



SOAKS Old Boys Newsletter Number 5 2021

Welcome to the fifth **SOAKS Old Boys** Newsletter for 2021. In this edition, **SOAKS** drinks for July at Tom McHugo's Hotel are highlighted. The '**SOAKS in Time**' section includes items that reflect on club champion Steve Colles; a look back to 1969; some personal reflections of **SOAKS** 1971 Senior Premiership. There are some interesting '**Heard and Noted**' items; an examination of the eagerly anticipated annual clash between the Convicts and the mighty **SOAKS**; and as well, '**From the Vault**' looks back philosophically at season 1979 through the lens of **SOAKS** balladeer Leigh Sealy. I hope that you enjoy the news, humour and nostalgia.

PS. Remember to keep Sunday 12 September free for SOAKS get together and anniversary celebrations at Buckingham Bowls Club. Details can be found on page seven.



SOAKS Monthly Drinks

SOAKS Drinks for July attracted another cheerful bunch of **Old Boys**!



July 2021

'**SOAKS corner**' at Tom McHugo's Hotel was brimming with: Harry Cox, Steve Harris, Steve Colles, Greg O'Keefe, Lynton Foster, Tim Oxley, Stephen King, Andrew Herbert, Andy Oakham, Dave Kilpatrick, Garth Barnbaum, Richard Boulton, Richard Hunter, Geoff Eddington, John Gillon and Mark Dwyer,



SOAKS Old Boys Profiles



Steve 'Cobblers' Colles

When did you play for SOAKS? 1979-1990

Why did you decide to play for SOAKS? Followed my St Virgil's team mates who joined the previous year.

Did you play rugby with other clubs? Only one club for me.

What position/s did you play? Started at wing, but 'promoted' to 2nd row, and loved it.

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

The 1984 premiership year was a stand out. Club trips to the big island were always fun and generally the friendly atmosphere in the club.

Who was your most respected local rival? Too many to name, but Moo Cowley (Taroonna) was always a stand out at full-back.

In your time with SOAKS who had the most influence on you and why? Greg Schmidt was the epitome of a true club man with the heart of a lion and a 'never give up' attitude on the field.



What other non-playing role/s did you take on with SOAKS? Club Secretary for 1 year.

What was the funniest thing you remember from your time with SOAKS? If only I hadn't destroyed so many brain cells, I might remember more. The stand out for me was during a mid '80's match where an opposition player was injured. Our then club president could not help but offer advice to the medical staff by screaming out; "Throw him in a ditch". Very diplomatic I thought, could get interesting when he gives the after-match speech.



Any other comments? I am not the most outgoing or witty of individuals, so being part of the **SOAKS** family will stay one of my fondest memories. After nearly 30 years in the wilderness, I reconnected with **SOAKS Old Boys** 3 years ago and even played a few Convicts games. Felt good to be on the field again, until I got off the field. But life goes, I've decided to sell up and move to Brisbane for a while, to be close to family and travel around the North.

[Editor's note: Sadly, many of SOAKS club records have been lost over time. However, from those records that remain it is clear that Steve Colles is a highly dedicated and decorated member of the Club. He won the President's Cup for Club Man of 1983, was Club Secretary in 1984, won Best Senior Player in 1985 and won the Best Senior Forward twice in 1986 and again in 1988.]

28—THE MERCURY, TUESDAY, 22-7-1969

Rugby "four" hinges on August 9 clash; draw gives Associates chance

BY sharing the points with University in their Southern Rugby match on Saturday, Associates drew level with Glenorchy in fourth place on the ladder, and the final four will not be resolved until August 9, when these rivals meet.

Both teams can expect "wooden spoons" Eastern Suburbs in the next two rounds, so on August 9, each match will be of paramount importance. Taroonas and Harlequins play off for the minor premiership, Glenorchy and Associates vie for fourth position, while Easts attempt to win their first match against University.

Saturday's round of games provided some very close results.

After leading Harlequins 3-0 at half-time, Glenorchy were beaten 12-6. Uni-

versity and Associates fought out a thrilling 14-14 draw, and Easts gave Taroonas the fright of their lives before losing 11-19.

A try by centre Kevin Woods gave Glenorchy their half-time lead against Harlequins, who knuckled down to their task in the second half. A try by Sheedy was converted, but Glenorchy wrested back the lead with a penalty goal by Onn.

The pressure Harlequins were able to apply in the final 20 minutes saved

them the game. Two more tries by Montgomery and Jackson sealed the issue and a big factor in Harlequins' win was their dominance of lineouts, and a fair share of possession from scrums and rucks in the second half.

The University-Associates tie was a repetition of their last encounter, when they split the points 5-5 and both teams showed that they have the ability to fight back when the chips are down.

Associates' first try came

from an orthodox back movement involving the full-back Boyles, who scored through a break in the centres. The next try by Eastaugh was converted, and Associates led 8 points to nil.

Inside centre Craig, who was the best of the Associates' three-quarters on the day, made a nice break, with a small grubber kick past the University full-back, for outside centre Riley to drop on the ball and score and it was 11-0 to Associates.

University's Greg Moore

Whilst 1969 was not a Premiership winning year for SOAKS, it was the year immediately preceding the magnificent run of success that followed in 1970-72. It was a notable year in that there were numerous titanic struggles against Uni which included two drawn games and a two-point semi-final loss to the men in red. It was also satisfying in that the club edged out Glenorchy from finals contention as can be seen from the final table below.

Senior Grade:

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst.	Pts.
Taroonas	15	12	1	1	302	90	25
Harlequins	15	11	0	4	341	119	22
University	14	8	2	4	195	147	18
Associates	15	4	3	8	90	244	11
Glenorchy	15	4	2	9	116	199	10
East. Suburbs	14	1	0	13	134	383	2

Semi-finals: University 11, v. Associates 9. Harlequins 6, v. Taroonas 3.

Preliminary Final: Taroonas 19, v. University 14.

Grand Final: Harlequins 31, v. Taroonas 3.

[Mercury article courtesy of Clyde Eastaugh]

University's Greg Moore made several forceful movements into Associates' territory and was finally rewarded with a try next to the posts just before half-time.

University looked the fitter team in the second half. A penalty goal, followed by a spectacular runaway try by winger McDonald, and then another penalty goal gave them the lead for the first time.

However, Associates' full-back Boyles, who was probably the best man on the ground, steered a long penalty shot to save the match.

Taroonas and Eastern Suburbs turned on a thriller, with the lowly Easts scoring 11 points to Taroonas' 19.

Results:

Seniors: Harlequins, 13 (G. Sheedy, T. Jackson, P. Montgomery tries; T. Ross, P. Montgomery goals) d Glenorchy, 6 (K. Woods try; R. Onn penalty goal).

University, 14 (D. McDonald, G. Moore tries; O. Wilson 2 penalty goals, goal) drew with Associates, 14 (R. Boyles, P. Riley, C. Eastaugh tries; R. Boyles penalty goal, goal).

Taroonas d Eastern Suburbs, 19-11.

Reserves: University I d Army, 19-13; Harlequins d Glenorchy, 9-6; Taroonas d Eastern Suburbs, 19-11.

Under 19: University d Virgilians, 6-3; Taroonas d Eastern Suburbs, 43-6.

SENIOR LADDER

Taroonas, 22; Harlequins, 20; University, 14; Associates, Glenorchy, 7; Eastern Suburbs, 0.

Remembering SOAKS in '71

The most vivid memory of our 1971 Grand Final win against arch-rivals Taroona was the hard-fought nature of the game, the 16-15 score-line and the team's elation when the final whistle blew. History also shows that this win was a significant part of the hat trick of premiership wins in that golden era between 1970 and 1972, having defeated University in 1970 and then Harlequins in 1972. Taroona had always been a very competitive team in that era with several games being decided by a penalty goal late in the game. We had previously defeated Taroona 12-10 in the second semi-final. In the 1971 Grand Final at Clare St there was a torrid battle between the forward packs and expansive play from our backline with outside backs Peter Cooper and Clyde Eastaugh scoring three tries between them. Taroona's key player five-eight Bruce Dale scored all of Taroona's points that day. The Taroona forwards applied plenty of pressure and delivered good ball to their backs, but our defence was able to hold on. The closeness of the contest was evident in the score at half time score with Taroona up 9-8.

It was a torrid forward battle for a long period in the second half with Dale consistently edging Taroona ahead through penalty goals. Our forwards and backs responded when Mike Logan, the man of the match, pierced the defence and sent Clyde Eastaugh in for our third try. A touchline conversion from Mike gave us the lead for the first time in the match at 13-12 deep into the second half. The last period was an unforgettable battle with Taroona throwing everything at us. Taroona kicked another penalty goal to regain a 15-13 advantage before Mike Logan responded with a penalty to recover the lead 16-15. Taroona attacked relentlessly in the last few minutes and I recall Bruce Dale driving over the try line at one stage only to be dragged back by the collar by a desperate defensive effort by John Harry in his last season for the club. When the final whistle blew it was a mix of relief and elation having achieved our closest grand final win. **(John Pullen)**



The coach at training on the Thursday night before the Grand Final told us to stay off the piss and there was to be no sex! I don't remember a lot about the game, but I walked away a bit disappointed as I felt I didn't play well. We certainly did drink a lot that night, but that wasn't unusual. I moved to Sydney in November after the game and joined Mosman RUFC.

Doug Doust had me running around Natone Hill in the mornings with a bag of wheat on my shoulders. I can't remember the weight, but I am sure it did my now shot knees, no good. **(Simon Boss-Walker)**

Remembering SOAKS in '71

I remember the game as being particularly hard in close and for being headbutted by Taroona's Bill Kearney when I had to tackle him on the line head on. Otherwise, he was over. (The bugger worked for Cascade delivering beer in barrels!)

Doctor Crawford Thomson, our president, came out at halftime and said I was fine to continue and when the game finished, he rushed out to have another look as he thought I had a busted cheekbone. Only damage was that I lost all feeling there for years.

We won by a point courtesy of Mike Logan who kicked a beautiful penalty in front of the posts, but well out and were very busily defending that lead down the bottom end of Clare Street when the whistle went. **(John Harry)**



The 1971 grand final was one that I will always remember as a tough physical encounter. It was also I think the last game at Claire Street in New Town. From memory there was an objection raised by Taroona before the game as to the eligibility of Doug Doust to take his place in the team. This was dismissed by a hastily convened TRU management committee, but it added an extra layer of niggles and spice to the contest.

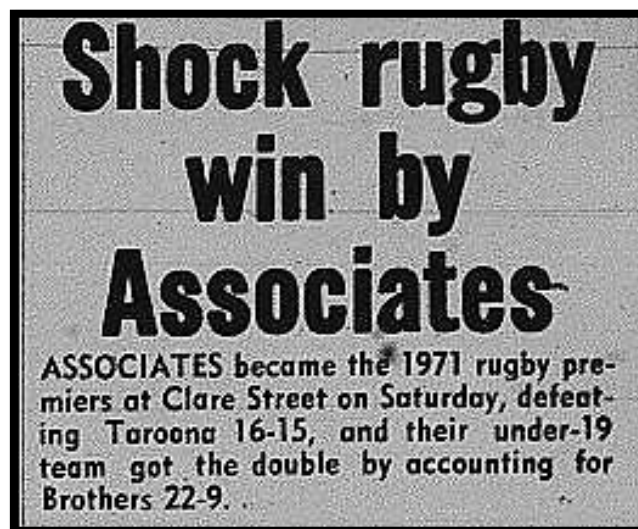
I recall Doust entering a maul and it erupting the Taroona and SOAKS forwards. He emerged with the ball in one hand and brushed off the opposition with the other as he stormed up the field. Doug was so strong and dangerous and this was why Taroona did not want him to be involved.

Taroona's danger man back was Bruce Dale who was singled out for special attention. He was quick and a field goal specialist within 30 metres of the uprights. He tested us all game, but no more than in the dying moments of the match, when he was tackled by almost the entire SOAKS team and bundled into touch over the corner flag of the try line, with the final whistle sounding seconds later. I say everyone in the team was in the tackle because I have heard over the last 50 years everyone claims to have been the one who made the match-saving tackle. Mike Logan was at his best and our most dominant play-maker, spiced with unpredictable flair. **(Mark Lawler)**

I remember I had to leave Hobart on the Ferry that went from Hobart to Sydney a week before the season ended as I was relocating there. When I arrived in Sydney, I had a phone call from Hobart saying that they (SOAKS) wanted me to fly back to play in the Grand Final against Taroona. I arrived back for the weekend and played the game.

It was quite a gruelling game. We were leading, but Taroona was continually on our try line and it was mostly a forwards' bash and shove game. Taroona was desperate to win and we were running out of steam late in the second half. For the last twenty minutes of the game, they seemed to be about five yards from our try line. It was "desperation" played in the mud, but fortunately we held them at bay yet it could have so easily swung their way.

Most of us, especially the forwards, were really stuffed at the end of the game. Someone gave me a can of beer in the change room afterwards. I tried to drink it, but the beer slid down my face because my lips were all swollen from the "gentle kisses" that Taroona had bestowed on me. It is a bit hard to remember a particular game played fifty years ago, but I do remember that the next day when I flew back to Sydney it felt like a bulldozer had run over me. (Doug Doust)



Calling on **ALL SOAKS** Old Boys: Let's together celebrate moments of our club's history.



Invite you and your partner to attend a celebration of the 40th and 50th anniversaries of the premierships winning 1981 Reserves and the 1971 Seniors and Colts.

Date: Sunday 12 September 2021

Venue: Buckingham Bowls Club, 4 St Johns Avenue, New Town

Time: 12.30-3.30 pm

Cost: \$25 per head for a fully catered BBQ luncheon

Dress: Smart casual (club tie optional)

RSVP: (For BBQ catering purposes) **30 August 2021** via return email to gokeef59@gmail.com



Notes:

The fully catered BBQ luncheon includes tea and coffee. However, all other drinks on the day are at your own expense from the fully equipped Buckingham Bowls Club bar.

The Buckingham Bowls Club is conveniently located in New Town, very close to Ogilvie High School and has ample parking available.

Please bring along any **SOAKS** memorabilia that you may have, particularly from the 1971 and 1981 seasons.

Commemorative team photos will be taken on the day.

There will be an opportunity to participate in some social bowls overseen by Dave Dyer.

And a lucky door prize will be won.

Entry is free if you cannot make the BBQ luncheon, but wish to drop in for drinks, bowls and a catch up with the **SOAKS** community.

Payment advice: Full and final payment for the BBQ luncheon is to be made by **Friday 3 September 2021**.

The **\$25 per head** is payable in online payment to:

Account name: SOAKS Old Boys

BSB: 067028

Account number: 10332230

Please write your full name/s as the description so you can be added to the list of luncheon guests.

When did it happen?

Below is a classic action image of Bill Mahina breaking from the scrum and terrorising the **SOAKS** defence. Bill was then playing for West Coast. This photo comes from the book *Gravel and Mud* and was taken at the beautiful Zeehan under unusually sunny skies. Who can date this photo for me and perhaps recall some memories of the match?



Heard and Noted

Chief Hawker caught up with University Rugby Club and lunching legend Merv Simmons in Townsville on his recent May trip to Queensland's far north for the Queensland Reds v NZ Waikato Chiefs game in Townsville. Queensland registered their first win of the Super Rugby Trans-Tasman competition, beating the aptly named Chiefs 40-34. (Photo courtesy of Chief)



Victor Tilley, Savali Lopa, Blair Jepson, Andy Oakham, Mal Riley, Dave Kilpatrick, Steve Colles, Geoff Eddington, Mark Dwyer, Dean Eddington and Dean's son Ollie on the side-line during the recent Uni vs Quins match up.



New Town High School's 1971 U/16 Rugby Premiers celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Uni Rugby Clubrooms on 17 July. Heavily prominent were numerous **SOAKS Old Boys** including: Leigh Sealy, Tim Oxley, Barry Woods, Robin Kerstan, Bob Luck and Ron Plummer.



SOAKS Old Boy Brian Fitzpatrick was welcomed 'home' from WA in fine style by plenty of former teammates on Saturday 17 July. Among those there to catch up with Brian was great friend Mik McCarthy. Others included: Mark Dwyer, Andrew Herbert, Steve Harris, Steve Colles, John Gillon, Dave Morris, Mal Riley, Greg O'Keefe, Ian Scutt, Nigel Shepherd and Geoff Eddington.

The day's events included the local Uni vs Glenorchy contest, dinner at the Casino, the exciting 3rd Wallabies test against the French and of course plenty of good cheer and beers at the Uni Clubrooms during the afternoon and evening.



Saturday 24 July witnessed a huge roll up of **SOAKS Old Boys**, partners and Convicts (the ‘real crowd magnets’ as Blair reminds us all) which made the last home game for Uni this year a very memorable occasion. Among the many memories of the Golden Oldies game was the GO’s debut of 80-year-old Convicts Patron and **SOAKS** inaugural 1965 skipper Harry Cox. To mark the occasion, Harry scored a remarkable winger’s try in the Uni Clubrooms corner of the field. His ‘diving’ effort was met with a tremendous roar of approval from the crowd! Another memorable moment was Steve Colles’ tackle of the match, a try-saving effort that ensured his nomination for the man of the match Harry Cox tankard. If Covid permits, the next Convicts encounter will be against the touring Stillbillies in October. Further details about the match and social events are to be confirmed, so keep an eye out for all the news.



SOAKS Old Boy Blair Jepson awards Harry Cox his first Golden Oldies Cap (the no tackle zone cap that is). Steve Colles began his assault strongly on the Harry Cox tankard, but struggled with what appeared like an ‘ice cold beer headache’ before completing his chugalug. Meanwhile, Harry must have thought no one would notice him, but that ‘you deserve a Cascade draught’ smile was hard to hide. Well done, Harry!





Harry and Clyde (above), with the cumulative experience of some 158 years, plan their next moves built on the firm belief that ‘age and treachery will always overcome youth and exuberance’!



Just some of the many **SOAKS Old Boys** on hand to offer moral support to their Golden Oldies ‘teammates’ from the safety of the side-line: Tim Oxley, John Gillon, Steve Harris, Robin Kerstan, Leigh Sealy, Phil Williams and Walter Thompson

From the **SOAKS Vault**

Life Cycle

(With apologies to Bruce Dawe and William Shakespeare)

Much Ado about an Unconverted Try
 A Midsummer Night Lineout
 The Timing of the Screw
 The famous history of the life of King Henry the Five-eighth

Willie John McBride and Juliet
 Hamlet, 23 time International for Denmark
 Two Breakaways of Verona
 Scrums’ labours lost

All the Rugby grounds are stages
The locks and forwards are all players
One man may play many parts
His acts are seven ages

At first a child in his mother's arms
Is taken to the game
To watch his father play his part
He learns he must do the same

But young is he this Rugby son
And knows not yet the reason
Why his nappies smell of liniment
Throughout the Rugby season

But soon his second age is come
And he is five years old
And though he'd like to play the game
The ball's too big to hold

Next he is a twelve year old
His third age had begun
Though still a boy, he learns the joy
Of packing in a scrum

With pride he wears his scrum cap
And although the spirit's willing
He also wears a jock strap
Though he has not yet the filling

At twenty years his fourth age starts
Most golden age of all
When rucking is a pleasure
And pleasure is a maul

When scrumming is a joyous thing
Despite the flying fists
Of ugly cross-eyed, bull-necked props
Who never seem to miss

When drinking late on Friday nights
Doesn't seem to hurt
And nor does never sleeping
It just makes him more alert

When coaches talk for hours
About how a good prop packs
But never seem to notice
That he plays in the backs

The fifth age starts at thirty
And so does his decline
Drinking beer on Friday nights
Has given way to wine

Training's now a duty
And playing is a bore
And rucks and mauls and lineouts
Aren't as easy as before

Every time a scrum goes down
It seems to last an hour
And the sweet perfume of stale beer breath
Is suddenly quite sour

The broken limbs that never hurt
Have stiffened now with age
A battered hero leaves the field
To start another page

At forty he had burnt his boots
The sixth age now approaches
With nothing useful left to give
He joins the ranks of coaches

He screams and shouts and gives advice
But no-one seems to hear
The final page, the seventh age
Is suddenly quite near

And now the sun is setting
The fading light grows dimmer
He's nothing left to live for
But the Annual Rugby Dinner

Where young men in their golden age
Bathing in the glory
Have no time to listen to
An old man's hoary stories

The curtain finally falls
On our hero true and tried
As the greatest referee of all
Blows the whistle for 'no-side'

But the young men still are playing on
The game goes on forever
For Rugby Union is the code
The angels play in heaven

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/>

