

Issue 29 - December, 2019

As we come to the end of what has been a busy year, it is good to reflect on the progress we have made in addressing gender equality across the Region.

So much has been achieved by the enthusiastic efforts of those of you working at the local level in your sport and communities. Well done – I am so proud of you all!

I was so impressed by the achievements of Vanuatu WIS so have shared some of their initiatives.. Congratulations Julia and your WIS Team!

Over the next few months our athletes will be competing in Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualification events and I send my personal best wishes for every success. I look forward to seeing many of them representing their countries in Tokyo next year

With my best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season .May you enjoy the spirit of Christmas with family and friends and look forward to a wonderful New Year.

Warmest regards,

Helen Brownlee AM
Chair, ECO

2020 Oceania Events

8 March 2020 International Women's Day

13-19 April October, 2020 ONOC General Assembly & associated workshops, GUAM

24 July – 9 August 2020 TOKYO 2020 Olympic Games

Highlights in Brief – Across the Region



THE SOLOMON IS and BADMINTON Oceania recently organized a “Shuttle Time” Workshop with Roseanne Ulunga as the expert instructor,. With a history of only male representatives at previous Pacific Games, the workshop aimed to inspire more young people, particularly women to play Badminton. More than 50% of participants were female who have now started weekly badminton sessions for young people.



VANUATU WIS Committee have had an amazing year under the leadership of Julia King. They focused on advocacy for International Women’s Day by involving the media with talk-back sessions on equality of opportunity for women both in sport and Vanuatu society . Local television were also involved in spreading the message., In May, they launched their new logo and in June supported VASANOC with Olympic Day activities.They also **partnered with World Vision** to launch a Menstrual Hygiene Project to encourage female attendance at practice & sporting events.

Safeguarding Policies –

it is pleasing to note that at least 50% of Oceania NOCs now have a Safeguarding Policy in place, with others nearing completion.

Please refer to the IOC Safeguarding Kit for advice or contact the ECO Chair for draft policies.

TONGA's Paris Baker made history when she won the U25 World Bowls Championships 2019 in Women’s Singles. Paris also won a silver medal in the Doubles event, and qualified for the Women’s Singles event at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Congratulations Paris!



Opportunities, Advocacy & Promotion

•**TAFISA** (The Association for International Sport for All) already has 7 members within Oceania and is looking to support the region to grow Sport for All and active living to improve health and quality of life for all.

•TAFISA works in three main areas:

- 1. Providing global and regional networking and experience sharing opportunities for its members and stakeholders.
- 2. Supporting member & stakeholder development by providing appropriate resources, programs, events and services.
- 3. Advocating and lobbying internationally for sustainable Sport for All and Physical Activity.

•TAFISA has appointed Wendy Gillett (Australia) as a Special Advisor to support Oceania development. TAFISA has already had initial discussions with ONOC, OSFO and PCG as well as a range of NOC delegates and is keen to continue talks with key people in the region. Contact email: TasifaOceania@gmail.com

TAFISA has a clear mission for the next decade, Mission 2030 or a Better World Through Sport for All. With the support of global players and other sectors, TAFISA can and will make progress towards solving 12 critical global challenges – Peace, Development & Partnership; Gender Equality; Education; Social Inclusion; Play & Physical Literacy; Active Cities; The Environment; Cultural Heritage & Diversity; Governance, Leadership & Integrity; Community & Volunteerism; Health & Well-Being and Economic Impact & Resources.

TAFISA is keen to work with partners in the region to build on the great work that has already been initiated, with an initial focus on gender equality. ECO will work collaboratively with TAFISA and the Australian Sports Partnerships Program (ASPP) to help women and girls realise their full potential through sport.

Women Sport Australia (WSA) held a Touring Exhibition across four States following their inaugural Sport Photo Action Awards. The Awards covered professional and amateur photographers depicting female athletes fearlessly fighting to succeed. The Amateur Winner was Johan Schmidt (WA) whose entry showed an intimidating level of raw power, strength and determination ((photo right).



VANUATU WIS - National Women's Day was celebrated with a successful Fun Run of over 300 participants (see below). In addition they announced the new WIS Logo (previous page) and launched the WIS Story Boards – stories of success by women/girls – lifting the profile of ni-Vanuatu women's contribution to sport.



We invite you to join our **FACEBOOK page: ECO – Equity Commission Oceania**, where you can share ideas and get up to date information on what is happening in Oceania for women and girls in sport.

Also our **INSTAGRAM Page** – Username: [ecoceania](https://www.instagram.com/ecoceania)

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