



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.

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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:

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At 20, he has foot on big league ladder

Find ends trophy mystery

An extract from the NSW Rugby League's official journal 'Big League':

"The Rugby League family connection continues at Western Suburbs with first grade Captain Greg Cox being joined at the club by his younger brother Andrew."

Andrew Cox, 20, is an AFP Eastern Region Constable. He has lived and breathed Rugby league since he was big enough to pull on a boot.

And in more recent years it has been his ambition to emulate his elder brother and break into the Rugby League big time.

Andrew, a centre, is one of 25 new faces at Western Suburbs this season — new faces in a club whose long Rugby League career almost came to a close in the off-season.

The Magpies are still struggling, but Andrew believes the club spirit has never been better.

Sydney born and bred, Andrew had his heart set on a policing career from the age of 14. He joined the force late in 1982 and after completing his basic training, spent six months in Canberra.

He now works in Eastern Region's Administration and Personnel Section.

"Football is part of the way of life in the Cox household," said Andrew. "Particularly as Greg has been in big-time League now for nearly 10 years. His previous clubs were Balmain and Cronulla."

Andrew, at 172 cms and a compact 70 kgs, describes himself as a utility player.

He got used to crowd pressure at a young age when his high school team, Holycross College, Ryde, won the Commonwealth Bank High School Cup in 1980 before a crowd of 30 000. The game preceded the 1980 Tooth's Cup final.

Although still essentially a third-grade player, already this season Andrew has had a run in Reserve Grade and hopes to cement a position at that level by next season.

"I think I have the potential to improve significantly," he said, "providing I put in the training and hard work."



A search by AFP officers for intruders in a deserted Australian Government building in Melbourne has led to the unearthing of a piece of table tennis history.

While the officers were looking through the derelict building in Melbourne's Exhibition Street late one night in April, they found a trophy belonging to the Victorian Table Tennis Association.

Mrs Joan Juggenheim, of the Association, identified it as the Jack Skolnik World Cup, which was last seen in 1960.

It had been awarded to national teams winning a special competition aimed at fostering friendship and understanding between newly arrived migrants and established Australians.

The return of the cup coincided with Mrs Juggenheim's discovery of an identical cup in the Association's store. The one found by AFP had been awarded to winning teams, the other to individuals.

• Constable Chris Lewis, of the AFP in Melbourne, and Mrs Joan Juggenheim, of the Victorian Table Tennis Association, pictured with the long-lost Jack Skolnik World Cup.

Mrs Juggenheim said that, despite tarnish left by years of neglect, the team cup was undamaged. How it got to be in the building is a mystery.

The two cups were presented to the Association in 1955 by a Melbourne businessman and table tennis enthusiast Mr Jack Skolnik. He wanted to help migrants become involved in the sport and to promote friendship through an annual competition for both individuals and teams. The team trophy was awarded to the winning "nation" to be held for a year.

The competition was played until 1967, despite the lack of the team trophy over seven years of its history.

Mrs Juggenheim said interest faded as the migrant groups became more settled and less inclined to identify themselves with the country of former nationality.

However, the finding of both cups does not end the story. When Mrs Juggenheim told Mr Skolnik's widow of the AFP find, she asked if her husband's memory could now be perpetuated in table tennis circles.

The result — the two cups will be presented to winners of men's and women's singles competitions during Melbourne's annual Moomba Festivals, beginning at the next Moomba in March 1985.



• Andrew Cox . . . a Constable with a League future.

Regional cricket win

Cricketers from Central and Southern Regions visited Canberra to meet a team from the ACT Region.

In the first match, Southern Region, led by Harry Jacotine, played Central, led by John Berry. Central won by 2 wickets.

The two teams again met in a 25-over match and Central again won.

The final match saw big hitting from both teams. Scores were: ACT 162, defeated Central 144.

Big hitters for the ACT were Les Summerfield, 47, and Kelvin Price, 45. Best bowlers for Central were R. Elphick 2/23 and J. Berry 2/27. For Central, scorers were W. Trenorden and A. Jones, both 29. Bowlers for the ACT were B. Irwin 2/29, and T. Taggard 1/5.