we're baaack...

Yes, just when we all thought the concept of an "endless summer" was a conceivable reality, along comes the commencement of the football season and the accompanying realisation that it is March. So, pack away those Speedos and drag out the ice packs, because a new year of sport, sport, sport (thank you, HG) is upon us. Good luck.

Lindy Burns
Editor

australian university games

The call has gone out for all those interested in acting as a team manager for this year's aussie uni games to ring their psychiatrist immediately...no, it's a lot of fun, really, seriously, believe me. If you're keen, please contact Kylie McLean in the Sport and Rec. Office. This year's games will be held at the Northern Territory Uni in Darwin from 24 - 30 September and will cover the following sports: aerobics, athletics, aussie rules, badminton, baseball, basketball, cricket, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, netball, rugby union, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, taekwondo, tennis, touch football, triathlon, volleyball, water polo.

recreation handbook

The Macquarie Dictionary defines "recreation" as "a pastime, diversion, exercise or other resource affording relaxation and enjoyment". Sound good? Well, the Recreation Handbook can help you find just the right "resource", whether it be aerobics, gym programs, team sports, sports massage or belly dancing. It's available from the Sport and Rec office counter, the Health Centre, the Bar on the Hill... (Blue cover, sporting seahorses... you can't miss it.)

sporting exhibition

The Newcastle Region Library is currently holding an exhibition highlighting many of the Hunter Region's sportspeople. Entitled "The Power and the Glory", the exhibition is located in the Lovett Gallery, 2nd floor of the Library, in Laman Street, Newcastle and will run until mid-March. Further enquiries should be forwarded to 25 8300.

"O" week

During this year's Orientation Week, keep an eye out for the Uni Club stalls in the courtyard between the Auchmuty Library and the Shortland Union. This gives you a chance to see if the Club you are thinking of joining contains members with whom you would actually like to spend some time. They will also fill you in on less important items such as where games and training sessions are held, equipment provided or required and any costs involved. Also, be prepared to sign up.

water skiers excell

Congratulations to the Uni Water Ski Club who finished second overall at the Australian Uni Championships held in Wollongong over the weekend of the 11th & 12th February, despite losing team member, Paul Evenngham, who broke his leg during practice prior to the competition. The standout performance was achieved by Dean Lawrence who won the "Tricks" event.

aerobic classes

Aerobic classes are back in full swing with the cost for all classes remaining at $3 for Sports Union members and $5 for non-members. The timetable of classes is as follows:

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<th>Times</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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Please note: all 12 noon classes are held in the Hunter Gymnasium (Physical Ed. Building). The rest are in the Auchmuty Sports Centre.

There are also session cards available at $25 for 10 visits. Alternatively, if you are a regular attendee, how about the semester pass which gives you access to unlimited aerobic classes for one whole semester (27 Feb to 2 June) for only $80. All passes are available from the Auchmuty Sports Centre.
sports scholarships

Just a reminder that all applications for a 1995 Sports Scholarship must be received in the Scholarships Office by 15 March. And in case you're reading Back Page for the first time, here's a brief explanation of what the Scholarships are all about.

The purpose of these Scholarships, first awarded in 1994, is to improve the quality of University sporting teams and to establish a standard of excellence to complement the University's academic achievements. The scholarships focus mainly, though not exclusively, on those sports which have a high profile in Newcastle and the surrounding communities.

Scholarship holders, of which there are up to six each year, each receive $1,000 paid in two instalments. Selection is based on academic merit, demonstrated sporting ability and potential contribution to the sporting achievements of the University. All award winners must join the appropriate University sports club and represent the University at the local, district and national level.

The 1994 recipients included Shane Ambrose (hockey), Natalie Skelly (athletics) and Shane Trotter (orienteering), so if you would like to join this elite group please contact the University's Scholarships Office on 21 6537 before 15 March. Remember, students who have held the scholarship for any year may apply for a subsequent year, to a maximum of two years in total.

sportsperson of the year for 1994

The Sports Union is currently inviting nominations for the above prestigious award. Candidature for the award is the 1994 academic year and nominees must meet the following requirements:

• be a student of The University of Newcastle
• have an outstanding sporting record during the 1994 academic year. Persons excelling in the areas of sports administration (eg. refereeing/managing/coaching at national level) will be considered for this award.
• have displayed outstanding sportsmanship and be a person with whom the Sports Union is proud to be identified.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Sport and Rec Office. The closing date for receipt of nominations is 31 March.

club contacts

If you have any enquiries about joining any of the sporting Clubs at The University of Newcastle, the following people can be contacted for information:

Archery - Damali Sparke (ph 64 4517)  Netball - Sport & Rec office (ph 21 5584)
Athletics - Sport & Rec Office (ph 21 5584)  NUDES (Diving) - Jennifer Findlay (ph 63 5933)
Baseball - Rohan Brien (ph 61 2222)  R/ly League - Lucky Carathansisis (ph 67 3653)
Basketball - Eric Harper (ph 63 2233)  Rugby Union - Paul Henry (ph 67 5068)
Boat (Rowing) - Ben Redman (ph 30 1450)  Snow Ski - Paul Hans (ph 51 5076)
Cricke) - Peter Tate (ph 51 1396)  Men's Soccer - Justin McInnes (ph 54 8686)
Fencing - Gary Allen (ph 65 8526)  Women's Soccer - Carolyn Williams (ph 52 7400)
Hang Gliding - Neave Bui (ph 21 5079)  Squash - Robert Glazerbrook (ph 62 2431)
Women's Hockey - Linda Hill (ph 28 4088)  Tennis - Karen McLean (ph 21 6159)
Judo - Kim Murdoch (ph 46 8193)  Tennis - Andrew Dennis (ph 67 4972)
Kendo - Sport & Rec office (ph 21 5584)  Volleyball - Sport & Rec office (ph 21 5584)
Mounaineering - Melanie Waddell (ph 61 6396)  Waterpolo - Dean Lawrence (ph 56 1252)

what's an auchmuty sports centre?

Just arrived or transferred or had one too many schooners over the holidays? Here's a visual guide to help you find some of the sporting facilities around the Callaghan campus.

The squash courts behind which lies Oval No. 1 and the tennis courts.

Auchmuty Sports Centre (While you look at this, keep in mind that before you can say "Lindfield Christie is quite a good runner", we'll have the beginnings of our gorgeous new Sports Centre and pool taking shape in and around this building. More on that next issue...)

Need help? You'll find the Sport & Rec Office near the Richardson Wing of the Human Building.

When you arrive at these places the people to talk to are: Auchmuty Sports Centre - John Price & Sam Francis Squash Courts - David Pembroke & Stephen Dowdell Sport & Rec Office -
Reception: Tracy Rhodes, Sharon Potter, Lisa Bradley
Sport & Rec Officer: Kylie McLean
Sporting Facilities Manager: Bill Jones
university blues and colours

Last issue, we began our look at the University's "blues" and "colours" awards with a potted history of the "blue". This month it is the turn of the "colour", an award which recognises outstanding contributions made by Sports Union members to the organisation and administration of a Sports Union club or to university sport overall. The award is made over a period of not less than three years. The awarding of "colours" began in 1973 with the Sports Union eager to reward excellence in sporting administration in addition to its already existing, "on-field" award, the "blue". From 1973 to 1985 the award was determined by the Sports Union Committee but 1985 saw a Colours Committee established comprising the President of the Sports Union, the immediate past President of the Sports Union, the Sport and Recreation Officer, and three Colours (to be elected by the Sports Union Committee).

The underlying factor determining the award is naturally, outstanding service to either University sport in general or to a specific University Club. It is not awarded for playing skill or participation but for contributions made which are essential to the continuity and growth of University sport.

The following page contains the names of 85 "colours", most of whom will not be particularly recognisable. These are the "back room" boys and girls, the ones who make it possible for we players to have a uniform, somewhere to train, a coach, a bat or ball or rope, someone to play with or against, access to transport, whistles, towels, water bottles, ankle straps, band aids and ice packs. In short, without them, Uni sport would shrivel up and die. In amongst the following list you might find one Bernard Francis Curran, which is surprising because he was also on the "blues" list last issue. Bernie is one of those rare individuals who managed to excel both on and off the field and it is only fitting that he is the first of our "colour" profiles.

bernie curran

There's something about left-handed people - they tend to excel at the strangest things like rugby or Latin or both. Bernie Curran happens to be one of them and we take up his story when he arrived at The University of Newcastle in 1963. Despite enrolling in a BA majoring in Classics, Bernie managed to control the dressing room laughter long enough to create a name for himself as a breakaway with both the Uni Firsts and the Newcastle Rep. side during his undergrad, years.

1968 proved to be an indicator for the future life of Bernie Curran as he not only achieved his goal of First Class Honours in Latin but was awarded a Uni "Blue" for Rugby as well - an unusual double to say the least. Bernie then faced some major decisions. Pursue a Doctorate? Pursue rugby? Pursue marriage and fatherhood? Family and work won out. "I was happy to stop playing rep. football," he says. "My daughter, Penny, was on the way, and I had this marvellous opportunity to do some good work. I really thought my major playing days were over." Wrong... After completing the Doctorate in 1972, the Currans moved to Canberra where Bernie headed up the Classics Department at Canberra Grammar, coached their First XV, and played 1st grade Rugby with Norths. However, word drifted south from Newcastle (via one G Tanner) that a Lectureship in Classics was up for grabs back at the alma mater and suffice to say, in May '75, Bernie returned to the University to take up the appointment. Hearing of his return, former Sports Union President, Brian O'Shea, took Bernie's sporting future into his own hands. In June, he visited Bernie with the immortal words, "You still fit?" Faced with such a challenge, Bernie once more found himself in 1st grade.

Some "great years" followed. He won the Anderson Medal (best and fairest in Newcastle comp) in 1976 at the tender age of 32 and won the Uni best and fairest in both '75 and '76. In 1978, "Grandad" (as his co-players called him) found himself Captain of 1st grade and training five times a week just to keep fit enough to run onto the park.

Following a sabbatical in Southampton and some years in sporting retirement, Bernie stood for Rugby Club President, a position he held from 1983 until 1988. "My main motivation was to give something back to the Club," he explains. "I'd got a lot out of rugby, a lot of enjoyment and a lot of life instruction. I also wanted to show both the Sports Union and the Newcastle Rugby Union that the Uni Club was a respectable administration and that we could reach the highest level of performance." They did that, winning the major and minor premierships in '83, '84, '85, '86 and '88, while also winning the Sterling Plate (Country Club Championship) in '85 and '86. "We had the best team, the best administration and the best coach. It was a pleasure to be a part of." It was only fitting, therefore, that Bernie firstly received "life membership" of the Club in 1988 and later a "colour" for his contribution to the Rugby Club in 1989.

Bernie's administrative success with the Rugby Club is even more remarkable given that for the last three years of his Presidency, he was also the President of the Sports Union, a position he held until 1993. His term of office with the Sports Union was one of both stability and growth for University Sport and he was particularly influential in getting the soon to be constructed new University Sports Centre off the drawing boards and into reality.

In many ways, Bernie Curran, today Warden of Evatt House, epitomises what universities and sports are all about - sportsmanship, commitment, fair play, excellence and companionship. We'll leave the last word to him: "I've loved every minute of my time in sport. It is a great way of keeping your feet on the ground and of meeting great people."

Bernie Curran - who says gentlemen don't play Rugby!