With the start of another season we find our club has grown stronger over the off season. After fielding only one side last year, the club is proud that it is now fielding two very formidable sides. The new year has also brought about a change in competitions from playing in the local Lower Hunter comp to participation in the state wide NSW Tertiary competition. In this comp we will pit our strength against various other uni's throughout NSW.

After a couple of trial games the season began with a home game against Sydney Uni. Although being totally under prepared, expectations were surpassed with a great 16/14 win. A greater winning margin was put down to a severe lack of fitness. Although the personnel this year includes a lot of new faces, it was the old hands who led the way for the win with solid performances from Paul McKew, Geoff O'Dell and Rexy Cooke.

A washed out game against Cumberland College was followed by a game against UWS Macarthur in both grades at home and in terrible conditions. With our second side being basically thrown together thirty minutes before the game, the resulting 16 - 8 victory was nothing short of fantastic. It just goes to show what can be achieved with enthusiasm, as a lot of the players were having their first ever game of rugby league. Player points were awarded to Ash Pitken, former rah rah Mick Bourke and to our Sydney connection Dominic Wardlaw. Although the score was the same, the result, unfortunately, was reversed in the first grade match. In a tight game that was only lost towards the end of time, the seahorses went down trying in a game that was played in pouring rain. Macarthur's size in the forwards eventually proved to be the difference. Player points went to Bill Kearsey, Shane Gregory and once again to paddles McKew.

The next week-end saw us travel to Sydney to take part in the annual trials for selection in state teams which could eventuate in representing the state against Queensland at Suncorp stadium as a prelim to the third State of Origin, and maybe selection in the Australian Tertiary side which tours Great Britain for a month in October. After the first day's flap we had four guys who were invited to participate the next day in the Possibles vs Probables. Dave Wilks was a bolter along with Bob Kearsey, Shane Gregory and the club's oldest player, Matt Sharman. From this match Matt and Shane gained selection in the NSW Residents Side and out of a squad of twenty, both were invited to participate in a selection trial in Sydney with and against other students currently holding contracts with ARL First Division clubs. This is an achievement the club is very proud of, and we wish to congratulate both players on their selection and the best of luck in the upcoming trial.

Our next fixture took us to Five Dock Park in Sydney to take on UTS in reggies and UNSW in firsts. Unfortunately, UNSW couldn't field a team against us and we got the points by forfeit. We'll take them anyway we can get them. Reggies ran out and didn't show the commitment needed to beat the top of the ladder UTS team. We certainly showed a willingness to run the ball but unless you're prepared to tackle you can't win tough matches. Players points went to big Luke Baker, Jason White and last year's missing man, Mick Drum.

UPCOMING GAMES
22-6-99 vs Nepean
at home on Uni No. 2 ground
starting 1:45pm

29-6-99 vs Canberra Uni
at Canberra

5-7-99 vs ACU
at home on Uni No. 1 ground
starting at 1:45pm.
LET’S GET CRAZY

To coin a popular music symbol ... “let’s get crazy, let’s go nuts!”

The Sports Union invites you to go crazy this Winter by taking advantage of the many Classes of Instruction and Social Sports available over these chilly months. Over the next two weeks the Sports Union will be surveying students and staff to find out what you’re doing, and what you’d like to be doing more of! So apart from our 30 or so Clubs, our existing comprehensive range of classes and social sports, we’d like to broaden our horizons by bringing in some new ideas and activities.

Let us know what you’d like, and what time you’d like to do it. If you are not asked to complete a survey sheet, give me a call on 49216963 (ext 6963) and one will be sent out to you. We’ll even email you one if this is easier.

Classes of Instruction: Why not try our new massage class, put on that wetsuit and give surfing a go, learn how to master a mountain bike, stretch your cares away with Sharon in her Posture and Flexibility class, bend your body with yoga, wobble your middle bits with belly dancing or shoot your arrows straight and true! On the extremely functional side, the Sports Union runs a Bronze Medallion course, along with regular First Aid and Sports Administration classes to help you out in many ways. If you’re a member of a Sports Union Club you may be eligible to attend these for free!

Nearly forgot, we’d like to run a lunch time Tai Chi class near the Chancellery. When you walk across Campus you may see a mountain bike, stretch your cares away with Sharon in her Posture and Flexibility class, bend your body with yoga, wobble your middle bits with belly dancing or shoot your arrows straight and true! On the extremely functional side, the Sports Union runs a Bronze Medallion course, along with regular First Aid and Sports Administration classes to help you out in many ways. If you’re a member of a Sports Union Club you may be eligible to attend these for free!

Office bearers elected for 1999 are:

President: Ian Webster
Honorary Secretary: Trevor John
Honorary Treasurer: Hugh Floyer

The remainder of the Sports Union Executive will be elected at the next Committee meeting on 26 May 1999.

After 6 years as President, Prof John Fryer is handing the seahorse reigns to Ian Webster. Meet the new President in next month’s Backpage.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY SPORT

At its recent Annual General Meeting, Australian University Sport members elected Mr John White, Campus Director of Monash University’s Caulfield and Peninsula Campuses, as the new President of Australian University Sport.

As Chair of the Management Committee of the extremely successful 1998 Australian University Games, Mr White saw at close hand the enormous potential of Australian University sport. “University sport epitomises the strong traditions of University life through success from hard work, camaraderie and spirit of co-operation. The fact that 51 Australian University campuses are members of Australian University Sport highlights the significant importance that universities place on University sport” said Mr White.

An avid former sport participant, coach and current administrator, Mr White is no stranger to sport. “I believe that sport is central to achieving a diverse culture at the University campus level; it adds that extra dimension to study and provides students with valuable experiences that can’t be obtained in a lecture theatre.”

As the new Australian University Sport President, Mr White aims to highlight the importance of sport not only to students but right through to Vice Chancellors, Registrars and senior staff of all universities. “It is important to promote and encourage increased student participation in sport and recreation activities within universities as well as opportunities for regional, national and international student competition.”
**HEL AMENDMENT BILL UPDATE**

The Sports Union sent a submission to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education Legislation Committee which detailed numerous cogent reasons why the Higher Education Legislation (HEL) should not be enacted. Presentations to the Senate Committee by numerous ‘peak’ bodies, including the Australian Vice Chancellor’s Committee and Australian University Sport, were heard on 7th May 1999. The Senate Committee will report its findings to the Senate on 25 May. The Member for Newcastle, Mr Allan Morris, speaking against the bill in the Lower House at the second reading on 12 May 1999, outlined the negative impact the legislation will have on the University of Newcastle.

As the Senate is scheduled to debate and vote on the bill on 22 June 1999, there is still time to write to Senator Tierney to express your opposition and concern. Indeed, based on the grilling Senator Tierney gave the AVCC in the Senate Committee hearing on why the AVCC had NOT attempted to contact him to express its concern over the legislation earlier this year, it is your duty to inform him and other senators of your opposition.

Please write to Senator John Tierney at:

251 Wharf Road, Newcastle 2300
Fax 02 - 4929 3595 or
Email: senator.tierney@aph.gov.au

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**ON THE PITCH WITH**

When he’s not in his full time role with Lake Macquarie City Council, Vic Levi is the University Council representative on the Sports Union Executive. He’s also a member of the University Council, a former Warden of Convocation, a current member of the Convocation Management Board, President of the Friends of the University, a life member of the University Union and a current Fellow and former President of Board of Governors of International House.

So when does Vic find time for his real passion - SPORT? We bowled a few spinners at Vic and here’s what we found out.

**What did you study at Newcastle?**

Arts. I graduated with a BA in 1973 after five years of part-time study, majoring in English and History (I worked as a journalist with The Newcastle Sun in those days).

**What involvement did you have with sport while you were studying?**

I played first grade cricket for University for five years and was President of the Cricket Club for four. I opened the batting and occasionally kept wickets.

**How about personal achievements or sporting highlights?**

I was awarded a University Colour for services to cricket. Opened the batting in first grade with my eldest son, Christopher, for the Cardiff-Boolaroo club. I also helped form the Newcastle branch of the Lord’s Taverners (the first in Australia outside the capitals) and still hold the position of Chairman.

**What changes to campus sports have you seen?**

Facilities for University sports people have improved dramatically. No. 1 Oval had just been made ready when I began playing for University. We now have five grounds plus The Forum.

**Do you watch much sport on television?**

Heaps, on both free-to-air and Fox Sport. Mainly cricket, rugby league, rugby union, golf, soccer and tennis - with a little grid iron and basketball thrown in!

**What Australian team or individual do you most admire?**

The Australian Cricket team and Tubby Taylor. I’m also a devoted Knights Rugby League Club member.

**Are you playing any sport at the moment?**

Yes. Golf every Saturday and as many other days as possible. I’ve now blown out to a 19 handicap. I also love fishing, especially fly fishing.

**So, who will win the current World Cup of Cricket?**

Australia, with South Africa the big danger.

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**EASTERN AUSTRALIA UNIVERSITY GAMES (EAUG)**

The University of Newcastle Sports Union will send its largest ever representative team away next month to compete in the Eastern Australia University Games (EAUG). The Games, to be hosted by the University of Western Sydney from July 5-9, will be the biggest ever with thirty sports represented. The Sports Union will be sending athletes in twenty five of these thirty sports.

Over two hundred University of Newcastle athletes will make their way down to Sydney in an attempt to win gold, and qualify for the prestigious Australian University Games, to be held in Perth in late September.

For the first time the University of Newcastle will be sending teams in AFL, Archery, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee, and hopefully a Gridiron team.

Newcastle University will again be looking for some excellent results after finishing sixth at last year’s games. The squash and tennis teams, which both secured gold last year, will no doubt be in medals contention, as will 1998 silver medallists the Men’s Soccer team. Men’s & Women’s Basketball, Men’s & Women’s Touch, and the Women’s Soccer team all look strong on paper. Also look out for our athletics and swimming teams which are sending their biggest and most talented squad ever.

Keep reading future issues of Backpage for a full report on the Games, highlights of the tournament, and selections for EAUG Merit Teams.

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*Backpage*
SOCIAL GOLF DAY: It’s on again and all staff and students are invited to swing a club with us at Charlestown Golf Club on Sunday July 18. Fun, prizes, green fees and a barbeque are all included for just $30. Tee off is at 1pm. Register your team by phoning Lisa on 4921 6960.

WE’LL GIVE YOU $20 off a program at The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre. If you’re a member of a Sports Union Club, just sign up for a 3 month (or longer) program at The Forum and we’ll give you a $20 subsidy. Just bring your receipt to Lisa at the Sports Union office to claim your subsidy. Get active and get twenty bucks off!

END OF RUGBY ROUND ONE: It’s been an eventful start to the season for Uni Rugby. Fourth grade have gone through a couple of coaches, third grade are charging ahead, second grade are close but still keep coming up short when it counts, and first grade are too busy losing players to injury and representative teams to have a shot at a final five place. The girls are fine tuning their game in order to beat Hamilton, the run away leaders in their competition.

JUNE FIXTURES

Soccer - Womens Division A
June 6: Uni v Kurri Kurri at Ray Watt Oval
June 20: Uni v Argenton at Ray Watt Oval
June 27: Uni v Garden Suburb at Lance York Oval
Start: 10.30am.

Soccer - Mens 1st Division
June 6: Uni v New Lambton at Edden Oval
June 13: Uni v Westlakes at Uni No.1 Oval
June 20: Uni v Swansea at Chapman Oval
June 27: Uni v Nelson Bay at Uni No.1 Oval
3rd Grade: 11.45am, 2nd Grade: 1.15pm, 1st Grade: 3pm.

Rugby Union - Mens 1st Division
June 5: Uni v M/Carlton at Townsend Oval
June 19: Uni v Waratah at Uni No.1 Oval
June 26: Uni v Eastern Districts at Dangar Park
4th Grade: 11.20am, 3rd Grade: 12.30pm, 2nd Grade: 1.40pm, 1st Grade: 3pm.

Rugby League
June 22: Uni v Nepean at Uni No.2 Oval
July 5: Uni v ACU at Uni No.1 Oval
Tertiary Cup: 1.45pm

Baseball - 1st Grade
June 20: Uni v Toronto at Uni No.3 Oval
June 27: Uni v White Sox at Findlay Oval
July 11: Uni v Belmont at Uni No.3 Oval
3rd Grade: 10.00am, 2nd Grade: 12.15pm, 1st Grade: 2.30pm