

Issue 23 - December, 2017

Welcome to the last edition of WASO News for 2017. We welcome Edith Nicholas (COK) as the Athletes Commission representative on WASO, and look forward to her joining our dynamic team.

Over the last two weeks, many of us have enjoyed the warm hospitality of our Vanuatuan colleagues, as hosts of the Mini Pacific Games in Port Vila.

Our athletes conducted themselves with distinction, both on and off the field of play. There were some outstanding performances, and memorable moments. We share some of those highlights in this edition.

VAN 2017 are to be congratulated on the overall organisation, great venues and efficient conduct of the sporting events.

With my personal best wishes for a safe and Happy Christmas and a successful 2018.

Warmest regards,

Helen Brownlee
Chair, WASO

Women Shine in Pacific Min-Games, Vanuatu



The recent Pacific Mini Games, in Port Vila, Vanuatu saw a record **43% women** leading their teams as Chef de Missions. To acknowledge these women, WASO paid tribute to their contribution with a special Celebratory Breakfast at the Holiday inn. Although not all were able to be present, we were delighted to welcome Joey Miranda, CdM of the Guam Team who is working to reinvigorate the Women & Sport Committee in Guam.

Palau Women Making a Difference



IOC Women and Sport Awards 2017.

Mrs Judy Otto (PLW) received the 2017 Women & Sport Award for Oceania. Congratulations Judy!

As President of the Palau Swimming Association, Judy has played a key role in advocating women's sports participation within her country. She developed a water aerobics program and a year round learn- to-swim program for schools and rural communities. In addition, she has worked to support and enhance commitment to health and active living for both men and women in the local communities.

2018 Oceania Events

8 March, 2018 International Women's Day

4 - 14 April, 2018 – Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast, Australia

1 – 10 October, 2018 YOG, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

11 October, 2017 International Day of the Girl

New IOC Member for Oceania.

At the recent IOC Session in Lima, Baklai Temengil (PLW) was elected a member of the IOC. Earlier this year, Baklai became the first women elected Vice-President of ONOC (indeed of any Continental Association). Baklai is Palau NOC Secretary-General, Minister of Community & Cultural Affairs for Palau; Member of ANOC Executive and Treasurer, Palau Canoe Association. In addressing the UN she said: *"Women are powerful agents of change. And gender equality and women's empowerment have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development"*

Baklai was the inaugural Chair of the ONOC Women & Sport Commission. She is an inspiration to us all!



Vanuatu 2017 – Ignite the Spirit Within



Weightlifting saw some outstanding performances from women across all weight divisions.

Eileen Cikamatana (FIJ) pictured right, followed her gold medal performance from the Ashgabat Indoor Games by recording a Snatch at 105kgs and a record Clean & Jerk of 143kgs. Eileen is ranked world #1 in the Junior, and #3 in the world senior rankings for the 90Kg category.

Definitely, a woman to watch in the future!



Beach Volleyball saw two tournaments at the Pacific Mini Games after Beach Volleyball Vanuatu won the bid for the Commonwealth Games qualifier. With the Vanuatuan women's team already qualified, the final Women's Qualification event was a closely contested match between Solomon Islands and the ultimate winner, Fiji.

WASO Wristbands: EMPOWERED THRU SPORT



COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION

We invite you to join our closed FACEBOOK page: **WASO – Women and Sport Oceania** where you can share ideas and get up to date information on what is happening in Oceania for women and girls in sport. As well as the WASO News, we intend to upload news on the website as it becomes available.

3X3 Basketball drew large and enthusiastic crowds to the Korman Stadium in the second week of the Games. Pictured below, Team Vanuatu defeating Nauru 10:7



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