

## The Carbiner



#### For sport and for good fellowship

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# The Carbine Club of Papua New Guinea 2015 'Rugby' Luncheon

On Friday September 04, 2015 the Carbine Club of PNG held their final lunch for the year at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Port Moresby. This function was sold out well in advance, and we had a waiting list for tables and it was back to a male only function. The theme for the lunch was 'Rugby' with the Rugby World Cup 2015 on in England at present.

This lunch was sponsored by the leading financial institution in PNG; Credit Corporation ably headed by CEO Rob Allport a Past President and long term committee member of the Carbine Club of PNG.



Rob Allport presenting Certificate of Appreciation from CC Vanuatu for donation from CC PNG

Darren Sanders – comedian

The hotel function room was decorated to the hilt by the sponsor and each guest received a promotional gift bag from the sponsor and for an added touch a 2015 World Cup Rugby ball was placed on each table. The MC Brent St. Hill read the riot act as to rugby balls not flying around the room later in the afternoon. The rugby balls were kindly donated by DHL a major sponsor of the World Cup tournament.

Long term Carbine Club members may recall a World Cup Rugby lunch at this same venue back in the 90's where a scrum was packed late in the afternoon at the top of the stairs on the first floor and the loosing scrum ended up at the bottom of the stairs. It was a Wallabies V Kiwis and Wallaby Captain Tony Shaw packed down in the winning Wallaby scrum.

Guest speakers for the day were All Black Captain Stu Wilson, who needed no introduction on his third visit to PNG and first timer comedian Sydneyite Darren Sanders.

MC committeeman Brent St. Hill was in fine voice again and went to length laying down the rules for the afternoon, especially about the rugby balls on the tables, to be signed later in the day by Stu Wilson, if they were still on the tables and not in the pool or corridors. Happy to report I did not sight any balls flying around the room, but then again majority of our members are now in the seniors category.



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After the welcome by MC Brent the toasts where made by member Reg Monagi to PNG and to the Carbine Club by country member and long term Lae member Mike Quinn ML who recalled his experiences and what the Carbine Club movement has meant to him and the wonderful times he has experienced especially at the lunches like today and the overseas Congresses he has attended in recent years in Hong Kong/China and the Gold Coast and he was very much looking forward to the Margaret River Perth Congress in March 2016.





Richard Sapias - President PNG Rugby Union - presenting PNG RUGBY PUK PUK tie to Stu.

Mike Quinn ML – proposed toast to the Carbine Club.

Following was the welcome speech from President Stan Joyce CSM who especially thanked the major ongoing sponsor; Credit Corporation and support sponsors; DHL, Grafitti Signs, Moore Printing and our generous raffle prize sponsors: Travel Services for a trip for two to Bali, Remington Document and Print Solutions for a tablet and mobile phone package and member Eddie Ruha who donated an All Black jersey to be signed by Stu Wilson.

Thanks to our members and supporters behind these organizations; namely Patrick Trubert from Travel Services, Matty Maguire from Remington and Mark Schell from DHL.

Rob Allport the CEO of Credit Corporation responded on behalf of the major sponsor and thanked his staff namely Scruffy for organizing the day as he was out of the country prior; very unusual for Rob to not be here and take control. Rob is his own jovial way wished all present a pleasant and enjoyable afternoon and to celebrate today all that is good in sport and mateship, which is what the Carbine Club is all about. Following a sumptuous 3 course lunch Stu Wilson took to the stage and refreshments kept on coming, so everyone was primed to be entertained and Stu excelled starting with his tale of his Scottish heritage and Stu was on his game and told of his time at the top in Rugby in the 90's before the game became professional as it is today. Players on tours in the early 90's in England were paid 43 pence a day allowance which almost equated to the cost of a pint of warm beer at the time. Tough times compared to the fully professional game today.

Stu took us into the dressing sheds and relived his good times on tour and one stand our story was when he and his team mate Bernie Fraser went AWOL from Saturday after the game till being late to training on Monday afternoon. Bernie felt like a kebab after Saturday afternoons game so they caught a London cab to Heathrow and flew to Turkey for a Turkish kebab. They were reprimanded for going AWOL but knew they would not be dropped for the next game as they were stars of the Kiwi team and could not be replaced.



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Stan Joyce CSM- Welcome speech by President

Stu Wilson

Unusual for a Kiwi, Stu took the mickey out of his Kiwi team mates and said his best mates these days are Aussies and a Fijian – Bernie Fraser.

It was a hard act to follow as Stu apart from his Rugby stories was also comical and amused all and sundry with his wit.

Darren Sanders took to the stage and excelled with his many one liners which were hilarious. A true professional with his own original material and had the room in fits of laughter.

Darren & Stu worked well together and complimented each other both on and off the stage and thoroughly enjoyed their two nites in 'The Land of the Unexpected' and Stu was heard saying later in the evening after the lunch, that if he had known of the Papua Club prior he would have stayed in the country longer. That was the Kiwi coming out of him for sure.

Another great Carbine Club lunch and the bar was closed just on dark so we could all get home safely but a vast number including our entertainers continued on across the road at the Carbine mother club the Papua Club which is a gentlemen club established in 1912 and within staggering distance.

Our next and final Carbine function for the year is the members & partners only Xmas party on 4<sup>th</sup> December and Santa is already booked to perform on the nite.



Sponsor Rob Allport - CEO CredIt Corporation

#### The Carbine Club of PNG lives on!!!

(Courtesy of John Robinson Secretary of The Carbine Club of Papua New Guinea aided and abetted by Paul King)