

Don Milne



Don Milne was born in Fielding (a small town on the North Island of New Zealand) in 1944, but lived in Auckland from the age of seven. His father played for the district representative team Manawatu.

Don's involvement in the game started at his first club in Auckland, Eastern Suburbs at the age of eight.

The highlight of his junior career was playing at Eden Park, Auckland in 1956 for the under 12 Auckland Rep. Team, in the "curtain raiser" to an international game, New Zealand v F.K. Austria. This was a little bit of history as it was the only soccer game ever played at Eden Park.

He played for Auckland Representative Teams from the age of 11 to 16. In 1960 at the age of 16, he was selected for Auckland "B" Rep. team. He played one more season with Eastern Suburbs and then moved to another division one team Otahuhu Rangers where he stayed for two seasons.

Don met his Scottish born, future wife Margaret in Auckland and they moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1967 to get married. Don resumed his football career in the Edinburgh League where he played until 1971.

In 1971 Don and Margaret emigrated to Australia, to live in Griffith, N.S.W. and immediately started playing in the Riverina League for Hanwood Utd (an Italian backed team). At the age of 32, because of injuries Don retired from playing and took a referees course and became a class 2 referee. He eventually became President of the Griffiths Referees Association, and in 1976 became President of the Griffiths Football Association.

In 1987, the Milne family, now with son Conrad, and daughter Hayley, moved to the Central Coast and in 1989 Conrad was selected for the Central Coast Coasties under 11 team, which became the catalyst for Don's long and distinguished career with the Coasties. He became team manager of that U11 team and then took up the position of Junior Representative Convener in 1990 and worked tirelessly and voluntarily in that position for seven years until 1996.

The outstanding highlight for Don during his time with the Coasties was the U12 trip to Edogowa, Japan, {sister city to Gosford,} in 1990. Don was manager of the team which was the first Central Coast team to travel to Japan.

Don and Margaret moved to Banora Point, N.S.W. in 2003 and is currently manager of grandson's local club side Bangalow U15 team.

Central Coast Representative football is fortunate to have had the services of Don Milne. He has continued to be involved with the game after playing and has given generously to the game in many, many ways, thus passing on years of experience to others.