

ANNUAL REPORT

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
SPORT 2008**

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ABOUT NUSPORT

NUsport is the organisation that provides the structured framework of health, sport and leisure services and facilities through which the University of Newcastle, Australia adds to the total student experience.

OUR VISION

We will positively contribute to the health and sporting, cultural and social enrichment of our communities.

Our organisation will enhance the University of Newcastle's total student experience positively by:

Enabling our customers, current and potential, to be aware of and enjoy a diverse range of quality health, sporting and recreational facilities, services, programs and activities and to develop socially, physically and intellectually through participation.

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It is increasingly evident to Australians that satisfying lifestyles are partly dependent on maintaining regimes that deliver health and wellness. This Annual Report demonstrates how significantly NUsport is contributing to those outcomes for its members and for the wider community.

Michael Johns
Chair, NUsport



Our professional support for members and visitors to NUsport facilities is reflected in countless achievements by individuals both in personal, recreational and competitive sporting activities. I acknowledge the contribution of all members of staff.

Samantha Martin-Williams
Chief Executive Officer



THE FORUM SPORTS & AQUATIC CENTRE, UNIVERSITY

A UNIVERSITY OF **SPORTING DISTINCTION**

The award winning and regionally significant facilities of The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre at the University of Newcastle were opened in 1997 and today are home to thousands of members and patrons.

The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre, University includes an indoor heated 50 metre swimming pool; group fitness facilities; one of the highest climbing walls in NSW, state-of-the-art gymnasium and cycle zones. Children's health and fitness programs, parties and holiday camps are conducted in the centre and Personal Training is also offered.

The Forum Health & Wellness Centre, Harbourside was opened in October 2006 with outstanding presales.

Together, these two outstanding sporting facilities form the Hunter region's largest health and fitness centre with more than 15,000 members.

These award winning facilities of The Forum are managed by NU sport. NU sport was established in 2001 and is the successful amalgamation of The University of Newcastle Sports Union and The University of Newcastle Sports & Aquatic Centre Ltd. This not-for-profit organisation is managed by

qualified professionals, supported by the direction and governance of a volunteer Board.

NU sport is one of the largest providers of group fitness classes in Australia and continues to work in partnership with the University of Newcastle, researchers and health & fitness professionals to develop outcome based programs for our communities.

At The Forum, members including University students, staff, Alumni and the broader community are offered holistic programs and activities in a sociable environment. Opportunities are provided to develop and enlighten mind, body



“Together, The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre, University and The Forum Health & Wellness Centre, Harbourside form the Hunter’s largest health and fitness provider.”

and spirit in world class facilities under the guidance of experienced professionals who believe in creating a better product through research and innovation.

The philosophy is to develop a fun environment that assists in bringing about positive life changes; in building meaningful relationships with members and in motivating and challenging patrons to grow and learn. It is this dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile, which makes the difference.

Through NUsport, sport and leisure can be seen as a defining part of the University experience and part

of the University of Newcastle’s overall competitive advantage in attracting and retaining quality students and staff.

The University of Newcastle through NUsport offers top quality facilities, comprehensive organisation, opportunities for diverse levels of participation and pathways to sporting excellence. Coupled with associated teaching and research endeavours and close relationships with local authorities, elite sporting clubs and government organisations, NUsport helps to enhance the reputation of the University of Newcastle as a leading university in Australia and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES

- To recognise the value and contribution of each individual and to actively demonstrate concern for the health, safety and wellbeing of employees.
- To accept responsibility for our actions and act responsibly in our jobs and in our dealings with each other, our customers and our communities.
- To optimise the use of our resources to maintain financial viability and to support continued growth.
- To use initiative, teamwork and ongoing evaluation / education to support continued growth.
- To conduct business ethically, honestly and fairly and treat members with respect.
- To satisfy our customers with quality services and products while providing the highest standards.
- To provide a quality, timely service.
- To show loyalty to our members.
- To invest in the retention of our customer and member base.
- To manage a sustainable business with an emphasis on teamwork.
- To value the community and a learning environment.
- To place a high significance on integrity.

OUR COMMUNITIES

NUsport values and recognises our communities that include:

- The University of Newcastle - students, staff and Alumni
- Our members and their families
- Sporting teams and athletes
- Sporting affiliates and authorities
- University Sporting Clubs
- The NUsport Board
- Our business partners
- Sponsors
- NUsport staff
- Our neighbours
- The wider community

QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

“A combination of experience, industry training and education supports our team.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The NUsport Board of Directors is a group of highly respected people who represent various stakeholder groups of the organisation.



MICHAEL JOHNS
CHAIR

Master of Laws, (Sydney). Solicitor. Fellow Aust. Institute of Company Directors, Director, Newcastle Region Natural Disaster Relief Fund Trustee Limited. Deputy Chancellor of the University of Newcastle. Chairman of the Board of 2NURFM and the University of Newcastle Tender Committee. Deputy Chairman of the Hunter Area Consultative Committee and Member of the University of Newcastle Council. Member of the Finance & Capital Developments Committee, the Nominations & Legislation Committee, the Promotions Appeals Committee and the Disciplinary Appeals Committee of the University of Newcastle. Former Board Member Hunter Area Health Service, Hunter Area Pathology Service, Newcastle Grammar School Limited, Pacific Linen Services, Hunter Corporate Catering, University of Newcastle Union Limited and Newcastle Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Association.



DR BERNARD CURRAN
DEPUTY CHAIR

B.A. (Hons), PhD (Newcastle). Current Executive Officer, University Foundation. Life member of Newcastle University Sport. Blue (The University of Newcastle). Colour (The University of Newcastle). Former Sports Union President. Past Chair of the University of Newcastle Sports & Aquatic Centre Limited (UNSAC).



DR ANDREW JOHNSON

B.A. (Hons1) (Newcastle), PhD (Criminology) (Western Sydney). Associate Director (Business Development), Research Division, the University of Newcastle. Board member of the Co-operative Research Centre for Construction Innovation. Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHEN FITYUS

B.E. (Hons) (Newcastle), B.Sc. PhD (Newcastle). Associate Professor in Geotechnical Engineering in the School of Engineering & Head of Discipline of Civil, Surveying & Environmental Engineering at the University of Newcastle. Principal Researcher in the Priority Research Centre for Geotechnical & Materials Modelling. Advisory Committee member of UNISS (The University of Newcastle Industry Scholarship Scheme). Elected Member of Academic Senate (representing the School of Engineering). Chairman of the Newcastle Chapter of the Australian Geomechanics Society. Former member of the Australian Geomechanics Society National Committee. Member of Working Party for 2008 Academic Senate Self Review.



DR MARITA LYNAGH

PhD, Grad Dip in Hlth Prom (Newcastle), B Human Movement Studies (Hons) (Queensland). Senior Lecturer in Health Behaviours Science, School of Medicine & Public Health at the University of Newcastle; Coordinator of Health courses in the Bachelor of Teaching (Health & Physical Education) degree programs; Member of the Priority Research Centre for Health Behaviour Science; Newcastle representative on the National UMAT Technical Sub-Committee; Former member of the Hunter Research Ethics Committee; Former A grade netballer, University of Queensland representative in triathlon, touch football & volleyball, Queensland State representative in gymnastics & trampolining.



TIM OSBORN

Bachelor of Laws (Newcastle).
Bachelor of Business (Newcastle).
Admitted to practice as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of NSW and in the High Court of Australia. Current member of the Newcastle Law Society.



EMERITUS PROFESSOR ADRIAN PAGE

ASTC., B.E. (New South Wales),
PhD (Newcastle), FTSE., Hon
FIEAust., CPEng. Director,
Hunter Water Corporation; Past
President of the Newcastle Division
of Engineers Australia. Former
Board member of CRC - Advanced
Composite Structures Ltd, CRC
- Centre for Integrated Engineering
Asset Management, ResTech, CRC
- Centre for Coal in Sustainable
Development, CRC - Construction
Innovation, Hunter Medical
Research Institute, The University
of Newcastle Research Associates
(TUNRA).



KRISTIE THOMAS

Currently undertaking B. Teaching
/ B. Design & Technology at the
University of Newcastle. President
of the University of Newcastle Water
Polo Club for 2008 (Secretary in
2007). Former member of Hunter
Hurricanes Women's National
League Water Polo squad and
member of Raymond Terrace Water
Polo Club and Newcastle Water Polo
Association since 2000. National A
Grade Netball Umpire.



HEIDI TURON

B.Psych (Hons 1) (Newcastle).
Currently undertaking a PhD
(Psychology) at the University of
Newcastle. Member of the University
of Newcastle Women's Hockey Club
(UNWHC) 2002-present; current
UNWHC Treasurer, Committee
Member 2003-2004, 2008-2009.
Australian University Games
Representative 2007.



GAIL WHITE

B.A., Dip. Ed (Newcastle), MBA
(Newcastle). Graduate of the
Australian Institute of Company
Directors. Academic Registrar at
the University of Newcastle since
September 2005. Employed in a
variety of roles at the University
of Newcastle since 1988. Former
Director, Hunter Academy of Sport,
and current Director, Universities'
Admissions Centre.

LIFE MEMBERS

Professor James Auchmuty	1967
Mr Ken Booth	1967
Mr Peter Kleeman	1967
Mr Douglas March	1967
Mr Brian O'Shea	1967
Professor Godfrey Tanner	1967
Mr Harry Bradford	1970
Mr David Karpin	1972
Professor Brin Newton-John	1974
Dr Alec Forsythe	1984
Professor Barry Boettcher	1986
Mr Hugh Floyer	1988
Dr Bernard Curran	1993
Mr Herb Presker	1994
Mrs Lesley Woodhead	1995
Mr Adrian Iakin	1998
Professor John Fryer	1999
Mrs Margaret Heron	2001
Dr Ian Webster	2005
Mr Trevor John	2006
Mrs Dianne Pascoe	2006

2008 SPORTS AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

Stephen Fityus (Chair)
NUsport

Lisa Bradley
NUsport

Trent Dickeson
Campus Central

Catherine Haszard
Campus Central

Jenny Williams
Blue

Lynette Van Homrigh
Blue

Michael Lancey
Blue & SPOTY

Darrel Sparke
Colour

Louise O'Brien
Colour

Hugh Dunstan
Colour



THE FORUM HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE, HARBOURSIDE

QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED **PROFESSIONALS** CONTINUED

NUSPORT COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

A/Prof Jim Psaros - Chair
Dr Andrew Johnson
Ms Gail White

ATTENDEES

NUsport Auditors
Chief Executive Officer
Director Commercial Services
Company Secretary

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr Andrew Johnson - Chair
Mr Tim Osborn
Ms Heidi Turon
Ms Gail White
Director Commercial Services
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer
Ms Juliet Scott

INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Associate Prof Stephen Fityus - Chair
Dr Marita Lynagh
Mr Tim Osborn
Prof Adrian Page
Director Operations
Chief Executive Officer
Director Commercial Services
Executive Officer

CLUBS COMMITTEE

Dr Bernard Curran - Chair
A/Prof Stephen Fityus
Prof Adrian Page
Ms Kristie Thomas
Ms Heidi Turon
Executive Officer
Director Commercial Services
Director Programs
Sport Coordinator

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Michael Johns - Chair
Dr. Bernard Curran
Dr Andrew Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

STUDENT SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The NUsport Board

Immediate Past NUsport Chair
Mr Trevor John

One Student Delegate from each
Affiliated Club

- 21 Club Delegates

One Student Delegate from
each Residential College on the
Callaghan Campus

- 4 College Sport Delegates

Delegates appointed by the AGM

- Nil



AT A GLANCE

“**NUsport has maintained its hard earned reputation as a national leader in health promotion, sport and recreation.**”

In the past year there have been many achievements in improvements to facilities and in the delivery of services as well as in the management of the systems that underpin those services.

Achievements have included:

- Seven student athletes competed at the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Notable achievements by University Clubs in Rugby, Football (soccer), Baseball, Rugby League and Hockey.
- Open Day attracted more than 4,000 people to both of The Forum’s venues.
- Implementation of the NUsport Strategic Plan 2008-2010.
- A corporate health and wellness program was trialled with the Hunter Business Chamber.
- More than 50 per cent of NUsport employees have studied or were studying at the University of Newcastle in 2008.
- Centre for Environment and Recreation Management (CERM) Performance Indicators Project found that NUsport’s services, facilities and finance performed better than the median for fitness and leisure facilities across Australia.
- NUsport was named as finalist in the 2008 Hunter Business Awards.
- NUsport facilities and services at the University of Newcastle were cited in the Good Universities Guide 2008.

CRITICAL FACTORS

“The sections that follow demonstrate how NUsport addresses critical challenges in meeting the expectations of the University and of students.”

Influences on operations are as diverse as:

- Staff development and providing opportunities for advancement.
- Engagement with aligned partners and Alumni.
- Maintaining the strong platform of credibility in the marketplace.
- Strategic planning to meet the challenges of external influences.
- Sustaining and developing environmental management systems to ensure our activities enhance the communities in which we operate.

NUsport achieves its high level of services and facilities through five strategies developed from our commitment to best meet the needs and expectations of our members and the community.

Those strategies are:

- Participation, Community Engagement and Athlete Development
- Education and Health Promotion
- Activities
- Facilities
- Communication and Management

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

“**Fundamental to the development of NU sport as a successful world-class organisation is its ability to continually work toward and meet its core objectives.**”

PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

The University of Newcastle through NU sport proudly holds the status of an Elite Athlete Friendly University (EAFU). This status flows from an agreement with the Australian Institute of Sport. In the past year more than 50 university students qualified at this level; a rise from 31 in the previous year.

The National Talent Identification Development program has been established at the university. The program facilitates collaborative research, sport specific screening and the establishment of a sport specific talent identification centre at the university.

More than 50 athletes from the university have achieved EAFU status during the year including 14 representatives of Newcastle Knights Rugby League, five Matildas (Australian Women's Football), four Newcastle United Jets, one Central Coast Mariner, one Australian hockey representative, one Melbourne Storm Rugby League representative, three Athletes With a Disability representatives and one NSW Waratahs Rugby Union representative.

The Forum Open Day held on 30 August 2008 in conjunction with the University Information Day and 2NURFM Open Day was an outstanding success attracting more than 4,000 visitors to The Forum's two Centres.

Support of local initiatives also came through NU sport's support of community activities and organisations. More than 70 local initiatives were supported in 2008 providing merchandise, services and products. Some of these included:

- Sparke Helmore Triathlon
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
- 14 Hour Day for Disability supporting Leapfrog ability
- Cancer Council
- Fred Hollows Foundation
- Oxfam Trail Walker
- Hunter Medical Research Institute and PULSE
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Newcastle City Police

- Local Surf Clubs
- University of Newcastle Medical Society
- African Aids Foundation
- Hunter Business Chamber
- Camp Quality
- Samaritans

About 140 students from the University competed in the Australian University Games in September and October and won 11 gold, three silver and four bronze medals. Three students were selected in Green and Gold Teams.

Each of these activities reinforces NU sport's goal of encouraging and providing opportunity for participation at all levels of sporting and recreational activities.

University Sport supported by:





PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PHIL MORGAN – HEALTHY DADS HEALTHY KIDS



EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

People in business, primary and secondary school, children, parents and athletes were the focus of a range of additional programs developed and implemented during the year.

Working with Members of Hunter Business Chamber, NUsport trialled a fitness and wellness program designed to serve the unique interests of people in business. The trial included packaged services of personal training, information forums, a web based feedback and support system. Participants provided considerable guidance about how such programs can be refined and enhanced and this has become a model for services into business.

The Forum continued to support the work of Hunter Medical Research

Institute (HMRI) by providing facilities and resources for ongoing research in the areas of children's health and fitness and weight loss for men.

In 2008 public health improvement support was provided to the ongoing work and research by the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Education and Arts into childhood obesity (the HIKUPS project) and the Learning to Enjoy Activity with Friends (LEAF) project by the University's Department of Physical Education.

More than 100 regional primary and secondary schools used The Forum for a wide range of activities including swimming carnivals, learn to swim programs, activity days and school sports. Many students who have attended Forum activities during school years have continued their involvement when they moved on to university.

Three successful health expos under the Corporate Wellness Initiatives were held during the year for the University of Newcastle and TAFE NSW Hunter Institute.

NUsport continued to work with TAFE Hunter Institute under a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver integrated education and employment pathways by providing nationally accredited training and qualifications in the areas of fitness, sport and recreation for more than 100 students in 2008.

NUsport participated in a comparative study conducted by the Federal Government on career pathways for women athletes. It also offered professional placement and work experience opportunities to university, TAFE and secondary school students.

As part of its partnership with the University of Newcastle NUsport also looks for ways to further encourage learning and skill development. In 2008 NUsport worked with the staff and students of the School of Design, Communication and Information Technology. The project was aimed at providing students with a hands-on opportunity to create a short promotional film highlighting the benefits of NUsport to the student body. Two undergraduate students under the supervision of lecturers worked closely with NUsport to create an eight minute production that was initially launched at the 2008 Sports Awards.



PARTICIPANTS IN ONE OF THE FORUM'S TRIATHLON TRAINING COURSES

ACTIVITIES

It is the strategic approach of NUsport to provide sport, exercise and recreational programs and activities to members and to the wider community.

Consequently, activities are as diverse as providing training facilities and support systems for visiting international teams and sporting oriented birthday party venues for children.

International teams that used facilities during the year included English and Australian Netball

teams, the New Zealand Rugby League team, the NSW Rugby Union squad, and groups from the Judo Federation of Australia and Cricket NSW.

Under NUsport's Healthier Schools Partnership with Hunter Water school children were offered learn to swim and swim and survive programs as well as education on environmentally friendly water solutions.

Courses as diverse as Run for Fun, Triathlon Training and Step

Moves proved popular with target audiences.

NUsport also joined forces with other businesses, health facilities and the wider community to support Edward Cross' 14 Hour Day for Disability event in October to raise money for Leap Frog Ability. Edward, a local photographer and member of The Forum had suffered a brain injury two years previously and decided to give something back to the organisations that supported him through his recovery.



Once again The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre, University was the preferred location for more than three and a half thousand school students from more than 145 regional schools as part of their preparations for Starstruck 2008.

Recognising sporting achievement is also a key role of NUsport and in 2008 the organisation hosted the University of Newcastle Sports Awards. The event held on 5 September at Newcastle City Hall attracted just over 200 guests and featured guest speaker Tim Horan.

The following awards were made:

2008 Paralympic sprinting gold medallist and University of Newcastle student Heath Francis was awarded the prestigious University Blue.

John Rossington and Shaun Johnston were named as University Colours which are awarded for outstanding contribution to the administration and organisation of University sport. John was awarded a Colour for his contributions to College Sport. Shaun was awarded a

Colour for his involvement with the University of Newcastle Rugby League Club.

Footballer Lauren Colthorpe was named the University of Newcastle Sports Person of the Year, an award that recognises outstanding sporting achievement by a University student.

The University of Newcastle Boat Club was named Sporting Club of the Year, recognising the attainment of high standards in sports administration by the Club during the 2007 academic year.



THE INDOOR HEATED POOL AT THE FORUM SPORTS & AQUATIC CENTRE

FACILITIES

NUsport's goal of providing best practice facilities and equipment demands commitment and resources and a program of upgrading and expansion.

During the year works on water systems were carried out in conjunction with the University of Newcastle.

New indoor Body Bikes were welcomed by members at both Forum facilities. This coincided with the annual renewal program of the Sports & Aquatic Centre, University over the Christmas break valued at more than \$500,000 and included facility upgrades and installation of a new boiler for the pool. The boiler ensures that the pool temperature is maintained throughout the year with particular advantages to be realised during the colder winter months.

An Environmental Management System was established and implemented throughout the facilities further enhancing many achievements of earlier years. The strategy outlined commitments to measureable goals in the use of environmentally friendly products and technologies, natural resources, identification and management of environmental risks and the continual improvement to environmental training and research for staff, members and patrons.

The plan for asset management for the next 10 years was reviewed and upgraded.

NUsport has called for expressions of interest for the lease and operations of physiotherapy and allied health services at The Forum Health & Wellness Centre, Harbourside.

Our work with heritage authorities and government agencies continued in 2008 with the ongoing role of The Forum in the historic Honeysuckle precinct. This work included the production of a special publication highlighting historic and significant features of the redeveloped building through to cooperative work with Hunter Development Corporation and the precinct business group to better promote the area and its significant historic and community status.

For its outstanding work in providing facilities for the community, specifically in the fields of environmental management and customer service, NUsport was named as a finalist in the 2008 Hunter Business Awards.

Our management strategy is driven in part by our aim to provide members with valued services and facilities in ways that ensure they are delivered as conveniently as possible.

Part of that strategy is to ensure timely and accurate information is easily available to members and the communities that use the facilities and services.

During the year information processes have included the regular eNewsletter Positive Living and a regular column, The Fit Squad, in the Newcastle Herald. Regular information is provided to the media on matters of special interest.

Of special interest this year was the visit by a team from BBC TV filming a documentary at the Sports & Aquatic Centre in preparation for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Forum generated some 24 news stories throughout the year highlighting the achievements of the facility, its members and its university community. These stories were carried throughout the region's media as well as specific trade and sector specific publications.

The Federal Minister for Youth and Minister for Sport, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, visited The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre, University to tour facilities and speak with staff and students of the University of Newcastle about the emerging challenges and new directions raised in the Commonwealth's Australian Sport positioning paper.

Additionally NUsport significantly contributed to the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission by providing a paper outlining ways in which the Government could meet a range of long term challenges. This included access to services and building community good health and wellbeing preventative health promotions.

The 2008 High Performance in Business and Sport event was held on 23 May featuring one of Australia's great Rugby League players, Ben Ikin, coach of the Newcastle Jets, Gary Van Egmond and Jets player Noel Spencer. The event attracted some 130 guests from the business, sporting and media sectors.

NUsport also adopted a Risk Management Process in conjunction with the University of Newcastle and involves all NUsport operations. The implementation of the system will enable NUsport to record, track, report and action all risks in a NUsport Risk Register. The process also includes identifying and engaging stakeholder groups to use the system to manage risk profiles.





TOUCH COMPETITION ON RAY WATT OVAL, UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY SPORT

ELITE ATHLETES

In 2008 NUsport was active in the support of Elite Student-Athletes studying at the University of Newcastle. The Elite Athlete Friendly Universities (EAFU) Program assists talented athletes to complete study while in the pursuit of their sporting goals. NUsport is the delivery agent for the EAFU Program for the University of Newcastle, working in close consultation with University Program Officers, NSWIS and the Australian Sports Commission.

Elite Student-Athletes supported in 2008 included:

- Katie Gill (Newcastle Jets W-League & Australia)
- Lauren Colthorpe (QLD Roar W-League & Australia)
- Amber Nielsen (Newcastle Jets W-League & Australia)
- Jason Hoffman (Newcastle Jets)
- James Holland (Newcastle Jets & Australia)
- Andrew Clark (Central Coast Mariners)

- Alison Bruce (Australian A Women's Hockey)
- Jeremy Tilse (NSW Waratahs)
- Amanda White (Surf Lifesaving)
- Erin Lorenzini (Sydney Flames Basketball)

The EAFU Program helps these athletes and more gain special consideration for assessable items, provides assistance with timetabling and enrolments and registrations, to ensure they can get the most out of their studies and sporting pursuits.

UNIVERSITY SPORT

The University of Newcastle was represented by over 230 students at a variety of events in 2008.

Australian University Championships – Orienteering

Australian University Championships – Triathlon

Australian University Championships – Rowing

Australian University Championships – Snow Sports

Australian University Championships – Distance Running

East Coast Challenge (Sydney)

Australian University Games (Melbourne)

RESULTS:

AUC SNOW SPORTS

- University of Newcastle 9th (21)
- Including Silver Medal – Men's Cross Country Relay

EAST COAST CHALLENGE

- Women's Soccer – SILVER
- Men's Touch Football – SILVER
- Men's Hockey – SILVER
- Women's Basketball – BRONZE
- Ultimate Frisbee – 4th
- Women's Hockey – 5th
- OVERALL – 7th

2008 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

The University of Newcastle was represented by 140 student athletes at the Australian University Games, held over the week 28 September to 3 October 2008 in Melbourne. The Games proved to be a successful campaign, highlighted by outstanding performances on the Athletics track.

In total, the University of Newcastle won 11 medals (4 Gold, 3 Silver, 4 Bronze). A number of other teams were unlucky to have missed out on medals after strong performances in their pool games.

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
4	3	4
100m Sprint Female Alison Baillache	200m Sprint Male Jason Brown	100m Sprint Male Shaun Fletcher
200m Sprint Female Alison Baillache	Discus Female Rachel Evans	Judo (<73kg) Male Manchun Lau
Long Jump Male Shaun Fletcher	Heptathlon Female Trudy Thompson	Women's Tennis
Men's Touch Football (Div 2)		Men's Beach Volleyball

Overall, the University of Newcastle placed 16th out of 41 competing universities with all team members and their supporters being outstanding sporting and university ambassadors.

2008 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES RESULTS – UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

INDIVIDUAL	EVENT	PLACE
Alison Baillache	100m	1st
Alison Baillache	200m	1st
Shaun Fletcher	Long Jump	1st
Jason Brown	200m	2nd
Trudy Thompson	Heptathlon	2nd
Rachel Evans	Discus	2nd
Shaun Fletcher	100m	3rd
Manchun Lau	Judo (<73kg)	3rd
Jason Brown	100m	7th
Pamela Chia	10000m	7th
Alice Horsnell	Triple Jump	8th
Alice Horsnell	Long Jump	9th
Matthew Lister	Golf	15th
Pamela Chia	5000m	16th
Daniel Zaia	400m	34th
Matthew Beck	Golf	84th

TEAM	DIVISION	PLACE
Touch – Men	Div 2	1st
Beach Volleyball – Men	Div 1	3rd
Tennis – Women	Div 1	3rd
Beach Volleyball – Men	Div 2	4th
Basketball – Women	Div 2	4th
Netball – Women	Div 1	6th
Hockey – Men	Div 1	6th
Water Polo – Men	Div 2	6th
Athletics	Overall	8th
Table Tennis – Men	Div 1	8th
Ultimate Frisbee	Div 1	8th
Water Polo – Women	Div 2	8th
Hockey – Women	Div 2	9th
Basketball – Men	Div 1	12th
Lawn Bowls	Div 2	20th



CLUBS

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BADMINTON CLUB

President: Rodney Norton
Secretary: Ee-Cheng Cheong
Treasurer: Sugita Kunalan

The Newcastle University Badminton Club had around 80 members in 2008, made up of students and University staff from varying cultural backgrounds.

In 2008, the Club missed out on student representation at University Games. However, the Club will be looking at how to better support representative players in 2009, and aims to represent the University of Newcastle at the Australian University Games on the Gold Coast.

The Badminton Club is proud to be able to add to the university experience of many international students in Newcastle.

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL CLUB

President: Steven Bennett
Vice President: Jackie Kibble
Secretary: Ashleigh John
Treasurer: Katherine Milla

BASEBALL

2008 saw the Bennett Hotel in Hamilton return as the Club's major sponsor. The financial support that the Bennett provided enabled the Club to hold many social nights for everyone to enjoy.

It was a very successful year on the field, with Fourth Grade taking out the Grand Final in a hard fought victory over Belmont. Third Grade played well all year finishing the season in third place.

First Grade played strongly in a difficult season, narrowly losing several close games but putting up good challenges to the competition's strongest teams.

In 2008, the Club was also proud to have some individual members achieve representative positions. Lindsay Hill, Tegan Asquith and Kristy Field were selected for the Newcastle Women's team and Tegan trialled for the NSW Country team. Martin Bell and Dominic Brennan were selected for the Newcastle Men's team and Martin was selected for NSW Country. Martin was invited to play in a US college team in 2009 – the first for a University of Newcastle player.

The Club looks forward to the 2009 season with great anticipation. The majority of the committee will stay on for 2009, ensuring the Club will again be well organised and professionally run.



UNIVERSITY BASEBALL CLUB HOME GAME

SOFTBALL

The Softball Club entered three women's teams including a First Grade team for the first time.

All three teams made the semi-finals, with great commitment shown by a number of players that played two games each week to make up the numbers.

The First Grade team started with a great core of talented players that was supplemented throughout the season with rapidly improving Second Grade players. A high level of pitching kept the team competitive and ensured an excellent first season in the top grade.

Second Grade was a mixture of old and new faces that managed competitive performances during the season with players learning to play new positions throughout the year.

The Third Grade team was made up of a lot of new players with guidance from a couple of experienced players. The team narrowly lost its semi-final in one of the best games they played all year. It was great to

see people new to the sport learning new skills and improving so quickly, making the Club stronger for next year.

The Club hopes to improve student numbers and build on an experienced base to include teams at the highest grade. We also have a few interested male players that hope to enter a team next year.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB (NUBC)

President: Stephen Pfennigwerth

Vice President: Tegan Hopwood

Secretary: Anthony Mujic

Treasurer: James Elliott

Club Captain: Mark Fretwell

The Boat Club has been active in sourcing alternative revenue sources, receiving \$2,600 to purchase a new set of quad scull oars via a government grant and \$3,000 'in kind' support from Top Nutrition.

The Club hosted two successful regattas in 2008 and was also represented at a number of regattas, including the University Championships, which saw a silver medal for the men's lightweight four.

NUBC has continued its support of the Merewether High School program. Club Patron Hugh Dunstan's involvement has been critical to the program and he is commended for his effort.

A prioritised purchasing and repairs program will allow the Club to make planned and informed decisions for the fleet throughout 2009.

The first in a series of collaborations between local clubs to hold workshops on practical coaching has been very successful.

For further growth and involvement of new members of the Club a program to develop rower skills over two years has been devised and will be trialled in 2009.



UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

CRICKET CLUB

President: Stephen Taylor
 Vice President: Andrew Baker
 Secretary: Ben Smee
 Treasurer: Chris Smith

The University of Newcastle Cricket Club had some success in the 2007/2008 season.

One grade made the finals and a number of players achieved representative honours. Robert Faraday, Daniel Odd, Kurt Neely and Matthew Ireland were selected in the Newcastle District Cricket Association's representative teams, with Robert also being selected in the Australian Country XI to play Queensland's Pura Cup team.

The Club hosted the inaugural University Shield match against a University XI and a Hunter Academy of Sport XI. This wonderful game showcased the facilities and the opportunities available at the Club.

Although the Club made a financial loss for the 2007/2008 season, it faced a number of unexpected

challenges including wet weather that reduced the amount of fees that could be collected. The Club also actively invested in its facilities and equipment.

FENCING CLUB

President: Joseph Caeli
 Vice President: Sam Barnes
 Secretary: Martin Ellway
 Treasurer: Kevin Rowan

The Fencing Club experienced a slow year in 2008, with a membership of 15 fencers.

The Club has experienced a number of issues including outgoing experienced fencers leading to a diminished coaching capacity, and a lack of local fencing clubs to compete against.

Training sessions were well attended by members but the Club is in need of additional members to ensure its sustainability.

GYMSPORTS CLUB

President: Elecia Johnstone
 Secretary: Sean Pickin
 Treasurer: Robertson Smith

The Club grew from 14 members in 2007 to 21 members in 2008.

A consistent turnout at the weekly training sessions at Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale and the greater number of members mean the Club will be able to purchase additional equipment during 2009.

A successful trial circus arts workshop was held in 2008 and the Club hopes to hold a number of outdoor circus arts workshops during 2009.

Members from the Club also took an excursion to Sydney for a flying trapeze workshop. This proved very popular and the Club plans to schedule a number of these in 2009.

MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

President: Ian Benson
Vice President: Joe Cooper
Secretary: Andrew MacKenzie
Treasurer: David Stuart
Selector: Adrian Varela

Increased member numbers in 2008 meant the Club was able to nominate a sixth team.

The Club's best results for the 2008 season were Fifth Grade's qualification for the minor semi final and Fourth Grade's narrow miss in making the minor semi final.

The committee once again ensured that everything ran smoothly. Ian Benson became the new President when Andrew James resigned after the Annual General Meeting and Andrew Mackenzie became Secretary. A huge thank you goes to Club selector, Adrian Varela, who ensures that each team has sufficient numbers. David Stuart once again did an outstanding job as Treasurer and the Club finds itself in a strong financial position at the end of the season. Thanks to Joe Cooper who was an able Vice President and equipment officer.

Congratulations to Ross de Clerk who was selected in the NSW veterans' team, Jared Reeves who represented Newcastle and Andrew James who represented Grafton.

Thanks also to Club umpires Steve Townsend and Tom Budden. Steve umpired an amazing 33 games this season and Tom umpired several Premier League games as well as the Second Grade grand final.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

President: Nicole Sattler
Vice President: Nikki Hancock
Secretary: Jemma Burtonwood
Treasurer: Amanda Sattler

2008 season results:

Premier League: Minor premiers, grand finalists.

Second Grade: Major premiers.

Third Grade: Grand finalists.

Fourth Grade: Fifth overall.

Sixth Grade: Major premiers.

Seventh Grade: Semi finalists.

A special mention must go to our grand final player of the match

winner Catherine Sacco and Amelia Gilbert. Catherine was player of the match for her outstanding effort as goalkeeper in the Premier League grand final. She then backed up to be player of the match in the Second Grade grand final victory. Amelia Gilbert was awarded player of the match in the Sixth Grade grand final victory.

Of course, none of this could have been possible without the help and perseverance of the Club's dedicated coaches who gave up their time and passed on valuable knowledge. Team managers have also played a valuable role this year in ensuring that each team has substitutes, umpires are paid and canteen duties are filled. Thank you so much for your contributions to the Club.

The efforts of the 2007 committee were acknowledged by NUSport at the 2008 Sports Awards where UNWHC was named as a finalist in the Club of the Year category. This award is based on excellence in sports administration. Congratulations to the 2007 committee for this great achievement.

Once again the Club was well represented at both the East Coast Challenge in Sydney and the Australian University Games in Melbourne. The team finished fifth at ECC and ninth at AUG.

JUJUTSU CLUB

President: Cameron Marshall
Secretary: Tony Smith
Treasurer: Richard Ormerod

The Jujutsu Club runs an introduction course each semester that provides a broad exposure to Kano Jujutsu. It helped to attract a number of students in 2008.

Tim Barlin, Rithvik Reddy, Nick Barnes and Philip Jan on completed the semester one course and were graded to Tenth Kyu in the International Jujutsu Institute. Other gradings in 2008 included Rithvik Reddy to ninth Kyu, Luke Marshal to Seventh Kyu and Richard Ormerod to First Dan.

Amy Stokoe, Richard Ormerod, Will Hipps and Luke Marshal represented the Newcastle University Jujutsu Club at an annual seminar hosted by the Australian branch of the International Jujutsu Institute. The seminar was overseen by the head



THE CLIMBING WALL AT THE FORUM, UNIVERSITY



of the Institute, Errol Perera Sensei, and was open to all ranks and showcased training in the principles of Jujutsu.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

President: Peter Grezl / John Lucas
 Vice President: Kate Wright
 Secretary: Daniel Healey
 Treasurer: Bev Brown / Belinda Gribble

Rock-climbing dominated the Club scene this year with climbing trips being run almost every weekend.

Early in the year exposed sea cliff climbing was popular with a five day trip to Point Perpendicular at Jervis Bay, followed by a five day sports climbing trip to Nowra. Members of the club ran four climbing trips to the Warrumbungles where a great deal of experience was gained in loose rock, getting hopelessly off route on Bluff Mountain and surviving a hail storm on top of the highest mountain within 200 kilometres. The Club had several awesome trips to the Blue Mountains in some difficult weather conditions.

A number of non-climbing trips included caving trips to Timor and Wee Jasper caves, a six day back country ski trip and kayaking on Barrington River and Myall Lakes.

With the support of The Forum and Mountain Designs the Club organised a 12 hour climb-a-thon which raised over \$1,200 for Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

The Club's social scene was fantastic this year with BBQ's being held every fortnight. These events doubled as training sessions where members learnt navigation, first aid, abseiling and most importantly how to cook pizza on a BBQ.

NUDES (DIVING AND EXPLORATION SOCIETY)

President: Leah Beith
 Vice President: Cara Mulligan
 Secretary: Annelie Moberg
 Treasurer: Rohan Stanger

This year was a quieter season for the Club which may have been due to the poor weather conditions over summer.

The Club had around 40 members, most of which were international students.

Some of the highlights of the year included a number of 'try dives' at The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre, University and the launch of a new Club website, a new logo to match the University's new logo with a scuba diving twist and new merchandise.

A number of members visited Forster for a three day dive trip where they spotted many Grey Nurse sharks in excellent weather conditions. The focus for next year is to provide a few lower cost trips through the year and a more expensive trip towards the end of the year.

NUDES participated in the first Newcastle Scuba Olympics. 12 teams entered from Port Stephens to the Central Coast and nine teams from Newcastle dive stores and clubs. NUDES finished fourth – a great result that the Club hopes to improve at the next Scuba Olympics.

The Club is in the process of purchasing a range of new equipment including new wetsuits, mask and snorkel sets and booties.

RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

President:	Mat Sharman
Vice President:	Geoff O'Dell
Secretary:	Mat Langford
Treasurer:	Ryan Flannagan

With membership numbers down in 2006 and 2007 the Newcastle University Amateur Rugby League Club decided to field only one team for 2008 in the New South Wales Tertiary Rugby League competition. 2008 was the year of the Seahorse; the club produced some major successes this year on and off the park, including:

- Finishing a stellar season as Minor and Major Premiers.
- Club stalwart, Shaun Johnston, receiving a University of Newcastle Colour.

- A massive increase in membership numbers.
- A large financial surplus drawing from successes in attaining and retaining sponsors and the repeat success of fundraising enterprises such as our annual 'day at the Trots'. These figures illustrate the success of the club's post VSU financial plan.

The 2008 Committee would like to congratulate all the players on a spectacular performance this year on and off the field, a well deserved premiership and an unforgettable 2008.

Congratulations to Shaun on his Colour and thanks to Club members, Old Boys Club and all of the Club's supporters – without them the existence of this tight-knit Club would not be possible.

RUGBY UNION CLUB

President:	Barry Mullard
Football Manager:	Col Pratt
Secretary:	Graham Campbell
Treasurer:	Nick Carter

Season 2008 proved to be very successful, surpassing all efforts over the last twenty years both in results and administrative terms. The weather was kind and the majority of players remained injury free. All teams played in the finals series, taking out two premierships in three grand final appearances.

The highlights of 2008 were:

- Grand Final wins for the Womens and Third Grade teams.
- Grand Final runner up for First Grade.



INDIGENOUS PRE RECRUITMENT COURSE PARTICIPANTS TRAINING AT RAY WATT OVAL, UNIVERSITY



- Preliminary finalists in Second Grade and Premier Colts.

A number of the Club's players gained Regional, Country and Australian representative honours.

James Adie, Samuel Berry, Matthew Dun, David Kennedy, Luke McBeath, Ryan McCormack, Paige Butcher, Alexia Mathews, Tobie McGann, Rebecca Trethowan and Margaret Watson all represented Newcastle and Hunter and were selected in NSW Country teams.

Tobie McGann, Rebecca Trethowan and Margaret Watson were selected to represent Australia.

The Club again supported the National Breast Cancer Foundation with its Pink Ladies fundraising day on Saturday 19 July 2008. The men's First Grade team wore pink and maroon jerseys on the day, kindly donated by BHP Billiton Pty Ltd, which were then auctioned. A substantial amount of money was raised through the University Foundation and was accepted by eminent breast cancer researcher, Professor John Forbes, on behalf of the NBCF.

MEN'S SOCCER CLUB

- President: Luke Keating
- Vice President: Brendan King
- Secretary: Gerard Freeman
- Treasurer: Corey Nicolas

The Club had more than 80 members in 2008 with several teams making the finals.

After being promoted from Third Division for the 2008 season, the Club took out the Inter District Second Division grand final. This earned the Club further promotion to First Division for 2009, where the Club can enter a first, reserve and third grade team.

The first division competition is a semi-professional competition with dramatically higher competition costs and requiring further team management but also weekly match day prize money. The Club looks forward to competing in this challenging competition.

Men's All Ages experienced a good season overall, with grades C, G, and L finishing eighth, seventh and sixth respectively.



NSWIS SOCCER TRAINING SESSION

WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB

- President: Melanie Flynn
- Vice President: Elizabeth Savovski
- Secretary: Rebecca Greentree
- Treasurer: Louise O'Brien

The Club welcomed many new players in 2008 and again saw an abundance of returning players. The season started with a crew of new and enthusiastic coaches.

The Club had 90 members and fielded six teams in the Newcastle-Port Stephens, Hunter and Macquarie Soccer Competition.

On the field, 2008 was very successful with two teams competing in semi finals. The J and K Grade teams were semi finalists with J Grade going on to the grand final – making 2008 the eighth consecutive year the Club's teams have competed in finals.

A number of Club members played at the Australian University Games where the University of Newcastle team finished in second.

As always the Women's Soccer Club enjoyed its busy social schedule such as the popular FA Cup night, Meet the Players and Meet the Sponsor.

The Annual Ball and presentation night was held at the Brennan Room at the University. The night was a great way to celebrate a season of hard work and



UNIVERSITY WATER POLO CLUB

to congratulate those who performed exceptionally well. Belinda Murray and Amie Budden were named the Most Valuable Players for the Club for their efforts in supporting the sponsor and fundraising. Rebecca Greentree was named Club person of the year which acknowledged her efforts in administration.

SQUASH CLUB

President: Nathan Allen
 Secretary: Scott McIntyre
 Treasurer: James Jacobs

The administrators of the Club endured a difficult year in 2008. Some of the major problems should be avoided with Club members agreeing to be more directly and actively involved in running the Club in 2009.

The Club's competition results were strong, with five teams entered in the Hunter District Penants in both

the autumn and spring seasons. The Club's teams took out the Men's B03 division in both seasons.

With high participation numbers in both social and competitive squash in 2008, the Squash Club aims to successfully foster this continued interest through 2009.

TAE KWON DO CLUB

President: Darrel Sparke
 Vice President: Ben Raymond
 Secretary: Fahad Alobaid
 Treasurer: Tallulah Cunningham

The Tae Kwon Do Club experienced financial and membership growth in 2008 with 37 registered members. Despite mid-year executive changes, the Club's administration remained stable.

Club members had benefitted from the executive training course delivered by the Faculty of Business

& Law and are planning to pass this knowledge on to new committee members to ensure the Tae Kwon Do Club's continued success.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB

President: Chris Hill
 Vice President: Matt Spencer
 Secretary: Daniel Clenton
 Treasurer: Stuart Southwell

The Ultimate Frisbee Club had mixed success in 2008, with good student representation at the East Coast Challenge and Australian University Games.

The Club finished in fourth place at the East Coast Challenge in Sydney with some strong performances beating the eventual gold and silver medallists in earlier games. Early form at the Australian University Games in Melbourne helped the team to a respectable eighth position.



Two club members, Ellie Sparke and Tegan Sneddon, were selected on the Green & Gold merit list following outstanding performances at the Australian University Games.

The Club continued to host an inter-university tournament building on connections between Newcastle and Ultimate Frisbee Clubs based at Sydney universities, and entered several teams in the Newcastle Ultimate Frisbee competitions.

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

President: Eric Chan
 Vice President: Jeremy Every
 Secretary: Drew Denholm
 Treasurer: Jenna Hollis

With 47 members in 2008 the Volleyball Club had a pleasing year.

The Club's weekly training sessions were very well attended and included social games. The more competitive players joined in the

local indoor volleyball competitions, with Men's B Grade winning the spring competition. Teams were also entered in beach volleyball tournaments throughout the year.

Five club members attended the Australian University Games in Melbourne and produced some great results in the Beach Volleyball. The Men's Division One team secured Bronze and Men's Division Two team finished in fourth place.

WATER POLO CLUB

President: Kristie Thomas
 Vice President: Callan Sainsbury
 Secretary: Angela Skaife
 Treasurer: Matthew Cross

The Water Polo Club had a very successful year in 2008, with membership numbers continuing to grow. The Club had more than 51 members, the majority of which were students.

The season began with a social competition held on Tuesday nights at The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre, University. Members were divided into mixed teams that played two 40 minute games each night.

Australian University Games was a major highlight for the Club this year. A men's and women's team attended the games held in Melbourne. Both teams were entered in Division 2, with the men finishing in fifth place and the women, who were unfortunately down on numbers this year, placed last.

The major highlight for the Club this year was entering a men's and women's team in the Newcastle Water Polo Competition. The men are competing in the Men's B Grade competition and the women are competing in the Women's A Grade competition with. This is the first time in the Club's history that it has played in the Newcastle Competition and it hopes to increase the number of teams entered in the future.

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