

Newcastle University Sport (NUsport)

2018 Chair Report



The following is a summary of the report given to NUsport members at the AGM held 1 May 2019...

REPORT

Noteworthy matters during 2018 include:

PARTICIPATION

NUsport's purpose is to provide a broad range of facilities and services to promote student, staff and community participation in sport and physical recreation. In 2018, we experienced an increase in visitations compared to the previous year, whilst we saw traditional memberships decline in favour of the Fitness Passport membership. We were excited to deliver new state of the art gym facilities at The Forum, University which were completed in February 2019 and hope this positively impacts on memberships and visitations.

- Total member visits to The Forum were 416,848 with 78% at University and 22% at Harbourside. This was an increase of 7% on 2017.
- Joined Fitness Passport which has attracted 1,381 memberships and continues to grow. 75% have joined at The Forum, University and 25% at The Forum, Harbourside. At December 2018, Fitness Passport represents 18% of our total memberships.
- Traditional memberships declined 5% in 2018.
- 1,656 members were registered across 24 affiliated sporting clubs.
- Social Sport and Res Challenge programs provided regular competition for over 300 teams from the University and wider community throughout the year.

UNISPORT AUSTRALIA EVENTS

A significant change in the model of competitive inter-university sport occurred in 2018, along with a name change of our peak body – now known as UniSport Australia. The UniSport Nationals Div 1 and Div 2 events took the place of the previous Eastern and Australian University Games. The removal of the regional university games events and a focus on higher quality competition saw a substantial decrease in participant numbers, both nationally and from UON.

UniSport Nationals Div 2

A team of 79 competitors represented UON in seven sports at Nationals Div 2, with hopes of qualifying teams into Nationals Div 1 for 2019. UON qualified in Mixed Touch Football and Mixed Netball for Div 1 (both teams finishing second), with teams also competing in Men's Badminton, Men's Basketball, Women's Futsal, Men's Ultimate and Men's Volleyball.

UniSport Nationals Div 1

UON was represented by 101 students who competed on the Gold Coast across 12 sports in the highlight Nationals Div 1 event. Women's Netball and Golf were UON's top ranked teams, both placing fourth. 17 individual medals were won by UON students.

UON Individual Medallists:

- GOLD: Guy Walters – 5000m (Track)
- GOLD: William Brown – Hammer Throw
- GOLD: Lasse Wisnes – Taekwondo (Yellow Belt 80-87kg)
- SILVER: Sam Harris – 200m Freestyle
- SILVER: Cassie van Breugel – 200m Breaststroke

- SILVER: Emily Whelan – High Jump
- SILVER: Jonty Wood – Taekwondo (Red Belt 68-74kg)
- SILVER: Josh Brown – Taekwondo (Red Belt 80-87kg)
- SILVER: Ross Waddell – Taekwondo (Blue Belt 68-74kg)
- SILVER: Alysha Bagster – Taekwondo (Yellow Belt 57-62kg)
- SILVER: Lasse Wisnes – Taekwondo (Yellow Belt Poomsae)
- BRONZE: William Brown – Discus
- BRONZE: Cassandra van Breugel – 50m Breaststroke
- BRONZE: Cassandra van Breugel – 100m Breaststroke
- BRONZE: Alexandra Rees – 200m Butterfly
- BRONZE: Callum Watson – Taekwondo (Yellow Belt 74-80kg)
- BRONZE: My-Huong Hoang – Taekwondo (Yellow Belt <73kg).

No Green & Gold selections were made under the new competition model.

UniSport Nationals – Snow

Nationals Snow was held in Mt Buller with 18 skiers and snowboarders representing UON. The highlight was Jordan Black taking out the Men’s Snowboard Slopestyle title. UON finished in ninth place overall, of 17 competing universities.

UniSport Indigenous Nationals

UON maintained its strong record in the Indigenous Games, with the team of 16 students placing 3rd overall at the 2018 Indigenous Nationals.

World University Championships

The following students represented Australia at the World University Championship events in 2018:

- Layne Morgan – Rugby 7s (Women) – Silver Medallist
- Joseph Crawford – Rugby 7s (Men) – Silver Medallist
- Rohan Toole – Squash – 15th place.

Layne and Joseph will be included on the UniSport Australia Honour Roll as medallists at World University Championship events.

Elite Athlete Program

In 2018, 130 student-athletes were supported under the Elite Athlete Program. NUsport manages the Elite Athlete Program on behalf of the University of Newcastle, providing academic flexibility, support and advocacy for elite athletes during their studies.

Supported students included Australian Junior and Senior representatives; professional players from A-League, NRL and Super Rugby Clubs; NSW Institute of Sport athletes and other athletes from a total of 33 different sports.

Facilities

During 2018, NUsport and the University have completed extensive work on The Forum:

- Refurbishment of the High Performance Gym at The Forum, University;

- Oval 3 Lighting;
- Completed upgrade to the Auchmuty Court including cross ventilation in the roof;
- Repairs to Stadium Court roof;
- Replacement of fans in Studio 2 at The Forum, University;
- New spin bikes for The Forum, Harbourside and drainage repairs.

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 17 August 2018. The dinner highlights the important role of sport across the University and its contribution to the student experience. The awards celebrated the theme of sports administration, with a panel of prominent administrators including Peter Tate (CEO - Commonwealth Games Australia (NSW Division)); Warren Smith (Surfest) and Jane Moran (Water Polo). The night saw the awarding of:

- 15 sports scholarships including the inaugural Col Whitehead Cricket Scholarship.
- 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 (James Richardson – Cricket, Conrad Bond – Rowing, Jason Buffier – Rugby Union, Jordan Johnson – SCUBA Diving).
- 4 University Blues to those with an outstanding record of sporting achievement (William Brown – Athletics, Guy Walters – Athletics, Alanna Patison – Rugby Union, Matthew George – Tennis).
- Sports Person of the Year to Kyle Middleton (Motorcycling).

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 2018 which totalled \$1,539,545 of which \$902,002 was contributed by SSAF and NUsport contributing the balance of \$637,543. 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 future arrangement have progressed well. We have agreed to enter into a Heads of Agreement which includes a Service Level Agreement and a new long-term lease over The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre and the ovals. NUsport and the University have strengthened their partnership and remain committed to the future of sport and wellbeing of the Students and Staff of the University and its Community.

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 2018.

Judy Alexander
Chair