



CARBINE CLUB OF NSW

NSW AFL GREATEST TEAM OF ALL TIME

A collection of AFL and sporting royalty descended upon the Hyatt Regency in the heart of Sydney's CBD for the Carbine Club's annual AFL Lunch on Thursday 9 May. This year, the NSW AFL Greatest Team of all time was announced and featured greats of our game; both past and present.

The team, which was selected by prominent AFL Media figures Mike Sheahan (Host of Open Mike and Chief AFL Writer) and Gerard Healy (1988 Brownlow Medal, Fox Footy Commentator and On the Couch) carefully selected the team with support from the Australian Football History society and our own Richard Colless which consisted of 18 players in positions, 4 interchange and 10 squad members. All players had been original club nominated. Mike and Gerard, when interviewed by MC for the afternoon Caroline Searcy, described the challenges faced when selecting the team. Mike and Gerard have both been on selection panels for the All-Australian selections and also announcing Teams of the Century and they described this selection process as the longest and most difficult to complete.

The team is as follows:

FB: **Chris Lethbridge** (1913-22, 148 Games), **Leo Barry** (1995-09, 237 Games),
Ross Henshaw (1971-83, 167 Games)

HB: **Jarrad McVeigh*** (2004-, 322 Games), **Gordon Strang** (1931-36, 1938, 116 Games),
Dennis Carroll (1981-93, 219 Games)

C: **Shane Crawford** (1993-08, 305 Games), **Lenny Hayes** (1999-14, 297 Games),
Neil Davies (1951-55, 145 Games)

HF: **Terry Daniher (VC)** (1976-92, 313 Games), **Wayne Carey (C)** (1989-04, 272 Games),
Luke Breust* (2011-, 193 Games)

FF: **Paul Kelly (VC)** (1990-02, 234 Games), **Wilbur (Bill) Mohr** (1929-41, 195 Games),
John Longmire (1988-95, 1997-99, 200 Games)

Foll: **Bruce McGregor** (1923-32, 105 Games), **Brett Kirk** (1999-10, 241 Games),
Haydn Bunton Snr. (1931-45, 208 Games)

INT: **Mark Maclure** (1973-86, 251 Games), **Isaac Smith*** (2011-, 188 Games),
Kieren Jack* (2007-, 252 Games), **Tom Hawkins*** (2007-, 240 Games)

Note: Games does not include International Rules Series (IRS) Games. * denotes current players.

On top of the team announcement, Allan Jeans and Neale Daniher were named as coaches for the team. Wayne Carey, who by many in the AFL community is considered the greatest player of all time, received the honour of captain with Terry Daniher and Paul Kelly as vice-captains. Paul Kelly was rapt with the announcement and told the Carbine Club how important it is that this team has been recognised.

"I'm extremely proud of it" Kelly told the Carbine Club. "It is certainly an honour and an absolute privilege to stand alongside these great names". In a lovely moment, it was revealed on stage that Kelly had actually umpired fellow inductee Kieren Jack in the Paul Kelly Cup many years prior. "Rugby League was the game in Sydney and I of course knew [Gary Jack] ...when I first got to Sydney you would never see a kid bouncing a footy or wearing an Aussie Rules jumper. When I left they were".

"The game has come forward in NSW a long way and it's great to see...I was thankful to be part of the build of the game in Sydney and the Swans have done a lot of work over the years".

Leo Barry, another Sydney Swans legend spoke to the Carbine Club of NSW about the growth of AFL in NSW and the importance of events such as the annual AFL Lunch. "I've been to a couple of [Carbine Club] events now. It's a fantastic organisation". "Now that the Academy is up and running, we [NSW] are going to see a lot more guys and girls getting drafted into the AFL".

The club assists young athletes pursue their dream in sport and at the AFL Lunch, the Carbine Club rewarded four prodigiously talented young footballers were given \$2,500 to help fund their pursuit to the AFL or AFLW. Both the Sydney Swans and GWS GIANTS had two representatives from their respective academies. Will Edwards and Sienna Dale (not present) collected their cheques on behalf of the Swans and Ally Morphett and Scott Brown were the recipients for the GIANTS.

The afternoon began with two very special videos from beloved former commentator Dennis Cometti who the club celebrated at the previous year's AFL Lunch. The other from Sam Kekovich which garnered many laughs from the crowd as he put forth his own picks for the NSW Team of the Year.

The Carbine Club of NSW would like to thank AFL NSW/ACT for allowing the announcement of the greatest NSW AFL Team of all time to coincide with the annual AFL Lunch and Carbine Club of NSW Club Member Richard Colless who was the brainchild behind the NSW team.