



## SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 2 2022

Welcome to the second **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2022. In this edition there is a tribute to Rob Kerstan and a reflection on **SOAKS Old Boys'** extra special February drinks. Another of **SOAKS** champions is featured in a **SOAKS Blokes Profile**. Our upcoming social events calendar is included and **'From the Vault'** has an interesting collection of items from 1978-1980. I hope that you enjoy all the news, humour and nostalgia.



### SOAKS Old Boys Calendar of upcoming Events

#### Friday 4 March 2022

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

#### Friday 1 April

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

### Chalky does it again!

SOAKS Old Boy and marathon swim legend Peter 'Chalky' Tucker completed the 34 km long Derwent River Big Swim in February this year. Done with conquering the English Channel (in August 2019), Peter set his sights on a swim challenge much closer to home.

Peter started at the New Norfolk bridge over the Derwent at 1 am and finished after passing the Tasman Bridge just after 1pm, a total of 12 hours 18 minutes to cover the journey. Interestingly, the maximum water temperature was 22.9C whilst the maximum air temperature was 26.6C.

SOAKS Old Boys are tremendously proud of Peter's powers of endurance and determination.

'Chalky' churns his way down the Derwent, passing the MONA ferry on the way before sighting the Tasman Bridge and accepting his well-earned recognition.

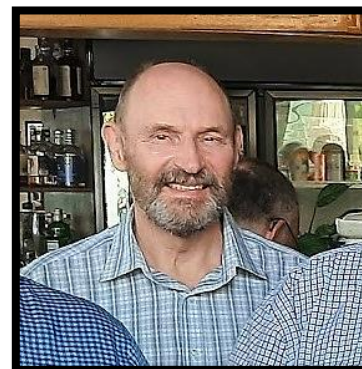


## Vale Rob Kerstan:

SOAKS stalwart and friend to all, Robin 'Herby' Kerstan passed away in early February this year after stoically battling cancer for some time.

Rob played with SOAKS 1976-1983 and apart from a few seasons of Aussie Rules he was a one club SOAKS Bloke. He played in most positions in the forward pack and enjoyed Premiership success towards the end of his career with SOAKS successful Reserves in the early 1980's.

He was an absolute gentleman, self-effacing and generous in spirit. He really enjoyed re-connecting with former team mates through the SOAKS Old Boys functions and that included his former New Town High School Rugby team mates as well. R.I.P. Herby



### Farewell Robin 'Herby' Kerstan (by Tim Oxley)

We were saddened to note the passing away of Robin 'Herby' Kerstan recently.

Robin grew up on a farm near Nubeena on the Tasman Peninsula, the son of Erika and Herbie Kerstan. He boarded at New Town High School where Rugby was a well-established sport. Starting in the Under 14s, progressing to U16 and then U18 at EMC after which he joined Associates with several old team mates from school.

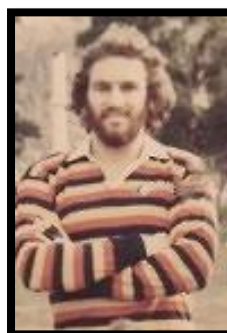
Herby played in the forwards - front row, second row or loose forward - wherever he was needed. He always gave a big effort and was a capable and reliable player. Strong and silent, Herby contrasted well with some of the other players.

Herby worked in administration at the Hydro. His wife Faye says that he loved Rugby, often talking with affection about the games, the social events and friendships maintained through the old Associates.

Herby and Faye fostered a baby girl, Skylah, who is now 15 years old. She loved her "Poppy" and misses him dearly. He is also survived by his daughter, Narelle, and her 13-year-old son, who is passionate about go-kart racing, which Robin enjoyed watching.

In retirement, he kept busy gardening, being the volunteer Master Chef, and being a positive influence for grandson Harrison and Skylah.

Herby was remembered and his friendship and contribution commemorated at the last Associates drinks in February 2022. RIP Robin 'Herby' Kerstan



One of Rob's fondest funny memories of his time with SOAKS is recalled below (taken from Rob's SOAKS Profile):

There were many fun and hilarious times (enjoyed with SOAKS). One story comes to mind: the Goulburn Hotel was a base during the late 70's and on game day evenings after amber lubrication players regularly burst into song. On one occasion a disreputable patron scorned the SOAKS singing, in an instant a lone voice rang out singing "dickhead" to the tune of auld lang syne. Within seconds the team, visiting players and sympathetic patrons joined in, the hotel owner smiled ear to ear providing the necessary decorum. The sound of "dickhead" was deafening, the bar room was resonating, inevitably the hapless patron broke and stormed out muttering 'F...something'. The crowd was full of mirth and a few rounds of Rusty Nails were consumed. Some 40 years later the vernacular "dickhead" still triggers memories of this classic SOAKS 1970's jingle.



## SOAKS February Drinks



### February 2022

In the old 'back bar' of Tom McHugo's Hotel, SOAKS Old Boys enjoyed our own very special space to gather in large numbers to salute the passing of Greg Dodd and Rob Kerstan and at the same time welcome back to Hobart, Old Boys Viv Chopping and Steve 'Chief' Hawker. The gathering was a fitting tribute and gathering to acknowledge all four SOAKS legends. (Above) Viv Chopping, Dave Morris, Lynton Foster, Simon Himson, Dave Kilpatrick, Tim Oxley, Damian Kerin, Russell Laird (Townsville), Barry Woods, Steve Harris, Stephen King, Tim Nash, Chief Hawker, Tony Johnston, Mark Dwyer, John Donald, Fred Morey, Mal Riley, Greg O'Keefe, Nigel Shepherd, Greg Adamson (Townsville) along with Andrew Herbert and Peter Tucker (not in group photo)



In a back to the 1970's moment; Viv, Fred and Chief pack down for one more finely balanced (by the look of Viv's beer) scrum for old times' sake, while backs Mark Dwyer and Kingy look on puzzled by the science of front row play (or perhaps rather by the absence of beer)!





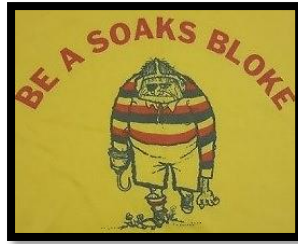
Chief entertains the Old Boys and tells it like it was. Yes... 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' was belted out with gusto one more time!



(Left) Adding a touch of glamour to the event were: Jane Kerin, Susan Hawker and Virginia Bendall-Harris



## A SOAKS Bloke Profile



**Name and Nick name?** Simon Himson (No nick name that I can recall, but others may have names for me.)

**When did you play for SOAKS?** 1978-1980, 1984 (Editor's note: Simon also played in a couple a of senior grade matches in 1984.)

**Why did you decide to play for SOAKS?**

In 1977 whilst playing at EMC we had two SOAKS blokes coaching for us. Peter 'Chalky' Tucker and Bruce Inglis (What happened to Bruce?) and despite enticement to us all to play for Taroona we remained true to SOAKS.

**Did you play rugby with other clubs?** Eastern Suburbs Rugby Club in Sydney in 1981 and Tas Uni in the 1980 Intervarsity

**What position/s did you play?** Half-back

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

In my first Senior Game at Eadie Street scoring a try against Glenorchy.  
Also playing Colts in 1978 for SOAKS and winning the premiership in that year. Fast Fun and furious.  
The Cox family especially Orrie Cox with the 'Magic Water' and half-time oranges.

**Who was your most respected local rival?** The late Greg Sawyer (University RFC)

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

Albeit not at SOAKS my biggest Rugby influence was Oliver Wilson, coach at New Town High School, University RFC and State player and head of English at NTHS. A furious rugby player and thorough gentleman. Also, David Smith, Tas Schoolboy Coach and Taroona RFC player. Upon reflection, it shows the influence of good coaches and the importance of good roles models in one's youth.

**What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS?**

None I am ashamed to say. I left at age 20 to work in Sydney. (Editor's note: Simon was the Club Captain in 1980 and was quite possibly the youngest to ever do so.)

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

With a fight breaking out in the bar at the Goulburn Hotel, Tim (Mungo) Muggleston made the brave decision to go upstairs (slowly) to retrieve his mouth guard before intervening, by which time the usual chaos had been restored.

**Any other comments?** Not at moment wasted (well not many).



## From the **SOAKS Vault**

The Premiership winning SOAKS Colts of 1978 are pictured below on Grand Final day and further below in action during a roster match against University RFC. SOAKS went on to steamroll Uni 44-6 in the Grand Final that year. (Rare game action photos courtesy of Tim Nash)





## Bob Hardstaff...the legend!

For those of you who read the SOAKS Old Boys newsletter assiduously, you will recall Tim Oxley offered the following in 2019:

*Fans of the game will welcome the return of Hardstaff who made his debut last century playing reserve grade for Associates Rugby Club in Hobart. According to Tasmanian Rugby Union records, Hardstaff has played in every position in a rugby team, and on several occasions achieved this in a single game.*

*Bob was often the difference, particularly in the more technical aspects of the game. He could play anywhere. You could say he's played everywhere. It's like there was more than one of him.*

*Hardstaff's ability to keep grinding out season after season is legendary. I just don't know how he keeps it up for so long when most of us gave it away long ago.*

One would believe that Hardstaff was simply a mythical figure, but research has revealed that in 1980 the esteemed Rugby chronicle, Hobart's *Mercury* announced to the Rugby world the debut of Bob Hardstaff. In an unassuming final paragraph, the performance of Hardstaff is documented.



# Glenorchy tipped for rugby flag

GLENORCHY'S crushing 25-10 defeat of Eastern Suburbs has stamped them as favorites for this year's rugby union flag.

In other games Taroona struggled to beat a determined University 12-7, and Ian Doran and Fred Galloway scored 33 points between them to help Associates defeat Harlequins 41-0.

At Eady St the Stags pack won easy ball despite strong games by Retallick and Pullen for Easts.

Glenorchy's inside backs completed the formula for success by putting constant pressure on their Rooster counterparts.

Gordon Campbell was back to his brilliant best in the centre. John Campbell, John Manley and Tony Hale also played well for Glenorchy, who are playing great rugby at the right stage of the season.

Ian Doran showed a complete form reversal to kick 17 points for Associates at Wentworth Park in a hard, fast encounter. Fred Galloway scored four tries and Mark Dwyer two.

One of Galloway's tries was made look ridiculously easy by the fact that he seemed to be the only player to know where the ball was.

For Harlequins, Kim Creak and Andy Westbrook tried hard. Young David Allen all but scored a try after a great 50 metres solo run saw a great cover defence tackle from second rower Steve Coiles only metres from the line.

Taroona did little to impress in their game against University. McLean and Noble showed their customary tenacity for the Penguin pack.

For University Sawyer, Murrell and Carringbush played well. Taroona will have to improve to have any chance of all conquering Stags in the final.

In the reserves, Eastern Suburbs defeated Glenorchy 7-4, and Associates 53 with some great passages of play by veteran Bob Hardstaff defeated Harlequins 0.



## Fred Morey in the Headlines

In season 1980 our own Fred Morey dominated the headlines in the *Mercury's* Rugby coverage. Here are a couple that will interest you:

# Associates lose Morey

ASSOCIATES go into their rugby union clash against University today without experienced hooker Fred Moorey.

Greg Schmidt replaces Morey allowing Associates' latest find Geoff Galloway to move into his more familiar position at breakaway.

Steve Harris returns to add a touch of experience to the young Associates backline after several seasons with Associates in West Australia and Eastern Suburbs in Canberra.

Leigh Sealy returns to Associates' second row to replace suspended Nick Foulston.

University rely too heavily on their few real triers and unless new State under 21 captain Andrew Bray can fire his fellow forwards the Uni pack could be bulldozed.

Glenorchy meet Harlequins at Wentworth Park and with the rejuvenated Stag team charging towards the double chance it is hard to imagine Harlequins slowing their run.

Onn and Dransfield will be missing from the Stag pack but Marty Hart and Ian Dare have shown consistent form and should be able to cover the loss.

Harlequins' forward pack will be depleted by the loss of Drummond and Rayner, both unavailable, and Jim Conroy, who is injured.

Taroona meet Eastern Suburbs at Rugby Park and after their defeat at the hands of Glenorchy the Blues will be anxious to re-assert their supremacy.

The battle between West and Sharpe at the base of the scrum will be a close one, but Martinovich at five-eight constantly creates the break for Taroona's backline.

Taroona should win a close game in what appears to be a second semi-final preview.

The Southern States under 21 championships start in Hobart next week. Games will be played at North Warrane on Tuesday at 1 pm and 2.45 pm and at Rugby Park on Thursday and Saturday at 1 pm and 2.45 pm.

The Tasmanian squad to meet the Southern States Combined Services for the Angelsea Trophy on August 3 at Rugby Park is: J. Campbell, P. Geappen, T. Dick, M. Cowley, G. Campbell, K. Martinovich, P. Sharpe, M. McLean, F. Galloway, P. Soldertenco, R. Walters, R. Ward, S. Hawker, I. Dare, T. Evans (South); P. Smith, D. Smith, P. Neill, M. Winter, G. Rashford, I. Wills (North).

# Morey try lifts Soaks

FRED MOREY scored his first try in 10 years of rugby to help Associates defeat Glenorchy for the first time since 1973, on Saturday.

Ian Doran kicked well in the gusty conditions to score the other six points in Associates' 10-4 victory over the Stags.

Fred Galloway again dominated the back of the line and seems to have lifted the Soaks pack. Himson and Gathercole also played well.

Gordon Campbell looked dangerous for Glenorchy but was often caught with the ball. Manley was prominent and Ian Dare was the only Glenorchy forward to play well for the whole game.

In the game at university, Eastern Suburbs ran all over Uni in the second-half, after an even first half saw the score six-all at the interval.

With Sawyer out of the Uni side Sharpe had an easy game and Mason, Evans and the the Dillon brothers also played well.

The final score was 32-10 and with line-out specialist Coombs to come back in, Easts seem to be a real force this year.

Dave Smith and Jim Scott relished the easier going to help Taroona to a 66-0 crushing of Harlequins.


Next Saturday will see the North-South clash at 2.30 pm at Royal Park, Launceston.

The Southern team : J. Campbell (c), G. Campbell, R. Onn, I. Dare (Glenorchy) F. Galloway, R. Ward, S. Hawker (Associates); M. Cowley, W. Nibbs, B. Eaton, K. Martinovich, M. McLean, P. Codey (Taroona); P. Geappen, T. Dick, P. Sharpe, T. Evans (Easts); R. Walters (Uni); M. Rayner (Harlequins).



## SOAKS and Touch football

# HOBART TOUCH ASSOCIATION



## ROSTER 1982-83

### TEAMS - 1982/83

#### MEN

<b>DIVISION I</b>	<b>DIVISION III</b>
Valern Devils	Shamrock Hotel Warriors II
Sharks I	Specialty Press Comets
Bavarian Tavern Hustlers	Bert's Boys
Schweppes Roos	Ship Hotel Associates
Veterans	Noddy's Raiders
OHA River View Ships	Ocean Child Stingrays
Ocean Child Stingrays	Cazaly Hornets
Rawleigh Kiwis	Black Buffalo Lions V
Black Buffalo Lions I	Travellers Rest University III
Travellers Rest University I	El Toro Devils
<b>DIVISION II</b>	<b>DIVISION IV</b>
Sharks II	BP Brooker Saints
Federal Gases Umpires	Cornish Mount Cougars
TAA Demons	Winston's Seagulls
Abel Tasman Bar Associates	Black Buffalo Lions VII
Shamrock Hotel Warriors I	Demons
OHA Ships II	Sharks III
Savings and Loans Sabres	Elwick Eliminators
Cornish Mount Devils	
Black Buffalo Lions III	
Travellers Rest University II	

Back in the day SOAKS were well represented in the local Touch football competition with both the Ship SOAKS and the premiership winning Abel Tasman SOAKS willing to take on allcomers.





While the Abel Tasman SOAKS were busy winning the Touch football Division 2 Grand Final, (left) I was helping DOSA (Dominic Old Scholars) Aussie Rules footballers win Division 4 with the Racecourse Roosters (Who remembers the Racecourse Hotel out at Glenorchy?). Here I am (below) in front of Glenorchy RFC star John Manley before linking up with him and the late Bevan Eathorne at Associates RFC in 1984.



In 1979 SOAKS welcomed the then new northern club, Launceston's Riverview RFC, with a less than welcoming defeat. (right)

## First game, first loss

By CHRIS COPAS

Tasmania's newest rugby club Riverview kicked off the 1979 season with a 29-3 loss against Hobart Associates at Royal Park in Launceston this afternoon.

It was experience, particularly in the forwards that beat Riverview.

Associates led 12-0 at half time.

Scores: Associates 29 (tries 4, conversions 3, penalty goals 2) and Riverview 3 (penalty goal).

The club was formed in December after several breakaway members of the Glen Dhu club, also based in Launceston, decided to start a new club.

New captain Steven Kreft (24) was one of the stars of last year's Northern competition, in which Glen Dhu and Zeehan-based West Coast contested the ladder leadership throughout the season.

Kreft, a South African, is an experienced and energetic player.

The Northern roster may not be dominated as much by West Coast and Glen Dhu this season.

Along with Riverview is a second new club based at Rosebery.

Williamsford Combined will bring the Northern roster to six teams, Burnie and Devonport being the other two.

Hobart team Associates hasn't finished for the weekend yet.

Tomorrow it plays Glen Dhu in a social match at midday.



SOAKS 1970's pipeline of junior  
Rugby talent from EMC.



#### RUGBY REPORT

The E.M.C. First side enjoyed a very successful season, going right through the competition undefeated, to take out the Under 18 Premiership in a gruelling grand final against Friends. E.M.C.'s experience won them victory, the final scores being E.M.C. 17 to Friends 7. Besides winning the grand final, E.M.C. also won the minor premiership and Associates Inter-Matric Cup.

Throughout the year, the team showed great respect for and loyalty to their coach Steven Harris, who was able to instil into the team an unbeatable morale and who introduced into Tasmanian Schoolboy Rugby new concepts of the game.

The line-up of players in the First side fluctuated throughout the year, but all those who played proved themselves to be good players. The team was led by Larry Wraight (Captain) and David Smith (Vice-Captain), and the outstanding players were —

Best Forward : GREG PULLEN,

Best Back : NICK EARLES,

Best First Year Player : PAUL GEAPPEN,

Most Improved : BRUCE INGLES.

Again the Second Fifteen (F-Troop) excelled by fighting their way through to the first semi-final, only to be defeated by Saint Virgils. The team was coached by Mr. McGough and was well led by Mick Rush (Captain) and Glen Coombe (Vice-Captain). All players played well throughout the season. Those outstanding were —

Best Forward : GLEN COOMBE,

Best Back : MICK RUSH.

This season saw 12 players from E.M.C. selected in Representative Sides. Congratulations go to the following players —

M. Dwyer, N. Earles, T. Arthur, L. Wraight, D. Dyer, B. Ingles, L. Sealy, P. Stevens (State Under 18's), R. Luck, R. Ferrar (State Under 16's); T. Arthur, B. Ingles (Southern States of Australia Under 18's); G. Pullen, D. Smith (Southern States of Australia Under 17's).

Elizabeth Matric has now proved itself to be a training ground for top schoolboy rugby and with the growing support for this sport within the secondary schools which feed E.M.C., the School is assured of future success.

L. J. WRAIGHT,  
Captain.

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/>

