



SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 3 2021

Welcome to the third **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2021. In this edition, **SOAKS** drinks for April and May at Tom McHugo's Hotel are covered. The '**SOAKS in Time**' section includes items that reflect on the 1981 Reserve grand final triumph plus the 1983 Senior team. The first Convicts game for season 2021 is highlighted as well. There are some interesting '**Heard and Noted**' items and as well '**From the Vault**' looks back through the eyes of **SOAKS** balladeer Leigh Sealy at the memorable 1977 Sydney trip. I hope that you enjoy the news, humour and nostalgia.



SOAKS Monthly Drinks

SOAKS Drinks for April and May attracted many well dressed **Old Boys**!



May 2021

A full team comprising: Fred Morey, Dean Eddington, Richard Boulton, Geoff Eddington, Tim Oxley, Andrew Herbert, Barry Hamilton, Lynton Foster, Mal Riley, Steve Harris, John Gillon, Richard Hunter, and in front Dave Kilpatrick and Mark Dwyer along with Andy Oakham



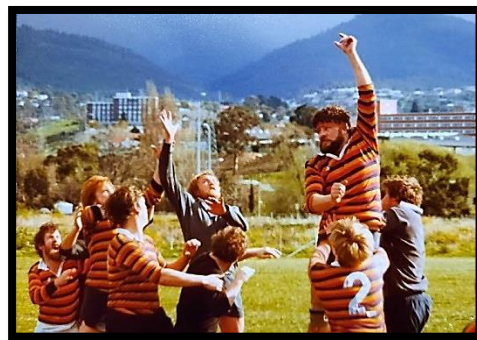
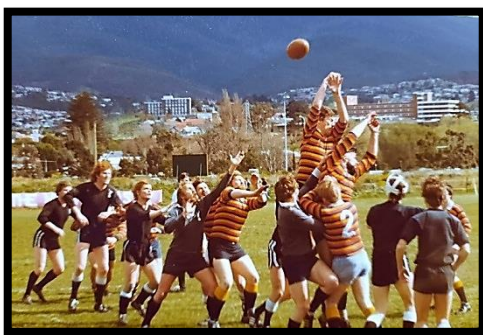
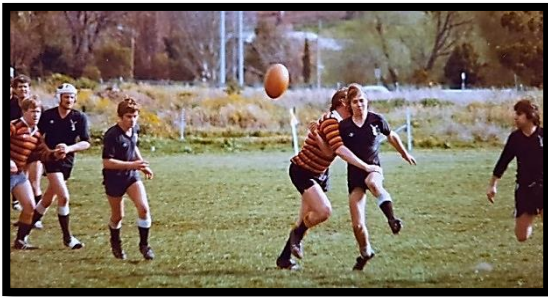
April 2021

Harry Cox, John Gillon, Greg O'Keefe, Andrew Herbert, Nigel Shepherd, Steve Harris and Mark Dwyer admire the club apparel on display.

SOAKS in Time

This year is the 40th anniversary of the 1981 **SOAKS** Reserve Grade Premiership winning team. The 19-4 triumph over Glenorchy was accomplished in 'convincing style' according to the *Mercury*. **SOAKS** led 15-0 at half time and sealed the win with a final Alan Fong try after outlasting a Glenorchy rally early in the second half. To many in the local Rugby community **SOAKS** victory was seen as a surprise result; however, for those within the **SOAKS** family it was anything but a surprise. The 1981 victory began a run of three Grand Final appearances for the Reserves as this team went on to defend its title in 1982 and appeared in its third successive grand final in 1983. Premiership success in 1981 marked the second Reserves premiership for the **SOAKS** club, having also won the title in 1965. Below is some of the action from the '81 decider. (Photos courtesy of Leigh and Liz Sealy)







1983 Seniors

Back Row: Barry Gathercole, Nic Foulston, Barry Hamilton, Steve Colles, Mark Dwyer, Ian Doran, John Marron (c), Leigh Sealy, Geoff Galloway, Mike Logan, Tim Mitchell, Scott Albertson, Bevan Eathorne (Coach)

Front Row: Wayne Cole, Brian Fitzpatrick, Andrew Herbert, Dave Standish, Dave Morris, Ian Nute, Greg Schmidt, Steve Maxwell

In the year of striped socks and snazzy track suits, the 1983 Seniors were unfortunately defeated 15-6 by Glenorchy in the Preliminary Final leaving the Reserves to fly the **SOAKS** flag in the Southern Grand Final that year. Having secured their second consecutive premiership in 1982 by defeating Glenorchy (again!) 19-10 after trailing midway through the second half 3-10, the **SOAKS** Reserves were in search of a hat-trick of premierships in the 1983 showdown against who else... Glenorchy. Sadly, the dark forces from Eady Street stopped the run of success with an 8-0 victory.

Heard and Noted

Harry and Sue Cox enjoyed some recent travels across the State and the following is an account of their time.

Here are some great reasons why we Tasmanians love to holiday at home both because there is much to see and do and it keeps our dollars here.

Harry and I have just returned from 12 days heading to and enjoying our wild and beautiful west coast. Harry drove all of the 1350km on sometime exciting dirt roads between Deloraine and Derwent Bridge; from Zeehan to Corinna and from Corinna to Arthur River. The other roads were well made and maintained. First on our trip was Launceston where we had the pleasure of dining with Danny and Trish McColl. From there to Deloraine and the third day up through the central highlands and on to Derwent Bridge stopping to hike to the Liffey Falls.

Derwent Bridge pub was, as always, an education! Between there and Queenstown we visited the Franklin River, hiked up and down Donaghy's Lookout and walked into the Nelson Falls. Queenstown has lost much of its moonscape and most views are now incredibly beautiful. We loved the Abt Railway trip, the unbelievable amount of information in the Queenstown Museum, and the refurbished Paragon Theatre - a must for all visitors.

You will be pleased to see that Mr Cox not only manned the Visitor Information area at Corinna (promoting **SOAKS** in his brand new retro jersey as he did so!) but also was expert with his camera on the river.

After the Pieman we stayed at Arthur River and, like the skipper on the Pieman, a very informative commentary added to the views. From Arthur River up we went along the edge of the Tarkine to windy Stanley. It is wonderful how they have retained so much of the fishing village housing. We ate the best steak imaginable at the pub - Cape Grim of course.

Our last stop was Westbury and the following day we were pleased to arrive home. Happy but tired, especially the chauffeur.



Harry and Sue Cox on tour



SOAKS on tour!

On my very recent trip to WA I was able to catch up with **SOAKS** legend from 1965, Dennis Gee at his place in Port Geographe (Busselton). Dennis was the club's inaugural secretary and captain of the premiership winning reserve grade team of '65.

Naturally, Dennis donned his well-ventilated vintage **SOAKS** jersey to toast **SOAKS** with a cold Emu Export! After the photo was taken we continued toasting **SOAKS** over some quality Shiraz.



Saturday 15 May saw the Golden Oldies season kick off for the Convicts and a great crowd of **SOAKS** Old Boys were on hand to mark the occasion. Above right is a superb action shot of Richard Hunter and there was plenty of sage advice offered on the sidelines from Andy Oakham, Andrew Herbert, Geoff Eddington, Tim Oxley, Steve Harris and Mal Riley.





Quote of the day came from Geoff Eddington when he quipped: **‘You know when you are getting old when your son qualifies for the Golden Oldies!’** Geoff and son Dean is seen top left. Dave Kilpatrick serves up the chicken and champagne to Jane Kilpatrick (centre) while Oysters cuts quite a figure alongside Lynton Foster and Jane Jepson at the **SOAKS** Old Boys chicken and champagne bar.

From the **SOAKS Vault**

Quiet at the Hyatt
by “SeaLeigh” 13 October 1977

I am writing, Mr Calvert
In response to your request
For a reference for your Rugby Club
As potential hotel guests

Your arrival here two weeks ago
My staff will not forget
And impressions of your presence
Linger with us yet

I must confess I didn’t know
What Tasmanian accents were
Though by Monday I had come to love
Your quaint and garbled slurs

I am still a little puzzled
By some expressions that I heard
And no-one here can tell me
The meaning of the words

I was asked to ‘flash the nunga’
‘It’s too easy’ said his friend
‘Go down’ said yet another
But still I didn’t comprehend

I was pleased the way you settled in
And everything was quiet
For an Ansett man had rung and said
I should expect a riot

Mr King was quick it seems
To set the town alight
He returned in a private taxi
With a bright blue flashing light

And yourself and Mr Lawler
Though the night staff gave fair warning
Went shopping in the city
At 4.30 in the morning

And the Sydney city Council
Say their employee was not pleased
At being hit from the 13th floor
By a piece of Blue Vein Cheese

He accuses Mr Oxley
Of this act so base and rude
But the Hotel records clearly show
We delivered him no food

Only Mr Kerin ordered breakfast
Which wasn't very cheap
'A bottle of champagne' he said
'To help me get to sleep'

Mr Irvine's bloodshot eyes
Were really quite revealing
But he claimed he wasn't really ill
It was just a bad 'beer feeling'

Mr Lucas was seen talking
To a suspicious looking stranger
He called himself 'Khemlani'
And Mr Lucas 'The Lone Arranger'

It seems that Mr Fiddaman
Found it difficult to talk
He drank instead of eating
And he crawled instead of walked

And Mr Morey was quite ill
But still he didn't moan
Despite the fact he'd 'thrown his voice'
In a strict 'No Barking' zone

Very late on Saturday night
A 'Mr China' rang
He owns a Chinese restaurant
Which is called the 'Swollo-My-Wang'

He claims that Mr Lucas
Came in and ate his fill
But his deposit on the table
Hardly paid the bill

I must not forget to mention
While I have the thought in mind
That some items of your property
Were also left behind

One black thong was handed in
It has no name or mark
It somehow struck a passer-by
Who walked past in the dark

Perhaps the elder Mr Oxley
Might know to whom the thing belongs
Or even why on Monday
Mr King wore just one thong

A pair of large Fijian jugs
Were also left behind
And though he paid ten cents for them
I don't think Mr Dwyer minds

I also have in my possession
Half an avocado pear
With a white bootlace connected
Though I don't know why it's there

I reject the crude suggestion
Of the maid to whom I spoke
That Mr Hamilton intended it
To be some sort of joke

And could you please ask Mr Mitchell
Or if Mr Chopping is about
How to refit all the window frames
That unfortunately fell out

And tell the younger Mr Oxley
I am convinced it's true
That it was a lady wrestler
Who tore the telephone book in two

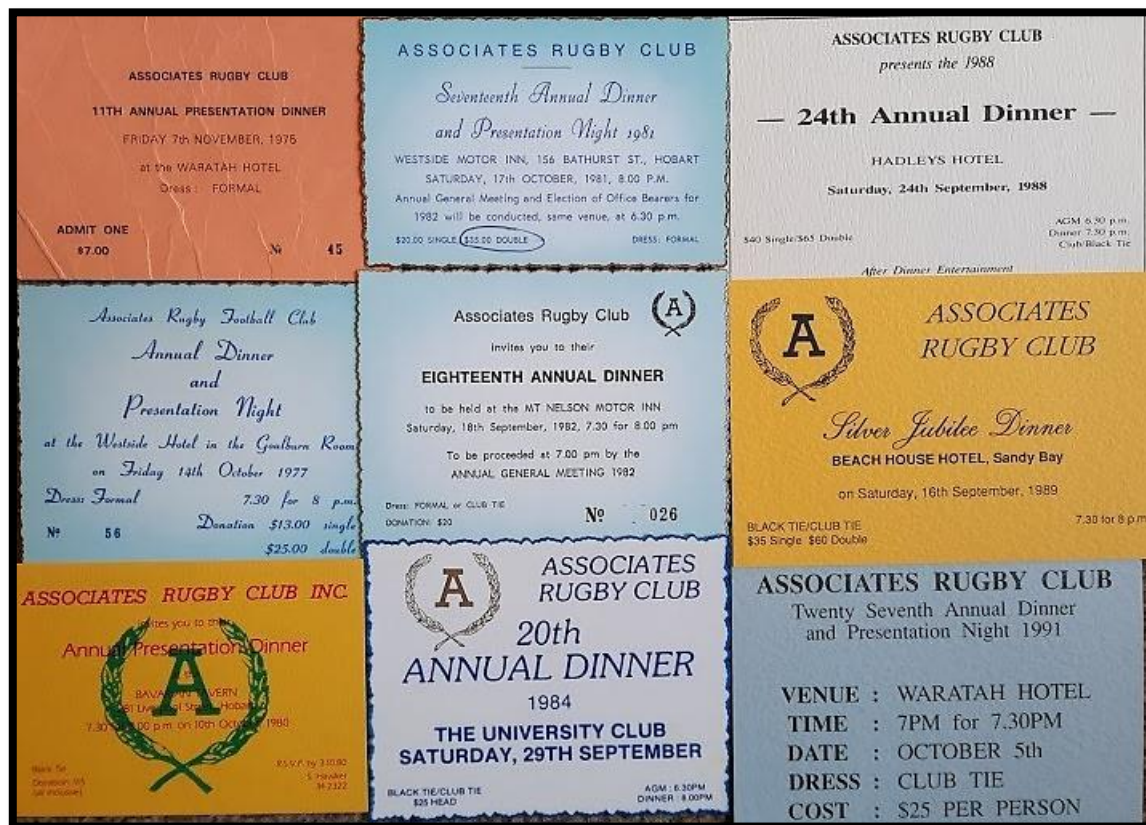
I overheard some players say
That they were still quite ill
After eating out on Saturday
At a friend of Hr Hill's

That may have been the reason
Though I hesitate to say
Why the Hotel smells of garlic
Even to this day

And for your information
And as far as I recall
We don't stock 'Proster's Lager'
Or 'Trubog Beer' at all

In closing, I would thank you
In the customary way
But I'm sure we will be fully booked
When next you come to stay

Where were you when...?



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/>

