

# OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION



June, 2007

## LATEST NEWS

### PALAU TRAGEDY

The Palau Weightlifting Federation sadly lost two of its members through tragic circumstances. First they lost Jenner Techechur due to a fishing accident and then not so long ago they lost one of their best ever lifters Valerie Pedro due to dehydration. Valerie won gold in the snatch in the 69kg category in Palau during the 2005 Mini South Pacific Games and she was a regular team member of the Palau weightlifting team. She represented Palau at the 2000 Olympics competing in the 69kg placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall. Both members will be sadly missed by all who knew them. Our sympathies go to their respective families.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

Saios 'Enosi from Tonga has been appointed the new President of the Tonga Weightlifting Federation. A new General Secretary has also been appointed. He is Hiko Fungavaka.

Tony Hole, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, has been appointed General Secretary of the Cook Islands National Olympic Committee. Tony is also the General Secretary of the Cook Islands Weightlifting Fed.

From the island nation of Niue in the Pacific Ocean, Alan Tano, President of the Niue Weightlifting Federation was re-appointed General Secretary of the Niue Sports Federation – Olympic Committee

From Tuvalu, Mr Uluao Lautii was re-appointed President of the Tuvalu Weightlifting Federation whilst the new General Secretary is Talavai Iona.

*The OWF congratulates all the above officials on their appointments.*

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dika Toua, 53kg category lifter from PNG, silver medalist at the Commonwealth Games for winning the Sportswoman of the Year for the fifth consecutive year in Papua New Guinea. Whilst Rita Kari, 58kg lifter won the Junior Sportswoman of the Year and Frank Robby, one of the top officials in the Oceania region won the Technical Official of the Year award. A great scoop for weightlifting in PNG.

Congratulations also to Sam Pera Jr. Commonwealth junior champion in the 105+Kg for winning the Junior Sportsman of the Year in the Cook Islands.

### SAMOAN SETS NEW SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT RECORD

Ele Opeloge from Samoa, with only 16 months training, has set a new clean & jerk record of 141kg in the 75+kg category. This is of course the heaviest clean & jerk lifted by a female weightlifter in the Oceania Region.

### UESAKA EMAIL INTERNATIONAL CLUB TOURNAMENT

The Uesaka Email International Club tournament this year produced some great performances from the Oceania regional countries. The Manu Samoa club from Samoa won the male section of the tournament whilst Finess Club from Nigeria won the women section whilst Both teams will receive an Uesaka set of weights sponsored by the Uesaka company. Its interesting to note that the club of Hanababa from PNG was only beaten by 2 points by the Nigerian club. 1050 competitors from 128 clubs took part in the event. The full results can be seen on the OWF website at [www.oceaniaweighting.com](http://www.oceaniaweighting.com)

### ARAFURA GAMES

At the recent Arafura Games held in Darwin, Australia May 14-16, 16 countries took part. There was some good results but more important the Oceania Junior Championships was held in conjunction with these games. Full results can be seen on the OWF website, [www.oceaniaweighting.com](http://www.oceaniaweighting.com)

### IWF SYMPOSIUM -ROME

152 participants representing 58 countries took part in the IWF Symposium in Rome on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. One of the speakers was Sam Coffa from Australia, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the IWF and President of the Australian Weightlifting Federation. His presentation was on the latest technical aspects of the sport.

## NEW CALEDONIA

The General Secretary and Asst. Secretary of the OWF paid a visit to New Caledonia during the month of May. Whilst in Nouméa they visited the CTOS office and met with its President and General Secretary. They also visited quite a few weightlifting clubs including one in the village of La Foa where they conducted a coaching clinic for the young lifters. In addition they visited quite a number of venues which will be used for the 2011 South Pacific Games. Special thanks must go to Ronald Frère, the President of the New Caledonia Halterophilie for organising the visit.



Visiting the New Caledonia Territorial Olympic Committee office.

## ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER CLASSIC

Yukio Peter 77kg category lifter from Nauru, won the overall best lifter at the Arnold Classic in Columbus Ohio recently, receiving a cheque of US\$2500 for winning the overall tournament. The event was superbly organized and congratulations to the organizers Mark Cannella and Megan Tornstrom DeFourny from the Columbus weightlifting club for an outstanding job.



Arnold Schwarzenegger presents some awards.



Manuel Minginfel just cannot keep away from glamour girls.



Yukio Peter and Manuel Minginfel fighting over the prize money.

## COMING UP:

2007 World Junior Championships- Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC. June 7-16

2007 University World Cup, Lima- PERU. August 9-12

XIII South Pacific Games – Apia, SAMOA. August 25 - September 8

The Royal World Weightlifting Championships – Chiang Mai, THAILAND. September 14-26

## IWF WORLD CUP AND COMMONWEALTH AND OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2007 Commonwealth & Oceania Championships will be held in conjunction with the IWF World Cup in Apia, Samoa November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>. All Commonwealth Federations will be receiving very soon an official invitation from the Prime Minister of Samoa regarding the above event.

