

**OCEANIA SPORT  
INFORMATION CENTRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2003**

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**Introduction**

The 2003 South Pacific Games has come and gone and countries are again focused on getting their teams ready for the 2007 Games in Samoa. The Games highlighted some important issues regarding the preservation of information related to each country's participation in the SPG since 1963. It became apparent that most of the countries do not have any or very little record of their participation at each of the Games. This has prompted OSIC staff to conduct a thorough research on all information relating to any of the past South Pacific Games. This project has taken two years with about three-quarter of the work completed. Finding detailed information on each country's participation is quite difficult due to bias reporting of hoist country's news media.

Looking at the statistics for 2003 OSIC staff had to process a wider range and number of requests. Since the Games were held in Fiji we had a significant increase in the number of visitors utilizing the Centre. This also meant some much needed publicity and exposure for OSIC, which had special opening hours to accommodate athletes and officials who had attended the Games.

Other important developments for 2003 would include the improvement of the OSIC website ([www.oceaniasport.info](http://www.oceaniasport.info)), thanks to Alan Cockerill and the National Sport Information Centre of Australia. We have had a number of emails from individuals all over the world that has accessed the OSIC site. Another major project that has made significant progress is the cataloguing of books and indexing of other resources. OSIC Library Assistant had dedicated most of her time in carrying out this task which, had been pending for a number of years.

**Requests**

In June and July we had processed over 300 requests majority of which were from visiting athletes and officials that had attended the Games. There were also a significant number of requests received from the media for information that was directly related to the South Pacific Games. Requests received from the different National Olympic Committee required a greater depth of research since most were after information that was specific to past teams and athletes who had competed in previous Games. Although we had managed to find some information that was requested by the NOC's, unfortunately this took a lot of time since we had to rely on reports from local newspapers. In our research we found a lot of discrepancies and biases in the reporting, which makes it very difficult to compile complete report on each country.

Requests from students totaled over 400, which do not include students that utilize the Centre on a walk in walk out basis. There has always been a noticeable increase in usage from students one or two months prior to final exams.

**Listed below is the statistical breakdown of requests that were received and processed in 2003.**

	<i>onoc</i>	<i>org</i>	<i>staff</i>	<i>student</i>	<i>library</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>visitor</i>	<i>media</i>	<i>others</i>	<b>total</b>
<i>JAN</i>	2	22	5	7	0	1	2	1	7	45
<i>FEB</i>	1	17	7	12	0	3	5	4	17	66
<i>MAR</i>	3	12	4	50	0	6	8	4	3	90
<i>APR</i>	2	12	2	89	0	0	4	4	9	122
<i>MAY</i>	1	16	3	42	0	1	15	9	8	95
<i>JUN</i>	4	26	1	3	0	1	101	22	3	161
<i>JUL</i>	1	15	1	2	0	0	212	3	2	237
<i>AUG</i>	1	10	1	58	1	4	3	3	1	82
<i>SEPT</i>	1	2	2	45	0	5	3	1	3	62
<i>OCT</i>	1	32	2	100	2	4	6	2	3	152
<i>NOV</i>	1	1	2	16	0	4	4	1	19	48
<i>DEC</i>	1	3	3	5	0	2	20	4	2	40
<b>total</b>	19	168	33	429	3	31	383	58	77	<b>1200</b>

**Funding**

The Oceania Sport Information Centre, which is now in its seventh year, is looking for an extension in funding from the International Olympic Committee for the next four years. During the last OSIC Executive Committee meeting, Dr. Robin Mitchell assured committee members that he does not foresee any problems in the continuation of the IOC funding for 2004 - 2008. This is reassuring especially when OSIC is looking at expanding its services to include a proposed regional Coaches Sports Education Program. The Sports Education Program will also mean more funds and additional staff for OSIC.

Concern was raised at the last OSIC Executive Committee Meeting of the fact that the OSIC budget has not increased for the last four years. OSIC has been operating on a deficit due to increases in staff salaries and other costs associated with running the Centre. Dr. Mitchell was aware of the deficit and will seek additional funds from ONOC during the Executive

Committee meeting, which was held in Vanuatu on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. OSIC has since received funds from ONOC to cover the deficit incurred in 2003.

### **Archive for the South Pacific Games**

OSIC staff in the past, which is the official archives for the South Pacific Games OSIC staff with the assistance of SPGOC is working on archiving all relevant information relating to the 2003 South Pacific Games. We have received most of the SPG related publications and still awaiting the AV collection, which is being edited. SPGOC Chairman has assured us that we will be given all videotape on the 2003 SPG.

Collection of information from previous SPG and regional games is continuing and is proving to be time consuming since we have to rely on unofficial reports, such as newspapers, which at times have conflicting information. Despite the problems we are certainly making headway in ensuring that we have complete reports for each Mini and South Pacific that have been staged. Compilation of all South Pacific Games records and related information will commence once all information is collected.

Majority of the National Olympic Committees does not have any records of their participation in past Games. This makes it very important to complete the research that has been carried out by OSIC staff in compiling all relevant information relating to the South Pacific Games. We will also seek the assistance of National Olympic Committees that have hoisted either the Mini or South Pacific Games to forward any records or reports that they may have on past Games.

For the past several years OSIC staffs have been trying to encourage the different National Olympic Committees to develop their own information centre for sport. All NOC's receive a large amount of free publications from the IOC and Sporting Federations, which are often left in boxes or locked away in a room out of sight. **(Photo - Courtesy Jim Tobin FSM)**



**The Federated States of Micronesia Team during the Opening of the 2003 SPG**

### **Sports Education Certification Program**

In 2002 a committee was set up to look into the possibility of establishing a Sport Education program for the Oceania region. The Committee is comprised of Brian Minikin (ONOC Development Manager), Albert Miller (Manager of Oceania Sports Information Centre), Joji Liga (Manager of Fiji Sports Development Unit), Steve Smith (Secretary General of Oceania Basketball Confederation), Gene Schembri, Russell D'Costa and William Glenwright from the Australian Sports Commission.

The need for ONOC to establish such a Committee came about when member countries to the 2003 ONOC Annual General Meeting identified the lack of a systematic approach to sport education as a major impediment to developing sport in the region. For many countries, the possibility of establishing a viable national sports education program does not exist due to the exorbitant costs involved in curriculum development and program delivery.

Talks are still under way for the implementation of the regional Sports Education Certification Program. It has been proposed that the program be located at OSIC with the provision for an additional staff to manage the program. Funding is being sought through the Oceania National Olympic Committee and the Australian South Pacific Program (ASP 2006).

A meeting was held in Vanuatu in December to further discuss this proposal. While in Vanuatu the committee visited and held discussions with officials from the Department of Education regarding the need for such a program.

The group also visited the USP Emalus Campus to inspect the IT facilities and to see how it could be utilized in the dissemination of the Sport Education Program throughout the region. The Sports Education Program is expected to start in 2005. While in Vanuatu I also had an opportunity to meet with members of the Vanuatu Sports Association and National Olympic Committee. I made a brief presentation on OSIC and how we could assist them with sports related information.

### **A Case for Physical Education**

The Vanuatu Education Department officials raised their concern on the lack of qualified physical education teachers. They were pleased to see that an effort was being made to address this issue. According to sources in Vanuatu there were no qualified Physical Education teachers in any of the secondary or primary schools. A teacher had been sponsored by the Japanese Government to study Physical Education in Japan for 10 months. This highlights an important issue not only for Vanuatu but also for the region as a whole. The lack of qualified Physical Education teachers is a cause for concern. Serious effort should be made by the various educational institutions to provide quality programs for sports and physical education in order to meet the increasing needs. Sport has become a major industry and an alternative source of employment, which needs qualified people to run quality programs. The Olympic Solidarity Program, foreign Governments and International Sporting Federations spend millions of dollars in the region each year and yet there is no real commitment, especially from those in authority to formalize physical education in the school system. Personally I feel that physical education has been neglected far too long and a more genuine effort must be made to make sure that our younger generation grow up with a healthy mind and healthy body.

### **Athletics and Physical Education in Primary Schools Manual (APES)**

The long awaited manual for Physical Education and Athletics in Primary Schools is now completed. This was a joint project with the Fiji Primary Schools Athletics Association, which took a couple of years to complete. The manual was created specifically for sports teachers with a local context. Pictures of local athletes and officials are used throughout the book with coaching information that would assist coaches who are coaching young athletes in the schools. The Fiji Primary School Athletics Association will be implementing a nation wide program to promote the manual and conduct a series of workshops for sports teachers. This is the first resource of its kind to be published in Fiji.

### **Lautoka Teachers College Physical Education Program**

The OSIC Coordinator is a member of a committee that is looking at the reorganization of the LTC Diploma Program in respects to Physical Education. The committee had two meetings in 2003 to look at ways of improving the current PE curriculum. LTC will be up grading their teaching certificate to a diploma. OSIC has played a prominent role in making recommendations to LTC for sports, health and physical education resources that could be part of their collection. Similar recommendations and assistance have also been made to the Fiji College of Advance Education (FCAE) and the Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT).

### **Physical & Leisure Education Courses - USP**

The Coordinator has for the past seven years has been directly involved with Physical & Leisure Education Courses for the School of Humanities. In the last two years the OSIC Coordinator has been coordinating ED 183, 184 and 284 for SOH since the designated lecturers had left the university. This is expected to continue into 2004 until SOH can arrange new lecturers for the above courses.

### **Conferences and Meetings**

Listed below are conferences and workshops that OSIC staff attended in 2003.

#### **1. March 9 - 11 - National Sport Information Centre, Canberra. (Albert)**

This report summarizes the trip that was taken by the OSIC Coordinator to the National Sport Information Centre (NSIC) in Canberra and the "Our Sporting Future Conference", which was held at the Convention Centre in Melbourne.

The trip was fully funded by the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) with assistance from the NSIC and the ASP 2006 Program.

This was an important trip since I had to meet with staff members of the National Sport Information Centre (NSIC) who were directly involved in the implementation of the OSIC review that was carried out in 2002. I also needed to discuss other OSIC projects that were in the pipeline as we strive to keep up with new developments in Information Technology.

During my visit to Canberra I also met with Mr. Will Glenwright (Coordinator of the ASP 2006 Program) who has been very supportive of OSIC in the past. The ASP 2006 Program provided funds for OSIC Library Assistant, Taufa Domona during her trip to Canberra and Perth for the Sport Information Workshop conducted by the NSIC last year. The ASP 2006 also assisted in funding the Coordinator's trip to Canberra and Melbourne.

I briefed Mr. Glenwright on the progress OSIC was making since the review and assured him that some recommendations from the review were already being implemented. He was also concerned about the slow progress that ONOC was making in signing off the OSIC strategic plan as proposed by Mr. Alan Cockerill. We also had discussions on the proposed Regional

Coaches Education Certification Program. The ASP 2006 Program was interested in the proposal details of which will be discussed in Suva during the ONOC Annual Assembly in April.

I also met with Garvin (Manager AV Services- Australian Sports Commission) regarding the possibility of his department recording specific sporting programs that would be of interest to OSIC and its clients. I was particularly interested in the rugby sevens tournaments that were held in Australia and New Zealand. We often receive a number of inquiries from our regional clients who were interested in rugby. Gavin was very supportive and offered to record any other regional sporting competition/events that might be of interest to clients in the region.

## **2. March 13 - 15 - "Our Sporting Future" Conference. Melbourne Convention Centre (Albert)**

Australia was again showing the world why they are leaders in many aspects of sports. The conference was organized specifically to look at the future of sports in Australia. The conference tackled some key questions as to what sporting personnel can do or has to do, in order to keep Australia in the forefront of sports development. The conference mainly focused on the grass root programs, which is one of Australia's strengths as it strives to maintain its' edge on other major sporting nations of the world. As the Minister of Sports and Culture reiterated in his opening speech that sporting personnel from different parts of the world come to Australia not to criticize their programs but to learn from the best in the business.

For the past ten years Australia has shown the world what it takes to be the best. This conference only reiterates the commitment Australia has in the development of sports from the grass root to the elite level. They have realised that they can not sit back and enjoy their recent success in a number of international sporting events. The conference re-emphasized the importance of staying ahead of the competition with more innovative programs. Australia has one of the best sporting development programs in the world.

As the honorable Rod Kemp (Minister of Sports) stated that the rest of the world was envious of Australia's success. Unfortunately Pacific Island nations have not learnt from Australia's success over the last decade. Pacific Islanders are world renown for their athletic abilities but are way behind in the development of sports due to the casual attitude of our governments and sporting organizations.

## **3. March 31<sup>st</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> - South Pacific Games Council Meeting. Suva (Albert)**

All participating countries to the 2003 South Pacific Games attended the Council Meeting where they were briefed by the SPGOC on the final stages of preparations for the Games. I had the opportunity to meet with the different representatives from each country and passed out OSIC brochures and plans for the two weeks during the Games. The SPG Council meeting was held at the Suva City Council Chambers.

## **4. April 2 - 5 - ONOC Annual General Assembly. Suva (Albert)**

The ONOC Annual General Assembly was held after the South Pacific Games Council meeting. The Assembly included presentations by the International Olympic Representatives who conducted a workshop on "Preparing for a Multi-sport Event". The OSIC Coordinator presented his annual report to the assembly. The next ONOC Annual Assembly will be held in Palau during the first week of April 2004.

## **5. April 14 - Physical Education Workshop**

The OSIC Coordinator was asked by the Lautoka Teachers College to be part of a committee to look into the Physical Education component of the Upgrade Project. This was the first of two meetings that was held in 2003 relating to the upgrading of the LTC Physical Education & Health Program.

## **6. September 23 - OSIC Executive Committee Meeting, USP Suva**

The first OSIC Executive Meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September at the USP Library Conference room. In attendance were Dr. Robin Mitchell (ONOC), Esther William (USP Head Librarian) and the OSIC Coordinator. Discussed in the meeting were a number of issues such as, funding, OSIC Review and recommendations, regional Sports Education Program and the role OSIC will play in its implementation.

## **7. November - LTC Physical Education Advisory Committee Meeting, CDU Office - Suva**

## **8. November 30 - December 4 - Sports Education Advisory Committee Meeting - Vila, Vanuatu (Albert)**

The Oceania Sports Education Working Group met in Port Vila for a three-day meeting from the 1- 4 December at the Kaiviti Motel. This was the second meeting of the Committee after the inaugural meeting, which was held in Suva, Fiji from 20-23 July 2003. The committee had made significant progress since its first meeting in Suva in 2002.

## **9. December 2 - 7 - AUSPIN Sports Information Workshop. Canberra, Australia (Taufa)**

Taufa attended a workshop conducted by the National Sport Information Centre, which was attended by representatives from the Pacific and Asia. The trip was funded jointly by ONOC and the ASP 2006 Program. Three representatives from PNG also attended the workshop upon recommendation from OSIC. PNG is looking at setting up its own Sport Information

Centre. OSIC will be working closely with PNG as they work on developing a Sports Information Centre. We are hopeful that other National Olympic Committees will seriously start thinking of establishing their own information centres.

### **Other Meetings**

#### **1. November 14 -17 - IAAF RDC Executive Board Meeting. Auckland, New Zealand (Albert)**

The OSIC Coordinator is a member of the Executive Board of the International Association of Athletics Federations Regional Development Centre (RDC), which meets once a year to discuss activities and plans as set out by the RDC Director, Mr. Fletcher McEwen. The RDC is responsible for the development of Athletics in the Oceania region.

### **Extra mural Activities**

- Chairman FASANOC Athletes Commission
- Athlete's Rep FASANOC Executive Board
- Member IAAF RDC Executive Board
- Executive Board Member Athletics Fiji
- IAAF Lecturer
- Member Advisory Committee, Lautoka Teachers College - PE Upgrade Program
- Member Advisory Committee, Fiji Institute of Technology - PE Diploma Program

Albert Miller  
OSIC Coordinator