



IN THE BOX: Chairperson of PNG Sports Foundation, Ian Chow gestures towards the nomination form being dropped into the box by President of PNG Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura with SP's John Nilkare, symbolising the launch of the 2019 SP Sports Awards. *PHOTO: A. Molen/ PNG Olympic Committee.*

Public participation urged for SP Awards nominations

Fans and followers of sports are encouraged to nominate a sports person of their choice for the SP Sports Awards this year.

Nominations are now open following the launch at the SP Brewery head office

in Port Moresby on January 5.

The nomination period will end on March 22.

11 award categories are on offer for athletes, officials and media based on their

performance and achievements in 2018.

The selection panel will meet after the close of nominations to select the finalists for each category.

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PNGOC PARTNERS



PNGOC renews partnership with Media Partners

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee is pleased to renew its contract with Media Partners.

Secretary General of PNGOC, Auvita Rapilla re-signed the agreement on February 5th this year with Media Partners.

Media Partners supports the PNG Olympic Committee with high quality artwork and design and professional media production.

Rapilla thanked Media Partners for its support and for continuing the partnership for another term.



PARTNERSHIP: PNGOC Secretary General, Auvita Rapilla with Media Partners senior manager, Martin Joseph signed the agreement on behalf of the two organisations. *PHOTO: A. Molen/PNG Olympic Committee.*

Public encouraged to nominate in SP Sports Awards

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These categories are;

1. Male Athlete of the Year
2. Female Athlete of the Year
3. Team of the Year
4. CommunitySports Initiative Award
5. Junior Male Athlete of the Year
6. Junior Female Athlete of the Year
7. National Performance of the year
8. Best Sportsperson with a Disability
9. Sports Official of the Year
10. Sports Media Award
11. Sports Photo of the Year

Also on offer is the People’s Choice of the Year award, which is open to the public to vote using their mobile phone.

SMS voting for this category will open in April after the finalists have been announced.

SP Brewery Corporate Affairs Manager, John Nilkare and President of the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura have both expressed their desire to see the public and vari-

ous stakeholders participate more in the nominations.

“Every achievement is a great success and must be recognized and celebrated accordingly.

“We would like to see our sports men and women given that acknowledgement,” said Nilkare.

“SP Brewery is proud to be sponsoring this prestigious Sports Awards in the last 27 years.

“Our athletes work hard every year to represent Papua New Guinea through sports therefore, the annual SP Sports Awards is a great platform to recognise athletes and to show our appreciation,” he said.

Nilkare also welcomed City Pharmacy Ltd, and Total Colour that have joined the SPSA family of sponsors, and other business houses most of whom have contributed to the event in one way or another over the years.

“I would also like to extend our sincere

gratitude to our other sponsors that have supported the SPSA for over 20 years; Air Niugini, Crowne Hotel, Westpac, EMTEK & EMTV, FM100, Theodist, Pacific Palms Property and Graffiti Signs.”

This year’s Awards are hosted with the theme ‘Aspire to Inspire.’

Sir John said sports federations, clubs, teams, families and friends are closer to each sporting personality and should be able to submit good nominations.

“We want the achievements of our sports men and women to inspire our nation and the next generation of sporting elites to excel in their respective fields,” Sir John said.

Supporting documents such as news articles, photos and other references must be included with the filled-out nomination form to enhance nominations.

Nominations can be dropped at specially marked boxes at the PNG Olympic Committee office at Boroko, NCD or other selected locations.

Thurston helps raise funds for Team PNG at TFR auctions



SPECIAL GUEST: Thurston was a special guest at the Trukai Fun Run shirt auctions in Lae and Port Moresby. *PHOTO: COWBOYS.*

NRL greats, Johnathan Thurston and Brent Tate were the main attraction at this year's Trukai Fun Run auctions and helped raise K612,000 for Team PNG for the Pacific Games in Samoa.

61,200 Trukai Fun Run T-shirts were sold in both Port Moresby and Lae raising K612,000.

21,100 shirts were sold for K211,000 in Lae on Wednesday, March 6 while another 40,100 were sold for K401,000 in Port Moresby the following night.

Over 50 bidders put their hand up to buy shirts in Port Moresby and be part of the occasion this year.

Raumai 18, Traisa Transport, Prima Small Goods Motorist Discount Centre and JKT Lim were the top five bidders in Lae.

In Port Moresby, National Gaming Control Board was the highest bidder with a purchase of 5,000 T-shirts covering seven schools. The other four bidders were Delivered Project Management (4,300), Bank of PNG (4,000), Sir Brian Bell Foundation (3,300) and International Training Institute (2,100).



ON THE PANEL: Tate (right), Thurston and host, Andrew Lepani share some laughter with the guests during the auctions in Port Moresby. *PHOTO: A. Molen/ PNGOC.*

It has been a while since over 40,000 shirts in one night and President of the PNG Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura thanked Trukai Industries and the country's corporate sector for making it a very successful evening.

"On behalf of Team PNG I wish to thank all the organisations for buying a table and bidding

for the Trukai Fun Run shirts and helping our athletes achieve their dreams," Sir John said.

Chief Executive Officer of Trukai Industries, Greg Worthington-Eyre joined Sir John in acknowledging the support of the corporate community in both Lae and Port Moresby.

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Team PNG athletes to go through final endorsement process with JC



ROAD TO SAMOA: Athletes will miss out on the Games if their NFs do not meet the requirements of the Justification Committee. *PNGOC FILE PHOTO.*

A final process of endorsement for all Team PNG athletes selected for the Pacific Games in Samoa this year will be carried out from March 18 to 26 by the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee Justification Committee (JC).

The National Federations of the 28 sports on the Samoa Games programme were reminded by PNGOC of the requirements that needed to be submitted by February 27th.

February 27 is also the deadline for 50% payment of the levy.

Secretary General of PNGOC, Auvita Rapilla said the justification process is very important and sports must meet all the

requirements if they want their athletes to be considered for the Games.

“We want all our best athletes to attend this Games and the Justification Committee plays a big role in ensuring that those selected for Team PNG meet the standards of the Team PNG selection policies,” she said.

The JC was set up to ensure that fair and proper processes were followed by teams to select their squads to represent Team PNG.

With the aim of always performing to their best and maintaining the high standard set on home soil in 2015, it is Team PNG’s wish to see only the best and fittest line up in Apia in July.

Thurston helps raise funds for Team PNG at TFR auctions

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He said the Fun Run is more than just a fundraising event, it also provides special opportunities for people in different ways.

Worthington-Eyre added that a further 38,800 shirts are left to sell before the Fun Run is held on June 16 and appealed to those who wish to buy them to contact Trukai or the PNG Olympic Committee.

Trukai sponsored PNGOC with 100,000 shirts for the Fun Run this year with the aim of getting as many people as possible to participate.

Thurston and Tate’s visit added a special touch to the auctions.

Both men travelled to PNG on the invitation of Trukai Industries to be part

of the 20 year celebrations.

They shared some experiences and met guests while also answering some questions from the audience.

Thurston said helping communities through sports, education and healthy living is something he is also passionate about and participates in similar activities with the Cowboys.

This year marks 20 years of Trukai Industries as the major sponsor of the Fun Run and Worthington-Eyre said it is their largest corporate social responsibility programme.

“It is one that we work hard to organize and run every year because we believe in the what it does in providing different opportunities for people while also helping the PNG Olympic

Committee raise much needed funds for Team PNG,” Worthington-Eyre said.

Trukai also announced that they are extending their support of the Cowboys in the National Rugby League.

Last year marked a decade of their partnership with the Cowboys and they are happy to extend that further.

Trukai will also be celebrating their 50th year of existence in PNG in 2020 and the CEO said it is going to be another celebration.



National Sports Day for Women and Girls launched



RELEASED: Balloons were released into the air by young athletes from the Special Olympics to mark the launch of the National Sports Day for Women and Girls. Photo caption goes in this space.
PHOTO: A. Molen/ PNG Olympic Committee.

The National Sports Women and Girls Sports Day has been launched in Papua New Guinea with the aim to empower women and girls through sport.

Internationally, countries who participate in the event observe the day on the first Wednesday of February.

Its idea is to recognize the achievement and participation of women and girls in sport and also to reach out to them at the community level.

This can help create pathways to promote and strengthen different programmes being run for girls and women in the communities.

Auvita Rapilla, IOC Member and Secretary General of the PNG Olympic Committee, acknowledged the PNG Sports Foundation for the initiative saying gender equality is something the International Olympic Committee

strongly promotes.

“We must strive to give every young Papua New Guinean the opportunity to play sport, compete and inherit the values that come with it.

“They must love being active, stay active and live healthy lives,” Rapilla said.

“Sport is an excellent tool for human development.

“Sport builds confidence, it encourages self-discipline, provides a sense of accomplishment and develop decision-making skills, and other important character traits such as management and negotiation that can empower women to become leaders in the work place and other areas of life,” she said.

Rapilla said the IOC is committed to

the principle of gender equality by reaching 50% of women at the Olympic Games.

At the Rio Olympic Games in 2016, there were 45.2% female participation and at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires last year, gender equality was achieved with an equal number of male and female participation.

However, the Olympic Movement’s commitment to gender equality extends beyond its efforts to increase women’s participation in the Olympic Games.

The Olympic Charter states that one of the roles of the IOC is “encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels with a view to implementing the principles of equality of men and women”.

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NEW OFFICE:
The new PNGOC office will be officially opened soon.

PNGOC moves office

New location is Lahara Avenue, Sect. 25 Lot. 21, Boroko

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee's new base of operation is at Boroko in the National Capital District.

The organization left the previous

location which was at the Telikom Compound at 4 Mile on February 28th this year.

The PNG Olympic Committee is now at Lahara Avenue and an official

opening of the place will be done soon.

All stakeholders are advised of this change and if unsure, to contact the organization for directions.

Fencing trains new coaches for PNG

Newly established National Federation, Fencing PNG, began on a high note with a two week training programme for its coaches in Port Moresby this year.

It ran from February 4th to 17th and was carried out by the Development Officer of the Oceania Fencing Confederation, Leon Thomas.

The training focused on

the Foil as the primary weapon of competition.

Trainee coaches were taken through the basic attacks, defense and the rules of the game.

They had their first round of assessment with a practical coaching session with students from the Port Moresby International School on February 17.

Thomas will return to PNG in May to review the status and progress of the coaches.

He was satisfied with the results following the practical session and said that those coaches who prove that they are competent will attain their Level 1 certificate as the first Foil Fencing Coaches for PNG.

Sports look at LTAD

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) is an important area in sport.

It looks at introducing people to a sport at a very young age and maintaining and guiding them through it throughout their life.

Under the LTAD concept, sport does not begin when a person reaches school age, and it does not end when they retire.

Sports specialist, Dr. Peter Davis pointed out that preparing future athletes begins with an individual when they are still babies.

He made a presentation on the topic during the coaches' workshop in Port Moresby at the Lamana Hotel on February 15.

The two-day workshop was attended by representatives from all national sports federations.

The workshop focused on the preparation of coaches for sports who will be participating at this year's Pacific Games in Samoa.

The lessons learned during the LTAD prepares them for the different choices they may have in life.

Those who continue to pursue sport can excel as elite athletes while those who choose another path can still participate through other means.

Davis also took sports officials through the Canadian model of the LTAD which is regarded as the best in the world and has been adopted by many countries, and which Davis helped write.

LTAD models from other countries such as New Zealand and Australia were also outlined.

Davis was in the



SPORTS TALK: Davis talking to sports about Long Term Athlete Development during the workshop. *PHOTO: A. Molen/ PNGOC.*

country to assist PNG Olympic Committee's Chris Amini develop coaches through finding out and giving them training and resources based on their specific sporting needs.



National sports day for women and girls launched

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Board Chairman of the Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation, Ian Chow welcomed the initiative and encouraged organisations and both men and women leaders to be part of the programme.

Papua New Guinea international female basketball athlete, Betty Angula shared her experience with other women and girls who came to witness the event.

GIRLSTALK: Angula shared her experience with other women and guests at the launch. *PHOTO: A. Molen/ PNGOC.*

She said sport has helped her to develop into well discipline person and the values she learned there has helped her to focus on other aspects of her life.

Part of the celebrations that day saw women from various government bodies and stakeholders participate in friendly sporting competitions.

Following the launch, the Day will be observed every year.



SP renews contract with PNGOC

K409,825 for three years

Papua New Guinea's number one Brewer, SP Brewery, has renewed its long standing support for sports partnership with the PNG Olympic Committee (PNGOC) by supporting Team PNG's participation into the 2020 Olympics.

SP Brewery's association with the PNGOC goes back as early as the

1980s during the days of the Pepsi Fun Run.

SP Brewery has been the major sponsor of the prestigious 'SP Sports Awards' since 1992 where it has worked in collaboration with the PNGOC and the PNG Sports Foundation.

SP Brewery is proud to be associated with the PNGOC as it continues to strive to provide opportunities for athletes while maintaining a responsible and positive image of the country and other stakeholders.

Managing Director of SP Brewery, Stan Joyce presented a cheque of K409,825 for a three years' spon-



SIGNED: Auvita Rapilla (left) and Stan Joyce sign the agreement at the SP Brewery headquarters in Port Moresby with Team PNG Chef de Mission, Emma Waiwai witnessing the occasion. *PHOTO: A. Molen/ PNGOC.*

sorship package on February 13 with the Secretary General of the PNGOC, Auvita Rapilla at the Brewery's Head Office.

The sporting partnership strengthens the PNGOC's pursuit

towards achieving its Vision which is "...to inspire and unite Papua New Guineans through sporting excellence and success."

The partnership is also aligned with SP

Brewery's Key Priorities which is to maintain stakeholder relationships.

Today's cheque presentation is a testament to SP Brewery's commitment to supporting our PNG

athletes excel and be the best at the international level," said Joyce.

Rapilla said: "We are grateful to SP Brewery for its continued support towards sports in PNG and we

look forward to the years ahead".

She said the agreement is timely since it comes ahead of the 16th Pacific Games, scheduled for Apia, Samoa in July of this year (2019).

AC reps of the ONOC meet in Nadi

OCEANIA ATHLETES' FORUM

Kapi and Kisapai represent PNG at ONOC AC meet

Milton Kisapai and Kapu Kapi were among representatives from the Athletes Commissions of countries in the Oceania region who attended the Oceania Athlete's Forum in Nadi, Fiji from February 21 to 23 this year.

The forum was hosted by the Oceania National Olympic Committee Athletes Commission (ONOC AC) with the slogan; "Excellence For Life."

Female athlete, Kapi is from the sport of athletics while her male counterpart, Kisapai is a hockey player. Both attended the meeting as members of the Papua New Guinea Athletes Commission (PNG AC).

The two made a presentation on the work and role of the PNG AC outlining some of the programmes that they are involved in delivering.

Female athlete, Kapi is from the

Continued next page...

AC REPS: Kapi (left) and Kisapai in Nadi, for the ONOC AC Forum. **PHOTO:** Courtesy of Milton Kisapai.



TEAM TALK: Cathy Neap (centre) addresses her Orchids teammates during the filming of *Power Meri*, the documentary film about the team:
PHOTO: Benard Poma, Power Meri.

PNG women's rugby league film wins international award

A documentary film and radio story about Papua New Guinea's first national women's rugby league team, the Orchids, are receiving international recognition for shining a light on the social impact of women's sport and fostering community discussion about gender-based violence and female leadership.

Both media projects were supported by the Australian Government through the Pacific Sports Partnerships (PSP) program and are bringing the stories of Pacific women's sport to new, global audiences.

ABC journalist Aaron Kearney's radio report, *Orchids Bloom*, produced in the lead-up to the Orchids' inaugural match against the Australian Jillaroos in 2017, recently picked up the silver med-

al for audio storytelling at the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) Sports Media Awards in Switzerland.

The new awards are pitched as the highest international accolade in the sports media industry.

The award-winning story, which was broadcasted by ABC Radio Australia and Grandstand, is part of a portfolio of material produced by Kearney as part of ABC International Development's media coverage of the Australian Government-funded PSP program.

Meanwhile, *Power Meri* (Powerful Women), an internationally released documentary feature film about the Orchids,

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ONOC AC reps meet in Nadi

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OUTREACH: Team PNG athletes with students in the Southern Highlands province during an OVEP session in 2018. *PHOTO: PNGOC.*

One of the programmes they highlighted was the HERO programme where Team PNG athletes are trained and given the tools to deliver different programmes.

This is a flagship programme of the PNG Olympic Committee and the PNG AC in getting athletes involved in various community programmes, activities and events.

Chairperson of the PNG AC, Karo Lelai and her Deputy, Ryan Pini also attended the forum. Lelai is also the Chairperson of the ONOC AC

Kisapai said the Athletes' Forum was a great opportunity for athletes from around the region to share their ideas and also talk about issues affecting them directly.

Other presentations at the forum came from the Executive Officer of Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (ORADO), Natanya Potoi-Ulia and Executive Director of Pacific Games Council (PGC), Andrew Minogue.

Swimmers start the year with a splash

Papua New Guinea Swim team members kick started the year on a high note with the support of Australian coach, Rick Van Der Zant with a one week training camp each in Lae and Port Moresby.

Van Der Zant has a vast experience with the PNG team coaching the national side at many of the major international tournaments.

He has also worked closely with Ryan Pini when he trained at the Yeronga Park Swimming Club in Brisbane.

Van Der Zant was Pini's coach when he went on to win the gold medal at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

More recently, he was the head coach of the PNG team at the Oceania Swimming Championships and

also travelled with the young team to the FINA World Championships last month in China.

The swimmers are utilizing that experience and making the most of the opportunity of his sessions.

The camp helps to set up the athletes for a big year ahead with the Pacific Games six months away.

In the lead up, a team will be sent to the Arafura Games in Australia to assist with their lead up preparations.

Van Der Zant with the help of the local club coaches are also getting the swimmers ready for the National Championships in March.

This will be the selection event for the Pacific Games team.



POOL SESSION: Van Der Zant with some of the swimmers in Port Moresby during the camp. *PHOTO: PNG Swimming.*

The coaches and athletes have greatly benefitted from their time with Van Der Zant and will be stepping up their preparations in the coming months.

Orchids' story gets international acclaim

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had its international premiere in Tahiti this February after being selected for the prestigious Oceania International Film Festival (FIFO) there.

More than 400 people watched the film including festival regulars, school students, Tahitian female athletes, Pacific film-makers and Australia's Consul-General in French Polynesia, Paul Wilson.

Directed by journalist, Joanna Lester and shot by a small crew of Australians and Papua New Guineans, the

film explores the broader social impact of the Orchids and their influence on the status and treatment of women in PNG.

It tells the story of the team's journey to the Rugby League World Cup in Australia through the voices of pioneering players, including inaugural captain, Cathy Neap and Brisbane Broncos NRLW star, Amelia Kuk.

Power Meri is currently screening in Australia and Papua New Guinea, and will be released in the UK, New Zealand and other Pacific countries in 2019.

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UP COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 6th - TFR Auction - Lae
- 7th - TFR Auction - POM
- 17th - GMT Bonding
- 18-26 - JC meetings, justifying athletes
- 22nd - Sports Awards, Close of nominations
- 29th - Media Blitz/ Samoa 100 Days to go
- 30-31st - Team PNG Managers OSEP Course

APRIL:

- 6th - International Day for Sports Development & Peace
- 11th - Announcement of Finalists (Sports Awards)
- 26th - PM's Golf, Lae

MAY:

- Date TBC - Team PNG bonding
- 17th - PM's Golf, POM
- 25th - Sports Awards Presentation
- 31st - 2nd June - Coaches Workshop

JUNE:

- 15th - PNGOC AGA
- 16th - Trukai Fun Run
- 29th - Team PNG Farewell