



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB

EDITION 16 of 2018 - 23 November, 2018

Victoria- 56th Derby Eve Luncheon

Tasmania - Christmas Drinks

Coming Events

The Melbourne Cup - Address by President Rod Fitzroy

The Carbiner is also available on the Club website at

www.thecarbineclub.org

All contributions to *The Carbiner* welcomed - place your event & news on the record!

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The Carbine Club 56th Derby Eve Luncheon

~by Graham Halbish, Secretary, The Carbine Club



Gerard Whately talks with the master trainers of Australia's racing dynasties

A crowd of almost 900 guests, with many Carbine Clubs represented gathered at the Palladium at Crown Melbourne, for the 56th VRC Derby Eve lunch.

Following another highly informative welcome by President Rod Fitzroy, MC Gerard Whateley set the scene superbly for another great Melbourne Cup week. Celebrating the win by Rain Lover in the Cup 50 years ago, trainer Mick Robins with jockey and CC member Jim Johnson presented the 2019 Cup on stage. In chatting with Gerard Whateley, Jim responded to the question, “*just how good was Rain Lover*”, with a laconic, “*they’re always good when they win*”!



A stirring address from VRC Chairman Amanda Elliott (pictured here with Gai Waterhouse) led the audience into a terrific three way exchange between Gai Waterhouse, Anthony Cummings and David Hayes as they each reflected on their part in the three great family racing dynasties of Australian racing.



The now traditional floor segment was carried out perfectly by racing media legends Bryan Martin and Greg Miles, who between them have called 65 Melbourne Cups. Famous personalities abounded and we heard from the likes of Olympian Andrew Hoy, Mick Kinane, rider of Vintage Crop, the first international winner of the Cup 25 years ago, Peter Tighe co-owner of Winx, trainers Chris Waller, Darren Weir and others.

Post lunch and our guest speaker from Ireland, Dr Gerald Kean sallied forth, mentioning that he was having such a great time in Melbourne on his first visit to Australia that he could unwind and run through his repertoire of classic party jokes. All great, as a friend of his said afterwards, but he forgot to tell his famous story about his introduction to Irish racing!

(Pic right – Sam Kekovich with Dr. Gerald Kean)



Then a tale with a difference: Annabel Neasham and Adrian Cordy, winners of the 2019 Mongolian Derby, the world’s longest horse race at 1,000 kilometres. Annabel told the incredible story of how they became involved and then survived the various hardships, while Adrian brought the house down with his dry responses, delivered in an extremely broad Aussie accent. We thought we should finish with a bang and local humour. This was provided in spades by Sam Kekovich who, in a “State of the Nation” address, took no prisoners. A great atmosphere in the room was carried into the afternoon & evening at Club 23 and the Atrium Bar.

(Our thanks to Gordon Bennett for the great pics from this event – more overleaf)



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Carbine Club of Tasmania – Christmas Drinks



Recently elected President of The Carbine Club of Tasmania, Steve Adermann, welcomed a small but select group of members and guests to the annual Christmas Drinks function held on 22 Nov at Club Member Paul Jubb's iconic waterfront pub, The Customs House Hotel.



Pictured at the Christmas drinks in Tas .. L to R

Guest Chris Drury, the well known Dr. Mike Loughhead, Melinda with her husband, President Steve Adermann, outgoing President Trent Sayers and Secretary Ross Burridge



Participants in the annual Sydney to Hobart yacht race are sternly advised on completion of the race each year that *"it's not over until you have cleared Customs!"* – so Club Members were pleased that they were able to get in ahead of the yachties and to "clear Customs" early for Christmas.

Did you know....?



The Carbine Club (Melbourne) is on track to raise a total of \$100,000 to support the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) and Disability Sport & Rec Victoria (DSRV) this year.



EVENTS SCHEDULE

Heading into the festive season.....

3 Dec	ACT	-Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day, RCGC
3 Dec	ACT	-Christmas Cocktail Party, RCGC
5 Dec	SA	-Test Cricket Luncheon
7 Dec	ACT	-AGM Lunch, Jim Murphy's Fyshwick
7 Dec	HK	-International Races Lunch
7 Dec	QLD	-Members Only Luncheon, XXXX Board Room
11 Dec	VIC	-Members Xmas Lunch, RACV
13 Dec	WA	-Cricket Luncheon
14 Dec	PNG	-Christmas Party - Members Only
14 Dec	S'pore	-Christmas Lunch
14 Dec	NT	- Christmas Dinner
14 Dec	NSW	- End of Year Lunch & Davo Award, Members Pavilion, SCG
16 Dec	NZ	-Christmas Barbecue, Freemans Bay

2019 Calendar of Events

8 Jan	QLD	-Magic Millions Luncheon, The Star Casino, Broadbeach
25 Feb	NZ	-Annual Charity Golf Tournament
27 Feb	SA	-Supercars Luncheon, Adelaide Convention Centre
5 March	London	- Cheltenham Festival Dinner, OXO Tower
19 March	SA	- AGM at the Arkaba Hotel, Osmond Room
29 April	NZ	-AGM & Members Luncheon
17 May	SA	-Adelaide Festival of Racing Luncheon, Derby Pavilion at Morphettville
24 May	London	-Royal Mid Surrey Golf Day
25-26 June	London	-Newmarket Visit, Dinner, Races
8 Aug	London	-Lords Long Room Luncheon (TBC)
Oct	London	-Rugby World Cup Luncheon (TBC)

If, like me, when reading the next story you are wondering what 'unfellowed' means, the OED ascribes it to "unfeigned", as in genuine, and more latterly the Merriam-Webster dictionary "*having no equal, peerless, matchless*"

"congeries" was also unfamiliar - "*a disorderly collection, a jumble*"

- Ed.



The Melbourne Cup



At the Derby Eve Luncheon in Melbourne Carbine Club President Rod Fitzroy (*pic*) included a great “backgrounder” on the history of the Cup in his welcoming speech. Both racing fans and history buffs will find much of interest in Rod’s speech; that part pertaining to The Cup is reproduced below.

In 1861, racing at Flemington was conducted by two clubs - the Victoria Turf Club and the Victoria Jockey Club. It was the Chief Commissioner of Police and Committee member of the Victoria Turf Club, Captain Frederick Standish, who conceived of a race to capture the imagination of the Australian colonies. It was to break all the rules of classic racing, in that it was to be a Handicap run over 2 miles.

Press commentary at the time considered that it was ‘destined to fail’. But perhaps Standish recognised the appeal of a race that reflected the egalitarian nature of the Australian character – to celebrate our champions but to give ‘the battler’ a chance to win the biggest race of all. The handicap system was designed to take care of that.

That first running of the Melbourne Cup in 1861 did attract interest beyond the borders of Victoria and, in fact, the winner of the first two Cups, Archer, was trained in Nowra on the south coast of New South Wales from where he travelled by steamer to Sydney and then back down to Melbourne to compete in the race.

In 1864, the Victoria Racing Club was formed with the “visionary” Robert Cooper Bagot appointed as Secretary. Even then, the Cup was well and truly established as a **‘Major Event’** and by 1880, 100,000 attendees were reported to have been at Flemington to witness the unbeaten 3yo colt Grand Flaneur win the 20th running of the Cup. Melbourne at the time had a population of some 375,000. In percentage terms, if we could have maintained that momentum, there would be 1.25 million at Flemington on Tuesday. Thank God for television!

Interestingly, Grand Flaneur was the only Melbourne Cup winner to retire undefeated. At stud, he sired numerous stakes winners, including two to match his own success in the Melbourne Cup. Another of his progeny, Merman, was purchased by Lilly Langtree and shipped to England, where he won a number of stakes races including the Cesarewitch, the Jockey Club Cup, the Goodwood Stakes, the Goodwood Cup and the Ascot Gold Cup. We could certainly breed good stayers in those days.

In 1890, a record field of 39 starters assembled when Australia's first equine hero, Carbine (after whom our club is named), carried a never-equalled 10 stone 5 (65kg) to victory in record time – a record which stood for over 20 years. After retiring, Carbine stood at stud in Victoria before being acquired by the Duke of Portland to stand at his famed Welbeck Abbey Stud in England.

In 1895, a visitor to Melbourne recorded his impressions after attending the Melbourne Cup Carnival. I quote briefly from his writings of the experience: *“The Melbourne Cup is the Australasian National Day. It would be difficult to overstate its importance. It overshadows all other holidays and specialised days of whatever sort in that congeries of colonies. “Cup Day, and Cup Day only, commands an attention, an interest, and an enthusiasm which are universal – and spontaneous, not perfunctory. Cup Day is supreme it has no rival.”*

“I can call to mind no specialised annual day, in any country, whose approach fires the whole land with a conflagration of conversation and preparation and anticipation and jubilation. No day save this one; but this one does it. I think it must be conceded that the position of the Australasian Day is unique, solitary, unfellowed; and likely to hold that high place a long time.”

This was not just any visitor. He was probably the most travelled man on earth at the end of the 19th century. He was noted American author, Mark Twain and the extract quoted was included in a chapter of his book, “Journey Around the Equator” published in 1897.

The Cup continued to enjoy the embrace of Australians through two World Wars, in between which, in 1919, the first ‘loving cup’ as it is known, was produced by Melbourne jeweler, James Steeth - it's three handles representing the partnership between owner, trainer and jockey. The 100th ‘Loving Cup’ will therefore be presented next Tuesday.

In 1930, at the depths of the Great Depression, there was a ray of sunshine in the form of the immortal Phar Lap who won the Cup.

Post the Second World War, a new race record was set in 1950 by the champion of the day, Comic Court. The significance of this win was not so much the race record, but the young boy who strapped the horse for his father. That young man was Bart Cummings, who was to go on to win 12 Melbourne Cups, by far the most successful trainer in the history of the race.

During the 1960's, 1970s and 80s, there was concern that the race was losing some of its appeal. But consider, amongst the winners during these 3 decades were Light Fingers, Galilee, Rain Lover and Think Big – all included in the theoretical “Best Field Ever” up to the running of the 150th Cup as assessed by Racing Victoria's Greg Carpenter.

In 1993, the race changed forever: Vintage Crop, his trainer, the great Dermot Weld and jockey Mick Kinane, proved the “impossible was in fact possible” and international runners have competed and enriched the Cup every year since.

In the intervening 25 years, there have been many highlights:

- Bart Cummings notched up his 10th Cup with “the horse from heaven” – Saintry in 1996
- Dermot returned to win with Media Puzzle in 2002,
- In 2003, the mighty Makybe Diva won the first of her 3 consecutive Melbourne Cups, the last one in 2005 carrying the coveted No. 1 saddlecloth where she gave weight to every other runner in the race,
- In 2006, Japan had a 1-2 result with Delta Blues and Pop Rock. In that year, the four days of the Carnival attracted a record total attendance of 418,000 including 129,000 on Derby Day.
- In 2007, Efficient, having won the Derby the previous year, won the Cup completing a feat that had not been achieved since Phar Lap in 1930.
- The 150th Melbourne Cup in 2010 was won by American who was American-bred, French-trained and Australian-owned (by two members of the Carbine Club – Gerry Ryan & Kevin Bamford).
- In 2011, it was a triumph for France with Dunaden.
- In 2014, Protectionist flew the flag for Germany.
- In 2015, a fairytale was delivered with the victory of 100-1 outsider Pirates of Penzance, trained by Darren Weir and ridden by Michelle Payne, the first woman to achieve that feat; and
- Last year, Joseph O’Brien became the youngest trainer in the 157year history of the race to win the Cup with Rekindling, for Lloyd Williams and partners.

The future of the Cup as always continues to attract conjecture. It’s interesting to note that over this past quarter of a century, the winners of the race were bred in the following countries:

New Zealand	8
Great Britain (3 of course were Makybe Diva)	5
Ireland & Australia	3 each
United States & Germany	2 each

with one each to Japan and France - it’s an international race and will continue to evolve.

The Cup not only continues to capture the attention of the racing world, but it delivers a major dividend for the Australian racing industry every year. In 2017, the national tote turnover on the Melbourne Cup alone was \$133.641 million, higher than any other race run so far this year by a factor of 6.5 to 1. This year, the Caulfield Cup held its traditional position as the Number 2 tote turnover race in the nation. Each state and territory receives substantial income from its share of that turnover. Today, the national industry dividend is enhanced considerably by revenue derived from the Corporates, Exchanges and on-course bookmakers.

Next Tuesday, there will be 44 race meetings conducted around Australia - more than any other day of the year by far. In the major cities and in the bush, Australians will come together to celebrate another renewal of our first **Major Event**.

Mark Twain was right *“The Cup is unique, solitary, unfellowed and likely to hold that place a long time.”*

~our thanks to Rod Fitzroy for permission to reproduce his speech.