



Vanessa Yong

Adrienne Ser

Jasmine Ser

Shooting for the Stars

Vanessa Yong (18), Adrienne Ser (19), and Jasmine Ser (16), may only be in their teens, but already they have much to be proud off. They are all members of Singapore's national shooting squad. *Cohesion* talks to them about shooting, their community involvement and what it means to them to be North West District residents.

While all three of them picked up the skill of shooting when they were students of Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School, each one has a different story to tell on how they picked up the sport.

For Adrienne, currently a first-year NUS student, it was a chance encounter with the sport. She told *Cohesion*, "It was only after my school's basketball club closed down that I joined the school's shooting club." That decision certainly paid off as Adrienne today has represented Singapore in various international tournaments in countries such as Germany, Italy and Croatia.

Similarly for Vanessa, a second-year junior college student, she only decided to pick up shooting after she realised she didn't have the knack for ball games. As it turns out, she found her calling in shooting, having represented Singapore in tournaments such as the SEA Games and is a bronze medallist in the Commonwealth Games.

Jasmine initially joined the sport to follow in sister Adrienne's footsteps, but now has grander ambitions. "I'm going to be even better than her," the secondary four student said.

All agree that the sport has taught them valuable life skills such as mental discipline, patience and focus. And there's an added bonus. "As a result of all these training, I've found good friends and we've become very close," Vanessa shared.

"We're more like family," Jasmine added.

In addition to balancing training and school, the three national shooters are also actively involved in community. In fact, Adrienne and Vanessa are past recipients of the North West CDC's Outstanding All-Rounder Students' (OARS) Awards.

Vanessa is involved with Club Rainbow while Adrienne is the Chairperson of North West CDC's Youth Assembly.

Adrienne told us that she first got involved with the community when she was nominated to join the Young Leaders' Committee (YLC) for a one-year term in secondary school. She found it meaningful, as the YLC did more than just visit old folk's home and clean beaches.

"YLC taught us active participation in community service and is more focused on youth development. As a result, I have learnt to plan, execute and organise activities, which are all useful life skills," Adrienne said.

Adrienne enjoyed the stint in YLC so much that she kept returning to help out. Eventually she outgrew the programme and as a result, the North West CDC set up the Youth Assembly for alumnus of the YLC.

It's however not all work and no play for these three girls. The girls often go out for meals in famed North West District food havens such as Chong Pang Hawker Centre and the Satay Club next to Sembawang Shopping Centre.

"It's like a modern kampung here. In fact, our senior's (AISS Shooting Club) father owns a store at Satay Club!" Vanessa said.

Think you could be the next shooting star? The Singapore Shooting Association conducts a monthly sampler programme at \$100 per person to let you try various weapons to see which fits you best. Spaces are limited and are on a first-come-first served basis. For more information, call SSA at 6795-3760 or visit www.singaporeshooting.org