



2016

Chair Report

Newcastle University Sport

NUSPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

chair's report

Noteworthy matters during 2016 included:

- Full year profit of \$190,779.
- Continued growth in participation by students of The Forum facilities.
- Success in Australian University Games events at regional, national and international level.
- Continued growth of the social sports program.
- Ongoing discussions with the University administration regarding its relationship with NUsport.

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 including the following:

- Membership to NUsport affiliated clubs totalled 2,314 across 25 clubs being slightly down on 2015 numbers (2,467 or -6.2%) attributable primarily to the significant drop in membership of the Mountaineering Club.
- Student term memberships to The Forum facilities rose to 3,323 during 2016 representing an increase of 6.7% with discounts to students in the vicinity of \$860,000.
- Participation in Australian University Sport events remains strong with 388 students competing at various University Games / Championship events. Participation is subject to significant fluctuation depending upon location and in 2016 UON had a reduced attendance at the Australian

University Games in Perth due to the considerable additional travel costs.

- Social sports competitions saw 329 teams across various competitions 5 nights per week all year round.
- 1,215 students competed in the College Sport program.

Clubs

As above, 2016 saw a small decrease in total club numbers with most clubs registration numbers remaining relatively static. In 2016, there were in excess of 60 teams representing the University each weekend in local competitions as well as a large number of non-competition recreational sports. It must be remembered that since 2008 memberships of NUsport affiliated clubs has increased by over 100% and with total memberships in the vicinity of 2,300 the demand on ovals and other facilities has never been greater.

NUsport continues to identify opportunities for further capital developments that will assist in meeting the demand however it is unlikely that these developments will proceed until discussions regarding NUsport's relationship with the University are finalised.

Forum Memberships

Total memberships to The Forum facilities across all membership categories (including Swim Academy but excluding casual visits) averaged 7,292 across the 2016 year and remained relatively stable since sharp increases in 2014. The upcoming opening of the University's NeW Space building in the CBD will provide students with opportunity to utilise NUsport's Harbourside facility however the likely reduction in student

visitation on campus due to on-line availability of materials etc is being monitored.

University Sport

2016 was another busy year on the University calendar and included significant representation by UON students at the following events:

Eastern University Games

234 students plus 23 non-playing officials forming 21 teams represented The University of Newcastle at the 2016 Eastern University Games in Wollongong.

Games highlights include:

- Men's Hockey winning their 4th straight EUG title.
- Rohan Toole claiming individual Gold in Men's Squash, 5 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals.
- 8th Overall on Pennants / 4th Overall on Point Score / 8th Overall per Capita.

Unfortunately due to extreme weather on the final day, outdoor sports were significantly affected. Some had all progression matches (semi-finals and finals) cancelled with teams ranked by their ladder position at the end of pool games. Others (such as golf and tennis) had the final day of competition completely abandoned. This prevented the opportunity for some teams to play off for higher placing's with Football – Women; Touch – Men; and Football – Men all receiving medals based on ladder positions, with no opportunity to play finals matches.

This is the first time since the 2009 EUG in Bathurst that all UON teams achieved a top-10 result.



Australian University Games

Australian University Games were held in Perth WA from 25 September to 30 September 2016 and UON team numbers were significantly decreased due to the additional costs involved in travel. Results leading up to the finals were encouraging, however a number of teams in medal contention couldn't quite convert including:

- 4th: Men's Tennis, Baseball and Men's Water Polo
- 5th: Women's Water Polo
- 6th: Women's Tennis.

Congratulations to our individual medallists:

Silver: Matt Rees (Javelin), Laura Stokes (Hammer Throw) and Cassie van Breugel (50m Breaststroke).

Bronze: Cassie van Breugel (100m Breaststroke and 200m Breaststroke) and Laura Stokes (Shot Put).

Australian University Championships

In addition, students also represented the University at Snow Uni Games, Orienteering, Surfing and Distance Running events.

World University Games Representation

The following students were selected to represent Australia in World University Championship events in 2016:

- Sarah Halvorsen – World University Championships Rugby 7s (Wales)
- Alanna Patison – World University Championships Rugby 7s (Wales)
- Adrian Delore – World University Championships Rugby 7s (Wales)

- Nicola Blatchford – World University Championships Orienteering (Hungary)
- Sarah Parker – Gold Medallist World University Championships Sailing (Perth)
- Rohan Toole – World University Championships Squash (Malaysia)
- Murray Jones – Gold Medallist World University Championships Sailing (Perth)
- Ben Robinson – Silver Medallist World University Championships Sailing (Perth).

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 on developing major new facilities made with outcomes likely to await the completion of discussions between the University and NUsport. These projects include:

- Oval 5 – Playing surface and lighting.
- Oval 3 – Lighting and installation of synthetic grass surfaces.
- Replacement tennis courts.
- 2nd pool at The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre.
- 3rd Indoor Court at The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre.w

In the latter period of 2016, planning commenced to address significant maintenance works required to be undertaken at The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre. To this end, a number of consultants' reports were commissioned to allow for a 3 year plan aimed at

rectification works which will include the roof, exterior cladding, pool and adjacent areas, windows, ventilation and change rooms. Works will commence to those priority areas during 2017. General refurbishment works to the café and the reception area at the Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre and an upgrade of strength and cardio equipment at The Forum Harbourside have also been undertaken or are currently underway.

University Sports Awards

Sporting awards presented at the annual University of Newcastle Sports Awards Dinner in August 2016 included:

- Blues – Sarah Halvorsen (Rugby 7s), Emma McDonald (Swimming), Jessica Foyster (Taekwondo), Bree Edgar (Ultimate Frisbee), Chris Boyko (Water Polo) and Emily Grellman (Water Polo).
- Colours – Alex Hambly (Water Polo) and Penelope Saltis (Rowing).
- 16 scholarships doubling the number awarded in 2015.
- Tara Andrews was named Sports-Person-of-the-Year (Women's Football).
- University of Newcastle Rugby Club was named Club-of-the-Year.
- Women's Water Polo (Australian University Games) was named Team of the Year.

As part of the Sports Awards Dinner it was pleasing to see Montana Perkins and Julia Barton inducted into the Australian University Sport Honour Roll as a result of their participation in the Australian Water Polo team which won gold at the 2015 University World Games.

Elite Sport

The current athlete list totals 122 current students covered under the Elite Athlete Friendly University Agreement split into the following categories:

- 29 Professional Contracted athletes which include players contracted to the Newcastle Jets, to the Newcastle Knights and other NRL teams and 2 Rugby Union players contracted to the Australian Rugby Union.
- 18 Academy / Institute athletes across a range of sports with 5 athletes with the Jets Women's League program and including notable athletes such as Matthew Graham, David Graham and Michaela Davis-Meehan (Snow Sports), Emily Grellman and Montana Perkins (Water Polo) and Jake Sylvester (Surfing).
- 30 National Representative athletes.
- 45 State and other athletes.

The program commenced in 2006 with just 11 athletes and continues to grow having doubled in size since 2011 when 51 athletes were covered under the Agreement.

Social Sports Competitions and Programs/Activities

NUsport currently conducts social sports competitions 5 nights per week (Sunday to Thursday) across mixed touch football, ladies and mixed netball and mixed basketball. The competitions have been at capacity for a number of years with 145 teams / 971 participants (semester 1), 136 teams / 916 participants (semester 2) and 48 teams / 320 participants (summer). Other notable programs / activities held during 2016 include:

- NUsport partnered with the University in establishing Callaghan Parkrun which is a free weekly 5km run around the campus held on a Saturday morning. The event attracts an average of 63 participants each Saturday.
- ResChallenge - the College Sport Competition exists to encourage positive interaction between residential Colleges of the University of Newcastle. The Sporting Program commences in late February with the swimming carnival and formally concludes with the College Awards Dinner, hosted by ResLife, in October. 1,215 students competed in the College Sport program across the year.

- Student Sports Advisory Committee meetings – the Committee including delegates from all affiliated sporting clubs, representatives from all colleges and other interested parties meets quarterly to discuss matters pertaining to campus sports activities.
- Continued discussions between Australian University Sport and the Wollotuka Institute regarding National Tertiary Indigenous Games.
- Discussions regarding the entry of a team from the Wollotuka Institute into various Rugby 7s tournaments.
- Support for Port Macquarie students (20+) in hosting sports night against CCU and entering Futsal team in local competition.
- Support for Sydney students (10+ per session) in holding social sports nights at King George Centre.

Future

NUsport continues 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 of their time to make sport happen. Lastly, but not least, I wish to thank my fellow Board members for their services in 2016.

**Judy Alexander – Chair
NUsport**



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