



SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 8 2021

Welcome to the eighth **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2021. In this edition, **SOAKS** 1970's social events are revisited along with some 1970's schoolboys rugby action. Chief Hawker reports on events in Townsville and there are more interesting **'Heard and Noted'** items. **'From the Vault'** recalls season 1983 through the lens of **SOAKS** balladeer Leigh Sealy. I hope that you enjoy the news, humour and nostalgia.



SOAKS Monthly Drinks

SOAKS Drinks for October was supported by a talented Super Six Old Boys team!

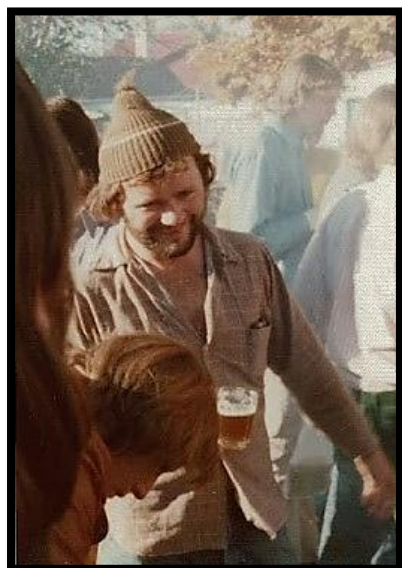


October 2021

'SOAKS Corner' at Tom McHugo's Hotel was again the spot for a thirsty Super Six veterans including: Mark Dwyer, Tim Oxley, Nigel Shepherd, Andrew Herbert, John Gillon and Greg O'Keefe.

Breaking news: Chief Hawker has confirmed that he and wife Susan will be in Hobart in February 2022. They will attend SOAKS Monthly Dinks on Friday 4 February and they very much look forward to catching up with all members of the SOAKS community.

SOAKS Old Boys 1970's style



Uncharitably labelled the 'decade that style forgot' the 1970's was not always a time of hard yakka on the rugby pitch for **SOAKS**. It was also time for plenty of 'beer and skittles' to be enjoyed.

Thanks to **SOAKS Old Boy** Paul Oxley (seen left enjoying a beer and a beanie in 1975 at a **SOAKS** BBQ) some of those treasured social events are recalled in the following images.

Another such 'beer and skittles' event is captured in the much loved and classic B&W photo (over the page). The photo of **SOAKS** on a verandah was taken in 1975, at a weekend in the hills behind Franklin. The house was owned by Probation Officer Craig 'Diesel' Doyle, who was a durable hooker and played with **SOAKS** during the 1970s. He also had a house in town at Fitzroy Place.



A verandah can only support so many **SOAKS** at one time! From left it appears that the following were on hand to mark the occasion: (L-R) Mark Lawler, Peter Calvert, Rex Beamish, Pat Dwyer, Ian Irvine, Nick Peterson, Paul Oxley (seated) Daniel Oxley, Craig Doyle, Greg Schmidt, Barry Woods and Ron Ward. Not all faces have been identified, so if you can put a name to a face, please let me know so I can correct the record in the next newsletter.

Below right is another great candid image from 1975 taken during the Oxley's BBQ at Ratho Street, Lenah Valley.

Tim Mitchell (left), Stephen King (centre) and Paul Oxley (far right) can be identified but who are the others?

Even two of John Donaldson's children (below left) were also on hand to celebrate.



You know that political correctness has gone too far when...

Greg Hill and Leigh Sealy (right) at a "Sportsmans Dinner" at Rugby Park in 2000 following 1999 RWC. Peter Fitzsimons and Topo Rodriguez brought the Webb Ellis Cup to Hobart and we all drank beer from it. In 2003 we had to stand next to armed guards just to have our photo taken with the Cup!



Who knows the story behind this unlikely team photo (left)? When researching its reason for being, all I could discover is that it must be 'possibly the worst 7's team ever selected by TRU!'



Can you identify the future **SOAKS** from the above 1973 U/18 State team photo? Dave Dyer (Captain), Leigh Sealy, Greg Schmidt and Rob Luck are conspicuously present in the line-up.



Above is a classic action photo from an early 1970's U/18 Schoolboy rugby match at Rugby Park between Elizabeth College and St Virgil's College. **SOAKS Old Boy** Leigh Sealy runs the ball into a nest of SVC defenders.



At left and below there is more action from an EC vs SVC match. Check out Leigh Sealy's goal kicking form below. The photo was apparently taken when Leigh was still permitted to kick for goal! Clearly almost anything went at EC Rugby at the time!



Heard and Noted

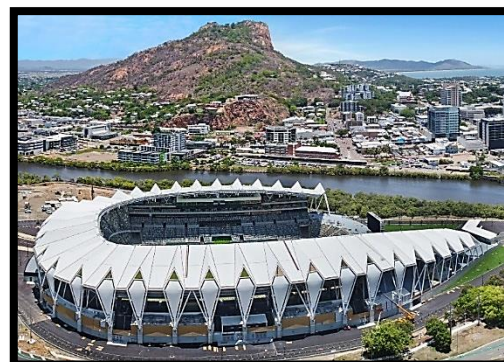


Above left Chief Hawker and son Jeremy undertake a traditional pre-game warm up before the international fixtures begin at Townsville (Springboks vs All Blacks and Wallabies vs Argentina 25 September 2021)

Below Chief and Susan Hawker with fellow Rugby tragics and partners before the big games. Russell 'Rusty' Laird (honorary **SOAK**) can be seen third from left.

An invitation from Chief:

The glittering new Queensland Country Bank Stadium (right) in Townsville is now attracting major international rugby union games in addition to NRL games. Last weekend saw Springboks go down narrowly to All Blacks in a thriller win 19-17, and Wallabies with a solid win against Los Pumas 27-8. Fantastic weekend of rugby in North Qld. Any **SOAKS Old Boys** wanting to head north anytime to see a game in future will be most welcome.



On Sunday 3 October, Barry Woods caught up with familiar faces and interstate visitors from Qld in the shape of Aden and Sheila Jenkins. They are former licensees of the Abel Tasman Bar and sponsored **SOAKS** for a period in the early eighties including the 1981 season when **SOAKS** won the reserves grand final.



From the **SOAKS Vault**

The Story of the Sword (Season 1983) by “SeaLeigh”

Old Ronnie Ward was a man of might
In the days when the Club was young
Colossus-like he strode the field
And wide his praise was sung.

But as his twilight turns to dusk
And battered limbs grow numb
He ponders on his misspent youth
And the rising cost of rum.

A decade now and more has passed
Since first he joined the Club
And as he dreams, the more it seems
His life's been spent in pubs.

He thinks of former team mates
Now gone, but once athletic
Of games they played and songs they sang
Whilst getting paralytic.

They called themselves Associates
This band of fine young men
And pledged that drinking was their aim
With Rugby now and then.

He thinks of brave old Orrie Cox
His bucket at his side
Who woke the dead with water
As all med'cine he defied.

He also thinks on Donaldson
The sometime referee
And wonders what's come over him
Since nineteen sixty-three.

The humble Highland hero
Then broad and strong and tall
The winsome wily five-eighth
Was the bravest of them all.

You'd see him out on Rugby Park
In rain and storm and snow
A flash of tartan jockstrap
His haggis hanging low.

Steve King is not forgotten
In his prime - when just a pup
Mark Dwyer's battered body shows
How Kingy 'set him up'.

And Schmidt when he was younger
Was a demon in attack
He played fullback like a forward
And wing-forward like a back.

He thinks of Eddie Jacobs
Who drunk but undeterred
Could out talk David Collidge
With his Thursday Island slur.

He thinks of Bevan Eathorne
Once an ordinary bloke
Who egged on by Tim Mitchell
Now eats raw eggs for a yoke.

And the amazing Captain Marron
With marinated brain
Drinks just like a madman
And plays rugby just the same.

And poor Tim Nash – the victim
Of some unexpected strife
Called a spade a spade and a Dick a dong
And wound up getting life.

He also thinks of Gathercole
Of Logan and of Keating
Of Albertson and Standish
Who did nothing worth repeating.

Of Herbert and of Galloway
Fitzpatrick, Hill and Doran
Colles, Foulston and the rest
They're all grown up and boring.

He thinks upon more recent times
And how, at the grand final
Certain members of the Club
Found a new urinal.

How George at once had called police
And how police just missed 'em
And why old George was never told
They were our sprinkler system.

Ron Ward's glass is empty now
He takes it back to Aden
Another rum and coke he cries
My heart is heavy laden.

He lurches back across the room
In shorts and beer-stained sweater
In thirteen years, he thinks aloud
Things ain't got any better.

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/>

