

January 1st, 2005



SUMMARY OF 2004

What a year 2004 has been!

- ◆ We lost some dear friends through the year. From Nauru we lost Tyoni Batsiua. From PNG we lost Janet Chan. From Kiribati we lost Mr. Bweitu Nabau. From Fiji we lost Quake Raddock and the latest on the 30th December we lost Charles Mifsud from Malta. All of these people left behind wonderful memories for us to treasure.
- ◆ At the same time we have had some great moments. Placing in the top 10 at the Athens Olympic Games were Dika Toua from PNG who placed 6th. Yukio Peter from Nauru placed 8th and Manuel Minginfel from FSM placed 10th. Athens saw nine countries from the Oceania region competing at the Olympic Games. They were Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands, PNG, Kiribati, Nauru, Australia and FSM.
- ◆ It was fantastic to see weightlifters as flag bearers for their countries. Uati Maposua carried the flag for Samoa, Yukio Peter for Nauru, Dika Toua for PNG, Meamea Thomas for Kiribati, Manuel Minginfel for FSM, and of course the one who created a huge attraction was Sam Pera from the Cook Islands who wore his traditional sulu with his enormous upper body. Sam Pera incidentally produced his best ever total in Athens.
- ◆ The Oceania and South Pacific Championships held in Suva in the month of May, for Senior and Junior athletes which were also the Olympic Qualification event, produced some outstanding results. During this event the OWF Electoral Congress was held with Seiuli Paul Wallwork being re-elected President for his fourth term 2004 – 2008 of the OWF and Paul Coffa as General Secretary. The Executive 1st Vice President was once again Mr. Lawrence Stephen from Nauru (unopposed), with two new Vice Presidents coming in with Mr. Robert Grimaldi from New Caledonia and Mr. Tony Hole from the Cook Islands. Mr. Matthew Curtain from Australia was once again re-appointed Assistant Secretary.
- ◆ The Mermet International Cup held in Melbourne in the month of October was a great tournament.
- ◆ The Uesaka Email Club Tournament was an outstanding success attracting 468 competitors from 49 female clubs and 58 male clubs from 20 countries.

- ◆ The OWF – IWF Summit held in Sydney in month of March was extremely successful. The summit was organised by the AWF under the direction of Luke Borreggine.
- ◆ The outstanding performance of Chris Rae from South Australia with total lift of 405kg.
- ◆ The weightlifting development program conducted by Jay Waller in Tonga in the month of October / November was very successful.
- ◆ Another successful tournament was the Commonwealth Youth Games held in Bendigo, Victoria when Oceania lifters finished up winning 7 gold medals 6 silver medals and 4 bronze medals.
- ◆ The Oceania Weightlifting Institute had another successful year. 70 lifters utilized the weightlifting centre from 10 countries of the Oceania region. The centre also was used by quite a lot of the Fijian rugby players.
- ◆ Finally the year finished up with some great performances by our junior lifters. On the 24th December in Nauru, Yukio Peter competing in the Nauru National Championships snatched 145kg, clean & jerked 180kg and totalled 325kg. Whilst Dika Toua from PNG on the last day of the year, 31st December, during a test event in Sigatoka, produced an amazing performance. At a bodyweight of 52.8kg, she snatch 85kg, clean & jerked 107.5kg and totalled 192.5kg becoming the first Oceania female lifter to clean & jerk double bodyweight.
- ◆ Obviously there were a few disappointments also. One of them was the unsuccessful Sydney bid for the 2007 World Weightlifting Championships. Going through the bidding process, at one stage we felt extremely confident that we had the numbers on our side only to be outdone by Thailand who produced an open cheque book and conditions which were impossible to match by the rest of the bidding cities.
- ◆ Another disappointment was New Zealand. After qualifying on their own merit to compete at the Athens Olympic Games, the New Zealand Olympic Committee in their wisdom decided not to send any lifters to Athens.

With 2004 gone, let us all look forward to 2005. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, one of the oldest sports federations in the Oceania region. We are looking forward to a great year of lifting as we have so many events in place.

January 21st – 23rd 2005, we see for the first time an Oceania team (Pacific Islands only) competing at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney. The team comprises of

<u>MALE</u>	<u>NATION</u>	<u>YOB</u>
56kg Starron Dowobobo	Nauru	84
62kg Temake Tekaei	Kiribati	86
69kg Yukio Peter	Nauru	84
77kg David Katoatau	Kiribati	87
85kg Meamea Thomas	Kiribati	87
94kg Sam Pera Jr.	Cook Is.	89
105kg Saimone Turaganivalu	Fiji	85
105+kg Itte Detenamo	Nauru	86

<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>NATION</u>	<u>YOB</u>
48kg Suzanne Hiram	NRU	87
53kg Dika Toua	PNG	86
58kg Alexandra Patris	Palau	89
63kg Alexandrina Patris	Palau	89
69Kg Sera Tawai	Fiji	84
75Kg Sheba Deireragea	Nauru	86
75+Kg Sioe Haioti	Niue	85

TEAM OFFICIALS

Team Manager	Tony Hole	Cook Islands
Coach (Male)	Rokete Toganang	Kiribati
Coach (Female)	Lorry Ann Bernado	Palau

- ◆ The Oceania League tournament by email will begin on January 28 -29, with the last round to be held on August 26 -27. Sixteen countries will take part in this first ever League tournament plus the eight states/territories of Australia. This tournament will attract approximately 200 lifters competing every month which should boost the sport of weightlifting to greater heights.
- ◆ On April 1st – 2nd, the Eileko World Email Club Tournament will take place. Last year 468 lifters from 107 clubs competed. We expect this record to be broken this year.
- ◆ From the 14 -21 May, the Arafura Games will be held in Darwin, Australia. The Oceania and South Pacific Junior Championships will be conducted in conjunction with the Arafura Games.
- ◆ On July 25 – August 4, the Mini South Pacific Games will be held in Palau with weightlifting being one of the sports which will attract large country participation.
- ◆ Of course the big event of the year for our sport will be the Commonwealth, Oceania and South Pacific Championships to be held in Melbourne on October 1 -2. This also celebrates Oceania's 25th Anniversary. The OWF was set up in October, 1980, in Melbourne.
- ◆ The OWF has an excellent website which is updated on a regular basis in English and in French. We invite you to visit it at your leisure to get the latest news on weightlifting in Oceania.
- ◆ Finally, the Oceania Weightlifting Institute is now internationally recognised at a centre of excellence. I hope the Pacific Countries in particular through the OOTC program and ONOC Solidarity continues to take advantage of this facility as its results now speak for themselves.

Paul Coffa
GENERAL SECRETARY