



Latest News

March 16 , 2012

SAMOA'S CELEBRATION

A new date has been set for the 2012 Commonwealth and Oceania Championships to be held in Samoa. The new date is **the 4 – 9 June**. The great news with the change of date is that the President of the IWF Dr. Tamas Ajan will now be able to attend this major championships in Samoa.

Just as important the event now coincides with the week of celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Samoa. The Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi has sent a personal letter to every country of the Oceania and Commonwealth inviting teams to be part of this week of festivities. The General Secretary of the OWF spent two days in Samoa with Jerry Wallwork, the President of the Samoan Weightlifting Federation and Chairman of the Organising Committee, looking at and discussing all areas of the championships.

- The event will be telecast live throughout Samoa and the region
- It was decided also to minimise costs for teams and allow them the option to stay at hotels of their own choice. Information has been sent to all countries regarding the matter.
- The championships will be held at the magnificent weightlifting auditorium – the Tuanaimato Sports Complex - where in 2007 the World Cup and also the Pacific Games were held.
- The closing date for entries is set for May 5th. No late entries will be accepted.
- The IWF electronic competition system will be used to run the event.
- This event for the Oceania region is the Olympic Qualification event for the London Olympics. The top five teams in the men team classification will qualify one lifter each. The top four teams in the female team classification will qualify one lifter each.



Above the Tuanaimato Sports Complex- Weightlifting hall during the 2007 World Cup- Weightlifting

On the left the opening ceremony of the 2007 World Cup.

2012 PACIFIC ISLANDS EMAIL INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2012 Pacific Islands Email tournament turned out to be a great success. Eleven countries took part in the tournament with 187 lifters competing. (119 men and 64 women) Medals for first, second and third place in each category will be presented to all lifters in Samoa. It was great to see also for the first time lifters competing from the Marshall Islands and winning medals.

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS TOURNAMENT - MELBOURNE

The Australian Weightlifting Federation Annual Club Tournament in Melbourne is set for Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March. It will have 130 lifters competing. There are 43 clubs entered and for the first time, clubs from the Pacific region will also be competing. Manu Samoa has entered two teams, Marcus Club from Nauru has entered one team, one team also from the Micronesian club and one team also representing the Melanesian club. All Australian top lifters will be taking part in this event and will be an ideal build up for the upcoming Oceania Championships.



2012 OCEANIA MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS



For the first time the Oceania Masters Championships will be held in conjunction with the Australian Masters Championships in Brisbane on June 15-17. The venue is the Chandler Theatre, Sleeman Sports Complex in Brisbane. We encourage lifters of the Pacific over the age of 35 to take part in this historical event. For further details on these championships please contact the Australian Weightlifting Federation Executive Director Michael Keelan on mkeelan@awf.com.au

ADAMS WEREABOUTS FORM

The IWF has asked every single country of the Oceania region to make sure that they comply with the ADAMS whereabouts forms. This compliance is mandatory. If you have any queries whatsoever please do not hesitate to contact Rita Konta at the IWF on adams@iwfnet.net

CONGRATULATION TO MARY MACKEN

On Friday the 9th of March a prestigious event took part at the Aquarium du Lagon of Noumea where Mary Macken from Australia was awarded ***the Medal of Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion d'Honneur***. This is the highest decoration order in France established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

Over 150 distinguished guests from both Australia and France were in attendance, including the President of New Caledonia, the Mayor of the City of Noumea, the Diplomatic Corps, Australian and French judges and the Law Society of New South Wales together with the Law Society of New Caledonia

Only one or two Australians have ever received this prestigious honour from France. The medal was awarded to Mary for her outstanding contribution and services to the relationship of the Law Societies between Australia and New Caledonia. Mary's interest in the French culture was because of the influence of her grandmother who was French. Mary Macken is the immediate past President of the Law Society of NSW which has 25,000 member lawyers.

More important to our weightlifting fraternity, Mary is a weightlifter and now competes in the masters. She is one of the Directors of the Executive Board of the Australian Weightlifting Federation. Mary is also an IWF Category 2 international referee. She lives in Sydney and she is a member of the Titans Weightlifting Club in New South Wales. On behalf of the Oceania and Commonwealth Weightlifting Federations, we congratulate Mary on being the recipient of this prestigious award.



MAAMALOA LOLOHEA BACK IN TONGA

The OWF welcomes back Maamaloa Lolohea to Tonga. Maamaloa who was Tonga's best weightlifter, represented Tonga at the 2006 Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne and the 2008 Olympic Games held in Beijing. Maama returned home to Tonga after spending a few years in New Zealand and already has resumed lifting and coaching again.

CONGRATULATION TO FIJI WEIGHTLIFTING



Congratulations to FIJI Weightlifting for winning this year the award for Best Sports Federation of Fiji. Special congratulation must go to its President, Atma Maharaj, and the immediate past secretary Chris Yee, for an outstanding job done in the last few years to elevate the sport to number one in Fiji.

Also congratulations to Maria Liku the 58Kg triple gold medallist at the recent Pacific Games held in New Caledonia for being voted the Best Female Athlete of the Year.

FRENCH LESSONS AT THE OWF INSTITUTE

Thanks to the New Caledonia Government and the CTOS the Institute lifters have been privileged once a week to have free French lessons. This happens on their morning off from training, every Thursday for a few hours. It is an extremely valuable exercise, not only for the lifters when they go shopping but also when they go overseas and they are able to communicate with a few phrases in French. All athletes enjoy this class.



OCEANIA TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

We have just been advised by Dr. Tamas Ajan, President of the IWF that the IWF has approved funding to implement this project through the Oceania Region. The program will be named the 'OTIP' and it will be run throughout all secondary schools in the Pacific Island nations and through clubs in Australia and New Zealand. The primary goal of this project is to introduce young students to the sport of weightlifting. This program not only will improve their skills in lifting weights but also will teach them the skills for safe methods of lifting and at the same time the student will gain a real understanding for the sport of weightlifting.

Assisting to run this program in the individual countries will be their respective top lifters and coaches. The OWF will communicate with all countries with relation to the time frame for this program to be implemented.

DONATION OF EQUIPMENT BY THE IWF

Again thanks to the IWF, many countries through the Oceania region this year have received equipment to assist further the development of the sport in this Continent. Countries who have benefited in this round are Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Tuvalu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, American Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Guam, Tonga, Solomon Islands and American Samoa. Other countries will be assisted in the next round.

Paul Coffa

GENERAL SECRETARY

