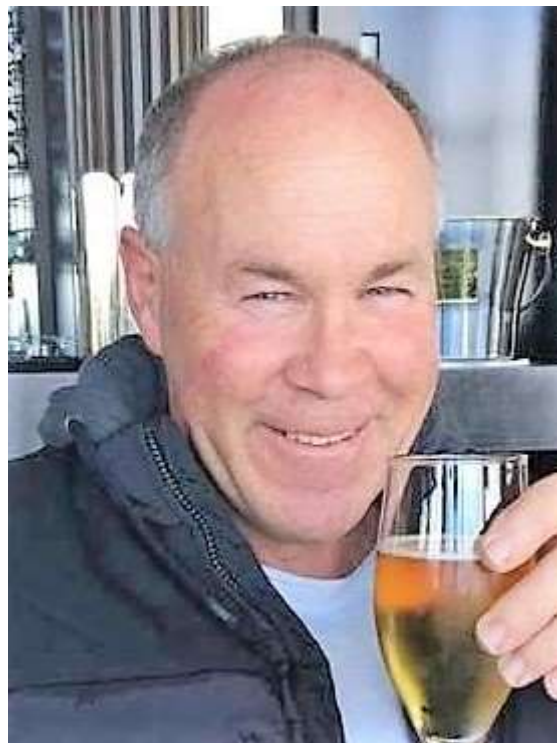




UMPIRE PROFILE

John Doig



It's a human characteristic to take a quality from a person or thing and classify its owner accordingly – we remember people as tall, or not so, or by their eyes, or hair colour, perhaps a strong personality trait...happy or bashful or grumpy... ..all of which makes my classification of John Doig so difficult – there are so many human dimensions to this great servant of Sub-District cricket. In my dictionary alone, there are photos of John under

Cricket Tragic
Enthusiastic
Energetic
Organised
Helpful
Focused and Committed

...and quite a few more. I wonder what your thoughts of John will be after you learn more about his cricketing, journey.

He has just been awarded life membership of the VSDCUA, and it's not hard to see why this honour was bestowed on him by his fellow umpires.

...truth is, we are lucky to even have John among us. He's an import from NSW who gave the place a good look...and stayed! He found his way to Victoria through his work, when he "Zipped" down here in 1987 to set up the State operation of that iconic Australian hot water company.

As you might imagine, John's diligence helped Zip get established here, and as it did, so did he. Still if it hadn't been for meeting his wife Penny, he might have wound his way back North again - more of that a little later in this story.

Back to where it all began - In Sydney John had been an "interested" cricketer, but not the diehard we know today. Born on the 14th of April 1958, and growing up in Western Sydney in a War Service home with Mum Dad and six siblings, he attended St Pats Guildford Primary, then Marist Brothers Parramatta before finishing his schooling at Merrylands High.

He played cricket in the front yard and down their street at Gloucester Avenue Park, and a little bit at school, and began his club career with Merrylands Cricket Club and then Wenty (Wentworthville Leagues) CC. Along the way he won no less than five premierships, the stand-out for him was the 107no he scored in one of those Sydney premiership wins. "We were all out for about 50 in our first innings, then rolled our opposition for 43, it was the first and last time I've ever seen a bowler (not me) get a hatrick of LBW's. In the second innings it was a bat time situation, I opened the batting and asked each one of my partners to bat an hour with me, and they did! "

After school it was straight into the workforce. John might present today at work for Reece, and also at cricket, as an accomplished professional, but it was not always so - in his words, he has a Masters in "experience" - an all-round self-taught expert on some things, with Honours in plumbing.

John has been at Reece for 19 years and has had a variety of roles, including being on an Australian Standards Committee for Hot Water Control Valves for 5 years. Currently he is working on plumbing education resources. Before this, he worked with a champion team, running the Reece Roadshow over a 6-year period all over Australia. "I think surrounding yourself with good people and enjoying what you do is important to being successful, no matter what you do. If you are going to be involved, you might as well give it 100% effort."

Speaking of all-round, John's cricket career was an all-rounder's dream, a few of his notable highlights were a 100 & 7/51 vs Croydon in 2003, and 132 & 5/23 vs Elsternwick in 1995. In 1988 he took his one and only hatrick and a couple of seasons later followed it up with 113, the day after returning from his honeymoon, against the same club, Cheltenham. He still feels one his best performances was with the ball; in a semi-final against Ormond taking 6/29 off 26 overs bowling his slow, medium, nothings. In 2008 he was awarded the Best 4th Eleven Player of the Year in the VSDCA, after an outstanding season with the bat and ball.

In addition to a fine playing career, John has been outstanding off the field, serving Oakleigh CC as Committee Member, Secretary and President over many years, and received well-deserved Life membership in 2005. As the Relationships and Recruiting Manager for the VSDCA, he is enthusiastic and tireless. His

energy and follow-through on leads is one of the major reasons we have attracted so many new umpires to the VSDCA in recent years.

As an active member of the Oakleigh C.C. he turned his hand to coaching Oakleigh U17's and the U15's Hatch team. "We had some great teams and won a few premierships." Undoubtedly a highlight of his coaching career would have been the win in the 2014 Hatch Competition. When asked what is your secret? "Keeping it simple; partnership batting, bat to 10 and start again, batting to milestones, hitting the ball with intent, fielding intensity level, bowling at the stumps, playing as a team and having fun. To be successful in the Hatch/Craig Competition, it is a team effort from the playing group, the coaching staff, the parents, families and the club all need to play their part."

And while all of this was going on, John had another life, working with Penny and his daughters Karina and Julia to help make Ceres Calisthenics Club (look it up folks – it's fab) the force it is today. John and Penny have each been awarded life membership of Ceres in recognition of their service. (We mean it – look it up!).

And so, to umpiring...John started as Oakleigh's Club Umpire and then joined the VSDCA Panel. He has stood in more than 150 matches, plus plenty of R M Hatch (J G Craig) games. He has been appointed to Finals including the R M Hatch Grand Final in 2011. He has umpired in the Mid-Year Cricket Association since it began and has stood in MYCA's representative matches, an Interstate game, and many finals.

John's cricketing preferences are:

heads over tails;

fast over slow;

offie over leggie;

in over out; "you can't score runs sitting in the pavilion"

Willow Wizard over Gunn and Moore; and

he can't split Oakleigh and the VSDCA

That love of Oakleigh and cricket runs deep in John's veins, and so it's no wonder that his best piece of cricketing advice came from the wisdom of Oaks and VSDCA legend Val Holten. It's simply this – "Are you trying to win the game?"

If you've stood with John, you will know how easy it is to enjoy a Saturday afternoon. He prepares fastidiously, is an excellent communicator, and is ALWAYS there, as a great partner. He never needs to be dominant but is strong and supportive in even the most trying circumstances.

"The game is at its best, and most enjoyable, when both teams play hard, fair and in good spirits. It is a privilege to see great 100's, magnificent bowling, amazing fielding, outstanding leadership and terrific teamwork. Cricket is my game!"

- Neill Murray