

Inalls Lane **February 2001 to October 2008**



When the first ball was kicked at an official trial game early in 2003, the Colo Football Soccer Club realised a very long ambition., and pretty much marked the beginning of a new era.

It was way back in the early 90's that Colo began the search for additional space. The Club was growing quickly, and in 1994 with 420 registered players McMahons Park was being tested.

Over several years of lobbying Hawkesbury City Council it was quite evident that time was running out, so in 1995 Colo developed a formal property proposal with the aim of acquiring it's own property.

While the Club raised funds, it still pursued other alternatives which included the extension of McMahons Park and the use of Hanna Park at North Richmond. The Sports Council at one time suggested the use of property at Bensons Lane, which of course was declined.

Then on 22 February 2001, the Club, through Friends of Colo Pty Ltd, purchased 22 acres at 118 Inalls Lane North Richmond. The property offered a level surface, excellent dimensions, town water, a pumping licence off the river. This may well have been the last opportunity for the Club, from a financially viable position.

The general view at that time was that McMahons Park would continue to be used for Saturday Junior soccer and training, while Inalls Lane would be used for Sunday Senior soccer, training, gala days, early and late season periods where McMahons Park may not be available. It would also serve as an all year soccer venue that could include off season training, Nepean finals games, and a possible summer night competition.

February 2001 – the canteen building



**Mark Schwarzer at
Inalls 18 June 2007**



The purpose of Friends of Colo Pty Ltd was to essentially shield the Club from any financial risk, and to allow any Club Members to assist the Club by way of share purchases. A number of Members led the way in that area, as a result, Colo now has a substantial asset which differentiates it from almost any Soccer, or Sporting Group in Australia.

To date, the majority of work at Inalls has been by way of donation, both in labor and material. The best example being the extraordinary assistance provided by Terry Allen of Windsor Turf Supplies who supplied over 5 acres of turf. Cash required for ongoing development and maintenance has primarily been raised by activities away from normal Club soccer, and currently continues to be the case. This has included, Members share purchase, the Colo/Hawkesbury Race Day, 6 a side soccer, General Inalls Sponsorship, and Turf sales.

15 October 2006 – 6 a side



After a long wait, on 26 February 2003, the Development Application was approved by Hawkesbury City Council, paving the way for the use of the property for competition soccer that year. Incidentally, no financial assistance has been offered or accepted at any time from the Council.

September 2008 – Champion of Champions



Getting soccer on to Inalls Lane has been more significant than anybody may have ever considered. You only have to look at the number of games on a Saturday or Sunday to appreciate how valuable the exercise has been. Inalls has been used for the state wide Champion of Champions competition, and School representative Soccer has also found a friendly place to play, thankful for the new found quality playing surface.

You might recall our early Gala days in March 2003, that were not only well accommodated in terms of the abundant space, but by way of the magnificent playing surface quality. The ground soaked up the torrential rain proving its worth as an all weather surface. And of course, other Clubs have been envious in that our new ground comes equipped with its own water supply thanks to the pumping licence off the river, in a time of extraordinary drought. There is no better surface to play soccer in the Nepean Soccer District.

September 2005, with the kind assistance of Wescranes



In 2004, the property was connected to the electricity grid, and new turf was planted to provide four full size playing fields. On Wednesday 26 September 2005, floodlighting was erected the week leading into the summer night competition commenced, with the lights turned on just in time, only the night before.

In 2006 new commercial grade turf was sown to establish another income stream, and which has continued to date as a valuable resource in the development of the ground.

Financially, Inalls has been an outstanding success. In 2001, the mortgage amount put in place for the property was \$200,000. At 30 June 2008 it was \$90,000, and further reduced to \$40,000 as at 1 October 2008.

With expectations that the property will be debt free within this financial year, 2008 – 2009, there are expectations of further development. The development list currently includes:

- Sealing of the car park
- Upgrade of the Floodlighting
- Proposal for a new Club House & Canteen facility

There remains lot's to do, and an open invitation remains to anyone within the Club, or associated with the Club to help in whatever way, large or small. Colo has always been considered as a quality family based Club and this is the basis for our development and future growth.

That first ball kicked was more significant than many will understand. It not only marked the end of a struggle, and the beginning of an era, but has since proved that Colo and Inalls has become a second home to lots of kids, possibly even a first home to a few.

We thank the many, many supporters and sponsors to date, particularly those how have donated by way of money, material, or services, virtually anonymously.


