



THE CARBINER



FOR SPORT AND FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP: 24-2009

A CARBINE CLASSIC



"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." Trevor Craddock

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*, lent 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, would you ask him if he would attend". Surprisingly Harry said, "Yes", and more surprising the Governor said, "Yes".

We were just a 2-year-old small luncheon club of 20 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 Queen Roads. It was a great success with luminaries like the Premier, 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 i.e. in accordance with the constitution, "the Guest of Honour does not make a speech but answers 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.

Trevor Craddock is one of the original members of **The Carbine Club**. He will turn 86 in September and was President and Secretary of the club for many years. Members are invited to send **A CARBINE CLASSIC** to Robin Flannery at the address below.

Bill Hoffmann Hon. Sec. **The Carbine Club**