

The Arafura Games is Over

Weightlifting at the 12th Arafura Games held in Darwin, concluded with many Oceania records broken along the way. The weightlifting event held at the new Darwin Convention Centre from the 27th to 29th April, produced some excellent results to a packed house every session. Seventeen countries took part in the event. Ian Moir assisted by Bowen Stuart presented a brilliant show. The organisation was impeccable. The Darwin Convention Centre, could very easily run a World Championships.

Six different sports were conducted at the same time – in different halls – which indicates just how large the Darwin Convention Centre is. Some of the highlights were the battles in the men session in the 67kg and 96kg categories. Superb lifting by the athletes. In the women sessions there were some great battles also in the 59kg, 76kg, 81kg and +87kg categories.

The weightlifting at the Arafura Games was honoured by the attendance of the IWF General Secretary, Mohammed Jaloud and the IWF Vice President, Nicu Vlad. Both gentlemen stayed for the full duration of the tournament.

Below are the winners of each category:

MEN

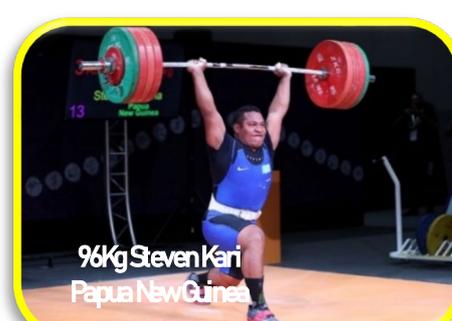
- 61kg Category: Morea Baru PNG, Total 283Kg
- 67kg Category: Ruben Katoatau KIR, Total 285Kg
- 73kg Category: Oleg Chan RUS, Total 305Kg
- 81kg Category: Cameron McTaggart NZL, Total 301Kg
- 89kg Category: Don Opeloge SAM, Total 347Kg
- 96kg Category: Steven Kari PNG, Total 350Kg
- 102kg Category: Petunu Opeloge SAM, Total 344Kg
- 109kg Category: Sanele Mao SAM, Total 360Kg
- +109kg Category: Jackson Solofa AUS, Total 34Kg

WOMEN

- 45Kg Category: Shi Yue-Shan TPE, Total 120Kg
- 49Kg Category: Dika Toua PNG, Total 145Kg
- 55Kg Category: Mary Lifu SOL, Total 162Kg
- 59Kg Category: Erika Yamasaki AUS, Total 182Kg
- 64Kg Category: Irina Lepsa ROM, Total 217Kg
- 71Kg Category: Emily Godley GBR, Total 207Kg
- 76Kg Category: Kanah Andrews-Nahu NZL, Total 201Kg
- 81Kg Category: Hu Hsiao-Man TPE, Total 199Kg
- 87Kg Category: Kaitlyn Fassina AUS, 222Kg
- +87Kg Category: Feagaiga Stowers SAM, Total 255Kg



THE Gold Medal winners:





45 Kg She Yue Shan
Chinese Taipei



49 Kg Dika Toua
Papua New Guinea



55 Kg Mary Lifu
Solomon Islands



59 Kg Erika Yamasaki
Australia



64 Kg Irina Lepsa
Romania



71 Kg Emily Godley
Great Britain



76 Kg Karah Andrews-Nahu
New Zealand



81 Kg HU Biao Man
Chinese Taipei



87 Kg Kaitlyn Fassina
Australia



+87 Kg Feagaiga Stowers
Samoa



The Crowd in Darwin at the Arafura Games



The IWF General Secretary Mr Mohammed Jaloud presents medals.

JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - SUVA, FIJI

The Junior World Championships is fast approaching. The competition in Suva and will start on the 1st June and run until the 8th June. From a media release by the Fiji Organising Committee, it was reported that 64 countries will take part making it one of the biggest Junior Championships in history. 28 from Europe, 11 from Pan America, 10 from Asia, 7 from Oceania, 5 from Africa and 3 from the Middle East. The Oceania countries are: Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. The championships will be a GOLD qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.



ELITE TRAINING CAMP – NEW CALEDONIA AND SAMOA

Two Elite Training Camps will be held simultaneously. One in Apia, Samoa and one at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute. The training camps funded by the IWF, will be held from the 19th May to the 27th May. Invited Elite Athletes, from 10 countries will participate.

EIGHT WEEKS TO GO TO THE PACIFIC GAMES

The closing date for the FINAL entries for the Pacific Games, Oceania Championships and Commonwealth Championships is the 23rd May. No late entries will be accepted. Also please note that only lifters who have been entered in the Preliminary entries are able to be entered in the Final entries. No additional lifters can be entered. Twenty eight countries in all, will be taking part, in Apia. The Oceania Championships for Senior and Junior is a GOLD event for the 2020 Tokyo qualification. Whilst those countries competing in the Commonwealth Championships and Pacific, these two events will be a SILVER event for 2020 Tokyo qualification. More news on these Championships will be in the next issue.

VALE SPRENT DABWIDO



Sprent speaking at the United Nations



Sprent at the 1997 World Championships in Chiang Mai

It is so sad to hear today from Trent Dabwido, that his younger brother Sprent Dabwido has passed away. Sprent put up a brave fight against throat cancer. I was privileged to speak to Sprent only three days ago. We talked about weightlifting and the fun that we had during his weightlifting career. Sprent was President of the Republic of Nauru from 2011-2013. He was also a past President of the Nauru Weightlifting Federation and just as important he was a weightlifter. He competed at many international events, including the World Championships in Thailand in 1997. So many good memories. Sprent was committed to his country. He was honest and had good values of life. Nauru has lost not only a gentleman, but a true Nauruan, a man who truly cared for his people. For those who knew Sprent well,

would remember him as a happy and fun loving individual. On behalf of the OWF our deepest condolences are extended to Sprent's family and may Sprent's soul rest in peace. He will be sadly missed.