



Est. 1903

R A C A N E W S

October 2021



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Re-opening

I am pleased to advise that management have made the decision that the Club will re-open on Monday 18 October subject to whatever restrictions may be necessary to protect us all.

Senior management are working on our re-opening strategies and as has been the case observed during the past week Mr Friedler will keep you all apprised of developments.

Thank you to those members who have been keeping in touch with the Club generally to enquire about the welfare of our staff.

Staff remain in close communication with our senior team. They and we are all doing the best we can in the current circumstances and all look forward to resuming normal service and reconnecting with all members.

The Club has an obligation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all staff members which includes assessing risk within our building. We appreciate that some members may have a medical contraindication or other reason preventing vaccination.

Knowledge of COVID-19 vaccination status is essential to the Club assessing risk given the impact on members and the operation of our business of an infection within the building.

Your vaccination status is sensitive health information under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and higher privacy protections apply.

The Club would only collect the minimum amount of personal information as to a member's vaccination status necessary to maintain a safe building and prevent and manage COVID-19.

The Club would take all reasonable steps to keep such information up to date and secure.

As a condition of entry to our premises, the Club must always comply with all mandatory public health orders, and require that all contractors, trades, service personnel and cleaners and their employees, and may require our members to:

- a) have been vaccinated; or
- b) provide a medical contraindication and/or a negative result of a COVID-19 test having been undertaken no more than 72 hours prior to attending the Club.

Members must appreciate that if your election is to not be vaccinated then proof of no infection must remain a prerequisite for the protection of all.

We will keep members informed.

Continued on page 2...

...continued from front page

Albert Street Hoarding

The response to our request for feedback on the Albert Street façade restoration has also been pleasing with approximately 75 members to date have expressed a view. The percentage of members in favour of the Club engaging in the Heritage Floor Space (HFS) scheme on its own is 49.3% or in combination with a levy is 54.67%. The percentage of members generously offering to pay a levy on its own is 22.7% or in combination with Heritage Floor Space scheme is 28%.

Understandably a number of members, who include self-refunded retirees, consider that a levy may be beyond their individual disposable resources and the Board must balance the financial capability of all members as a whole when resolving how to proceed.

A majority of your Board prefer to avoid any call on members and proceed to engage with the Heritage Floor Space scheme to not only provide funding for the Albert Street hoarding but also to provide some funding to carry out internal conservation works which must improve the attractiveness of the Club for current and future members. Council have extended the time for the Club to finalise its deliberations and advise Council of its preferred way forward to 1 November 2021.

For abundant caution the Club is seeking external legal advice on whether or not HFS is a core asset or not, and the impact of the restrictive covenant and positive covenant on title, and the extent of terms that may be negotiated in any Deed with Council to preserve whatever rights may be available for the future to both remove the covenant and, should planning laws and the cityscape and city requirements change, to not discount further development opportunities.

Urbis Heritage and Planning have been engaged to provide an up to date Conservation Management Plan which should be completed by early November 2021.

One issue for determination is whether a roof top bar can be classified as conservation works within the Heritage Floor Scheme development application, or whether it must be a separate development application, given that it will also require works in addition to conservation of that part of the building.

Approval from liquor and gaming will also be required because that area is not currently part of our defined premises for the purposes of our club licence. It may require an environmental impact statement in relation to the impact on adjoining neighbours and other factors which must be considered. Noise is an obvious contention but given there must be a limit on numbers as any given time that may be an issue of lesser weight.

Your Board is considering all relevant matters to optimise outcomes and will keep members informed.

AGM 2021

Notices have been sent out for our 118th AGM to be held at the club and virtually on Thursday 21st October 2021.

Michael Callanan
President



CORKS 'N' FORKS

Dear Members,

I'm pleased to report that in his message to members on 27 September the CEO Markus Friedler advised that the Club will reopen on 18 October. However he did add a note of caution, saying although the date has been set there's still a lot of planning to do.

Armed with this good news, the Corks 'n' Forks committee can now start planning for the rest of the year, and next. We'll keep you posted.

However for this month's newsletter I thought I'd share with you two highlights of our trips away over the last few years; remembering that in 2015 we went to the Barossa and Eden Valleys, to Rutherglen and Beechworth in 2016, to the Mornington Peninsula and Yarra Valley in 2017, to the Clare Valley in 2018, to Tasmania in 2019 and to Orange earlier this year. As I mentioned in last month's article, Piedmont in Northern Italy - renowned for its Barolo, Barbaresco and other wonderful wines made from the Nebbiolo grape - is on the Corks 'n' Forks touring radar.

The first highlight I thought I'd relate was our Saturday morning trip on 16 September 2017 to the Thick as Thieves winery at Badger Creek in the Yarra Valley, owned and operated by Syd Bradford. As we arrived for our 10am appointment we passed Syd at the gate, who cheerily told us to make ourselves at home in the tasting shed as he was off to buy the cheese.



Syd dutifully returned about 20 minutes later, and for the next couple of hours we had a great time tasting his wines with the various cheeses he's bought, accompanied by some of his favourite Elvis Presley music. Syd produces small batch individual wines from local and King Valley fruit, and we enjoyed them all, particularly his Gamay, Arneis, Pinot Noir/Shiraz blend and Nebbiolo, with his Chardonnay and straight Shiraz not far behind.

The other producer for whom I have fond memories is Damien Tucharke from Tucharke's Place at Marananga in the Barossa Valley, who we visited on 12 June 2015. We arrived on time at 3pm, expecting our tasting to be in a modest tasting room befitting a small family owned business. How wrong we were!

We were met by Damien Tucharke, who took us into his recently built Germanic style tasting room and cellar – one of the biggest I've ever seen. Damien is a colourful wine maker, a bit like Syd, who confidently told us he'll need all the space for future expansion! He took us through his portfolio of wines with much enthusiasm, some of our favourite reds being his Montepulciano, Shiraz, and Mataro. From his whites we particularly liked the Gnadenfrei White – produced from a small block of Grenache Blanc vines, and also his Savagnin.

Our next tour awaits

Graeme Jones

For the Corks 'n' Forks Committee



MOTORING

With the news that the Club will re-open on the 18th October, there is a Fluid Friday on the horizon. We're heading to the chequered flag of lockdown!

In the meantime, I thought we could step back in time by around 90 years and see what the Club was doing after another difficult economic period. In 1930 as a member you would have been invited to a reliability trial at Kiama followed by beach racing at Gerringong - or you could have entered a contest to get your car to Kurrajong!

On the political/economic front, the Club felt that the route between Sydney and Newcastle was too important to let fall into disrepair and "used its influence" to ensure that the ferry on the Northern Road (Peat's Ferry) was continuously open. The Club argued that the economic trade between the two cities was more valuable than the money needed to keep the ferry running. Therefore an unbroken link was essential. The Club also campaigned to reduce the number of confusing road signs relating to the use of the Iron Cove Bridge and on a legal topic, the Club campaigned for ownership titles to be introduced on cars as new buyers couldn't tell if a vehicle for sale had been stolen or not.

On the technology front, a three-wheeled 1-litre BSA was making headlines within the Club and motoring circles mainly because it was front-wheel drive! In 1930 there were only two front-wheel drive cars in Sydney, both Alvis models and the BSA was an exciting addition with the owner taking people for trips around the suburbs to show off its performance and handling!

And finally, on the sporting front, the RACA challenged the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club to a game of cricket!! Held at the Sydney Cricket Ground, we won by 7 runs. It turns out that both clubs had international cricket players as members. In those days, the yacht club also had a city clubhouse on Martin Place near the GPO. Cricket was one of the many teams that you could join as a member, in fact the Club opened the 1931 bowls season at Neutral Bay greens with a team of non-cricket bowlers!

When the Club re-opens, I look forward to seeing more members around the building, enjoying the facilities and menus. Importantly, seeing members connecting with each other and perhaps creating teams to represent the Club in many sports or other communities for a successful 2022!

Stephen Wells

For the Motoring Club

motoring@raca.com.au | <https://www.facebook.com/RACAMEC>



LADIES COMMITTEE

Greetings to all our fellow members. We are delighted that we will soon be reconnecting in person with the Club set to re-open on the 18th October and, on behalf of the Ladies Committee, we are more than overjoyed to welcome you all back.

Our first event upon returning is our Christmas Luncheon. A Christmas-themed affair featuring Jordan Roach. We invite all members and their guests to join us in carolling the festive classics whilst feasting on delicious canapés and a two-course Christmas menu.

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

Relaxation in the heart of Sydney...

30%
OFFER
Special

Your Club is a short distance from all the main attractions our wonderful city has to offer so why not take full advantage of the beautiful Spring weather and take a stroll around Sydney. After exploring, relax in the comfort of your Club and receive 30% off our lowest available accommodation rates in October and November 2021.

Contact Reception on reception@raca.com.au or 02 8273 2300 to reserve your accommodation and don't forget to ask the team about adding a discounted Food and Beverage service to your booking to take full advantage of your stay!

HARBOUR DINING ROOM

Join us for lunch in the Harbour Dining Room for a special treat

Two-Course \$55
Three-Course \$65

Enjoy a complimentary glass of RACA House Wine or Soft Drink with your two-course meal (Entrée/Main or Main/Dessert) for \$55 or all three courses for \$65!

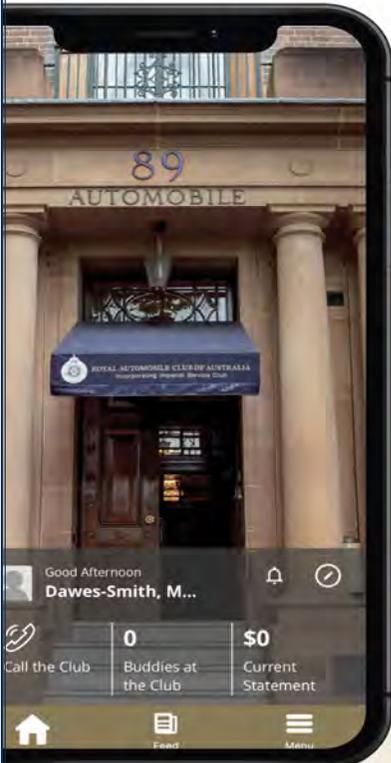
This special offer is valid for **Lunch Only**
Monday-Friday
October-November 2021

Bookings are essential. Please contact us on 02 8273 2300 or harbour@raca.com.au
Book via the RACA App for an automatic entry into the weekly draw for a Three-Course Dinner for two, complemented by a bottle of Wine.

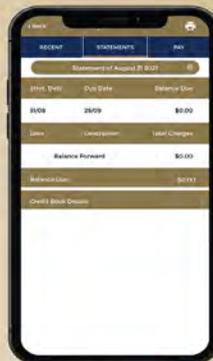
Royal Automobile Club of Australia

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW MOBILE APP

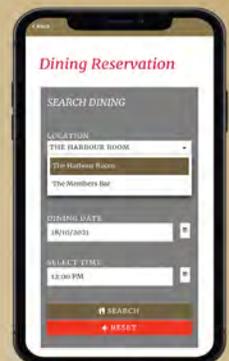
and go into the weekly draw to win a Three-Course Dinner for 2 in the Harbour Dining Room!



View Upcoming Events and Secure your Booking



View Statements & Pay your Account



Make Dining Bookings & View all your Reservations

Search for: Royal Automobile Club Aus



MEMBER EVENTS

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

Book early to avoid disappointment.

TRAFALGAR DAY LUNCH

19 October 12PM

\$75



Was Tōgō Japan's Horatio Nelson?

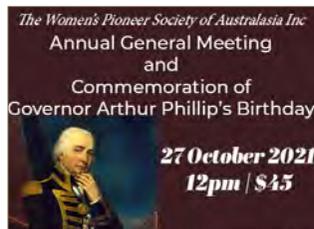
Join the Australasian Pioneers' Club as they welcome Richard Broinowski AO. How will compare the capabilities and characters of the two men, shaped as they were by profoundly different cultures.

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

WOMEN'S PIONEER SOCIETY

27 October 12PM

\$45



The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc. invites you to the Annual General Meeting and Commemoration Of Governor Arthur Phillip's Birthday.

Guest speaker: John Lanser, Past President of the Australasian Pioneers' Club.

Bookings:
Please contact Ann Lisle on
0407 958 582

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON 2021

02 November 12PM

\$141



Race in to the Club and enjoy a wonderful feast as we host yet another exciting Melbourne Cup luncheon.

Dust off your best race day outfit to make it a fun day out with prizes to be won throughout, including best dressed and our own sweepstake!

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

JAZZ NIGHT

5 November 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 themed jazz bites for only \$25.

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY

9 November 6PM

\$75



The Australasian Pioneers' Club, invite you to attend a special Remembrance Day luncheon as we welcome our guest speaker Sarah Watson.

Topic:
What Remembrance Day Means to Me

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

CLASSICAL NIGHT

19 November 6PM



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

October's highlighted composer is Franz Schubert. 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

CORKS 'N' FORKS

19 November 7PM

\$TBD



Join Corks 'n' Forks for their upcoming event scheduled for November.

Save the date...it'll be a good one and details will follow shortly!

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

WPS

17 November 12PM

\$80



The Women's Pioneer Society invite you to lunch with Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC Governor of NSW

Guest Speaker- Sue Williams, award-winning journalist and columnist. Sue will speak about her novel, "Elizabeth & Elizabeth".

Bookings:
Please contact Ann Lisle on
0407 958 582

LADIES COMMITTEE

29 November 12PM

\$58



The Ladies Committee of The Royal Automobile Club of Australia invite you to a Christmas-themed affair featuring musician Jordan Roach.

Join us in carolling the festive classics whilst you feast on delicious canapés and a two course Christmas menu.

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

Christmas Food Week

13 - 24 December

\$55-\$65



Join us for lunch or dinner in the Harbour Dining Room during the lead up to Christmas with a wonderful menu sure to get you in the festive spirit!

Reserve your table now for either lunch or dinner.

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

WINE OF THE MONTH



Trout Valley Pinot Gris 2018

An easy drinking Pinot Gris with flavours of melon, nashi and Jasmine with a hint of ginger followed by full viscosity and a great length on the finish.



Trout Valley Pinot Noir 2018

Bright auburn in colour, our 2018 Pinot Noir has flavours of ripe cherries with a hint of chocolate. The wine is exceptionally easy drinking with a smooth finish.



Trout Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2019

A subtle nose of limes and grapefruit, the palate is well balanced blend of apples and tropical fruit resulting in a crisp easy drinking wine with great structure.

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 12 November
\$70pp 2 course lunch & beverages
12pm in the Members Bar

Fluid Fridays

Last Friday of each month
Next: Friday 29 October
6pm in the Pioneers' Room

Just Infantry

Normally 1st Thursday of the Month
Next: Thursday 4 November
12pm Members Bar, 12:30pm Harbour Dining Room Lunch

OCTOBER

- 19 APC Trafalgar Day Lunch
- 21 AGM
- 27 Women's Pioneer Society

NOVEMBER

- 2 Melbourne Cup
- 5 Jazz Night
- 9 Remembrance Day Lunch
- 17 Women's Pioneer Society
- 19 Classical Night
- 19 Corks 'n' Forks
- 26 Fluid Friday
- 29 Ladies Committee

DECEMBER

- 3 Jazz Night
- 13 Christmas Food Week
- 15 Women's Pioneer Society
- 17 Classical Night
- 17 Fluid Friday
- 25 Christmas Day Lunch
- 31 New Years Eve Dinner

HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY - SATURDAY | 5PM-7PM

MEMBERS BAR | LEVEL 3

50% off Selected Beers, Wines, Spirits & Cocktails

RACA-Roo practising his curtsy lunge as he enters the final stretch of fundraising this week!

Legacy supports 43,000 partners and children of veterans who gave their lives or health serving our country.

Thank you to Raca-Roo, and everyone who took on the challenge or donated to this great cause.

RACA-ROO LUNGES FOR LEGACY

