

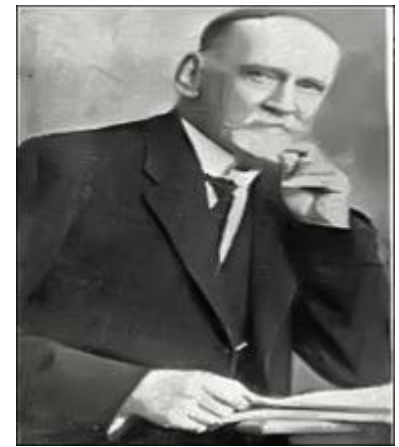
## Tom Barker (1855-1925)

Tom was the eldest son of TR Barker who immigrated to Australia in 1854 on the “General Hewitt” Journalist Tom 'Old Sport' “Red Gum” Barker returned to Ipswich in 1890 to rejoin the Queensland Times as Foreman after almost a decade away working in northern Queensland and at Brisbane newspapers. Tom was involved in cricket and boxing and soccer

Tom was also member of the State Military Forces and became a Staff Sergeant

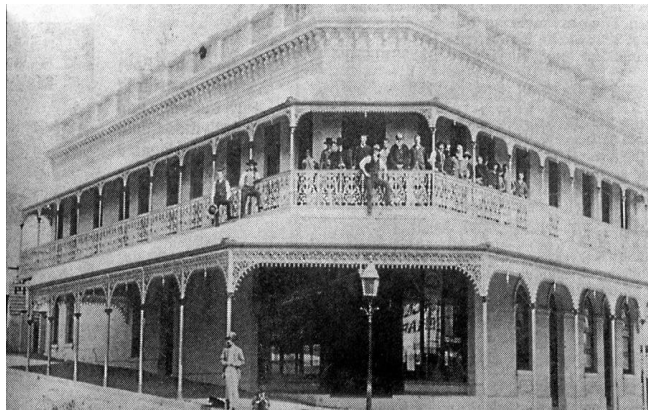
Tom Barker, aka T.J. Barker, aka 'Old Sport' and “Red Gum” as a journalist reported on cricket and football.

Despite being heavily involved in cricket Tom wrote extensively on soccer for 35 years



Tom(Old Sport, “Red Gum” ) Barker  
(1855-1925)

**Sir Walter Scott wrote-** *“My foot is on my native heath, and my name is MacGregor-----I write----- My name. At Silkstone I notice great improvements-comfortable residences where once were large fields of cotton, and, while my eye is intent on watching the redoubtable Tom Barker, of Blackstone fame, teaching a number of hardy Silkstonian’s the art of football “dribbling” under British Association rules*  
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article123050197.txt>



Queensland Times(1880’s)

**MR. T. J. BARKER**

IPSWICH, June 1.

Mr. T. J. Barker, familiarly known as “Old Sport,” has passed. His last innings closed at 8 o'clock last night. He was well known also as “Redgum” under which name he wrote interesting anecdotes and historical incidents. In the passing of “Old Sport,” “Red Gum,” and Tom Barker, Ipswich loses almost a part of herself.

Mr. Barker celebrated his 70th birthday on March 29 last, and on that occasion he was hale and hearty, and was boyishly pleased with a little presentation made to him by the proprietors and staff of the “Queensland Times.” He eagerly took up his pen to tell through the “Times” the story of the history of Ipswich. Illness weakened the hand. The spirit fought on, but at last the pen had to be laid aside. The story remains unfinished.

Mr. Barker was the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Barker, who came to Queensland from Cambridge (England) in the sailing ship General Hewett, and spent their first Christmas in Australia in 1854. His father was a carpenter and joiner. Old Sport was born in Nicholas street, Ipswich, in 1855, and attended the Old Church of England Day School (under the late Mr. Hugh Stowell), and the primary school, East Ipswich, conducted by