

**RACVClub**

# HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2021

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

CELEBRATE  
THE GOOD  
THINGS  
IN LIFE

KEEPING  
MEMBERS  
CONNECTED

[racv.com.au/club](http://racv.com.au/club)

# WELCOME

## A chance to make a fresh start



**JOHN SLATTERY** Club & Membership Committee Chairman

Each new year offers the chance for a fresh start and we'll be embracing every opportunity we can in 2021. All being well, we will continue to slowly reopen different parts of the Club. We are making progress with our plans to redevelop the dining areas at Healesville Country Club, and you can read about that on page 4. Our live Club events will resume this month, and we will continue to offer online events as well (page 6). We are delighted that so many Members have been trying out the new pop-up dining spaces at City Club and Healesville Country Club (page 8). The popular Mentoring Program is returning and we talk to two Club Members about the benefits (page 10). If you need an excuse to book a One Spa treatment, City Club One Spa Manager Marnie Bennett has advice on the best way to look after your skin during summer (page 12). You also don't need to venture far to have a relaxing holiday. A stay at City Club gives you access to beaches, river cruises and nearby lakes (page 14). So stay cool and enjoy summer at the Club.



**ROB EVERETT** RACV Club General Manager

On behalf of RACV Club, I hope all our Club Members had a happy Christmas and enjoyed seeing in the New Year with family and friends. At one point in 2020, I was not sure the Club would even be open for Christmas or New Year's Eve celebrations, so it was with much delight that we welcomed Members in for those occasions. We have some wonderful additions coming to Healesville Country Club in 2021, which you can read more about on page 4. City Club has some exciting improvements planned for 2021, which I look forward to sharing more about in the months to come. Our initial focus for the New Year is to continue opening Club spaces and to increase capacities as best we can, navigating through 'COVID-normal'. I urge Members to save the Club Bookings webpage for the most up-to-date information about what is open and to book in their visit to the Club. I would like to thank the wonderful community of Club Members for all their support throughout one of our most challenging times and I look forward to welcoming you back to the Club for another year.

## CALL US OR SEND AN EMAIL

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● [club@racv.com.au](mailto:club@racv.com.au)

**H HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB**  
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**PRODUCTION EDITOR:** BLANCHE CLARK

### RACV Board Of Directors

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\*Club & Membership Committee



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### CLUB MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

- 1300 501 501
- [racv.com.au/club](http://racv.com.au/club)
- [clubmembership@racv.com.au](mailto:clubmembership@racv.com.au)

### ONLINE ACCOUNT

- [racv.com.au/login](http://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](mailto:highlights@racv.com.au)

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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# BUILDING A FUTURE

With an emphasis on the wellbeing of Members, guests and staff, we continue to slowly reopen the Club and fine-tune our plans for new spaces

As we continue to reopen the Club properties and Club life slowly returns to normal, in line with COVID-19 restrictions, we are creating a number of new facilities and experiences for Club Members at our Healesville property.

RACV Club has engaged Technē Architecture + Interior Design to oversee the project and we are able to share a preview of the proposed changes to the Sports Bar area, with construction scheduled to begin in April.

In the artist's impression (right) you can see the proposed alfresco dining extension, which will be part of the Sports Bar transformation.

Technē Architecture + Interior Design says its preliminary designs have been inspired by the local environment around Healesville.

"Taking a cue from the surrounding landscapes of the Yarra Ranges and Yarra Valley wine region, the design has been driven by a connection to nature," interior designer Hannah Price says.

"Through a layering of materials, transitioning from smooth to textured, the finishes' palette evokes a sense of warmth and comfort, while the use of joinery and furniture provides guests with a range of cosy and inviting settings to sit back and relax."

Healesville Country Club Manger Josh O'Brien says the new Sports Bar pavilion will be an open and bright space that can be used year round.

"In summer the venue can be opened up, allowing fresh air to circulate along with ceiling fans and misters throughout to keep it cool," he says.

"In winter, the venue can be enclosed and kept warm with a double-sided combustion gas fireplace and heating units. This will be a stunning addition to the Club's already splendid facilities."

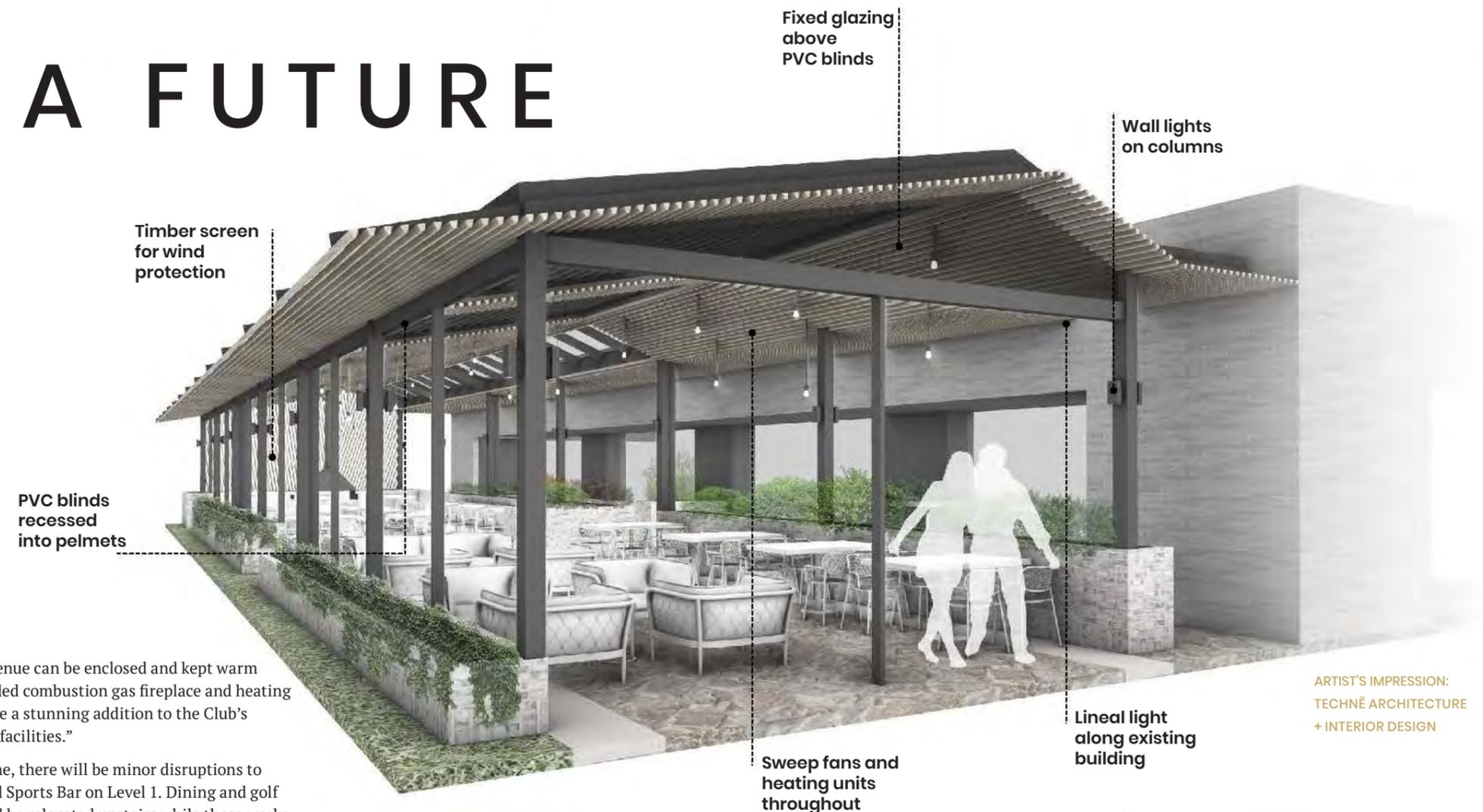
From April to June, there will be minor disruptions to the Pro-shop and Sports Bar on Level 1. Dining and golf management will be relocated upstairs while these works are undertaken.

From June, the Terrace Bistro will close while works are completed with all dining available at the renovated and refurbished Sports Bar space downstairs. We hope to reopen in late 2021 with a great new offering that Members will enjoy in a refreshed, modern space.

We also plan to host more Club events at the Healesville property this year and make the most of the fantastic facilities and outdoor spaces that the Country Club offers.

For an overview of the Country Club improvements and to get regular updates about forthcoming works, please visit the RACV Club [website](#).

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION:  
TECHNÉ ARCHITECTURE  
+ INTERIOR DESIGN

## HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Club Sommelier Christian Maier and the Members' Dining Room team for their recognition in the 2020 Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards.

The Members' Dining Room has been inducted into Australia's Wine List's Hall of Fame after receiving the Best Club List award and maintaining the "3 Glass" rating.

The judges wrote: "This is a voluminous and impressive collection that's a drawcard for visiting this vaunted venue."

Christian says the Club's strength has always been its great library of cellared wines and a balanced offering.

"This secures and positions us as one of the strongest Club wine lists out there, which is the result of the team's hard work and the passion for wine shared by everyone," Christian says.

## CARPARK ACCESS CHANGES

Access to the City Club carpark will change in February. Club Members will no longer be able to turn right into New Chancery Lane from Little Collins St. The only way to access the carpark will be via Bourke St. The closure of New Chancery Lane at Little Collins St is to make way for a fabulous new dining venue that will open later in the year. We will notify you of the exact date of the lane closure in the February issue of *Highlights*. We apologise for the inconvenience.

# SETTING THE STAGE

There are so many reasons to reconnect with your Club, with live events, interest groups and the Mentoring Program restarting in coming months

The stage is set for Club activities to resume this year. Some signature events are planned to help you celebrate much-loved traditions such as the Australian Open and Chinese New Year.

Club Events Manager Melissa McCallum says it is wonderful to be able to welcome Members back into the Club and re-activate live events.

Although the Club is operating at a reduced capacity because of COVID-19 health and safety measures, Members can still look forward to special dining events, lectures and movies.

“We recognise that Club Members have really enjoyed our online events and we want to continue those, as well as giving them the option of live events,” Melissa says.

“We’ll have our lecture series, exciting dinners and bring back favourites such as the Sunday night film program.

“We’ll be celebrating Valentine’s Day and Lunar New Year again, and now that the Australian Open dates are locked in, we’ll be putting on an Australian Open event, as we did in 2020.”

Melissa suggests Club Members check the online [What’s On page](#) to keep abreast of forthcoming events.

“We have a trimmed-down schedule, with an emphasis on quality over quantity,” she says.

“Events will be more spread out, which will give Members the chance to fit Club events around everything else going on in their life.”

Melissa says the Club Mentoring Program, which brings together young and experienced professionals to share knowledge and expertise, will restart in March. Introduced in 2018, the structured 16-week program is designed for Club Members who are looking to invest in their professional and personal growth. You can read about the experiences of two Members on page 12.

“The Mentoring Program is a unique offering and we are proud to offer that as a free Club Member benefit,” Melissa says. “It’s open for people who are keen to learn. For mentees it’s often about personal development and for mentors it’s about learning and providing experience.”

She encourages Members to visit the Mentoring Program website for details.

The Young Professionals group is also resuming, giving younger Club Members the chance to network and connect with like-minded people.

“We will be putting on breakfast and lunch events and there will be opportunities to go behind the scenes of the Club, with experiences such as breakfast in wine cellar or a VIP night at One Spa,” Melissa says.

The Club’s travel and book groups have remained active during lockdown and other member interest groups will resume soon. Again, visit the [What’s On page](#) for details.

“We are excited to be welcoming our Members back into the Club and look forward to putting on events that they enjoy and to help them maximise their Club membership,” Melissa says.



We'll keep you up to date with our latest events, master classes and activities online. [Click here to find out more.](#)

EAT & DRINK

# SHARE DELIGHT

It's easy to get together with friends and family at the Club, with many of your favourite places open, along with new outdoor pop-up venues

There's the familiar ding of passing trams, the whoosh of an espresso machine and the murmur of voices as Club Members catch up in the new Bourke Street Green "cube".

City Club Operations Manager Amanda Rottmann says the pop-up cube offers Members a safe and relaxing place to meet friends and fellow Members. The converted shipping container has a tiled floor, awning and coffee machine and you can enjoy Bourke Street Green's signature cocktail and share plates.

"The cube was bespoke built for the Club and it gives us more capacity outside to maintain a safe environment for Members," Amanda says. "We had lots of Members coming in for Christmas celebrations and we're looking forward to opening more spaces as time progresses."

Amanda says the health and safety of Club Members, guests and staff is the highest priority as different parts of the Club slowly reopen.

"It was so hard to walk in here when the Club was closed and to have it so quiet; it ripped our hearts out," she says. "Now, to be able to welcome people back in is such a joy, but we want to make sure we are doing it the right way."

She says more cleaning and sanitising is required and many staff are multi-tasking.

"It has been such a volatile time for the hospitality industry, and we did lose many valuable team members who had to find other work during lockdown," she says. "We don't have the volume of staff to provide a safe and healthy workspace straight away, so we have to make sure we open in a safe and considered way."

She says multi-talented staff members are helping the Club provide the best possible service for Members. "We have fitness centre staff who are working on the front desk and staff from the shared working space

helping in the bars and restaurants, which is making it easier for us to open up a number of different spaces."

Amanda says the Members' Dining Room is open for lunch and dinner on Thursdays and Fridays, and the capacity of The Bistro will increase as the year progresses.

Healesville Country Club has a fabulous new outdoor venue.

"The Grand Conservatory (above) provides an alfresco, indoor-outdoor dining experience, with sweeping views across the Great Dividing Range," Club Director of Sales–Conference and Events Kylie Shorter says.

"It is a great alternative space to the traditional function room and complemented by lovely emerald green furnishings that highlight the natural landscape.

"It's also an all-weather space with heating and cooling, and ideal for corporate events, weddings, special member events and social gatherings."



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

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK. PHOTOS: SHANNON MORRIS, JOSH O'BRIEN

ME &  
YOU

# MEETING OF MINDS

The popular RACV Club Mentoring Program is back and its benefits are clear to retired pilot Ken White and former ballet dancer Gennadi Koutchin

## Share your skills

The RACV Club Mentoring Program gives professionals an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise.

For program details and to find how to join, go to the RACV Club Mentoring Program [website](#).



### GENNADI KOUTCHIN, MENTEE

I thought the RACV Club Mentoring Program could give me another perspective and being matched with Ken provided exactly that.

I'd been running my business in the competitive finance industry for three years, after 10 years in corporate finance, and I wanted to reassess that I was on the right track.

I knew many skills were transferable from one industry to another. I was at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy as a child and joined the Australian Ballet School when my family moved to Australia.

I met my wife at the Royal New Zealand Ballet and completed a Master of Applied Finance and Investment when I was a professional ballet dancer at The Australian Ballet (until 2007).

I've always loved my work and the finance industry has given me the flexibility to grow my own business.

Since meeting Ken, I've incorporated more technological aspects into the business to make it more efficient and that has given me more time for business and my family, including my children (aged 10 and 3).

The RACV Mentor Program, through personal interactions with Ken drawing on his life experience, has allowed me to have a clearer focus on how to position my business going forward, which has been invaluable in recent times.

### KEN WHITE, MENTOR

I have an abiding interest in people and problem solving, which was why I signed up for the Club Mentoring Program. I was an airline pilot for Ansett and Singapore Airlines for about 40 years, and retired 20 years ago.

To my surprise I was matched with an ex Russian ballet dancer. Gennadi was trying to decide the best way forward for his business and although I didn't have specific business skills, I did have my life experience to draw on.

My job as a Commander involved training and mentoring pilots, and I think my experience enabled me to help Gennadi simplify things. My approach to tasks and jobs was to always make sure I had an overview, rather than getting bogged down in detail, which makes it harder to make sensible decisions.

I also realised that my role wasn't to give Gennadi advice but to help him find his own answers. I remember saying to Gennadi early on, ultimately everything comes down to 'yes' or 'no'. If it's a 'maybe' or 'no', you put that aside and concentrate on what is likely to be a 'yes'. That way you can progress, rather than causing yourself stress, anxiety and indecision.

My wife and I managed to escape Victoria just before the lockdown and we spent the winter in Queensland. We're back now and I'm happy to continue in the Mentoring Program, if I can be matched.

## Summer is here and a One Spa treatment will leave your skin looking healthier and brighter

After months of being confined at home, Club Members have been making up for lost time at One Spa.

City Club One Spa Manager Marnie Bennett says the remedial masseuses are booked out, and there has been high demand for the Indulgence Package.

“Everyone has been delighted to be able to come back for their One Spa experiences,” Marnie says.

She says the emphasis is on revitalising the skin and protecting it from heat and humidity.

“Hydration Therapy with a full-body exfoliation is a wonderful way to get the skin prepped for summer,” she says. “You lose all those dull winter cells and then have this lovely hydrated skin ready for summer fun.”

She says facials have been popular, especially for Members who experienced skin irritation from face masks, a phenomenon dubbed “maskne” on social media.

### CHANGE OF REGIMEN

Marnie recommends changing your moisturiser for summer, to counteract the increased humidity.

“I like to go lighter on my moisturiser. Over winter we are in heated environments, which can be very dehydrating on the skin, whereas in summer it’s a bit more humid. I tend to use a hydrating moisturiser that’s a bit lighter than what I would use in winter,” she says.

### SUN PROTECTION

Apply sunscreen after your moisturiser and aim to use a SPF 50+ product to protect the skin from UV radiation.

“You can find sun protection specifically for the face, which I would recommend because facial skin is more delicate than other parts of the body,” Marnie says

### SPRAY TANNING

Many Club Members go to One Spa for an exfoliation treatment and spray-tan application.



WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

“The majority of our clientele prefer a fake tan to lying out in the sun,” Marnie says. “The trend is to go a few shades above your natural colour for a nice natural glow.”

### HYDRATION AND NUTRITION

Marnie says drinking plenty of water is the key to healthy summer skin. The Better Health Channel recommends a daily fluid intake of about 2 litres for women and about 2.6 litres for men. You’ll find recipes for the best Club juices to try at home via this [link](#).

“Food wise, summer is a chance to eat beautiful salads that are beneficial to skin as well,” she says. “The more fruit and vegetables that you eat, the more hydration, antioxidants and good things you get into your body.”

### NEW PROCEDURES

Marnie says there have been some changes at One Spa to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Members and staff. Bookings are spread out to allow time for extra cleaning and the seating in the lounge area is roomier.

“Instead of the big couches, we now have private cubicles for each person, so they are separated by 1.5m and it’s a much more private experience,” she says.

“Our therapists will also continue wearing face masks while doing the treatments, but this is not a requirement for Club Members.”

She suggests Members regularly check the One Spa website for updates on any Club Member special offers and promotions.



One Spa has regular special offers and promotions for RACV members, as well as special Member prices for all treatments, waxing and grooming. Find out more [here](#).

# KEEPING IT COOL

You don't have to go far for a fabulous holiday that incorporates an underwater adventure, river cruise, beach reading, a lake district and refreshing cocktails

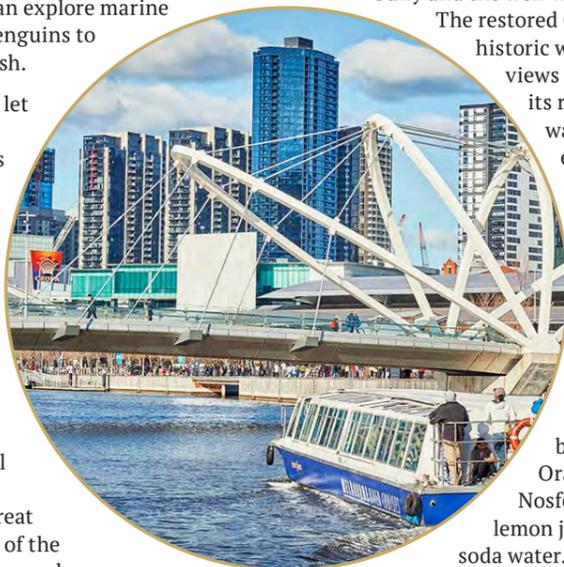
## UNDERWATER ADVENTURE

An underwater adventure awaits at Melbourne Aquarium. Kids big and small can explore marine life up close, from sharks and penguins to giant manta rays and tiny starfish.

There are 12 themed zones that let you scout the mysteries of the ocean with interactive activities as you go. Book through the RACV [here](#) and save.

## RIVER CRUISE

One of the best ways to experience Melbourne is from the Yarra River. Melbourne River Cruises offer a one-hour sightseeing cruise that gives you a different view of the Royal Botanic Gardens, the MCG and Herring Island. You also get a great vantage point for taking photos of the city. Book through the RACV [here](#) and save.



pre-dating colonial settlement make up parts of the garden's lake system, including the Central Lake, Fern Gully and the well-known Nymphaea Lily Lake.

The restored Guilfoyle's Volcano is a historic water reservoir with stunning views of the cityscape. During its restoration, the waterway was planted with water-efficient plants to make the garden sustainable. With board walks and viewing platforms, visitors can enjoy this hidden gem.

## REFRESHING COCKTAIL

Head to Bourke Street Green at the end of the day to enjoy a signature cocktail before dinner. Try the Blood Orange South Side Fizz with Nosferatu Blood Orange Gin, lemon juice, mint, simple syrup and soda water. Bourke Street Green is your summer oasis in the middle of the city.

## BEACH TIME

It's easy to get to St Kilda Beach, with a Route 96 tram stop near City Club on Bourke St.

Feel the seaside breeze on your face as you stroll along the foreshore or sit down at one of the foreshore cafes and enjoy the expansive view of Port Phillip Bay. For a unique experience, immerse yourself in the Rain Room, an art installation at Jackolope Pavilion in St Kilda where you can experience a storm without getting wet.

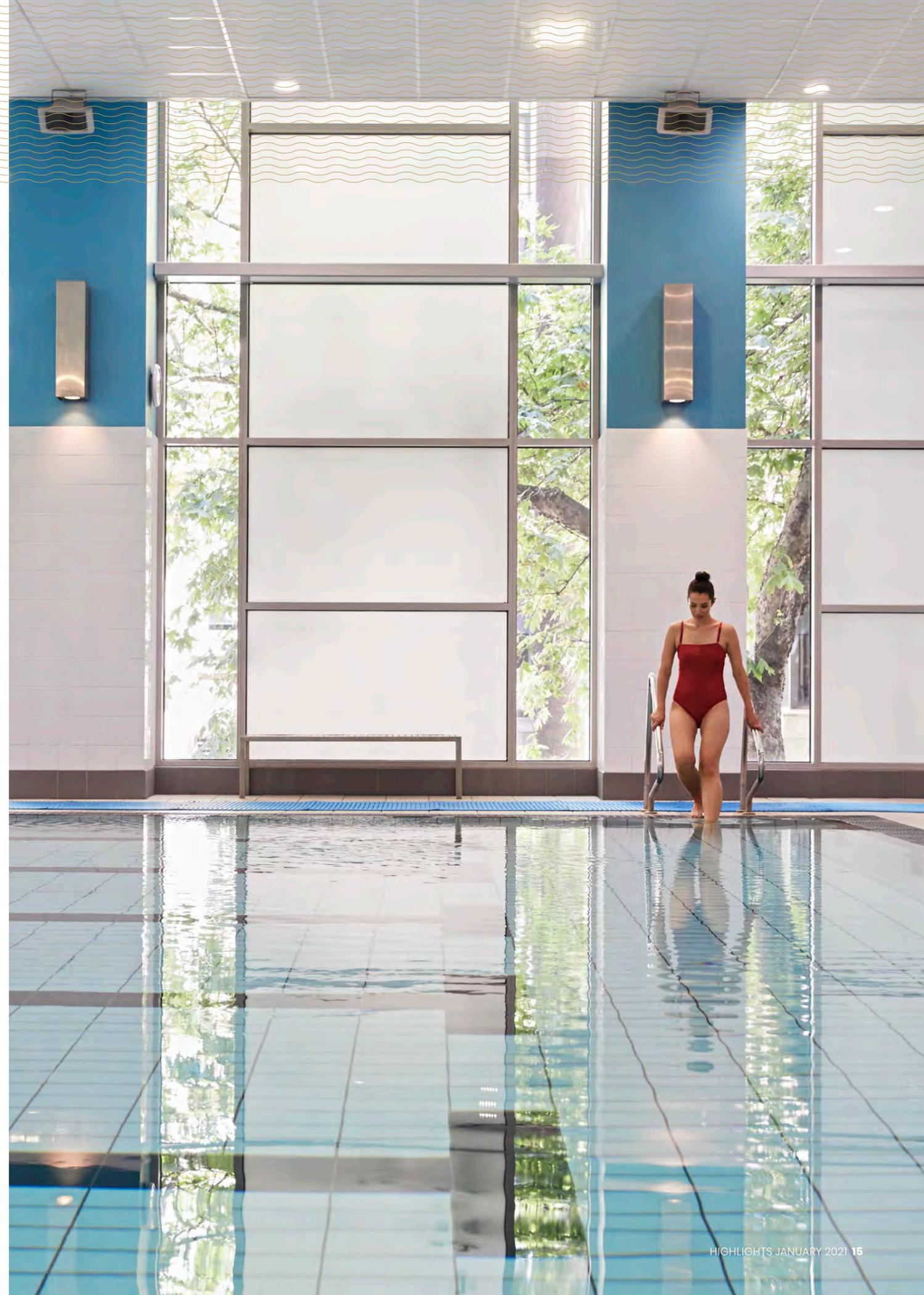
## LAKE DISTRICT

The Royal Botanic Gardens is a beautifully landscaped haven of plants and water sculptures, including lakes and fountains. Remnants of a natural water system

WORDS: JESSICA HIRST  
PHOTOS: MELBOURNE RIVER CRUISES, SUPPLIED, AND RIGHT, CITY CLUB SWIMMING POOL, COCO PRODUCTIONS | PHOTOGRAPHER: LUCAS ALLEN



Take advantage of our Staycation Offer at City Club. Spend your days exploring the city and stroll back to the Club to relax in comfort. To find out more, click [here](#)





# CLUB MENTOR PROGRAM

*RACV*Club

Share your experience or learn from some accomplished Victorians in a variety of fields. RACV Club is proud to offer Members complimentary access to an exclusive Mentoring Program. Designed for Club Members who are looking to invest in their professional and personal growth, the Mentoring Program matches like-minded Club Members through a structured 16-week program, designed for both mentees and mentors to share knowledge, insights and experiences to further advance their careers.

**Registrations for the first intake commencing from  
March 2021 are now open.**

FIND OUT MORE