv.com.au

PRODUCTION EDITOR: BLANCHE CLARK

RACV Board Of Directors

President and Chairman: **Geoff Cosgriff**
Deputy Chairman: **Greg Robinson**
Managing Director and CEO: **Neil Taylor**

● **John Slattery*** ● **Julie Green*** ● **Denice Pitt***
● **Patricia Kelly** ● **Julie Stanley** ● **Graeme Willis**
● **Simon McDowell** ● **Stephanie Reeves**

*Club & Membership Committee



IN THIS ISSUE

6
Discover our new outdoor dining venue

- 4 **Insider News:** Looking ahead
- 6 **Cover story:** Love is in the air
- 8 **Eat&Drink:** At your service
- 10 **Meet&connect:** Build rapport
- 12 **Wellness:** Safety first
- 14 **Escape:** Paint the town

CLUB MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

- 1300 501 501
- racv.com.au/club
- clubmembership@racv.com.au

ONLINE ACCOUNT

- racv.com.au/login

SHARE YOUR STORIES

One of the best ways for Club Members to stay connected is by sharing stories. You can share a moment or memory on social media or send us an email.

- Post a photo on Instagram and use the hashtag #RACVClub
- Post a photo on your Facebook profile and add the tag @racvclub
- Email highlights@racv.com.au

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/RACVClub

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/racvclub



8
New Aperitivo Service



Paint the town **14**

LOOKING AHEAD

Changes around New Chancery Lane signal the imminent arrival of an exciting new dining experience that will expand our City Club offerings

Moving into the third decade of the 21st century, we continue to build a Club for current and future Members by updating existing parts of the Club and by adding new features and benefits for Members.

Last year we participated in the City of Melbourne's extended outdoor dining initiative to help revive the CBD's hospitality sector and overcome the unique challenges posed by COVID-19.

We are now busy preparing for the opening of an innovative outdoor dining experience in New Chancery Lane. This investment will enable our Members to get the most out of their Club in a changing environment.

The bar and restaurant will make use of an existing space that has been underutilised and provide a new and modern offering for the Club in the CBD.

Similar in style to Bourke Street Green, we will launch our new restaurant and bar 'Sojourn' to Club Members and their guests soon. Please look out for detailed information in the March edition of *Highlights*.

To create this venue, it is necessary to close the southern entry to the carpark from Little Collins Street (see page 5).

FOLLOW THE SIGNS

You may have noticed some changes occurring in Little Collins Street near the RACV Club. New planter boxes, speed bumps, safety barriers, and outdoor dining modules have been installed by the City of Melbourne as part of their initiative to kickstart the revival of the city.

Soon you will also see works commencing in New Chancery Lane for the RACV Club's new outdoor dining experience 'Sojourn'. To keep you informed as the works progress, we will place signage and information around the laneway about the new space, as well as regularly update the access information on the RACV Club website.



ILLUSTRATIONS: CURIOUS BY DESIGN'S PRELIMINARY FLOORPLAN AND SEATING FOR THE DOUBLE-STOREY SOJOURN BAR AND RESTAURANT IN NEW CHANCERY LANE.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this period of change. However, these changes will benefit existing and future Club Members, ensuring the Club remains one of Australia's best. For an overview of Club improvements, visit the [City Club Improvements Page](#).

OTHER REASONS TO VISIT

We are also excited to announce that the refurbished Wine Bar will reopen in the coming weeks (stay tuned). We are sure you'll be impressed. The new intimate setting sets the scene for a quiet drink or catch-up with loved ones and friends. See March *Highlights* for details.

Also, we have extended the floor space in the Fitness Centre and added a new indoor sled track to help you get fit for summer and beyond. Fitness classes have also resumed, but remember to book first.

If you have any questions regarding your RACV Club membership, please contact the RACV Club membership team on 1300 501 501 or clubmembership@racv.com.au



CARPARK CHANGES

As a consequence of the changes made by the City of Melbourne, and the addition of the Club facilities, there will be some changes to the way you will be able to access the Club parking facilities.

Club Member access (entry and exit) to the car park will be via Bourke Street only. The Little Collins Street entrance to the car park will be closed from February 15.

If you're driving from the south, along Queen Street, you will no longer turn left into Little Collins Street, but rather drive one block further to turn left into Bourke Street, then left into New Chancery Lane. If you're driving from the east, along Little Collins Street, you will turn right into Queen Street, then left into Bourke Street and left into New Chancery Lane.

The carpark changes allow us to build a new dining experience for Members and their guests. We apologise for the inconvenience as Members adjust to the change. For details, click [here](#).



Access to carpark via Bourke Street only

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Discover the different ways to treat yourself and loved ones in February

When you have the right setting—a spectacular view, a glass of bubbly in your hand and your loved one by your side—it's easy to create those romantic and memorable moments.

If ever there has been a time to celebrate your relationship and treat your loved one, Valentine's Day is a reminder of all that is good.

Celebrate Valentine's Day in the City Club Bistro, with a special four-course sharing menu for two. Book for either lunch or dinner. It's \$85 per person and includes a glass of sparkling and a takeaway Le Petit Gâteau chocolate box. To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email cityclubrestaurants@racv.com.au

Healesville's Valentine's Day dining will be held in Terrace Bistro. A three-course meal, with a glass of sparkling on arrival and petit fours with tea and coffee, is available for \$75 per person. To book either lunch or dinner, call (03) 5969 9443 or email healesvilleclubrestaurants@racv.com.au

Order a chef's selection of hand-crafted petit fours and enjoy it with a coffee at Le Petit Gâteau in the city or order a selection to take home as an after-dinner treat.

If you and your loved one need time to unwind, One Spa at City Club has special offers for Valentine's Day. See page 12 for details.

For the full weekend experience of luxury and romance, check out the latest accommodation specials for both properties (links below).



Treat your loved one to a specially designed accommodation package. For Healesville, [click here](#). For City Club, [click here](#).



PLANNING THE BIG DAY

Weddings are back and more meaningful than ever. Engaged couples who had to cancel or change the date of their special day last year are planning their future with a new attitude.

"Couples are making more meaningful decisions about their wedding day," says RACV Country Club's Wedding Sales and Events Coordinator Alexandra Merryfull. "There is a trend towards weekday weddings, full weekend experiences and bringing lots of greenery and nature into the venue."

With the trend towards more outdoor dining, RACV Country Club has opened the Grand Conservatory, an indoor-outdoor experience and the ideal place for weddings and receptions.

"The Grand Conservatory provides a fresh take on traditional marquees; think stylish garden parties, complete with indoor trees and contemporary furniture, that blends in with the surrounding landscape," says Alex.

The RACV Club property at Healesville can deliver that 'wow' factor for couples, with a full weekend wedding that includes accommodation, golf and spa.

"The special thing about having a wedding here is that everything is in one location," says Alex. "Our amazing pastry chefs can even create your wedding cake and we have golf carts to transport you across the property for endless photo opportunities."

● For more information about planning your wedding at Healesville Country Club, [click here](#).

AT YOUR SERVICE

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK. PHOTO: SHEVIN DISSANAYAKE

We're creating different ways for you to enjoy your time at the Club, with a new aperitivo service and summer menu

HEALESVILLE APERITIVO HOUR

Club Members who book accommodation at Healesville Country Club can enjoy the new daily Club Members' Lounge Aperitivo Service from February 22.

Similar to the special service Members and their guests receive when staying in The Retreat at City Club, complimentary canapés and drinks will be served every evening between 5 and 6pm in the Members' Lounge.

This is an exclusive service for Club Members who have booked in-house accommodation under a Club Member rate and it is available for a maximum of two people per room.

There will be a selection of beverages (including both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and individually portioned canapés, available per person, served bento-box style.

To access this offering, eligible Club Members simply need to be in the Club Members' Lounge between 5 and 6pm and a staff member will be on hand. Bookings are not required.

Club Members visiting Healesville are still welcome to use the Members' Lounge at this time and order and pay for drinks and share plates from the menu in the usual way.

The balcony area is also set up, with umbrellas, tables and chairs, for all Club Members to enjoy drinks and share plates outside, with offerings from the Members' Lounge menu available 10am and 4pm each day.

CITY CLUB SUMMER MENU

Celebrate summer in style in the Members' Dining Room. The new menu incorporates seasonal produce and lighter dishes for the warmer months,

with such taste sensations as stuffed zucchini flowers and char-grilled prawns.

"We have focused on summer flavours and colours and bringing a modern flair to fine dining," MDR Sous Chef Callum Nugent says.

"We take classic flavours, such as char-grilled prawns with mango and avocado—which is a combination that's been used for years—and make it something guests might not expect.

"For example, instead of a lemon wedge with the prawns, we serve a lemon gel. It's the same flavour but we've enhanced the experience."

Callum says whiting and whole baked flounder are on the menu too. Our chefs also consider other ways to enhance your dining experience. On New Year's Eve there were truffle-infused potatoes that looked like pebbles and dry ice.

"The theatrical component ties into that modern aspect," Callum says. "People no longer come to a restaurant just for the food; they come for the experience and they want to see Simon (Maitre d) and Christian (Sommelier) and talk to Jason (Executive Chef). It's things like that which keep people coming back as well as the food."



You need to make dining reservations prior to visiting City Club or Healesville Country Club. To find out what's open, visit the Club [website](#).

MEET & CONNECT



WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK PHOTO: MILK BOTTLE PROJECTS

BUILD RAPPORT

The Young Professionals group has reset and reconnected, with plans afoot for fabulous events this year

Club Events Coordinator Dimity Harris appreciates the benefits of professional networking. Organising events relies on establishing a great rapport with people from all walks of life and—as the coordinator for the Young Professionals group—she aims to bring young Club Members together to help them enhance their social and career connections.

“There’s a lot of interest in leadership, personal development and business networking and this group is a great way to meet like-minded people,” she says.

Dimity says Club Members aged 18 to 40 years can join the Young Professionals group for a mix of social, networking and learning experiences.

“Communication and interpersonal skills are increasingly important in every profession,” Dimity says.

“Through this group, Members can catch up in the Club and broaden their horizons.”

The first event for the year was a “Reset & Reconnect” catch-up at Bourke Street Green in January.

As well as the casual monthly get-togethers, Dimity is planning a range of events for the group, such as bistro lunches, dining with guest speakers, wine, gin and whiskey tastings, and a Yarra Valley winery tour.

Dimity says Members often join the Club to use the Fitness Centre, then they discover all the other benefits.

These benefits include dining events, life-skills workshops and the free Club Mentor Program, which sees young professionals paired with an older Club Member who is willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

“The Young Professionals is mainly a networking group, but I know people who have met through the group and become close friends,” she says.

Dimity is also keen to help Members maintain relationships that were formed during lockdown.

“In August, we started virtual get-togethers once a month on Zoom,” she says. “We had a speaker for the first half hour and then a general catch-up, with people breaking out into different virtual rooms.”

“That’s something I’m still eager to do this year because it caters to those Members who can’t make it into the city at lunchtime.”

It’s never too late to join. The Young Professionals group is a great way to expand your core network.



Member Interest Groups, including the Young Professionals, offer Members a chance to engage with each other over shared interests. To find out more, contact the Club Events team on clubevents@racv.com.au or call (03) 9944 8888.

Swimming lessons and some fitness classes have resumed at the Club's Fitness Centres. For information about City Club, click [here](#) and Healesville, click [here](#).



SAFETY FIRST

Swim lessons are back at both Club locations, helping parents keep their children safe around water

Australian children have a love of summer holidays spent playing in and around the water, from beaches to rivers and blow up pools. But last year, Victorian children missed nearly 5.2 million swimming lessons and Life Saving Victoria say children are at significant risk as swimming and fitness levels are likely reduced.

"Sadly, Victoria has recorded the worst six months from July to December (2020) since detailed drowning record taking began and it's a reminder for everyone to be vigilant around water," says LSV's Principal Research Associate, Dr Bernadette Matthews.

As the summer period continues, LSV is urging parents to check for water safety risks in and around the home, including pools and spas having compliant barriers. Jennifer Kepert, Fitness Consultant and Swimming Instructor at RACV Country Club, is an accredited AUSTSWIM teacher for infants, children and competitive strokes and has been teaching for over 25 years. Jenny says it's important for children to resume their swimming lessons and regain their confidence in the water.

"Getting back their confidence in the water is important for children," says Jenny, "And making sure they understand their limits and basic water safety."

"We teach children how to enter and exit the water safely at swimming lessons and we reinforce the message that you only get in the pool when there is a supervising adult at all times."

Lots of children can feel apprehensive about getting in the water, so Jenny suggests playing in the shallows with your child or using toys to encourage a sense of play.

"Playing in the shallows of the pool can help children get back into the water or even just encouraging them to splash or blow bubbles in the bath can help." 20 seconds is all it takes for a child to drown, is the frightening message that LSV are reinforcing this summer.

"You need to watch your kids like a hawk," says Jenny, "You cannot take your eyes off them. And if they can't swim you need to be in the water with them and in arms distance."

WORDS: JESSICA HIRST. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



LOVE POTION

Love is in the air and there's no better place to celebrate than One Spa, either at City Club or Healesville Country Club.

"Valentine's Day creates the mood for celebrating love and friendship and it's not just confined to one day," City Club One Spa Manager Marnie Bennett says.

"You can gift a One Spa treatment and celebrate that close bond anytime."

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIALS

Give the gift of me time or you-and-me time. One Spa at City Club is offering these Valentine's Day specials.

- Relaxation Massage 60mins plus 45min Comfort Zone Renewal Facial, w\$200*
- Muscle Melting Hot Stone Massage 90mins/\$175*
- Relax & Rejuvenate 3 hours/\$350*

By appointment only. Ph: 9944 8884

* OFFERS AVAILABLE 1-19 FEBRUARY, 2021



Find out about our One Spa Summer Specials at City Club [here](#) and the special offers and promotions at Healesville Country Club [here](#). Bookings are essential.

ESCAPE



PAINT THE TOWN

Rediscover what makes Melbourne the cultural capital of Australia and enjoy the latest exhibitions and shows with a leisurely stay at City Club

SPELLBINDING OUTING

The magic has worked. After a hiatus of 49 weeks, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* returns to Melbourne's Princess Theatre on February 25. The multi-award-winning production had a record-breaking run in Melbourne until COVID-19 restrictions hit. Extraordinary stagework is employed to create the magic of the books, with the play focusing on Harry's son Albus, who is struggling with the weight of the family legacy.

NIGHT FESTIVAL

At the end of the day, stroll over Princes Bridge to the National Gallery of Victoria's Triennial Extra festival, which runs nightly (5pm to 9pm) until February 14. The free program is part of the NGV Triennial exhibition and includes live performances, DJs and treats from Indian eatery Tonka and Lune Croissanterie.

CITY HEART

The Melbourne Town Hall has played host to royal visits and musical royalty, including the Beatles and ABBA. To celebrate its 150-year history, the City of Melbourne is holding the You are Cordially Invited exhibition in its refurbished city gallery until March 19. The exhibition draws on newly commissioned artwork by Patrick Pound, plus archival film, photographs and ephemera from the city's vast collection. It's on 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

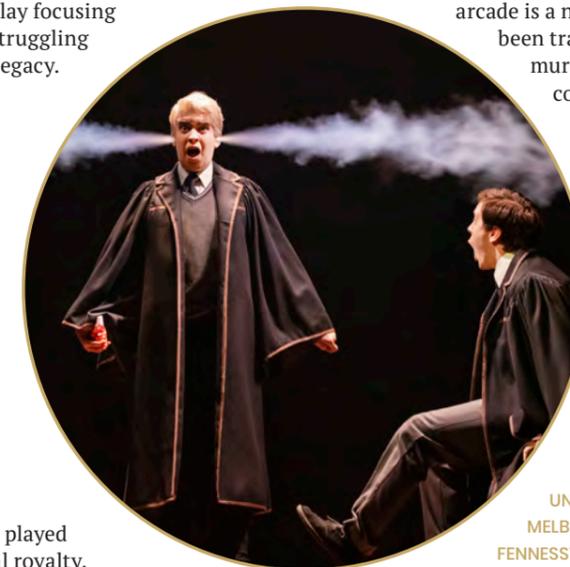
MOONLIGHT CINEMA

For 25 years, movie lovers have been kicking back under the stars for the summer Moonlight Cinema, held on the lawns of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Grab a blanket and a picnic basket and watch your favourite rom-coms, thrillers and more. New movies include the gripping

film, *The Dry*, based on Jane Harper's bestselling novel and starring Eric Bana on 7 and 21 February, and *Penguin Bloom* starring Naomi Watts on 28 February.

CONTEMPORARY ART

A step across the road from Southern Cross train station is a very public art gallery. West Side Place arcade is a new, vacant retail space that has been transformed into a gallery with murals and installations by leading contemporary Australian artists. Dubbed the "artcade", the series of installations inhabits spaces destined for future shops, cafes and restaurants. Artist Rone, best known for his paintings on the silos in the Wimmera-Mallee region, has created an atmospheric, pink-hued room filled with objects lost in time.



WORDS: SUE HEWITT
IMAGES: (FAR LEFT) INSTALLATION VIEW OF FALLEN FRUIT'S WORK, NATURAL HISTORY 2020, PART OF NGV TRIENNIAL 2020 UNTIL 18 APRIL 2021 AT NGV INTERNATIONAL, MELBOURNE © FALLEN FRUIT. PHOTOGRAPHER SEAN FENNESSY. (ABOVE L-R): NYX CALDER AS SCORPIUS MALFOY AND SEAN REES-WEMYSS AS ALBUS POTTER IN THE AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION OF HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD. PHOTOGRAPHER: EVAN ZIMMERMAN FOR MURPHYMADE



Take advantage of our Rediscover Melbourne Offer at City Club. Spend your days exploring the city and then unwind back at the Club. For details and terms and conditions, click [here](#)

REDISCOVER MELBOURNE

Book your next stay at City Club and Rediscover Melbourne from \$398.*

Offer includes two nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, a \$25 dinner credit per day, car parking, unlimited in-house movies and a lazy 12pm late check out.

Plus, stay three or four nights and receive complimentary upgrades and more.

[BOOK NOW](#)