



2013

Chair Report

Newcastle University Sport

chair's report

Student Services and Amenities Fee

NUsport received SSAF funding to support sport and recreation programs for students in 2013. Key elements of the funding included support for:

- Employment of a Sports Development Officer
- Funding which allowed NUsport to increase the discount for Forum membership for UoN students to between 30 and 35%
- Support for participation in Eastern and Australian University Games / Championships
- Greater support for sporting clubs which have more than 50% student membership
- Funding towards the cost of hosting the Sports Awards

SSAF also funded the development of the fitness trail around Oval 2 and 3 on the Callaghan campus which was completed early this year. NUsport has received about the same level of support from SSAF in 2014 as it did last year.

Facilities

Last year, NUsport continued with its program of maintaining and restoring existing facilities. A specific concern for NUsport has been the escalating cost for water, gas and electricity in recent years. In 2013, utility expenses were approx. \$421,000 for the year and a significant cost of operating compared to the \$277,000 paid in 2010, an increase of 52% in just 3 years. Consequently, NUsport has been investigating ways in which energy consumption could be reduced while also improving the

standard of our amenities. With this aim, the lights in the pool and in both the Auchmuty and the Stadium courts were replaced last year with high efficiency LED lights which not only use a great deal less power to run but which also have long life spans of over 5 years and thus reduce the high maintenance costs incurred when lights have to be replaced. NUsport wishes to thank the University for sharing the cost for each of these projects.

The University Gym in The Forum Callaghan was refurbished in July 2013. Work done included:

- Replacement of all cardio and strength equipment in the gym
- New TVs in the cardio room
- Installation of new energy efficient lights with sensors
- Installation of a new floor in the weights room
- Painting of the gym area and hallways
- Extending the gym to include some of the corridor

The University also had the lights on Ovals 1, 2 and 3 repaired or replaced in Semester 1 last year.

However, some proposed developments have stalled. Contamination of the site next to the outside basketball courts behind HPE stalled plans to develop a multi-use training surface in that area as a replacement facility for the lost tennis courts. Similarly, allegations of dumped contaminated waste during construction of Oval 5 have prevented further development of the oval until the matter is resolved.

On a brighter note, SSAF funding has been approved in 2014 for:



- the installation of drainage on Oval 3;
- installation of lights on the west side of Oval 3 and
- installation of lights in the COLAs on Oval 2

Participation

One of the stated goals in the NUsport constitution is to promote member participation in sport and physical recreation and NUsport is pleased to report further growth in numbers in various programs in 2013 especially in Swim Academy, club membership and representation in inter-university sporting competitions. However, members need to be aware that it is becoming more difficult to increase participation as recreational facilities are often at capacity at popular times.

EUG

193 competitors comprising 16 separate teams and 2 individual sports (tennis and surfing) represented the University at the Eastern University Games held in Wollongong from 7 – 11 July 2013. The Newcastle Team won Gold medals in Men's Hockey, Silver medals in Men's Football, Women's Football, AFL 9's, Men's Tennis, Men's Short-board Surfing and Bronze medals in Men's Touch, Ultimate, Mixed Netball and Women's Hockey. The Newcastle team placed 8th Overall on pennants. Newcastle was equal runner up by only 2 points for the Spirit of the Games Trophy which was awarded to the home team the University of Wollongong.

Members are advised that NUsport is joining with Australian University Sport and The University of Newcastle to host the 2014 Eastern University Games in

Newcastle from 6 -10 July this year. This will result in ovals and other Callaghan facilities being unavailable during that week.

AUG

238 students forming 22 teams across 18 sports represented The University of Newcastle at the 2013 Australian University Games held on the Gold Coast. Games highlights include:

- 12 medals won on the track (athletics)
- 11 medals won by Taekwondo
- Women's Hockey placed 3rd in Division 1
- 9 Green & Gold Recipients
- 23rd Overall on Pennants but 13th Overall on Point Score (of 40 Universities)

AUC

24 students participated in the Australian University Rowing Championships held in Ballarat, Victoria last year at the same time as the AUG on the Gold Coast. The UoN Team won 3 medals - 2 Silver and 1 Bronze and placed 5th overall.

17 students represented UoN at the 2013 Snow Sports AUC, from 25 - 29 August. The team size was well down on the 2011 team of 48 that competed at Thredbo. Notable results last year included David Graham's Silver Medal in the Freestyle Rails. Unfortunately, the Moguls event scheduled for Thursday 29 August was cancelled on the morning citing safety concerns, meaning David Graham did not get to compete in the event in which he has achieved 2 Gold and 1 Silver for UoN in the last 3 years. NCLE placed 7th overall of 20 Universities, which was a great effort given our smaller team size.

University of Newcastle was one of only 4 Universities to record results in every category of the AUC Distance Running calendar in 2013.

Clubs

After the decline experienced post VSU when both the number of clubs and club membership fell, club numbers have been growing strongly in recent years reaching 1,700 in 2013 from a low of 1,200 in 2008. The Netball Club affiliated with NUsport last year and Softball has become autonomous to bring the number of sporting clubs up to 24 from just 20 in 2008. A Cheerleading Club is expected to be affiliated shortly which augurs well for clubs, NUsport and the University as we can all expect frequent calls on its services.

University Sports Awards

Sporting awards presented in September 2013 included 6 Blues, 5 Colours and 8 scholarships. Blues were presented to Tia Brady – Track & Field; Sophie Stanwell – Heptathlon; Josh Bennett – Cricket; Jessica Richardson – Rowing; Laura Harris – Triathlon and Jessica Colwell – Ultimate Frisbee. Colours were presented to Amelia Leotta - Football; Greg Preston - Hockey; Heidi Turon – Hockey; Andrew Godwin – Mountaineering and Gabriella Sainsbury - Water Polo. Australian and Oceania Cross Country Open Champion, Celia Sullohern was named Sports Person of the Year and Sophie Stanwell (Heptathlon) and Josh Bennett (Cricket) were finalists. The Badminton Club was named Club of the Year.

Elite Sport

Campus Programs Manager Andrew Yapp was responsible for the management and delivery of the Elite Athlete Friendly University Program which covered 70 elite student athletes during 2013.

The Summer World Student Games called "Universiade" were held in Kazan, Russia in 2013. The University was represented by 2 students – track & field athletes Sophie Stanwell in Heptathlon and Matt Lynch in the 400m. Sophie placed 9th in the world class field

and Matt placed 6th as a member of the Men's 4 x 400m relay team. Also representing UoN on the World stage was Cameron Copeland, who played for Australian Universities at the 2013 Student Rugby League World Cup in England.

Future

Looking ahead, a key challenge for NUsport will be to meet the demand for more recreational facilities and services that will be created by the large increase in the student population living on campus following the completion of the student accommodation project. This will be a major challenge because demand for sport and recreation facilities and services already outstrip supply at peak times. This situation is set to become the most serious since the facility shortage experienced in 1991 following amalgamation of the University with the Hunter Institute of Higher Education.

The University will be celebrating a major milestone in 2015 when it turns 50. The Newcastle University College which was a college of the University of Technology Sydney (later UNSW) became The University of Newcastle on 1 January 1965. NUsport is beginning to consider what should be done next year to help commemorate 50 years of sporting developments and achievements on this campus next year. Members are invited to give this some thought and to communicate reasonable ideas to NUsport.

Thanks

I would like to conclude this report by acknowledging the work done by fellow directors, who like you are all volunteers, and to express the Board's appreciation for the work done by NUsport management and staff throughout the year in delivering services to you, our members. Lastly but most importantly I would like to thank you, our members, for your involvement and support, because participation is what NUsport is all about.



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