

George dives in for Croatia

By DAVID COHEN

Water polo player George Ford flew to Croatia on Tuesday night to join the Croatian Water Polo League.

George says the Croats and the Serbs are the best in the world at the sport.

"It's like AFL over there," he said. "They throw them in the water at a young age."

A salary and an apartment in the seaside Croatian town of Rijeka come with George's stint with team VK Primorje, which ends in mid-April.

"I'm replacing a guy who broke his leg," he said.

"My coach found out about it." George (24) and his brother Andrew (22) played for Australia at the world championships in Budapest in July and said beating France 11-10 was a highlight.

"It was pretty special playing with my brother," George said. "Our team, the Aussie Sharks, came seventh, which was our best result since 2003."

"We had a relatively inexperienced team and only had four guys out of 13 from last year's Olympics on the squad."

Andrew is a right-handed driver, or forward, and George, who competed in the Olympics, is a centre-back.

Water polo players are usually very tall and strong.

The brothers started playing as students at Christ Church Grammar School. Andrew first played in Year 6 but said it was not until Year 11 that he took it seriously.

"There was a habit of success at the school," he said.

"We won the PSA competition when I was in Years 10 and 12. "Also, seeing George in



Making a splash ... Andrew Ford, left, and brother George play for Australia on the Aussie Sharks water polo team.

Australian teams caught my interest."

George said his attraction to the sport was partly social.

"I had an awesome bunch of mates in the pool," he said.

"Nick O'Halloran was a great coach - we smashed the other schools."

"It's not an easy sport on the body, but you don't have high-impact injuries."

Both men play for the UWA Torpedoes and train at the WA Institute of Sport in Mt Claremont.

Curfew for woman on assault charge

A Mosman Park woman charged with assault sobbed in court last month before she was granted bail.

Claire Emily Hunter (24) was given a 9pm to 7am curfew and must not get within 50m of three people.

Magistrate Martin Flynn heard Ms Hunter and two men had gone to a South Lake home at 10.20pm on August 25.

"She spoke through a flyscreen door to someone about a bangle," a police prosecutor said.

"She got a vase from a small table and smashed window panels, reached inside, and unlocked the door."

The prosecutor said Ms Hunter had pepper-sprayed two people, taken a handbag, and left with the men.

"There were children aged two, four, and 12 in the house," the prosecutor said.

"All had to be treated by St John Ambulance."

"The 12-year-old witnessed part of the assault."

The prosecutor said police had later found pepper spray in Ms Hunter's handbag and a gram of cannabis.

A duty lawyer said Ms Hunter lived with her children.

"Her oldest child has special needs," the lawyer said.

Stolen Cottesloe motorbike found in bushes

A Cottesloe family walked 200m to retrieve their stolen motorbike after police told them where it was.

The BMW bike, valued at \$17,000, was stolen from their John Street home last month.

Soon after the theft, a Napier Street resident called police on August 30 to tell them there was a motorbike hidden behind trees in the front yard of his neighbour's home.

The John Street family were having dinner when police called them with the tip.

They walked two streets north, found their bike, and wheeled it home.

They said the bike had been stolen from outside their home, and they would now store it more securely.

Wembley police were unsure why officers had not called at the Napier Street home when tipped off about the motorcycle.

"If she is remanded in custody, her children will go into foster care."

"The father is not in a position to care for them."

Mr Flynn said Ms Hunter had been charged with serious offences.

"The real issue is the crafting of bail conditions that deal with the risk of further offending," he said.

He also put Ms Hunter on a \$2000 personal undertaking and a \$2000 surety.

"If police knock on the door, she must present herself," Mr Flynn said.

Ms Hunter said: "Understood."



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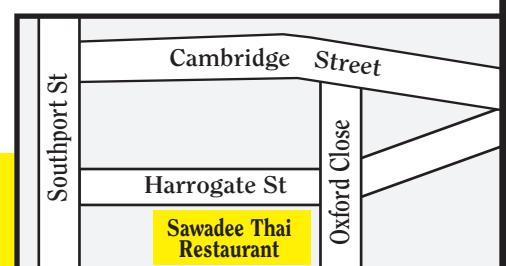
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