Welcome to the first of our second semester editions of Back Page. We have a few major events for your diaries and coupons to cut out which will help save you some money.

This is very much the Eastern Conference Games review. A look at how we went and some photographs to see some of the faces of those who represented The University of Newcastle in Wagga Wagga.

The good news for the many people who like to shoot a few baskets is that the long awaited replacement hoops for the Squash and Tennis Pavilion’s Basketball area have been installed.

The Eastern Conference Games were hosted this year by Charles Sturt University - Riverina Campus. The Eastern Conference Games consisted of a four day competition, with round games being contested from Tuesday to Thursday whilst the semi-finals and finals were battled out on Thursday afternoon and Friday.

An exception from this format was Karate which only competed on the Wednesday.

The University of Newcastle competition included around 22 Universities from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. We are pleased to say that after a huge night dancing at “The Broadway” night club, these fine men and women can still get up the next day and triumph!

In the five short days that the games lasted, The University of Newcastle competed against other fine athletes and teams from various Universities throughout the Eastern Conference division. The Eastern Conference Division includes around 22 Universities from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. We are pleased to say that we came away with many victories and personal bests.

The success of Newcastle University Men’s Soccer Team has continued into 1998 with the side coming away with a silver medal. The final was a hard fought battle, and although the team showed outstanding effort they were unlucky to go down one nil to Canberra University.

However, their fine performance throughout the week did ensure them entry into the Australian University Games later this year in Melbourne along with huge representation in the Merit Team.

Six of the men made it onto the Merit Team including super keeper and penalty saver extraordinaire Steve Anjelou, Glen Moore, Nathan Byrne, Nick Johns, Brendan Kelana and Tony Majaroukski.

The Women’s Soccer team also produced a victorious performance, qualifying for the Australian Games for the first time. Continued over...
The Women's team showed skill and speed in picking up their bronze medal. The lightning fast Trudy Diamond made the Merit Team for the ladies along with North American Import Diane Gribbin (who has recently returned to Canada with, no doubt, many fond memories of the University and the Games).

Joining the Men's and Women's soccer teams at the Australian Games will be the Men's Hockey team.

In a Steel City finale to the week, the Men's team overcame Wollongong for overall third position. Das Vunderplayer Silas Moss and Jai Kumar were honoured with Merit Team selection.

The Women's Hockey Team, although inside the top ten, missed out on qualifying due to a number of their top players being called away for Representative obligations (socially, they received an award for the best blue eye liner at the roller disco).

The Rugby Union side competed with determination and spirit and put in a superb effort! The loss of some players to injury hindered their chances.

The killers of Karate scored a gold in Kyu grade thanks to Damon Smallman and his crew. We are still waiting to receive the final results. (Confused, me too Ed.)

As for the Golfers, apart from their attention getting efforts on the first night in the caravan park, Michael Owen and Jimmy Dau placed equal third while Natalie Ritter took out the Women's individual game, finishing with an 86 and beating second placed Christie Livermore of Sydney Uni by 2 strokes - what a fantastic performance!

Both golf and karate will compete later in the year at a separate intervarsity competition.

The Women's Netball team lost a semi final battle to be placed an admirable fourth. The girls performed well despite some of their star players being absent. Loren Morgan gained herself a seat on the Merit Team in the position of WA/WD. Congratas!

The Men's Touch side performed exceptionally well throughout the entire week. At the end of the round games they had scored up to 30 tries whilst only conceding 3. In a close semi final against Canberra the adrenaline was running high as they took the game into extra time, although they were unlucky to go down 4 tries to 3 in a drop off situation. Aaron Bolte performed well all week to gain his spot in the Merit Team.

The Women's Touch side provided a gallant effort considering some of their key players had representative obligations and others were detained by a spread of the flu. An overall eighth position proved the girls to be strong fighters despite their lack of numbers.

The Mixed Touch side made its debut performance in fine form. With wins topping eleven nil it proved that in the future it will be a side to look out for. The mixed side finished just outside the top ten in a good team effort.

All in all, The University of Newcastle squad proved to be excellent ambassadors and should feel proud of the way they performed and behaved (even the guy in the dress), on and off the field. We gave all the Eastern Confencers a run for their money and will do even better at the Australian University Games.

For those readers looking for more news from the Eastern Conference Games, please read the next edition of OPUS.
A WEEK IN WAGGA WAGGA - A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE
by Renee Valentine, Women's Soccer Team

While most Uni students were sound asleep nursing hangovers from post exam celebrations, a minority of Newcastle University students were on their way to the quaint country destination of Wagga Wagga.

I was one of those privileged students, selected to play in the best Women's soccer team Newcastle has ever seen. Anticipation for the Games had been building for weeks leading up to the trip and all of the way to Wagga there was a feeling of sheer excitement.

Excitement quickly turned to disappointment when we arrived and saw the fields that we would be playing on for the next few days. I don't know what the facilities were like for other sports, but the soccer fields were ordinary. This was a disappointment for us.

We played on fields that either had three sets of markings or none at all. Not to mention the mud. However, being knee deep in mud did not deter us from proceeding through our round undefeated.

Then there was the night life - nothing to complain about there. What better way to forget about the aches and pains of a few games of soccer than to enjoy a few drinks with your team mates and fellow Newcastle comrades, followed by more drinks, and then... a few more.

On the final night there was a "chant off" between all of the universities. It was an incredible thing to be part of. Screaming at the top of your lungs with what little voice you had left - NEWCASTLE! NEWCASTLE!

It was reminiscent of the reception the Knights received upon arrival back to Newcastle after winning the Grand Final last year. For me, that moment epitomised ECG - a bunch of sore, happily inebriated students vying for the recognition of representing "the-Most-Proud-University".

ECG is always an incredible experience. I find it difficult to express to anyone who has never been to a Conference Games the emotions and intensity of the week. And now, I only have this to say: it certainly is going to be a treat playing on "real" fields at the Australian University Games. We're going to Melbourne!

The Sports Union invites you to a FREE GAME* of
SQUASH or TENNIS
at the University Squash and Tennis Pavilion.
Your Game must be played between 7.00am and 3.00pm.
Come and have a look at the range of Sports Clothing available at the Pavilion.
Please call 4921 8850 or ext. 8850 if calling from campus and book a court.
Limit one per student

*This does not include hire of equipment (but it's extremely cheap to hire)
THE 1998 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES
27 September - 2 October, 1998

HOSTS: MONASH UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.

The Australian University Sports, 1998 Australian University Games are a major multi-sport event, in which over 5,500 university students from across Australia represent their respective universities in a variety of team and individual sports. Competition, camaraderie and fun make the Australian University Games an event that, in its five short years, most university athletes aspire to compete in.

Contact the Sports Union office or check out the AUG web page for more details:
http://www.unigames.unimelb.edu.au/mainmenu.htm

1998 CAMPUS SCAMPER - Wednesday 19 August - 12.30pm start
Run - 5.5km Walk - 3km

Check the Starting Point, Course Map and Register as a Participant before the Campus Scamper at the Sports Union Office, Sports & Aquatic Centre: The Forum.

1998 COLLEGE REGATTA
hosted by the NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB - SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 10.00AM

The regatta will consist of men's, women's and mixed fours and will be a knock-out/round robin/race type of structure. All points go towards the Inter-collegiate point score.

Contact: Liz Allwright 4981 9867, Jim Bardakos 4967 3350, Louise Tierney ext 1302 - Edwards Hall or your college Boat Captain

The Water Ski Club, in conjunction with the Sports Union, University Union and Students' Association, have arranged for a social function which should be excellent!

There are opportunities for ALL Clubs (Sports and NUSA) to raise some funds, as well as have a wild time. The event takes place in early September. For more details please contact Daniel at: danielblackmore@hotmail.com

FIXTURES

A note to all Sports Union club officials - please let the Editor know when and where your teams are playing. Training and partying so we can help you publicise your Club's efforts.

Newcastle Men's Hockey Association
Newcastle Rugby Union Inc
Men's Soccer
Newcastle Women's Rugby Union

Sun 2 August - 4.30pm Solar @ South
University v South
Sat 8 August - 4.00pm University v Tigers
University v Hamilton

Sat 8 August - 3.30pm
University v Easte
University v No.1 Oval

Sunday 9 August - Unlimited
University v Swansea
University v Waratahs

Sat 15 August - night game
University v No.1 Oval

NOW AVAILABLE:
ALL NEW SPORTS UNION CLOTHING.

Looking for some damn fine Club & SU Clothing at an excellent price, then visit the Pavilion and get sized up (contact Lisa on 4921 6960).

Current Prices:
Caps $5
Polo Shirts $17
Track Pants $26
Jackets $46

THE UNIVERSITY SQUASH AND TENNIS PAVILION

Whether you are looking for a tasty & healthy pastry, a muffin for morning tea, or a full meal at lunch or before heading home for the evening, we have a range of foods that will tempt your taste buds.

Hours of Operation
Mon - Fri 7.00am - 9.00pm
Sat & Sun 7.30am - 8.00pm
Phone: (02) 4921 6874

RUMBLINGS AT THE FORUM

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Contribution Deadlines:
no.5 - 19 August
no.6 - 9 September
no.7 - 14 October

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