

# Vanuatu Women in Sport

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On Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, our class had an interview with 5 women who are part of the “Vanuatu Women in Sport Commission”. In this commission, there are not just athletes, for example Chichi is a beach volleyball coach, Jill is a journalist and Jessica is an administrator, and all these women make up this commission to help women in Sport.

First off, we interviewed Anolyn Lulu, who is this year’s Sportswoman of the Year here in Vanuatu, which is a huge achievement for her. She has been in two Olympic Games which was a “dream come true”, and five Pacific Games which is also pretty amazing! Anolyn was telling us that when she went to the Olympics, she was not only an athlete, but also the team manager, so she was helping her team as well as playing her sport, which I thought was brave of her as it would be stressful to do both, so I think she handled it very well and it shows that she’s focused and determined.

Next, Linlin talked to us about her experience in the Commonwealth games, where she took home a bronze medal in beach volleyball, which was a huge achievement, not only for her and everyone in her team but also for Vanuatu, as she was Vanuatu’s 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth medalist, so she made history for Vanuatu. In spite of her previous achievements, her main one was winning a silver medal in her FIRST Commonwealth ever, and the first silver medal anyone from Vanuatu (women or men) have won. I thought that it was simply amazing that this woman could achieve something that made history for our Country.

Jessica was then explaining to us that it’s not only hard for our Vanuatu female athletes to play sport and travel because of money or even culture, but it’s also because a lot of female athletes have children, so unlike male athletes, women have to take off training time to concentrate on their personal lives too, so it is even more challenging for them, which I think is very brave of them, and it shows that they are hard working as well.

At the end of the interview, I felt inspired by Anolyn Lulu, as she convinced me with her words “you can do anything”. I found it amazing how young Anolyn started playing table tennis, at 15 years old, and that she’s still playing and competing with as much energy! For example, Anolyn does zumba classes for her community, so for the local women of Vanuatu who can’t play sports, and she loves doing it, and I find that very generous of her. I also thought that this interview linked to our current chapter which is “It’s more than just a game”. These women described it as their life, they love their sports and they think of it as their job and it’s what completes’ their life.

