



SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 4 2021

Welcome to the fourth **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2021. In this edition, **SOAKS** drinks for June at Tom McHugo's Hotel are highlighted. The '**SOAKS in Time**' section includes items that reflect on some of the off field hijinks of the past as well as a number of key faces across the decades. There are some interesting '**Heard and Noted**' items; a spotlight on the Convicts' recent trip to the north of the state; and as well, '**From the Vault**' looks back through the lens of **SOAKS** balladeer Leigh Sealy to the season that was 1978. I hope that you enjoy the news, humour and nostalgia.



SOAKS Monthly Drinks

SOAKS Drinks for June attracted another bumper 'team' of sixteen **Old Boys**!



June 2021

A squad of 16 attended 'training' at Tom McHugo's Hotel comprising: Mark Dwyer, Steve Harris, Steve Colles, Dave Kilpatrick, Rob Kerstan, Barry Hamilton, Andrew Herbert, Nigel Shepherd, Tim Oxley, Harry Cox, Barry Woods, John Donald, John Gillon, Peter Tucker, Greg O'Keefe and Fred Morey



SOAKS Old Boys Profiles



Name and Nick name (if any)? Robin (Herbie) Kerstan

When did you play for SOAKS? 1976 to 1983 best guess.

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS? On a whim I went to watch a game at Rugby Park and several old NTHS and EMC teammates were on-field for Associates v Glenorchy. The conversation went something like:

“Are you playing for them?”

“No”

“Then get your boots on.”

Did you play rugby with other clubs? No, however I did play country football (Australian Rules) 1974 - 75 more dangerous than playing some TRU sides.

What position/s did you play? Over time I played all positions in the forward pack except hooker.

What are your 3 fondest memories of your time with SOAKS? The camaraderie, friendship and the powerful wits of Leigh Sealy and Tim Oxley

Who was your most respected local rival? Richard Onn from Glenorchy: Setting aside on-field antics his passion and commitment were impressive. Tim Arthur from University: a playmaker and difficult to tackle.

In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why? I was a reckless youth, Peter Calvert who left us too soon provided wise counsel.

What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS? There were many fun and hilarious times. 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.

Any other comments? In retrospect the sheer hard work performed by groups of players, supporters and families to keep the club functioning and alive was outstanding.

[Editor's note: Rob Kerstan won SOAKS Best Senior Forward trophy for season 1979]

LOCK IN THIS DATE: SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

What? A significant **SOAKS** Old Boys and partners BBQ luncheon

Why? To acknowledge and celebrate the 50th and 40th Anniversaries of the following:

1971 **SOAKS** Colts Premiership
1971 **SOAKS** Seniors Premiership
1981 **SOAKS** Reserves Premiership

Where? Buckingham Bowls Club, New Town (12 noon -3.30 pm)
Courtesy of Dave Dyer (**SOAKS** Old Boy and contact at Buckingham Bowls Club)

More exciting details to follow

SOAKS in Time (2021: a year of anniversaries)

This year is the 50th anniversary of the 1971 **SOAKS** First Grade and Colts double Premiership success. As can be seen from the Mercury report (below) from '71, it is clear that Taroona were the darlings of the media in season 1971 as they were perhaps the only ones truly 'shocked' by the result! Whilst Taroona were the minor premiers that year, **SOAKS** were gunning for their second consecutive senior premiership and their 4th premiership in the seven years since the club was formed in October 1964. In addition, **SOAKS** had 'upset' Taroona 12-10 in the major semi-final just a fortnight earlier.

Shock rugby win by Associates

ASSOCIATES became the 1971 rugby premiers at Clare Street on Saturday, defeating Taroona 16-15, and their under-19 team got the double by accounting for Brothers 22-9.

In the curtain-raiser to the senior final, Gunnedah (NSW) defeated a Southern team, 12-9.

In a torrid encounter in which the lead changed hands four times, Associates were too good on the day for Taroona.

A feature of the match was the fierce tackling and rucking of both teams.

Taroona went quickly to a 6-0 lead in 10 minutes with a Dale penalty goal and a try scored after a mistake by the Associates' defence.

Associates pulled one back when winger Cooper went over in the corner for a try but five minutes later Associates were caught off-side and Dale kicked the penalty.

There followed a period of sustained Taroona pressure as the Blues fought to consolidate, but Associates

weathered the storm and eventually Logan broke clear after an interception and kicked ahead for Cooper to win the race for the touch-down.

Logan converted and the teams changed ends with the score 9-8 in Taroona's favour.

Bustled

In the second half Dale kicked another penalty after 15 minutes, but soon afterwards Logan broke through the Taroona defence to let in Eastaugh for a try. Logan got the conversion with a superb kick from the touchline and Associates hit the front to lead 13-12.

As play swung quickly from end to end Dale kicked yet another penalty to put the Blues in front again but Associates ran out winners when Logan kicked a penalty goal awarded for obstruction.

The final whistle went with Associates hanging on grimly to their one-point lead in the face of repeated Taroona attacks.

For Taroona, Dale scored all their points and full back Wilson had a good game. For Associates Logan had a good day with Pullen playing a good captain's game.

W for berth

With two minutes remaining, Morrison passed to Mills, whose power-laden

Did you know?

Mike Logan scored 172 points in season 1971 with **Peter Cooper** scoring 22 tries.

Reserve Grade was coached by **Ross Baker**.

SOAKS fielded a U/19 team for the first time in 1971 and the successful Colts were coached by **Frank Montgomery**, and **John Pullen**.

In the under 19 final, Associates were never really in trouble against Brothers in an entertaining game. Both teams played an open game.

Associates' tries came from Pollard (2), Lang, and Burgess, with Carter (2 penalties) and Beamish (2 goals) scoring the rest of the points. Brothers scored tries through Cuthbertson (2) and D. Chen.

Remembering the 1971 SOAKS Colts

Did you know...

1971 was the first year that **SOAKS** fielded a Colts team.

The 1971 Grand Finals were the last games played at Clare Street Oval before TRU Headquarters shifted to Rugby Park.

The Colts Grand Final was played between **SOAKS** and Brothers (St Virgils Old Boys).

The Grand Final was played in very difficult conditions: rain, sleet and hail.

The match finished as a 12-12 all draw even after two lots of extra time had been played.

The TRU decided that the match would be replayed the following Saturday.

SOAKS upset Brothers in the replay 22-9

Many thanks go to **Rex Beamish, Ian Carter and John Donald along with Tim Mitchell** for supplying many recollections of the team and the 1971 Colts season. Here are some of those recollections:

*"1971 was my first year of uni and **SOAKS**' Neville Moane had previously coached most of us **SOAKS** boys at EMC so there was great connection and well drilled talent.*

*There were an amazing number of country kids who were at Springvale hostel and played because the housemaster Tom McGee encouraged us most then went to Werndee hostel and on to EMC where we then encouraged by Neville Moane to come to **SOAKS**.*

*From the 1970 EMC team (below) more than half ended up at **SOAKS**." (Ian Carter)*



RUGBY, FIRST XV

Back: S. Oleszkiewicz, P. Crosswell, T. Beattie, J. Skinner, I. Lang, R. McCreadie, S. Spencer, D. Simms, M. Crosswell.

Front: R. Beamish, G. Lang, J. Pollard, M. Drew (V. Capt.), N. Moane (Coach), I. Carter (Capt.), A. Skinner, R. Moss, R. Voss.

Absent: M. Garrett, T. Rose.

Ian (Possum) Carter was the captain of Associates U19s and did most of the kicking. He played 5/8 and was a busy player around the ground. He offered me several long range shots at goal when tries were scored in the corner and I might have hit two, I used drop kicks. (Rex Beamish)

Ronny Moss was a tough bugger and hailed from the Derwent Valley. I can recall a game in '73 when he broke his front tooth. At half time strolled out to his car and returned with a pair of pliers from his toolkit and removed the remaining stump of the tooth in front of us when we were sucking on our oranges! (Tim Mitchell)

1971 SOAKS Colts

Fullback: Charlie

Cook

Wingers:

Stan Oleszkiewicz

Andrew Skinner

Centres:

Dennis Simms

Perry Crosswell (dec 1972)

5/8

Ian Carter

Halfback

Lindsay Geeves (dec 2011)

No. 8:

John Donald

Flankers:

Graeme Lang

Rex Beamish

Ron Moss

Dave Burgess

2nd rowers:

Ian Lang

Gary Syrett

Bruce Young

Props:

John Skinner (dec 1973)

John Pollard

Hooker:

Stephen Powell

[Editor's note: Without claiming absolute accuracy, the team list for the 1971 **SOAKS** Colts is courtesy of shared memories.]



Influential and familiar figures in **SOAKS** formative years are Orrie Cox, John Harry and Harry Cox together with Brutus and (above) Peter Doe and Orrie

Affectionately known as the Scottish Mafia are **SOAKS** club legend John Donaldson and Dr Andrew Crawford Thomson Club President (1971-2, 1975)



Heard and Noted

Chief and Pal illustrate the enduring bonds of **SOAKS** rugby friendship (right). Steve 'Chief' Hawker and Dave 'Pal' Collidge together with Susan and Ina caught up with one another back in January at Mooloolaba. (Photo courtesy of Dave Collidge)



Campaign chief dips back into political life (article courtesy of the *Mercury*)

THE former chief of staff to independent federal MP for Clark Andrew Wilkie is running Glenorchy mayor Kristie Johnston's state election campaign. **Dr Peter Tucker, 65** (and **SOAKS** legend), worked with Mr Wilkie for 10 years and retired last year.



Ms Johnston, who has a close working relationship with Mr Wilkie, asked Dr Tucker to manage her campaign.

"He is a wonderful man with a lot of experience and I am very grateful he's helping me," she said. Peter Tucker, who is running Kristie Johnston's election campaign, was Andrew Wilkie's former chief of staff.

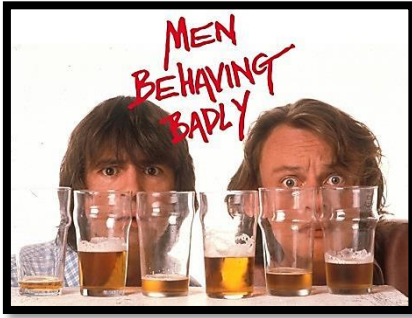
Dr Tucker was teaching politics and government at the University of Tasmania when he applied to join Mr Wilkie's staff in 2010.

"We had a great partnership," he said.

"I had a great time but realised last year that I could retire. It's always good to refresh an office."

He had no hesitation in helping Ms Johnston.

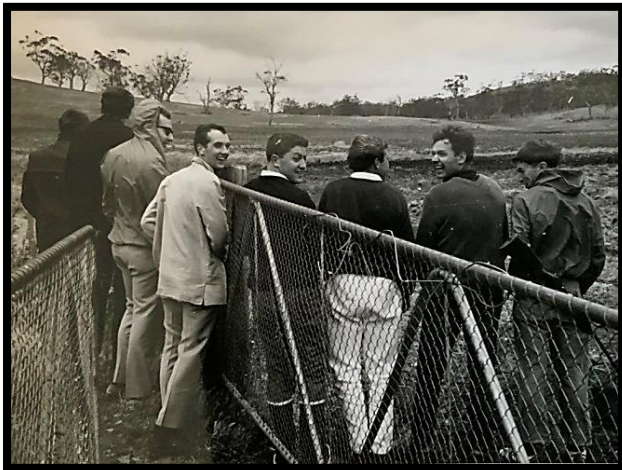
[Editor's note: Winners are grinners. As many would know, Johnston was duly elected in the recent State Election.]



I am sure many remember the 1990's British comedy *Men Behaving Badly*, so it is no surprise that there may truth to the view that there is a little bit of Gary and Tony to be found when **SOAKS** gather. The following photos may be evidence of that. The first image (below left) comes from the late 1960s when **SOAKS Old Boys** demonstrated that 'necessity is the mother of invention'. Amongst the group from the right are Peter Riley, Vernon Younger, Rob Fraser-Easton, Stuart Melrose and Jack Bryant.

The second image comes from July 1980 when a cavalier combined group of University and **SOAKS** identities ventured off to Sydney to watch the 3rd Bledisloe test of that year at the SCG. Prior to the match the ambassadors from Tassie played a friendly match against Sydney University before being transported and feted at the ground by their hosts. The **SOAKS** members of the party included: Steve Hawker, Ron Ward, Tim Oxley, Wayne Cole and Wayne Jenkins. The player 'baring' the UTAS Rugby logo remains unidentified, but clearly he must have been some uncouth Uni Rugby Club member by the name of Gary or Tony something or other!

The 3rd image (below) is the same group of Tasmanian rugby tourists, this time all formally dressed in their respective red or navy blue club pullovers in the SCG grandstand. However, rumour has it that the euphoria of witnessing the Wallabies 26-10 victory to seal the series (Ah...those were the days!) overcame some of the members of the group to such a degree that a primitive form of celebratory crowd surfing was undertaken! It is believed that the fine grey-haired gentleman in the bottom left of the photo was overheard saying: 'Don't worry dear...they're just Tasmanians.'





Saturday 12 June saw a willing band of Convicts make the trip to beautiful Burnie and basked in unseasonable 18 degree heat to participate in celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Burnie Rugby Club.

Word has it that in October this year the Convicts will play host to the Stillbillies, a Golden Oldies group from the northern beaches of Sydney (Terrey Hills Rugby Club). Further details about the match and social events are to be confirmed, so keep an eye out for additional news.



SOAKS Old Boys aplenty: on the sideline (far left) with Linton Foster and on field with Clyde Eastaugh, Blair Jepson, Rohan Probert and Steve Colles. Yes...that's Paddy Dorney flat on his back again!



SOAKS Old Boys strike a pose: A copybook Steve Colles steps off the left foot holding the ball in two hands while Blair Jepson illustrates Rugby rule 101...when in doubt kick it out! Clyde "Iron 'em out" Eastaugh proves that age and treachery will always overcome youth!

Remembering Bob Newman and Rugby in the late 1950's by Dennis Gee



I (pictured at left) started at Uni in 1958 and played in the University Rugby Club seniors under captain Bob Newman OAM, who was a forester from Maydena. Bob was born in England before his family migrated to Australia. Bob's "first appointment as a forester at the end of 1955 was in Tasmania with Australian Newsprint Mills (ANM) at Maydena. This involved resource assessment and silvicultural research with Dr Max Gilbert...Outside of forestry, rugby was his sport. He excelled in this during his youth, was an ardent follower of rugby throughout his life and was a keen member of the Canberra male voice rugby choir."

I remember the intervarsity carnival in Brisbane that year. We travelled in several cars to Beauty Point, took the old 'Taroona' Bass Strait ferry to Melbourne and then second-class rail to Brisbane. (The 'Taroona' was taken out of service in 1959 as transporting cars was becoming increasingly popular and the 'Taroona' could only fit 30 vehicles which all had to be winched aboard.)

Bob Newman had an illustrious rugby career and his final four years of serious rugby were with the University of Tasmania. It was Bob who pressed me to go to Brisbane because they were short of a team. As I was on a stipend of £815pa from the Tasmanian Mines Department on a Uni Scholarship, I agreed to go along.



Bob studied Forestry and during part of the course he captained the University team for three years and played in the Victorian State team for four years. He represented Australia in the Universities Tour of New Zealand and again when New Zealand toured Australia. He was also a Wallaby Triallist and captained Combined Southern Universities versus New Zealand Universities. He then won a Commonwealth Forestry Scholarship to the Australian Forestry School in Canberra where he was Captain/ Coach and represented as Vice Captain the ACT (Brumbies) and NSW Country.

His final rugby-playing effort was for a Golden Oldies Team, called the Old Tasmanian Devils, who played in Launceston, Brisbane, San Diego, Wellington, and finally in Hobart on May 31, 2008, when the University club celebrated 75 years of existence.

After 66 years, Bob hangs up his rugby boots



Staying power: Bob Newman plays his final game in Hobart in 2008

Other names from that team I can remember include: John Cotteral, Bernie Mack, Arthur Franz, George Shanks, Mike Bateman, Mike Whiteman and Brian Lowe.

[**Editor's note:** Bob Newman sadly died in August 2020, aged 91. Some of the material above was courtesy of Epsom College (England) newsletter]

Season 1978 (A SOAKS lament that didn't happen)
by "SeaLeigh" '78

It was late in mid-September
Things were jovial and hearty
Drinking Coke and orange juice
And looking for a party

Then up spoke young Tim Oxley
His nose was vivid red
Let's make an early night of it
And all go home instead

Silence fell upon the room
A numb uneasy feeling
To bloodshot eyes and addled minds
The thought was quite appealing

So everyone went home to bed
Still jovial and hearty
On what became the awful night
SOAKS didn't hold a party

One night when no-one drank till dawn
When no-one flaked or chundered
The night when no-one ran amok
And raped and burnt and plundered

The night when Freddy Morey
In his concrete agitator
Didn't run down passing cars
And ask the questions later

The night when Peter Tucker
Didn't show up late
The night that Patrick Dwyer
Didn't get irate

That fateful night at Risdon Vale
When certain films weren't shown
When Bob Luck didn't slip or fall
But only cracked a bone

The night that didn't happen
When Johnno got engaged
When Steve King almost did the same
And no-one got enraged

The night when Fongy didn't say
He thought he should suspect us
Of somehow finding out the fact
That eats Campbell's soup for breakfast

The night that David Collidge
Without his usual flair
Somehow didn't manage
To talk the leg from off his chair

The night that Stephen Hawker
Gave up drinking stout
Stopped making funny noises
And didn't stink the Goulburn out

When John Emms went to training
And Lawler turned up too
When Calvert gave up mowing lawns
And made a comeback too

When Ron Ward gave up drinking
And took rugby up instead
Which shocked his constitution
But clarified his head

Also Herbie Kerstan
And Tim Mitchell on that night
Sat drinking in the corner
And didn't want to fight

And all the under 20's
Tho' it filled their hearts with pain
Gave a solemn undertaking
Not to drink before a game

Tho' they pledged this quite sincerely
And meant every word they said
Their bloodshot eyes revealed their lies
As did their throbbing heads

And now it's one month later
Since these events of which I tell
But they really didn't happen
And your fears I must dispel

But I add a note of warning
To these who take me lightly
These strange and dreadful tales
Aren't really that unlikely

And if you choose to drink with us
Bear in mind this tale
And don't say I didn't tell you
If you greet the sun from Gaol

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/>

