



THE 2026 OWF INTERNATIONAL CUP

From 18 to 20 of September, Melbourne proudly hosted the 2026 Oceania Cup International Tournament at the Victorian Weightlifting Stadium in Hawthorn. The event was held in conjunction with the Victorian Weightlifting Championships, the two events combined seamlessly, with the Victorian Championship results also contributing to the Oceania Cup standings.

The atmosphere throughout the three days was vibrant, energetic, and filled with the unmistakable spirit of weightlifting. The tournament proved to be an outstanding success, bringing together 120 lifters from 11 nations across the region. Athletes travelled from New Caledonia, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Naoero, Guam, and Australia, creating a truly international celebration of strength, discipline, and sportsmanship.

A particular highlight was the participation of three of the four Oceania gold medallists from the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Their presence elevated the prestige of the event and inspired all who attended. We were honoured to welcome:

- David Liti – +110kg gold medallist (New Zealand)
- Taniela Rainibogi – 110kg gold medallist (Fiji)
- Seine Stowers – 77kg gold medallist (Samoa)

Their performances were met with admiration and enthusiasm from athletes, officials, and spectators alike. Warm congratulations are extended to the Victorian Weightlifting Association for their excellent organisation and promotion of this event. Their professionalism and dedication ensured a smooth, well-run, and memorable tournament. In particular a special acknowledgement must go to Simon Francazio for his excellent organisation of the event.

We also express our sincere appreciation to the Victorian Government for their financial support, which played a vital role in enabling the staging of this international competition. The event was webcast worldwide by Nigel Skurrie, with commentary provided by Brendon Telfer, whose voice has long been recognised for decades throughout the Pacific sporting community.

The OWF wishes to thank all technical officials and loaders for their tireless efforts and commitment. A special acknowledgement is extended to Andrew King for his exceptional photographic work, capturing the emotion, intensity, and triumph of the tournament.

Below are the winners of each category:



49kg category winner : Thelma Toua -Papua New Guinea Total 145kg



53kg category winner : Ellie Zalcmán , Victoria -Australia Total 157kg



58kg category winner : Natalya Ghetto, New South Wales – Australia Total 158kg



61kg category winner : Yasmin Aziz , Queensland – Australia Total 190kg



69kg category winner : Family Nottle – Naoero Total 216kg



77kg category winner : Isabell Grills, Victoria – Australia Total 212kg



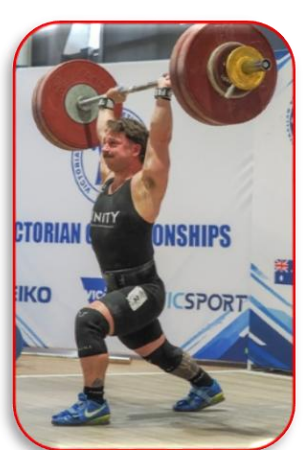
86kg category winner : Seine Stowers – Samoa Total 247kg



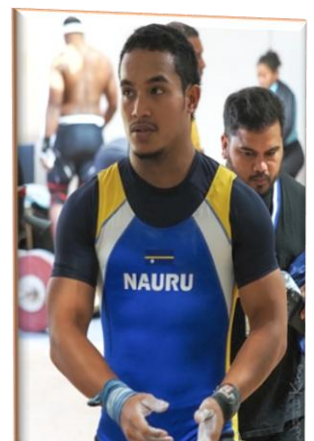
86+kg category winner : Destiny Uera – Naoero Total 215kg



65kg category winner : Morea Baru – Papua new Guinea Total 275kg



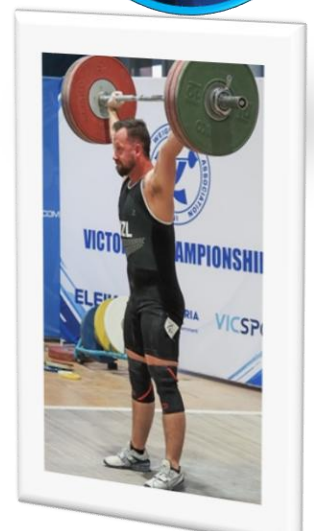
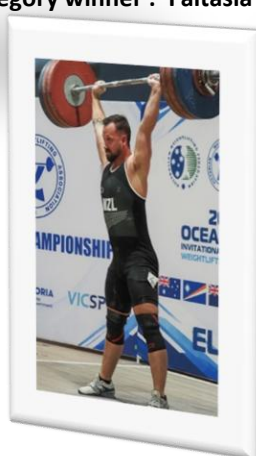
70kg category winner : Daniel Pitisano, Victoria – Australia Total 243kg



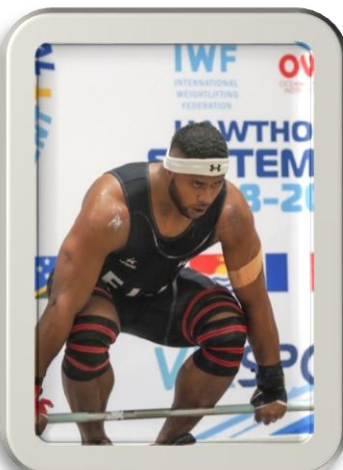
75kg category winner : Ezekiel Moses – Naoero Total 296kg



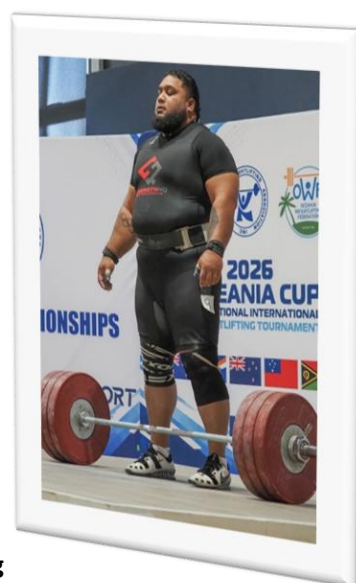
85kg category winner : Faitasia Seuao – Samoa Total 287kg



95kg category winner : Cameron McTaggart – New Zealand Total 315kg

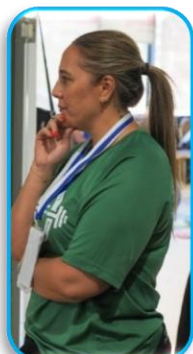


110kg category winner : Taniela Rainibogi – Fiji Total 371kg



110+kg category winner : David Liti – New Zealand Total 385kg

OTHER PHOTOS below are some shots of the officials and friends attending the event. Unfortunately photos of other officials were not available.



Simone Pritchard



Simon Kent



Jerry Wallwork



Sam Coffa



Eliza Brebner Griffin



Shanade & Kristian Holmkvist



Trent Dabwido



Purna Kahingala



Marc Mansour



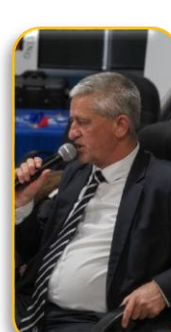
Tony Damches



Michael Noonan



Milos Trnka



Simon Grace



Koay Suat



George Stylianou



Matthew Damches



Lilly Coffa



Nya Hayman



Bach Nguyen



Rohan Mason



Joshua Wu with Miles Wydall



Paul Coffa with Stuart Bennett



Friends for ever Paul Coffa with Ean Whitton



Marcus Meotti



Isabella King



Ange Kenos



Edgar Molinos



Coach Henry Elder



Grandma Dika Toua



The strength of the Pacific
Della Shaw-Elder with Lilly Coffa



Young Jai Bennett was at the Oceania Cup last week-end at Hawthorn and took the opportunity to take a photo with two of the Gold Medallists from the recent Glasgow Commonwealth Games. super – heavy weight champion David Liti from New Zealand on the left with the 110kg champion Taniela Rainibogi from Fiji.

