

2017 CHAIR REPORT

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SPORT

NUSPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA





CHAIR'S REPORT

JUDY ALEXANDER

Noteworthy matters during 2017 include:

PARTICIPATION

NUsport aims revolve around the provision of a broad range of facilities and services so as to promote student, staff and community participation in sport and physical recreation. In 2017, we experienced a slight fall in membership, visits and club memberships when compared to the previous year:

- Total member visits to The Forum, University and The Forum, Harbourside fell by 10% to 389,655.
- Average financial membership fell by 9% to 4,610. The decline began from June 2017 and was largely in student memberships.
- Membership to NUsport affiliated clubs totalled 1,919 across 24 clubs.
- Social sports competitions including the ResChallenge were offered 6 nights per week across a range of sports with 3,271 participants being unchanged from last year.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY SPORT

2017 was another busy year on the University calendar and included significant representation by UON students at the following events:

EASTERN UNIVERSITY GAMES

In 2017, the University of Newcastle hosted the final Eastern University Games. The University of Newcastle were represented by 330 students plus 27 non-playing officials winning 13 pennants. This team of students obtained the following outstanding overall results:

- Overall Champion University – Based on the number of pennants (championships) won across all sports.
- Doug Ellis Per Capita Champion University – Based on points accrued and enrolment numbers of the universities.

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

The following students represented Australia at the World University Games in 2017:

- Nicholas Bate – Athletics
- Larissa Pasternatsky – Athletics
- Alicia Keir – Athletics
- Julia Barton – Water Polo.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

These games were held on the Gold Coast which will be the venue for at least the next 3 years. This was the last year that the Games were held in their current format moving to two-division National Championship format, with Division 2 to be played in July and Division 1 late September. The University of Newcastle again had strong results winning the following medals and Green and Gold selection:

UON INDIVIDUAL MEDALLISTS:

- GOLD: Cassie van Breugel – 100m Breaststroke
- GOLD: William Brown – Hammer Throw
- SILVER: Laura Stokes – Hammer Throw
- SILVER: Laura Stokes – Shot Put
- SILVER: Cassie van Breugel – 200m Breaststroke
- SILVER: Cassie van Breugel – 50m Breaststroke
- SILVER: Beau Laczkowski – 100m Backstroke
- SILVER: Beau Laczkowski – 200m Backstroke
- BRONZE: Beau Laczkowski – 50m Backstroke
- BRONZE: Emma McDonald – 50m Freestyle
- BRONZE: Emma McDonald – 50m Butterfly
- BRONZE: Alex Rees – 200m Butterfly
- BRONZE: William Brown – Shot Put

UON TEAM MEDALS:

- SILVER: Women's Basketball
- BRONZE: Women's Rugby 7s
- BRONZE: Men's Touch
- BRONZE: Men's Water Polo

UON GREEN & GOLD SELECTIONS:

- Josh Voigt – Baseball
- Kim Williams – Ladies Netball
- Ellie Brown – Women's Rugby 7s
- Freya Roebuck – Women's Basketball
- Cherub Lum – Women's Basketball
- Jake Robinson – Men's Water Polo
- Mitchell Marsden – Men's Water Polo
- Laura Robinson – Women's Water Polo
- Matthew George – Men's Tennis
- Alex Langbridge – Men's Touch
- Sean Glachan – Men's Touch.

AUSTRALIAN SNOW UNIVERSITY GAMES

These games were held at Thredbo in August 2017 with 44 students participating from the University of Newcastle. For the second year in a row, the University of Newcastle were recognised with the Spirit of the Mountain, award which is based on aspects of camaraderie, sportsmanship on and off the slopes, as well as athlete and team management behaviours.

ELITE SPORT

In 2017 NUsport continued to manage the Elite Athlete Friendly University Agreement on behalf of the University and provided support to 131 students split into the following categories:

- 54 Tier 1 athletes including Olympic and Paralympic athletes, players contracted to various professional teams including the Newcastle Knights and Newcastle Jets, NSW Institute of Sport athletes and numerous other Australian representatives.
- 77 Tier 2 athletes including state and national representatives across a broad range of sports.

The program commenced in 2006 with just 11 athletes and continues to grow.

FACILITIES

2017 saw The University of Newcastle complete extensive work on The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre:

- An extensive report was commissioned and received regarding the nature and extent of damage to the Aquatics area with the view of gaining an understanding of the short to medium term risks to the pool. This will be finalised in 2018.
- Repairs to corroded steel columns and to the concrete floor in the aquatic area were completed
- Replacement of chlorine tanks and bunding was completed.
- Repairs were undertaken on The Forum roof and guttering.
- Entire eastern facade of The Forum was re-clad inclusive of re-fixing eaves where required and exterior cladding.
- Replacement of louvres to the Auchmuty Court (including treatment of the rusting steel frames) were completed.
- Installation of improved drainage to eastern side of The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre;

In addition, NUsport undertook a substantial refurbishment of the Harbourside facility in December 2017 including acquisition and installation of new equipment, new flooring, painting, and floor sanding to the upstairs group fitness studios.



HOSTING OF THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE SPORTS AWARDS DINNER

The University of Newcastle Sports Awards Dinner was held at Newcastle City Hall on Friday 18 August 2017. The dinner highlights the important role of sport across the University and its contribution to the student experience. Guest speaker for the evening was Mr Don Knapp, CEO of Australian University Sport. The night saw the awarding of:

- 13 sports scholarships.
- Sports Club of the Year to University of Newcastle Tennis Club.
- 4 University Colours to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the organisation and administration of University sport.
- 7 University Blues to those with an outstanding record of sporting achievement.
- Sports Person of the Year to Keenan Derry (Barefoot Water Skiing).

The event is a key date in the calendar and showcases the exceptional standard of sporting achievement and administration by students of the University.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

NUsport continues to perform well financially in a highly competitive environment and one in which costs, such as power, are increasing. Of particular note is total expenditure in delivering services to students during 2017 which totalled \$1,629,162 of which \$860,000 was contributed by SSAF and NUsport contributing the balance of \$769,162. This support for student activities included:

- Discounted memberships to The Forum.
- Support for students attending AUS Games and Championships.
- Management of social sports competitions.
- Hosting of the annual Sports Awards Dinner.
- Support for NUsport affiliated Clubs.
- Orientation.

DISCUSSIONS WITH UON

The discussions between UON and NUsport around the entity structure of NUsport have progressed slowly. During 2017 these largely focused on the financial management of NUsport, including clear guidance to UON and NUsport responsibilities which will assist us in assessing our future as either a Controlled Entity or Independent Entity. The Board is committed to progressing these discussions with UON and ensuring that all options are reviewed in terms of NUsport's objectives and ensuring financial sustainability.

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 2017.

JUDY ALEXANDER, NUSPORT CHAIR

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