



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB



EDITION 1 of 2025- 16 Jan
Queensland – Magic Millions Luncheon
ACT News
HK Snippet- Martin Murray OBE
NT- Vale Austin Asche AC KC
Congress Reminder
Calendar of Events

Carbine Club of Queensland – Magic Millions Luncheon

An action-packed week on the Gold Coast for the Magic Millions events with dramas galore, but of course one of the best was the Carbine Club Luncheon!

This report from President Peter Gwynne:



The Carbine Club of Queensland had almost 400 guests and members attending what many described as the best Carbine Club Magic Millions event they had ever attended-Star Gold Coast in the ballroom served by far the best meals we had experienced so a big thanks to the team at Star for the outstanding cuisine presented.

MC Vince Sorrenti got the day underway at Noon and in his typical style quickly had the crowd in rapture for most of the afternoon with relevant stories and very amusing humour.

In the audience were 2024 Melbourne Cup Trainers Shiela Laxon and John Symonds who had this to say about the day: *"As you can imagine, winning the 2024 Melbourne Cup with Knight's Choice has been the most amazing experience and it's absolutely our pleasure to return a little bit of that excitement to the real winner - Australia!"*

(PIC LEFT-Tom Sullivan, Sheila Laxon, John Symonds and Robbie Dolan- Melbourne Cup winning jockey and songster!)



Sitting with Sheila and John was Robby Dolan the Melbourne Cup-winning jockey. Bernadette Cooper interviewed Shiela, John, and Robby about the experience that this group had been the first in history to bring the cup to Queensland. The cup was on display along with this year's Golden Slipper Trophy brought along by Julia Ritchie who we thank also.

The cup was paraded after lunch at 19 at The Star Roof Top Bar nearby and I have it on good authority that it remained there until close to midnight. Robby was on the beach the next day a 6 am riding one of the horses on the beach and being interviewed on national TV.

As a main event as we were delighted to host Lee and Emma Freedman interviewed by the one and only Paddy Welsh. There was a clip of Lee's first words after Makybe Diva's third consecutive Melbourne Cup Win:

"Go and find the youngest child on this course today and they are unlikely to ever see this again in their time"



Emma Freedman, Lee Freedman and Pat Welsh

An informative and entertaining interview of father and daughter followed that had the very large crowd hanging on there every word.

Then Darren Flindell was interviewed again by Paddy and gave us a great insight into his calling career in Hong Kong and more recently in Sydney Australia. (Pic Darren & Pat Welsh)



His preparation for these major calls (such as Winx's last run and Chautauqua's unbelievable victories, (the 3rd greatest stakes - earnings sprinter behind Winx and Redzel, and the huge lead that Decklan Bates had on Pride of Jenni) is second to none in preparing what to say once a champion passes the post a winner.

The club raised \$6,000 for the Injured jockey's trust for which Bernadette Cooper is the patron. The Carbine Club of Queensland has raised millions of dollars to support junior sports up and coming stars and this lunch goes a very long way in continuing that worthy cause.



Michael Robinson & Jeff Bignell



Barbara & Syd Yates



Susan Gallagher & Guests



Barry Crichton & Guests

What's on in February

It's all systems go with a big Carbine Club month ahead:

7 Feb - Tasmania kicks the month off with their big event of the year, the Racing Luncheon at Elwick with Guest Michael Christian – lunch is followed by the Tasmania Race Clubs twilight Derby Day race meeting and guests get to keep their table for the race card!

12 Feb – and it's on in **Adelaide** to celebrate LIV Golf- last year this was a sporting calendar highlight, and it is hard to top what was a sensational day, but you can be sure that the Adelaide Oval and the Carbine Club will once again put on a great show.

19 Feb – the Hong Kong chapter is off to the famed Happy Valley for a night at the races.

28 Feb- CCQLD will hold the AGM at the Kurrawa SLSC – sun, sand, surf and perhaps some suds?

And also on **28 Feb** it's a very special day in **Manila** where the new CCManila will conduct a golf day ahead of their inaugural luncheon to be held the next day

Carbine Club of ACT News

News from the Carbine Club of the ACT from outgoing Secretary Paul Walshe who stands down after an outstanding 20 years in the role – thanks for the many reports from the ACT over the years, Paul.



The Carbine Club of the ACT finished 2024 with the Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day on Monday 2 December and the AGM Christmas Luncheon on Friday 13 December.

A dozen members took to the fairways of Royal Canberra Golf Club for the 12th Annual Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day. The weather was perfect with some very good scores, but no one could match eventual winner John Wells who won a record 4th Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day Cup-*at left- John Wells receives the trophy from Paul Walshe).*

The National Press Club of Australia was the venue for 36th Carbine Club of the ACT AGM with 43 Members in attendance. President Cade Brown delivered his report and highlighted the membership continued to be strong and more importantly truly diverse with members from many business backgrounds and years of membership. The clubs focus throughout the year was to promote friendship among the membership and support sport within our region, particularly horse racing.

President Cade Brown presented member Frank 'the trainer' Cleary with his 25-year membership badge and outgoing Honorary Secretary Paul Walshe with Life Membership.

There was a changing of the guard with Paul Walshe to stand down as Honorary Secretary after the Black Opal Racing Luncheon on Friday 7 March 2025. Paul 'Walshie' had given 20 years of service to the role.

Also not seeking re-election were committee members Mac Howell, Allan Williams, and Todd Wills. President Cade Brown thanked them for their fantastic service to the club.



The new committee for 2025 is:

President: Cade Brown; Honorary Secretary: Michael Heath; Treasurer: Maurice Reilly; Committee Members: David Friend, Adrien Murphy, James Service

After the AGM the members settled down for the afternoon with the annual Christmas Luncheon with some wonderful food from the National Press Club and some great wines from Jim Murphy's.

HONG KONG Snippet – Martin Murray OBE

Carbine Club of Hong Kong member, Martin Murray was recognised in the British Empire's New Year Honours 2025 list. He was awarded an OBE (Officer of the British Empire), for services to charity, including his work as the Chair and Trustee of the Indochina Starlight Foundation and as a fundraiser for the My Name's Doddie Foundation.

Martin is also a member on the Hong Kong China Rugby Board.
Outstanding job, well done Martin!!



VALE Austin Asche AC KC, Former Patron CCNT and Member CCNT

- by Andy Bruyn, Life Member CCNT

A towering intellect, a wicked wit, a vast legacy of authored works, compassion, honour and a booming laugh were the hallmarks of a great Australian who died on 14 December, 2024, aged 99 years young. The Honourable Keith John Austin Asche AC KC was a man of significant reputation and high achievement – but at the end of the day revelled most in the accolade of being, “a bloody good bloke”.

Lawyer, judge, academic and fairly good tennis player, he was also former Patron and proud member of the Carbine Club of NT.

He was – to his death – a talented raconteur and a man vastly read of works from classics to Harry Potter and poetry from across the world. During the Congress held in Darwin he took the stage for a humorous and cheeky session with former Olympic Historian, Harry Gordon and the Sydney Hobart's most prolific skipper, John Bennetto. None dodged controversy that day but suffice to say it's a good thing their addresses in total remain “in club”.

Austin was – above all – a hugely proud Australian, who distinguished his people and the law by giving his every effort to doing the most for his profession and for his community.

Born in Melbourne, he was raised on the streets of Darwin when it was a frontier town, son of the Government's barrister, who often practised as the Crown Prosecutor in cases in the old courthouse adjacent to Government House.

Young Austin, dressed in dungaree shorts and a floppy hat, no shoes or shirt, often snuck into that courtroom from the dirt street outside and slid along the floor under the wooden bench seating to watch his dad at work. Ironically, when that building was reconstructed by Paul Everingham's Government as the Administrator's headquarters, the old court room space became the Administrator's inner sanctum and Austin's office. His world had come full circle decades later.

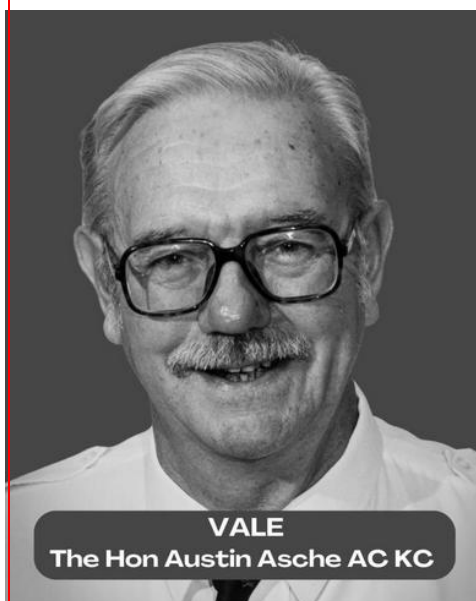
On leaving school, Austin joined the RAAF in World War Two and served at Australia's first radar installation at Dripstone Cliffs on Darwin's outskirts.

He studied law at Melbourne University, was admitted to the Queensland Bar and then Victoria's where he practised for the next 20 years, becoming a QC and then judge of the new Family Court.

He became a Supreme Court Judge of the NT in 1986 and eventually its Chief Justice.

He was in turn President of RMIT, Chancellor of Deakin University and the NT University (now Charles Darwin University). He owned honorary degrees and honours galore – deservedly so – for his work among those and other institutions and always proffered his help and presence to making their work among communities better accepted, better rewarded and better understood.

He was Administrator of the NT – the Governor General's representative – from 1993 to 1997 and one of the most popular holders of that high office.



VALE
The Hon Austin Asche AC KC

OVERLEAF – Flyer for Carbine Club International Congress 2026 –

The Club asks that responses be made via the non-binding Expression of Interest Form by 26 January – please let Ross and the team know if you are tempted, or contact Ross for further info!

Can Tassie Tempt You?

The Carbine Club of Tasmania looks forward to hosting delegates from across the Globe for our 2026 Congress to be held between the 5th and 9th of February 2026. Here is a brief look at what we are planning! We will be offering a choice of accommodation packages at first class hotels all situated on Hobart's magnificent waterfront, a short stroll to the heart of Salamanca, restaurants, shops, bars and galleries.



Thursday

Once you've arrived and settled into your waterfront accommodation, at either the acclaimed Henry Jones Art Hotel or the magnificent Macqo1 Hotel. We will kick off your visit with welcome drinks in our Carbine Club Bar. Then dine at your leisure in any of the award winning restaurants near by.

Friday

The delegates meeting will be held on this morning then it's off to Elwick Racecourse for our Carbine Club Derby Day Lunch and race meeting. Buses will get you to the races and back. A leisure evening will be appreciated after a big day trackside! – the Carbine Club Bar will be open

Saturday

Enjoy a morning at Salamanca Market before hopping on board the Mona Ferry travelling to Mona in style in the Posh Pit. Explore the fascinating museum and surrounds and enjoy lunch at your leisure. There's time for a catch up in our Carbine Club Bar - then get yourself ready for our 'Big Black Tie' event!

Sunday

It's back to Elwick Racecourse for the 151st running of the Hobart Cup. We will have our own designated area on course with everything you could possibly need for a great day at the races. Buses will return you to your accommodation followed by drinks in the Carbine Club Bar. Alternatively, you might like to try something different. Why not cruise the stunning River Derwent in luxury and lunch at the Award-Winning Peppermint Bay Restaurant set on the banks of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel in Woodbridge.

Monday

Delegates depart unless you choose to stay on for the post congress tour – details on this will follow.



Expression of Interest

If you are keen to join us for the 2026 International Congress in Hobart, please return the following by 24 January 2025

*please note the estimated cost per person will be \$3,500 - \$4000 depending on accommodation choice. Price does not include airfares.

Name: _____

Carbine Club: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Accommodation Preference: _____

Expected Number of nights: _____

Single or Double: _____

Interest in post congress tour: _____

Return to: secretarycarbineclubtas@gmail.com or phone Ross BurrIDGE 0419303778

We are keen to hear from you!



Calendar of Events



The Carbine Club

www.thecarbineclub.org.au



Australian Capital Territory

7 March – Black Opal Racing Luncheon at the National Press Club



Hong Kong

www.carbineclubhk.com

19th February- Racing Night at Happy Valley

28th March- Rugby Sevens Luncheon



London

www.carbineclublondon.org.uk

Pre-Cheltenham Festival dinner at the OXO Tower Restaurant on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7:00pm
The Royal Box for the Brigadier Gerard Meeting at Sandown Park on Thursday 29th May 2025 from 5pm
CCL golf day at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club on Friday 30th May 2025 from 12 noon
Lord's Luncheon on Thursday 3rd July 2025 from 12 noon (tbc)
AGM, Sam Vestey and Melbourne Cup Eve dinner at the Bluebird Café in Chelsea on Monday 3rd November 2025 from 7:00pm

Manila

www.carbineclubmanila.org

28 Feb 2025-Manila Golf Day
1 March 2025 Inaugural Lunch – The Penthouse, 70th floor at the Grand Hyatt



New South Wales

www.carbineclubnsw.com.au



New Zealand

www.carbineclubnz.org.nz



Northern Territory

www.carbineclubnt.org.au



Papua New Guinea

(Sorry – we are out, all gone to Manila for golf and lunch!)



Queensland

www.carbineclubqueensland.com.au

28 February AGM Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club
8 March Race Day TBC Gold Coast Turf Club
16 May Members Lunch TBC
June State of Origin Lunch TBC
15 August Members Lunch TBC
2 December Cricket Lunch Cricketers Club



Singapore

www.carbineclub.com.sg

Friday 28th March – The Australian Way Lunch
Friday 25th July – Crabs and Cans Locked Door Lunch
Friday 12th December – Christmas Lunch



South Australia

www.carbineclubsa.com.au

Carbine Club LIV Golf Luncheon Magery Room Adelaide Oval 12th February 2025
Carbine Club AGM, Members Only. Osmond Room, Arkaba Hotel 14th March 2025
SAJC Luncheon Friday 9th May 2025 Celebrating the Goodwood, Venue Morphettville "Wolf Blass "The Man" Function Centre".

Members Anniversary Luncheon Late July 2025 date and Venue TBC
SANFL Grand Final Late Sept 2025 Magarey Room Adelaide Oval Date TBC
Ashes Test Tuesday 16th December 2025 Magarey Room Adelaide Oval



Tasmania

www.carbineclubtasmania.com.au

7 Feb - Derby Day Luncheon, Elwick
International Congress – 5-9 Feb, 2026



Tokyo

www.carbineclubtokyo.com



Vanuatu



Western Australia

www.carbineclubwa.com.au



THE CARBINE CLUB OF TASMANIA

Invites you
TO LUNCH WITH
MICHAEL CHRISTIAN
2025 Derby Day Luncheon

The Carbine Club of Tasmania is thrilled to invite you to our Marquee event, Derby Day at Elwick 2025. Our Guest Speaker is highly successful racehorse breeder/owner and Collingwood premiership player Michael Christian who will share his 'one hell of a ride with Bella Nipolina' and how to win the Everest.



Friday 7th February
2025 Member's Area,
Elwick Racecourse

BE QUICK FOR THIS ONE

BOOK YOUR TABLE
carbineclubtasmania.com.au

Guests arrive trackside at 12.00 for 12.30 start for a three course meal and drinks plus admission to the race meeting and a race book \$165 per person.