

## COVID-19 LOCKDOWN/2020 DISASTER

**Who would have thought that the world would become a victim to a virus in today's age?**

A virus which has destroyed and continues to destroy lives and families; has locked down international borders; has caused the cancellation of many world events, including the Olympics Games, which has been postponed until next year (hopefully); and destroyed **the many dreams of our lifters.**

Who would have thought that only a few months ago, we held major world events like the World Cup in Tianjin China (in December), the World Cup in Doha (in December), the World Cup in Rome (at the end of January 2020) and then suddenly our sport stopped. The Australian Open in Canberra (February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>) was the last event held in weightlifting before this catastrophic pandemic took over.

How long will it last? Nobody knows. We just hope that a vaccine is developed soon in order for the world to go back to some type of normality. And even that will take some time. We can only hope for the best, and try and work within the limitations we currently all face.

The OWF has either postponed or cancelled most of its projects for the rest of the year. We do not know, at this stage, whether the OTIP program or the Oceania and Commonwealth Championships, to be held in Nauru, will go ahead—especially as all borders in our region remain closed.

I believe that the world will never quite be the same again. Not for a long time, anyway. Many areas will be affected; whether it be tourism, sport, business, finance or even the environment. If not, already, implemented, re-evaluation of current practices in many areas may take place. However, amongst all this chaos, attention should be brought to reflect on aspects which keep us striving for a better community: dignity, respect and unity. By working together, we can only hope, that during this tragic time, we may indeed seek out the better in us all.

Paul Coffa- OWF General Secretary



Eileen Cikamatana (Australia) attempting the world Senior clean & jerk record in Rome during the World Cup in January 2020. The weight was 159Kg. 81kg Cat.



Laurel Hubbard (New Zealand) Snatched 133kg in the +87kg category for a new Commonwealth and Oceania Senior record in Canberra last month



Don Opeloge (Samoa) was in brilliant form during the Australian Open in Canberra on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Don competing in the 96kg cat. set new Oceania record in the snatch with 164kg, Clean& jerk 210kg and Total 374kg.

### January 2020 World Cup Rome

From the 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January, the Rome IWF World Cup and Olympic Qualification event was held at the magnificent stadium in Ostia. The tournament attracted many countries and some of the results were truly outstanding. From our part of the world we had representatives from Australia, American Samoa, Solomon Islands and New Zealand. Eileen Cikamatana from Australia won the 81kg category World Cup. She snatched 115kg and clean & jerked 140kg on her first attempt. And on her third attempt she attempted the world senior record with 159kg.

### February 2020 Email Tournament

The 2020 Pacific Islands Email Tournament turned out to be a great success. Ten countries took part in the tournament with 201 lifters competing. This tournament is producing some excellent results every year and it is good for the island nations as it kick starts their year of competition. Counties competing were: Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Kiribati, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Marianas, and New Caledonia.

### February-March 2020 Australian International Open

A very successful tournament was held in Canberra at the Australian Institute of Sport. This was the last international tournament held before the Covid 19 Virus stopped all events. It was a great tournament with lifters competing from Singapore, Korea, New Zealand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Great Britain, Northern Marianas, Guam and Australia of course. One of the highlights was the performance of Don Opeloge from Samoa. He snatched 164kg and clean & jerked 210kg, totalling 374kg all Oceania records in the 96kg category. Also Laurel Hubbard from New Zealand established a new Commonwealth Record in the +87kg with a Snatch record of 133kg.

### 2020 Eleiko Email Lifters Tournament

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation every year, during the month of July, normally hosts the ELEIKO Email International Club Tournament. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus this year, almost all events have either been postponed or cancelled. Most weightlifting Clubs, Institutes, and Academies have been closed. However, we do know that there are hundreds and hundreds of lifters still training at home. So with this in mind, the OWF with the assistance of Eleiko have decided to still conduct the ELEIKO Email Tournament – obviously not at club level - **but at individual level.**

The date set for the tournament is the **24<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.** The 24<sup>th</sup> July, was to be the day of the Opening Ceremony of the 2020 Olympic Games, before it was postponed. The concept is to **'keep your dream alive'**. I hope that you take the opportunity to participate in this unique tournament from where ever you may live in the world. Mr. Bowen Stuart, from the Australian Weightlifting Federation will assist in coordinating the electronic entries and final results. You can get all information of this tournament on the OWF website [www.oceaniaweightlifting.com](http://www.oceaniaweightlifting.com)

**Cook Islands** - Cook Islands Weightlifting Federation has a new President in Dr Lawrence Teariki Puni. New General Secretary is Natasha Marurai. The Vice President is Geoffrey Halston and Treasurer is Matanoanoa Peru. The OWF wishes all appointees a very successful term of office.

**Niue** Congratulations to Narita Viliamu for being re- appointed President of Niue Weightlifting Federation. The Vice President is Mrs Carol Edwards, The General Secretary is Mrs Tamyrah Sioneholo The OWF wishes Narita and all the Executive Members a very successful term of office.



### OBITUARY

This week, the world of weightlifting lost a great man. Gottfried Schödl, was the President of the IWF from 1972 until 2000. In his 28 years as President, Gottfried Schödl was the most respected official that the IWF has ever had. He was a true gentlemen and unquestionably a true leader.

Gottfried produced a number of statistical weightlifting books leaving behind a documented history of our sport. During his Presidency, Gottfried received much recognition for his contribution to weightlifting, including being honoured with an Olympic Order by the IOC.

The OWF extends its condolences to his dear wife Eva and his family.

Gottfried Schödl during his many visits to the Oceania region:



Melbourne 1993



Sydney 2000



Nauru 1998



Melbourne 1986



Nauru 1998



Melbourne 1985