

Issue 18 - May, 2016

Welcome to the latest edition of the WASO News.

The WASO Executive met in late February in Sydney to plan for the coming year, and many NOC W&S Committees have commenced their activities.

Since our last news, Women's Sports Festivals have been successfully organised and conducted in many of our island nations. We share some highlights in this edition.

Please keep in contact and remember to send through photos and written text to share with others through this newsletter.

With my personal best wishes to all athletes selected for the 2016 Olympic Games. You are all champions!

Warmest regards,

Helen Brownlee
Chair, WASO

2016 Oceania Events

9 May, 2016 ONOC General Assembly, Port Vila, Vanuatu

7 – 12 May, 2016, OSFO, Rio Chefs de Mission Meeting, PGC Gen Assembly, CGF Meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu

5 – 21 August, 2016, Rio Olympic Games

7 – 18 September, 2016, Rio Paralympic Games

11 October, 2016, International Day of the Girl

Sportswoman of the Year – World Paddle Awards



Lisa Carrington (NZL) was crowned 2015 Sportswoman of the Year at the World Paddle Awards, held in Barcelona, Spain in March 2016.

In 2015 Lisa had an outstanding year, winning two world titles – in WK1 500m and WK1 200m, as well as four World Cup gold medals! In addition, she is a wonderful role model for all young people engaged in sport. Congratulations Lisa!

As a gold medallist in WK1 200m at the 2012 London Olympic Games, Lisa will be aiming to win in both individual women's kayak events (200m & 500m) at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. We wish her every success!

2015 Pacific Games Showcased Women's Participation

An analysis of participation at the 2015 Pacific Games showed that women athletes from eleven teams won more than 42% of the medals for their respective countries. Fiji was the standout with 55% of medals won by women.

When considering the 28 sports on the Pacific Games program, some 18 (64%) achieved equality of events (50%) for women, and three (3 – 10%) - were in the 40% range of events for women.



Barbara Vali-Skelton (PNG), pictured left, is receiving WASO travel support to compete at the Oceania Championships where she hopes to qualify on merit for the Rio Olympic Games. If successful, Barbara will be the only female swimmer on the 2016 PNG Swim Team. Good luck Barbara!

The IOC invited WASO to submit a paper and documents for inclusion in their E-Platform "Equality At The Top". Our submission covers what we have done, the benefits to the Region, initiatives and links to our website.

Around the Region - Women in Sport

National Olympic Committee	No of Women on Executive	2016
American Samoa	1/8	12%
Australia	6/13	46%
Cook Islands	3/9	33%
FSM	2/7	28%
Fiji	4/9	44%
Guam	1/8	12%
Kiribati	2/6	33%
Nauru	3/9	33%
New Zealand	4/10	40%
Marshall Islands	2/6	33%
Palau	4/9	44%
P.N.G	5/10	50%
Samoa	3/14	21%
Solomon Islands	3/9	33%
Tonga	2/6	33%
Tuvalu	1/5	20%
Vanuatu	3/10	30%

Oceania Women in Leadership - The IOC set 20% as a target for all NOC's, and sports federations to achieve by 2005 for representation by women on their decision-making boards.

Ten years on, this updated database (left) shows two NOC's below the 20% target, and 5 below 30%. Any changes to these figures should be notified to the WASO Chair, as they occur.

Rio Chef de Missions: Four (4) NOC Teams will be lead by women at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Australia (Kitty Chiller), Fiji (Cathy Wong), Palau (Baklai Temengil) and PNG (Emma Waiwai)

A National Women's Beach Volleyball League was initiated in the Marshall islands (photo below) in 2015 and a veteran women's league is planned for the future.



The Women's Sport Festivals Initiative launched late in 2015 was taken up by eleven island nations with a variety of activities. All events were well supported. Some highlights include:

- **ASA** used the International Day of the Girl to conduct a sport expo and a 5 km walk/run, supported by the Governor.
- **FSM** organised training in 3 sports for each of 10 participating schools, followed by one day of competition.
- **Fiji** used a Volleyball tournament and fun games to reinforce the message of preventing Violence against Women.
- **Samoa** ran a Women's Sports Challenge, launched on International Women's Day, where participants engaged in five sports over one month, culminating with a Seminar and Gala Awards Evening. Tag Line; *"Because We Can!"*
- **Solomon Is** brought together athletes and administrators from eleven (11) sports to "kick start" their W&S activities.

WASO Opportunities for Women and Girls in 2016.



1. Attending the IOA in Ancient Olympia, Greece this year are Harriet Raui (COK) and Lysa Wini (SOL) - selected from five applications.

2. WASO is supporting four (4) athletes on their road to Rio – Anne Cairns (SAM), Roylin Akiwo (PLW), Barbara Vali-Skelton (PNG) and Mathylnn Sasser (MHL), viewed left, competing at the World Weightlifting Championships.

3. Leadership Training travel support was granted for Emma Waiwai (PNG) to attend a Women's Sport Leadership Course in the UK.

4. WASO contributed to an Oceania Foundation Academic Scholarship for Sisila Seavula (FIJ) in Track & Field.

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