

Vanuatu Women in sport : Interview.

On Monday the 20th of May 2019, we had the chance to meet and interview members of the Vanuatu Women in Sport Commission. We met Jessica, an Australian volunteer; the famous female table tennis player Anolyn Lulu; Chichi and Linlin who are both beach volleyball players and coach; and Jill, an Australian Journalist.



At first, they explained to us how sports are seen in our society and in Vanuatu. It is still nowadays mostly a men's domain but as Jessica said « we are now living a great time for women in sport » as female players are getting more famous and are attracting more audience so they start to earn more even though women are still not earning as much as men. That isn't fair, as for example, here in Vanuatu; the first Commonwealth medal that was brought back to the country was won by a woman and in the 2017 Pacific Mini-games, more Ni-Van medals were won by women than by men. They also told us that family is very important for girls to succeed in their sports, if the families don't support them, the young women will unfortunately quickly give up. They added that when you are a kid, you have to play many different sports for you not to get bored of one, beside that you will play with the other gender.

The women did not only talk to us about women in sport, but also about Paralympics. Unfortunately, here on many islands, the disabled children are kept in the houses and hidden from the outside world, because many families consider it as a shame. But it was proved to us that disabled people aren't a shame with the para-commonwealth games where some Ni-Van disabled athletes were sent and one of them, a woman, brought a medal back.

I would like to conclude this article by saying that we can now say that the idea of women in sports in people's state of mind is changing, it is improving, so as for the disabled athletes. And also by congratulating this commission for the fight they are leading for women in sport, although it isn't won yet, we are on the right way !