

# Austin (Skeeta) Butler 1932-1994

Life Member CCSA 1990 and CCWSA 1986



Austin Butler was born in Goulburn, country NSW in 1932. His mother gave him the nickname “Skeeta” when he was young and skinny. The name stuck with him, throughout his whole life. He relocated to Hurstville area looking for work as a carpenter. He met Colleen (from Oatley) and they were married in 1954. In the next 8 years Skeeta and Colleen produced seven children - Kerrie, Lyndell, Robyn, Janet, Christine, Phil and Cathy. The family changed houses several times (Hurstville, East Hills) during the early years 1956-1969.

In 1970 they moved to Central Coast and started (1971) their relationship with the Woy Woy Soccer Club, which was established in 1965. There was not any competition for women then but Phil registered with U7. Phil is still currently playing and is the longest playing player for his

Club and one of the longest playing players on the Central Coast. Skeeta, a former player in the Church Competition in Sydney for Mortdale Baptists, registered 1971 with Woy Woy and started to play again. He would continue to play until he was 60 (1992). There were several years when he wandered away from Woy Woy. He had a season at Swansea when they entered the CC Comp, and a year at Gosford. Not the oldest player to put on his or her boots on the Coast, but nonetheless, it was a noteworthy achievement. Not too many players can say they have played a season with their grandsons.

Skeeta in 1971 started coaching the Woy Woy juniors and would continue until in 1976 when he, along with Colleen, would put his heart and soul into setting up the new Women’s Association. All his girls, except for Kerrie, would don their boots in this first year and for the next 30 years for most of them. He would coach the Women’s 1<sup>st</sup> grade side when there was no other and for that matter when any team was short of a coach he would step in. He would not allow the girls to be left short.

His interests also centred around assisting Colleen in her quest to conquer the Registrar role. Skeeta over the period 1975 to 1993 would hold miscellaneous positions for CCSA, CCWSA and CC Reps namely Registrar (1 year), Judiciary (1), Fixtures (7), Senior Reps Promotions (2), Match committee (1), Land (Pluim Park) committee (3) and Qualifications (1).

His coaching led him to be selected to take charge of the Girls Youth (U17) CCWSA Representative teams in 1983-1985, 1987, 1988, and 1991 - a total of six years with the 1985 team winning the NNSW State Titles. In 1986 he was elected as the Registrar of the NNSWWSA.

Skeeta has been made Life membership of four soccer related organisations, namely Woy Woy Soccer Club, Central Coast Soccer Association (1990), Central Coast Women’s Soccer Association and the Northern NSW Women’s Soccer Association. He has also been honoured by the Gosford City Council with the No.2 field at Woy Woy Oval being named in his honour “Austin Butler Memorial Oval”.

Skeeta was an unassuming man. He knew what jobs had to be done, and if there was no-one there to do it, he would knuckle down and do it himself. He was not a frontman, always a backroom boy. He asked for no favours, and did not need any thanks. Skeeta passed away in 1994 from an inoperable disease. His legacy is his soccer loving family.