

The Carbine Club of NSW



The Hon. John Brown AO

Born: December 1931, Sydney

Carbine Club Member since: 1997 (Special Member)

Current employment: Retired, Consultant

The Hon. John Brown AO was the Member for Parramatta in the Federal House of Representatives for 13 years from 1977, and held various Ministerial portfolios including Arts, Sports, Environment and Territories. He was the Federal Minister for Sport from 1983-1988, forming part of what has been a career of distinction.

As Minister for Tourism, John masterminded the hugely successful advertising campaign featuring Paul Hogan. The campaign changed the face of Australian tourism and transformed it from a minor industry into a major economic force. For the campaign, John was awarded the Australian Institute of Marketing Gold Award in 1986.

John's involvement in the sporting industry revolutionised government sport funding raising it from \$6m to \$36m in his first year and introducing funding for disabled sports people. He was responsible for initiatives such as the Sports Aid Foundation and building facilities such as the Australian Institute of Sport, Parramatta Stadium and Homebush Sports Centre.

He established The Sport and Tourism Youth Foundation (formerly the John Brown Foundation) to award scholarships to talented young Australians in both sport and tourism. A member of the Sydney Olympics 2000 Bid Committee, John was also a founding Director of the Sydney Olympic Games Organising Committee (SOCOG). He has held positions including Director of Macquarie Tourism and Leisure, Director of Canterbury Bankstown Leagues Club and a consultant to Service Corporation International Australia.

He is also an Ambassador for NSW Wheelchair Sports, a trustee of Cypress Lakes Golf Club, and was formerly a Member of the Presidents Council for Surf Life Saving Australia (1988-2002), a Member of the PGA Board (1990-1992) and the Australian Basketball Association Board (2002-2004).

John's commitment to sport has resulted in numerous honours. In 1986 he received the Olympic Silver Order of Merit for his contribution to the Australian Olympic Movement and was appointed as an International Honoree of the US Academy of Sport. In 1987 he was named Australian of the Year by The Australian newspaper and in 1993 John was awarded an Order of Australia for his services to Sport, Tourism and the Australian Parliament. In 2000 John was awarded the Centenary Sport Medal and the Australian Centenary Medal.