



The Carbiner

Celebrating 50 years: 1961 to 2011

Thanks and congratulations

To members of affiliate clubs who attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations,

To members of The Carbine Club for their chospitality and fine company,

To partners who enriched the occasion,

To management and staff of the RACV Club, The Australian Club,

Il Duca restaurant and Melbourne Racing Club for superb service and food.

WEDNESDAY July 13: Welcome Drinks



At the RACV Club Carbine Bar, the President of The Carbine Club Mal Brown welcomed local, interstate and overseas members and partners to what he promised would be four days of celebration; carefully planned and managed by club secretary John Acraman with support from active and able mentors, Bill Hoffmann and Leon Wiegard, and a host of other Carbine Club members.

Special thanks to Carbine Bar manager Geoff Druce who ensured glasses were kept full, with abundant tasty nibbles to match.

THURSDAY July 14: Delegates' Meeting & 50 Year Dinner

Lunch and The Carbine Clubs Delegates' Meeting took place in the RACV Presidents Room, amid the leather-lined walls, chandeliers, purpose built furniture and opulent surrounds. Lloyd Meredith and Bruce Stinson provided an update on what will be a sensational 2012 Hong Kong Congress and Steve Davoren from CCQLD gave an outline of the forward planning for 2014 in the Sunshine State.

Club delegates will report back to members on matters discussed at the meeting.



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The now traditional pre-drinks drinks in the Carbine Bar enabled many members to renew acquaintances before the bow-tied brigade trooped down Little Collins Street to The Australian Club for pre-dinner drinks, and photo opportunities as club member and super snapper Gordon Bennett captured special moments.

Damsels left behind at the RACV Club were in no distress; the ladies obviously enjoyed themselves. The next day one was overheard politely advising her inquisitive husband "You say what goes on in club, remains in club". Ouch!

The 50 Year Dinner at The Australian Club is covered in its own edition of The Carbiner, but, post-dinner, several wantoks from a Carbine Club just north of Queensland proceeded to Crown Casino. Each was laden with a copy of *The Carbine Club: The First 50 Years*.

Upon arrival, they paid the taxi driver double to deliver their copies of the history back to their five star accommodation at the RACV Club. Upon arrival at the club some hours later, shortly before sun-up, the concierge presented them with their books as they filed in. Top class service!

FRIDAY July 15: Sports Museum & MCG & Il Duca Restaurant Luncheon



As accolades for the previous night flowed, the bus departed RACV Club at the appointed time and delivered an amazingly refreshed mob to the MCG where they met with other members who had found their own way there.

Volunteer tour guides, including AFL premiership coach Alan Joyce, conducted tours including a walk onto the hallowed turf of the MCG. Our visit was enhanced by the presence of the AFL Hall of Fame's Brian Dixon and Ron Barassi – Carbine Club members and legends who bestrode "the 'G" in their younger days.



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From the playing field it was up into the members' area with visits to the cricketers' enclaves and the change rooms being decked out for the AFL Carlton - Collingwood clash the following day. On we went to some of the finest sports-related artefacts and interactive technology witnessed anywhere in the world:

- *Faster, Higher, Stronger (Olympics)*
- *The People's Ground (MCG)*
- *Spirit of Sport (Sport Australia Hall of Fame)*
- *Backyard to Baggy Green (Cricket)*
- *Australia's Game (Australian Football)*
- *Champions: Thoroughbred Racing Gallery*
- *Multi-Sports exhibition*
- *Game On (Interactive Gallery)*

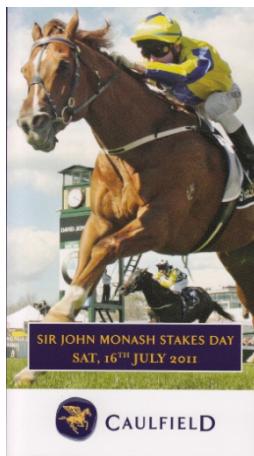
Displays abound with the names of Carbine Club members who made their mark in the sporting world whether in competition, administration or the media. No different from the mix of members of any Carbine Club. Plus, of course, one of many highlights in *Champions*: an articulated skeleton of Carbine, the incomparable champion behind the naming of our club.



Having digested years of sporting history in just 90 minutes, it was time to tempt the gastric juices over a slightly extended time at Il Duca, an Italian Restaurant just a Barassi drop-punt

away. An in-house waiter, a tender 22-year-old tenor, put on a special performance and charmed all present. Again, marvellous tucker washed down with appropriate refreshments before repairing to – you guessed it, the RACV Club to make sure that the Carbine Bar was still operating.

SATURDAY July 16: Caulfield Races Luncheon & Beverages





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Members battled on to Caulfield for Sir John Monash Stakes Day at Caulfield. In the Peter Lawrence Room, a top facility provided by the Melbourne Racing Club, tips flowed freely as food, drinks, punting and cameraderie ensured a day of typical Carbine fellowship. After the last, an intrepid group returned to the RACV Club and reassembled you know where.



As I welcomed members on Wednesday July 13, I made some comments that are worth reflecting on as we conclude our celebration of The Carbine Club's 50 years in Melbourne. As Carbine Club members, we are part of a very select organisation that started 50 years ago with a small group of gentlemen who set out to establish a luncheon club that would be something special.

Today we not only have The Carbine Club but a network that has grown from that initial idea with the club now represented in all Australian States and Territories and with a growing number of international clubs.

We recently celebrated not only the founding of The Carbine Club but of an organisation that has grown with one of a common interest focussed on sport, achievement and good fellowship.

We joined in celebration with the spirit that will ensure the Carbine Club fraternity continues for the next 50 years.

Mal Brown
President
The Carbine Club