



CLUB'S 115TH BIRTHDAY

RACA NEWS

APRIL 2018

LADIES COMMITTEE 50TH BIRTHDAY



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Our 115th Anniversary

Thank you to our special guests His Excellency General David Hurley AC DSC Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Hurley, and our many members and guests who made our 115th anniversary celebration on 17 March 2018 such a success.

Our members and guests gratefully received His Excellency's detailed dissertation of the history of Sydney and RACA, the change in Circular Quay commencing with Governor Macquarie's vision for Sydney Town, the advocacy of motorists and road rules by the Club, the provision of cars by Club members to assist the First Australian Imperial Force and transport wounded soldiers, and punctuated with subtle humour, a speech which we will preserve for our Club's history.

We were pleased to welcome our past Presidents Mr Gavin Thomas, Mr Bruce Fischer and Mr Ross Wagland and our Ladies President Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM, members of our interest groups, our esteemed defence force members, our lady members, including our Women's Pioneer Society, Motor Enthusiasts, Corks 'N' Forks, Snooker and Bridge groups.

Mr Bayne Kelly was unfortunately out of Sydney but sent his best wishes for a successful evening, as did Colonel Haynes who could not be with us

Ladies Committee 50th Anniversary

On Monday 26 March 2018, the Ladies Committee celebrated their 50th year anniversary, having been first established in 1968. As an independent and autonomous Committee within the Club, our women have been without peer in their contribution to both the preservation and growth of this Club, providing an open monthly forum for the coming together of club members and guests, for all who may wish to attend.

Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM has led the Ladies Committee for 25 years with unstinting commitment and success, never failing to attract a wide range of guests, including authors, fashion designers, politicians, art commentators, retired senior detectives and journalists to name but a few, to entertain and fascinate the attendees of any age and gender, both members and guests. Such effort and devotion is an attribute confined to special people who are prepared to inconspicuously give for the benefit of many. Margaret and her Committee have adopted the NSW Cancer Council as a worthy Community partner for their support. These pursuits complement Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith's wonderful career in education shaping our youth for the future.

Life membership for Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM

As announced at the Ladies Committee 50th anniversary lunch, the Board has unanimously resolved to convene a special meeting of members to elect Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM as a life member of the Club for her magnificent contribution to our Club over many years. An appropriate venue to hold both the special meeting and also celebrate such an important recognition of achievement will be to hold the meeting prior to the commencement of the Ladies

Committee luncheon in June 2018, which provides an opportunity for all present to stay and experience first hand a 50 year old institution known as our Ladies Committee luncheon. Notices of that meeting will be sent to members in early April 2018.

Our Future

The landscape of Club life in the city of Sydney has changed significantly over the past decade with financial pressures seeing the closure of a number of established Clubs, including the Associated Schools Club, The American Club and the current plans to redevelop City Tattersalls Club and the transformation of Tattersalls Club. In part those pressures have resulted from a diminution of membership and the failure of such Clubs to attract and hold new members. This Club has survived for over a century with one of the best locations in the world with the support of its members, who again have significantly reduced in number over the past 25 years. It is important to sustain current interest groups that constitute the corpus of our membership and stimulate further interests who need a base in Sydney, as do our country members who greatly support our Club.

That said, 90 years of wear and tear on a building opened on 23 March 1928 by the then Governor Admiral Sir Dudley Rawson Stratford de Chair, as noted in his speech by His Excellency, requires constant vigilance and cost to maintain such a heritage masterpiece on the shores of Sydney. There have been a recent views expressed by some members that room refurbishments should remain of heritage character rather than a modern touch which may not be in keeping with the building. The challenge for the Club is that to carry out such refurbishments would require capital expenditure in the order of \$50,000 per room or well in excess of \$1 million, in addition to the urgently needed funds to refurbish Albert Street (upwards of \$2 million). These are minimum immediate requirements for such a building. Your current Board continues to search out feasibilities to not only provide necessary funds without any significant upward pressure on membership subscriptions, but also preserving such a historic location for the next century.

Being a not for profit Club with modest annual surpluses (which is constantly under pressure from increasing costs, small annual decline in total membership and use of some Club services) there is constant challenge for Board and management that requires, and will require, responsible and diligent examination and communication with members to ensure we all work together to achieve a secure and sustainable future for many years to come.

The first priority is to maintain and grow membership. It is also a short to medium term priority to secure capital reserves necessary to preserve and provide our members their place on the shores of Circular Quay and all of their required services, thereby ensuring that this Club secures the next century of its existence and service of the community. ■

Michael Callanan
President

CORKS 'N' FORKS

Dear Members,

Our "Iberian" tasting tour at 6pm in the Vintage Room, 24 May, \$90pp. There'll be around 12 wines to taste, starting with several sherries from Jerez, followed by some interesting reds and whites from Spain and Portugal, and finishing up with some ports from Portugal and maybe a Pedro Ximenez from Spain.

For those who've not been before, our 'tasting/tours' are relaxed, informal and educative evenings designed to appeal to members and their guests seeking an introduction to the wonderful world of wine or to expand their existing knowledge. Held in the seated comfort of the Vintage Room and limited to 15 places. The wines are served in several flights, accompanied by small food courses to match the wines.

This year's trip away to Hahndorf and the Clare Valley in South Australia from 13 - 17 June. Itinerary to be confirmed; however expect to assemble in Enzo's restaurant in Adelaide for dinner on the Wednesday night, and then travel by bus the next day to Hahndorf and then on to the Clare Valley for three nights staying at the Clare Country Club. Then it's back to Adelaide on the Sunday to do as you wish.

While in the Clare Valley we'll visit some interesting wineries; see the sights, including 'Martindale Hall' - featured in the movie 'Picnic at Hanging Rock', and the historic 'Sevenhill Estate' which remains in Jesuit ownership and produces beautiful table and sacramental wines; and discuss it all at night over three good dinners. This will be our 4th 'odyssey'; the previous three being to the Barossa, Rutherglen and Beechworth, and the Mornington Peninsula and Yarra Valley. They're a lot of fun. If you're interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Please note, Bests Wine Dinner postponed until later in the year, new date to be advised. Apologies for the inconvenience. If you want to book a place or obtain more information regarding the Clare Valley odyssey, contact 0411 103 119 or mogigi.grj@bigpond.com.

Graeme Jones
For the Corks 'n' Forks Committee

WINE OF THE MONTH



Single Vineyard Pokolbin Hills Semillon 2017

The combination of natural gentle acid, alcohol & yeast complexity gives the palate a richness & softness.



Rufus Stone Heathcote Shiraz 2014

The palate shows an abundance of dark fruit with lovely integration between the French oak and acid.



LADIES COMMITTEE

On Monday 26 February, 2018 the Ladies Committee held their first luncheon for 2018.

44 members and their guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by our Executive Chef, while they enjoyed the usual wonderful talk given by Susannah Fullerton.

Susannah's topic was author Winston Graham and his popular novel about Ross Poldark.

I don't believe there has been so many fluttering hearts among the ladies since we first met handsome Jane Austen's Mr Darcy. Ross Poldark was described as a handsome and brooding hero - this we all agreed was very accurate!

The next luncheon will be held on Monday 28 May, 2018.

Our special guest speaker for this month will be Anne Schofield. Anne is a member of the international Society of Jewellery Historians, a Life Fellow of the Powerhouse Museum, an Approved Valuer for the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Programme, a member of the Australian Antique and Art Dealers Association (AAADA) and Co-Author with Kevin Fahy of 'Australian Jewellery 19th and early 20th Century'.

She will be coming to talk on her extensive knowledge of Antiques. We invite all members to join us on this special day.

Regards,

(Mrs.) Margaret Dawes-Smith, OAM
President, RACA Ladies Committee.

ROYAL AUTOMOBILE MOTORING CLUB

Following the success of the motoring tour last year, our members, Sir Victor Nash and Stephen Wells are honing a wonderful tour programme. The tour will be based in Newcastle. Departing Sydney, morning of Friday 4 May and returning the evening of Monday 7 May. We will have three nights' accommodation in Newcastle.

A mixed program visiting interesting places in the region, driving country roads in the Hunter with stunning scenery. Visits to beautiful historic Morpeth and Tomago homestead. Lots of socializing and bon amie. Finer details are being finalised. Please email your expressions of interest to victornash@gmail.com

Annual Dinner Theme announced!!! This year we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of "The London to Sydney Marathon".

Mark this in your diary, it is shaping up to be our best yet!

Visit our Facebook page to see something of our past activities and to see what RACA Motoring events are coming up facebook.com/RACAMEG - We extend a warm welcome to all RACA Members to attend any of our upcoming RACA Motoring events.

Coming Events

9 April: Restoring vintage derby Bentley cars. Meet 630pm for dinner & drinks in the Members Bar, prior to 8pm garage discussion.

27 April: Fluid Friday

4 - 7 May: RACA Annual Motoring Tour - Hunter Valley

20 May: Invitation run RROC drive and be driven day peats ridge

18 August: RACA Annual Motoring Dinner



26.04.18
6:30PM

STYLING

THE MODERN MAN

Enjoy delicious canapes and an arrival beverage as we join style expert Joshua Heath, as he explains the importance of dressing well, and the art of made-to-measure suiting.

ISC ROOM
\$85PP



VIVID

SEA SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE

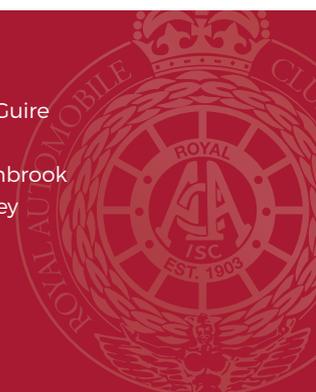
29 MAY 5:30PM

ADULTS \$39 | CHILDREN \$29

THE BOARD & CEO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Dr Peter Beaumont
Mr Robert Connell
Ms Margaret Deary
Mr Harry Drakakis
Mr David Dugan
Mr Anthony Hall
Mr Fraser Herd
Mrs Floyd Larsen

Mrs Margaret McGuire
Mr Mark O'Keeffe
Mr Geoffrey Shambrook
Mr Richard Stubley



CLUB EVENTS

Already in April, we have some wonderful events lined up. Be sure to book early with our Events Team in order to avoid missing out!

WOMENS PIONEER SOCIETY

18 April 12PM - Macquarie Room

Kenneth Buxton

\$35



Join the Women's Pioneer Society and Kenneth Buxton for their own WPS Antiques Roadshow. This event is your chance to have your antiques/collectables valued by well known antiques dealer, Kenneth Buxton. Bring along your treasures and join in!

Bookings: Mrs Lorna Stone
(02) 9522 8924

TEA APPRECIATION CLASS

20 April 11AM - Vintage Room

\$59



Tea & chocolate is a match made in heaven. Through this workshop led by Liliana Algorry, you'll experience the flavour, aromas, and textures of tea paired with delicious chocolates; a true sensory experience. This workshop will demonstrate how these two ancient products complement, enhance, and contrast each other!

ANZAC DAY LUNCH

24 April 12:15PM - Albert Room

\$65



In a joint event with the Australasian Pioneers' Club, join Dr Robert O'Neil AO FASSA in a speakers luncheon on the topic of The Kaiser and His Grand Strategy In The Middle East. ANZAC Day is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions.

STYLING THE MODERN MAN

26 April 6:30PM - ISC Room

\$85



Enjoy delicious canapes and an arrival beverage as we join style expert Joshua Heath, as he explains the importance of dressing well, and the art of made-to-measure suiting. Through simple & effective techniques, Joshua will showcase four complete outfits for the modern gentleman without breaking the bank.

THE MINT: HISTORICAL TOUR

03 May 9:45AM

\$45



Financed with 45,000 gallons of rum, Governor Macquarie's 'Rum Hospital' provided 200 beds for convict patients. Today the Mint houses include a restaurant and cafe, and also home to the Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection. Join us for a unique experience and exclusive tour of the Library and Mint Courtyard.

JAZZ NIGHT

04 May 6PM - Member's Bar



Join us in the Member's Bar for our monthly Jazz Night - with students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music coming to play some jazz standards for us; this is always an enjoyable and fun evening. Grab a drink and relax in the Member's Bar, and be sure to order some of our themed Jazz Bites during the evening as well!

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

13 May 12:30PM - Harbour Room



ADULTS \$84 | CHILDREN FROM \$46

While buying a bunch of flowers and a box of chocolates make for a solid start. There's plenty else happening and we are hosting a delicious Mother's Day lunch, fit for a queen. Treat your mother and laugh over memories as we help make Mother's Day the perfect occasion.

WOMENS PIONEER SOCIETY

16 May 12PM - Macquarie Room

Lesley Potter

\$35



Lesley Potter is a retired nurse, who worked as a midwife at Westmead Hospital for almost 40 years. Her interest in history led to the publication of 'Mistress of Her Profession' - the story of midwives, with a focus on their personal lives and their midwifery practices.

Bookings: Mrs Lorna Stone
(02) 9522 8924

LADIES COMMITTEE

28 May 12PM - Macquarie Room

Anne Schofield

\$65



Join the Ladies Committee in May as they invite Anne Schofield to the Club to talk about antiques and fine jewellery and all things alike. As an expert in her field, Anne has a plethora of experience with antiques, with her own business specialising in antique rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and so much more. This is an event you will not want to miss!

VIVID SEA SYDNEY CRUISE

29 May 5:30PM



ADULTS \$39 | CHILDREN(0-12) \$29

Experience the Vivid Sydney Festival from a prime location on a boat cruising Sydney Harbour. See the spectacular sights and sounds and enjoy the scenic views of Sydney's enlightened buildings and landmarks. Skip the crowds and experience the festival on a boat with Sea Sydney Harbour.

For more details visit
www.raca.com.au/our-events
for all upcoming events

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.

Mother's Day

13.05.18 - 12PM
ADULTS \$84
CHILDREN FROM \$46

We are hosting a delicious Mother's Day lunch fit for a queen. Treat your mother and laugh over memories as we help make Mother's Day the perfect occasion.



FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 6 Jazz Night
- 7 Mad Hatter Afternoon Tea
- 18 Women's Pioneer Society
- 20 Tea Appreciation Class
- 24 ANZAC Day Lunch
- 26 Styling The Modern Man
- 27 Fluid Friday

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

MAY

- 3 The Mint Tour
- 4 Jazz Night
- 13 Mother's Day
- 16 Women's Pioneer Society
- 24 Corks N Forks Tasting Tour
- 25 'VIVID' Menu - Harbour Room
- 25 Fluid Friday
- 28 Ladies Committee
- 29 VIVID Sea Sydney Cruise

JUNE

- 8 Jazz Night
- 9 Gin Tasting
- 14 VIVID Royal Botanic Gardens
- 20 Women's Pioneer Society
- 25 Ladies Committee
- 29 Fluid Friday

A joint event with the Australasian Pioneers' Club

ANZAC DAY LUNCH

*The Kaiser & His Grand Strategy In
The Middle East*

Tie & Jacket

Speaker: *Dr Robert O'Neil AO FASSA*
Tuesday 24 April, 12:15PM
\$65pp

TEA APPRECIATION

Tea and Chocolate is a match made in heaven. Through this workshop led by Liliانا Algorry (Managing Director of The Tea Atelier) you'll experience the flavour, aromas, and textures of tea (Black, Green, Oolongs and Herbal) paired with delicious citrusy, fruity, floral, nutty and earthy chocolates

20.04.18 - 11AM

\$59PP