



## Platypus — how you too can contribute

Don't forget we need to hear from you on any topic you think would be of interest to AFP members.

Your contacts for each of the regions are:

Eastern Region: Senior Constable Jim Carter. Telephone: (02) 690 8823

Southern Region: Station Sergeant Paula Dellas. Telephone: (03) 654 2744

Northern Region: First Constable Ray Bedford. Telephone: (07) 227 0833

Central Region: Sergeant Ron Jeffrees. Telephone: (08) 259 6870

Western Region: Detective Sergeant Elizabeth Harrison. Telephone: (09) 325 2577.

Tasmania: Sergeant John Jennings. Telephone: (002) 44 6206

Northern Territory: Steve Coates. Telephone: (089) 81 3370.

In Canberra members can ring the Director, Information, Peter Windsor, on 68 3501

And for those in the regions receiving 'Platypus' at home, if the copy is going to the wrong address please let us know immediately by writing to:

The Editor 'Platypus' GPO Box 401 CANBERRA 2601

## NSW group plans own scuba club

Eastern Region hopes to have its own AFP Scuba Diving Club up-and-running well before the end of the year. And much of the thanks goes to Senior Constable Mark Hows.

Mark, 28, who joined the AFP after working in a bank, now holds the title of Dive Master and is a member of the PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors).

"My interest in scuba diving be-

gan soon after I joined the AFP eight years ago," he said.

"It has developed from there. Now we have a number of other qualified divers in Eastern Region and a much larger number in the learner stage."

Mark's Dive Master grading enables him to operate as a tour guide and leader, but as the formal tests and medicals are arranged through the Pro Dive organisation, it is this organisation which runs all the instruction classes.

"But they have given us such a solid discount arrangement that the association works well," Mark said. "It would normally cost up to \$250 for the two-week part-time initial course around either Drummoyne or Coogee. The price for AFP members is \$150.

"The same type of discount exists on all equipment".

## Acquisition for soccer squad

The round ball code — soccer — has always been popular in Eastern Region, with the AFP team one of the better performers in Sydney's Canterbury-Marrackville regional competition.

And the acquisition in recent months of 20-year-old utility player Mark Mesaglio has certainly strengthened the squad.

Mark, who joined the AFP in August 1983, was until the end of last season a well-formed NSW State League player with the well-known Melita Eagles Club.

Son of Italian migrants, Mark's soccer began in primary school and through his local St John's team in the suburb of Auburn.

He progressed through the extensive Sydney schoolboy competitions and was a member of the NSW Under-16 squad in the days when it was perhaps the strongest in Australia.

"Shift work cut into my opportunity to give full attention to training three nights a week," said Mark. "But I'm enjoying immensely playing in the AFP's own team.

"It keeps me fit and the standard of play is excellent."



Mark said various trips had been organised to provide a change from diving around various Sydney locations.

"I'd have to rate as perhaps the best our trip to Jervis Bay, in the Australian Capital Territory," he said.

Mark said with some 19 or 20 Eastern Region members either qualified divers or close to it numbers would soon be sufficient to formally launch the AFP's own scuba diving club.

"Apart from myself, other members who are qualified divers are Steve McTackett, Alan Crowe, Kim Weidenback, Gary Welch, Ted Bunt and Mick McGreevy," he said.

Those close to finishing their instruction include Ange Kokkialaris, Bruce Hagner, Karen Wilson, Mark White, Bob Clucas, Andy Swinfield, Mitch Lenehan, Phil McNeice, John Leary, Eric Grimm, Steve Rollings and Kim Moulds.

Those who may want to contact Mark for additional information, can telephone him on (02) 6908790.



## Support sought for team to US games

Australian Federal Police members plan to send athletic and soccer teams to the Inaugural World Police and Fire Games to be held next August in San Jose, California.

Travel arrangements to the US are being conducted by Gullivers Sport Travel and consist of a long and short trip. The short trip, which covers the games and limited sight-seeing and lasts 15 days, costs about \$2,500, excluding pocket money. The long trip consists of a 20-day trip and costs about \$3,500, excluding pocket money.

Arrangements are being made in conjunction with the NSW Fire Brigade and NSW Police.

The more members attending the cheaper the price will be. The prices quoted are for single rooms only. The cost is cheaper if two or more athletes are prepared to share.

Sports covered include pistol shooting, cycling, darts, archery, swimming and athletics.

Any officer willing to compete or who just wishes to have a holiday in the US should contact Detective Senior Constable John Barnes, c/o Eastern Region HQ, PO Box 179 Redfern NSW 2016, or telephone (02) 2372636 as soon as possible. Travel payment must be made by

June and a deposit must be paid immediately.

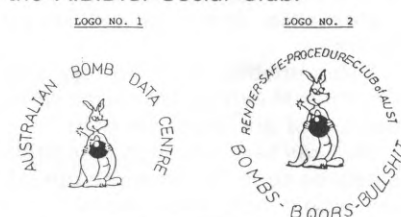
Members may help send a team to San Jose by making a donation to The Australian Federal Police World Police & Fire Games Team, Finance Committee, c/o Sergeant B. Chapman at Eastern Region Headquarters.

## T-shirt offer from club

The Australian Bomb Data Centre Social Club in Canberra is offering for sale its famous T-shirt logo printed on a plain T-shirt. The price is \$7.50, plus \$1 postage and handling fee.

There is a choice of either of two logos, in pocket form or large design on the front.

Only orders with enclosed money orders or cheques will be accepted. Cheques should be made payable to the A.B.D.C. Social Club.



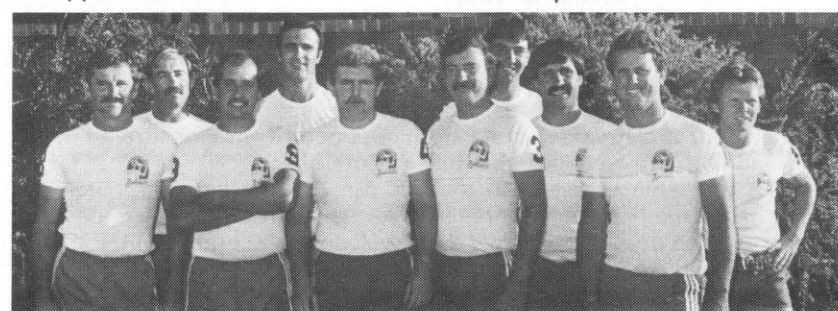
## Touch football takes on Fire probe

AFP Western Region officers, always on the lookout for yet another avenue to show their sporting prowess, are nearing the end of their first season of touch football, a game which some players first experienced during detective training in Canberra.

It is similar to rugby, but possession of the ball is lost when the player running with it is touched by an opponent.

AFP entered a team in a metropolitan evening competition at B grade level in September last year. According to Senior Constable Russell Northcott of Crime Squad, the team has been improving greatly, despite having had to forfeit a couple of games when players were on duty.

AFP has also been heavily involved in cricket, fielding a team for at least 10 years.



Western Region's touch football team: (from left) Mike, Brian, Bruno, Trevor, Darryl, Hammy, Keith, Peter, Russell, and Terry. (Surnames not supplied).