Friday, October 6 was a big day for sport at the University. At a function in the foyer of the Chancellery, the Vice-Chancellor announced an association with giant media corporation, News Limited, in which the University will provide training facilities for the Hunter Mariners Rugby League Club in return for academic scholarships and financial support for sporting facilities at the University.

Speaking prior to the formal signing of the agreement, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Raoul Mortley, said "the association (with News Limited) is consistent with the University's desire to join an effective partnership with the national and international corporate sector" and that it "will benefit the men and women of the University in all its international activities".

The University will benefit from four football scholarships (two for league, two for union), each valued at $10,000 per year, for three years. These will be granted every year for at least the following five years.

In addition, the Mariners will make a financial contribution, up to $1 million, to the Sports Union as well as provide lighting for two football grounds and the University's baseball pitch.

Chairman and Chief Executive of News Limited, Ken Cowley, expressed his delight at the signing of the agreement and admitted to his own fondness for the area. "I must say that I've always had a soft spot for the Hunter - I have a farm on the Williams River after all. But it has always been an area that has been mistakenly under-estimated and undervalued and I'm pleased that News Limited's first association of this kind is with the University of Newcastle."

The Chief Executive of the Hunter Mariners, Bob Fenris, revealed that the University's planned sports complex under construction was one of the attractions of the University. "We've always known of the University's excellent grounds and general facilities but the new complex, including the pool, will be world class. We couldn't think of a better place for our players to work and train."

It's expected that the Mariners will begin using the University's facilities almost immediately with an assurance from the Sports Union Prez, Prof John Fryer, that students will not be inconvenienced by the new arrangement. "We've discussed student timetables and the Sports Union program with the Mariners," he said "and they have agreed to fit in with our schedules."
A couple of short weeks ago, Rec Officer, Helene O'Neill, together with intrepid staffer, Tracy Rhodes, took on the arduous task of managing 64 young and exuberant students representing Newcastle Uni at the 1995 Australian University Games in Darwin. The news from the event for Newcastle was mostly good and... well I'll let Helene tell the story...

The early Friday flight from Sydney proved too early for three soccer players whose car blew up on the freeway and forced them to fly via Brisbane, Cairns and finally Darwin. The first thing to hit us in Darwin was the heat - 35 degrees - and then we discovered that the water in the pool was almost as warm - 30 degrees!!

As the competition did not start until Sunday, team members used the free day (Saturday) for sightseeing and headed to Litchfield park. The waterfalls were magnificent and formed great swimming holes without crocodiles! It almost felt like we were in another country.

Sunday saw the opening ceremony. A huge parade of 4,500 students, decked out in team uniforms and creating a huge Mexican wave. World aerobics champion, Sue Stanley, opened the Games, to the chant of “we hate you, cause you’re Victorians!” The Darwin Symphony Orchestra provided the background music to the spectacular fireworks display. The Darwin crowd gave Newcastle a rousing welcome, reminding us that the Knights had just won the Reserve Grade Rugby League Grand Final...

The action started on Monday with good wins to our soccer, netball, water polo and women’s hockey teams. As the week progressed, the heat took its toll on many players, however, and by Thursday (semi-final day), two of our stars, Brett Thomas (soccer) and Alison Sharp (netball) both seemed destined for an early flight home. Brett had broken his leg in several places while Alison had torn her medial and cruciate ligaments in her knee.

The most entertaining performances throughout the week came from Andrea Ryff in aerobics as well as the tae kwon do team. Andrea secured a silver medal but was definitely the crowd favourite in a packed house at the Darwin Casino. The tae kwon do boys, sporting freshly shaved heads (or No. 1 cuts), performed a great demonstration - a blend of black belts, humour and roof tiles.

When the finals were all done, Newcastle had picked up three gold, three silver and three bronze medals - an excellent achievement under difficult conditions.

Overall results were:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
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<td>Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerobics (Andrea Ryff)</td>
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<td>Athletics (Monique Neave)</td>
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<td>Tae Kwon Do</td>
<td>Donald McPhee</td>
<td>Ben Graham</td>
<td>Matt Freedman</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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| Green and Gold team selections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Team Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
<td>Brett Thomas, Tommy Donnelly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Todd Bailey, Glen Cooper (Reserve)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tae Kwon Do</td>
<td>Donald McPhee, Ben Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Katie Williams</td>
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Congrats to all competitors on a fine display of sportsmanship (or is that sportspersonship?) and team spirit. It is Canberra in 1996 so now is the time to start training but more importantly, start SAVING!!
Clockwise from top left: Andrea Ryff (Aerobics), Chris Bourke, Donald McFee, Matt Freedman & Ben Graham (Tae Kwon Do), Men's Soccer, team captains Ros Eyers (Waterpolo) & Michael Kmet (Men's soccer), Team Newcastle (minus the hockey teams who had playing commitments and didn't arrive until late Sunday night) and two team managers in a traditional north end pose....
The Men’s Hockey Firsts completed a stunning year by winning the Newcastle Association Grand Final on 23 September, beating long-time nemesis, Wests, 5-1. Goal scorers were Dave Nyman (2), brother Greg Nyman (2) and Andrew Abbo (1). Dave was also selected as “Player of the Grand Final” by the Association and wrapped up a great season by winning the 1995 “Best and Fairest Player” award. Interestingly, team-mate Chris Hayes, only finished one point behind Dave in the season’s Best and Fairest tally while Andrew Abbo once more won the Leading Goal Scorer award with 18 goals. This is the 5th year in succession that Andrew has won this award. The Club also enjoyed success in 3rd grade where the guys beat Colts, 2-1. Unfortunately, 2nd grade lost their G/F, going down to Souths, 4-1 while 5th grade Number 1, lost 1-0, in theirs.

As reported last issue, the Women’s Hockey Club enjoyed a turnaround this year, making the semi-finals for the first time in many seasons. Unfortunately, they lost, 2-1, to Regals but the girls are enjoying their new-found competitiveness. In 6th Grade, Uni made the Grand Final only to go down, 3-1. The Club is currently cheering on first grader, Alison Daly, who is playing with the NSW Arrows in the National Hockey League competition. The Arrows recently made the semi-finals which will take place in Adelaide on 21st October.

The Women’s Hockey Club held its AGM on 9th October with the following elected to the Executive Committee for ’95/’96.

President Nichola Sweeney
Vice President Nicole Cumberland
Secretary Kathryn Stocker
Treasurer Lisa Dunn

Next day, the Men’s Hockey Club did the same with their Executive for ’95/’96 being

President Justin Ford
Vice President Andrew Abbo
Secretary Scott O’Brien
Treasurer Peter Sweeney
Sports Union Rep Stuart Jeayes

Speaking of annual meetings, the Waterski club are conducting theirs on 23rd October at the Godfrey Tanner Bar. Results and gossip next issue... The Waterskiers are also planning a ski trip to Forster from 16 to 25 November. All interested or wishing to find out more, please call Marcus Laws on 67 4896. And if parasailing is your go, Marcus is also the man to contact. All you need to do is get together a group of five people and he will arrange a boat and gear for you at a time between Monday and Friday, that is convenient to all. Cost is $15 per person for non-members and $10 per person for members. Phone number is the same as above.

It must that time of year because the Rowing Club also held their AGM on October 12. On October 22, the Club is holding a Regatta at Toronto while the Hunter Club will conduct a Regatta at Speers Point on November 12. All enquiries to Ben Redman on 30 1450.

Congrats to the Uni Karate team which came a close second at this year’s AUG, beaten by host team, UNE, by just one point. Of special note was the performance by Susie Dawson who, at Yellow Belt (first belt) fought in an Open Black Belt division, taking out first place in the final against team-mate Katrina Julienne, a White Belt. Both students beat Black Belts to make the final!!

Unfortunately, the team suffered several injuries during the tournament, leaving the men’s fighting team with only three of its original eight members. However, they still managed to fight their way to the final, coming second to UNE, two fights to one. The performance may have been even more remarkable but for some rather controversial point scoring.

In the social event, though, Newcastle were the clear winners, taking out amongst other events best not mentioned here, the team scull event.

Final placings were:

Women’s Open Kumite
- Susan Dawson (1st)
- Katrina Julienne (2nd)

Men’s Black Belt (Kata)
- Daniel Milotic (2nd)

Men’s White-Brown Belt (Kata)
- Steven Laybutt (2nd)

Men’s White-Brown Belt (Kumite)
- Chris Cheshire (2nd)

Open Team Kata
- Chris Cheshire, Steve Laybutt, Damon Smallman, Greg Amott (3rd)

Men’s Open Team (Kumite)
- Pete Carson (Capt), Daniel Milotic, Damon Smallman (2nd)