Welcome

A warm welcome to all new students and staff of 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.

Outstanding 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 Sports Union displays and information desks in the University Union. Most Clubs were well represented, many staging innovative and awe inspiring displays. All Clubs were pleased with the interest shown, with many Clubs more than doubling 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!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, 2 May 2001
University Great Hall,
5.30 p.m.
AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 3 May 2000
3. Matters Arising:
   3.1 Sports Union Constitution and Integration. Report on constitutional developments since the previous meeting
4. Matters referred to Annual General Meeting by the Committee and Executive.
   4.1 Amalgamation of Sports Union with the Forum.
   4.2 Approval of NUSport constitution. (Copies of the proposed constitution for NUSport are available for Ordinary Members from the Sports Union office).
5. Audited Statement of Accounts for 2000
7. Reports - President and Treasurer
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Appointment of Honorary Legal Advisor
10. Appointment of Patron
11. Election of Officers for 2001
12. General Business

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2001

Nominations are invited for the positions of President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Sports Union for 2001. Nominations must be seconded and accepted by the nominee. The nominee, proposer and seconder must be Ordinary Members (Sports Union members who are students or full-time university staff) of the Sports Union. Forms may be obtained from the Sports Union office, located in the Forum.

Closing date for receipt of nominations at the Sports Union office is Tuesday 24 April 2001 at 5.00 p.m.

POLL FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A poll for election of Sports Union office bearers for 2001 will be held at the Great Hall immediately following closure of the Annual General Meeting and on the following day (Thursday 3 May, 2001) between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 8 p.m.

On Thursday 3 May, 2001 ballot boxes will be placed at the following locations:

Callaghan Campus Sports Union Office, The Forum
Conservatorium of Music University House Cafeteria

Only Ordinary Members of the Sports Union are permitted to vote. Proof of Ordinary Membership will be required for the issue of a Ballot paper.

PLEASE NOTE:

Should attendance at the AGM fail to reach a quorum, the meeting will be reconvened on Wednesday 9 May, 2001 and the ballot for office bearers set down for 2 and 3 May, 2001 will be cancelled and be held on 9 and 10 May, 2001 at the same locations and times listed above.

For information please contact 4921 6960 or drop into the Sports Union Office
WATER-SKI

The University's Water Ski Club competed in the 2001 Australian University Championships for Water Ski and Wake Boarding. The event was hosted by Melbourne's RMIT University and held at the Mildura Ski Park from 27 January to 4 February.

The eight member team competed against 16 other universities from around Australia to take out overall tournament winners and first place in the wakeboarding event. The Men's Team was placed best overall. It was the first time that wakeboarding has been included as an official event in the competition.

A little Blue-green algae wasn’t enough to stop some outstanding individual performances. David Smith took out third place in the jump and slalom events, Nadine Ash came 2nd in the trick and 3rd in the slalom, with Jennifer Newton taking home 2nd in the wakeboard.

The club caters for all facets of water skiing, including wakeboarding, slalom, jump, trick, barefoot, kneeboard, beginners and parasailing. The club provides all the equipment you will need and welcomes all skiers from beginners to the more advanced. If you're interested in joining the club please contact Samantha Budden on 4968 9965.

UNI RUGBY LEAGUE

All is being prepared for a big season of Rugby League at the University of Newcastle this year. The A-grade team has been entered locally with the Lower Hunter Rugby League, and the second grade is continuing to compete in the NSW Tertiary Rugby League competition.

The season kicked off with a fantastic weekend away to Port Macquarie in order to trial against West Wauchope. After a gruelling match, much of it played with no reserves, the scoreline of 20-16 showed Newcastle's well deserved win. The team celebrated in style after the game, but sadly their on field performance was not transferred onto the dancefloor.

Club numbers have improved markedly, with both squads taking impressive shape as Reserve grade prepares for the kickoff to the season, and first grade playing on the first weekend of April. The continued support of sponsors, Bolte-Civil of Wyong, Saxby’s Softdrinks, the Albion Hotel-Wickham, Patrick Street Butchery and Georgetown Cellars has the club looking good for the coming year.

There are still plenty of opportunities on offer for new players, so turn up to training on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm on No.2 Oval (in front of the Forum) or call Shaun on 0414422506 if you’re interested.

Michael Brown

Small Bore Rifle Shooter

First year Surveying student, Michael Brown, has a wealth of experience as a Target shooter. As a Small Bore shooter Michael's preferred disciplines are 3 position and Air Rifle. Michael has travelled overseas 5 times representing Australia, competing in World Cups in Atlanta, Munich, Milan and Sydney.

Last year he was a scholarship holder at the AIS, training with the Australian team both in Canberra and Germany. Michael narrowly missed a place in the Olympic team, ranking third in the Olympic selections where the first two placegetters were chosen.

Whilst in Newcastle, Michael will shoot with the Newcastle club. Last weekend they held their annual prize shoot and he won both the 3 Position and Air Rifle.
On 3 March, members of the Newcastle University Jujutsu Club (NUJJC) attended a special weekend in Canberra in honour of their chief instructor John R. Bear Shihan (8th Dan). Bear Shihan has been awarded an Australian Sports Medal in recognition of his 35 years commitment to training and teaching jujitsu. During the morning session, Bear Shihan gave a kobudo seminar focusing on bokken (wooden sword). Following the bokken seminar, four students, Reid Lindsay, Scott Flory, John Waghorn and Jason Briggs, took the opportunity to attempt a grading and successfully progressed to 9th kyu. One member from NUJJC, Amy Stokoe, assisted in the grading and, although not actually grading herself, with her partner set a record for a part of the grading known as renzoku nagete (speed throwing or continuous throwing). After a brief lunch the club headed to the ANU dojo for another training seminar presented by Bear Shihan, this time in aikijutsu (higher forms of jujutsu).

A contingent of NUJJC members travelled to Canberra again on 24 March to attend another kobudo seminar. This seminar was on the naginata or the Japanese halberd, an unusual weapon and not something they have had much contact with. The weapon was originally used by Japanese women to defend against attackers using katana (Japanese sword). Directly following the seminar, Ben James and Amy Stokoe entered the International Jujutsu Institute - Australasia (IJJI) record books, during their gradings. In the renzoku nagete (speed or continuous throwing) section of their gradings, both Ben and Amy achieved times placing them in the top ten of all recorded IJJIA times for their respective grades. Ben achieved equal 3rd position and Amy achieved equal 4th. Both students successfully completed their gradings at the ANU dojo that afternoon with Ben progressing to green belt (6th kyu) and Amy to yellow belt (8th kyu).

Regular training continues with all students working hard to progress to their next grade and equal the feats of their record-breaking training partners. An enthusiastic group of new students have joined the club as part of the NUJJC’s Introductory Course, run by Michael Wray (Nidan 2nd Dan Black Belt), and are enjoying learning the art of jujutsu.
Guest Lectures

Throughout 2001 the Sports Union is hosting a series of FREE Guest Lectures designed to give Students and Staff, specifically those involved in Clubs, the opportunity of learning the most up to date information on how to administer activities, sports medicine and how to motivate yourself, to name a few.

The Guest Lecture series is a dynamic program as we take advantage of visiting sportspeople and administrators, along with using the expertise available on Campus.

All lectures are held at 6.30 p.m. in HPE 2.3 (next to the Forum). Lectures coming up in May/June include:

* Basic Book Keeping (7 May)
* How to be a World Champion (14 May)
* Motivating the Team and the Individual (4 June)

If you would like further information on these or other lectures, please contact our office on 4921 6960.

Sports Scholarships

Six sports scholarships are being offered to students of the University of Newcastle for 2001.

**BENEFIT**

$1,000

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

Sport and Recreation Handbook

Useful information about sport and recreation on campus is contained in the 2001 Sport and Recreation Handbook. The handbook is a very detailed sporting reference in a convenient size. If you'd like a copy, you can obtain one from the Squash and Tennis Pavilion, Contact - Shortland Union or the Sports Union Office.

Eastern University Games

2 to 6 July 2001

The Sports Union invites you to attend this year's EUG at Coffs Harbour

Sports to be contested - Aussie Rules, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Rugby Union, Soccer, Softball, Touch, Tennis, Volleyball

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to the Sports Union's talented receptionist Lisa Bradley. Hard work and dedication to training has seen Lisa picked in the State Mixed Touch side to compete in Wollongong in May. We wish her all the best.

Judo Club President, Martin Kelly, recently competed in the Italian Open held in Rome. Martin convincingly won his first and second rounds only to be beaten in the semifinals. He finished 5th overall. Congratulations Martin.

The Sports Union will hosting several EUC, AUC, Regional Invitation and Masters Games events. We're looking for volunteers to help out with all competitions so why not get involved. It's a great way to meet people from universities across Australia and get a first hand look at how events like these are managed.

Next Issue Contribution Deadline: Friday 11th May 2001

Contributions are welcome. Please send articles, results, fixture lists, clearly labelled photos to:

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