

Bernard Carbone

Life Member CCF 2014



Bernard Carbone was born 1958 in Camperdown (Sydney) and started his interest in football when he was at school. He however did not really get involved in the game until he moved to Gosford in 1997, when in 1999, he registered his son Thomas, then aged 5, with the Gosford City Club. He took on the role as coach of the team in 2001 and 2002 then managed the team from 2003-2005, the latter year playing the Grand Final at the then known Blue Tongue Stadium. He also became the Gosford's Junior Vice President (2005 to 2006) and was the Club's: CCF Delegate (2007 to 2010). In 2006 he managed Central Coast under 12 Reps.

Bernard took over as Director of Finance in November 2006 at a time when Central Coast Football was in a major crisis following deficits over the two previous financial years totalling in excess of \$1 million. Under his stewardship and in collaboration with the new external auditor, Bishop Collins, a forensic audit was commissioned that identified a number of internal control procedures that had not been followed..

A financial rescue plan was developed by Bernard that included a \$20 across-the-board increase in player registration fees and significant cuts in expenditure. He spent many months negotiating with and placating unpaid creditors, many of which were local Central Coast businesses but most notably Football NSW and with the Commonwealth Bank. At the same time internal accounting and reporting procedures were put in place to ensure that there could be no repeat of the previous problems.

By 2009, Bernie's third year as Director of Finance, CCF's financial position had been stabilised with borrowings reduced by just over \$500,000 and expenditure cut by around \$270,000. Profits accumulated over the previous three years went close to reversing the losses of 2005 and 2006.

A predominantly new board, Chaired by Darren Sprod, was elected in December 2009 and Bernard was integral with this Board in revamping and improving how local competition football is delivered.

Between 2011 and 2013 Bernie was a member of the committee that managed the \$3.6 million re-development of Plum Park.

In 2013 Bernie switched from Director of Finance to Director of Representative Football, while acting in a mentoring role to his Finance replacement, Ian Cervo. As with his previous portfolio Bernie's dedication to the representative program was outstanding, especially in light of the transition of control between CCF and the Central Coast Mariners and he attended a large percentage of youth and senior matches, both at home and away.

Since 2014 when Director portfolio's were removed Bernard has remained focus on CCF's finances.

Bernie Carbone has made an outstanding contribution to Central Coast Football over the past nine years both in terms of the quantity and quality of his work. He was deservedly presented with Life Membership of Central Coast Football in 2014

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