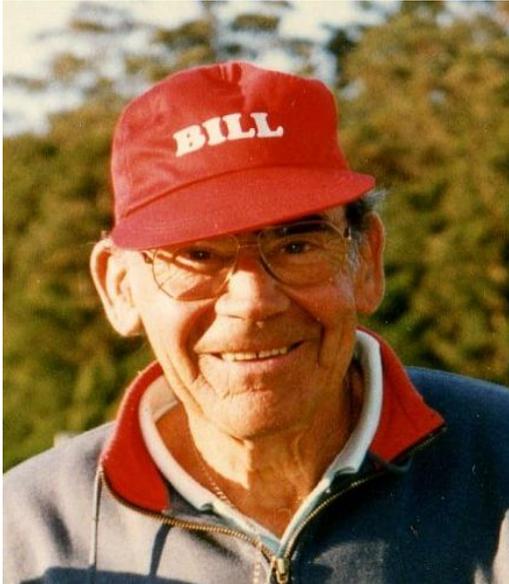


Bill Vrolyks OAM

Life Member CCSA 1995



Central Coast football can be truly blessed with the presence of Bill Vrolyks over the last 33 years. Even at the tender age of 87 he is still as keen to share his knowledge of the game to anyone who cares to ask. His background is A Grade and he brings that with him wherever he goes and does. He has received every honour that the game can bestow on an individual. There cannot be any other who has achieved so much over a life time and continues to do so.

Bill has been in football all his life. He was born 1925 in Nijmegen in the south east of Holland, near the border of Germany. He came to Australia in 1945 at the end of World War 2, a member of the Dutch Air Force. He was Captain of the Dutch Air Force soccer team which played in England and Australia. He was discharged in 1948 in Sydney. He met Edith his wife 1947 at the movies and decided to stay.

He helped form the Dutch-Sydney Sydney Austral from 1950-1955 and then instrumental in the establishment of Leichhardt Annandale 1956-1958 playing along side Joe Marsden. He even had a taste of Central Coast soccer back in mid 50s when he doubled up to play for the Entrance along with his two brothers Josh and Gerry. In 1956 Bill was chosen for the Continental

side to play NSW Select in an exhibition game at Lambert Park. A team mate of Bill in that match and with Sydney Austral was Bill Westerveld a current residence of the Central Coast. At the same time 1952-1960, Bill together with some of his close friends Denis Adrigan and Joe Vlatsits, started up a Soccer Coaching Academy and the NSW Coaching Federation at the virgin fields now known as Valentine Park, Glenwood (near Parklea). It was to be the start of an organisation which Bill took to the rest of Australia to form the Australian Coaches Federation. In 1970 the Coaches Academy was handed the unused chicken farm land owned by Charlie and Richard Valentine and set up operations amongst the chicken sheds. Bill became the President of the NSW Coaches Federation. He was honoured with Life Membership of the Coaches Federation

Bill took up team coaching with U18 State side 1966, Pan Hellanic 1967, Sydney Croatia 1968, NSW Senior side 1969-1971, Kingsford 1973-1977. He spent a week in 1972 with Bill Shankley at the Liverpool Club UK. During this period Bill was elected as President of the Eastern Suburbs Soccer Association and was awarded Life Membership for his services to that body.

He moved to the Coast, Koolewong 1979. He immediately teamed up with the Umina Club 1980 which was building to become a force in the local league. It would take only 2 years 1981 for the Club to achieve its first 1st Grade silverware by winning the League Championship as well as the Premiership with a Grand Final 1-0 win over Wyoming played at Grahame Park, Gosford. He stayed another year 1982 for another Premiership win and was immediately snapped up by the Central Coast Representative team to take over the reins 1983 of the Senior side competing in the Northern NSW State League for its 2nd year. It was fortuitous that three other clubs vying their wares in lower divisions of the Newcastle League all folded in 1982. Bill was able to build a competitive side to take out the League Championship and to finish as runner up in the Premiership against Weston. Again, Bill proved to be the key personnel which was needed to realise the potential of the local players. After another year 1984 with the Rep side, Bill had stints with other local Clubs Woy Woy, Southern and Ettalong United and Wyoming during the 80s and 90s. He was also involved with school teams. He has always had his finger in the pie, doing something for the good of football.

As a result of his past record in Sydney and afar, and his continued input into the development of the code on the Central Coast, Bill was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1988.

Bill also made himself available for Junior NNSW State Titles staged for different age groups in regions throughout the State over a Long Weekend. He was also heavily involved with coaching clinics in conjunction with the Central Coast Coaching Federation in which he was a foundation member. He set up what he called the "STAR" program (1980s & 1990s) conducted for junior players on a weekly basis Plum Park. He also was able to attract other high profile personnel e.g Johnny Warren to conduct clinics on the Coast (1980s). Bill in 1994 became a member of the Plum Park Land Committee until it was dissolved in 1997. In 2000 Bill was honoured not only for his football service but for his volunteer work associated with "Meal on Wheels", with the Torch bearing duties around The Entrance as part of the Torch Relay for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. In 2001 Bill was honoured with a Football Federation Australia Hall of Fame (Award of Distinction category) induction.

Due to his outstanding service to the betterment of the code on the Central Coast, Bill was awarded a CCSA Life membership in 1995.

Bill, in conjunction with other qualified coaches, is currently head coach of the Southern & Ettalong Football Club's Junior Football Academy 2005-2012 held during the season.

Bill Vrolyks lives with his football boots on. He will not stand around when he knows there is something he can do to help someone or to improve the system. A great ambassador of the game as a whole.