



## 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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In Canberra members can ring the Director, Information, Peter Windsor, on 68 3559.

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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• Mark Bullen ... on the road to the Edinburgh Games.

## Mark has eyes on 1986 games

**Young Eastern Region Constable Mark Bullen is an assiduous pedlar of talent; so much so it's taken him to one world championship and a brave attempt at an Olympic place at Los Angeles.**

Mark, from Armidale, is a cyclist — one of the best in Australia.

He proved that fact as an 18-year-old when he represented Australia in the World titles in Mexico,

finishing tenth in his favoured event, the 1,000 metres sprint.

The best-placed Australian was the better-known Michael Gwenda, who just edged Mark out of ninth place.

And despite severe interruptions to his training schedule because of shift work — and a marriage in March — he made a valiant attempt at the Australian time trials held at Sydney's Canterbury Velodrome to make the team for this year's Olympic Games.

Mark tried for the 20-kilometres track race. He was in the main bunch of eight coming into the final bend when riders bumped. Mark was forced to the top of the track, damaged a front wheel and finished at the back of the main bunch.

"I was still strong", he said, "but these things happen in racing."

Now, still only 21, but immensely powerful, Mark has his eyes set on 1986 and the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

He knows the road to Edinburgh will be a blood, sweat and tears affair.

His father, a former State titleholder, introduced him to bike riding in his 'teens.

"Not before then," said Mark, "Because he always believed pushing me too early could see me drop out of the sport the way so many kids do if they are pushed too hard too early."

Yet by the time he was 17, he'd already taken the NSW junior sprint title, and in the next 12 months improved rapidly enough to gain his Australian guernsey and represent his country in New Zealand and then the world titles in Mexico.

"Mexico was a real eye — and bowel — opener," quipped Mark. "Everyone in the team at one time or another came down with Montezuma's curse. Most of us lived on Coca-Cola and eggs and nothing else for a week."

Mark's father also was a victim and for a time was seriously ill. But it's to his father he attributes much of his success.

"Cycling is a costly sport," he said. "Very costly."

To illustrate the point he gave these examples: track bike, \$1,200; road bike, \$2,000; silk tyres for a race, \$40 each and good for one race only; wheels \$200 to \$300 a set; and skin suits \$70 to \$80 each.

And Edinburgh?

"I want to make Edinburgh," he said. "I'm stronger and more knowledgeable these days. I think I would make a real showing."

## FRIENDLY RIVALS IN WA

An exchange of challenges between Superintendent Frank Pimm and Director of Legal Services Mr George Turnbull has resulted in a series of sporting competitions between members of the AFP and Attorney-General's Department personnel in Perth.

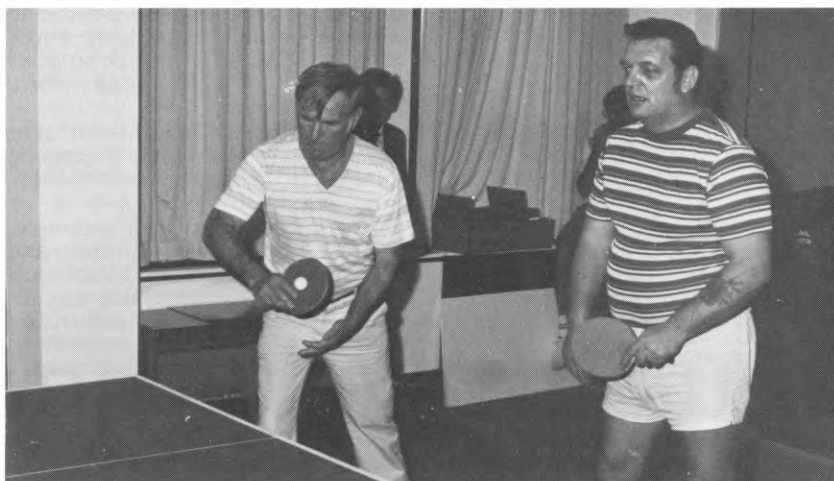
The objective is to foster relationships.

In December 1983, teams raced around a city park. The AG's team won this event in which points were awarded for place getters and individual times.

A table-tennis competition in which team members played a series of singles and doubles matches, resulted in another win for the AG's team, the score being 7-3.

Following this event Mr Pimm presented George Turnbull with a "humble pie" trophy designed by AFP resident artist Kevin Humphries.

A 10 kms race around the bridges of Perth's foreshore was held recently and the more mature (in age) AFP team finally scored a win. The



• Don Pearson and Alan Dodsley show their form at table tennis.

scores were AG's 285, AFP 315.

One of the younger AFP members, Nick Anticich, won the race in the excellent time of 38.18 minutes and all 16 AFP entrants completed the race within 55 minutes.

An indoor-cricket match is planned for the near future.



• A cheer squad for the 10kms race. The girls are attached to 'Operation Edam'.



• Champion of the 10kms race, Nick Anticich.