



2019

CHAIR REPORT

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SPORT

NUSPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



CHAIR'S REPORT

JUDY ALEXANDER

Noteworthy matters during 2019 include:

PARTICIPATION

In 2019, NUsport recorded an increase in participation in program areas of sporting clubs, UniSport Australia competitions, social sport, and Swim Academy. There was a slight decline in traditional Forum memberships in favour of Fitness Passport memberships and visitation continued to increase. NUsport continues to deliver a wide range of health, sport, recreation and well-being services to our students and staff and, importantly, presents a strong asset for the University in its engagement with our wider community.

- Average monthly visits to The Forum were 28,763 with 79% at University and 21% at Harbourside.
- Fitness Passport visitation was a total of 74,909 and sees a 50/50 split between our 2 venues. Fitness Passport memberships are 4,441 as at December 2019 (up from 1,381 December 2018) and has increased from 18% to 47% of our total memberships.
- Traditional memberships continued to decline by 5% in 2019, with a portion of members converting to Fitness Passport.
- 1,740 members were registered across 25 affiliated sporting clubs.
- Social Sport programs continued to provide regular competition for over 300 teams from the University and wider community throughout the year.
- NUsport managed the ResChallenge Sports Program for our residential students, providing regular activity and some healthy competition between residences.

NUSPORT AFFILIATED CLUBS

Membership across 25 affiliated sporting clubs experienced a 5% increase on 2018, rising to 740. NUsport's support for students throughout our range of club includes significantly discounted venue hire, subsidies for competition uniforms, equipment and first-aid supplies, and competition registration fees. Administrative support and guidance is provided by dedicated NUsport staff.

We were pleased to see the regeneration of the University Volleyball Club, who were granted probationary affiliation in 2019.

Our clubs continue to represent the University with distinction and we were thrilled to see the University Women's Football Club announced as the 2019 Newcastle Football Club of the Year, with student Chloe Barwick named Coach of the Year.

UNISPORT AUSTRALIA EVENTS

2019 was a great year for the University in UniSport Australia competitions. We ended the year as the 10th-ranked University in Australia thanks to some outstanding team and individual performances – most notably Baseball and Men's Water Polo who took out their respective Championships, and William Brown and Molly O'Neill who were both crowned Australian University Champions in their athletic disciplines of Hammer Throw and Race Walking, respectively.

We saw an increase international student participation, who comprised one-third of our Nationals Division 2 team.

Outside of the UniSport Nationals, the University of Newcastle won both the Men's and Women's competitions at the inaugural NRL Uni 9's Rugby League tournament, held alongside the Downer Rugby League World Cup 9s in October.

UniSport Nationals medal winners for the University of Newcastle in 2019 included:

GOLD:

Baseball

Men's Water Polo

William Brown (Athletics - Hammer Throw)

Molly O'Neill (Athletics - 5000m Race Walk)

SILVER:

Men's 3x3 Basketball

Men's Distance Running

Mixed Touch Football

Emily Whelan (Athletics - High Jump)

Laura Bonzo (Athletics - 100m)

Cassandra van Breugel (Swimming - 50m Breaststroke & 200m Breaststroke)

Luke Babic (Men's Marathon)

BRONZE

Laura Bonzo (Athletics - 200m)

William Brown (Athletics - Shot Put)

Tahla Pont (Athletics - Long Jump & Triple Jump)

Connor McDonald (Snow Sports - Men's Snowboard Rails)

Noah Cornale (Surfing - Men's Bodyboard)

Surfing (Teams Challenge)

UNISPORT INDIGENOUS NATIONALS

UON maintained its strong record in the Indigenous Games, with the team of 16 students from placing 5th overall at the 2019 Indigenous Nationals in Perth.

ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM

NUsport continued to assist over 130 athletes through the Elite Athlete Program, by way of Guidance, advocacy and support in negotiating academic flexibility.

The University signed an Updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Institute of Sport, extending its commitment to supporting elite athletes pursuing tertiary study.

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 16 August 2019. The dinner highlights the important role of sport across the University and its contribution to the student experience. The awards celebrated the theme of Women in Sport with special guest - former UON student and Australian Matilda, now Deputy-CEO of the Professional Footballers' Association, Kathryn Gill.

Education student, Jemma Smith, was awarded the 2018 Sports Person of the Year for her achievements in the sports of Surf Lifesaving and Kayaking.

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. Of particular note is total expenditure in delivering services to students during 2019 which totalled \$1,345,957 of which \$898,113 was contributed by SSAF and NUsport contributing the balance of \$447,844.



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.

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 2019.

Newcastle University Sport
ACN 096 090 372

Head Office: The Forum
Sports & Aquatic Centre,

The University of Newcastle,
Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia

w: www.theforum.org.au
p: +61 2 4921 7001

