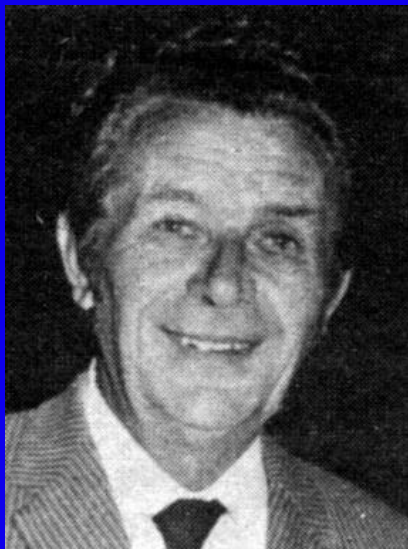


Bill Pluim 1913-1985



Bill Pluim was born Gerritt Martinus Pluim in Deventer, Holland (100k east of Amsterdam) 1913.

It was in 1939 that Bill left his home in Deventer and to work in South Africa. Bill was called up into the Dutch Navy to serve in the Second World War. In 1946, he relocated to Australia. He settled on the Central Coast and established his own building company.

Bill started the company with two partners and friends, Hank Brandel and Wim DeJong. All were able to do a multitude of activities from the start, from carpentry to bricklaying.

During the 1950s, Bill was one of the key players for the Brisbane Water District Association Representative Teams, The Entrance United side, and Coast United (a Terrigal based team). He was a creative midfield role and was always prominent in the "Player of the Match" Awards. His greatest achievement as a player, on the Central Coast, was winning the NSW State Championships Final 4/2 against Hornsby at Wentworth Park, Sydney in 1957.

Bill established the GM Pluim Construction Company, now 70 years old.

He was one of those dedicated soccer supporters who was a father image behind the scenes. He was not actively involved in the administration of the sport, but regularly supported worthy ventures for the betterment of the game. On several occasions, he managed overseas tours to Europe for junior representative teams and junior Dutch teams to tour Australia.

In 1981 he assisted a group of under 12 Central Coast players on a tour of Holland. He, along with other officials, returned from the tour with a vision to build the type of complex that he had seen in Europe. The soccer complex was one of his dream projects, in which he was actively involved himself together with a steering committee. The other members of that steering committee were Barry Margin, John Fairweather, Bill Northam, Graham Allen, Bob Ransom, John Van Heck and Don Pryor.

A vacant block of land was eventually found, after numerous inspections of other sites all around the Coast. The final decision was made to purchase the land on the present site at Tuggerah Street, Lisarow in 1983 for a price of \$50,000. The purchase was made on the 1st January 1983, from a bank loan and repaid from a \$3 levy from each player each year. The loan was fully repaid in 1990 and is solely owned and managed by the Central Coast Soccer Association Limited now known as Central Coast Football.

Sadly, Bill did not see the project completed with his sudden death in January 1985.

The ground was officially opened on Sunday 22nd February 1987 by the Hon. Barry Cohen MHR Federal Member for Robertson and Minister for the Arts, Heritage and Environment.

Bill Pluim was certainly a fine ambassador for the game, he loved so warmly, and it is a fitting tribute that the complex, he dearly dreamed of, was honoured in his name.

The complex has, over the last 30 years, been updated in stages including acquiring the adjoining property, office space, amenities, lighting, seating, grandstand and drainage. It has been established as the home and headquarters for the Central Coast Football, which currently administers 13,000 players and 24 Clubs. It is one of the better complexes in the N.S.W. Published 2017.