



Est. 1903

R A C A N E W S

July 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Another financial year has just ended and our Club, due to the loyalty of its members, its many interest groups and the tremendous effort from our management team, has traversed the very challenging COVID-19 effects with a surplus forecast before the effects of the outbreak in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney during the last two weeks of the financial year which will cost the Club up to \$40,000 in revenue. Even allowing for that downgrade the result is a good one in all of the prevailing circumstances.

Importantly, without JobKeeper, the last quarter, before we adjust for the outbreak, was in surplus, an indicator that the business without JobKeeper has improved and is viable.

We have previously reported to you the effect of the border closure on accommodation (-30%) which will not abate any time soon, and other revenue reductions and guarded forecasts as the outcome of COVID-19 then remained unpredictable, and remains so as illustrated by the number of recent and current outbreaks.

Notwithstanding, a combination of an outstanding effort by our Executive Chef and F&B Operations their team and the quality of menu and cuisine and service and the meticulous focus on cost retention by Mr Friedler and the RACA Team, even after JobKeeper ended, the Club has traded in surplus.

The Board applauds and thanks the efforts of our Ladies Committee, so ably and enthusiastically led by our Ladies President and Life member, Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM, the support from our Women's Pioneer Society and the Australasian Pioneers' Club, support of our members' functions and Corks n Forks functions, our Motor Enthusiasts, the Lower Deck lunches, BNI breakfasts, and all of the members who have supported the Members Bar, the Harbour Room restaurant, Jazz nights, Classical nights, genealogy, bridge, snooker and accommodation and car parking.

The combination of all member participants has enabled management to financially craft a surplus.

Critics may proffer otherwise, however the business of any Club or restaurant is a tough business without COVID-19 and the Board can only commend your management team, and implore you to ignore negativity. Having answered real challenges to our very existence, all members of staff deserve our thanks and acknowledgement of real achievement in the face of such adversity.

Whilst our figures remain to be finalised and audited for the upcoming AGM, management have achieved costs savings of almost \$470,000 during this financial year.

The Board and Mr Friedler, despite the pressures to ensure that the Club competently traversed the effects of COVID-19, have continued to pursue a solution to financing not only the completion of the Albert Street façade but also the Cahill Expressway façade and internal conservation of our heritage building. The Board also remains focused on completing a roof top bar, which requires approvals from Council, the liquor authority and the need to appease our neighbour. The Club has attended to waterproofing and guard railing to date.

Meetings have been held with Sydney City Council to determine whether or not the Club can proceed in stages to draw down any heritage floor space sale proceeds (usually only after conservation works have been carried out).

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Council has favourably indicated in principle that it may consider recognising capital façade works funded to date (\$1.2m) and heritage lift replacement (\$0.4m) and other heritage capital works as conservation works having been completed as part of our conservation management plan. The effect would be that the Club may be able to draw upon, and fund the finalisation of Albert Street façade works from a sale of its heritage floor space in stages. As further works are completed, further drawdowns would be actioned.

As previously advised to members total heritage floor space proceeds are estimated to be in a range of \$6 to 8 million. Albert Street façade costs have been estimated to be approximately \$700,000 depending upon the materials which may be approved by Council.

Members will be further updated prior to the Annual General Meeting in October 2021.

Please continue to support your Club as the Board and management continue the path for the Club to sustained surpluses, and to finalise the conservation management plan for internal and external restoration and preservation.

Best regards,

Michael Callanan
President



LADIES COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the Members and Guests that braved the cold and enjoyed our last Luncheon at the Club.

We may never see snow at Christmas in Sydney, but it is certainly cold enough now to throw on a woolly jumper and enjoy a Christmas in July. Our Christmas feast will include canapés and a two-course meal complemented by a glass of wine, beer or soft drink and live modern Jazz Music will get you into the Christmas spirit this Winter.

The Ladies Committee Luncheons are enjoyed by both men and women so please join us for a wonderful afternoon of entertainment and delicious food.

We do hope to see you all there.

Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM
President of the RACA Ladies Committee.



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MOTORING

The Motoring Group is made of members who typically belong to other marque-specific clubs and it is pleasing to see some of those clubs start to use the RACA as a venue for meetings, dinners and other events. With the rich heritage of our Club it is a logical place to encourage your club to use the facilities whether it is a breakfast or dinner meeting in the Harbour Room or a more formal event in the Macquarie or Victoria Rooms. Many of the meeting rooms have images from an earlier time of motoring that could complement the topics to be discussed and the building is in a central location for all visitors.

Don't forget our Fluid Fridays are a great way to catch up with other members and our next Motoring Quiz will be held in August - look out for more details in a few weeks.

For any further information please contact Stephen Wells via motoring@raca.com.au or <https://www.facebook.com/RACAMEG>



CORKS 'N' FORKS

Dear Members

The next Corks 'n' Forks event for the year will be our annual Bastille Dinner on Wednesday 14 July at 7pm.

Our Bastille Dinner is always a great night. It's the perfect opportunity to glam it up a bit and celebrate all things French – food, wine, fashion, style etc. There'll be a great selection of French wines from many of Frances's wine regions, chosen and presented by Ian Cook from Five Way Cellars, to complement the menu below crafted by Chef and his team:

Canapes

Salmon Gougères

Duck and Pork Rilette with Pickled Mushroom and Cassis Jelly and Brioche

1st Course

Bouillabaisse with Garlic Rouille

2nd Course

Daube of Beef with celeriac, eshallot, mushroom and peas

3rd Course

Selection of French Cheese with socca, crackers, fig and candied walnuts

4th Course

Grand Marnier Souffle



Regarding the wines, we're going to do things slightly differently this year. There'll be 10 wines as usual, however of the 2 wines to be served with the canapés and each of the first 3 courses, we'll be serving one of them 'blind' – ie the bottle will be masked and the wine's identity won't be known till after the 'reveal'. It will be up to someone from each table, representing the collective wisdom of that table, to hazard a guess as to what they are. Please be assured it won't be too serious; however it should be a lot of fun!

We'll somehow choose a winner, who'll receive a nice prize. There'll also be prizes for the best dressed man and woman. Our previous Bastille dinners have proven popular with members and their guests, so if you're interested I suggest you make an early booking by contacting Yvonne Muriithi at the Club on 8273 2322 or by email at events@raca.com.au The all-inclusive price is \$189 per head.

Graeme Jones

For the Corks 'n' Forks Committee

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HIGH TEA



CORKS 'N' FORKS - MURRAY COD DINNER



Stay up to date on the latest news from your club!

Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram to be the first to hear about upcoming events.



Royal Automobile Club of Australia
89 Macquarie St Sydney | 02 8373 2300
www.raca.com.au



We want your feedback!

The RACA team take pride in the service provided to our Members and we welcome feedback to ensure we are on the right track.

Feedback is welcome at any time via email to feedback@raca.com.au or, for your convenience, visit our website to download a pdf version of a short questionnaire which can be saved and attached to your email.

Your comments and recommendations will be passed on to the RACA Board Members.

feedback@raca.com.au



THE BOARD & CEO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Mary-Ann Baldock
Mr Michael Barbour
Mr James Barnier
Mr Michael Bersten
Mrs Suzanne Calvert
Mr Andrew Cannon
Mr David Cohen
Mrs Jillian Cranney
Mr Andrew Curlewis

Mr Mark Davis
Mr Laurie Horin
Ms Sarah Hunter
Ms Karen McKenzie
Hon Datuk Ganasan Narianasamy
Ms Jan Reeves
Mr Graham Solomon
Ms Kim Strong-Fick



MEMBER EVENTS

We have a number of fantastic upcoming events for members and their guests.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

JAZZ NIGHT

2 July 6PM



The tradition continues at the Club, with Jazz Night on the first Friday of each month.

Join us and grab a some of our Greek themed jazz bites for only \$25.

Bookings:
harbour@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2370

LADIES COMMITTEE

26 July 12PM

\$58



The Ladies Committee invite you to attend our Christmas in July party.

This special luncheon will include live modern jazz music, canapés & a two course meal!

Book now to avoid missing your place.

Bookings:
events@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2320

FRENCH FOOD WEEK

12 - 17 July

\$60 - \$70



In honour of the upcoming Bastille Day Celebrations, our Executive Chef has prepared the most magnifique French menu!

Don't worry if you can't decide on one dish, the French Food Menu is available all week from the 12th July. Available for Lunch and Dinner service in the Harbour Dining Room.

Bookings:
harbour@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2370

VIVID BOAT CRUISE

17 & 18 August 5:30PM

\$29-\$49



Experience the VIVID Sydney Festival from a prime location cruising Sydney Harbour on a private and exclusive luxury motor catamaran (Fleetwing II).

Perfect to bring the family along to see the spectacular sights and sounds. Skip the crowds and enjoy the scenic views of Sydney's beautiful landmarks.

Bookings:
events@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2320

CORKS 'N' FORKS BASTILLE DAY DINNER

14 July 7PM

\$189



The annual Bastille Day Dinner is the perfect opportunity to glam it up a bit and celebrate all things French – food, wine, fashion, style etc.

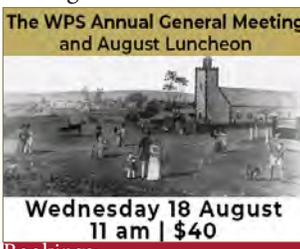
There'll be a great selection of French wines from many of Frances's wine regions, chosen and presented by Ian Cook from Five Way Cellars, to complement the menu.

Bookings:
events@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2320

WOMEN'S PIONEER SOCIETY

18 August 11AM

\$40



The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc. invite you to the WPS Annual General Meeting and August Luncheon.

Guest Speakers, Two WPS Members

- Rhonda Brownlow- "My First Fleet Convicts arriving on the Charlotte 1788"
- Judy Corp- Elizabeth Julia McKeahnie (1844-1919)

Bookings:
Please contact Ann Lisle on
0407 958 582

CLASSICAL NIGHT

16 July 6PM



Join us in the Members Bar on the third Friday of each month at the Club and be entertained with live Classical music!

June's highlighted composer is Beethoven. Enjoy 'Classical Bites' for \$25, designed to pay tribute to the composer's country of origin, and why not indulge in a signature cocktail for \$10.

Bookings:
harbour@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2370

ANNUAL DUNBAR LUNCHEON

24 August 12PM

\$75



Join us for the Annual Dunbar Luncheon as we welcome special guest speaker, Australian novelist, Meg Keneally.

She will be presenting on the Dunbar ships history, impact of the shipwreck on Sydney and the personal story of James Johnson... the only survivor.

Bookings:
events@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2320

WOMEN'S PIONEER SOCIETY

21 July 12PM

\$80



The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc. invite you to a special two course lunch with Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC.

To reserve your place contact Anne Lisle on 0407 958 582.

Bookings:
Please contact Ann Lisle on
0407 958 582

LADIES COMMITTEE

30 August 12PM

\$58



Join the Ladies Committee as we welcome Toni Burnham. Toni has been a WIRES volunteer for over ten years.

Toni will be speaking on her time working at WIRES. This is sure to be an interesting luncheon, book now to avoid missing out.

Bookings:
events@raca.com.au or
(02) 8273 2320

WINE OF THE MONTH



JOSEPH DROUHIN MACON-VILLAGES 2019

The colour of the wine is bright and limpid. The nose is floral and fruity. Very straightforward and direct on the palate, as if biting into a grape. Fresh and light, with a very pleasant after-taste.



JOSEPH DROUHIN BEAUJOLAIS- VILLAGES 2019

A truly convivial wine. Owing to the careful blending of various terroirs, the result is a wine of great charm. It has a lovely raspberry colour and a brilliant hue. The nose is both refined and intense, with notes of violet, peony and red fruit syrup. As you drink it, it feels fresh and silky. Both freshness and fruit remain for quite a long time on the palate.



DOMAINE DE BEURENARD CÔTES DU RHÔNE 2019

Our Côtes du Rhône 2019 offers a delicate and supple texture, a deep and juicy fruit with refreshing notes of Provençal herbs for an immediate pleasure.



MIRABEAU CLASSIC ROSÉ 2019

A luminous pink colour with lavish aromas, expressive red summer fruit remains the essence of this best-selling rosé. Mirabeau Classic has a beautiful concentration, with raspberry, strawberry and redcurrant flavours taking centre stage, all finely balanced by refreshing acidity. A perfect aperitif for an alfresco moment, it's also structured enough to accompany flavoursome food. Feel free to drink it as we do in Provence, anytime and with almost anything!



VEUVE TAILHAN BLANC DE BLANCS NV

Pale golden colour. This wine develops aromas of apple and pear and is pleasant to the taste.

FOR YOUR DIARY

REGULAR EVENTS

Bridge Club

Every Tuesday
\$35pp 10.30am in the Harbour Dining Room

Army Officer's Lunch

2nd Friday of the Month
Next: Friday 9 July
\$70pp 2 course lunch & beverages
12pm in the Members Bar

Fluid Fridays

Last Friday of each month
Next: Friday 30 July
6pm in the Pioneers' Room

Just Infantry

Normally 1st Thursday of the Month
Next: Thursday 1 July
12pm Members Bar, 12:30pm
Harbour Dining Room Lunch

JULY

- 2 Jazz Night
- 12-17 French Food Week
- 14 Corks 'n' Forks Bastille Day Dinner
- 16 Classical Night
- 21 Women's Pioneer Society
- 26 Ladies Committee

AUGUST

- 6 Jazz Night
- 6-28 Vivid
- 17 & 18 Vivid Boat Cruise
- 18 Women's Pioneer Society
- 19 Corks 'n' Forks
- 20 Classical Night
- 24 APC Dunbar Lunch
- 30 Ladies Committee

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Jazz Night
- 15 Women's Pioneer Society
- 17 Classical Night
- 20-2 OCT Oktoberfest Food Week
- 21 Feast for Peace and performer for international peace day
- 27 Ladies Committee

DINNER 2 COURSE - \$55 | 3 COURSE- \$65

Entrée

Saffron Risotto

with zucchini flower, chicken and basil mousse.
Beetroot Cured Kingfish
with compressed cucumber, radish, watercress and citrus

Mains

Herb Crusted Snapper

with curried potatoes, peas, asparagus and roasted onion
Roasted Pork Belly
with pumpkin, braised red cabbage and kale

Dessert

White Chocolate Panna Cotta

with strawberry, mango and mint
Orange Pavlova
with lime curd, blueberries and rhubarb

Bookings are essential, please contact
the Harbour Dining Room on
02 8273 2370 or harbour@raca.com.au

Harbour Dining Room VIVID Menu 9 - 28 August 2021



VIVID BOAT CRUISE

17th & 18th August, 2021

\$49 Per Adult
\$29 Per Child (0-12 years)

Booking: eventsadmin@raca.com.au
8273 2322

VIVID ROAD CLOSURES



Road closures will be put in place by the NSW Government from Friday through to Sunday during VIVID, 8-28 August 2021, that will affect entry to our Garage. More information will be available as soon as they are provided to us by the event organiser but please note only pre-bookings will be permitted access to the Club including Parking, Dining and Accommodation.