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R A C A N E W S

September 2021



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Member of RACA,

We hope this letter finds you well and we thank you for your ongoing support of the club, especially during the present period.

We write to notify you that in the very near future, the Club will have to confront a significant financial decision that will affect current members and the future of the Club.

Albert Street Façade Repairs and Hoarding

1. Sydney City Council has notified the club that in coming weeks it will make an order requiring the Club to repair its Albert Street facade and to remove the hoarding above the footpath (which was erected in 2004 to protect pedestrians from potentially unstable masonry). We estimate that compliance with the order will cost in the range of \$700,000 to \$1,000,000.
2. The Council has served the order in draft form and we are presently attempting to negotiate its terms, including the timeframe within which the works must be completed.
3. We have identified several possible methods by which the club might finance the order. The less practical options include borrowings, donations and drawing upon limited overdraft of the Club (which is a protector during events such as COVID and trading downturns).
4. However, in our opinion, the two most feasible options are:
 - a. taking advantage of the Council's 'Heritage Floor Space scheme' (explained below); or
 - b. the imposition of a special levy on members of an amount up to approximately \$800 per member.
5. It may be possible that the anticipated works order could be financed via a combination of methods, including a special levy for a lesser amount combined with some borrowings.

Heritage Floor Space Scheme

6. The scheme has operated in Sydney since the early 1970s and it provides for a heritage site to receive significant amounts of money for conservation works, on the basis that the site is not further developed (change to the Gross Floor Area of the Club) for a period of 25 years.
7. The scheme is administered by the Council but the sale consideration for our air rights are provided by private developers, who are compensated in the form of permission to develop other building sites.
8. The benefit for the Club in entering into the Heritage Floor Space scheme is that it would become eligible to receive funds in the range of \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000, for both internal and external conservation works, including of the facade.
9. Importantly, the money would not simply be given to the Club, it would be made available in stages as works are completed and having been paid for by the Club, and expenditure would be subject to compliance with a pre-determined 'Conservation Management Plan' and 'Development Application consent'.
10. However, Council has indicated that given the completed works on the eastern facade, noted in our accounts to total \$1.445 million, retrospective recognition is able to be determined by Council which could provide the necessary funds to do Albert Street without borrowing or levy.
11. The disadvantages associated with the scheme are that the club would be prevented from any upward development for a period of 25 years.

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12. The development restriction might also negatively affect the value of the building as an asset if it ever were to be our intention, subject to member approval to sell the Club and re-locate.

Redevelopment Constraints

- 1.** Members might recall that our 1928 clubhouse, as originally designed, allows for the addition of four additional floors sympathetic with the existing structure and design.
- 2.** Since the mid-1980s, the club has explored the possible commercial advantages of several proposals for upward development, in what one might call various 'modernist' architectural styles, all of which have either been rejected by planning authorities or have stalled in their early phases.
- 3.** We have prepared a separate information statement in connection with the recent history of the club's potential development, accessible at <https://members.raca.com.au/group/pages/financial-reports>.
- 4.** The possibility of upward development of the clubhouse remains problematic due to the Permanent Conservation Order and other planning constraints.

The purpose of this letter is both to advise you of the impending Council order and to seek members' opinion on the matters set out herein.

A detailed letter setting out the content of the orders and the history, and the Council indication will be sent to members shortly, and posted on our website at <https://members.raca.com.au/group/pages/financial-reports>.

Any correspondence, at your earliest convenience and addressed to the Club Secretary ceo@raca.com.au or at feedback@raca.com.au, will be gratefully received.

Michael Callanan
President
31 August 2021



CORKS 'N' FORKS

Dear Members,

As I said last month, no one presently knows with any certainty when the Club will reopen and under what, if any, restrictions. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange our 'Bring a Bottle Night' on 7 October and our Henschke inspired Black Tie (optional) Dinner on 19 November. Please keep your fingers and toes crossed!

In the interim, I thought you might find the following of interest.

Huon Hooke, who once wrote a weekly wine column for the SMH, now conducts an online wine business known as the Real Review. He publishes a newsletter weekly. The other week he penned an article titled 'When Riesling was not riesling'.

As many of you know, Riesling – from anywhere, whether dry, sweet, young or old – is one of my favourite tipples. A Clare or Eden Valley Riesling matched to some fresh King George Whiting from South Australia is pretty hard to beat!

You can find the article at https://www.therealreview.com/2021/08/11/when-riesling-was-not-riesling/?mc_cid=ffb771c2ce&mc_eid=306186a7f3. For some of you I'm sure the article will bring back some memories.

Also, and as I think I've mentioned previously, one of the contributors to the Real Review is Steve Blandford. Steve supplied the wines for our Corks 'n' Forks tasting/tours and dinners, and hosted many of them, until early 2019, when he and his wife Elena moved to Piedmont in Northern Italy where they now own and operate an AirBnB business. Had COVID not intervened, we had planned a Corks 'n' Forks odyssey over there last year. One day we'll get there!

Piedmont is renowned for wines made from the Nebbiolo grape – particularly from vines growing around the town of Alba - south east of Turin - in the Barolo and Barbaresco regions. Barolo and Barbaresco are often respectively called the King and Queen of Italian wines. Nebbiolo from the Langhe Hills is also wonderful, as are the white truffles harvested in Autumn each year. I can well understand why Steve decided to settle there.

I thus, thought you'd enjoy this article from Steve, published recently in the Real Review.

https://www.therealreview.com/2021/08/18/g-d-vajra-the-quiet-achiever/?mc_cid=db541140af&mc_eid=306186a7f3

Graeme Jones
For the Corks 'n' Forks Committee



LADIES COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Ladies Committee, we wish to reflect on the amazing events we have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed thus far, rather than dwell on those which, unfortunately, we could not attend.

In February, we enjoyed a presentation by Mr Scott War, the CEO of Legacy Australia. An organisation caring for the dependents of deceased and injured Australian servicemen and women. In March and June, we heard the fascinating stories behind Australian Author's Dr John Fahey and Oliver Greeves, and heard what inspired their novels. Finally in May, we welcomed Guest Speaker, Trevor Dean, the Aquatic Airman and learnt of the dramatic formation and history of Trans-Oceanic Airways and the adventures of the founder, former RAFF Squadron Leader Bryan Monkton.

We look forward to the many more luncheons we are sure to enjoy in the near future.

Until then, stay safe.

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



MOTORING

I hope all members are dealing with the lockdowns as best you can and looking forward to getting back to the Club for some human connection and great meals! We are keeping an eye on any changes to the restrictions, such that we can restart our Fluid Fridays.

In the meantime, two interesting items popped up in recent weeks. The first was an email from a gentleman who has a chiming mantel clock that was awarded as a prize at an event held on June 13th 1925 and called the "RACA Petrol Consumption and Hill Climb". The event was won by Fred Berry by virtue of winning both the consumption and Hillclimb, possibly in an Alvis. We have been asked to see if we can find any more information about this event in the archives, which we will do once the club re-opens. It is a beautiful timepiece and I'll do a more in-depth write up in a month or so.

The second is of more value. A rare and beautiful vehicle has come up for sale in London. It is a 1912 Rolls-Royce 40/50hp Silver Ghost in the style of Barker. What is so special is that this car was ordered new by the then President of the RACA, Sir Samuel Hordern KBE and the vehicle was delivered to Sydney in November of that year. Sir Hordern was President twice from 1910-12 and then 1914-30.

This glorious car was specified to have sports coach work by Barker, a London based coachbuilder who at the time described themselves as the Coachbuilder to H.M King. The design included a long range fuel tank and "colonial" clearance suspension. Perfect for our country roads no doubt!

The vehicle has been in long-term ownership which included "highly adventurous" touring on five continents across 25 countries. It is now available through Fiskens - who own the images shown here - and is a remarkable example of the quality that Rolls-Royce is famed for. You won't see it from the images, however the rego plate is an NSW one: RR 1912.



Stephen Wells
For the Motoring Club

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



LUNGE FOR LEGACY

While in-person fundraising is currently on pause, you can still get involved this Legacy Week from the comfort of your own home!

Since 1923, Legacy has been there to support the families of our servicemen and women. This Legacy Week, show your support by taking on the Lunge for Legacy challenge to help raise vital funds to support our veterans' families in need.

Individuals or teams can show their support by committing to 1,000 lunges during September.

Sign up today at <https://lunge-for-legacy-2021.raisely.com/>

WARNING: THIS ARTICLE MAY CAUSE INTENSE DESIRE TO TRAVEL AGAIN

The Adventures of RACA-Roo continues and reports are in that he has arrived safely in London. The wonderful Sales and Marketing team, Emily Goodyer and Stephanie Grove, from the Royal Automobile Club of London in Pall Mall and Woodcote have been charmed by his cuteness and treated him like royalty!

No place was off limits for this cutie, he even posed for pictures inside the roped-off section in the Rotunda. RACA-Roo shook off his jetlag with a couple of laps in the pool then relaxed in the exquisite Pall Mall Club Room. A beverage was enjoyed in the Cocktail Bar before dining in the Great Gallery - being a vegetarian was no problem as he thoroughly enjoyed the Aubergine Parmigiana with a side of spinach. As his eyes struggled to stay open Emily tucked him in to bed in one of the Junior Suites.

He was so well behaved the team took him for a short sightseeing tour to Buckingham Palace before heading off to the beautiful Surrey countryside at Woodcote Park. RACA-Roo had so much fun with a round of golf then a quick play in the Walled Garden. Before heading off for his next adventure, the team treated him to an English Strawberry Breton in Stirling's Restaurant.

Wow, thank you so much to our friends at RAC London for thoroughly spoiling our RACA-Roo. We miss you all and can't wait to return again soon!



MORE THAN JUST A CLUB

*When this lockdown's finished
And Just Infantry meets again,
I shall have two dozen oysters
Washed down with cold champagne.
Whilst revelling in the banter,
The teasing and the fun,
The sharing of experience
And the witty pun.
And when my bottle's empty
And the World, it's ills we've slain
I'll have Kevin bring more oysters
Along with more champagne.*

**- Mr Michael Shave,
RACA Member since 2012**



MEMBER EVENTS

We have a number of fantastic upcoming events for members and their guests. Book early to avoid disappointment.

CORKS 'N' FORKS TASTING TOUR

7 October 6PM

\$105



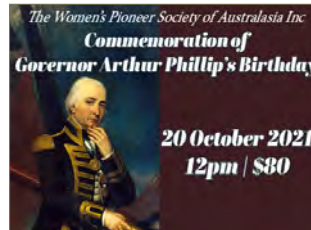
For those who've not been before, our Tasting Tours are relaxed, informal, and educative evenings designed to appeal to those members and their guests seeking an introduction to the wonderful world of wine or to expand their existing knowledge.

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

WOMEN'S PIONEER SOCIETY

20 October 12PM

\$80



The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc. invite you to the 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

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

CLASSICAL NIGHT

15 October 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 Mozart. 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 \$8.

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

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

TRAFALGAR DAY LUNCH

19 October 12PM

\$75



Join the Australasian Pioneers' Club for the Annual Trafalgar Day Lunch with special guest, Richard Broinowski AO.

Richard Broinowski AO will compare the capabilities and characters of the Heihachirō Tōgō and Horatio Nelson, shaped as they were by profoundly different cultures.

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

New check-in cards available

The new COVID-19 check-in card is a printed card with a QR code unique to you that has your contact details. It means you can easily check-in when you visit a business, simply present your card to a staff member who will scan it for you.

The check-in card isn't mandatory. It's another way to check-in to businesses if you don't have a mobile, or if you find it difficult to check-in with your mobile.

Once you've created your card, it can be posted to you, or you can download a printable version to print out at home.

If you need help getting your COVID-19 check-in card please call Service NSW on 13 77 88 or visit:
<https://apply.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-checkin-card/>



WINE OF THE MONTH



MONTALTO PENNON HILL CHARDONNAY NOIR 2019

Lemon and Lime sherbet, white peach, chalk and slate, apple blossom, together with some roasted almonds and hazelnuts. There's some brioche and gentle oak aromas just to round out the package. A collage of citrus and stone fruit flavours are supported by quenching acidity, together with a mineral lick and generous texture from the lees work. This is a delicious Chardonnay with hallmark Pennon Hill qualities exhibiting great varietal definition and regional expression.



MONTALTO PENNON HILL PINOT NOIR 2019

Red currants, blueberry, sour cherry, cranberry and dried strawberry combine with florals, dried herbs, spice, and earthy forest-floor qualities. On the palate, generous juicy red fruits meld with bramble and earth. A tickle of whole bunch enhances the aromatics and provides some savoury drive. French oak plays a lovely supportive role adding to the structure and flavour profile by way of mocha notes. An approachable Pinot Noir with excellent varietal and regional expression typical of the 2019 vintage.

HENTLEY FARM VILLAIN & VIXEN GSM 2020



The Grenache Shiraz Mataro has an impressive depth with a black dark purple core and bright dark purple hue. Spicy dark raspberry and dark cherry aromas intermingle with hints of liquorice, a youthful inkiness and faint peppered earth notes. Rich succulent dark raspberry and dark cherry fruits adorn the juicy palate with an undercard of liquorice, inky earth and spicy pepper. Lively finish with bright acidity, slightly grainy but polished tannins and a spicy dark fruited aftertaste.

HENTLEY FARM EDEN VALLEY RIESLING 2020



Lime zest, lemon grass and a light peach influence provide a pretty and lifted nose. Showing finesse and a strong acid focus through the middle this is a traditional Eden Valley Riesling. Great balance will insure that this wine stands the test of time.

A number of our RACA Members have kindly reached out to let us know what they have been doing in lockdown to keep entertained, including attending virtual events. The Australian Garden History Society is one such organization that is preparing for their 41st annual national conference. The AGHS promotes awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy, and activities. If you are interested in attending, more information can be found at: <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/register/>



If you would like to share something you may think would be of interest to other RACA Members, please contact us via email marketing@raca.com.au and we will include it in our next newsletter.

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 8 October
\$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 7 October
12pm Members Bar, 12:30pm Harbour Dining Room Lunch

OCTOBER

- 1 Jazz Night
- 4 Labour Day
- 7 Corks 'n' Forks Tasting Tour
- 19 APC Trafalgar Day Lunch
- 20 Women's Pioneer Society
- TBD President's Cocktail Party
- 21 Annual General Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 2 Melbourne Cup
- 5 Jazz Night
- 9 Remembrance Day Lunch
- 17 Women's Pioneer Society
- 19 Classical Night
- 19 Henschke Black Tie Dinner
- 29 Ladies Committee