The Carbine Club of South Australia held the Annual General Meeting of their chapter in the Osmond room at the Arkaba Hotel on St Patricks’ Day this year. Once again, Peter Hurley AO’s staff of the hotel provided an enjoyable menu and service on the day.
The AGM certainly wasn’t attended as strongly as it has been in the past, but the members who came along in the face of the Covid-19 adversity showed the strength of the Carbine Club’s camaraderie and friendship.

L-R: Glenn Cooper AM & Eric Granger

L-R: Nick Chigwidden and mine-host Peter Hurley AO

Notably, strong acknowledgement was made by David Shipway AM on the retirement of the Honorary Secretary John Condon OAM, with high recognition for the exemplary support of Elaine Condon’s assistance over John’s term from 2003 to 2020. Shippy did not hold back on his strong affection and regard for the integrity that John brought to the position, and how he changed the direction of a then somewhat disarrayed Carbine chapter in SA in 2003 to one of strength and stability during his 17 year term of office.
This year marked the end of two Carbine Committee members’ tenures – David Shipway AM – who was warmly acknowledged by Nick Chigwidden for his foresight and generous work with the Carbine Club – having been President 2 times in his term on the committee, and Andrew Killey (absent) – who was roasted by Glenn Cooper AM due to his roustabout yet very creative talent over the time on the committee, and also career work on the Coopers account.

The meeting formally endorsed on-going positions of President, David Myers; Vice President, Peter McVann; Immediate Past President, Nick Chigwidden; Treasurer, Chris Dittmar; Committee Members: Glenn Cooper AM, Eric Granger, Consultant for Club History - The Hon Graham Ingerson.

Also the new committee members elected were:- Nathan Casserly, Paul Di Iulio and Maurie Ranger. New Members endorsed at the meeting were Dean Cook and Bradley Symes.

Dean has been a regular attendee at our lunches as a guest of Committeeman Eric Granger. Brad joins us now after some considerable time being actively involved in the AFL as an 80 game player with Port Adelaide and the Adelaide Crows completing his career in the SANFL and winning the 2012 Magarey Medal.
The new Honorary Secretary Neville Mead was introduced to our members. Neville comes from a strong banking background with both the Commonwealth Bank and BankSA and has well sought interest in many club and associations over his lifetime. Neville will formally commence his position from 2nd April 2020.

**L-R: Neville Mead and David Myers**

There was one 25-year life member acknowledged on the day which was Peter Hurley AO. Peter engaged in his memories of many characters within the Carbine SA chapter, noting Wolf Blass and others in a very affectionate speech.

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**Our thanks to John Condon for his outstanding support of The Carbiner over the years, his enthusiasm, support and advice has been greatly appreciated—Ed.**

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**Carbine Classics – from yesteryear**

Ten years ago the then editor of The Carbiner, Robin Flannery, set about the task of preparing a publication which was to contain memorable occasions along the way in the Club’s history. Aided and abetted by then Secretary Bill Hoffman, all members were invited to submit a yarn for publication.

The result was indeed a classic, both in name and content, and all members at that time received a copy of the 62 page booklet “*Carbine Club Classics.*” - shown at left.

With many new members having joined in the interval from publication, not all will have seen the booklet, so in our enforced “quiet time” The Carbiner will reproduce a few of the 50 stories that were published back then – and no better way to start than with Allen Aylett’s tale of the “Congressional Capers” which just happens to include Rod Johnson’s hilarious story about that famous band which many of us have had the pleasure of hearing at first hand!

Thanks to Allen & Rod for the blast from the past, and to Robin Flannery for providing the idea and then the content in a usable format!
CONGRESSIONAL CAPERS

By ALLEN AYLETT

Nearly two decades have passed since the inaugural Carbine Club Congress in 1992 at the Gold Coast, organized by the Carbine Club of Queensland and based on an underlying theme of fun and friendship. It was held at the suggestion of former AFL champion and Victorian Minister for Sport and Racing Brian Dixon. Subsequent congresses have been hosted by the Carbine Clubs of New Zealand (1994), Hong Kong (1996), Western Australia (1998), South Australia (2000), Northern Territory (2002), Tasmania (2004), New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory (2008), and our mother club, The Carbine Club, in 2006. Partners were integral to the success of the assemblies and deserve special thanks for their tolerance of what Queensland member Ian Harvey’s son described as “Schoolies Week for the oldies”.

In addition to me as Congress Chairman and Jo Tregear, our Congress Manager, there were six hardy souls who attended every one of those nine congresses: Robin Flannery (NT & QLD), Joe Lomas (PNG), Michael O’Brien (HK & QLD), Ken Page (NSW), Tom Stanley (QLD) and Jim Wright (WA). Personality-wise they were a mixed bunch, not unlike any of our clubs where members come together in the spirit of sporting fellowship irrespective of outside allegiances.

Joe stood out as the practical joker: a man with a wit so dry it needed regular lubrication. His most memorable prank was in Perth at Burswood Casino where a caravan and camping exhibition was held in the hotel foyer as our congress took place in-house. He stuck a sign “Joe’s bedroom” on a caravan and left sleeping attire inside. People, many not connected with the Carbine crowd, started leaving Joe fruit, chocolates and notes, totally perplexing the expo organizers and Burswood staff who were too spooked to go near Joe’s boudoir.

At day’s end at each congress, members of the host club and the congress participants gathered in a private room designated as the “Carbine Club Bar” for refreshments, fun and friendship. Inevitably someone would have a story or joke to tell. Early in the piece Rod Johnson tantalised the get-together as he recalled an incident in country Victoria. For the record it appears at the following page and Rod told it off the cuff, without even a scribbled note as a prompt. A truly amazing effort!

At subsequent congresses Rod was badgered to retell the tale and he obliged, but on each occasion he chose the name of one of the assembled guests as the protagonist. And he still recited the story by heart! It brought great mirth each time because it seemed topical to the ever-changing group that attended each congress. To be able to record Rod’s story I have to select someone’s name to use, but I don’t have a live audience. So I have taken refuge among that group of intrepid members who attended every congress when I was chairman, because they understand the spirit of fun and friendship that prevailed throughout.

I have selected Joe – in absentia – to be the fall guy.
In the North-East corner of Victoria there was a band called The Mildura, Mooroopna, Murrumbidgee, Murray Valley fife, pipe, organ and castanet band with mouth organs with muted tones playing melodious music in the background Pty Ltd.

Now the band had fallen on hard times – white ants had got into the Rotunda where it played incidental music in the local park on a Sunday afternoon. The Rotunda had come down with a crash and there was nothing in the “bin” to fix it up.

An extraordinary meeting was called and held in the local Mechanics Institute Hall in an effort to raise funds to put the Rotunda back in shape. Ideas were tossed “to and fro” without much success.

After some time a young fellow sitting at the back of the Hall rose to his feet, cleared his voice and said “Now listen, I’m down from the big smoke in Papua New Guinea where they have a capital idea about how to raise funds”. Everyone sat up to listen.

“Now this is how they do it” said the young bloke whose name was Joe Lomas. “They have a door knock” he said. “They send blokes North, South, East and West knocking on doors and come back with a “bucket-load” of money.”

They thought this was an excellent idea – various people were duly appointed and Joe agreed to “be in it”. Joe who considered himself a bit brighter than the others set out to the West of the town where he thought there were some easy pickings.

After knocking on a number of doors Joe was feeling a little sorry for himself – he had had no luck at all. He had the door slammed in his face several times and heard numerous hard luck stories. He battled on however in the hope that his luck would change. As dusk was falling and without anything to show for his efforts, Joe came to a little English cottage situated on the outskirts of the town. I’ll have one last go he thought. I’ll be the laughing stock of the town if I come back without a cracker.

As he opened the little wicker gate he noticed a beautiful array of hollyhocks on each side of the winding path leading to the front door of the cottage. He walked down the path leading to the front door of the cottage. A little old lady answered the door – “Hello young man” she said. Joe said “My name’s Joe Lomas from the Mildura, Mooroopna, Murrumbidgee, Murray Valley fife, pipe, organ and castanet band with mouth organs with muted tones playing melodious music in the background Pty Ltd. We’ve fallen on hard times – the white ants got into the Rotunda and it’s come down with a dreadful crash – we wondered whether you could help out by slipping us a few bob so we can get it restored.” The little old lady said “I’m sorry young man I can’t just catch what you said – I’m a little bit AIF in the Port Melbourne Piers.”

Repeating himself in a louder irritated voice Joe said

“My name is Joe Lomas from the Mildura, Mooroopna, Murrumbidgee, Murray Valley fife, pipe, organ and castanet band with mouth organs with muted tones playing melodious music in the background Pty Ltd.”

He was just about to say “We’ve fallen on hard times” when the little old lady cut him short “I’m sorry young man – I just can’t catch what you are saying.” “Forget it” said Joe dejectedly as he turned to walk back down the winding path past the hollyhocks to the little wicker gate. The little old lady stood at the door waving as she watched Joe go down the path – “What a nice young man” she said. She then called “Would you mind shutting the gate young man”. Joe far from happy said quietly

“F*#@ THE GATE”
And the little old lady replied

“And F*#@ THE MILDURA, MOOROOPNA, MURRUMBIDGEE, MURRAY VALLEY FIFE, PIPE ORGAN AND CASTANET BAND WITH MOUTH ORGANS WITH MUTED TONES PLAYING MELODIous MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND PTY LTD.”
Carbine Club of NSW – Kurt Fearnley Award

Six budding young para-sport athletes have already benefited from the words of encouragement and inspiration of one of Australia’s greatest ever athletes after being named as recipients of the 2020 Kurt Fearnley Scholarship.

Commonwealth Games Australia and the Carbine Club of NSW joined to present the scholarship program targeting talented individual para-sport athletes in NSW. The initiative receives program support from the New South Wales Institute of Sport and is also fully endorsed by Paralympics Australia.

The scholarships recipients were due to be announced at the Carbine Club of NSW autumn racing lunch, which was cancelled, so instead they joined Fearnley (pictured above) for a special online induction where they heard the three-time Paralympic and dual Commonwealth Games gold medallist speak of the dealing with the uncertain times ahead for all Australians.

Designed to support para-sport ‘future talent’ athletes who receive limited support elsewhere and fast track their development to achieve success at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Kurt Fearnley Scholarship holders receive financial support up to $3750 based on their individual requirements, NSWIS program support up to $1000 including assistance with performance planning and access to NSWIS facilities, and most importantly, mentorship from the dual Commonwealth Games and three-time Paralympic gold medallist.

Fearnley, who bowed out of international competition with an emotional marathon win at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games told the scholarship recipients via the induction teleconference that he was looking forward to working with the second group of scholarship holders after a successful first year.

Fearnley thanked Commonwealth Games Australia, the Carbine Club of NSW and NSWIS for their continued support.

Bernie Campbell, Chairman of the Carbine Club of New South Wales, said the Club was proud to continue their support of the scholarships.

“The Carbine Club are proud to partner with one of Australia’s greatest sportsmen to assist junior Para-sport athletes achieve their dreams. We have a tradition of supporting junior sport in New South Wales and the Kurt Fearnley Scholarship furthers that commitment,” Campbell said.

The list of recipients follows overleaf:
# 2020 Kurt Fearnley Scholarship Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Suburb</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Cronje</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Narellan, NSW</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Coached by Paralympic legend and Sport Australia Hall of Fame member Troy Sachs, Jessica was a member of the Devils Australian Under 25 team at the 2019 world championships which won a silver medal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Fisher</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Thornton, NSW</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Following a gymnastics injury which left her paralysed, Aimee has taken up wheelchair racing with great success. Coached by Andrew Dawes in Newcastle, Kurt's hometown, she competes in the 100m, 200m and 400m T54 wheelchair events. Aimee is the Australian open 100m and 200m T54 champion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kailyn Joseph</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Cherrybrook, NSW</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>After winning a world junior para-athletics bronze medal at 14, Kailyn made her senior team debut with a fifth-place finish at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games at just 15. Kailyn holds the Australian record at U16/U18 and U20 level in the T38 cerebral palsy category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryanne Latu</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Hebersham, NSW</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>A member of the Devils Australian team at the U25 world championships winning the silver medal, Maryanne has also played a number of tournaments with the Gliders, Australia's senior women's wheelchair basketball team.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Said</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dee Why, NSW</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>Former Australian age group 1500m record holder and 5000m representative who has turned his attention to cycling. Benjamin competes on the track and road in time trial and road race events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Stubbs</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Glenwood, NSW</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Former NSW rep cricketer and soccer player who is a swimming all-rounder, Oscar competes in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and medley events in the s13 vision impaired category. Oscar collected five gold and three bronze medals at the Australian age championships in 2019.</td>
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The Events Calendar is in abeyance!