



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB

EDITION 14 of 2023- 17th September

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Happy Birthday Trevor Craddock!

On the occasion of his 100th birthday the Club acknowledges the outstanding contribution Trevor Craddock (pictured above) has made to the Carbine Club over its entire history – Secretary Graham Halbish said:

"Sunday 17th September marks the 100th birthday of our sole surviving founding member Trevor Craddock.

I know all Carbine Club members throughout our National and International network will join in acknowledging & celebrating this remarkable milestone.

Trevor has been the heart and soul of the Club for over 60 years and has rarely missed an event.

Regrettably his health will prevent him from attending the Grand Final lunch on the 26th., but he will know that all present will be sending their best 100th birthday wishes to him and our thanks for more than a half century of service and dedication to the Carbine Club.

Graham Halbish,

Secretary, The Carbine Club".



Trevor's immense contribution started with his major role in the founding of the Club and amongst his many achievements one that certainly stands out is when he managed to organise a special luncheon guest: HRH The Prince of Wales, now of course King Charles III. Both tales were published in the booklet "Carbine Club Classics" which was compiled in 2011 by Robin Flannery, and are reproduced below to mark Trevor's significant milestone.

(Pic left -enjoying a Club event - Frank Sedgman with Trevor)

FOREWORD

By **TREVOR CRADDOCK**

I could regale you with endless stories. However one that I think should be told was the origin of our first Derby Eve Luncheon in 1963 which I believe after all those years was the defining moment which set us up to be a very successful club.

Usually a few of us met for lunch most Fridays at the Hotel Australia. On one such occasion in 1963, Rig Davies – an upper class English bachelor, co-founder of the club and co-author of Cup Day – leaned across to Harry Hopman and said: “We should have a Carbine Club luncheon to celebrate our most classical race, The Derby, and of course as such it should have vice-regal patronage. Harry you play tennis with our new Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, would you ask him if he would attend.” Surprisingly Harry said, “Yes”, and more surprising Sir Rohan said, “Yes”.

We were just a 2-year-old small luncheon club of twenty or so members. Some panic then set in because a vice-regal patronised affair needed an appropriate guest list. So we invited everyone who was anybody in racing plus some politicians etc. Nearly all accepted, but the most appropriate venues were already booked in advanced – so we settled for a motel with a decent-sized restaurant situated between St Kilda and Queens Roads. It was a great success with luminaries like Victoria’s Premier, Henry Bolte, a racing man, and most presidents of Australian Racing Clubs and ancillary bodies, also a fair number of business men attending.

The crunch came later as most were guests of the club and we had no money. Many of us members had to dig deep to pay the bill.

The club never looked back. Traditional luncheons were held monthly and, in accordance with the constitution, the Guest of Honour did not make a speech but answered questions from the audience “in club”. Most Guests of Honour were offered the opportunity to join in those days until the membership quickly reached the max of 40 members.



PIÈCE de RÉSISTANCE By **TREVOR CRADDOCK**

The Carbine Club’s ultimate Guest of Honour: His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, who at that time was in his early thirties. It was 1981 when, instead of giving a speech, the Guest of Honour answered questions off the cuff from members and guests, and everything was “in club”.

The story of this accomplishment might be helpful to our sister clubs in seeking royalty or other government-sponsored VIPs.

On hearing of the Prince’s proposed visit, I contacted the Department of Protocol of our government who advised me there was only one opportunity in his itinerary to attend a luncheon, and we would need to make a submission to them giving reasons why we should be selected. We did not have as high a profile in those days but elected to “gild the lily” a bit and indicate the variety of internationally known sports people who were members and the unique style of our meetings.

The venue would be Leonda by the Yarra, a function centre heralded as the “most modern in Australia” when it opened in 1971. Leonda was the former Hawthorn Tea Gardens, considered in my youth to be an integral part of courtship rituals. We would ferry down the Yarra and spend the day canoodling in canoes and hired rowing boats.

Now, back to the royal yarn.

Ultimately it came down to a contest between Melbourne Rotary and ourselves, and after we were selected I had to go to Leonda – where we were limited to forty tables of ten – to go through every detail of arrival and procedure. Prince Charles agreed to the idea of questions in club but wanted a list in advance. His Highness adhered to this request but on the day there was not time to get through them all. He was not selective and also not pleased that he had to leave us for elsewhere. The frankness with which he spoke impressed everyone.

The only downside was that one of the members’ guests – we believed to be a politician – spoke to a reporter. As early as breakfast time next morning the Prince’s aide was on the phone to me. I apologised sincerely, saying truthfully that this was the first time it had happened in our twenty years.



Queensland Members Lunch

The Member's Only lunch on 24th August, took place at the exquisite Georges on Sorrento.



During this special gathering Glynnis Nunn from the Gold Coast Academy of sport introduced us to our most recent bursary recipients, Julia Mannell and Charlie Guy who received their certificate for The Carbine Club Striving for Excellence Award. Both young ladies spoke about their sporting achievements.



(L- Mick Veivers and Julia Mannell

R- Charli Guy & Mick)

Julia who has a red belt in Tae Kwon Do recently competed in a tournament in Brisbane and received fighter of the day and won gold against a 20 year old fighter from Papa New Guinea.



We also had the honour of hosting two distinguished members of our club, Mick 'The Farmer' Veivers and George Doniger, both of whom have made significant contributions to various fields and had inspiring stories to share. Mick Ellison, also a club member conducted the interviews.

(Mick Veivers, Mick Ellison & George Doniger)

Mick 'The Farmer' Veivers, a remarkable athlete, made a noteworthy transition from Australian Rugby League to Rugby Union when he was just 17. He etched his name in history as the first rugby league player to represent both Queensland and New South Wales in consecutive years, showcasing his exceptional talent on the field.

This snippet of his background and achievements is just the tip of the Iceberg as to his amazing sporting, professional and political background (Queensland Member of Parliament) and a successful career in television as one of the Rugby League callers with Co- Host George Doniger (see picture). No Bunker and no replays however Mick had an incredible recall of the action.

We then had the pleasure to hear about George Doniger's professional sporting and business background and this story had the crowd laughing as well in ore of what one person can achieve.

He is another exceptional member of our Club who started his athletic pursuits at a young age by playing rugby league although this is only a small part of his career and how many people do you know, have a dedication to fitness which led him to accomplish an impressive milestone of completing 50 full marathons over a span of 20 years, a feat that demands both mental and physical fortitude.

(CCQLD cont....)

His business career was equally impressive involved in setting up Wendy's the soft serve ice cream group just to mention a few. His time as a compare on the Sunday Morning Sport Review on Seven was trail blazing.

Thank Mick Ellison, Mick Veivers and George Doniger for an entertaining afternoon.



Mick & George at work!



New Zealand News



CCNZ held a luncheon at Ellerslie Racecourse on 23rd of August to align with the 2023 World Athletics in Budapest with master story teller Dick Tayler, MNZM (*pic left*) sharing insights, memories and experiences from his outstanding career.

Also at the luncheon was Jaden Movold who is an athlete, an ambassador, an advocate and a speaker. Jaden was a recent recipient of a Disability Sport Auckland scholarship and he spoke of the impact of the support from the Carbine Club through Sir Denis Blundell Charitable Trust and the funds raised by the CCNZ Golf Day.

At this luncheon a special presentation was made to John Sparling, a Founding Member, Life Member and now the first member to reach 25 years with the Club.

A former President, John was a first class cricketer from 1956 until 1971, playing 11 Tests and 127 first class games. His Test debut was against England in Leeds in 1958 and his last was against South Africa in Dunedin in 1964.



PHOTO: L to R: Dame Wendy Pye (Patron), Dick Tayler (Guest Speaker), Jaden Movold, (Guest Recipient of Funds from the Carbine Club), Murray McKinnon (President)



PHOTO L to R: Fiona Allan, Richard Matson, Tony Feasey, Mickey McKee. Below: Life Members, John Sparling, Vicky Latta and Bruce Goldsworthy



John Sparling



Calendar of Events

The Carbine Club



26 Sept – AFL Luncheon at Crown Palladium from 12 noon
 3 Nov – VRC Derby Eve Luncheon at Crown Palladium from 12 noon
 12 Dec – Members Xmas Lunch

Australian Capital Territory



Fri 6 Oct – Tony Campbell Memorial Cup Day at Thoroughbred Park (M&G)
 Mon 4 Dec – 11th Carbine Club Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day, Royal Canberra Golf Club (MO)
 Fri 8 Dec – AGM/Christmas Lunch – National Press Club (MO)

Hong Kong



CCHK Annual Golf Day - Clearwater Bay Country Club - 19th October 2023
 International Racing Luncheon - Grand Hyatt Hong Kong - 8th December 2023
 Hong Kong Rugby Sevens Luncheon - Hong Kong Football Club - 5th April 2024

London



6 November- AGM & Dinner, Bluebird Restaurant, Chelsea
 5 March 2024 – Cheltenham Dinner, OXO Tower Restaurant

New South Wales



New Zealand



Northern Territory



27 Oct – Cox Plate Lunch, Breezes at Muirhead M&G
 1 Dec – Christmas Dinner, Darwin Turf Club (includes twilight racing) M&P

Papua New Guinea



22 Sep Friday- Sportsman Lunch. Hilton Hotel
 28 Oct Saturday-Cox Plate Day, Aviat Club
 18 Nov Saturday-MO Lunch, NFS Lounge
 8 Dec Friday Members Xmas Cocktail Party, venue TBC



Queensland

2 Nov- Cricket Lunch, Queensland Cricketers Club in the Glass Viewing Room
7 Dec- Members Lunch, Manos on the Gold Coast
8 Jan 2024- Magic Millions, Star Casino Broadbeach



Singapore

Friday 15th December: 'Xmas Lunch'; Grand Hyatt, Singapore.



South Australia

21Sept- SANFL Grand Final Luncheon
1 Dec – Celebration of Cricket Luncheon, Adelaide Oval



Tasmania

20 Oct -AGM & Lunch, Wrest Point



Tokyo

30 September – AFL Grand Final Lunch
7 November – Melbourne Cup



Vanuatu

27 October - Charity Sports Evening, Convention Centre



Western Australia

Friday 22 September -W AFL Grand Final Luncheon Full Tables Hyatt Regency Perth
October (date TBC)- Wine Tasting Luncheon Members +1 Guest Swan Valley
Friday 24 November Racing Luncheon- (Full Tables) Hyatt Regency Perth