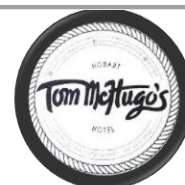




## SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 4 2022

Welcome to the 4th **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2022. In this edition, we welcome a visit from the TRU President to our SOAKS monthly drinks. **‘From the Vault’** reflects on the topsy turvy season of 1979; SOAKS Club Presidents are catalogued and the ‘King Island Cup’ is fondly recalled in photos. There are also two new **SOAKS Bloke Profiles** to enjoy. With the new Rugby season upon us, the Golden Oldies season is just around the corner and details about the first match are revealed. I hope that you enjoy all the news, humour and nostalgia.



### SOAKS Old Boys Calendar of upcoming Events

#### Friday 6 May 2022

(SOAKS monthly drinks from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo's)

#### Saturday 21 May

SOAKS Old Boys vs Convicts Golden Oldies match @ Uni Rugby Field from 1 pm

#### Friday 3 June

(SOAKS monthly drinks from 5 pm @ Tom McHugo's)

### SOAKS April Drinks



#### April 2022

‘SOAKS Corner’ in Tom McHugo’s Hotel welcomed a very special guest in Ebony Altimira, the President of the Tasmanian Rugby Union. Other special guests included Viv Chopping and Steve Colles along with Dave Morris, Blair Jepson Andrew Herbert, Nigel Shepherd and Greg O’Keefe.



**Whose shout is it?**  
The look on each of these  
SOAKS Old Boys says it all!



**Saturday 21 May** is the kick off to the Convicts Golden Oldies season for 2022. It will be another occasion to see the SOAKS jersey take the field once again. To register to play, visit the **Hobart Convicts and SOAKS** facebook site for details.

With 2022 being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1972 SOAKS Senior Premiership and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1982 Reserve Grade Premiership, why not get along to the match, raise a can in salute of past success and support the Golden Oldies. Oh, and by the way the Senior match on the day will be the local derby as University fires up to take on their 'all-too-near' neighbours the Hobart Hutchins Lions.  
Hope to see you there!







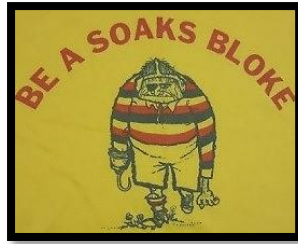
The master of marketing, Blair Jepson, has pulled off a promotional coup ahead of the first Golden Oldies match for 2022. As can be seen above, Stan Sports program *Between Two Posts* featured both SOAKS and Convicts jerseys worn by host Sean Maloney and All Black legend Justin Marshall. It appears from his body language that Andrew Mehrtens only wished he could have worn one as well!

### Heard and Noted:

Saturday 30 April saw the opening match of the local Rugby season and what a surprise awaited some SOAKS blokes. None other than John Donaldson was there to watch University tackle Harlequins. Naturally he was surrounded and welcomed 'home' to his SOAKS family. Below are Mal Riley, Geoff Eddington, Greg O'Keefe, Andrew Herbert, John Donaldson, Dean Eddington, Steve Harris, Mark Dwyer and young Henry Harris. For the record, Uni defeated Quins in a highly entertaining encounter.



## A SOAKS Bloke Profile



**Name and Nick name (if any)?** Wayne Cole: The Bundaberg kid



**When did you play for SOAKS?** 1978 under 18s and Reserves and then Seniors in 1980, 1982-1986

**Why did you decide to play for SOAKS?** I played for EMC before just moving on to SOAKS.

**Did you play rugby with other clubs?** (Name of Club/s and Year/s)  
Williamsford in 1981 Taroona in 1987 and Devonport 1990

**What position/s did you play?** Wing, 5/8, halfback hooker and

prop

**What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS?** Winning grand finals

**Who was your most respected local rival?** I had great respect for all other players.

**In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why?**

Greg Hill has the greatest influence on me because of his knowledge of the game.



**What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS?**

Drank too much to remember, but I did get locked in the toilet after a session on one occasion.

An article from season 1980 that featured yet another titanic SOAKS vs Taroona battle.

### Martinovich key to Taroona's success

TAROONA backs, with Kevin Martinovich in brilliant form, gave Associates little room to move and ran in four tries to three to win the match of the day at Rugby Park.

Associates were first to score after a mis-kick by Taroona full-back Cowley which saw the ball go to Doran who put Galloway over in the corner.

Associates' backs slackened for a moment and Brian West set Collis up for what looked an easy try. Nibbs had no trouble converting to make the score 6-4.

With 15 minutes to go in the first half Associates' forwards, who had been giving their Penguin counterparts a lesson, crashed over the line for a try. This brilliant team try was initiated by Fred Morey and saw half the Associates team handle the ball.

The game see-sawed for the rest of the first half until with only seconds to go Brian West charged down a kick by Soaks full-back Gathercole and dived on the loose ball to score a real pressure try. Nibbs once again kicked truly and at half-time the score was 12-8.

Nibbs crossed Associates' line early in the

second half to make the score 16-8 and with Associates' forwards slowing down Taroona looked set to run away with the game.

Associates fought back and a try to Wayne Cole was just reward for the young winger who had run hard and straight all day.

Martinovich was best on the ground for Taroona, and Brian West and Bricky Noble also played well. For Associates Wayne Cole, Fred Morey, Beard and Galloway played well.

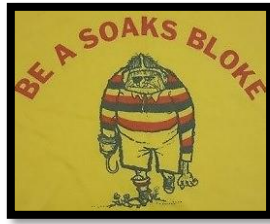
Eastern Suburbs easily accounted for Harlequins, 34-0. Easts dominated the first half particularly in the front row where Quins obviously missed the bulk of Roger Drummond.

At half-time the score was 24-0. Harlequins held Easts out for most of the second half and went very close to scoring on a couple of occasions.

Quins ran out of steam late in the game and allowed Easts to run in two further tries.



## A SOAKS Bloke Profile



**Name and Nick name (if any)** Lynton Foster. (Or hey ‘you fat, stupid bastard)

**When did you play for SOAKS?** 1978 to 1991.

**Why did you decide to play for SOAKS?** I went through the well-trodden path from New Town High, EMC, then SOAKS. I remember we had a great rivalry with St. Virgils for a couple of years, Nick Foulston’s father coached them, very well. A very talented cohort, and lifetime friends. We were all invited to a SOAKS annual dinner, and with little resistance, all signed up on the night. It was a great masterstroke, two top performing school sides, keen to prove themselves, who then competed with each other for positions for the next decade.

**Did you play rugby with other clubs?** Box Hill RUFC Colts 1980. Fast and furious. Great fun and high standard. Played with and against many Victorians we had defeated as

Tasmanian open schoolboys in 1979 in Brisbane.

Invercargill Marist NZ 1983/84. Turned up and told them I had played 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Tasmania. They gave me a game in 3rds and dropped me permanently to 4ths. Highest standard of Rugby I ever played. Came back confident I had experienced the hardest forward play in the world. Many ex-All Blacks and played in the Balfour7s in central Otago above snow level; conditions which made Tassie’s west coast look tropical.

Dalrymple (Georgetown) 1986/7. Drew a reserves Grand Final. Served as President after a massive clubroom brawl where everyone else resigned, then we played Glenorchy at Glenorchy and beat them. I got to make the after-game speech! ‘We always enjoy playing at Glenorchy, because you always know you’ve earned your beer...’

**What position/s did you play?** Every position I was asked to, which excludes only Half Back. But I reckon I could have been OK there. OK I was mainly a Loose Head prop. I terrorised Breakaways, and would never make it in current rugby. I played at the edge of the rules, and was deeply hurt when I got caught (often) cheating. Later when I refereed, I thought I knew every trick in the book.

**What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS?** Perhaps the 3 Premierships I played in and won with SOAKS (1978 Colts, and 1981-2 Reserves). Perhaps the 3 schoolboys’ teams I coached to premierships, my own New Town High, Taroona, and St Virgils. I loved the bus trips, the camaraderie and the trips interstate: The Arkaba trip to Adelaide, the trip to Sydney where we booked in as a male choir, the Hong Kong 7s trip, the unforgettable King Island trip.

**Who was your most respected local rival?** I had a number of front row opponents I respected: Bus Kearney (Harlequins), Danny Dillon (Easts), Peter Sheedy (Glenorchy) and a bloke whose name I never knew who played for Devonport (We fought each other to a standstill).

**In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why?** Tim Oxley conned me into playing for SOAKS, Alan Fong helped me as a young bloke, Peter ‘Chalky’ Tucker coached me and remains a lifetime friend, Greg Hill tried to convince me that my greatest achievement would be as a committee man (I took that as an insult) and true athletes like Tim Nash, Ian Doran and Steve Colles who set high standards to aspire to, which as a less talented type I tried to achieve. Dave Kilpatrick gave me a late chance to play first grade and I rewarded him with a Most Improved Player in 1990 at the age of 30.

**What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS?** I regret never going on the committee when needed.

**What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS?** So many hilarious things! As a shy, young bloke these outrageous, funny and inspiring blokes had such a great impact on me. We were often second on the scoreboard, but never beaten. As the years pass, I chuckle as I look back on those good formative years. Great mates, such a privilege to know you all.



Maybe the Crab on the plane story is my favourite. On the King Island trip, we had 2 maybe 16-seater planes, that took off from Llanherne (Hobart) with no toilet on board, flew to King Island. So, after a huge weekend, we finished up in a seafood factory for the final drinks on Sunday night (as you do). Along with most of Currie there was one of those giant Tasmanian deep-sea crabs running around that could skilfully crush a tinny into its giant claw much to our delight. I was determined that this crab would become our new club mascot; I would take it home, keep it in the bath, and take it to the Rugby on Saturdays so it could smash tinnies while everyone cheered.

The bloke who caught it gave it to me and told me that if I put it in the freezer it would go to sleep, and I could take it home. What could possibly go wrong? The crab was fast asleep in a rubbish bag under my feet at take-off.

Meanwhile Chris 'twanger' Collins converted a 2-litre cordial bottle, so you could piss into it on the plane. He had melted a hose into the lid, and taped it up, even recreating the Associates emblem on the bottle in tape, so we could piss on the plane. The trip home started badly (and got worse) as we were very late getting to the airstrip, (because we had invited the ground crew to drinks) and the pilots weren't happy.

The pilot threatened to drop us at Wynyard after becoming irritated by some of our drunken in-flight antics. Only Tim Oxley's reassurances convinced the pilot to fly on to Hobart. However, at that point the crab just happened to work his way out of the rubbish bag, with its bloody great claw clacking about. Needless to say, bedlam ensued. What happened to the crab? I took it home, and reconsidered my 'mascot' idea...it was delicious.

**Any other comments?** You have given us all a great gift to relive these days, Greg and I would like to thank you for that.

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## From the SOAKS Vault

From SOAKS' inaugural season in 1965 through to the end of 1973, the club proved to be the most successful club in the state. It had annexed 5 Senior premierships and a Reserves title in that period of time. In total, the Seniors figured in 7 Grand Finals whilst the Reserves appeared in 4 deciders over those 9 seasons.

The golden run of success for SOAKS changed dramatically over the next five seasons with few wins and numerous defeats. The Reserves managed a couple of finals appearances in this period and the Colts team of 1978 claimed a premiership, but the Seniors struggled mightily until 1979. In many ways season 1979 epitomised SOAKS struggles in the period 1974-1978. However, 1979 was a season of great promise and foreshadowed the Club's resurgence in the 1980's. The following three articles from the *Mercury* capture SOAKS roller coaster ride of 1979.

# Associates' golden run ended by Easts in rugby

**GLENORCHY and Eastern Suburbs joined Taroona at the top of the ladder after Saturday's Southern rugby round.**

Easts put together an impressive 26-4 victory over Associates at Rugby Park.

For Associates it was a missed chance to share the ladder lead for the first time in five seasons.

Easts completely dominated set play, and raced to an early lead with quick tries to Pullen, Dick and Ferris.

Nash put Colles over before half-time to make it 14-4 at the break, but Associates were not strong enough to check the Easts second half build up, and conceded further tries to Ferris (2) and Sharpe.

Lock Ferris had an outstanding game for Easts scoring three tries.

Easts were well served by Ferris and Retallic in the forwards, while halves Sharpe and Kent shared the backline honors with inside centre Dick.

For Associates none played better than Nash, who is developing as one of the State's better young players.

In the upset of the round University returned to their premiership form to inflict Taroona's first defeat of the season 22-3.

Cutner and Murrell spearheaded a revitalised University pack which, although not able to dominate set play, proved faster to the rucks and mauls than the normally mobile Blues unit.

Taroona lost captain-coach Lovegrove with a dislocated shoulder, and it is unlikely he will play again this season.

## Combined well

Arthur, Myer and Starr combined well to give Taroona a torrid afternoon, and can be expected to upset the best of backlines in the weeks ahead.

Martinovich again defended strongly for the Blues and cut off several Uni attacks.

Tries were scored by Cook, Friend, Sawyer and Myer while for Taroona, Nibbs kicked a penalty goal.

Best for University were Arthur, Myer, Starr and Murrell. Martinovich and Heinz were the best for Taroona.

The failure of the Harlequins club to compete seriously at senior rugby level was again emphasised when both reserves and seniors suffered huge defeats at the hands of Glenorchy.

The Blacks scored 16 tries in their 84-0 victory, and only numerous periods of poor handling denied them a higher score.

Best for Glenorchy were Ford, J. Campbell and Hart while Tim Leacock followed a strong game for Friends Under 18 with courageous games for Harlequins reserves and seniors.

**Details**  
Seniors: Glenorchy d Harlequins 84-0, Easts d Associates 26-4, University d Taroona 22-3.  
Reserves: Glenorchy d Harlequins 102-0, University d Taroona 13-9.  
Under 20: Taroona d University 3-0, Easts d Associates 24-4.  
Under 18: Friends d Glenorchy 32-7, HMC d Harlequins 40-4.  
Under 16: Rosetta d New Town 36-3, Hutchins d Taroona 11-7.  
Ladder: Glenorchy, Taroona, Easts 14, Associates 12, University 10, Harlequins 8.



# Glenorchy trounce Associates

ASSOCIATES' hopes of cruising into the Southern rugby finals were shattered on Wednesday when Glenorchy trounced them 62-3.

Glenorchy took only three minutes for the first of their 12 tries, but found themselves defending grimly only minutes later as the Associates pack stormed into the Glenorchy quarter in an attempt to equalise.

The Associates defence struggled in vain to contain the hard running Glenorchy backs. Even Mark Dwyer's great defence in the first half on Gordon Campbell was not enough to restrict Campbell to less than two tries for the period.

Frank McCabe played his best game for Glenorchy since joining the club from Queensland, but after a strong first half faded. He linked poorly with Campbell after the interval.

## Superb

The Glenorchy pivot John Manley was again in great form and dictated play with his accurate kicking and fine breaks up the middle.

With superb displays against Easts and Associates, and his ability to play anywhere in the backline, Manley must be a serious contender for a State jumper this season.

The Black forwards, with Bob Driscoll back to prop, took charge of the scrums, rucks and mauls midway through the first half to leave the Associates backs very little possession.

Glenorchy scored four tries in the first half through J. Campbell (2), David Dransfield and Stephen Williams to lead 20-3 at half-time on the Eady St ground.

The second half onslaught left the Associates defence in shreds, as Manley and the Campbell brothers joined Driscoll and Richard Onn in adding another eight tries to the tally.

Manley converted six of these to take his personal tally for the match to 20 points.

Breakaway Fong was everywhere for Associates but was invariably beaten by the ball which rarely went to ground.

A great solo effort by Fong was heavily met by John Campbell in the last line of defence for Glenorchy, and the courageous Associates' forward was barely able to recover from the ruck that followed.

Best for Glenorchy were

Manley, the Campbell brothers and captain Onn, while for Associates, Fong and Mark Dwyer never stopped defending.

Glenorchy meet the rapidly improving University side at Eady St today, in what should be a fast open clash.

The Students were defeated by Glenorchy in the first round, but will be a far more difficult proposition on Saturday with the return of Cutner and David Myer to the 15.

## Clear cut

Taroona returned to the winning list on Wednesday with a clear cut 26-15 victory over Eastern Suburbs at Rugby Park.

Best for Taroona were West, Cody and Martinovich, while for Easts, Dick, Pullen and Dillon played well.

Taroona meet Associates at Rugby Park and should have little trouble in piercing the suspect Associates' defence.

Harlequins were thrashed by University on Wednesday and can look forward to a second dose at the hands of Eastern Suburbs at Wentworth Park today.

# Associates

Associates confounded their critics on Saturday by tuning on 80 minutes of attacking Rugby to defeat Taroona at Rugby Park 15-6.

In reply to recent claims that they have had a "run of luck," SOAKS showed their true form and shook off the inconsistency of the last two matches.

SOAKS spent most of the game within Taroona's 22 metre line, the tight forwards returned to their early season form as they continually pressured the defence and led by the blindside juggernaut, Steve Hawker, they mounted piercing attacks up the wings.

Pat Dwyer showed great judgement in joining the outside backs from full-back position which resulted with a well run try.

Breakaways Alan Fong and Greg Schmidt continually covered, which allowed the SOAKS' backline to press the attack.

This is the form Associates have to maintain, if they can play at this standard consistently. There are a few more shocks in store for other clubs.

The under 20s match was frustrating for SOAKS, with a team of 12.

They not only held Taroona, but were in attack for most of the first half, and only the few inevitable defensive gaps allowed Taroona to score.

But with about 10 minutes to go the cavalry arrived and with two U18s to plug the gaps, SOAKS staged a last minute recovery, to go down 16-8.

The colts '78 premiers are starting to find form, all they need now is a full team.

Training is on Tuesday at 7 pm and on Thursday at 6 pm at Rugby Park. All are welcome.



## From the SOAKS Vault

Many fine players and thorough clubmen put their hand up to lead the club as President. Below are some of those Presidents down the years:

Dave Kilpatrick (1993), Tim Oxley (1978 and 1987), Mark Dwyer (1989), Dave Morris (1994), John Harry (1970), Nigel Shepherd (1992), Peter Doe (1965-1966), John Alker-Jones (1968) and Mark Lawler (1976)



Others included: 1973 John Sharp (photo not available)



1967  
Ralph Straton



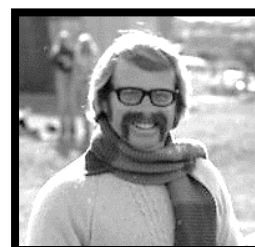
1969  
Orry Cox



1971-2, 1975  
Andrew  
Crawford-  
Thompson



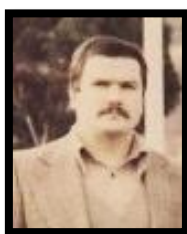
1974  
Steve Harris



1977, 1979  
Peter Calvert



1979-  
1981, 1985  
Stephen  
Hawker



1982-3  
Greg Hill



1984  
Martin  
Burrell



1990-1991  
Greg  
Schmidt



1986, 1988  
& 1995  
Peter  
Tucker



## From the SOAKS Vault

Remembering the 'King Island Cup' and SOAKS International tours of King Island.

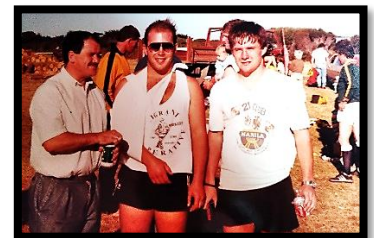
SOAKS invested quite heavily in developing rugby on King Island in the 1980's. In 1985 a foundational mission to the island was conducted by the TRU and involved SOAKS identities Greg Hill (then TRU President), Dave Standish and Ian Doran. Others included TRU referee Col Debnam and TRU Coaching Director Tony Taylor. Training sessions were conducted and a match played. Teams were decked out in two sets of SOAKS jerseys: the 'Unquenchables' gold jersey and the traditional striped jersey. The KI Rugby Club was formed, Office Bearers elected and the King Island Cup was established.



The TRU (and SOAKS) ambassadors to King Island in 1985: Greg Hill, Col Debnam, Tony Taylor, Dave Standish and Ian Doran (above). Only on KI did you have to jump start the Cessna for the flight! With spartan facilities on board the Cessna, the resourceful Ian Doran found a way to solve a problem!

In 1986 SOAKS mounted a fully fledged tour of King Island and challenged for the King Island Cup. The social events enjoyed on tour live long in many memories and have become the stuff of legend. The King Island Cup match itself was a bruising and tight affair played in warm and (you guessed it) windy conditions with SOAKS prevailing 6-4.

With the King Island Cup decided, the teams pose for a photo (below). However, as a testament to the torrid nature of the contest, SOAKS champion and State hooker Andrew Herbert came off second best with a damaged shoulder to transport home to Hobart!



[Editor's note: King Island Cup 1985/6 photos courtesy of Dave Standish]



In 1988, SOAKS once again ventured to KI to contest the King Island Cup. On this occasion, the Club came 'armed' with the promise of national television coverage of the event. Courtesy of SOAKS Old Boy, the 'Voice of Rugby' and guest referee Gordon Bray, the King Island tour was always going to be an absolute winner! For the record the King Islanders won the day and the grand after-match social events were evenly 'contested', but from all reports SOAKS Blokes acquitted themselves well indeed.



The overseas guests touchdown at King Island International Airport just north of the capital, Currie. The touring party includes SOAKS Old Boy and match official Gordon Bray.

The pitch is dressed in readiness for the 'King Island Cup' at the King Island Racecourse no less!



SOAKS players discuss the game plan.







Gordon decides to scrum it down and let the forwards work it out for themselves.

Essential re-hydration with KI Special is required at half-time.



SOAKS players are 'exposed' to first class change room facilities at the Racecourse. 'Better than Rugby Park' is the verdict!



It's full-time and the after-match social activities attract a keen Currie crowd back to the 'clubrooms'

The teams pose for the official King Island Cup photo.



[Editor's note: King Island Cup 1988 photos courtesy of Greg Schmidt]

**When asked about his recollections of the King Island trip, Gordon Bray quipped:**

**'On the video (of the match and trip) we made for the ABC, I sent off Michael Keating. From memory for dissent. At the AGM of the NSWRRRA I was awarded the annual Gold Deviate Award "For blatant self-promotion on national television."'**

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Watch out for the monthly drinks email reminders and the periodic **SOAKS Old Boys** email newsletters in future. You can also keep in touch by viewing or joining **Hobart Convicts Rugby and SOAKS** Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/68764449606/>

