

It's all about sport – a social inclusion model

What is social integration?

"promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons"

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development heads of State and Government: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/sib>

We believed that holding an inclusive event would assist in adding value to the student experience and would promote:

- Social integration to enhance the learning journey
- Form a sense of belonging
- Acknowledge the capabilities of the students
- Assists toward lessening culture shock
- The University benefits because the students are more relaxed, talk about the games to family and friends both here and at home
- Forms a bond of camaraderie.

Australian universities also strive to enhance social integration between domestic and international students and research indicates that we have only partially succeeded in this endeavour . Studies indicate that there is limited interaction between domestic students and international students in English speaking universities (Owens and Loomes, CQUniversity Sydney). The International Student Barometer indicated that students wanted the opportunity to participate in more sporting activities. Further research indicates that there is strong evidence that learning in culturally mixed groups produces higher levels of academic achievement (Owens and Loomes, CQUniversity Sydney).

How does sport help to integrate

We believed that it was important to use an inclusive approach to the sporting activities, as sport provides the opportunity to interact and join social networks. It not only assists international students to develop relations with domestic students and staff members, it may be used as a reaching out tool to groups at risk of facing discrimination. Towards this both domestic and international students and staff from all nationalities were invited to join. Women participated across most of the sports and were welcomed. Discrimination was not evident. The families of the competitors made a day of it by bringing blankets, shade and picnic lunches as well as the food and drinks that were provided. Each year as we arranged these events we have extended and improved. The trip to Melbourne in August will have players that are International, white Australian and Indigenous Australian.

Budget

As the events have evolved the budget has been modified and extended. Funding was received from all campuses for the Chancellor's Challenge Cups and the Mini Olympics was funded by Student Support on the Rockhampton campus as it has been a Rockhampton specific event. There are now thoughts that we may extend this to included students from our Domestic campuses – Mackay, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Emerald and Noosa.

So what did we do!

The concept of holding competitions arose from discussion with Ross Munro and some of the international students who were playing cricket on the university grounds in Rockhampton. The very first game was between staff and students and was sponsored by the University Chaplain – of course the students gave the staff quite a licking! Both domestic, international students, staff and families participated. This was very low key and a small budget with the winning team receiving a small trophy and \$100.

The idea grew into the Chancellors Challenge Cup – we believed that there was very little interaction between each of the campuses – as you may be aware CQUniversity is quite unique in having a campus in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Mackay, Noosa and Emerald, with a vast number of international students on each of the larger campuses.

A budget was established and sent to the Vice Chancellor and the Heads of Campus at each of the larger campuses and much to our surprise and delight (?????) they fully supported the proposal.

So the planning began for the first Chancellor's Challenge Cup. Emails flew between representatives from each of the campuses, and it was decided to host the first match at the main campus of Rockhampton. We needed to build a cricket pitch! Our Facilities Assistance Centre came to the party and prepared a pitch. Sponsorship was then arranged we went to the facilities, Student Association, Marketing, Student Support Centre and Facilities. Teams were selected and practice commenced.

While the students were practising the workers behind the scenes commenced the arrangements – for the first cup all the organisation was done from Rockhampton as we had never organised something quite like this previous we believed that organising should be kept in one place . Flights and accommodation were booked for the teams and the staff that accompanied them, itineraries were set up, advertising commenced, insurance was confirmed, a photographer was arranged, and a bus was hired to ferry players from the airport and from their accommodation.

A match draw and rules were established, umpires were roped in to help, score books, equipment, large score boards were purchased or borrowed! Trophies were purchased, T Shirts and hats were designed and printed or perhaps make that “found” in some cases and meals were sorted.

Then came the finer details – as we had a small amount of alcohol for the trophy presentation and celebration evening a Liquor License was required.

The teams captains were selected, a broom was brought out to sweep the pitch for the students to practice, even a motor mower was brought in to make sure that the run off was correct.

Finally the day arrived, we had been up for some time to set out the boundaries, ensure the pitch was smooth, ice the soft drinks, cut up the fruit, erect the shade, check the first aid kits – you must have that magic spray, fill up the water bottles, and urns, check the BBQ's were operational and a stereo was found to ensure there was music. As music is a must!

This may all sound like quite an amount of work but as you will see from the following DVD the enjoyment that was had by all that participated was well worth the effort. We have now held two Mini Olympics on the Rockhampton campus involving 9 different sports and the third Chancellor's match at the Melbourne in August this year.

The format for the first Chancellors Challenge Cup

- A three round competition between the 6 teams would be held with the top 2 teams playing off for the Shield while the other 4 teams will be playing for positions 3 to 6. The team that finishes last collects the Wooden Spoon. It is suggested that each team plays 2 games each day.
- The games could be played at the following times which gives sufficient time for each team to bowl 20 overs in a game. Also there is time for lunch and for the second game to finish before the light begins to fade. I have suggested a possible draw. Ensure that you have the draw completed on Friday evening if possible. It is a good way to build some excitement. We had one of the University staff do the draw from a cricket cap.
- With 3 wickets to play on you can rotate so that all teams get the chance to play on at least 2 wickets.
- Saturday: commencing at 9.00am : MEL v BNE
- SYD v GLD COAST 1
- ROK v GLD COAST 2
- Saturday: commencing at 2.00pm : MEL v GLD COAST 2
- SYD v BNE
- ROK v GLD COAST 1
- Sunday : commencing at 9.00am : ROK v BNE
- SYD v GLD COAST 2
- MEL v GLD COAST 1
- After the 3 rounds calculate the points for each team and rank from 1 to 6.
- Sunday : commencing at 2.00pm : FINALS: 1 v 2
- 3 v 4
- 5 v 6

Evaluation results of the Mini Olympics

Negative

- Participants want to play in more sports.
- Hold the Parade of Nations for the Mini Olympics during the week prior to the event.
- Supply more soft drink!
- More seating for spectators
- A camera at each sport.

Positives

- When is the next one going to be held?????
- We had great fun
- It was well organised
- The cauldron was a great addition