

As a child, I used to go to Alexandra Park to watch the Trots with my Grandfather and other family members.

I remember watching horses like Manaroa, Royal Ascot, Sam Tryax and the great trotter Easton Light,

In my teens I worked on a pig farm for Les Pettifer. Les, who had a driving passion for the sport of harness racing, ignited my growing interest. When Les offered me the opportunity to share in the ownership of a pacer, Almost Heaven, I jumped at it.

Much later my own family and business took all my time and money and left little in the way of resources to maintain my passion and interest in racing.

Three years ago my good friend Andrew Bublitz, who I race Flyin Impact with, introduced me to Sean McCaffrey and I joined a syndicated ownership of Rosemaryz Luck. Also involved in the syndicate was John Coulam, President of Harness Waikato. He was instrumental in developing an opportunity for me to finally combine an old passion with a new interest – racing photography.

Now I'm into my 3rd year as a race day photographer for Harness Waikato.

This "hobby" has now become a part-time job which I absolutely love with a passion unlike any activity I have experienced in my adult life so far (wonderful wife and kids the exception, of course!). I just can't get enough of it!

Andrew and I now own Rosemaryz Luck who is currently at Alabar expecting her first foal this year. Flyin Impact is trained by Andrew at Cambridge and provides me with an opportunity to develop newly found horsemanship skills such as grooming and mucking out to name the important ones.

I'm also fortunate to be a member of the Double A Partnership which races King Tut out of Dave and Clare McGowan's Stable in Pukekohe.

A constant highlight of being Harness Waikato's racing photographer is the thrill of capturing the definitive shot that caps off a trainer or owner's night. Mixing with excited, enthusiastic people with whom I share a passion has kept the word "job" out of this pastime even though I find myself spending many more hours on producing a perfect picture than I do on my "day job".

I shoot, frame and print each photograph. This total control of the whole production process provides a great deal of personal satisfaction and means small changes to the finished product that reflects customers' particular requests are easily achieved. I can even clean up old photos and give them a new lease of life. Printing onto Canvas and Perspex is also available - any special requests are easily accommodated.

All the best hope to see you in the Winners Circle sometime. Regards Phil