

A look back at the involvement of one of our ex-officials and a major contributor to pigeon writings:

JOHN HOFMAN

Years as a competing member:

1961-63	Riverside Juniors	Affiliated with PADRPA & SAHPC
1964-68	Henley & Grange Club	Associated with SAHPA Inc.
1969	Peterhead Club	PADRPA & SAHPC
1970-72	Osborne Club	SAHPC
1973-75	LeFevre Club	SAHPA
1977-94	Tea Tree Gully Club	SAHPA

Years as a social member:

1995-2005	Vitesse Club	SAHPA
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During this time he held various positions (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Clock Chairman, Publicity Officer and other positions) at various times in the above-mentioned clubs.

Positions held at a higher level than club level.

1969	Secretary of the Port Adelaide Districts Racing Pigeon Association.
1975-88	Served on the SAHPA Long Distance Committee, several years as Secretary.
1982-86	Editor of the SAHPA Gazette.
1982-85	Served a three year term on the SAHPA Management Committee.
1985	SAHPA Assistant Secretary.
1986	Served on the 86 SA Jubilee Committee which held two successful events to celebrate the State of SA 150 Year Jubilee. A race from Canberra where the birds were released by the Late Senator Janine Haines, and a convention at the Enfield Council Chambers where the guest speakers were John Koster and Graham Davidson.
1986-92	SAHPA General Secretary.
1990	Organised and co-ordinated the first legal import of racing pigeons into Australia for over 40 years. Directly involved in subsequent importations in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998.

1998-2000 then 2002-2003 SAHPA Release officer.

Started in Seaton in partnership with my brother Greg in 1961 with the Riverside Junior Club. We raced there for three years before we had to leave the junior ranks due to the fact that I was by then working for a living and was about to turn 18. From 1964 to 1968 I flew in senior competition with the Henley & Grange Club in the SAHPA where I scored a number of good club wins and placings and a few SAHPA positions, mostly on the SE line against some SE line specialists in that club, namely Don Hawke, Verco & Willoughby, Stan Ferguson, Kevin Smoker, Reg Fourier & Colin Bayment to mention a few.

Towards the end of September 1968, I married Beverley and we moved to Osborne. I was in the most north westerly loft position in Adelaide. I quickly built a loft and had youngsters to race to it in 1969, having joined the Peterhead club which was in the PADRPA and the SAHPC. In 1970 I joined the Osborne Club until the end of the 1972 season when in 1973 I switched to the Le Fevre Peninsula club in the SAHPA. I was runner up in the club points that year and won the club points in 1974. At the end of the 1975 we moved right across town to St. Agnes and had a year off racing while

we got things established and built a new loft. From 1977 to 1994 I raced in the Tea Tree Gully club with quite some success, winning the club points on several occasions. Most of my successes came from the east, south east and north east lines. In 1983 I finished 12th in the SAHPA Aggregate points without scoring a single point on the North line.

In 1988 I became involved with importing pigeons and became Australian Agent for Ponderosa U.K. Stud in England and Eijerkamp's Ponderosa & Greenfield Stud in Holland. This also involved a number of trips to England & Holland over the next few years. I stopped racing at the end of the 1994 racing season as I had a bit of a scare with pigeon lung but after heeding to some precautionary methods such as wearing a mask at all times when with the pigeons, dust coats & caps etc., I carried on breeding and running the stud. In 2003 I finally had to give up the stud breeding business as the dust from the birds were now affecting my wife.

In 2007 we moved to Alberton. I became a silent partner to Des Evans in 2008 as Des was finding it difficult to work and handle the birds as well. He raced his birds from his workshop premises at Wingfield. After disposing the stud I kept a handful of birds and when I moved to Alberton I put them into Des's loft to breed & race from plus I also obtained the odd pigeon that I had bred while having the stud when I found out that it was up for sale. These birds proved quite successful and quite a number of club, group and SAHPA placings were won including a 1st SAHPA Lyndhurst in 2009. It was quite common for us to have the leading velocity on the western side of town on the north line and we broke down the dominance that Ross Chapman had in the club on the north line at that time. Greg Hamilton purchased quite a number of these stock birds from time to time as I sought to replace them with younger progeny. It was mostly the Janssen & Van Loon that he purchased and I think it would be fair to say that Greg would agree that these birds figure prominently in the success that he has had over the last 14 years or so. I finally retired from pigeon breeding & racing at the end of the 2013 season.
