



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB



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Contributors to this edition:

Simon Lopez thanks Graham Halbish and reports on the Vic AGM
Parshid Falahati updates CCHK news with the Rugby Lunch & AGM
Neville Mead from SA on the Racing Luncheon
Jason Ferris reports on a wine event for CCWA
... and snippets inc. Tas & Manila

Thank you Graham!

After 14 years of dedicated service as Secretary of the Melbourne chapter of The Carbine Club, Graham Halbish is stepping down from the role — and it is difficult to imagine Club life without him at the centre of it all.

Since taking over from John Acraman in 2012, Graham has been the calm hand, steady organiser, trusted adviser and friendly voice behind so much of what makes the Club run so well. Following in the footsteps of long-serving predecessors including the legendary Bill Hoffmann, Graham carried on the great traditions of the Club while adding his own warmth, humour and generosity along the way.

Anyone who has worked with Graham knows the enormous amount of effort that goes into the role of Secretary — much of it unseen, all of it important.

Whether organising lunches, coordinating members, keeping Presidents on track or quietly solving problems before anyone else noticed them, Graham did it all with grace, patience and good humour.

More than that, Graham has been a wonderful custodian of the spirit of the Club — helping maintain the friendships, camaraderie and sense of occasion that make The Carbine Club so special.

On behalf of all members, we thank Graham sincerely for his remarkable contribution over the past 14 years. His service, friendship, and dedication have been deeply appreciated and while he may be stepping down as Secretary, he will always remain a valued part of the fabric of the Club.

Thank you Graham.



Melbourne AGM – Kooyong Tennis Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Carbine Club of Victoria was held recently at the magnificent Kooyong Tennis Club — a venue that delivered in every respect from its storied surrounds to the warmth of the welcome extended by the club's staff.

President David Evans welcomed members and set the tone for what was a genuinely memorable afternoon. But before the formalities concluded the room paused to recognise an extraordinary chapter coming to a close. Graham Halbish stood down as Secretary after a remarkable 14 years in the role — a tenure that speaks for itself. Graham's contribution to the club has been immeasurable, and the warmth of the room's appreciation said everything. Stepping into those considerable shoes is Simon Lopez, who we warmly welcome to the role and wish every success.

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(Melbourne cont...)

The afternoon also provided a proud moment as the club presented charitable donations to two very worthy organisations — Disability Sport and Recreation, represented by CEO Liz Tesone and the Victorian Institute of Sport, represented by CEO Nicole Livingstone (Carbine Club member). Both do exceptional work in the Victorian sporting community, and the club was delighted to extend its support to each.

Nicole also introduced three outstanding young athletes — each a compelling reminder of why the club's Future Talent Program matters so much.

- Aoife Coughlan — one of Australia's most decorated judoka, Commonwealth Games Gold medallist (Birmingham 2022) and two-time Olympian at Tokyo and Paris.
- Kate McDonald — artistic gymnast, Commonwealth Games Gold medallist on Balance Beam (Birmingham 2022) and Paris 2024 Olympian.
- Claudia Hollingsworth — middle-distance record breaker, dual national champion in the 800m and 1500m and 2025 Australian 800m record holder with 1:57.67 at the Diamond League in Poland.

Aoife and Kate are both former recipients of the Carbine Club Future Talent Program — and seeing them in the room left little doubt that the investment has been well placed.

The afternoon closed in true Carbine spirit — great conversation, great company and that quiet sense of fellowship that has always been the heartbeat of this club.

Here's to another outstanding year ahead.



Celebrating Rugby with the Carbine Club of Hong Kong:

On 17 April 2026, the Carbine Club of Hong Kong Rugby Lunch once again returned to its spiritual home at the iconic Hong Kong Football Club, bringing together 620 guests for an afternoon that perfectly captured the spirit of rugby — camaraderie, humour, storytelling and generosity. Timed perfectly ahead of the Rugby Sevens weekend, the luncheon proved to be one of the highlights of Hong Kong’s sporting and social calendar.

Master of Ceremonies Andrew Macintosh opened proceedings by warmly welcoming guests and immediately setting the tone for an entertaining afternoon. He drew attention to the two bottles of whisky placed on every table, generously donated by Edrington, a gesture that was met with great appreciation around the packed ballroom. Andrew then invited Carbine Club President Peter Glanville to the stage. President Peter Glanville welcomed all guests and thanked supporters for once again turning out in such impressive numbers. He paid tribute to Cathay Pacific for their continued partnership and support of the luncheon and the wider rugby community in Hong Kong. Peter then introduced the distinguished head table and the afternoon’s three guest speakers — Joe Schmidt, Rob Henderson and Mick Colliss — each of whom would go on to leave the audience thoroughly entertained in very different ways.



First to the microphone was legendary rugby coach Joe Schmidt. Joe began by thanking everyone for supporting both the Carbine Club Lunch and the game of rugby itself. From the outset, his warmth and wit immediately connected with the crowd. One of his opening stories involved cricketing legends Shane Warne and Kevin Pietersen playing golf together, a tale delivered with perfect comedic timing that had the room erupting in laughter.

Joe also acknowledged the presence of Alan Quinlan in the audience, noting that he had coached Quinlan during their time together with Munster and Ireland.

Throughout his speech, Joe returned repeatedly to the core values of rugby — teamwork, sacrifice and the importance of contributing to something bigger than oneself. He spoke passionately about rugby being not simply about individual brilliance, but about what players can give to others around them.

Reflecting on his coaching career, Joe shared memories from his time with Clermont Rugby Club, recalling the incredible scenes after they won the championship. More than 65,000 people celebrated throughout the town, and remarkably, local seismic measuring equipment even registered the activity from the jubilant supporters. It was a story that perfectly illustrated rugby’s ability to unite entire communities.

Joe also reflected on the historic Ireland versus New Zealand clashes, particularly the famous haka performed in the shape of a figure eight. He described how moments like these transcended rivalry and showcased the immense respect that exists within rugby, with legends of the game applauding one another and celebrating the sport itself.



As always, Joe balanced thoughtful reflection with humour. He joked that he had travelled to Hong Kong just days after celebrating his 36th wedding anniversary with his wife, before adding that they had probably only spent six years together because she had effectively been a “rugby widow” throughout his coaching career. The self-deprecating line brought another wave of laughter from the crowd.



Before leaving the stage, Joe encouraged guests to support the luncheon's chosen charity, Rugby for Good, by making donations into the collection jars around the room. He then concluded with a heartfelt Toast to Rugby, perfectly capturing the spirit of the afternoon.



Matt Curtis from Progeny presenting Nicola with a bottle of Macalln 18 whisky

Following the main course, attention turned to the ever-popular lucky draw. Guests eagerly awaited the announcement of the winning tickets, with prizes including a bottle of Macallan 18 generously donated by Progeny and a case of wine donated by Altura Mortgage Finance.

Next up, Andrew Macintosh introduced former Irish international Rob Henderson. Rob immediately had the audience engaged with his trademark humour and storytelling ability. Thanking Peter Glanville and the Carbine Club for the invitation, Rob launched into a hilarious explanation of why he ended up playing for Ireland. He described having a strong Irish mother, a father who was half Scottish and half Indian, and being born in Dover — a wonderfully chaotic family background that set the tone for what followed.



Rob then spoke about his early sporting years, admitting that he had initially been far better at football and athletics than rugby. Amid the humour, there were also touching moments, including a toast to several friends he had sadly lost during the past year.

One of the funniest moments came when Rob pointed out Lorraine Gaffney in the audience. He explained that Lorraine had warned him there were ladies present and asked him to avoid using the "F word" during his speech. Rob agreed — but announced he would replace it with the word "garden" instead. What followed was a barrage of perfectly timed "gardening" references woven into his rugby stories, leaving the room in absolute hysterics.



The remainder of Rob's speech featured a collection of hilarious tales from his playing days, delivered with impeccable timing and authenticity. By the time he concluded with a Toast to the Carbine Club, the audience was thoroughly entertained and still laughing.





The final speaker of the afternoon was the incomparable Mick Colliss — emcee, keynote speaker, author, sports commentator, modern-day poet and, perhaps most memorably, vice-captain of the first-ever Australian Sudoku team. Mick recounted his extraordinary trip to India for the World Sudoku Championships, delivering the story with such brilliance and absurdity that guests were literally crying with laughter. His unique blend of sharp wit, storytelling and theatrical delivery provided the perfect finale to an exceptional luncheon.

Peter Glanville, Joe Schmidt, Mick Colliss, Rob Henderson, Andrew Macintosh

As the event drew to a close, guests departed in tremendous spirits after an afternoon full of laughter, friendship and rugby camaraderie. Many then made their way across to the magnificent Kai Tak Stadium to continue the celebrations and enjoy the excitement of the Rugby Sevens tournament.

The 2026 Carbine Club of Hong Kong Rugby Lunch once again demonstrated why it remains one of the most anticipated events on the sporting calendar — a celebration not only of rugby, but of the enduring friendships and shared experiences that make the game so special.



CARBINE CLUB OF HONG KONG - Annual General Meeting 2026

Hong Kong Cricket Club | 14 May 2026

The Carbine Club of Hong Kong held its 35th Annual General Meeting on the evening of Thursday, 14 May at the Hong Kong Cricket Club – a fitting venue, given that the Club had recently celebrated its own 175th Anniversary in fine style, having hosted a tri-nations cricket tournament welcoming the Melbourne Cricket Club and Marylebone Cricket Club to Hong Kong. In a closely contested affair, Melbourne Cricket Club emerged victorious.



President's Report

President Peter Glanville chaired the meeting and presented his report covering a landmark year for the Club. Among the standout events was the Racing Lunch on 12 December 2025, held to coincide with the International Raceday at Shatin. The lunch drew 472 attendees – including several international tour groups – and featured an entertaining line-up of speakers. The “Fashions on the Field” competition, with prizes donated by Shanghai Tang, was again a highlight.

The Cricket Lunch on 31 October 2025 was a sold-out affair, with 256 guests filling the Hyatt Regency in Tsim Sha Tsui. Guest speakers Simon Katich and Graeme Swann were warmly received with, proceedings continuing at the Chin Chin bar with a live musician entertaining members and guests well into the evening.

The Rugby 7s Lunch on 17 April 2026, coinciding with the Hong Kong Sevens, was hailed by many as the Club's best lunch ever. Returning to its spiritual home at the Hong Kong Football Club, the event attracted 617 members and guests – the largest attendance in the Club's history.

Financial Performance

Honorary Treasurer David Greaves reported a strong year for the club in terms of both operating performance and charitable activities. Across the Club's three main lunches, a total of HK\$379,000 (AU\$67,200) was raised for charitable causes during the year ended 30 April 2026: Rugby for Good (HK\$174,000 / AU\$31,000), the Cricket Hong Kong Foundation (HK\$113,000 / AU\$20,000), Riding for the Disabled (HK\$46,000 / AU\$8,100), and the Oxfam Tai Po Fire Solidarity Support Programme (HK\$46,000 / AU\$8,100).

Election of Office Bearers & Committee 2026/2027

Peter Glanville facilitated the election of the incoming Office Bearers and Committee. Following the election of his successor, Peter spoke warmly of his tenure as President, expressing his honour at having led the Club and his deep gratitude for the outstanding support of his fellow office bearers, the Committee, and the membership throughout his term.

The newly elected Office Bearers and Committee for 2026/2027 are:

President: Parshid Falahati

Vice President: Jake McCauley

Hon. Treasurer: David Greaves

Hon. Secretary: Andrew Gerrard

Committeemen: Andrew Macintosh, Michael Corcoran, Patrick Sullivan, Christopher Owen & Damien Barnes

Incoming President Parshid Falahati expressed his deep honour and gratitude at being elected to lead the Club, acknowledging the tremendous support shown by members and his predecessors alike. He was characteristically gracious in recognising that he had big shoes to fill but equally conveyed his excitement at the opportunity to build on the exceptional foundations laid before him and to continue the Club's proud traditions. Members warmly welcomed Parshid's election.

New Members

Six new Ordinary Members were elected to the Club: Christopher Brookes, Anthony Steains, Hayden Briscoe, Ricky Cheuk, David Mocatta, and Travis Smithson. The Club extends a warm welcome to each of them.



(L-R: Ex President - Peter Glanville, Current President - Parshid Falahati and Past President - Andrew Steadson)

A Fine Evening

Formal business concluded at approximately 7:30pm, with Past President Colin Jesse moving a formal vote of thanks and appreciation on behalf of the membership to the outgoing and incoming office bearers and Committee. Members remained to socialise over a glass of wine, rounding off a most enjoyable evening.

Carbine Club of SA Inc 2026 Goodwood Racing Luncheon Thursday 7th May 2026

Horse Racing is a cornerstone of the Carbine Club and it was great to see a crowd of 450 in attendance to celebrate the running of the Goodwood which was run on Saturday 9th May 2026.

The function room located in the Wolf Blass “The Man” Event Centre at Morphettville with views over the racecourse and Adelaide Hills provided a picturesque backdrop for the Luncheon. MC for the day, Ben Hook, introduced Club President to the stage for his heartfelt welcome speech acknowledging the recent passing of Senior Member, Warren Wilson. Warren has been a Member of CCSA since 1995 and prior to that was a founding Member of Carbine Club Hong Kong in 1991 along with John McNamara. John and his wife Caroline travelled from Melbourne to join us for the Luncheon.

Eric acknowledged our Special Guests and sponsors which included Peter Feeney and Peter Panas from Bank SA, Peter Lane OAM, Nick Earle from Lion, Judith Jones Chair SAJC, Grant Mayer CEO SAJC, Rob Rorrison Chair Racing SA, Andrew Madgwick and Chris Borg from Solitaire, James Phillips, Dealer Principle - Solitaire Automotive Group, Simon Wicks and Randal Tomich.

Eric Granger presented three Members with their 25 year Membership awards, namely, Greg Fahey, Peter Brien and David Basheer, all publicans. Must be something about publicans enjoying a good Luncheon. Presentations were also made to new Members, Garth Hall (Ordinary Member), Ron Barton and Paul Kelly as Associate Members. Ron Barton has come on board with his business, Aussiefast Transport Solutions, and Paul Kelly from Solitaire Automotive Group as sponsors of CCSA.

Rob Rorrison, Chair of Racing SA, announced the recipient of the Apprentice Jockey Scholarship sponsored by Thomas Foods International for \$5,000. Alyssa Webb was a very worthy recipient and we are keen to watch her progress over the coming years.

Quality of food and service was superb, complimented by West End Beer, Tomich and Wicks Estate Wines.

Certainly, the highlight of the day was welcoming home Jamie Melham who honed her skills as a jockey in SA prior to moving to Melbourne to further her career. Ben Hook presented a very entertaining interview with Jamie, Ben interviewed Jamie when she was an apprentice and also provided some magnificent photos detailing Jamie’s career over the years. Jamie’s husband, Ben Melham, found some of the photos of Jamie in her younger years very amusing. Discussions around the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup wins in 2025 on Half Yours were enthralling which also had Club Member and part owner of Half Yours, Darren Thomas, reliving those moments.

To finish off the afternoon, Comedian, Chris Radburn entertained the crowd which topped off a great day, must have been a good day, many did not leave the venue until hours later.

Charity for the day was Make A Wish who raised \$11,000 which included a donation of \$500 from Ladbrokes. Ladbrokes also provided a free raffle with a prize of **2 x tickets to this year’s Cox Plate inclusive of all food & beverages**. This was open to all Members and guests on the day with a number of envious people when the winner was announced.



(L-R Eric Granger, Ron Barton, Paul Kelly)

(Eric Granger & Garth Hall)



Western Australia – Fine Wine Afternoon

Carbine Club WA members and guests enjoyed an afternoon of fine wine at Larry Cherubino's Cherubino City Cellar in Subiaco on Wednesday May 13th. Larry was joined by WA Wine Supremo and wine journalist, Ray Jordan to examine the characteristics of three different vintages each of Cherubino Margaret River Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Incoming CCWA President for 2026, Jason Ferris hosted the event which was well attended by members and guests given this was a mid-week event. Andrew Jackson, guest of club member Graeme "Fergy" Ferguson was lucky enough to win the auction prize of a hosted wine event with Ray Jordan, for 10 people including a selection of reserve wines.



Matt Fahey (CCWA Immediate past President), Ray Jordan, Larry Cherrubino, Chris Carman, Jason Ferris (CCWA President)



Andrew Jackson, Graeme Ferguson, Ray Jordan

Snippets..

TAS -While those in WA were sipping on fine wines down in Tas a select group of members gathered once again at Member Simon Bevan’s replica old English pub for an evening of fellowship and a catch up on the latest Club news, especially details of the planned Club visit to London next year for the Lords Luncheon and a day or two at the cricket. As well as the cricket plans, President Wendy Kennedy and Secretary Ross Burrige advised that arrangements are well in hand for the special raceday at Elwick on 21 June.













Top L- Ian Warner & Ross Burrige R- Dean Richards & Josh Tegg
Bottom L- Host Simon Bevan, Paul Fallon & John McMurray R- Hank Petrusma & Chris Drury







Manila- Manila Club President and Founder Chris Moriarty was seen not long ago dining out in Port Moresby with CCPNG Secretary Max Beagrie; a busy traveller, he was also in NSW recently to take up a prize that he won when he attended a CCNSW luncheon – Chris was the lucky raffle winner of a stay at the elegant Lovedale Farm in the Hunter Valley- Chris and Jenny thoroughly enjoyed the experience and extended thanks to Lovedale for exceptional hospitality and for the sponsorship of CCNSW.

Pic Jenny and Chris Moriarty with Lovedale Farm Manager Rachel (centre)



Calendar of Events

	<p>The Carbine Club www.thecarbineclub.org.au 21 July -Annual Dinner (venue tbc) at 6.30 preceded by Delegates Meeting, RACV @ 12 noon. 22 Sept – AFL Grand Final Lunch, Crown Palladium from 12 noon 30 Oct -VRC Derby Eve Luncheon, Crown Palladium from 12 noon</p>
	<p>Australian Capital Territory 17 Jun – State of Origin (2) dinner Aug- Canberra Raiders Charity Lunch Sep- GWS AFL Lunch Oct- Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day Dec – AGM</p>
	<p>Hong Kong www.carbineclubhk.com 5 Jun - New Members Dinner, 30 Oct-Cricket Sixes Lunch, Hyatt Regency TST 11Dec- Int Racing, Grand Hyatt</p>
	<p>London www.carbineclublondon.org.uk 5 Nov – Rugby Lunch</p>
	<p>Manila www.carbineclubmanila.org</p>
	<p>New South Wales www.carbineclubnsw.com.au</p>
	<p>New Zealand www.carbineclubnz.org.nz</p>
	<p>Northern Territory www.carbineclubnt.org.au 19 Jun – V8 Supercars-Motorsports House, Hidden Valley M&G 31 Jul- Darwin Cup- Beachside Pavillion, Mindil Beach Casino M&G 4 Sep – Founders Lunch, Yots Greek Taverna MO 23 Oct- Cox Plate, Wharf One M&G</p>
	<p>Papua New Guinea 12 Jun – MO Gantry Lunch, Port Moresby Game Fishing Club (RPLYC) 14 Aug- MO Italian Lunch, The Brazilian Restaurant, Lamana Hotel 4 Sep- Sportsmans Lunch TBC, Kutubu Convention Centre (Hilton Hotel) 24 Oct – Cox Plate Day, Aircon Bar (Aviat Club) TBA Nov/Dec Members Xmas Cocktail Party, TBC</p>
	<p>Queensland www.carbineclubqld.com.au 12 June - 45th State of Origin Lunch, Tattersalls Club</p>

	<p align="center">Singapore www.carbineclub.com.sg 17 Jul – Singapore Food Festival Lunch 4 Dec- Christmas Lunch</p>
	<p align="center">South Australia www.carbineclubsau.com.au Members Anniversary Luncheon – Friday 24th July 2026 Coopers Brewery Function Facility Regency Park SANFL Thursday 17th September 2026 Adelaide Oval December 16th – Adelaide Test Luncheon Aus/NZ 2027-16 March- LIV Golf Luncheon</p>
	<p align="center">Tasmania www.carbineclubtasmania.com.au 21 June – Raceday 16 Oct – AGM & Luncheon</p>
	<p align="center">Tokyo www.carbineclubtokyo.com 26 Sep – AFL GF Lunch 3 Nov – Melbourne Cup Luncheon 27 Nov- Japan Cup Preview Luncheon</p>
	<p align="center">Vanuatu</p>
	<p align="center">Western Australia www.carbineclubwa.com 19 June- Legends of Sport Event, Frasers Restaurant 18 Sept- WAFL Grand Final Luncheon, Riverview Room, Optus Stadium (TBC) 20 Nov- Racing Luncheon, Residence on Langley Park (previously Hyatt)</p>

Carbine's Melbourne Cup, 1890-Anon

The race is run, the Cup is won, the great event is o'er.
 The grandest horse that strode a course has led them home
 once more.
 I watched with pride your sweeping stride before you ranged
 in line,
 For far and near a ringing cheer was echoed for Carbine.

The start was made, no time delayed before they got away,
 Those horses great, some thirty-eight, all eager for the fray.
 No better start could human heart to sportsmen ever show
 As Watson did, each jockey bid get ready for to go.

With lightning speed, each gallant steed along the green track
 tore;
 Each jockey knew what he must do to finish in the fore.

But Ramage knew his mount was true, though he had 10-5 up,
 For Musket's son great deeds had done before that Melbourne
 Cup.

No whip, nor spur, he needs to stir a horse to greater speed;
 He knew as well as man can tell when he could take the lead.
 So on he glides with even strides, though he is led by nine;
 But Ramage knows before they close he'll try them with
 Carbine.

The bend is passed; the straight at last: he takes him to the
 fore.

The surging crowd with voices loud the stud's name loudly
 roar.

The jockey too, he full well knew the race was nearly o'er,
 As on his mane he slacked the rein: no need to urge him more.

Brave horse and man who led the van on that November day!
 Your records will be history still when ye have passed away.
 For such a race, for weight and pace, has never been put up
 As that deed done by Musket's son in the 1890 Cup.