Welcome

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.

A lot of useful information about sport and recreation on campus is contained in the 2000 Sports Union Recreation Handbook (features one of our water skiers on the cover). The handbook is a very useful sporting reference in a convenient size. If you’d like a copy, you can get one from the Squash and Tennis Pavilion, Contact - Shortland Union and the Sports Union Office.

Eastern Australia Cluster Games

This year will see the Sports Union host the Eastern Australia Cluster Games from 26 to 28 April, just after Easter. Four sports will be contested - American Football, Ten Pin Bowling, Squash and Surfriding.

The University’s American Football Club is new on the scene and we’re happy that they’ve come on board and agreed to host. The level of dedication and determination of these sportspeople is admirable.

Ten Pin Bowling is a very popular sport with a broad range of people, and the event will be held at the AMF Centre here in sunny Mayfield.

The Squash Cluster event will profile our successful Squash Club, along with our recently refurbished Squash and Tennis Pavilion. Last year the Sports Union revamped the Pavilion, which now boasts the best squash court lighting in Newcastle. Squash competitors from around the State will play out a series of events at the facility and everyone’s invited to view the intense competition.

Our victorious Surfriderz Club (National University Champions) in conjunction with the Newcastle Surfing Association will host the Cluster Surfriding event. South Newcastle or the Cliff will be the venue for two days of hot surfing and we’re looking forward to sweeping the results again.

The Cluster is a nice cross section of Campus and non Campus based events and will encourage and foster new and more traditional sports within the University. The event will also showcase many of Newcastle’s best facilities and venues, along with showing the State and this place is a good place to visit.

Please call Chris Tola, Program Manager on 4921 6963 or email: yahoi@pacific-ocean.com for more details.

Orientation Week

This year an estimated 4,500 new students took time out of their busy O’ Week programme to visit a large number of displays and information desks in the University Union.

The Sports Union was well represented by most of the Clubs, who staged many innovative and awe inspiring displays. The highlight was surely Julian from our Archery Club splitting an apple with an arrow fired from his bow INSIDE the Brennan Room.

All Clubs were pleased with the turnout and most Clubs doubled their memberships.

Thanks to all those who participated and if the excitement and positive responses are any indication, it’s going to be a huge year!

Julian Field displaying the art of Archery at Orientation Week 2000
Australian University Waterski Championships

Before we begin, one thing must remain clear. We came second last year by the barest minimum. For a year the pain and agony of defeat ripped at our psyche. The knowledge that we were close and yet so far drove us to ski harder. Well that's what we like to tell our selves. The real truth is that everyone was looking forward to another excellent week down on Lake Albert in Wagga Wagga.

During the year the ski club was able to compile an awesome team. For the championships this year our water skiing legends were: Natasha Adams, Nadine Ash, Daniel Blackmore, Chris Boden, Chris Cockburn, Jenny Newton, and David Smith. These competitors were so good that even a cheer squad begged to be allowed to make the pilgrimage down to sunny Wagga.

On a cool, sunny Saturday morning we made our way down to Wagga. The trip was thankfully non-eventful and we pulled into the Wagga Boat Club at around 3pm in time for a quick ski before the sun set.

Sunday was spent setting up the slalom course and jump in preparation for the week long tournament. Monday came early. There was a bit more preparation of the site and a quick visit into town to see what the locals are like. Basically Wagga is a great town and most of the locals decided to make their way down to the lake during the week so that they could watch the fun and drama unfold.

Tuesday and Wednesday were spent on the water with qualifying in all the disciplines. These are slalom, trick skiing, jumping and wakeboarding. Most of our team had previously qualified for these events.

The consensus: This was a top notch site and we knew great things were just around the corner.

Thursday: The sun’s hot morning rays mocked us as we crawled from our tents. Today we had to ski well to ensure that we made it to the finals. And ski well we did!! All of Newcastle qualified for every event that they went in giving us an excellent chance for the big one: Team overall.

Unfortunately Dave was skiing so hard that the ski bucked him off and then took a nasty chunk out of his leg that required four stitches and lots of sympathy. Chris Cockburn decided it was time to show everyone how well Newcastle can ski by smashing the previous trick record (many men were weeping that night). Congrats Chris you are the man!

Friday passed in a psychedelic blur (it was Austin Powers theme) to bring us to Saturday, money day, finals day!! Lake Albert gave us one more day of smooth as glass water with no wind and a lovely summer temperature of 35-38 degrees. Truly we were in heaven. Dave, stitches still fresh in his leg went for a slalom and grabbed third. Now that’s a trooper for you! Nadine went off by grabbing third in slalom and Dan jumped himself into fourth. Chris, well what can we say? Chris grabbed first in slalom, first in trick but was only able to get second in jump (he missed out by less than a metre). This gave him first in Individual Men’s overall!

Presentation night. Team uniforms. Beers in hand. Time to find out how we fared. In Wakeboard we grabbed equal second. Women’s Team got second. Men’s team won. We all sat back and took a deep breath. They went backwards first, Newcastle’s name wasn’t called out for a long time, a very long time. The goose bumps were out. Finally Newcastle was called out. We WON!! Yes that’s right Newcastle University Water Ski Club are the Champions once more.

Thanks everyone who came down and made it such a phenomenal trip. If you are interested in Water Skiing, ring Daniel Blackmore on 4950 1956 as we are always keen to have more legends join us. Hope to see you on the water!

By Daniel Blackmore
President (Water Ski)

Tennis Courts Resurfaced

The Tennis court complex is getting new facilities and a face lift with a number of refurbishments happening.

Firstly, in response to increasing tennis player demands, the tennis shed between courts 5 & 6 and 7 & 8 has been extended to include male and female toilets and showers. Secondly, the tennis court surrounds are being upgraded to reduce on-going maintenance as well as problems experienced during wet weather. Finally, the synthetic grass surface which has been down for almost 8 years will be replaced on all 4 grass courts.

These works will ensure the Sports Union’s Tennis Centre remains one of the finest in the region.
A New Ray Watt Pavilion

Construction is underway.

If you travel along Wirra Crescent you will see the new Ray Watt Oval Pavilion steadily taking shape. The pavilion is now scheduled to be completed by mid May 2000. The pavilion and associated ground works, costing about $650,000, are being fully funded by the Sports Union.

The new pavilion is being constructed as part of the Sports Union's carefully considered long term plan for the development of sporting facilities on campus. The repeated calls for a new pavilion at Ray Watt from our Soccer and Cricket teams were supported by district Soccer officials, who warned that the old change room was substandard and prevented the use of the oval for higher grade competitions. The new pavilion replaces the inadequate single change room shed which was constructed in 1980 and will not only meet minimum requirements for facilities on playing grounds (i.e. separate change rooms for home and visiting teams and separate male and female toilets for spectators) but also the more stringent requirements for first division sporting competitions.

The focus of the design by architects Shaddock Smith is on functionality. They were advised on key requirements for the building by students who use the oval. The pavilion will be a very welcome addition to the sporting facilities available to students on campus.

In addition to the new pavilion, drainage is being installed on Ray Watt Oval. Manager, Landscape & Ovals, Mim Woodlands and her staff have been busy installing a herringbone system of agricultural drains across the oval to help remove rain water.

ELECTION OF OFFICER BEARERS

Nominations are invited for the positions of President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Sports Union for 2000. Nominations must be seconded and accepted by the nominee. The nominee, proposer and seconder must be Ordinary Members of the Sports Union (Sports Union members who are students or full-time University staff). Forms may be obtained from the Sports Union office.

Closing date for receipt of nominations at the Sports Union office is Thursday 27 April 2000 at 5.00 p.m.

POLLS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A poll for election of Sports Union office bearers for 2000 will be held at the Health and Physical Education Lecture Theatre immediately following closure of the Annual General Meeting and on the following day (Thursday, 4 May 2000) between the hours of 10.00am and 8.00pm.

On Thursday 4 May, 2000 ballot boxes will be placed at the following locations:
- Callaghan Campus - Sports Union Office
- Conservatorium of Music - University House Cafeteria

Only Ordinary Members of the Sports Union are permitted to vote

PLEASE NOTE:
Should attendance at the AGM fail to reach a quorum, the meeting will be reconvened on Wednesday 10 May, 2000 and the ballot for office bearers set down for 3 and 4 May, 2000 will be cancelled and be held on 10 and 11 May, 2000 at the same locations and times listed above.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 3 May 2000
Health and Physical Education Lecture Theatre
5.30p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting held on 5 May 1999
3. Audited Statement of Accounts for 1999
4. Sports Union Budget for 2000
5. Reports - President and Treasurer
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Appointment of Honorary Legal Adviser
8. Appointment of Patron
10. Constitution. Notice of a proposal to adopt a new Constitution is hereby given. A new constitution may be adopted only by a vote of a two-thirds majority of Ordinary Members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. Copies of the proposed new constitution are available for Ordinary Members from the Sports Union office. Please contact the Sports Union office on 4921 6960 for information on briefing sessions on the proposed new constitution.
11. Incorporation. Notice of a proposal to incorporate the Sports Union is hereby given.
12. General Business

A. L. Iakin
Executive Officer
30 March 2000
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SOCIAL SPORTS AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL SPORTS CHALLENGE. We’re running an extensive range of courses, activities and sports for both students and staff, and if you’d like to know more, grab a copy of our excellently descriptive Sports Union Handbook or call 4921 6960.

HALF PRICE SQUASH AND TENNIS COURT HIRE for all games played before 12.00pm. Please contact the Squash and Tennis Centre on 4921 8850 for more information.

Sports Scholarships
Six sports scholarships are being offered to students of the University of Newcastle in 2000.

BENEFIT
$1,000

For more information call the Scholarships and Prizes Unit on 4921 6541 or drop into the Chancellery.

Blues Dinner 2000
The Sports Union’s Annual Blues Dinner will be held at the University Union, Friday, 25 August 2000. Tickets will be available by calling 4921 6960.

Eastern Australia University Games
University of Newcastle students are invited to trial for the upcoming 2000 Eastern Australia University Games to be held at Albury Wodonga from 3-7 July 2000.

A large range of sports will be contested during this week of sport, friendship and severe socialising.

Please contact the Sports Union if you are interested in representing or managing in any of the following sports-

Australian Rules, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Judo, Netball, Rugby, Soccer, Softball, Touch, Tennis and Volleyball!

Ten years after graduation, you may be walking down a street and run into a friend .... what will you remember about your time at the University of Newcastle?

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