

**RACVClub**

# HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2021

## STYLE & CLASS

EXPERIENCE THE  
REFURBISHED WINE BAR

KEEPING  
MEMBERS  
CONNECTED

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# WELCOME

## Wonderful events and surprises in store



**JOHN SLATTERY** Club & Membership Committee Chairman

I'm amazed how many times I can come to the Club and still feel like I'm experiencing something new. Last month's Lunar New Year degustation dinner in the Members' Dining Room showcased the talents of guest chef Leslie Chan and our very own sous chef Callum Nugent, and each dish was as artful as it was tasteful. Now Executive Chef Jason Camillo is promising that the newly refurbished Wine Bar will be full of surprises (page 6), while Bourke Street Green is on trend with a new autumn menu (page 8). Another aspect that I love about Club life is the events and activities that bring Club Members together. Find out about our talks, walks and special events on page 10 or go online to the [What's On page](#) for regular updates. The resumption of group fitness classes has been welcomed by many Members, including Bob Quayle, who shares his story on page 12. With Easter and school holidays on the horizon we also offer some ideas for the perfect family escape (page 14). With so many choices, there's no better time to come back into the Club and enjoy your Club membership.



**ROB EVERETT** RACV Club General Manager

Well, what a month February was. As I write this, we have recently reopened both Club properties after the snap five-day lockdown in Victoria. I was immensely proud of how quickly the Club teams resumed operations. February saw both Club properties at their busiest since the start of COVID, and we have continued to safely and cautiously open more Club spaces. Our shared working space in the city is one outlet that has recently reopened, and it has been pleasing to see many Club Members 'working *not* from home' and feeling comfortable in this wonderful part of the Club. Members will notice our new outdoor dining space, Sojourn, being installed at the bottom of New Chancery Lane and we can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new experience when it opens in early April. At Healesville, planned improvement works continue and you will start to see changes from next month. Some things, however, remain the same. It is timely to remind Members to always bring your Club Member card. This ensures easy access at Club entry points, assists the Club team with contact tracing and provides extra benefits when you use it in the Club and at Bourke Street Green. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at the Club again soon.

## CALL US OR SEND AN EMAIL

**C CITY CLUB**  
● 9944 8888  
● [club@racv.com.au](mailto:club@racv.com.au)

**H HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB**  
● 5962 4899  
● [healesville@racv.com.au](mailto:healesville@racv.com.au)

**PRODUCTION EDITOR:** BLANCHE CLARK

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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)

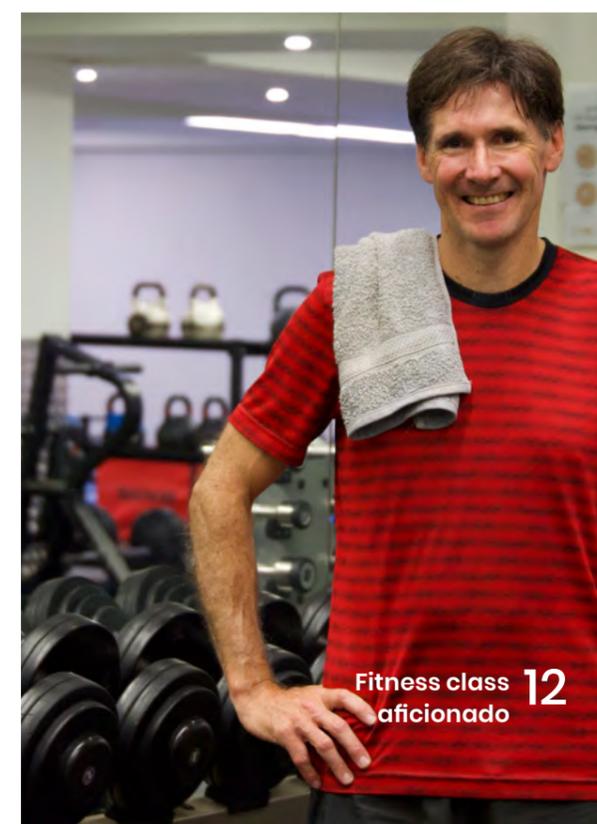
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**8** New cocktails at Bourke Street Green



Fitness class **12** aficionado

# NEW BENEFITS

Enjoy the new Club Member benefits at RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort and watch the dining areas transform over coming months

RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort is in the midst of a transformation that will result in improved facilities and enhanced experiences for Members and guests.

Club Members dining at any restaurant or bar at Healesville Country Club & Resort can now receive a 15% discount off their final bill when they show their Club membership card.

We are also offering a new daily Club Members' Lounge Aperitivo Service, from 5 to 6pm, to Club Members who book accommodation at Healesville Country Club & Resort. You'll find the details, and terms and conditions, for these offers online on our [Club improvements page](#).

As part of our future focus, we are creating new welcoming spaces that connect to the natural landscape, with alfresco dining areas (see illustration on page 5) and revitalised menus that highlight local produce.

"Our team is excited to plan and host more [Club events](#) at the Healesville property in 2021 and make the most of this location's fantastic facilities and outdoor spaces," says General Manager of RACV Club, Rob Everett.

The construction and refurbishment of the Sports Bar begins in April, followed by a similar upgrade of Terrace Bistro from July. RACV Club has engaged Technē Architecture + Interior Design to oversee this project.

To ensure Club Members have access to facilities and the golf course, the Golf pro shop and golf reception will move to the Games Room on level 1 from 1 April.

RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort has also introduced a limited area of accommodation for Service Members and guests from 1 March.

Healesville will continue to operate as a Club facility, with Club Members receiving priority experiences and exclusive rates and Members-only facilities.



## NEW CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

Here are some of the changes at Healesville Country Club & Resort.

- Members receive a 15% discount on food and beverages in the dining facilities and bars when they show their Club membership card.\*
- A daily [Club Members' Lounge Aperitivo](#) service from 5 to 6pm, exclusively for Members staying in-house in booked accommodation.\*
- A new outdoor casual dining and bar space in the Sports Bar area, and a significant refurbished and expanded Terrace Bistro.
- Creation of a new multi-use space next to the expanded Terrace Bistro later this year.

\*Terms and conditions online on the [Club improvements page](#).

We apologise for any inconvenience caused during these works. However, these changes will add value for current and future Club Members and ensure the future of our Club. Visit our [Club improvements page](#) for updates.

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](mailto:clubmembership@racv.com.au)



TECHNĒ ARCHITECTURE + INTERIOR DESIGN'S ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEW ALFRESCO EXTENSION IN THE SPORTS BAR AREA AT HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT.



## SOJOURN IS COMING ...

It's bold, it's playful and it's a new way for you to enjoy your Club Membership. It's Sojourn, our innovative outdoor dining experience in New Chancery Lane in the city.

The installation and furnishing of this new venue is underway, with a view to opening the doors in early April. The bar and restaurant is a new and modern offering for the Club in the CBD. The Little Collins Street entrance to the car park is now closed and we thank Club Members for transitioning to the use of the Bourke Street entrance.

We will reveal all there is to enjoy in this new venue in the April edition of *Highlights*. In the meantime, visit our [Club improvements page](#) for updates.

## COVER STORY

The newly renovated Wine Bar draws on Club history and the Prohibition era to create a thoroughly modern milieu with an element of surprise

Expect the unexpected when you step into the newly renovated Wine Bar.

RACV Executive Chef Jason Camillo says the element of surprise is part of the food and service in this elegant and intimate space.

“The food is local and tasty, and there are elements of surprise that you will discover only when you come to the Wine Bar,” Jason says.

“There is a long table and the idea is that we will have regular ‘producer’ dinners, giving Members the chance to taste rare and exclusive wines, whiskeys and interesting things unavailable outside of the Club.”

RACV City Club Bar Manager Rob Pierce says the new space is sophisticated with design elements inspired by the Prohibition era (said to be the origin of the modern craft cocktail movement) along with a modern twist.

“Members can expect a new space that’s respectful to the Club’s past, as well as complementing where the Club is going for the future,” he says.

“We have choices of seating: booth areas for relaxed drinks with friends, tables for dining and a long table for larger groups.”

Gin and whiskey were popular Prohibition tipples, and the Wine Bar will feature boutique offerings.

“We will have many different types of whiskeys, from popular brands to limited editions, including bottles that are one in two or one in three in the country.”

Gin cocktails will have a special touch, with the addition of locally made liqueurs that not only taste good but also support local producers and local businesses.

“We use Marionette liqueurs and they source fruit from Mildura and the Goulburn Valley and almonds from orchards on the Murray River to make these really exciting liqueurs.”

Rob says the Wine Bar is a great place to share good times with friends or have a quick drink before dinner in the Members’ Dining Room.



# STYLE & CLASS

“You can go to Bourke Street Green and be part of the hustle and bustle on a Friday night, or you can come to the Wine Bar, which is a more elegant setting, and sit down and enjoy the premium products,” Rob says.

“It’s a chance to get dressed up and have a nice night.”



For more details, click [here](#). Bookings for the Wine Bar are essential. Call Restaurant Reservations at City Club on (03) 9944 8888 or email [cityclubrestaurants@racv.com.au](mailto:cityclubrestaurants@racv.com.au)

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK. PHOTOS: LUCAS ALLEN, COCO PRODUCTIONS



## TASTE SENSATIONS

Club Members will need to experience the Wine Bar firsthand to discover the surprises that are in store, but we can reveal two taste sensations that are on the menu.

RACV City Club Sous Chef Callum Nugent says the Wine Bar is all about surprise and that is reflected in the food.

The dish pictured above, on the right, is roasted farro and braised garlic octopus with sea succulents, and a shitake and white soy consommé. Above it is the perfect accompaniment, a baby zucchini salad.

“When I was creating these dishes I was thinking about what kind of surprise I could give people” Callum says. “Members will enjoy surprisingly delicious combinations such as mushroom shitake consommé with octopus.”

“We’ve also elevated a baby zucchini salad by pairing in-season zucchini flowers with zingy lemon curd and whiskey-cured egg yolk – a perfect complement to the various whiskeys on offer in the bar.”

Callum says the menu is the result of lots of reading, research, brainstorming, experimenting and taste testing.

“It was about meeting the brief of providing Club Members with delicious, seasonal food to accompany the outstanding beverage selection on offer in the Wine Bar,” he says. “I’m strongly driven by satisfying our Members while creating new and engaging taste experiences.”

# THE WOW FACTOR

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK.  
PHOTOS: LUCAS ALLEN, COCO PRODUCTIONS

Dazzling cocktails, new vegan pizzas and tasty burgers are some of the reasons to drop into Bourke Street Green this autumn

**R**ACV City Club Bar Manager Rob Pierce says Club Members are becoming more health conscious and Bourke Street Green's new autumn menu reflects the demand for more vegan options and salads.

"We've listened to our guests and added healthier options and changed our vegan pizzas to include more grilled vegetables," Rob says. "We have two more salads – a caprese salad, and a rocket and pear salad – which should be popular, especially with the lunch trade."

Burgers have replaced sliders and include a double wagyu beef burger, a spicy chicken burger and a plant-based option.

"We have a quinoa and corn burger that's served with jalapeño sauce," says Rob. It's really tasty. Even myself, as someone who does loves the double wagyu burger, you'll find me eating it."

The dazzling new autumn cocktails, in soft pink, greens and yellow hues, also taste sublime.

"All the cocktails were designed by the bartenders in Bourke Street Green. We did tastings and worked as a team and the team itself created the cocktail list and they are very proud of them," Rob says.



Walk-ins are welcome at Bourke Street Green. Details [here](#). For all our other venues, bookings are essential. To find out what's open, click [here](#). To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [cityclubrestaurants@racv.com.au](mailto:cityclubrestaurants@racv.com.au)

Bourke Street Green is also serving a local gin, Teddy and the Fox, which is popular in a gin and tonic and used in several cocktails.

"We also have beer by Local Brewing Co. who support Second Bite, so every pint that you purchase at BSG will contribute to meals for the homeless."

Other new beers on offer include Burnley Brewing, Moo Brew from Tasmania and Furphy on tap.

## YEARNING FOR SOJOURN

We are counting down the weeks until the opening of City Club's exciting new outdoor dining experience in New Chancery Lane.

Set to open in early April, Sojourn will be similar to Bourke Street Green, but the two-storey venue will have its own wow factor, with the incorporation of local produce, fine wine and unique cocktails.

This is a sneak peek of the venue's signature chicken dish (right). All will be revealed in the April edition of *Highlights*.



DON'T MISS

# WALK THIS WAY

Make the most of your Club membership and book one of our talks, walks, dinners, workshops or movie nights. There's something for everyone

Transport yourself to the Roaring Twenties, delve into the cultural landscapes of artist Kevin Chin or hear the story behind Wallis Simpson's jewellery. These are just three of the great Club events coming your way.

Club Events Manager Melissa McCallum says it's wonderful to be welcoming Members back into the Club.

"We have events planned months in advance and there's an online [What's On page](#) where Members get details on how to book," she says.

"We encourage Members to bookmark this webpage and check in regularly as we are adding events each week.

Bookings are open for the Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears exhibition on 11 March and for Kenneth Park's Changing Face of Collins St walking tour on 16 March.

On 23 March, jeweller Adrian Dickens explains the significance of Wallis Simpson's jewellery collection, which was bestowed upon her by the besotted Duke of Windsor.

On 25 March, artist Kevin Chin joins RACV Visual Art Curator Ellen Wignell for a Q&A event. Find out more on page 16 or visit the [What's On page](#).

Melissa says Club events and activities give Members the chance to fully activate their membership.

"Where there is common interest, we will support Members to come together and form a new interest group. The Art group, which came together online during our COVID closure in 2020, is testament to that. Members connecting with Members is really important."

The highly successful Mentor Program restarts in March, and the Young Professionals group has established a member-based committee to steer its activities.

Melissa says the Club events planned for March and April reflect Member demand. "Author talks have always been popular and we have a good relationship with Northern Books," she says.

"We also know many Members appreciate the expertise of our Club staff, particularly our chefs and service staff. It means we can put on food and beverage events of the highest quality, with experts who are part of the Club family."

She says all events are intended to be inclusive.

"It doesn't matter if you come by yourself or with a partner or group, you are part of that Club community and we welcome you to any and all events."

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK  
PHOTO: LEFT, THE JEWELS AND STYLE OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR.



To find out more, visit the [What's On page](#).

For bookings, contact the Club Events team on [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au) or call (03) 9944 8888.



MISS FISHER AND THE CRYPT OF TEARS EXHIBITION



CHANGING FACE OF COLLINS ST WALKING TOUR



AUSTRALIAN ARTIST KEVIN CHIN IN HIS STUDIO.

WORDS: BLANCHE CLARK. PHOTO: MILA BOTTLE PROJECTS



# FEELING PUMPED

Group fitness classes are back and Bob Quayle is among the Club Members reaping the health benefits

City Club is a short walk from Bob Quayle's office and he loves the convenience of popping in for a lunchtime Body Pump class with Fran.

"I'm in the conveyancing game and we are constantly looking at computers, dealing with property inquiries and the like. Everything is on email these days," he says. "The Fitness Centre is my outlet. I get a break away from the computer, refresh the mind and go back in the afternoon and I'm much more efficient."

Bob became a Club Member more than 25 years ago, when the Club was located in Queen Street, first to play squash with a friend and then to access fitness classes.

"Then the RACV decided to relocate (to Bourke Street) and built this Taj Mahal of facilities," Bob says. "They said to the Members, 'What would like?' And we said, 'We'll have a pool and we'll have exercise rooms and we'll have squash courts and a gym, and they built it all and it's all for the Members and it's absolutely fabulous."

He says the Fitness Centre is like a club within the Club. "You have Members who are here on a regular basis and if you don't turn up, next time you come there are questions, 'Where were you? Why weren't you here?'"

Bob loves his Body Pump classes with Fran. "Fran is wonderful. She is my motivation, and the other Members are my inspiration," he says. "She is always smiling; she's always encouraging us to do more. It's always a case of why not rather than I can't do it."

He says Body Pump classes can look intimidating at first, especially if you see participants loading up their bars with weights, but Fran provides guidance to help you avoid injury. "There's always the danger that you'll do the male thing and load up the bar, but you do so many repetitions by the time you get up 50 or 60 repetitions, you're thinking, 'This is insane'."

He says Fran teaches correct posture as well. "I should have done this class years and years ago, when I

was really active, because it teaches you how the muscles work and how one set of muscles is counteracted by another," Bob says. "It is all about form. It's not about how much weight you are lifting."

During lockdown, Bob went for bike rides and walked the dog, but he never felt like he was getting enough exercise. Now the Fitness Centre is open again, he is aiming to do Body Pump classes twice a week and another class twice a week.

"It's a really good balance. I found if I was doing too much of one thing the body was starting to fatigue."

Although using the fitness facilities is a big part of his membership, the central location makes the City Club great for work meetings and dining.

"We've had our partners' meeting at the Club in the past, which works really well. We can get away from the office and have a quiet, private space to talk in. If we have clients who we want to thank, it's also a nice, convenient place to take them to lunch."



Book one of our Group Fitness classes and achieve fast results in a supportive, group environment. Bookings are essential. For booking details at City Club, [click here](#). For Healesville Country Club & Resort, [click here](#).

# SWEET DREAMS

Let your children lead the way with a fun and relaxing holiday at the Club. Book a spot in a kids' cooking workshop when you book your accommodation

## MOVE AND CREATE

Pull on your walking boots and head to RACV Healesville Country Club & Resort for days of play. Explore the property and walk into town to enjoy the quirky shops.

Swim like seals in the indoor heated 25-metre pool and then challenge the family to a game of tennis, lawn bowls, croquet or bocce.

Little hands can decorate and design Easter cookies and cupcakes on Saturday, 27 March (1.30 to 2.30pm, \$25 per person) at Healesville Country Club. Bookings essential via [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)

## AMAZING ANIMALS

Hop like a bunny on the giant inflated jumping pillow and keep an eye out for the kangaroos, echidnas and colourful birds that call Healesville home.

Feel the whoosh as birds of prey glide over the crowd at Healesville Sanctuary's Spirits of the Sky show.

Curl up like a koala on a bed in a Golf View Family Room. The interconnecting rooms have grand views of gumtrees and the golf course.

## MYSTICAL MELBOURNE

Stay at City Club and visit the fairies in Fitzroy Gardens. The park's attractions include the 300-year-old Ola Cohn Fairies Tree, miniature Tudor Village, Cook's Cottage, and a dragon slide in the playground.

The Ian Potter Children's Garden sparks the imagination with its Ruin Garden, Bamboo Forest and Rill waterway.



## FINE DINING

Dine in the formal Members' Dining Room at City Club. Brush up on your etiquette and enjoy the signature Club service. Children will love experiencing the formalities of this type of dining, just like a prince or princess! Then kick off your shoes and watch a family movie on a comfy couch with a bag of popcorn in your room.

## CHILD'S PLAY

Fancy an Easter egg hunt? Giant eggs will be hidden around City Club for a scavenger hunt with prizes. We also have cooking workshops for juniors on 12 April (\$30/\$40) and teens on 14 April (\$50). Details are on the [What's On page](#).

Enjoy the buzz of the city and take a stroll to Fed Square. Children can roll down the grassy hill at Birrarung Marr playground or skate at Riverslide Skate Park.

WORDS: JESSICA HIRST. PHOTOS: LEFT, EASTER TREATS WORKSHOP AT HEALESVILLE COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT. RIGHT, CITY CLUB FAMILY ACCOMMODATION. PHOTOGRAPHER LUCAS ALLEN, COCO PRODUCTIONS



For details about City Club family rooms and accommodation specials, click [here](#).

Browse our accommodation options for Healesville Country Club & Resort [here](#).



WHAT'S ON

# BOOK NOW!

Book an event or activity and rediscover what makes our Club great



### BLACK SUMMER: AUTHOR TALK

On 17 March, ABC journalist Michael Rowland will share some amazing stories of courage and community from *Black Summer*, a book written by ABC journalists in the wake of the devastating bushfires of 2019/20.

To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)



### WINE APPRECIATION

The ABC of Wine on 18 March is our latest Life Skills workshop. RACV Club Sommelier Christian Maier will teach you how to appreciate the subtle differences between great wines.

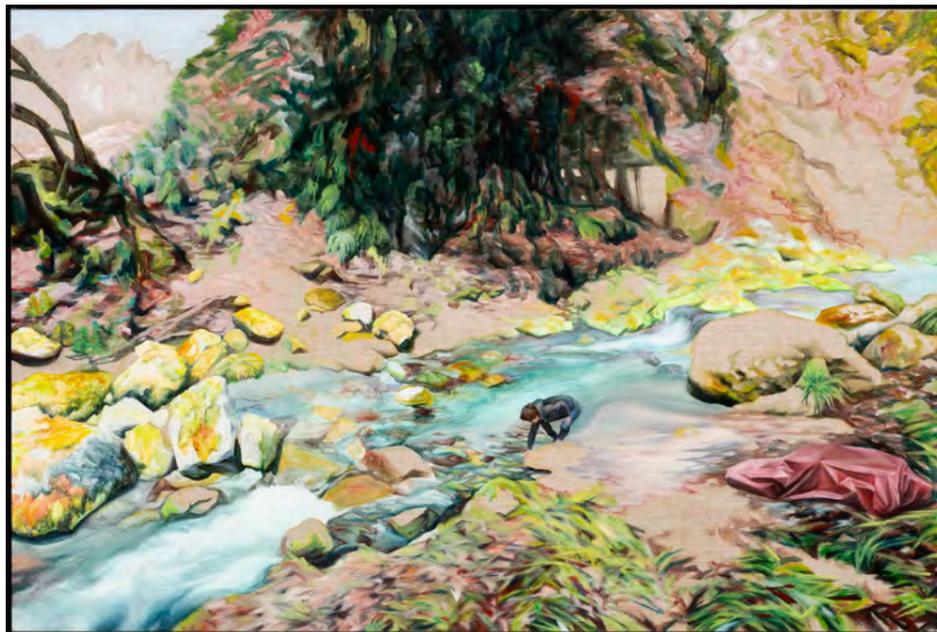
To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)

### CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Join RACV Visual Art Curator Ellen Wignell and artist Kevin Chin on 25 March, 6pm to 7.30pm, for a discussion about his artwork in the RACV Art Collection. The event includes light refreshments.

To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)

PHOTO, LEFT: Kevin Chin, *Run Deeper*, 2013, oil on linen, 97 x 146cm. RACV Art Collection. Photographer Christian Capurro, courtesy the artist.



### DRESSED TO KILL

We have an exclusive event at Rippon Lea Estate in Elsternwick on 11 March that includes a curator talk about the period costumes used in the mystery film *Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears*.

To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)



### KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

We have cooking workshops for juniors on 12 April (\$30/\$40) and teens on 14 April (\$50) at City Club.

To book, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)



## STELLAR NIGHT

The Year of the Ox was ushered in at the Club with a spectacular six-course degustation dinner in the Members' Dining Room on 12 February. Executive Chef Jason Camillo says it was the best Lunar New Year event yet at the Club.

"Although challenging through lockdown, we as a team made it work," he says. "It was great to see so many Members supporting us and thoroughly enjoying the occasion."

Guest Chef Lesley Chan and MDR's Callum Nugent wowed guests with dishes like the "Ying & Yang" dessert, pictured above. One half of the sweet was lychee mousse with strawberry chantilly and the other half was hazelnut mousse and chocolate.

"The most memorable moments of the night were the lion dancers appearing out of nowhere, the floating gold with white tomato consommé and the dessert, of course," Jason says.

Find out about our upcoming events on the [What's On page](#).



You'll find details about these events and more on our What's On page. Click [here](#).

For bookings, contact our Club Events team, call (03) 9944 8888 or email [clubevents@racv.com.au](mailto:clubevents@racv.com.au)



# YARRA VALLEY ESCAPE

Book your next Luxe Yarra Valley Escape at Healesville  
Country Club & Resort from \$399\*

Offer includes two nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, \$25 dining credit per day, upgrade to the highest available room type and more. Plus, stay three nights or more and receive an additional \$25 dining credit per day.

All Club Members staying inhouse are invited to enjoy a new complimentary  
Aperitivo hour, served daily in the Members' Lounge from 5pm-6pm.

[BOOK NOW](#)