

# Oceania Weightlifting Federation

## Latest News

March 2009

### **Pacific Islands Cup Email Tournament**

127 lifters took part in this very successful first ever Pacific Islands Cup Email Tournament. There was some outstanding performances with Ele Opeloge from Samoa in the 75+kg category totaling 265kg and winning the best female lifter. Whilst in the men division, the best lifter went to Yukio Peter from Nauru with a total of 355Kg competing in the 85kg category. Other excellent performances came from Manueli Tulo of Fiji in the 56kg category, breaking the Oceania total junior total with 228kg.

### **2009 Arafura Games & Oceania Championships**

The weightlifting event of the 2009 Arafura Games will be held in Darwin from May 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with this event will be the Oceania & South Pacific Senior and Junior Championships. The OWF congress will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, whilst the competition dates are 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May. The venue for the weightlifting is the Darwin Entertainment Centre.



The closing date of entries for these championships is the **12<sup>th</sup> April**. I would urge every country of the Oceania region to make sure that they enter their team in time. It will be a huge event and we expect a large contingent of lifters also coming from other non-Oceania countries competing in the Arafura Games.

For further details please contact the competition director – Andrew Forrest – in Darwin on his email address [agf38@internode.on.net](mailto:agf38@internode.on.net)

### **Nauru Olympic Committee appoints new president.**

His Excellency, Marcus Stephen, OWF President has recently been elected President of the Nauru Olympic Committee for the next four years. Marcus is the only Head of State to have competed at three Olympic Games. He competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, 1996 Atlanta Olympics and at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

### **New Office Bearers for Nauru Weightlifting**

Congratulations to Aaron Cook for being elected the new President of the Nauru Weightlifting Federation. And congratulations also to the new general secretary, Sheeva Peo Cook. Sheeva was one of the greatest lifters of the Pacific for many years in the 75+Kg category. She is a former Olympian, representing Nauru at the Sydney Olympics.

### **National Coach for Tonga**

Maamaloa Lolohea, one of the best lifters Tonga has ever produced, an Olympic representative and South Pacific Games gold medalist in the 105+Kg category, has been appointed full time coach of Tonga. Maamaloa spent two years at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute under an IOC coaching scholarship. He already has a lot of lifters and is developing an excellent junior team.

### **Samoa – Commonwealth Youth Games 2015**

Congratulations to the Samoa National Olympic Committee for winning the bid to host the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games.

Samoa today has possibly one of the best weightlifting stadiums in the world. The weightlifting event in 2015 will certainly be one of the highlights of the Commonwealth Youth Games. The weightlifting venue in Samoa has in recent years hosted major events. In 2006, Samoa hosted the Pacific Rim International and Commonwealth & Oceania Championships. In 2007, the South Pacific Games in the month of August and then in November hosted the IWF World Cup and Commonwealth & Oceania Championships.



## **1st Youth World Championships**

The first World Youth Championships will be held in Chiang Mai –Thailand May 19-24, 2009 The bodyweight categories which will be contested are as follows: **Women** 44Kg, 48Kg, 53Kg, 58Kg 63Kg, 69Kg, 69+Kg.

**Men** 50Kg, 56kg, 62Kg, 69Kg, 77Kg, 85Kg, 94Kg, 94+Kg, **(The age is 13 to 17yrs old.)** Born January 1,1992 to December 31,1996. This world championships will be a qualification event for the 2010 Olympic Youth Games which will be held in Singapore.

## **Nauru the venue for 2010 OYG Continental Qualification**



Nauru will be the host country for the very first Olympic Youth Games Continental Qualification. The date has not been finalized as yet by the IWF but it is anticipated to be held in the month of May. To be eligible for the Youth Olympic Games, athletes must be born between 1<sup>st</sup> January 1993 and the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1994.

In conjunction with this event, the Oceania & South Pacific Senior and Junior Championships will also be held. Nauru is very much looking forward to hosting this event as it has been ten years since they last hosted a major weightlifting international event.

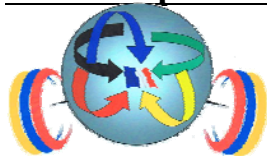
## **Manueli Tulo wins Fiji Sportsman of the year.**

Young weightlifter Manueli Tulo was named the 2008 Fiji Sportsman of the Year at the Sports Awards night last week held in Suva Fiji. Tulo, aged 18, of Levuka, Fiji, won gold at the Commonwealth Youth Games held in Pune- India last October. in the 56Kg category Tulo was not able to receive his award personally as he trains at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute in New Caledonia.



This is the first time that a weightlifter has won this prestigious sports award in Fiji. Normally the sport of rugby dominates this category. The guest speaker at this event was Mr. Kevan Gosper, IOC member and past IOC Vice President. Mr. Gosper is the President of the Oceania National Olympic Committee.

## **World Cup 2009 cancelled**



It is with great regret to inform you that the 2009 World Cup which was supposed to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, in New Caledonia has been cancelled. This decision was taken after consultation with the IWF / OWF. The reason for the cancellation of the event, is that the Government of New Caledonia was to have their General Election in the month of April. But they have now changed it to the month of May, the same week as the World up

Consequently the New Caledonia television, RFO, has had no choice but to pull out of the telecast, locally and internationally and therefore the organizing committee was left with no other choice but to cancel the World Cup.

## **IWF Congress – Madrid 2009**

From March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, the IWF Congress will be held in the city of Madrid, Spain. Well over 100 countries will be in attendance. According to the IWF this year there has been a record number of nominations for the different positions on offer.

### **The nominations from the Oceania regions are:**

For the Vice President position:

Mr. Sam Coffa (**Australia**)

For IWF Executive Board members:

Mr. Sam Coffa (**Australia**)

Mr. Ronald Frere (**New Caledonia**)

For Scientific & Research Committee:

Mr. Lyn Jones (**Australia**)

For Medical Committee:

Dr. Lisamoni Kami (**Tonga**)

For Technical Committee:

Mr. Pedro Sanchez (**Australia**)

Paul Coffa

**OWF GENERAL SECRETARY**