



RACA NEWS

JUNE 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

During June we will hold the special meeting to consider the nomination of Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM as Life Member of the Club followed by the Ladies Committee lunch. A notice of meeting is being sent out in the coming days. We look forward to as many members as possible for such an important occasion.

The Anzac Day lunch convened by our Australasian Pioneers members in the Albert Room was a great event, and the speech by Robert O'Neill, Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the Australian National University (ANU) provided an informative insight into Kaiser Wilhelm II's unsuccessful use of the power of militant Islam against the British, the Russians and the French to increase the power of Germany in Europe at the commencement of the last century.

We are nearing the end of another financial year and our performance for the current year can be accurately forecast.

The current year is closely replicating the financial year ended 2017, namely a modest surplus, after significant repairs and maintenance expenditure, including the current refurbishment of the sauna.

Your Board has spent considerable time through various committees examining the performance of the Club over several years to understand the Club's current computer systems and importantly trends within the Club such as member derived income, non member derived income, age demographics, revenue and expenditure trends (including repairs and maintenance, whether expensed or capital expenditure) all vital information to plan for our medium to long term future of the Club.

It is important that this data is known not only by the Board but also members so that they can evaluate what the Board may recommend from time to time to improve our facilities and services for all members, including building initiatives which may become available to provide necessary capital for growth of business, refurbishment of existing infrastructure and capital reserves.

During 2019, the Club will replace all computer systems, currently three systems which require manual augmentation, with one integrated system. This will streamline all functionality including concierge, accounts, membership and marketing and general administration within one system providing key staff with more time to commit to more substantial matters such as membership and use of Club facilities.

Current membership stands at approximately 2,035 with the average age of member being 62 years of age.

A comparative analysis of revenues and expenditures is as follows:

	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
REVENUE	5,996,941	5,927,634	5,741,972	5,583,134
GROSS SURPLUS	4,906,050	4,885,762	4,734,228	4,653,258
EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	2,887,719	2,868,111	2,947,478	3,044,800
OTHER EXPENSES	1,693,966	1,763,872	1,753,711	1,537,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,581,685	4,631,983	4,701,189	4,581,800
OPERATING SURPLUS INCLUDING R&M AS BUSINESS EXPENSE	124,365	253,000	33,039	48,000

In relation to our aged building the annual costs expensed for repairs and maintenance have been \$454,059 for FY 2016, \$421,892 for FY 2017 and the forecast for FY 2018 is approximately \$320,000.

The importance of all members understanding its Club's performance ensures no misunderstandings or surprises as to the reality of performance and the need to develop a strategy in the short to medium term to address the necessary refurbishments and growth. The above table indicates that revenues do not necessarily increase, as do costs as a result of inflation and other factors which the Club cannot control, by way of example the cost of electricity which has increased by 15% from \$183,774 in 2017 to a forecast of \$210,832 in 2018. The following table is also instructive:

	2015	2016	2017	2018
FOOD	1,798,038	1,674,500	1,515,079	1,428,000
BEVERAGE	727,716	649,357	634,482	635,000
GARAGE	320,300	289,841	278,279	272,000
FUNCTIONS	378,863	320,771	368,284	337,500
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,425,296	1,474,155	1,465,230	1,431,000

The food, beverage and garage revenue lines since 2014 have shown a steady decrease of approximately 15% over that period, mainly a decrease in wedding revenue as the figures reveal, a non member derived source, as are many functions (without which a surplus without subscription increase) could not be achieved. Accommodation remains strong but facilities require refurbishment.

The Board is committed to continue a constructive conversation with its members to enable us to work together to preserve a special location.

MEMBER EVENTS

Members can enjoy an eclectic array of events all year round. Be sure to explore and book your spot by visiting raca.com.au/our-events.

HARVARD KROKODILOES

02 June 6PM - Victoria Room



SOIREE \$57 | WITH DINNER \$105
Back by popular demand, the Harvard Krokodiloes, Harvard University's oldest and finest a capella singing group, will be performing exclusively for Harvard Club and RACA members and guests. Join them for an evening soiree performance or upgrade to the dinner & soiree package.

JAZZ NIGHT

08 June 6PM - Member's Bar



It has become a tradition at the Club, that each month we hold our Jazz Night in partnership with the students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Join Steph and Josh, a contemporary jazz duo as they perform some wonderful tunes in the grandeur of the Member's Bar! Sure to be entertaining evening!

GIN TASTING

09 June 6:30PM - Vintage Room **\$90**



Tracing its origins back to the Middle Ages, gin was originally produced as medicine. Nowadays, its popularity has resurged via mixology! Join returning freelance spirits specialist Patrick Tully, as we sample a variety of different gins, along with some perfectly matched canapes. Don't miss out on this exclusive seated experience.

VIVID SYDNEY TWILIGHT TOUR

14 June 4:15PM (Roll Call) **\$20**



Explore the Royal Botanic Garden by torchlight with an exclusive guide and experience it as you've never seen it before, closed to the public. Enjoy the perfumes of the flowers, the sights and sounds of the garden as the sun goes down. Following your exclusive tour at your own leisure, continue onto the Vivid Sydney light walk.

WOMENS PIONEER SOCIETY

20 June 12PM - Macquarie Room
Scott Coleman **\$70**



We are delighted to welcome back Scott Coleman to the Club, after a highly entertaining talk about the Queen's tiaras/diamonds last year. This time Scott will be sharing with us, the history and images of some engagement rings from the Royal Family.

Bookings: Mrs Lorna Stone
(02) 9522 8924

LADIES COMMITTEE

25 June 12PM - Macquarie Room

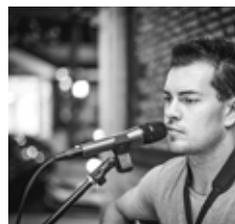
Tina Hyman **\$65**



Join the Ladies Committee as they present to you Tina Hyman and her jewellery line. Tina has been designing, making, marketing and importing fashion jewellery for over 30 years. This is sure to be an exciting luncheon with Tina explaining her design process as well as current fashion trends.

JAZZ NIGHT

06 July 6PM - Member's Bar



For July, we welcome back to the Club, multi-instrumentalist Toby J. Having performed at our Jazz Nights before, and at our Ladies Committee 50th Birthday celebration, Toby is no stranger to RACA. Join us and relax in the Member's Bar, and grab a drink or some of our delicious Indonesian themed jazz bites for only \$19.

FRENCH FOOD WEEK

09-14 July - Harbour Dining Room



2 COURSE \$50 | 3 COURSE \$65
Bonjour! Be our guest as we provide the rest. From Tarte Tatin aux poires, Cassoulet Toulouse to a Souffle aux fruits de la passion. After all it is French Food Week and dinner here in the Harbour Dining Room is never second best...
Bookings: (02) 8273 2322 | harbour@raca.com.au

WOMENS PIONEER SOCIETY

18 July 12PM - Macquarie Room

Hon Dominic Perrottet MP **\$35**



Dominic is currently a member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Hawkesbury, Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations. Thousands of people walk up and down Martin Place every day, yet few know about James Martin the man whom it is named after.

Bookings: Mrs Lorna Stone
(02) 9522 8924

TRUFFLE HUNT

21 July 7AM - Oberon Farm **\$190**



Embark on a unique tour created for lovers of the great outdoors, truffles, and fine cuisine. Our truffle hunting experience takes you on a journey of the industry. This day out includes breakfast at the Harbour Dining Room, a coach ride to Oberon, a truffle hunt, and lunch at the Oberon Farm. Book early to avoid missing out as this experience is limited to 20 guests!

LADIES COMMITTEE

30 July 12PM - Macquarie Room

Jo-Anne Hewitt **\$65**



The Benevolent Society, founded by Edward Smith Hall in 1813, is Australia's first and oldest charity. Today it is an independent, non-religious, not-for-profit organisation which aims to help families, older Australians and people with disabilities. Jo-Anne, Executive Director Disability comes in to discuss the History of the Benevolent Society and how it came to be what it is today.



OUR NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF...

GARY RYLEY

Gary Ryley hails from the kitchens of Central London, UK and has brought his 15 years of culinary experience to The Royal Automobile Club of Australia. He honed his skills and built his passion for cooking with Jamie Oliver and Michelin Star Chefs Marcus Wearing and Gordon Ramsay.

Upon moving to Sydney in 2011, getting married and now a father of two, he started his culinary career under Hatted Chef Justin North in Sydney CBD. Gaining more experience in kitchens across Sydney, Gary is extremely excited about this new chapter in his life as Executive Chef of the Royal Automobile Club of Australia, and is looking forward to producing high quality, simple yet classic dishes to members and guests.

9-14 JULY
French
food week

For one special week, we are hosting a French themed food week in the Harbour Dining Room. With delicious dishes such as Warm Pear Tarte Tatin to a Traditional French Cassoulet, to Passionfruit Souffle. Transport yourself to France with this delicious menu. For only **\$50 for 2 Courses** or **\$65 for 3 Courses** this is one treat you don't want to miss out on!

Bookings: 02 8273 2370 | harbour@raca.com.au

CORKS 'N' FORKS

Dear Members

In last month's column Cheryl told you about our tour to Handhorf and the Clare Valley from 13 to 17 June. Apart from tutored tastings at some of the Clare's more interesting wineries - think Sevenhill, Mitchell and KT Wines, and visits to others such as Pauletts, Kilikanoon and Skilogalee, one of our four dinners will be at the historic Watervale Hotel, where publican Warrick Duthy will be serving a 'Best of Clare' menu.

It's not all snouts in a glass though. We've arranged a conducted tour of the historic Sevenhill winery, established by the Jesuits in 1851, where much of Australia's sacramental wine is still made. We'll also be visiting 'Bungaree Station', an early South Australian pastoral property established in 1841, Auburn, Mintaro and 'Martindale Hall' - featured in the movie 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'.

This will be our fourth trip away, and they've all been lots of fun. There's still some places available, so if you're interested please contact me and I'll send you an itinerary. You'll find me on 0411 103 119 or by email at mogigi.grj@bigpond.com.

The other thing I wanted to mention is our Bastille Dinner scheduled for 7pm on Saturday 14 July. We'll be serving a great selection of eight French wines from many of Frances's wine regions. The wine list is presently with Chef to enable him to prepare a bespoke menu to complement them.

Our annual Bastille Night Dinner is the perfect opportunity to celebrate all things French - food, wine, fashion, style etc; so we're hoping you'll make a booking, glam it up a bit, and come along. If you're lucky you might even win one of the best dressed prizes or our wine options game!

Details of the menu, wine list and price will be publicised shortly. However given the popularity of our Bastille Night Dinners, it might be a good idea to book early and secure your place. To do so please contact Yvonne Muriithi from the Club's Events Team on 8273 2320, or send an email to eventsadmin@raca.com.au.

Graeme Jones
For the Corks 'n' Forks Committee

RACA MOTORING

RACA Motor Tour 2018

Following their successful inaugural RACA Motor Tour in 2017 the organizers, Sir Victor Nash and Stephen Wells provided a three night event in 2018 centred around Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. Victor, as usual ensured that we had a variety of dining experiences ranging from the impressive Newcastle Club to a Thai banquet in a dockside pub.

There was some coming and going during the four days but at one point 14 people were all together in the one place. The range of car was interesting with Victor's Bentley Continental, Mike Mulvihill's Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph and Peter Eppel's Lotus Europa stealing the show. However there were also two BMWs, a Jaguar, a Daimler and Ted Humphry's dominating gold Ford utility.

Among many notable moments were visits to the historic Tomago House and Leogate Estate Winery together with the first event, lunch at the delightful Pearl Beach and the last event, a visit to Fort Scratchley on a Newcastle headland where somewhat to her surprise Sue Reed was able to study wall charts showing photographs and history of her Grandfather Colonel Dobson.

Great weekend, we look forward to the 2019 RACA Motor Tour.

We would like to invite all Club members to bring your interesting car to a night in the Garage on Wednesday October 4th. Do make a note of the date in your diary now, We would like to extend the invitation in particular to those members who have not yet joined our group to show and discuss your pride and joy on the night.

CONTACT

RACA Motoring Events: Alan Hunt, 0438 290 639
hunts@optusnet.com.au

COMING EVENTS

July 15 - Drive Day To The Gosford Classic Car Museum. Contact Alan Hunt for finer details

August 18 - RACA Annual Motoring Dinner (Celebrating 50 Year Anniversary of the London to Sydney Marathon)



Gin Tasting

09.06.18 - 6:30PM - \$90
Join freelance spirits specialist Patrick Tully as we sample a variety of different gins, along with some perfectly matched canapes! Don't miss out on this exclusive seated experience



Truffle Hunt

21.07.18 - 7am - \$190

Experience the thrill and excitement of truffle hunting with this day out, including breakfast at the Harbour Dining Room, a coach ride to Oberon, a truffle hunt, and lunch at Oberon Farm.

An opportunity not to be missed, the Truffle Hunt experience is limited to 20 guests. Book now!



MINIMUM SPEND

Dear Members,

With the end of the Financial Year fast approaching, we would like to remind and encourage all members to use what is left of their "Minimum Spend" in the Club.

Please remember that if this minimum spend is not used by the end of the financial year, it will not roll over into the new year.

If you have any of your Minimum Spend left on your account, you are invited to consider gaining maximum value from it by either joining us for an event or a meal or even taking part in our regular Wine of The Month deals before June 30.

WINE OF THE MONTH

TYRRELL'S WINES BEYOND BROKE ROAD



LIMESTONE COAST CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

Classic lifted dark cherry and blackberry aromas with hints of violets and olive tapenade



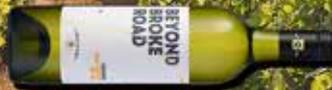
LIMESTONE COAST CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

Classic lifted dark cherry and blackberry aromas with hints of violets and olive tapenade



EDEN VALLEY PINOT GRIS 2017

Lifted citrus notes with a hint of pear and ginger. Continues with citrus and pear flavours



ORANGE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2016

Snow pea, guava and passionfruit. The palate is well balanced with a vibrant citrus profile



THE BOARD & CEO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Mr Rod Campbell
Mr Lyndon Gannon
Mr Anthony Hatzis
Mr Geoff Hill
Dr Mary Langcake



WITH VIVID SYDNEY ON FROM 25 MAY - 16 JUNE PLEASE BE AWARE OF ROAD CLOSURES IN THE AREA

For more information please visit
www.raca.com.au

11 August 12pm

SEAFOOD

BUFFET

HARBOUR DINING ROOM

\$110 PER PERSON

DENDY
CINEMAS

VISIT DENDY OPERA QUAYS

Receive discounted movie tickets when showing your RACA Member Card at the Box Office!

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FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

- 2 Harvard Krokodiloes
- 8 Jazz Night
- 9 Gin Tasting
- 14 VIVID Twilight Tour
- 20 Women's Pioneer Society
- 25 Ladies Committee

REGULAR EVENTS

- Bridge Club**
Every Tuesday
\$30pp 10.30am in the Albert Room
- Regular Army Officers**
2nd Friday of the Month
\$65pp 2 course lunch & beverages
12pm in the Members Bar
- Fluid Fridays**
First Friday of the Month
6PM in the Members Bar

JULY

- 6 Jazz Night
- 9-14 French Food Week
- 14 Bastille Day
- 18 Women's Pioneer Society
- 21 Truffle Hunt
- 30 Ladies Committee

AUGUST

- 3 Jazz Night
- 11 Seafood Buffet
- 15 Women's Pioneer Society
- 18 RACA Annual Motoring Dinner
- 23 Corks 'N Forks Tasting Tour
- 27 Ladies Committee

THE MADNESS RETURNS

26 OCTOBER 7PM

\$149 (INCLUDES 3 COURSE MEAL & 2 HOUR SHOW)

FAULTY TOWERS
the Dining Experience

Faulty Towers: The Dining Experience return to RACA this October for another performance, after a smash out show last year! Serving up a 70s styled 3 course meal, this will be all forms of entertaining.

Bookings: (02) 8273 2322 | eventsadmin@raca.com.au



PERMANENT PARKING

We currently have a permanent parking spot on offer in a safe, secured garage.

For more information contact Markus Friedler (CEO/Secretary Manager) on 02 8273 2330 or ceo@raca.com.au