



# 2014 Chair Report

Newcastle University Sport

# chair's report

Noteworthy matters during 2014 included:

- Growth in participation by students across a range of programs but particularly in clubs and inter-university sport;
- Discussions with the University on plans to improve and expand existing facilities to cater for increased demand;
- Co-hosting the 2014 Eastern University Games in Newcastle and success in inter-university sporting competitions;
- Discussions about activities for the 50th Anniversary this year;
- Ongoing discussions with the University administration regarding its relationship with NUsport.

## Specifically:

### Participation

One of NUsport's goals is to promote member participation in sport and physical recreation. Large growth occurred in student membership of clubs and in numbers participating in inter-university events. Requirements for SSAF funding undoubtedly spurred club growth and the hosting of the EUG in Newcastle and the AUG in Sydney encouraged participation in those events. While NUsport is pleased to again report growth in participation in various programs in 2014, the increase in numbers is placing yet more pressure on existing facilities. 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 are upgraded and expanded.

### Facilities

NUsport continued with its facility maintenance program in 2014 with attention focussed on completing numerous small projects. The value of the detailed Capital Development Planning that NUsport undertook in 2012 became evident last year in discussions with the University about what could be done to cater for the growth in the student population. The University recognised that improvements to and expansion of sporting facilities were required and accepted a number of NUsport proposals. While some of the works planned for 2014 were delayed, new drainage was installed on Oval 3 and lights were installed in the COLAs on Oval 2 this year.

Following the decision that a large multi-purpose court would not be built on the basketball courts behind HPE due to contamination of adjacent areas, the University advised that just two tennis courts would be built on that site. In addition, the University has proposed construction of a synthetic surface on Oval 3 of sufficient size to accommodate two fields, for football and hockey, for development in 2016. The proposal recognises the need to provide further facilities for the lost tennis courts and for the increased campus population as well as the need for facilities which can accommodate constant use and which are not closed because of wet weather.

### University Sport

2014 was a stellar year for the University in inter-university sporting competitions.

### Eastern University Games

The 2014 Eastern University Games



were held in Newcastle from 6-10 July 2014. The University was represented by 460 students forming 41 teams across 17 sports. This was the biggest team ever fielded by UoN at any University Games and it achieved the best ever result, winning 10 Gold Medals, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze to win the Overall Champion University Trophy claiming 1st Overall on Pennants as well as 1st Overall on Point Score and 6th Overall per Capita.

### Australian University Games

The 2014 AUG was held in Sydney and the University was represented by 271 students forming 25 teams across 19 sports. Competing against 41 universities across 32 sports, our team:

- Placed 8th Overall on Point Score, 10th Overall per Capita and 19th Overall on Pennants;
- Won 2 Team and 5 Individual Gold medals; 5 Team and 12 Individual Silver medals and 2 Team, 2 relay and 7 Individual Bronze medals;
- Had 16 students selected in Green & Gold Rep Teams

Australian University Championships

### AUC Surfing

The Australian University Surfing Championships were held concurrently with the EUG in July with the team winning 2 Gold medals and a Bronze. Jake Sylvester won the Men's Shortboard event and Celia Waterfield won the Women's Bodyboard.

### AUC Distance Running

The University of Newcastle participated

at each of the 4 AUC Distance Running events held in 2014 with a total of 30 results recorded. Official placing overall was 19th / 36 for Men and 23rd / 36 for Women. UoN topped the medal tally with 3 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze.

## AUC Triathlon

As for AUC Distance Running, the AUC Triathlon was split across various events in NSW, QLD and Victoria in 2014. Two events were contested with just one athlete competing in each. The Overall result for AUC Triathlon was 14th from 22 participating universities.

## AUC Orienteering

4 students represented the University of Newcastle at the AUC Orienteering event held at Clandulla, NSW in April 2014. The Men placed 2nd from 11 teams and the Women placed 6th from 8 which gave UoN a Combined result of 3rd Overall.

## AUC Snow Sports

A total of 38 students competed at the 2014 AUC Snow Sports held at Mt. Buller, Victoria, 3 - 6 September, double the number that took part in 2013. In 2014, the AUC Snow Sports comprised 13 different events across both Skiing and Snow-boarding. UoN was awarded the highly sought after 'Spirit of the Mountain' trophy, while Michaela Davis-Meehan was named Overall Female Snowboard Champion. The team won 1 Gold medal, 4 Silver and 1 Bronze. Both the Men's and the Women's Teams placed 6th from 20 to give a combined result of 7th Overall.

## Overall

UON produced its best overall results in Australian University Sport competition since hosting the AUG in 2003. With 805 students representing the University across 31 sports we achieved the following rankings:

- 21st on Pennants (based on pennants won at AUG or AUC)
- 12th per capita
- 7th on total points.

## Clubs

Taking note of the Australian Government's legislation which requires clubs on university campuses to have

a majority student membership to be eligible for funding from SSAF, clubs recruited heavily in 2014, bringing their combined membership to over 2,300. The increased numbers have placed further demands on limited facilities as well as on NUsport finances.

24 sporting clubs are currently affiliated with NUsport. The Cheerleading Club was granted probationary affiliation in 2014, the Baseball & Softball Club was split into 2 separate clubs and the Volleyball Club which had been inactive for over 12 months was disaffiliated.

The University provides support for clubs to enhance the university experience for students, and given the twin restrictions of limited finances for subsidies and insufficient capacity of facilities to meet user demand, growth in non-student membership of clubs cannot be sustained. During 2014, the NUsport Campus Sports Project Officer met with each club to ascertain its needs and longer term viability. NUsport will be discussing the information in that report and, in line with the University's goals for student organisations on campus, will be moving to implement changes to assist clubs to become more efficient and ensure clubs operate principally in support of students as well as in support of the goals of NUsport and the University.

## University Sports Awards

Sporting awards presented in August 2014 included 2 Blues, 3 Colours and 8 scholarships. Blues were presented to Katie-Jayne Kelly (Hockey) and Cameron Copeland (Rugby League). Colours were presented to Brett Norris (Cricket); Nikki Hancock (Hockey) and Katherine Johnston (Softball). Australian Heptathlon Open Champion and Commonwealth Games representative Sophie Stanwell was named Sports-Person-of-the-Year and Tara Andrews (Football), Katie-Jayne Kelly (Hockey) and Robbie Rochow (Rugby League) were finalists. The Women's Hockey 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 83 elite student athletes during 2014.

## University of Newcastle 50th Anniversary

The University is celebrating 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 this year and lodging nominations for induction into the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame for several graduates. The Sports Laureates are holding a reunion function for UoN sports awards recipients' on 13 June 2015 and the Men's and Women's Hockey Clubs will celebrate their 60th Anniversary this year on 4 July.

## Future

As reported last year, the immediate challenge for NUsport is to meet the demand for more recreational facilities and services at Callaghan that has been created by the increase in the student population living on campus, but looking ahead, a second challenge will be to provide facilities and services for students and staff at the NeW Space campus that is planned to open in the city by early 2017.

## 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 2014, 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 director Dr Bernard Francis Curran.



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](http://www.theforum.org.au) p: +61 2 4921 7001