

WHAT AN EVENT!!

The Australian Weightlifting Federation should be congratulated on the brilliant event it staged last weekend at the Cougars Club in Brisbane. **The Australian Open International** produced some excellent results, especially from the lifters from the Oceania Weightlifting Institute preparing for the forthcoming Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

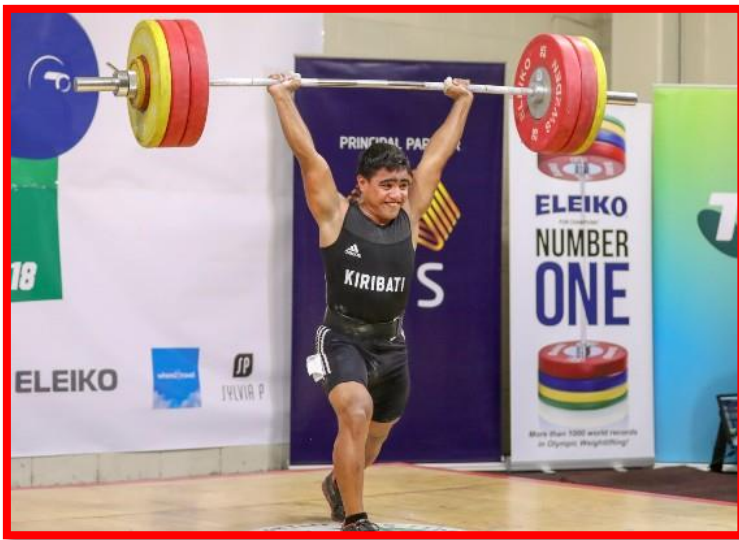
- The best lifter of the tournament in the male section was Morea Baru from Papua New Guinea lifting in the 62Kg cat. He snatched 130kg establishing a new Oceania record, previously held by Manuel Minginfel (FSM) on 129kg. He clean & jerked 166kg and totalled 296kg. Just 4kg below the Columbia World Championships winner in USA two months ago. Keeping in mind that Morea did not take a third attempt in either the snatch or clean & jerk.
- Steven Kari, from Papua New Guinea, lifting 2kg over his normal 94kg category, snatched 157kg, missing 160kg narrowly. He clean & jerked 210kg equalling the Commonwealth and Oceania Senior record.
- Another two top class performances came from Ruben Katoatau and Taretiita Tabaroua from Kiribati. Ruben, 21 years of age, got his best ever total of 287kg in the 69kg cat. whilst Taretiita in the 77kg category totalled 305kg.
- In the women section, Eileen Cikamatana from Fiji won the best lifter of the tournament snatching 108kg and clean & jerking 135kg in the 90kg category. She missed the jerk on 145kg twice.
- Dika Toua from Papua New Guinea won the 53kg category with a comfortable 186kg total.
- Apolonia Vaivai from Fiji, won the 75kg category quite comfortably with 215kg. Apolonia was lifting 2kg over her normal 69kg bodyweight.
- The Nauruan +90kg category lifter, 18 year old Charisma Amoe-Tarrant, won her category with a snatch of 98kg and a brilliant clean & jerk of 140kg, total 238Kg.
- Australian Commonwealth Games team member for the Gold Coast, Tia-Clair Orr, competing in the 63kg category, won easily with a best ever total of 86kg snatch, 112kg clean & jerk, getting six out of six lifts for a total of 198kg. A truly professional performance. She was only 2Kg over the 58Kg Category. Unfortunately there was no other Australian representatives competing from the Commonwealth Games Team apart from Tia-Clair.

Many thanks to Michael Keelan and his dedicated team for putting up such a brilliant show.

THESE ARE SOME SHOTS FROM THE TOURNAMENT TAKEN BY BOWEN STUART (AWF)



Morea Baru -PNG Snatch the Oceania record in the 62Kg Category with a lift of 130Kg



21 years old Ruben Katoatau -KIRIBATI Clean & Jerk 163Kg in the 69Kg Category and wins the Australian Open



Steven Kari -PNG easily Snatch 157Kg

Steven cleans 213Kg lifting at the bodyweight of 96Kg



Taretiita Tabaroua -KIR, wins the 77Kg Category. His lifts were: Snatch 129Kg Clean & jerk 176Kg

18 year old Charisma Amoe-Tarrant, Nauru, Clean & Jerk 140Kg in the +90Kg Category



Papua New Guinea duel 2014 Commonwealth Games Gold medallists Steven Kari produced his best ever performance in the clean & Jerk with a lift of 210Kg , whilst Dika Toua won easily the 53Kg Category by C&Jerk 106Kg on her second attempt.



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Tia- Clair Orr, Australian superstar snatch her best lift of 86Kg in the 63Kg Cat. Her total of 198 was also her best ever performance.



Apolonia Vaivai -FIJI, won the 75Kg category with a total of 215Kg Apolonia snatched 95Kg and Clean & Jerk 120Kg