At this year's Blues Dinner, three Blues, four Colours and the 1998 Sportsperson-of-the-Year award were presented. Finalists for the Sportsperson-of-the-Year award included - Sueanne Trindall, who represented Australian in Athletics at the Blind World Championships held in Spain, and Robert Preston, winner of the Under 21 Australian Short Course Orienteering Championship who is ranked No. 1 in NSW in Orienteering in the Under 21 Class and No. 17 in the Australian Open Class. Winner of the award was Martin Kelly, a Bachelor of Science graduate, who is currently undertaking a Ph.D in Chemistry. Martin is a Judo player who in 1998 was ranked No.1 in Australia in the Under 100kg Division. Some of his sporting achievements during 1998 included winning the ACT International Open Tournament, competing with the national Australian team at the Oceanic Championships held in Western Samoa where he placed third (losing only to the eventual winner who is ranked ninth in the world) and placing fifth at the US Open.

Students receiving Blues for outstanding sporting ability whilst representing the University were Damon Smallman and Martin Phillips for Karate and Robert Preston for Orienteering.

Colours were awarded to Andrew Baker (Cricket Club), Leon Berghout (Mountaineering Club), Leon Burwell (Basketball Club), Michael Ewin (Water Ski Club) and Peter Sweeney (Men's Hockey Club) for their long and outstanding service to their University sporting clubs in the area of sports administration.

As this is the final edition of Backpage for 1999, the Sports Union and editorial staff take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their input over the year and to wish all students the very best in their exams. Good luck.
Athletics
Tae Kwon Do

Early as a gold prospect by beating Northern Conference finishing fifth. The team had some excellent wins against Edith Cowan, Catholic could not make the final. Kelly Cunningham also threw well in the games. The team was too strong for the Australian Catholic Macquarie, Ballarat, Melbourne, and Monash in its pool. Parazanovic and Therese Nilsen raced well in the 1500m, 800m, 5000m, and 10000 metres. The large contingent of overseas students representing Universities and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and many taking the time to support fellow students in other sports. The large contingent of overseas students representing Newcastle will have some wonderful memories to take back home.

Medallists
Gold
Frazier Dowling – Athletics 800m
Glen Gillard – Golf
Ben Graham – Tae Kwon Do (Black Belt Welter Weight)
Glen Sedgman – Swimming 50m Breaststroke
Glen Sedgman – Swimming 100m Breaststroke
Glen Sedgman – Swimming 200m Breaststroke
Andrew Cairns – Swimming 200m Butterfly

Bronze
Swimming 4x50m Men’s Medley Relay
Swimming 4x100m Men’s Medley Relay

Green and Gold Teams
Leigh Pasfield – Women’s Hockey
Pal Borge – Men’s Soccer
Stuart McAteer – Men’s Soccer
Tony Majurovski – Men’s Soccer
Magnus Svendsen – Men’s Soccer
Gavin Ward – Swimming
Glen Sedgman – Swimming
Aaron Bolte – Men’s Touch
Sally Garis – Women’s Touch

Backpage 2
Once upon a time there were four spritely young lads who had in common a fondness for rowing. These four lads, all being students, took it upon themselves to attend the 1999 Australian Universities Rowing Regatta hosted by Melbourne University Boat Club in Ballarat to uphold the honour of their University. Securing their shells to the roof racks of a reluctant parent’s car, they travelled the winding 17 hours of freeway between the two fair cities stopping often to admire the scenery and take many photos.

The city of Ballarat greeted them with ill weather – strong winds and driving rain—but their hearts were not shaken and being of Novocastrian stock and built of sterner stuff than most they were not to be frightened by such trivialities. Unable to shake their strong resolve, the weather surrendered and the sun warmed their backs for the first day of competition. Here it was on Thursday that the four became two pairs and Michael Mooney and Damien Boyd challenged the nation’s best scullers in the Double Scull event.

New to this game but very enthusiastic the pairing finished a credible 5th in their heat meaning they would be required to race a repechage in order to advance in the competition. Likewise the duo of David Hanson and Marcus Umlauf, having been too fierceome for four of their allotted rivals in the coxless pair to even face at the start line, had narrowly (actually we got flogged) gone down to a Sydney pairing and would also race the repechage on Friday. Harnessing their collective strength and combining to produce an ‘oarsome foursome’, the lads took to the water with coxswain Lexie Gamble for the coxed four event.

Some say that they arrived late to the start, others disagree. Whatever the opinion held by the onlookers the referee deemed that their tardy appearance would earn them a false start penalty for the heat. Unperturbed by this obviously inaccurate judgement the lads took off to a flying start and led the race by half a length after just 15 strokes…. which was about the time they crossed out of their lane and smashed into the unwitting Deakin University crew in the next lane. Clearly unfamiliar with the Novocastrian style of rough house boat racing, the officials decided to disqualify the lads from the race in an unprecedented move which was obviously fuelled by a more sinister motivation. It has since been concluded, with the assistance of some ales, that had the lads been allowed to race they would have flogged the UTS crew, which sported three national representatives, forcing the NSW Institute of Sport to relocate to Newcastle which would be at too great an expense to the tax payer.

So, in another cost cutting measure by the State Government, they were disqualified.

Now this decision did not sit well with David so he decided to right this wrong in the best way he knew—on the water. Taking his scull, aptly named after the Greek God of Vengeance Nemesis—he rowed as he had never rowed before and, improving with each race, he won the B final of the Single Scull placing him seventh overall.

Now it was the turn of the double scull pairing of Mick and Damo, as they had come to be known, came charging home to take second in their B final placing 8th overall. Disappointed to be eliminated in their repechage the pair of David and Marcus finished 7th overall in the coxless pair.

And so it came to pass that the Rowing Squad of Newcastle University passed into Inter Varsity legend – not for their results although credible—but for their purple vinyl couch on which they sat to watch the last two days of competition. They all lived happily ever after.
Sports Union Results and Events

Newcastle Surfriding Invitational

On the 28th and 29th of September Newcastle University Surfriderz played host to over 70 hot surfers from up and down the eastern seaboard. The competition, held as a forerunner for the Eastern Conference Games next year attracted competitors in four divisions--Longboard, men’s and women’s, Shortboard, and Bodyboarding. Generous sponsorship by Kuta Lines, Utopia Optics, Balin and Buttnaked ensured that the competition would be fierce, as surfers fought for the huge prize pool.

Competition day dawned with a small swell and a sunny disposition. Everybody made their way to The Cliff, and the competition got under way. The first event to hit the surf and make the most of the early morning cleaner conditions was the men’s Stand-up. The twelve heats took place throughout most of the morning with the first two surfers in each heat progressing to round two next day. The onshore picked up during lunch, making conditions difficult for competitors. The ladies entered the water next for the semi final, braving the choppy 1–2 foot right handers. A strong sweep dragged competitors south away from the small right hand peak making it harder to catch four scoring waves.

Round two of the men’s Stand-up was quickly under way on the second, final day to get in as many heats as possible on the mid tide. As the business end of the competition drew closer, the Newcastle team started to show its domination of the men’s Shortboard with 13 of the 16 surfers in the quarter finals being from Newcastle.

The Longboarding semis took place shortly afterward, with the return of classic old style surfing. Manoeuvres such as soul arcs, nose rides, attempted head stands and even the classic budda sit came back into vogue for a couple of heats.

Reigning aussie title holder Sean (Smurf) Lancaster led the Newcastle charge in the first semi final tearing apart the one to two foot right handers with ease. Smurf and Simon Perrow knocked out the only remaining non Newcastle surfer Paul (Pat) O’Conner and Jezza Gentle, on their way to the final. The second semi was an all Newcastle affair, with Wayne Hudson and Tod Maxted knocking out Kerry Lloyd and Ben Fennell with some long rides.

The finals saw some hot surfing, with the men’s and women’s Shortboard competing for a year’s sponsorship contract from Utopia Optics, and prize packs from Kuta Lines and Butt Naked. Rhiannon Roland-Smith took out the girls final and Jezza Gentle took out the Longboarding final.

The long anticipated mens shortboard final was well worth the wait, with surfers ripping the blustery onshore conditions. The arrival of Mr Surfest himself, Terry McKenna, saw some terrific commentary for the numerous spectators who had gathered to watch. The champ (Smurf) just proved too good taking out a close final from Wayne Hudson, Simon Perrow and Tod Maxted.

After the rigorous activity of the two days, everybody met at the Newcastle Surf Life Saving club for the presentation. Overall the competition was a complete success, and next years ECG can only get bigger and better. Thanks must go to the NSA judges who ran the event smoothly and professionally, the sponsors and of course the competitors.

Cricket Season

The University of Newcastle Cricket Club ("UNCC") would like to hear from all student cricketers interested in playing in the current 1999/2000 season.

The Cricket Club is one of the leading University sporting clubs, and fields six teams across five grades in the strong Newcastle District competition. The Club is interested in attracting skilled cricketers for its First Grade team as well as students of varying standards for the more social lower grades. Specialised coaching is available to all members by the Club’s head coach.

Training is held every Tuesday/Thursday afternoon from 4.00pm at the practice nets on No.1 oval near the Squash and Tennis Pavilion. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact:

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