



2015

Chair Report

Newcastle University Sport

chair's report

Noteworthy matters during 2015 included:

- Continued growth in participation by students across a range of programs.
- Success in inter-university sporting competitions.
- NUsport and several clubs participated in various UON 50th celebration events.
- Ongoing discussions with the University administration regarding its relationship with NUsport.
- Retirement of Adrian Iakin as Executive Officer and Company Secretary.

Specifically:

Participation

NUsport aims revolve around the provision of a broad range of facilities and services so as to promote student participation in sport and physical recreation. We continue to see strong demand across all programs particularly in the following areas:

- Membership to NUsport affiliated clubs totalled 2,467 across 26 clubs (+5% on 2014).
- Student term memberships to The Forum facilities (+5% on 2014).
- Participation in Australian University Sport events although numbers in 2015 were affected by events being held further away from Newcastle (2015 - EUG Wagga / AUG Gold Coast) (2014 – EUG Newcastle / AUG Sydney).
- Social sports competitions although we have had to drop Friday night competitions to enable hosting of an expanded Inter-Collegiate sports program.

While NUsport is pleased to again report growth in participation in various programs in 2015, members need to be aware that our recreational facilities are stretched and often at capacity and that further increases in participation will only be achieved if facilities can be expanded.

Clubs

2015 saw further increase in both the number of clubs affiliated with NUsport as well as the number of club members. Since 2008 the memberships of NUsport affiliated clubs has increased by over 100% and with total memberships now approaching 2,500 the demand on ovals and other facilities has never been greater. The ability for the clubs to continue to grow during this time is testament to the ability of club executives to work with NUsport to achieve a very positive outcome for members.

Forum Memberships

While total memberships to The Forum facilities remained relatively stable in 2015 following an increase of approximately 11% in 2014, student membership numbers continue to increase as a percentage of the total membership. Total membership discounts provided to students in 2015 were in excess of \$840,000 up from \$730,000 in 2014.

University Sport

2015 was another busy year on the University calendar and included significant representation by UON students at the following events:

Eastern University Games

Following the University's win at the 2014 Eastern University Games held in Newcastle, the University



was represented by 240 students forming 20 teams across 11 sports at the 2015 Eastern University Games held at Wagga Wagga in July 2015.

Highlights included:

- Placed 2nd Overall on Pennants, 3rd Overall on Point Score and 8th Overall per Capita.
- 11 of the teams finished on the podium in their events.
- Won 5 Team and 1 Individual Gold Medal, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze.

Australian University Games

The 2015 AUG was held on the Gold Coast in September / October and the University was represented by 248 students forming 23 teams across 19 sports. In competition against 43 universities across 32 sports, our team:

- Placed 9th Overall on Pennants, 13th Overall per Capita and 13th Overall on Point Score.
- Won 2 Team and 5 Individual Gold medals; 2 Team and 6 Individual Silver medals and 5 Team and 3 Individual Bronze medals.
- Had 17 students selected in Green & Gold Representative Teams.

Australian University Championship Events

The University was also represented at the following events:

- AUC Surfing – Port Macquarie NSW.
- AUC Distance Running across numerous events across Sydney, Gold Coast and Melbourne.
- AUC Orienteering – Bri-Glen SA.
- AUC Snow Sports – Thredbo NSW.

World University Games Representation

The University has a number of

representatives at World University Games with:

- Michaela Davis-Meehan competing at the Winter Universiade held in Granada Spain where she recorded the best ever result by an Australian at a Winter Games by placing 4th in the Snowboard Slopestyle event. AUC Distance Running across numerous events across Sydney, Gold Coast and Melbourne.
- Montana Perkins and Julia Barton being selected in the Women's Water Polo team to compete at the Summer Universiade in Korea where they won Gold.
- Commonwealth Games representative Sophie Stanwell was selected for the Summer Games but withdrew due to injury.
- Chris Neale was picked by Australian University Sport as the official event photographer based on his work done as a volunteer at the 2014 EUG held in Newcastle.

Facilities

Despite gaining some momentum regarding a number of projects outlined in NUsport's Capital Development Plans in 2014, no further progress has been made with outcomes likely to await the completion of discussions between the University and NUsport which I will refer to later in this report. These projects include:

- Oval 5 – Playing surface and lighting.
- Oval 3 – Installation of synthetic grass surfaces.
- Replacement tennis courts.
- 2nd pool at The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre.

University Sports Awards

Sporting awards presented in August 2015 included 5 Blues, 3 Colours and 8 scholarships. Blues were presented to Cassandra van Breugel (Swimming), Nicola Metcalfe (Rowing), Shaun Swadling (Trampoline Sports), Rhali Dobson (Football) and Matthew Graham (Freestyle Mogul Skiing). Colours were presented to Eliza Varela (Hockey), Graham Campbell (Rugby) and Merran Holmes (Rowing). Matthew Graham was named Sports Person of the Year and Elisabeth Hulin (Equestrian), Rhali Dobson (Football) and Shaun Swadling (Trampoline Sports) were finalists. Matthew was also awarded the NSWIS Academic Excellence Award in 2015. The NUDES 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 approximately 100 elite student athletes during 2015.

University of Newcastle 50th Anniversary

In 2015 the University celebrated its 50th Anniversary since it was granted autonomy in 1965. NUsport contributions to these celebrations included providing information for the Newcastle Herald Supplement published in April and lodging nominations for induction into the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame for several graduates. The Sports Laureates held a reunion function for UON sports awards recipients' on 13 June 2015 and the Men's and Women's Hockey Clubs celebrated their 60th Anniversary on 4 July 2015.

Future

NUsport has entered into new discussions with the University (UON) to clearly define the relationship between NUsport and UON. From the broad discussions to date NUsport will be undertaking a full assessment of all possible models including not only an investigation around the Controlled Entity model, which is the University's preferred, but also an Independent model. Both parties are committed to having these discussions completed in a timely and efficient manner and any proposed changes to the NUsport structure will need to be presented to NUsport members for their consideration and decision.

Thanks

It is important here to acknowledge the large amount of work done by NUsport management and staff throughout the year and to thank them for their diligence. I would also like to thank you, our members, for your participation and support and particularly to thank all those volunteers in University teams, clubs and colleges who have given their time to make sport happen.

Lastly, but not least, I wish to thank my fellow Board members for their services in 2015, and I trust that you will agree with me that it is appropriate to conclude this report by acknowledging the debt of gratitude we all feel for the enormous contribution that has been made to the promotion and development of sport at this University by our retiring Executive Officer and Company Secretary Adrian Iakin.

**Judy Alexander – Chair
NUsport**



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