

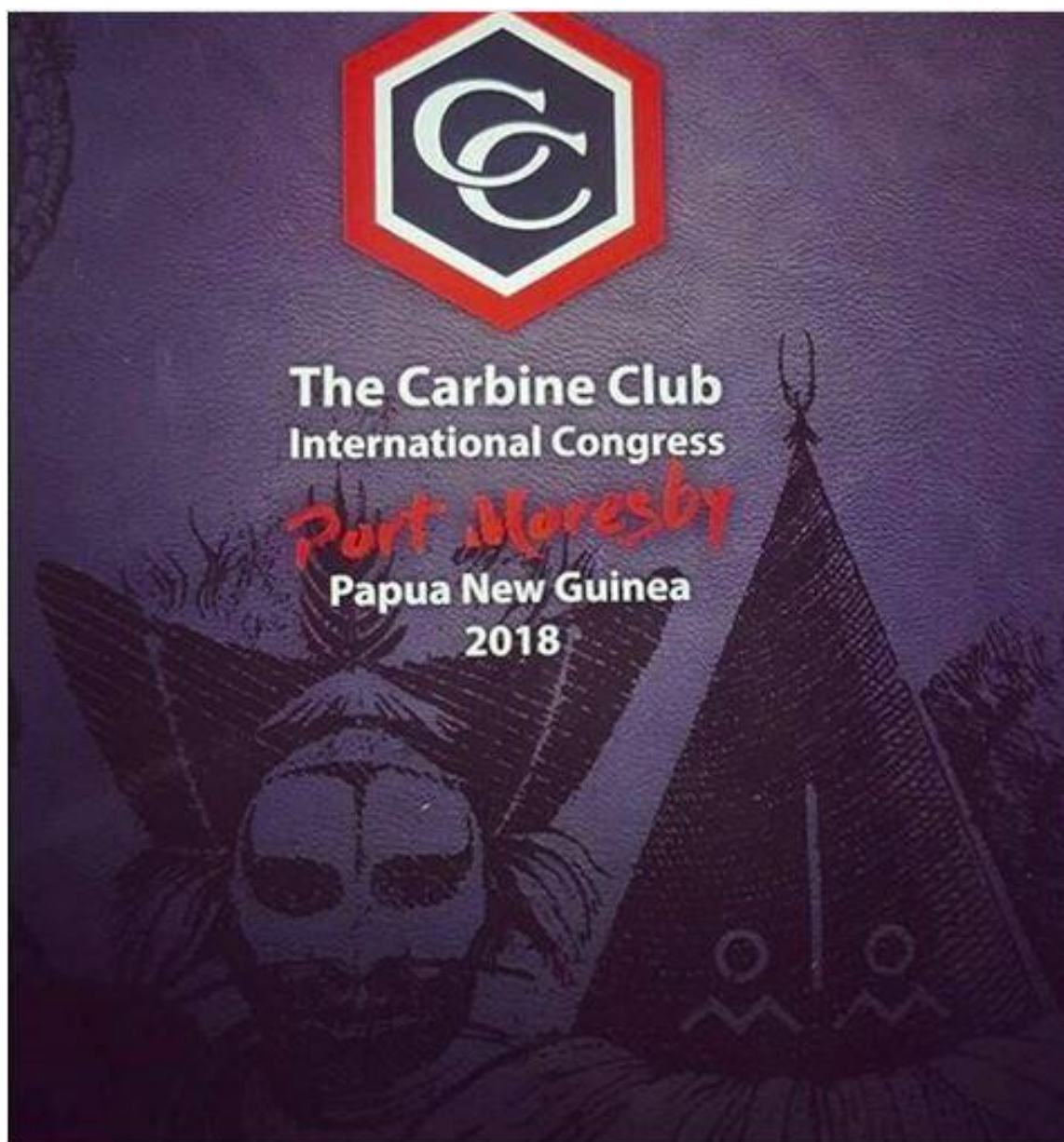


The Carbiner

Special Congress Edition

"How good was that!"

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB – EDITION 6 of 2018



THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF THE CARBINER SHOWCASES THE CARBINE CLUB CONGRESS OF 2018 HOSTED BY THE CARBINE CLUB OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND HELD IN PORT MORESBY FROM 16-20 MAY

The Carbiner is also available on the Club website at www.thecarbineclub.org

"How good was that!"

Those words rang out time and time again as 133 delegates were treated to the hospitality of the Carbine Club of Papua New Guinea at the 14th Carbine Club Congress held in Port Moresby in May.

Some initial trepidation (for some) soon faded into obscurity as the delegates plunged into a fascinating and wide array of events – some 18 events in just 5 days – showcasing the culture and sights of PNG, and of course *"all the fun of the fair"* that goes with a gathering of members of our Club on such a grand scale.



The first day saw a rush of activity – the traditional meet and greet to kick off the Congress where old acquaintances are renewed and new delegates welcomed in the usual spirit of conviviality; then starting right at the top, a trip to Government House for cocktails with the Governor General followed by dinner at the Royal Papua Yacht Club.

(CCPNG Member Stan Joyce introduces the GG at Government House-the contribution from Stan's SP Brewery was greatly appreciated throughout the Congress!)



The only spot of rain during the whole visit didn't dampen the traditional dancers who greeted all at the door of the Yacht Club, and a highlight of the night was the unveiling of "Dendrobium Carbine", a very special hybrid orchid that was developed by orchid grower Godfrey Seeto especially for the Congress.

Greetings at the Yacht Club –CCPNG Member Brent St. Hill was at the door of the Yacht Club to welcome delegates. Brent was MC for the entire Congress displaying a tremendous amount of preparation, guiding, explaining, educating and just being there for everyone, a truly herculean effort that was greatly appreciated by all.

As always, delegates are treated to the local scene, culture and history so breakfast the next day in the amazing Vue Restaurant overlooking the Port Moresby airport was accompanied by a presentation from Lt. Col. Paul Pembroke(pic) who gave a fascinating insight into some of the Aussie heroes of WWII.



Jan & Lloyd Meredith with Glenn at Bomana

The military theme of the day continued with a moving ceremony at the Bomana War Cemetery conducted by PNG RSL's Glenn Maitland – this memorial site, the resting place of over 3000 Australian diggers, is meticulously maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and every marker tells a story.

More military adventures followed with a journey to Owers Corner, the start of the infamous Kokoda Track. CCPNG Member Mark Hitchcock and Pam Christie of PNG Trekking Adventures were on hand to share their knowledge of the country and the Kokoda Track – and to recall when Pam led the Carbine Club Members trek over the tortuous track a few years ago. Regular Congress attendees Mike & Robbie Loughhead from Tas looked more comfortable in the group photo below than they were a few years ago when tackling the Track!



Left: the delegates at Owers Corner;

Above: Mike & Robbie Loughhead on the Track during the Carbine Club crossing

Right: Pam Christie with Susie Simcock (NZ)



CCPNG's Bryan Wareing did the group proud with his rendition of "Poem to the Fuzzy Wuzzy" and then it was off to the Koitaki Country Club to see how the plantation owners of days gone by lived it up.



A game of two up at the Country Club which was dominated by the ladies continued the Aussie military theme, then it was onto the buses and back to The Airways.



Back at home base that night, the outstanding Airways Hotel, “The Watcher” made an appearance when with tongue in cheek Rob Allport self proclaimed to be “best ever at everything and especially CC President” before he awarded Mick Stephens (CCPNG) with the Watcher’s gong – as always, reasons go unpublished but there was stiff opposition for the first award of the Congress with newcomer Mark Hohn (CCQLD) putting in a concerted bid while Noel Carter (a past President, WA) showed good form with a couple of bloopers and was lucky to escape recognition.

One couple at Congress who did deserve recognition – Ken & Heather Page (CCNSW) have attended all 14 Carbine Club Congresses!

Ken, now retired, was known throughout Australia as the numbers man for the NSW TAB and he also served as Secretary, CCNSW for many years.



With so much already behind them, delegates were well primed for the big Carbine Club Luncheon on day three (and some even managed a visit to the jewellers for some bargains in the morning).

The Gateway Hotel provided a venue for some 400 members, delegates and guests to find out just what it means to do a CC Lunch in PNG – the sign at the door said it all “Carbine Club Luncheon 11am to 5pm – it failed to mention that after that the party simply moves to Jacksons Bar, again overlooking the airport.

Guest speakers Michelle Payne, Jimmy Cassidy and PNG’s own Ryan Pini were taken through their paces by Congress MC Brent St Hill while the crowd set some new records for the bar tab, even for PNG!



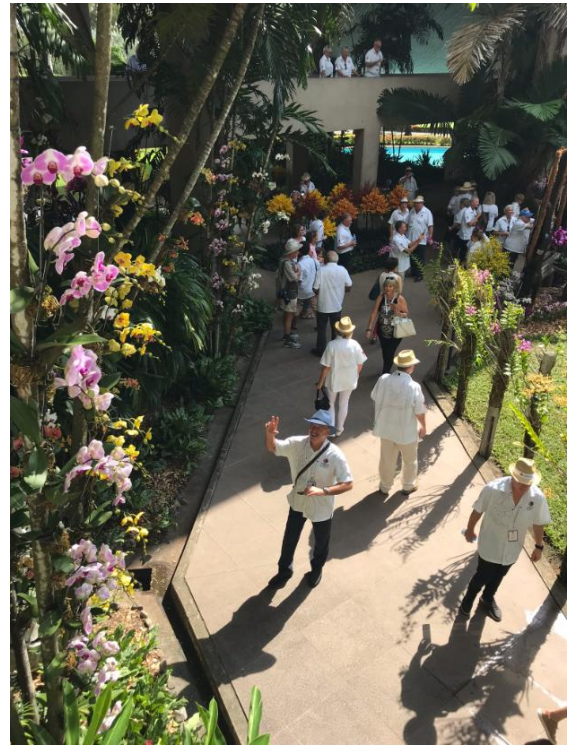
At left-Brent & Michelle;
Revellers at the Jacksons kick on

Below-Brent & Ryan at right and a happy group at the lunch at left





An early start the next day saw the delegates enjoying a very special breakfast date at the outstanding Parliament House followed by a stroll in the grounds where the annual PNG Orchid Society show was in full bloom.



Parliament House above; members enjoying the orchid show at right with Noel Carter (WA) in the famous blue hat displaying knowledge of the blooms.

After a brief visit to the local markets it was “home” to Airways to get ready for an afternoon at the National Stadium to cheer on the SP Hunters in the rugby league clash with the CQ Capras from Queensland.

Having successfully cheered the local team to an 8 point victory next stop was the Papua Club where President Len Pianta hosted all at the Sunset Bar and “The Watcher”, this time in the form of Paul King, struck fear into the hearts of miscreants with most escaping their misdeeds. This Watcher decided that Graeme Johnson, attending in his capacity as outgoing President of the Club, deserved a “best on ground” award.

Many delegates retired to The Sound Lounge on the second floor at The Airways to take in the spectacle of a Royal Wedding in a faraway place – fortunately for some The Watcher was not present for the frolics around this impromptu event. The same must be said for the late night drinks taken on a few occasions by hardy delegates in the now infamous Bacchus Bar at The Airways.

PNG hosts international chapter of the Carbine Club



THE Carbine Congress members/delegates sightseeing at Ower's Corner, Sogeri, Central Province.

BY KILA NAO
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MORE than 140 delegates from the international chapter of Carbine Club have arrived in Port Moresby to attend the bi-annual international congress this week.

The congress is an event that brings together members from the various clubs to take part in a program which is put together by the host club.

This will be the first time Papua New Guinea is hosting a congress.

The original Carbine Club was founded in Melbourne in 1961 by two executives of the Melbourne Sportsmen's Association with the objective of promoting a sports-oriented lunch club.

There was previously a delegates meeting held in PNG which was restricted to the executives of the club.

The delegates arrived last week, coming

from a number of the affiliated clubs to the original Carbine Club in Melbourne, from the various states of Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Vanuatu.

There are a number of past residents but for the majority of the delegates this will be their first time to visit PNG.

The delegates were greeted with an official welcome cocktail hosted by Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae at Government House last Thursday.

The remainder of the program this week is expected to expose the delegates to different aspects of PNG culture and also business activity.

The Carbine Club PNG president Peter Aitsi extended his thanks to all the delegates who took time out of their busy schedules and made the effort to travel to Port Moresby.

“The Carbine Club of PNG has put together a wonderful program that I am sure the delegates will thoroughly enjoy,” Mr Aitsi said.

With delegates now in full swing and party mode, the final day proved to be a cracker with a superb fireworks display at the Stanley Hotel finishing off the Congress, but not before a day which covered a fabulous seafood lunch at the Sunset Village which started with a “sing sing” performance from the local kids and music continuing from a lively band.



Decisions, decisions – red or white?

Before heading to The Stanley for the final dinner on the rooftop, pre-dinner drinks were served around the pool at The Airways with a spectacular display of local story telling thru dance. The Airways proved to be an outstanding Congress venue with superb facilities, great accommodation, friendly and attentive staff and well deserving of the accolades it has received in travel journals.



Left -Karen Powell (Tas), Brad & Norma Thomasen (WA) with unnamed locals; below- Tom Fox (PNG) with more of the same



With so much in such a short time it is impossible to pick a highlight, but all delegates came away with a new understanding of PNG, new and renewed friendships, and with a great appreciation of the tremendous work of the organising Club and their Congress committee, guided by Congress Chairman Lloyd Meredith – as Lloyd said, this Congress was hugely successful due in no small part to the PNG organising committee who had a motto of “big attention to small details”.



A happy group of the PNG team enjoying a well earned break

The next Congress will be hosted by The Carbine Club of South Australia- Club President Nick Chigwidden and trusty long term Secretary John Condon OAM, both attendees at this Congress, are looking forward to setting the scene for another great Congress in 2020.

For those who utilize social media you can see photos and videos on
Facebook at:

Carbine Congress 2018 Port Moresby

