

# Colleen Butler 1935-2007

Life Member CCSA 1984 and CCWSA 1987



Colleen was born in Oatley, Sydney 1935. She met and married Austin Butler. The family moved to the Central Coast 1970 and immediately started their association with the Woy Woy Club in the next year 1971 with their son Phillip playing in the U7 for the Club. The marriage itself produced the most renowned soccer family in the history of the game on the Central Coast.

All of the initial family members would be involved with the Woy Woy Club over the period 1971 - current. There are still 18 family members currently active in the game. The family played a major hand in the promotion of the women's game on the Coast when the inaugural competition was staged in 1976.

Colleen's contribution was immense, along with her supplying six players to the game, she assisted with the administration affairs at her beloved Woy Woy Club with the Registrars position and other miscellaneous duties including canteen duties. If you ever visited the Woy Woy home ground you would always find Colleen somewhere near the canteen. The Registrar's position was one she would make

her own not only at Woy Woy but also at the Central Coast Soccer Association (CCSA). Her husband Austin, was also fully occupied in the sport as a player, coach and miscellaneous positions again at Woy Woy and the CCSA. Her involvement at Woy Woy led to her Life membership in the Club. She continued to serve after the Life membership until 2000 or 30 years.

Colleen first position at the CCSA in 1975, was assisting Austin in the Registrar's position. Several of the daughters were also able to assist as well. Colleen took over the reins of the Registrar from 1981 and held it until 1997 (17 years). Making her the longest serving committee person in the same position. The next longest serving committee person in the same position is Rhonda Allen as Assistant Registrar, who was Colleen's assistant for 14 of those years.

Registrations went from 1981 with 1,936 players to 1997 with 7,333 players. It was all done by hand and signed forms had to be delivered to Colleen in the early days until zone collection spots around the Coast were introduced. It is all done electronically now without much paperwork. To continue doing this job, albeit a rat race at the beginning of the season, took a lot of patience on her behalf. Her home became a huge big office with registration paperwork everywhere and where people would come and go on a regular basis sometimes having to line up. But that's how things were done then.

She spent 10 years on the Board of the CCSA as Director of Qualifications from 1988-1997 and assisted on the Match committee for seven years (1986-1992) and Qualifications committee four years (1990-1993). Colleen was deservedly honoured with Life Membership of CCSA in 1984.

As well as her duties with the men's Association, she was the Registrar of the Central Coast Women's Soccer Association (CCWSA) 11 years from 1982-1993 and was the inaugural Vice President for three years 1976-1978 and Fixtures Officer for four years during the period 1978-1986. She was made Life Member of the CCWSA for her services to the game.

Events to which she was proud were: the starting of the Women's Association (1976), the development of Pluim Park (1987), the renaming of the Woy Woy home ground from No.2 fields to the Austin Butler Memorial Oval and the continued presence of the Butler dynasty on the soccer fields.

Colleen's will to work for the game did decline with the death of her husband, Austin in 1994. She battled on until 1997 when she resigned from CCSA but stayed on at the Woy Woy Club until 2000, when her health deteriorated. She passed away in 2007.

Colleen will always be remembered for the 30 years she put into the backroom affairs of the code at three different levels - local (Woy Woy), men's regional (CCSA) and women's regional (CCWSA).