



CARBINE CLUB OF NSW CELEBRATE THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Whilst it was a gloomy Sydney day on Friday 5 April, the Carbine Club Derby Day racing lunch was anything but with the excitement of the Championships stake palpable in the air at Royal Randwick Racecourse. Preparations for the 'Grand Finals' of racing were in their final frantic stages, while the Carbine Club luncheon was in full swing.

In the absence of Club Chairman Bernie Campbell, Deputy Chair Caroline Searcy addressed the large contingent of those in the horse racing community and other VIP's of what was to be expected at the lunch and the next two weekends on the track. Caroline said that over 40,000 people were expected to go past the turnstiles to see Winx in her final run at the Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Winx was the focal point of the afternoon as many speakers including radio host Alan Jones AO and former federal Labor politician John Brown AO both told of the importance of Winx in Australia's sporting history and placed Winx along side Phar Lap, Makybe Diva and Black Caviar as one of the greatest racing horses of all time.

At the lunch the Club awarded scholarships to the inaugural recipients of the Kurt Fearnley Scholarship for para athletes. In what is one of the flagship commitments of the Club in 2019, the Carbine Club of NSW has committed \$37,500 to the program for the next four years. Luke Bailey (21 years old, Athletics), Ricky Betar (15, Swimming), Aimee Fisher (17, Athletics) Alissa Jordan (15, Athletics) and Jasmine Greenwood (14,Swimming) were presented their scholarships recognising their wonderful talents.

Kurt Fearnley's interview during the scholarship presentation was a highlight of the day, with his honest and inspiring commentary of what has been a hugely successful career. Kurt's contribution to sport and the community are beyond measure and the Club was privileged to induct him as our newest special member.

John Brown AO then offered a toast to racing. In his rousing speech, Brown went into great detail of why racing is so important and entrenched into Australian culture. After toast, guests were treated to an incredibly insightful interview with Sydney radio host Alan Jones which was facilitated by MC for the afternoon Alan Thomas.

The duo touched on a variety of issues ranging from racing, sport and politics. Topics included the recent death of legendary horse Redoute's Choice, Alan's upbringing in Toowoomba and how that bred his love for horse-racing, and also the current state of Australian Rugby and more specifically the Wallabies.

The excitement for the Championships Stakes were already at fever pitch. However, the Club's luncheon solidified, if not elevated, many's large expectations for the successive weekends to come and to witness possibly the greatest racehorse this country has ever produced in Winx.



