Welcome to Back Page
by Trevor John

Thanks for picking up this first edition of the all new monthly Sports Union newsletter.

As the year unfolds our energetic team of journalists, sports photographers and club stalwarts will report on the efforts made by students and staff in all manner of sporting and recreational activities.

Sometimes these stories will be about local feats, others will focus on a national platform and at times they’ll be about truly world class exploits. Such is the talent that graces our campuses.

Back Page is a mix of news, upcoming events & fixtures, results, profiles and photographs. Hopefully it also helps us to understand more clearly the humanity that creates the life of The University of Newcastle.

TJ
Editor

Hi'ya from Tola

Far out - my first article in Back Page!
I think I'll just blam my way through and say howdy, welcome to the revamped Sports Union’s regular publication titled “Back Page” and ask you to read what’s happening and get involved at a level you are happy with. What ever you do, just make sure you take full advantage of your Sports Union.

As Program Manager, I get the excellent job of looking after all sports and recreation outside of this damn fine building, The Forum (as I write this I’m watching the Soccer Crew kicking a ball around silhouetted against the bright lights and surrounding bushland). It’s a wonderful opportunity to get the Sports Union message out to students, staff and the broader community, and it’s not only a message about sweat and strain. The message is also about enjoying your environment and enhancing your health and well being.

The Sports Union is always looking out for new and creative ways of enriching your experiences on Campus and it’s important that you share your ideas and suggestions.

Anyway, here’s some of the activities that we have planned for later this year and for a look at what is already in place, grab a Sports Union Recreation Handbook - and if you haven’t got one, give me a call and I’ll send one over - easy.

In the line of Social Sports, there’s: Netball, Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, Sunrise Walks, Lunchtime Walks, Sunset Walks (got most of the day covered there hey and these include coffee and muffins), Strees Management, Mountain Bike Skills and Maintenance, Tai Chi, Sports Photography, Sports Journalism, Triathlon Training Skills, Skateboarding Skills and Maintenance and I’m really keen to get Wrestling up and running too.

The Sports Union has over 26 different Clubs which take care of everything from climbing rocky outcrops to diving deep below the sea, from Horse Riding to Rugby, from Archery through to Surfriding.

Hi'ya from Tola

There’s an A to Z type folder on my desk and if we can’t find a Club in there that interests you, the Sports Union will help you set one up!

Seriously though, you, as a student or as a member of the University, are our stakeholder, and we want to ensure that we give you not only value for money, but also provide you with the opportunity to enhance skills, reach your personal best, or just experience an activity you may not have normally participated in.

So, I’m here if you need to book an oval, play a game of Squash, kick a ball around, compete at the Australian Universities Games, walk through the Wetlands, have a round of Golf, hire a bus, hit someone on the head with a stick (ie Kendo) or broaden your horizons in some other traditional or non traditional manner.

I can be contacted on: ext. 6963;
externally on (02) 4921 6963;
yuppie thang 0412 451474;
email - yahol@pacific-ocean.com

Thanks for reading this and I really look forward to hearing from you soon.

Take care,

Chris Tola.
Formerly known as Inter Varsity (IV), the Australian Universities Water-Ski Championships have been held in February each year since the mid 60s. Students from Universities across Australia are eligible to compete, with past team overall winners including Perth and Adelaide.

Because of the problems associated with distance, in recent times AUC Water-skiing has been mainly a competition between Universities on the East Coast.

Teams compete in the three traditional events of Slalom, Tricks and Jumping over 3 days, with the main prize being the Team Overall Trophy.

Eleven teams competed in the Australian Universities Water Skiing Championships, sending a total of thirty-seven competitors. Conditions were perfect for the three day event which was held at Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Camp, ten minutes drive south of Toronto. The host University was Newcastle, running the championships with an organising committee made up of ten Newcastle University students.

The highlight of the championships was Newcastle skier Chris Cockburn smashing two existing University records. Chris sprouted wings and flew past the existing Jump distance record of 44.4m set by Andrew Beazley of Newcastle in 1993. Chris' jump cracked the fifty-metre barrier, recording 51.0m, adding a massive 7.6m to the record.

In the trick event Chris almost doubled Andrew Beazley's old 1992 record of 3630pts. The trick judges had a hard time to score his passes. After several minutes of consultation and re-watching the video, the final score was set at 6940pts. Chris won the Men's Individual Overall trophy for the championships. Chris is the 1996 World Jnr. Trick Champion, sponsored by Connelly ski and Wing Wetsuits.

Other noted performances by Newcastle skiers -
Katrina Daley - Women's Individual Overall Winner
Jamie Cockburn - Scoring 1620pts. in tricks.
Chris Boden - recording a PB in Jumps.

Overall, Newcastle won the Combined Teams Event, Men's Team Event and runner-up in Women's Team Event.

This is the first time that Newcastle has won the Combined Teams Event.

Team members were Katrina Daley and Jamie Cockburn in the women's events. And Chris Cockburn, Paul Everingham, David Smith, Andrew Price, Daniel Blackmore, Chris Boden in the Men's events.

All sporting events need people behind the scenes, and the Water Skiing Championships was supported by: Brian Woolley as Chief Judge; Graham Cockburn as Chief Boat Driver; Chris Wright as Boat Driver; Michael Ewin as Tournament Director; Mark Searles from NUSC; and, John Burnett as Trick Judge.

The event attracted strong support from local and national sponsors and we would like to thank them for their involvement and encouragement.

Lewis Ski Boats Pty. Ltd. (Auburn NSW)
Student Programs - Newcastle University Union (Callaghan NSW)
Al's Fuel (Cessnock NSW)
Hunter Ski Boat Centre (Raymond Terrace)
Easytow Trailors (Heathcote VIC)
Connelly Australia - Surf Wind and Fire (Stafford QLD)
MasterLine Skiling Accessories(Whiteside QLD)
Wing Wetsuits Australia (Caringbah)
Zone 2 ~ Tournament Water Ski Division (Hunter Valley)
Clu Marine ~ Boat Insurance
Wangi Hotel (Wangi)
NEWFM 105.3 (Newcastle)
PowerAde Sports Drink ~ Coca Cola (Newcastle)
Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre
(Aquatic Propeller Reconditioning (Shell Beach))
The countdown has begun to the Eastern Conference Games, so here's just a bit of information you may need to know.

The ECG is to be held at Charles Sturt University - Riverina campus in Wagga Wagga from 6 - 10 July.

This is a great opportunity to represent your University and to compete against other universities from NSW and the ACT. We'll also be trying to qualify for the Australian University Games.

The sports included are:
- Australian Rules Football
- Baseball
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Hockey
- Karate
- Netball
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Softball
- Touch Football

Some team manager positions are yet to be filled. So, if you're interested, call in to the Sports Union office (upstairs in The Forum) to grab a nomination form.

Time constraints mean that trials must be completed a week before Easter. By doing this, we'll be able to finalise team numbers, fund raising and confirm bookings.

Keep in mind, ALL UNI STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO TRIAL.

As ECG coordinator, I look forward to meeting everyone on the ECG team. For more details, don't hesitate to contact me at the Sports Union on 4921 6960 or at home on 4952 5937.

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The University of Newcastle Women's Soccer club kicked its season off for 1998 on 7th and 8th March, competing in The Viking Challenge at Forster.

The Viking Challenge is a 6-a-side soccer competition held annually at the Mid North Coast tourist destination of Forster to raise money for children with cancer. A reunion was set this year with 40 men's and 20 women's teams competing for the $4500 prize money.

Uni were in fine form, winning all of their games on the first day placing them on top of their pool and guaranteeing them a spot in Division A the following day - and all without conceding one goal.

Uni easily won their A grade quarter final the next morning, but they were too face all kind of hurdles to get into the semi finals - one of which was the uncharacteristic monsoonal weather of Forster.

Uni faced up to Wauchoppe in the semi-final. The game was tight with neither team ready to give an inch. With five minutes to go, Wauchoppe scored a lucky break and took the lead of 1-0. Uni fought hard to retaliate but were gallant in defeat when the whistle blew.

Uni were focussed in the A Consolation final as they went up against Tuncurry, but a goal early in the second half for the locals saw the Uni girls' chances plummet. Although trying hard to fight back, they went down for the second time that day 1-0.

Overall Uni were placed fourth out of 20 for the weekend, and if this was any indication of the form that is to come when the local women's soccer competition kicks off for 1998 in May, then Uni are set for another great year of soccer.

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The Forum - OPEN NOW
BY BERNIE CURRAN

Dr Bernie Curran, Classics and Chair, Board of Directors, The Forum.

The Forum of ancient Rome had originally been a meeting place for those who lived on the Palatine and the Quirinal Hills in Rome's earliest days. Our Forum, this Sports and Aquatic Centre is to become a meeting place for the academic and the recreational life of the University community.

Further, the Forum was the centre of public life and for the Roman the public life was the only real life; to be part of the life of the Forum was to be truly human. In our new Forum we want people to really live, to be human, to leave behind the world of the spreadsheets, meetings, budgets and rediscover the original sense of the words, "bottom line".

Importantly too, the Forum was the centre of one of the most competitive societies in the ancient world. It was the centre of the Republic, a political society in which all eligible members strove to be first, to be the best, a society where the ideal is summed up in the word virtus, a word which meant physical courage, moral strength and excellence.

We too want this Forum to be a place of competition, a place where people strive to produce their best. Let this be a place where the action takes place and where winners are made in deed and not word.

The Forum, The University of Newcastle Sports and Aquatic Centre, was officially opened on Friday 27 February, 1998 by the Chancellor, Mr Ric Charlton. The Guest Speaker was Australian swimming great, former world record holder and winner of three Olympic medals, Nicole Stevenson.

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I'd rather be...
Is a chance to find out what someone on campus would rather be doing. Of course, it invites a "but"... This is where we find out about the things that fill the busy life of our selected guest.

Matthew Paull
I'd rather be... playing soccer. And preferably outdoors, but as President of NUSAC, studying for my second degree (BA Communication Studies) and with an intimate relationship with a member of a Sydney netball team, well... here's something of the Matthew Paull story.

Q: Whilst growing up in Muswellbrook, did you play any sport?
A: I did. I played rugby league all my life. I played from when I was 7 until my last year in school.
Q: Other sports?
A: I played cricket from the Under-8s, to U-14s. Played tennis and won a couple of local competitions for tennis. Golf. And played soccer at school every day in primary school and early high school.
Q: Any plans to play soccer?
A: I've got some friends trying to organise an indoor soccer team this year, so hopefully we'll get that off the ground.
Q: So, even though you're very busy with a second degree and being President of the Students Association, you're looking to play?
A: Hopefully. That's why we're playing indoor... we don't have to attend regular training sessions and we can choose the night we play without having to commit to every weekend.
Q: Do students come into your office and ask questions about fees and want you to explain why they must pay the Sports Union fee?
A: Yeah we do actually. We get a lot of questions like that. We try to explain to them that there's no way that we can really differentiate between those who use the facilities and those who don't. Or if you did try to do that, it would be very expensive and very impractical. We also explain to them that it's like Council Rates. Everyone at The University has to pay the fee, same as everyone in the Shire has to pay the Rates whatever you use the garbage facilities or sports facilities or whatever. It has been tested in the courts in both Europe and America and the courts have found that it was similar to Council Rates... everyone who is enrolled has to pay the fees.
Q: If people need to get in touch with you in your role as President of the Students Association, where should they go, what should they do?
A: Well, they can drop into the office anytime. - I'm there everyday, under the Godfrey Tanner Bar. (Ed, Hmmm, I think he means his office is located under the GT Bar) Or ring on 4968 1281. Also read OPUS monthly.
Sports Union Results and Events

There are many sporting and recreational activities taking place over the next few weeks and throughout the year. All students are eligible to participate in these events and we encourage you to give them a try. If you like more information on these, or any other Sports Union activity, please contact Lisa ext 6960, or 4921 6960 or Chris on 6966 or 4921 6963.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Time/Venue</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Local or Club Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Waterpolo</td>
<td>3rd - 5th April, Sydney.</td>
<td>Michelle 0297728327</td>
<td>Caseandra 4951 3896</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>April 12th Melbourne</td>
<td>Blair 03 96669262</td>
<td>Lisa 4921 6960</td>
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<td>Basketball</td>
<td>14th - 17th April, Sydney.</td>
<td>Roger 0293514960</td>
<td>David 4921 3388</td>
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<td>Squash</td>
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<td>Roger 0293514960</td>
<td>Michael 4967 7721</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
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<td>Roger 0293514960</td>
<td>Kelly 4957 0186</td>
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<td>Volleyball</td>
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<td>Roger 0293514960</td>
<td>Lisa 4921 6960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>26th April, Sydney</td>
<td>Lindsay 0293658137</td>
<td>Darrell 4934 2484</td>
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<td>Badminton</td>
<td>10th - 17th May, Sydney.</td>
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<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>16th - 17th May, NSWTertiary League</td>
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<td>To Be Announced</td>
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<td>Snow Skiing</td>
<td>24th-26th July Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>26th July, Newcastle</td>
<td>Lindie or Marnee 4951 4453</td>
<td>See Justine’s Article</td>
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<td>Eastern Conference Games</td>
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<td>Sept/October in Melbourne</td>
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<td>Australian University Games</td>
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<td>Lisa 4921 6960</td>
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Classes of Instruction

Ultimate Frisbee
Sports Photography
Tennis
Golf
Stress Management and Relaxation Techniques
Surfing
Scuba Diving
First Aid Course

Social Sports

Touch Football
Netball

Horse riding: We’re organising with Kylie at International House to get a Horseriding Club galloping. Drop in and put your name down if you’re interested.

Bushwalks around the Campus: When the weather cools down a tad, and the mosquitoes move back to Hexham, I will be running a series of Sunrise and Midday Walks around the Campus. Working in with Physical Planning and Estates, the Walks will not only be healthy, informative and enjoyable, we’re also going to throw in coffee and muffins at the end as well.

On the Drawing Board: Mountain Bike Skills and Maintenance, Paint Ball, Tap Dancing, Sports Journalism, Yoga, Triathlon Training, Skateboard Maintenance, and my personal favourites of mine, Wrestling and Geiffen Aasplent

Fencing

Learn the basics, learn about the sport’s bloodied history, learn something about yourself. The Fencing Club is looking for new members, particularly students to join the Games team in May this year.
Training: Tuesday 7 - 10pm and Thursday 6 - 8pm
Studio 1, upstairs in the Forum.
Contact: Matthew Hemmll - 4955 5746.

Karaté Do

A very successful club, always finishing in 1st or 2nd position at major University competitions. Even though the club trains in Chito-Ryu, players from all styles are needed to help form the team for the ECO in Wagga Wagga.
Training: Monday 6 - 8pm and Wednesday 8 - 10pm
Studio 1, upstairs in the Forum.
Contact: Darren Smithman - 4951 3836 or mobile: 015 463 232.