



# The Carbiner

**"For sport and for good fellowship"**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB



**EDITION 8 of 2026 -EOFY Edition  
Queensland State or Origin Luncheon  
Raceday for CCTAS  
Events Calendar**

## Queensland State of Origin Luncheon

*Thanks to Event Organiser Michael Robinson for the report and pics*

**The 45th Year "State of Origin Lunch" was held on the 12th of June at Tattersall's Club Brisbane.** A sellout crowd of 240 members & guests attended this lunch with MC Pat Welsh, Special Member CCQ calling "play on" at 12noon.

Special Guests interviews were provided by Mal Meninga the 13th Immortal and Head Coach of Perth Bears NRL Franchise to be admitted in 2027; Ben Ikin retiring CEO QRL plus an inspiring rendition by renowned Australian poet Rupert McCall for his oration "Carbine in the Blood" dedicated to 45 years association of the CCQ with Rugby League in QLD and to State of Origin *-(a copy of the poem is in this edition).*

Lorna McPherson CEO of the PNG Chiefs (to be admitted to the NRL competition in 2028) gave a most enlightening interview of expectations & hopes of this team to the PNG nation and the culture and enjoyment this team will bring to the Rugby League crazy nation.

Ben Dobbin QRL media star conducted post lunch floor interviews with former QRL players & identities and rounded the afternoon off as auctioneer.



*Life member Bob McHarg (right) with Lisa McHarg, Admin Secretary & Guests*



*Mick Veivers, CCQ Patron*



*President Danny Copley, Michael Robinson, Dennis Watt (Chairman Gold Coast Titans) Syd Yates*

CARBINER 7-2026



Right-Ben Dobbin (QLD NRL Meia Personality) & Mat Welsh (CCQ Special Member)

Left - Michael Robinson & Lorna McPherson



George Doniger, Des Morris & guests

Below- Ben Ikin CEO QRL, Mal Meninga, Brian CanavanQRL, Danny Copley CCQ President



**Iconic Aussie poet Rupert McCall (pictured left with Susan Gallagher) penned a special oration for this event - Rupert is well known in Carbine Club circles and his bespoke poem is reproduced in this edition!**

## CCTAS Raceday



Carbine Club of Tasmania members & guests had another successful day at Elwick Racecourse (Ladbrokes Park) on a bright winter's day, Sunday 21 June.

In a humorous and entertaining interview with MC Steve Hawkins, CCTAS sponsored motorcross rider Cooper Ford gave a great insight into his love of his chosen sport and where he is headed – and didn't fail to let his dad (in attendance with his mother) know that he was a much better rider than dad!  
*(Cooper with Secretary Ross Burridge)*

The Carbine Club 3YO Winter Classic was race 5 on the card, conducted in brilliant sunshine matching the warmth of the hospitality of the Tasmanian Racing Club where CCTAS Club Secretary Ross (pictured above) is also Chairman of the race club, ably supported by race club committeeman and CC Member Andrew Scanlan, along with another CC member in Brendan Blomeley who is the race club's CEO!

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**RUPERT McCALL**

**Golden Soil**

**FINEST WORK**  
1992 - 2019

**NEW: GOLDEN SOIL**

Rupert's long-awaited 'best of' anthology featuring his finest work (1992 to 2019) Including his acclaimed poems *Green & Gold Malaria*, *Backyard Cricket*, *A Firefighter's Dream*, *The Crocodiles are Crying*, *Cyclone Winx*, *A Hundred Years From Now* and many more!

**SHOP NOW**

Following is Rupert McCall's poem delivered to the Carbine Club of Queensland. Rupert has a book of poems including the renowned *Green and Gold Malaria*- the book and the e-book are available online at [www.rupertmccall.com.au](http://www.rupertmccall.com.au)

## CARBINE IN THEIR BLOOD

It was somewhere in the Sunshine State – no detailed script is known  
All that we can say is that the sun came up maroon  
A pertinent announcement – Gold Coast -1981  
In the year that followed Arthur, there, the legend was begun  
On a tide of pride and passion, where the holy grail was sought  
By a tribe that treasured mateship, and who really loved their sport  
Don Alroe banged the table with a god almighty thud!  
There was granite in his backbone, there was Carbine in his blood  
That Herculean thoroughbred who bravely won the Cup  
91 years later, now again, the tide was up  
As they gathered with conviction and they gazed towards the Doc  
So, he rose and stood with purpose to address his loyal flock  
“Mark this day in history! A special sporting dawn!  
In the mighty state of Queensland... let the Carbine Club be born!”

And his comrade, Harry Gordon, took a liking to the ride  
As he spoke about humility and character and pride  
“When you contemplate this challenge and embark upon the race  
Yes, winning is important... but with courage and with grace”  
And the audience assembled, not just those within the room  
But the whole damn state of Queensland felt a supersonic boom!  
T’was a roar that they belonged to and a dream that they could touch  
The Carbine Club acknowledged this and doubled down, as such  
By inducting worthy members, and amongst the many others -  
McConnell, Lacey, Christmas and the famous Balkin brothers!  
Al & Ian Hollindale and BMD’s Mick Power  
Ambassadors of rugby league! Their fellowship would flower  
Through the issuing of bursaries to those who chased the shield  
Now a revolution beckoned on and off the playing field!  
A banana-bent battalion marching forward through the mud  
A team that stirred the cauldron sporting Carbine in their blood...

And the list of famed associates would gather over time  
In the name of Pedro Gallagher, gun rookies made their climb  
To the hallowed ranks of Origin! Gillett and DCE  
Gilbert, Lowe and Munster – as maroon, maroon could be!  
And those from Confraternity – that great school competition  
Supported by the Carbine Club, would harness raw ambition...  
To embrace the destination – put their foot down on the pedal  
Reg Cannon knew the story, so he granted them a medal!  
A cavalcade of champions would amplify the dose  
The King, Big Mal and Locky, Benny Ikin, Choppy Close!  
The Gator, Heals and Hohny and the legendary JT  
Big Monte, Bobby Hagan, Dessy Morris – Most agree -  
From the top of their heroics to the bottom of their studs  
If Doc Dooley took a sample, there’d be Carbine in their bloods!





A cracking crew of Queenslanders! But adding to their traction  
T’was decided to appoint a team to proudly call the action!  
Mick Veivers, Georgie Doniger alongside Alan Thomas  
Pat Welsh for expert whispers and to vindicate the promise  
That the crafting of a legacy would surely make a splash  
Through the lyric of the journals - Mister Sinclair! Master Crash!  
Who, with eloquent persuasion, via headline, might relate -

“THE CARBINE CLUB QLD IS A CREDIT TO THE STATE!”  
Then the article would follow – “In the spirit of tradition  
This magnificent establishment has satisfied their mission  
But more than that, the values undeniably held dear -  
Box a beautiful trifecta - friendship, sport and XXXX beer!  
When you analyse the honour board, there’s not one single dud!  
They with granite in their backbone! They with Carbine in their blood!”

Now, the shadows just grow longer, as the shadows tend to do  
Another full-time whistle sounds and memories push through  
We reminisce the chapters that prevailed to pave the way  
In the knowledge that the Carbine Club is here and here to stay  
For the future is a wondrous thing and something special clicks  
When you recognize the hearts and hands who laid the early bricks  
With fearless generosity and so much passion spilt  
It is humbling to realise the masterpiece they built  
For it sparkles in the sunrise then it opens up a door  
And it echoes in the rumble of that sacred Queensland roar!  
Then a glass is raised in honour, with a toast of due regard -  
‘May this mighty Club continue through the good times and the hard  
May its constitution persevere and inspiration flood  
And may the soldiers of tomorrow harbour Carbine in their blood...’

Rupert McCall © 2026

## Calendar of Events

	<p><b>The Carbine Club</b> <a href="http://www.thecarbineclub.org.au">www.thecarbineclub.org.au</a> 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><b>Australian Capital Territory</b> Aug- Canberra Raiders Charity Lunch Sep- GWS AFL Lunch Oct- Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day Dec – AGM</p>
	<p><b>Hong Kong</b> <a href="http://www.carbineclubhk.com">www.carbineclubhk.com</a> 30 Oct-Cricket Sixes Lunch, Hyatt Regency TST 11Dec- Int Racing, Grand Hyatt</p>
	<p><b>London</b> <a href="http://www.carbineclublondon.org.uk">www.carbineclublondon.org.uk</a> 2 Nov- AGM 5 Nov – Rugby Lunch</p>
	<p><b>Manila</b> <a href="http://www.carbineclubmanila.org">www.carbineclubmanila.org</a></p>



**New South Wales**

[www.carbineclubnsw.com.au](http://www.carbineclubnsw.com.au)

23 July – AFL Lunch, Shangri-La – see flyer



**New Zealand**

[www.carbineclubnz.org.nz](http://www.carbineclubnz.org.nz)

**Northern Territory**



[www.carbineclubnt.org.au](http://www.carbineclubnt.org.au)

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



**Papua New Guinea**

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



**Queensland**

[www.carbineclubqld.com.au](http://www.carbineclubqld.com.au)

8 Oct- Cricket Lunch, Queensland Cricket Club



**Singapore**

[www.carbineclub.com.sg](http://www.carbineclub.com.sg)

Date TBC- Jul – Singapore Food Festival Lunch  
4 Dec- Christmas Lunch



**South Australia**

[www.carbineclubsau.com.au](http://www.carbineclubsau.com.au)

Members Anniversary Luncheon – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026 Coopers Brewery Function Facility Regency Park  
SANFL Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Adelaide Oval  
December 16<sup>th</sup> – Adelaide Test Luncheon Aus/NZ  
2027-16 March- LIV Golf Luncheon



**Tasmania**

[www.carbineclubtasmania.com.au](http://www.carbineclubtasmania.com.au)

16 Oct – AGM & Luncheon



**Tokyo**

[www.carbineclubtokyo.com](http://www.carbineclubtokyo.com)

26 Sep – AFL GF Lunch  
3 Nov – Melbourne Cup Luncheon  
27 Nov- Japan Cup Preview Luncheon



**Vanuatu**



*Western Australia*

[www.carbineclubwa.com](http://www.carbineclubwa.com)

18 Sept- WAFL Grand Final Luncheon, Riverview Room, Optus Stadium (TBC)  
20 Nov- Racing Luncheon, Residence on Langley Park (previously Hyatt)



The Chairman, Darren Kane, and the Committee of The Carbine Club of NSW would like to invite members and guests to join us for

**'THE AFL LUNCH'**

THURSDAY **23** JULY 2026

— 12.00PM FOR 12.30PM —

Enjoy a three-course meal including beverages featuring **Sam Kekovich** plus AFL guest interviews!



**SHANGRI-LA SYDNEY**

176 CUMBERLAND STREET, THE ROCKS



**TICKETS:** \$280 MEMBERS & GUESTS

TABLE OF 10 = \$2,800



**DRESS:** CORPORATE ATTIRE

MEMBERS TO WEAR CARBINE TIES

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS  
BY MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY VIA OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.CARBINECLUBNSW.COM.AU](http://WWW.CARBINECLUBNSW.COM.AU)**