

Issue 21 - June, 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of the WASO News.

At the recent ONOC Executive Meeting, a new WASO Commission were appointed.

My personal thanks are extended to those members who chose not to renominate for another term - Susie Yee (FIJ), Lestly Ashby (FSM) and Julieanne Westrupp (COK). It has been a pleasure to work with these ladies and their loyalty and contribution to the success of WASO in the region is without parallel. They will be missed. See article below.

I trust you have an opportunity to celebrate International Olympic Day next week. Remember to send through photos and reports to share through this newsletter. I look forward to working with you.

Warmest regards,

Helen Brownlee
Chair, WASO

2017 Oceania Events

23 June, 2017 – International Olympic Day

8 – 16 July, 2017 Netball World Youth Cup, Gaborone, Botswana.

17 – 27 September, 2017 Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

11 October, 2017 International Day of the Girl

2 – 15 December, 2017 Pacific Mini Games, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Oceania Women – Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day (8/3/17) was celebrated across the Pacific with events organised by many of our W&S Committees.

Solomon Island NOC's Annual Women's Day March (pictured right) attracted some 200 men and women!

FSM NOC – organised a Swimming & Arts Festival for Women and Girls in Pohnpei.

Cook Islands organised a Mock Parliament to give women confidence to run for public office & gain skill sets of use for women seeking NOC & NF positions.

Palau W&S - held a sunrise 5km walk / Run, followed by an Recognition Dinner where eight women nominees were recognised for their leadership roles in the community

Australia – the NOC posted a page on the website celebrating some of the ground-breaking moments from their top female athletes over the past 12 months.

- In **Sydney**, using the theme "Be Bold For Change", women from business, cultural, educational and civic backgrounds presented to over 100 participants before engaging in women's empowerment workshops to initiate actions for the future.

- A number of Sports Leaders' Breakfasts were held across the country, where individual female "stars" or a panel, shared their experiences with the guests.



Farewell and Thank You to the departing WASO Executive



Susie Yee (FIJ) (left) has been a member of WASO since its inception in 2004/2005, actively contributing to WASO initiatives and supporting other NOCs. She has been an outstanding advocate for women in sport through her tireless organisation of leadership workshops and community sport participation programs. Susie also represented Oceania on the Executive of the International Working Group (IWG). Her contribution to the work of empowering women and girls through sport has inspired so many.

Lestly Ashby (FSM) (left in photo) was also an inaugural member of WASO who has made an outstanding contribution in sharing the Olympic Values with the youth of FSM. Her regular workshops attracted the attention of the IOC, who have shared these 'best practice' initiatives around the world.

Julieanne Westrupp (COK) (bottom right) joined the WASO Executive in 2013 as our first ONOC Athletes Commission representative. Her thoughtful contribution to our work from the athletes perspective has been most valuable, as well as her innovative approach to our program implementation.



Around the Region - Women in Sport



FIJI WIS held a successful Luncheon in March to recognise women with disability who had achieved as athletes and administrators. The luncheon recognised the 2016 Sportswoman of the Year - Mrs Merewalesi Roden, a mother and athlete who was the flagbearer for the 2016 Fijian Paralympic Team, competing in Table Tennis. (Pictured in wheelchair front, right). An inspiration to us all!

NETBALL Oceania will be competing at the Netball World Youth Cup in Gaborone in July with teams from Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa. Australia will also be represented within the Netball Asia grouping. Best wishes and good luck to our five Oceania teams.

NEW ZEALAND NOC have announced an exciting new initiative – the Women's Sport Leadership Academy – which will support female Olympians to make a positive transition from sport performance to sport leadership. Well done NZOC!

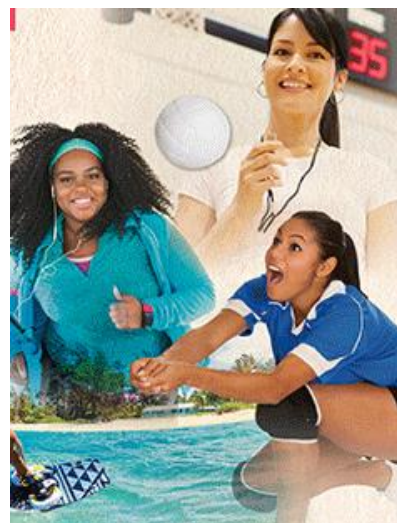
SAMOA NOC recently held their Annual Meeting, with four women elected to the Executive. Congratulations to Nynette Sass, Stella Siale-Vaea Tangitau, Rosemary Esera and Kerriemoana Punivalu. Well done ladies!

Stella is General Manager for **Samoa Cricket** who publish a bi-monthly newsletter called 'Last Stumps'. As well as details of tournaments, successful development programs and teacher training programs, the publication highlights the great progress being made in Women's Cricket throughout Samoa.



NEW CALEDONIA NOC are once again encouraging sports to submit a project which promotes women's participation... with the added incentive of some financial assistance for the winners. A wonderful initiative!

NAURU NOC has recently elected a new Women & Sport Committee under the leadership of Mrs Unique Harris. We look forward to seeing some great initiatives from the women of Nauru.



ONOC Update

At the **ONOC General Assembly**, Baklai Temengil (PLW) was elected Vice-President with Helen Brownlee (AUS) and Mel Donald (PNG) elected to the Executive. With Sarah Walker (NZL) recently appointed an IOC Member, ONOC has now attained **42%** women as elected members of the Executive.

The **ONOC Merit Award** was presented to Helen Brownlee (AUS) for her support and contribution to ONOC. **PNG NOC** were presented with the **IOC Women in Sport Achievement Diploma** in recognition of its outstanding contribution to promoting the development and participation of women and girls in sports.

The new **WASO Executive** was recently confirmed for 2017/18 with Helen Brownlee (AUS) as Chair, Carol Ngiraidis (PLW) reappointed and new members Liz Dawson (NZL), Nynette Sass (SAM) and Emma Waiwai (PNG). An Athlete Commission representative is yet to be nominated.

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