

# The Carbine Club of NSW



## Hon. Michael Cleary AO

**Born:** April 1940, NSW

**Carbine Club Member since:** 1993 (Senior Member)

A talented sportsman, The Hon. Michael Cleary's name is etched in history as one of four Australian sportsmen to represent Australia in three different sports.

As a 17 year old Michael was setting near world record times in the 100 yards, with the aim of representing Australia at the Olympic Games. However, in 1959 he was lured into playing rugby union as an aside to his athletics ambitions.

Illness derailed his campaign to compete at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games, encouraging him to further his rugby career. Towards the end of 1961, Michael made his international rugby debut, playing in six matches for Australia.

In 1962 Michael competed at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games, where he won bronze in the 100 yards following a television replay. It was also in this year that he commenced a rugby league career playing as an amateur for South Sydney before turning professional in 1963.

Michael went on to win three NRL titles (1967, 1968, 1970) and made five grand final appearances. He represented Australia against New Zealand in 1963 and was selected for the 1963/64 Kangaroo tour of Great Britain and France. He played five tests and on the Kangaroo tour scored 14 tries in 20 matches.

In 1974 Michael was elected to the NSW Parliament as a member for Coogee, becoming the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Tourism from 1981 to 1988. He was the Minister for Racing from 1986 to 1988 and was a Member of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games successful Bid Committee (1992-1993).

During his career he was also Director of South Sydney Rugby League Club, worked as Sales & Advertising Manager at R.W. Miller & Coy, and was the Director of Corporate Affairs at Sky Channel & TAB Limited.

In 1992 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his services to parliament and sport. He also entered the Australian Sporting Hall of Fame & NSW Sporting Hall of Champions, and is a Life Member of South Sydney League and Football Club and NSW Rugby League Club.