

Ross Oswald Charles Keys
27/10/1945 to 30/9/2021
BIG EARS



Ross Keys (Big Ears to us) was the most popular & most loved of all our members, having arrived in the early days of Botany Bay Hash House Harriers as a very fit & established distance runner, who didn't mind the occasional drink or four, he fitted in well with our style of mixing athleticism with enjoyment. He was introduced by a friend, Noddy, so it was logical that his name would be Big Ears (he was originally called Refrigerator as he was always cold after a run). There are many stories to be told of his exploits & constant joke telling, which may not have been of the greatest amusement but always brought thunderous laughs from the members. He could tell a joke as well as any comedian.

As a way of introduction, I'd like to relate an experience from one of my times as the Religious Adviser. As was usual in those days, I would enlist the aid of attendees to supply material for the Prick of the Week. There were many but one stood out.

Ringless, who had stayed up late one Saturday night to watch his favourite footie team from the UK, but it was getting really late so he decided to tape the game just in case he fell asleep, which, of course is what happened. Awakening just after the game finished, he started the replay to find he'd actually taped the ballet! Now that normally would've won but not this week as Christine was attending & related a situation which proved to be the standout winner.

We were all aware of how anal Big Ears was in regards to having all the knives, forks & spoons pointing the same way & in unison but we were unaware of the intention to have the pegs used to hang out his clothes on the line match the same colour as the clothes! A major problem occurred when he couldn't find any pegs to match some new shorts he'd purchased and despite much shop hunting, he still couldn't find any so there was only one solution, dye the shorts to match the pegs! I'm told that was a fact to which Big Ears never denied. Thank you for the memories Big Ears R.I.P. Dundee



“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS” B2 H3 WIN THE RELAY

A FEW PHOTOS OF BIG EARS



Giva Ford



MY TREASURED MEMORIES OF MR. B.I. GEARS by Holey One (Holeproof)

Some of you will be wondering, why is Holey calling Big, Mr.B.I.Gears? When I lived in Noosa back in the late 1980's and early 1990's I started a Hash Trash for Noosa H3 and I would post a copy each week to Ears. I would jumble up his name on the envelope and one of the ladies who lived in the same complex as Ears would always hand it to Big with a grin on her face! I would jumble my name up too and would write perhaps: Sender: Ms Hole R Poof etc. Over the years when I have sent birthday cards to Big the title Mr.B.I. Gears stayed and he ALWAYS called me Holey One!

I am just going to relate here some of the funnier moments I have shared with Big over the 33 years I have known him.

Not long after I moved to Noosa I received a phone call from him saying he was in Brisbane and was attending a business function that night at The Hilton and would I like to go with him. At first I said no but then I called him back and said 'I will be there'. It was a fun function and when it was finished Big told me had something up in his room that he wanted me to read. I said "Is this like asking me up to see your etchings?" He shook his head and said, "No Holey I really do have something special for you to read" so I believed him. We went to the desk and he asked for his room key (back in the day when you left your room key at reception when you left). The receptionist said "Name please?" Big said "Keys" The receptionist said 'Name Please Sir?' Big replied again 'Keys". Back and forth the conversation went 'Name please?" "Keys". Finally the girl was losing patience and she said 'I KNOW you want your keys SIR but I need to have your name first!' Big just smiled at her and said "My name is Mr Ross Keys now could I please have my room key?" Ha! Ha! It was like a 3 Stooges skit! By the way Big did have something for me to read before I set out for my drive back to Noosa and he was the perfect gentleman.

Another time when I was in Noosa I drove down to Surfers Paradise to join the B2H3 members in competing in the Gold Coast Half Marathon. My accommodation was to share with DNF. Dame Nellie and Big. I arrived earlier than the boys and found the accommodation provided had two single beds and one double! I made up my single bed and went to the airport to collect the boys when they flew in from Sydney. When we got to the unit Dame Nellie claimed the other single bed which meant Big had to share the double with DNF! Well he begged, pleaded and offered to be my slave forever if I would share the double bed with him instead of him having to share with DNF! We built a wall of pillows down the middle of the double and once again he was the perfect gentleman!

Another time we flew together from Sydney to Surfers to run the Half Marathon again and my eldest daughter had recently been married in Sydney and moved to Chinderah near Tweed. She asked me to bring her wedding dress up on the plane with me and when Big & I got on board with the wedding dress over my arm I told the 'hostie' that we were on our way to get married on the Gold Coast! Poor Big he kept denying it even though we got free drinks!!

Over the years I would always pick Ears up and drive him to the Pre City to Surf on the Saturday before the big event. One year a lady friend of Bigs' came too and she sat in the front with me. I glanced in the rear vision mirror and I thought to myself 'Big really DOES have big ears!' I could not stop glancing in the mirror to double check and they were really big and sticking out! When we got to Woolloomooloo and as we got out of the car Big took his ears off and put them in his bag! They were those trick ones but they really looked real!

My favourite story of Big is when we went on the relay weekend to Port Stephens and once again I was sharing accommodation with Big and two others. I was sitting on my bunk bed watching Ears unpack his bag and much to my astonishment he pulled out this rather flashing and superb Bullfighters outfit, complete with black knickerbockers, a red cummberbund, white frilled shirt, black bowtie, buckles on his black shoes and to top it all off a proper bullfighters hat and red cape! My eyes were agog and I said "What is that outfit for Big?" he replied 'To wear to the dinner on Saturday night' 'Why?' I asked. "The flyer said to 'wear something Spanish' so I hired this outfit" he replied. Ha! Ha! The flyer said 'to wear something STYLISH'! He laughed too and he wore that outfit with great style!

When he was growing up Big told me he was quite naïve. He would always ask his dear Mum 'Why can't we have long spaghetti when we have bolognaise just like they have at my mate's home?' His mum told him that she did not have a pot tall enough to cook the spaghetti in. It was only when he was attending a Scout Camp when he was about 15 and he saw the cook cooking long spaghetti in a saucepan no bigger than the one his Mum used he realised then that his Mum was telling fibs! He watched in awe as the cook just kept pushing the pasta down into the boiling water!

Have you ever followed a horse trailer down the highway and it has a sign on it that says 'Caution, horses?' Big grew up believing that "Caution" was a breed of horse!! Right up until recently if either of us saw a sign that said 'Caution Children, Caution Pedestrians, and Caution whatever we would send a text and say "I just found out who rides those Caution Horses!"

Big had a workmate/ friend Ian who was blind but was very independent and lived alone. One night Big dropped Ian home with his guide dog Henry and Big sat outside in his car to wait until Ian turned the lights on. He waited and he waited and he eventually realised that as he was blind Ian would probably not turn the lights on! He told me he waited 40mins but hey my Hash name is not Gullible!

Rest In Peace my dear friend Mr.B.I.Gears your passing has left a hole in my heart forever!

The little gem below was in the Hash Trash after run 1651 on the 30th April 2018. It was JJ's run from the Tudor Hotel Redfern, Rover arrived with his snags and the big brave firemen turned up too! It was also my 78th birthday and I was the Scribe.

HOLEPROOF then made an announcement which was greeted with lots of oohs! ahs! racous comments, love and good wishes

"BIG EARS & CHRISTINE have finally tied the knot! After 19 years of living together and practising, they decided that they loved each other and "eloped" about three weeks ago! Congratulations and love to you both from all of us!"

You're NOT invited to our wedding
Because... Surprise! We **ELOPED**



LOVE IS...



Mr & Mrs BIG EARS