



CCDCC History

Noel Laming's Reflections

Source: ***"A Ghost Story" – CCDCC 21st Anniversary Book***
Ellsmore J, McMahon R, Yabsley R, Noble R, et al - 2006

Little did I realize when Maree and I arrived in Ingleburn in November, 1959, where my interest in cricket would lead?

Ingleburn Cricket Club (pre Ingleburn RSL) competed in the Southern Districts competition, Ingleburn being the most southern club in the competition that extended to Guilford in the north. This was a legacy of Ingleburn being a separate municipality to Campbelltown until after World War II.

The Camden Cricket Association extended from Minto to Picton in the south and west to Oakdale and Badgery's Creek. I remember Gordon Lewis telling me that he swam his horse across the Nepean River at Appin to play away matches. Historically, Appinis mentioned in the "History of NSW Cricket" as one of the original clubs.

We should remember the enthusiasts who maintained cricket in the years before Sydney encroached on Campbelltown... well before the electric trains and sealed roads that include the M5 motorway. Reg Gartrell, the long term President, Laurie Patterson, Bob Byrne, the Bourke brothers, the Mulley's, Tom Clark and Harry Sneddon.

The latter two were the founders of the Campbelltown Junior Competition. It was when this competition combined with the Picton competition to form the Camden District Junior Association that the real basis for growth and organisation began. The next local step was to be Ingleburn joining the Camden Competition meaning at last our City was united.

Our representative cricket in the early years was against Southern Districts, Penrith and the Hawkesbury Associations, now all Sydney Grade Cricket Clubs. During this challenging time, Camden was transferred to the South Coast and Highlands Zone for representative cricket. A fortunate move, for it brought us into cricket contact with all of our neighbours to the south. A profitable recruiting ground when we became a Sydney Grade Club. For example: the Lee Brothers and Martin Haywood journeyed to the Ghosts.



On the death of Reg Gartrell, fighting a bushfire, a new era of cricket administration arrived. Dr Graham McDowell (President), Allan Marks (Secretary), and myself becoming senior officials.

As our playing numbers increased and Campbelltown Council provided facilities such as Bradbury and Ingleburn Ovals our attention turned to Sydney Grade Cricket. Penrith had been admitted to the Sydney Competition and we considered our area as the logical successor into that competition. By now we were travelling as far as Canberra for representative cricket.

On our first approach to join the Sydney Competition, then conducted by the New South Wales Cricket Association, was encouraged by the then Chairman Fred Bennett and was unsuccessful. I will always remember an Eastern Suburbs official asking, "Where is Macarthur?"

Our second attempt was much better prepared and wholly supported by all members of the Campbelltown City Council. Bryce Regan, Gordon Fetterplace, Ian Porter, Brian Chrystal and Paul Tosi (Then Parks and Gardens Manager) are men we should always acknowledge. They brought the Raby Complex to reality, Gordon even went further and convinced the IMB Building Society to be our first major sponsor – a vital help!

The agreement with International Cricketer Ian Davis to be our first captain, gave us immediate respect in Sydney cricket circles.

Finally, we should acknowledge that St Gregory's College provided our first practice facilities and a turf wicket for our 5th Grade team.

- **Noel Laming**
Inaugural President 1985 – 1992



Noel (pictured centre) oversees the construction of an awning off the old building whilst Allan Marks (Left) and John McKell Snr (Right) look on.