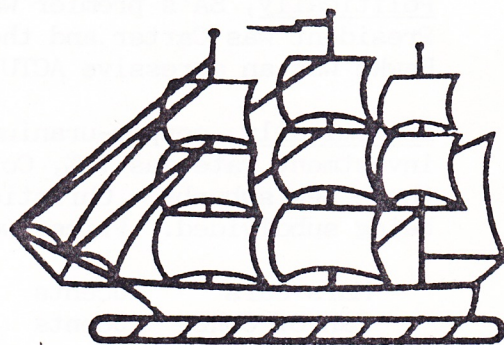




FLINDERS (AMATEUR) ATHLETICS CLUB



10 th. ANNIVERSARY 1989



"THE ORIGINALS" (ST. MARYS 1979)

ON THIS DAY - JULY 1979

When Flinders Amateur Athletic Club was established ten years ago on 4th July, 19879, the world was a very different place.

Politically, SA's premier was Corcoran, the PM was Fraser, USA's President was Carter and the shah of Iran was threatening to bury Egypt. Hawke was an aggressive ACTU president seeking a safe parliamentary seat.

Economically, copper-uranium had just been struck at Roxby Downs, the top investment rate was 11%, Collanades Shopping Centre had just opened and three new suburbs - Christie Downs, Aberfoyle Park and West Lakes - were being subdivided. Prices were as follows :-

Mars Bars	25cents	New Holden or Chryler Sigma	\$4000
Can of Coke	25cents	New Homes (from)	\$30000
Oranges	6cents	Old Homes	\$20-28000
Petrol	25cents litre	Rent for eastern suburbs	
Block of Chocolate	39cents	2 br. flat	\$45 pw

Socially, AIDS had not yet been heard of, Ugg Boots were the latest fashion; "Coming Home", "Midnight Express", "Deer Hunter", and "Every Which Way but Loose" were the new release movies; "Bright Eyes" (Art Garfunkel) and "Lay Your Love On Me" (Racey) were the top hit records that week. Edwards Woodward was in Burra filming "Breaker Morant".

In SA Sport, South was top, Central second and Norwood third in League Football; there were no lights at Football Park; Barrie Robran coached the Norther Raiders; Graham cornes was back from a failed VFL stint; Des Foster was an umpire; Mike Nunan was a Norwood rover and Jack Oatey coached Sturt. KG had just announed his retirement from A grade cricket.

In World Sport, Borg was winning Wimbledon, Ian Chappell was Australia's cricket captain and Boycott opened for England.

In SA Athletics, the press still referred to female runners as "Miss Burnard" and "Mrs Boswell"; Lisa Martin was the State 400m hurles champion; Warren Partland and Andrew Both won the Senior and Junior St. Marys Cross-Country events that week; and Kerry Saxby was fourth in the National Schools Cross-Country. Some age group records in July 1979 were:

World's Best (14 year girls)	3000m	:	9 mins 59.8 secs
	1500m	:	4 mins 28.0 secs
SA Records :	Womens 1500m	:	4 mins 31.8 secs
	Womens 3000m	:	9 mins 48.2 secs
	U20 Mens 3000m	:	8 mins 37.3 secs
	U20 Mens 5000m	:	14 mins 58.8 secs

Peter Crisp, a former Whyalla cross-country runner, was an Enfield Harrier sprinter; Toby Schreier was an Acme wood machinery agent and Little Athletics coach; and Brian Chapman, 33, was SA's newly appointed AA Executive Director.

Neil Benn and Renee Smith were both three years old. On July 4th, the major thing on most people's minds was where in Australia the doomed Skylab satellite would crash.

ATHLETICS IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS

District clubs attempting to set up south of Adelaide had a dismal history with Sturt AAC (1920) and Col. Light Gardens AAC (1944) each lasting only a year and Brighton AAC (1951-5) fairing little better.

Part of the problem was the strength of Adelaide Harriers which claimed the territory and the fact that Scotch, Sacred Heart and Westminster Colleges each had their own affiliated athletic clubs.

Also from 1966 Flinders University had its own club which was restricted to students and staff. FUAAC boasted stars in Olympic marathoner John Farrington (14.39/29.34 and 1977-78 SA Marathon champion), NZ-born SA hammer record holder Don Leadbetter (51.90m) and sprinter-hurdler Trevor Height (10.7/22.1/53.7H). It was also Interclub premier in 1970 (D) and 1973 (C). However by 1978 this mens-only club was stagnating with just 18 members and a bottom placing in the lowest (D) grade of Interclub.

At the same time Mitchell Park Little Athletics Centre, with 200 plus members, was dominating SA's pre-teen cross-country and relay events. In fact seven MP youngsters, Karen Moyle, Susan and Melissa Beeche, Dianne and Andrew Willoughby, Joanne Kelly and Piroska Kiss were so good that their coach Toby Schreier had them compete for Western Districts during the 1978 Winter season.

Moyle actually won the SA Juvenile 800m Cross-Country Title (2.47) that year, going undefeated the whole winter.

During summer, 1979, unheralded Louise Grote won the SA Sub-Junior 400m title and placed seventh in the Nationals.

Easter 1979 saw Mitchell Park LAC provide an amazing 30% of SA's Little Athletics State team for the Nationals - David Woodley (capt.), Brenton Schapel, Karen Moyle, Dianne Willoughby, Grant Mules and M Lawson.

THE EMERGENCE OF TOBY SCHREIER

Tob Schreier's energy and initiative were so crucial to the establishment of Flinders that a brief biography of the man is appropriate (to 1979):

BORN : Trevor Schreier, 4 March, 1939, Warrnambool (Vic.). Eldest of eight.

SCHOOL : Dartmoor (Vic.)
Portland High School (left early to support family).

EMPLOYMENT :
Saw Doctor (Dartmoor Softwoods)

SPORT : 1961 Dartmoor Football Club (Best & Fairest)
1962 Mail Medal (Portland Football League)
Pro Athlete (sprints) - Stawell Finalist
 - Bendigo 1000 Finalist
 - 1959 Wando Vale Gift (130 yds) 1st
 - Sub. 4.10 miler (hdcp)
1963-4 Recruited by Sturt FC - played several reserves and league matches under coach Jack Oatey.
Retired (chronic hamstring pain).

FAMILY : 1966 Married
Darren (1969) Leigh (1972)

SA EMPLOYMENT :

1963 - Acme saw and knife works
(saw doctor and sales rep)

COACHING :

1971 SANFL Coaching Certificate
1973 SANFL Coaching Certificate (advanced)
1972-73 Coached Mitcham FC
1974-76 Coached Sturt U19s
1977 Coached Blackwood FC

From mid-1970's coached runners at Mitchell Park Little Athletics Centre after sons joined.

1979 Athletic Union Coaching Certificate (Grade 2)

AMBITION :

To train national champions.

To have a manager to do the non-coaching work he gets landed with.

TOBY SCHREIER'S VISION - A NEW DISTRICT CLUB

Around April 1979, Mitchell Park's 40 year old Little Athletics coach Toby Schreier approached SAAAA athletics Director Brian Chapman at OSF to discuss the viability and procedure for establishing a district club based at Flinders University.

Toby's positive enthusiasm assured him of AA support. The required ten new previously unregistered athletes would be easily found and all that remained was to absorb Flinders University's club into the proposed organisation as smoothly as possible. The AA provided a \$200 interest free loan to cover initial setting up expenses.

The article below from FU "On Campus" (15 September 1980) describes our foundation :

WHEN CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER

The involvement of the University with the wider community has been expressed in many ways over the years, but never with greater success than that enjoyed by the Flinders Amateur Athletics Club.

Formed on July 4, 1979, the F.A.A.C. came into being as the result of a need and an opportunity.

The need for an amateur athletic club in the Southern area to cater for both male and female athletics became apparent, when a group of young and dedicated boys and girls under their enthusiastic coach, Toby Schreier, began training on the grounds of Flinders.

Most of them were members of Mitchell Park Little Athletic Club, some were past members who had outgrown Little Athletics at the age of 13, but all wanted to compete at Kensington Olympic Sports Field in the S.A. Amateur Athletics Association competitions.

To do this they had to join an affiliated club; and so a large number joined Western Districts Amateur Athletics Club with whom they stayed for about two years, while still continuing to train at Flinders.

TOO GOOD TO MISS

Many of these athletes competed for Mitchell Park L.A.C. while at the same time competing in amateur athletics.

It soon became obvious that coaching in field events was needed, as athletes showed both interest and potential in this area.

Then, early in 1979, the question was asked "Why not start a club at the Flinders University"? It had excellent facilities and equipment and even more significant offers to coach came from

athletes John Hamman, Graeme Richards, Barry Venning and Harley Dillon. It was too good an opportunity to miss.

The University Sports Association was approached and after several

months of negotiations gave their wholehearted approval, dissolving their existing athletic club in favour of the new one, stipulating only that athletes become associate members of the University Sports Association and retain their colours of light and dark blue for their uniforms.

In addition, permission was given for the use of the University emblem, which is now part of Club Uniform.

One of the advantages of associate membership is that the many sporting facilities of the University including those at the Sport Centre are available to members.

The 1979 FU Sports Association Annual Report noted :

The major development for 1979 was the mid-year widening of activities to include members of the local community. During the year it became apparent that there were in sufficient numbers to make our Athletics Club a viable one. Consequently an approach was made to the University Club by the Flinders Amateur Athletic Club, a newly formed group of local athletes, blessed with top class coaches and containing a wealth of young talent. The FUAC ceased to exist and the new FAAC came into existence.

The advantages to the Sports Association and the University were quickly appreciated and our student athletes now enjoy training under expert coaches during the week on our own playing fields and competing in local competitions at OSF and other venues at weekends supported by a host of keen and competent club officials.

The Flinders AA "Front Runner" (Aug. 1980) added :

When those athletes who had previously joined Western Districts transferred to Flinders Club thereby leaving their ranks depleted, WD club, to their credit, gave the new club every help and encouragement. . . . Many thanks to those people who helped with the formation of Flinders Club. Special thanks to Alan Mitchell, Secretary of FU Sports Association and Prof. JK Hancock who has since become the club's Patron. Also to Brian Chapman for his advice and help and to the SAAAA for assisting financially in the early stages. Thank you Western Districts, especially Gil James, Malcolm Allan and Grant Fry for all your help and encouragement.

A meeting and elections took place on July 4 1989.

1979-80

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

President :	Mike Parker
Secretary :	Betty Schapel (FUAAC - Chris Collins)
Coach :	Toby Schreier
Patron :	Prof. Keith Hancock, FU vice chancellor (to 1986/7)

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Susan Abbott	Louise Grote	Les Riekie
C Bagley	Steve Guy	Brenton Schapel
David Baldwin	Kathy Guymer	Rober Schapel
Denise Bedford	A Hampton	*Darren Schrier
Susan Beeche	Carolyn Harkness	Stephen Schulze
Melissa Beeche	*Brendan Hewitt	Gary Spiel
*Peter Brett	Anne Hopkins	M Staksa
Kym Chamberlain	Peter Jenetsky	Geoff Tartoosie
Jodie Coghlan	Chris Johannsen	Bruno Turrini
Sue Coghlan	Joanne Kelly	Andrew Willoughby
Chris Collins	Piroska Kiss	Anne Willoughby
Alison Daniel	Don Leadbetter	Dianne Willoughby
Ian Dicks	Jane Lewry	Ian Willoughby
Natalie Dillon	Ian Maddison	Mike Willoughby
Greg Doherty	Karen Moyle	Paul Willoughby
Leslie Douglas	Grant Mules	Chris Williamson
Roslyn Douglas	Jeff Powell	*David Woodley
Darren Golding	Erica Reeve	Robyn Woodley

(* Ten year "survivors")

WINTER 1979

We ran as Western Districts. The following WD runners starred :

Karen Moyle rep. SA at National HS X-Country (Alice Springs)
Erica Reeve rep. SA at National Junior X-Country/Road Relay (WA)

In October, after three months training, Toby Schreier set the first Flinders AAC record, running the first Festival City Marathon from Gawler to Adelaide in 3 hours 31 minutes 52 seconds, defeating Des Paul, David Jury, Ian Hill and Bruce Abrahams among others.

Photos below show training at Shepherds Hill Reserve, St. Marys, in 1979. Peter Elliott leads Lance Cochrane and assorted young bucks over a log. Betty Golding and Helen Schreier were the first "running parents".



SUMMER 1979-90

State Champions

David Baldwin S-J Triple Jump (13.18m)
Don Leadbetter Vet Hammer (45.36m) * OUR FIRST

Interclub

Flinders won Junior Men's B Premiership. Team members included Peter Brett and Jeff Powell.

National Performances (* Our first State rep's)

4 Bruno Turrini National High School Long Jump (6.67m)
4 Bruno Turrini National U17 School Triple Jump (13.74m)
5 Bruno Turrini National High School Triple Jump (13.41m)
6 Bruno Turrini National U17 School Long Jump (6.41m)
6 Erica Reeve National U17 School 400m (57.5 sec)

Records

Don Leadbetter held Senior Hammer record (51.90m) and Veteran's Hammer record (49.94m) which stands to this day. This mark was also an Australian Veteran's record.

National Rankings

30 Don Leadbetter Hammer (45.36m)