

# Ron Davis

Life Member CCWSA 1990



Ron Davis was born in Gosford 1953. He became involved with organised soccer at the age of ten (1963) where he played through the junior age groups with East Gosford Soccer Club (a foundation Club of the Central Coast Soccer Association Est. 1963). He moved into the senior ranks in 1969 at the age of 16 as the club could not form an U16 team. In 1970, there were no senior sides at Easts, as the players had all relocated to the neighbouring Springfield Club. Ron moved over to Springfield for two years then had to relocate again in 1972 to the Davistown Club, as both Springfield and East Gosford could not field senior sides. Ron returned back to East Gosford, when the problem was fixed in 1973. Ron stayed for 3 years until all the Club's senior teams were entered into the Newcastle 4<sup>th</sup> Division competition in 1976. This bold move, under the name of Gosford Rangers, was orchestrated by Ron Baker, who was a player/coach at the Club in 1974,1975. The Gosford Rangers Club folded at the

end of the 1982 season, just seven years after its initiation.

In the same year that Rangers started (1976), the Women's Association started their inaugural season and Ron along with his wife, Sue, decided to join the Woy Woy Soccer Club, where Ron was offered, as player/coach, of the men's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade side and Sue played in the women's 1<sup>st</sup> grade side, co-coached by Gary Preece and Ron. The move to the womens soccer would take both Ron and Sue on a journey for the next 26 years. A journey, which neither would have expected to open up to them. He had great success with the Woy Woy women's team and the success would continue, until he decided to retire in 2001 after 26 years, and 39 years after starting in 1963.

Ron and Sue spent a total of three years with Woy Woy, then assisted in the formation of a women's only club in 1979, which was called Ocean Beach Women's Soccer Club. The Club would prove a success on the Coast, whilst many established Clubs, at the time, ignored the call for women's soccer. Something, which took another 28 years (2003) before every club on the Central Coast carried women's and/or girl's teams.

As coach in the top flight of the local women's competition (1977-1997), Ron has an impeccable record. He has been in eleven Grand Finals (two for Woy Woy and the rest with Ocean Beach) winning eight and five of his teams have won the League Championship. He has coached numerous other teams apart from 1<sup>st</sup> grade and has also coached junior teams at East Gosford 1990 and 1991.

During his stint at Ocean Beach (1979-2001) he took the position of President for several years as well as grounds person, canteen assistant and a committee person.

Ron was also involved with the Central Coast Women's Representative teams. He coached the 1992 and 1993 U16 side as well as taking over the role as the Northern NSW U16 coach in the same years (1992, 1993).

In regard to the committee of the Central Coast Women's Soccer Association (CCWSA), Ron was the Delegate to the Gosford Sports Council for five years (1982-1986), President in 1989 and Vice President in 1997.

Ron was awarded with Life membership to both Ocean Beach Club and CCWSA.

Ron was also affiliated with the Central Coast Referees Association for many years and when not coaching or mentoring players or teams was busy refereeing teams from the junior league through to the seniors. Ron was the referee to give his wife Sue her 1<sup>st</sup> yellow card.

During his soccer career he also coached and managed his son Corey at Woy Woy from the under 6's - 8's before transferring to East Gosford Rams when he continued to coach Corey until the under 13's.

Ron Davis has witnessed a lot of games during his stay in football. His legacy will be the number of players (women, in particular) who he has coached and guided through the ranks to achieve success. Together with his wife, Sue, Ron has been a pillar of Ocean Beach Club both off and on the field and provided sound guidance to players to be able to play the game better. Ron has made a major contribution in the development of the women's football on the Central Coast.