A warm welcome to all new students and staff to the University as well as to our returning members. Backpage is the Sports Union's newsletter which is published to keep the university community informed about upcoming events, how our university teams and athletes have fared in various sporting events and about sporting developments on campus. This edition looks at the performances of our teams in the Adrenalin Games held in Victoria, the Australian University Water Ski Championships held in Wagga Wagga and... read below.

A large amount of basic information about sport on campus is contained in the 1999 Sport & Recreation Handbook (features one of our climbers on the cover) which was distributed during Orientation. The handbook is a very useful sporting reference in convenient A5 size. If you haven't obtained a copy, you can do so from the Sports Union office (upstairs in the Forum) and from the Squash & Tennis Centre and Contact in the Shortland Union.

The 1999 Eastern Australia University Games promise to be a mini Olympiad when they take place in Sydney between the 5th and 9th July. With 29 different sports and around 5,000 athletes from 27 different universities, the games will be the biggest ever held.

The Games were announced today by the University of Western Sydney Macarthur Sports Association and the major sponsor, the Motor Accident Authority (MAA), which also handed over a sponsorship cheque to the organizers.

"The University Games will give Sydney an early taste of the 2000 Olympics", Shane Alvisio, Executive Officer of UWS Macarthur Sports Association, said at today's launch. "Some of Australia’s elite athletes will take part in a huge cross section of able bodied, disabled and mature age events including men and women's rugby, archery, wheelchair tennis, ten pin bowling, athletics, gridiron, Tae Kwon Do and even the new sporting sensation Ultimate Frisbee".

Fiona Hanes, an Australian Softball Team and Olympic Athlete Program member, was on hand to sing the praises of the University Games experience in building sporting excellence in Australia.

And with more than 125,000 young people between the ages of 18 and 25 attending the affiliated universities, the group most at risk of injury in car crashes, the Games are a perfect opportunity to promote a safe driving message and feature the MAA's tag line "YOU ONLY GET ONE BODY, DRIVE SAFELY".

Branka Pupovac, one of the MAA's Paralympian athletes and a world ranking wheelchair tennis player joined today's launch to hand over the sponsorship cheque and to emphasise the Games' safe driving message. "Sport is a great way to catch the attention of a young audience", she said, "and these Games will promote safety at every event and reinforce the message at social events through breath testing and rewards for car pooling".
Inaugural Hunter Region Sporting Organisation of the Year

and the winner is......

YOUR SPORTS UNION !!!

There are many benefits that flow from sporting activity. These benefits are made possible through participation in well managed, appropriately structured sporting experiences that provide the foundation for lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity.

In the Hunter Region, NSW Sport and Recreation, the Hunter Academy of Sport, Newcastle Tourism and the Australian Society of Sports Administrators combined efforts and initiated the Hunter Region Sports Awards to recognise the enormous involvement that volunteers and sponsors contribute to put sport “on the park”.

HUNTER Sport Scene Vol 6. No. 2 December 1998

The inaugural Hunter region Sports Awards were presented on 10 November 1998. There were 7 categories with 3 finalists named in each category. The University of Newcastle Sports Union was announced as the winner of the Sporting Organisation of the Year category.

This was a fitting recognition of the work and achievements of the Sports Union over the past 40 years in the following important areas:

1 Facilities - The Sports Union has been responsible for the development of sporting facilities on campus which are among the finest of any university in the country.

2 Participation - The Sports Union encourages widespread participation in sport and physical recreation and financial and administrative support for a large number of diverse sporting clubs.

3 Minority Sports - The Sports Union provides support and encouragement for a diverse range of minor sports which would otherwise have little or no representation in the Hunter region. For example, kendo, fencing, underwater hockey....

4 Education - The Sports Union encourages university sporting club officials to attend formal courses in sport related disciplines including sports administration, coaching, umpiring, first aid, etc and pays the course fees. Part of the Sports Union’s function is to assist university student volunteers, who take on official positions in university sporting clubs, acquire the skills necessary to carry out their roles.

5 Excellence - The Sports Union recognises and promotes excellence in all facets of sport through its awards and financial assistance programs.

All present and past Sports Union and sporting club officials can be justly proud of their excellent sporting achievements and contribution. For members of the University who may not be aware of the extent of the work of the Sports Union, its contribution and sporting achievements have recently been documented in Blood & Bandages, the superb 202 page history of the University’s Sports Union, published in 1996.

Another finalist at the Awards was our Executive Officer, Adrian Iakin, who nominated in the category of Sports Administrator of the Year. Adrian has been our Sports Administrator for 15 years and this recognition is certainly well deserved!

Congratulations Adrian
No one knew what to expect of the inaugural "Adrenalin Sports" Championships. Held near Eildon in Victoria, student climbers, paddlers and mountainbikers competed together for the first time - a feat of organisation for our Monash Uni hosts and a splendid social time for us! Nine competitors made the big trip south to represent the University of Newcastle, six in mountainbiking, one in climbing and two in both disciplines. Temperatures topped 40 degrees towards the end of the week but evenings at the pub across the Goulbum River from our campsite were balmy. Between events we cooled off in the river and team members jumped at the chance to lilo the rapids of the slalom course once the paddling competition was over! As a relatively small uni without paddlers to boost our score, we were stoked to come fourth on points of the 19 universities competing, get some good results in the climbing and win the mountainbiking overall.

by Lisa Cutfield

PARTICIPANTS:

MOUNTAINBIKING:
Helen Green - second overall woman mountainbiker, fourth in cross-country, second in downhill, first in dirt criterium
Lisa Cutfield - third overall woman mountainbiker, second in cross-country, third in downhill
Andrew Daniel - first in dirt criterium
Aaron Clausen
Barney Lund
Alex King
Brad Lidster ("Stackman")

CLIMBING:
Jason Piper - third in speed climbing competition, (we think)
Brad Lidster - first in intermediate men's bouldering competition
Lisa Cutfield - first in intermediate women's onsight competition, first in intermediate women's bouldering competition

by Lisa Cutfield
WHAT YOUR SPORTS UNION GIVES YOU...

INSURANCE - 24 hour a day national cover provided for students who sustain injuries in campus related activities and for work experience undertaken as a compulsory component of a course.

SUBSIDIES - students selected in National, Australian Country, State and Australian University teams are eligible to receive grants to assist with expenses - financial support for travel available to students for inter-university competitions - FORUM discounts available to all students and in addition members of Sports Union clubs receive extra discounts - financial support provided for a range of sports related accreditation courses including ASSA courses, First Aid, Sports Administration.

- FACILITIES - Some of the finest university sporting facilities in Australia have been constructed by the Sports Union to serve the health/fitness needs of students - The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre A WORLD CLASS COMPLEX; Tennis Court Complex - 4 synthetic grass tennis courts, 4 hardcourt tennis/netball courts, an outdoor basketball court; Squash Pavilion 6 squash courts, an indoor golf driving range, sport shop, change room facilities, table tennis, a fully serviced club committee room, the Harry Bradford Lounge, hire equipment; Sportsfields - 5 ovals, four cricket wickets, practice wickets, warm-up area, athletics track, baseball diamond; Ray Watt Oval new Pavilion - construction soon to begin; Raymond Terrace Aquatic Centre;

SPORTING AWARDS - Students have the opportunity to be awarded Blues for excellence in sport, Colours for outstanding administration of a club and to be selected as Sportsperson-of-the-Year;

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES - The Campus Scamper, the Vice-Chancellor’s Regatta, the Blues Dinner; inter-collegiate assistance;

RECREATION COURSES - Senior First Aid, Boxercise Bronze Medallion, Lunchtime Runs, Belly Dancing, Golf, Lunchtime Walks, Sunrise Walks, Sports Photography, Surfing, Sunset Walks, Stress Management, Tai Chi, Yoga, Self Defence for Women;

SOCIAL SPORTS - including Archery, Touch Football, Netball, Volleyball, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee;

CLUBS - Over 30! including Archery, Baseball, Basketball, Boat, Cricket, Fencing, Golf, Hockey Men, Hockey Women, Ju Jutsu, Judo, Karate, Kendo, La Pena, Mountain Biking, Mountaineering, NUDES, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer Men, Soccer Women, Squash, Surfriderz, Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Underwater Hockey and Water Ski;

PARTICIPATION IN SPORTING EVENTS; - including the Australian University Games, the Eastern Conference Games, Australian University Championships, Eastern Conference Championships, World University Student Games (Summer and Winter), Inter City Challenges, Interfaculty Challenges,

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT...but wait!!!!! there’s more.........
WHAT VOLUNTARY STUDENT UNIONISM WILL GIVE YOU...
recently the Waterski club brought together a dozen fine men and women for a journey of transformation. Their destination was Lake Albert, Wagga Wagga. Their aim? Well the aim was to meet a whole new bunch of great people and compete for the Newcastle University so that we could be covered in glory. We did both. The story that unfolds takes place over seven magnificent days. The story begins on a lovely Sunday morning at 7.00am. We slip into the brightest T-shirts that the world had ever witnessed and from that moment onwards we were known as the “Smurfs”.

We pile into the trendy Sports Union minibus with a trailer packed to the brim. The essentials are in there, the skis, the wetsuits, and of course, Sticky’s makeup. In a loud chorus of singing we make our way to Wagga, stopping occasionally for the essentials, petrol, maccas and of course, more makeup.

After a fun, but thankfully, non-eventful trip we arrive at our home for the next seven days. We were one of the first Unis there which meant we had the pick of camp sites. Up went our tents and up went our much appreciated Sports Union/Club marquee. This became a great social spot and gave us much needed shade in the sun filled days that followed. The first night was the welcome BBQ and boy were we welcomed!! The beer flowed, the introductions made, the tournament had begun!!

Site maintenance on the next day where we were introduced to what the locals had to offer. And what do you know? As the Eastern Conference Games team discovered last year, they have a few pubs there to wet the ol’ whistle. We also attacked the local water slide and diving boards to get much needed practice for our trick ski and wake board runs. The day progressed nicely, as did all the social events for the week.

The day after was given over to qualifying and practice for all those skiers who needed it. We were able to put together quite a good team consisting of five men (David, Chris, Andrew, Russell and Dan) and three women (Natasha, Nadine and Anna Marie). We also had a top notch wake board team of David, Dan, Anna Marie and Natalie. As the qualifying progressed with both Nadine and Russell landing their first ever jumps, we began to realise that we had a strong chance of winning these championships.

But the whole point of this trip was to compete so onwards and upwards. Saturday was finals day. This was it, time to pull out every last reserve of energy we had. To start off we had the wake boarding. The women were consistent and put in solid runs as did the men’s team with Dave getting third in the men’s wake board comp. The women’s slalom preliminaries were held in less than ideal conditions but thankfully the finals produced great conditions so that they could really show their style. Natasha of Newcastle, in her first ever championships, grabbed second place. All the men performed well with Dave getting a fourth against some great skiers. Tricks went very well with Natasha and Nadine getting first and second respectively. Andy, aka Pommy, went extremely well and grabbed third in men’s tricks with both David and Chris very close behind. The jumps were great to watch with both Pommy and David getting some great distance.

The overall results were kept a secret until the presentation dinner. We all clambered onto a bus and headed for the local RSL club where we wined and did a little bit of dining in anticipation for the results - it was going to be close. In memory of Travis Kearney, our President for 1998, we observed a minute’s silence, followed by a drink to his memory.

Dinner was followed by some dancing, not to mention a lot of prancing before it was time for the awards. First were the social awards, these are always a fun thing to witness as all the gossip catches up with us and invariably leads to a few red faces but a whole lot of laughter. Then came the Tournament results. Individual efforts were read, trophies given out and cheers echoed from the crowd. Time for the team results. There were a total of twelve universities present at these Championships. We went extremely well.

1st place - Women’s Team Overall
2nd place - Men’s Team Overall
1st place - Wakeboard Competition
They read out the names from the bottom. They reached third and still Newcastle hadn’t been called, darn this was going to be close. The scores for first and second were read out, first place won by a tiny 300 points (a couple of slalom buoys or someone landing a jump). We grabbed second. Everyone should be extremely proud of this achievement, it was a great team effort with everyone contributing. Next year we’ll get first, and we’ll do it in style.

You can find out more about the Waterski Club, and even get involved, by phoning Paul Everingham on 4965 4642 or email pablo@fl.net.au.

by Daniel Blackmore

Water Ski Team: (L-R Top) - Natalie Miller, Russell Wellings, Nadine Ash, Chris Boden, Natasha Adam, David Smith.
(L-R Bottom) - Andrew Price, Daniel Blackmore, Anne-Marie Noonan.

UNIVERSITY WORLD CUP SOCCER

The University Sports Union is running a “University World Cup” and is looking for national teams willing to compete for their countries’ honour. The tournament will be held at University No. 1 Oval every Wednesday from April 28th with the final and 3rd /4th Playoff being held on the 26th May. Matches will be played between 4pm and 10pm.

The tournament will consist of two pools of four nations with the top two teams in each pool qualifying for the semi-finals. The tournament will be conducted according to FIFA rules and there will be qualified referees officiating every game. The winning nation will receive a “World Cup” trophy and the tournament will become an annual event.

Places for the World Cup (8 teams) are filling fast with four countries already confirmed - Australia, Norway, Sweden, and the USA. All players must be students or staff, must wear soccer boots and shinpads, and each country must be in a common playing strip.

For more information and to register call Lisa or Mick at the Sports Union on 4921 6960.

STUDENT ORGANISATIONS FORUM ASSISTING STUDENTS - OR...

SOFAS

The four student focused organisations on Campus have created the Student Organisations Forum Assisting Students. For many years the Newcastle University Students’ Association, The University Union, the Newcastle University Postgraduate Students’ Association and the Sports Union have mostly gone their own way and done all their own self promotion. 1999 has seen all of us get together to promote all the excellent things we do. One of the main focus points for the SOFAS group is the fight against Anti Student Unionism. Some people call this Voluntary Student Unionism, or VSU, but I think that it’s better called what it is - anti student! There are a number of serious implications to you and your University if the legislation is adopted, so be aware of the arguments for and against VSU and what’s being done to maintain the current high standards. Keep an eye out for SOFAS activities throughout the year and we hope you enjoy your new magnet!
Sports Union
Results and Events

MONEY FOR JAM?? Get fit, get active, get a sporting life and SAVE!! Yes you can have it all. The Sports Union is encouraging students to get fit and also diversify their sporting interests by offering a $20.00 subsidy to any student member of a Sports Union club who purchases a 3-month or longer program at the Forum. It is almost too good to be true. Here’s what you need to do:
1) Join a Sports Union club and keep the receipt.
2) sign up at the Forum for a 3-month Program (or longer) and keep the receipt.
3) bring your receipts to Lisa at the Sports Union Office to get your $20.00 subsidy.

EASY!

NOMINATIONS for Blues, Colours and Sports Person of the Year close on Wednesday 31 March 1999. Conditions apply. For information contact Lesley at the Sports Union on 4921 6962.

Applications for University Sports Scholarships close on Thursday 1 April 1999. Conditions apply. For information contact the University Scholarships section 4921 6539.

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**STOP PRESS**

Chris Cockburn, Newcastle Uni student, Water Ski Club member and all round good guy recently placed 2nd in the Trick section of the Moomba Water Ski Championships. This was against the world’s best. Well done Chris!

MARTIN KELLY, Gold medallist at the Australian University Games in 1998, has been competing in a number of international Judo events in Europe and has been performing very creditably. Martin finished in 9th place in the Austrian Judo Open last month and then placed 9th at the World Masters in Munich Germany two weeks later.

INDOOR GOLF DRIVING RANGE: On Court #4 of the Squash and Tennis Pavilion the Sports Union has built an all weather indoor golf practicing range. As the Pavilion is open 8.30 am to 10.30 p.m., there’s plenty of time to come down and whack a few! It’s $5 a bucket of balls (member price) and please come down and have a look - it’s pretty schmick! Call 4921 8850 for bookings.

SQUASH AND TENNIS PAVILION: The Sports Union has recently undertaken a series of refurbishments for the Pavilion, We’re upgrading the courts (we brought in the best lighting in Newcastle last year!), redoing the Change Rooms, refreshing the tennis courts and restructuring the Sports Shop. We apologise for any possible inconveniences, but when you see it when it’s done, you will not mind at all! Don’t forget that we’re offering cheap morning session prices extended through till 3.00pm. Once again, call the Pavilion on 4921 8850 for further information.

CLASSES OF INSTRUCTION AND SOCIAL SPORTS: We’re running an extensive range of courses and sports, and if you’d like to know more, grab a copy of our excellently descriptive Recreation Handbook or call the Sports Union at 4921 6960.

TRAINING: This University has over 3000 members a week participating in sport at all levels. If you’d like to see these fine athletes training right here on Campus give the Program Manager a call on 4921 6963. Here’s a brief example of who is out there and what they are doing:

- **Rugby:** Tuesday and Thursdays 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. on #1 Oval
- **Mens Soccer:** Tuesday and Thursdays 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. on #1 Oval
- **Womens Soccer:** Tuesdays and Fridays 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. on #2 Oval
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** Mondays and Wednesdays Times 8.00 - 10.00 #2 and #1
- **League:** Mondays and Wednesdays 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. on #2 Oval

and there’s loads more...

The Sports Union web page, which contains back issues of Backpage, can be found at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/assoc/su/