

Vale: Gary Balkin

1930's – 14th June 2018



Gary Campbell Balkin Obituary

We are sad to announce that on June 14, 2018, Gary Campbell Balkin (Brisbane, Queensland) passed away. Leave a sympathy message to the family on the memorial page of Gary Campbell Balkin to pay them a last tribute.

He was loved and cherished by many people including : his children, Jane and Jonathan; his parents, James Balkin and Elsie Balkin; and his grandchildren, Lachlan, Angus, Anna, Jack and Joe.

In lieu of flowers, Gary's Family would appreciate donations to Men of League Foundation

History

After discovering there was organised touch being played in Sydney, Gary and a few social touch players decided to follow suit and started a Brisbane Competition. The first informal meeting to kick it all off was at the Brothers Rugby league Club, Corbett Park, Brisbane in February, 1973.

A primarily meeting to organise the competition was attended by Gary Balkin, Jim Schaumberg, Des Condon, Frank Melit, Vince Morrison, Wayne Daley, Neil Baumber and Bob Bailey. Gary was a strong supporter of rugby league in Queensland and a old boy of Christian Brothers College Gympie.

He came to Brisbane to work in the pub industry and play rugby league for Souths and Brothers. In 1964, he was top try scorer in the Brisbane Rugby League. By the time his playing career ended, he was owner-licensee of the Melbourne Hotel and for 14 years patron of Souths Rugby League Club.

Gary went on to help, both organisationally and financially, the start of touch football in Brisbane, and was the patron of the Brisbane Touch Football Association for many years. He was awarded Life Membership of Brisbane Metropolitan Touch Association in 1980.

Gary Balkin first heard of the game in late 1972 when an old Brisbane Souths teammate, Ivan Jones, visited on holiday. Jones had transferred to the Rabbitohs and told Balkin about this 'touch football'.

Gary was also a founder of the Brisbane Broncos, a major force in Australian Rugby League, and created the iconic Kookaburra Queen, a popular Brisbane floating restaurant. Sadly, on 14th June 2018 Gary Balkin passed away. He gave his time and efforts generously during his tenure. What we have today is a wonderful reward for his early efforts.

broncos.com.au

Fri 15 Jun 2018, 12:51 PM

THE Brisbane Broncos have today paid homage to one of the founding fathers of the club, Gary Balkin. Balkin passed away yesterday after a short battle with pancreatic cancer, but his long association with the Broncos will never be forgotten.

Balkin was one of the four men who first bid for the NSW Rugby League licence to join the competition, determined to show Queenslanders could compete in the best football league in the world. Along with Barry Maranta, Steve Williams and the late Paul 'Porky' Morgan, Balkin helped make the Broncos a reality.

A rugby league man through and through who was heavily involved with Brisbane Souths, Balkin was particularly handy in gaining support from local Brisbane clubs for the Broncos' bid. When the Broncos ran out on March 6, 1988 and destroyed the reigning NSWRL premiers Manly, history was made.

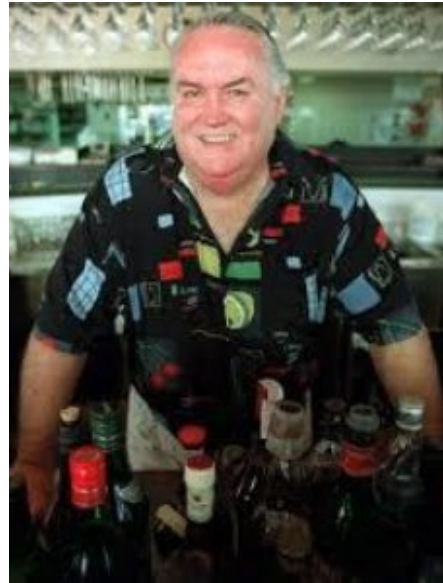
Today the Broncos' inaugural coach Wayne Bennett gave tribute to Balkin. "What we have here today is because of what Gary and three other men did," said Bennett. "It was their vision of what they wanted the Broncos to be and how they wanted to be perceived. He was instrumental in all that and a great friend to us all."

Balkin was a familiar face at club functions for the past 30 years, and attended the opening of the Broncos' new training and administration facility in February. Broncos players and officials old and new attended a get together to honour him in the former boardroom of the club just last month.

Broncos' chief executive Paul White said his pioneering efforts for the Broncos would always loom large in the club's history. "The great thing about Gary was his care, humility and common decency towards both the Broncos and the wider community in general," he said. "He was always a great supporter of the club and his contribution to the Broncos will never be forgotten."

Vale: Gary Balkin CCQLD

*~from Robin Flannery, Senior Member
CCQLD & Hon Member The Carbine Club*



The Carbiner
29th June 2018

One could not miss the electronic headline of Brisbane's The Courier Mail:
BRONCOS MOURN A FOUNDING FATHER.

The following article reported "END OF ERA Brisbane has lost another of its Golden Boys with a Broncos founding father losing his short battle with cancer". Whilst much will be written and spoken elsewhere about the Past President (1995-96) and Honorary Life Member of The Carbine Club of Queensland, his contribution to the Carbine family should not go unrecognized at this time.

Gary was invited to join CCQLD in 1987 and, as a prolific writer, soon started producing what he termed 'Pen-Pics' – brief and punchy paragraphs about members as they came aboard. A club newsletter evolved from them. After twenty years Gary cried 'enough' and president of the day, Bob McHarg, invited me to take over.

The secretary of The Carbine Club (the founding club in Melbourne), Bill Hoffmann, received copies and suggested that news from other Carbine Clubs could be incorporated. The Carbiner – as we know it today – was born. Gary never claimed credit for what evolved from his beloved ‘Pen-Pics’. It is fitting that due recognition be accorded with his passing.

And we should not overlook Gary’s ‘in-retirement’ 120-page compilation: Celebrating 30th Anniversary – The Carbine Club of Queensland of 19 October 2011.

GB: Your fellow members salute you.

