

MEDIA ALERT

1 December 2014

**NATIONAL
PORTRAIT
GALLERY**

Rugby great unveiled

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Paddington Wednesday 3 December, 6.00pm

A new portrait commission of Australian Rugby great, Ken Catchpole OAM by Gary Grealy will be officially unveiled by Michael Hawker AM, Chairman, Australian Rugby Union at a private event in Sydney this Wednesday night.

The portrait is the first in a series of three works of Australian rugby stars to be generously commissioned for the National Portrait Gallery collection by Patrick Corrigan AM. Patrick Corrigan AM is a passionate champion of the arts and an enthusiastic supporter of the Portrait Gallery, contributing upwards of 130 works to the collection over 15 years. The portrait series is an exciting event for both the Gallery and Mr Corrigan, uniting his two great passions: the arts and sport.

Director Angus Trumble said 'It is only with the ongoing support of benefactors like Patrick Corrigan that the Portrait Gallery is able to maintain a collection that so wonderfully showcases our national heroes.'

Dr Gene Sherman AM, Deputy Chairman, National Portrait Gallery, Executive Director, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation and Angus Trumble, Director National Portrait Gallery will unveil the new work at a private cocktail event at Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation this Wednesday 3 December.

To recognise his ongoing support, three display walls featuring works donated by Mr Corrigan are currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery until March 2015.

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Ken Catchpole 2014
Gary Grealy
Commissioned with funds from the
Patrick Corrigan Portrait Commission
Series 2014

Ken Catchpole OAM (b. 1939), rugby union international, excelled at various sports in his school years in Sydney's eastern suburbs, but began to show real prowess in rugby as a student at Scots College in the 1950s. Selected for the Wallabies, aged 21, in 1961, he became one of the few players to make their Test debut as captain, leading the side to three victories over Fiji at home and then on a tour of South Africa. Declared by one pundit to be 'the greatest halfback the world has known' following Australia's wins over Wales and England in 1966-67, Catchpole was known for his quick and supremely accurate passing, and in combination with fly-half, Phil Hawthorne, is held to have engineered a number of historic victories, such as a series win against the Springboks in South Africa in 1965. A member of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame since 1985, Catchpole was added to the Wall of Fame at the World Rugby Museum at Twickenham in 2004 and the following year became one of the first five players inducted into the Wallabies Hall of Fame. In 2013 he and his former teammate, John Thornett, were among the six Australians honoured by the International Rugby Board with inclusion in its Hall of Fame.

Gary Grealy (b. 1950) has established himself over many years as one of Sydney's leading commercial and portrait photographers. His work has been included in prestigious photographic competitions both here and overseas, and he has been a finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize six times.