

INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING TOURNAMENTS BACK IN NAURU!

Last weekend, January 25th and 26th, Nauru put on an outstanding weightlifting tournament. To conclude the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Independence, the Nauru Weightlifting Federation, with the full support of the Nauru Government, hosted an international tournament, inviting some of the best lifters from within the Oceania region to take part together with the best of Nauru's national champions.

At 4.00am on Friday morning, 25th January, lifters and officials from Kiribati, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Zealand and American Samoa landed in Nauru to a splendid welcome by the Nauru Government. In typical Nauru style, everything was in place, ready for an international weightlifting event. **The first international weightlifting event held in Nauru in 19 years.**



A brand new Sports Complex, spacious with all amenities, sitting literally metres from the great Pacific ocean. Fifteen training platforms, ten warm up platforms with full training sets, competition platform and naturally competition set.

Best of all, we saw a weightlifting culture truly alive and well. The current crop of lifters being mentored by past lifters who have taken on the roles as coaches, administrators, and technical officials. These past lifters have built a modest road for the current crop of lifters to travel on and are currently building a highway for the next generation of lifters.



This next generation of lifters astounded even the most experienced weightlifting officials of the Oceania region. Aged only 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, full of energy and enormous enthusiasm, they displayed great techniques. They put on a show of weightlifting which absolutely delighted the huge crowd.

Thanks to the Government of Nauru, who financially supported this magnificent event, Nauru was able to showcase once again, their super abilities in the sport of weightlifting. The President, His Excellency, Baron Waqa, attended the event all day. Also in attendance was the Minister for Sport the Hon Tawaki Kam MP, The Minister for RONPHOS & Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation The Hon. Aaron Cook, Members of Parliament, the Diplomatic Corps and other VIP Guests.



The closing banquet which was hosted by H.E. Baron Waqa, showcased the Nauruan hospitality, which is truly unique. Special thanks must go to Trent Dabwido, the Secretary General of the Nauru Weightlifting Federation and its President Marcus Stephen and the Nauru weightlifting committee. The OWF is truly indebted to Mr. Michael Angelo Dimapilis, Secretary for Government Administration and Operations and Mr. Sasi Kumar, the Secretary for Cabinet for their outstanding support and co-operation in the lead up and during the tournament.



OWF Technical Chairman conducting a technical seminar in Nauru. The group attending, all past Nauruan champion weightlifters including Commonwealth Games Medallists.



The new training hall in Nauru with 15 new platforms provided by the Nauru Government.



Ezekiel Moses 17yrs old Nauruan snatching 120kg in the 73kg category.



Charisma Amoe-Tarrant – Australia clean & jerk 141kg in the +87kg Cat.



Morea Baru- PNG on the way to win the Tournament best lifter clean & jerk 160kg in the 61kg category.



Dika Toua -PNG, wins the female best lifter of Tournament. She lifted in the 49kg category.



Sensational 15yrs old Nancy Abouke -Nauru Snatching 75kg & jerked 104kg in the 64kg.



His Excellency Baron Waqa at the opening ceremony of the Championships.



His Excellency Baron Waqa President of the Republic of Nauru with the female best lifter Dika Toua from PNG and Male best lifter Morea Baru also from PNG.



The two best lifters of the Tournament Dika Toua and Morea Baru together with His Excellency Baron Waqa MP President of the Republic of Nauru along side the Minister for Sport the Hon Tawaki Kam MP.



Paul Coffa presents an appreciation plaque to His Excellency Baron Waqa at the closing banquet.



Nineteen years have gone by and yet Nauru has not forgotten the work Paul & Lilly Coffa contributed to the success of sport whilst in Nauru from 1994 to 2001.



Mr. Andrew Daubney, Manager of Trukai Industries with Dika Toua and Morea Baru.



Nineteen years have gone by and here they are again, the super team of the past, including the Nauru Dolphins.

OTHER NEWS:



Two of the elite female coaches in Oceania attending the Female Trainers course in Sweden. Tina Ball from New Zealand and Angela Wydall from Australia were nominated by the Oceania Weightlifting Federations training course.



Some of the Oceania Weightlifting Institute lifters on their way to Nauru in transit in Brisbane, trained at the famous Cougars Club. Miles and Angela Wydall supplied a Cougars Club t-shirt to all lifters.

SAMOA: Jerry Wallwork and his impressive team are currently in China for a three week training camp funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Well done Jerry.

EGAT's CUP: Many Oceania countries will be attending the EGAT's CUP in Thailand this week coming. The OWF is aware that the following countries from the region will be attending: Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Kiribati, American Samoa and Guam.

EVENTS COMING UP:

March: YOUTH World Weightlifting Championships – Las Vegas -USA , 8-15 March

April: Arafura Games – Darwin - AUSTRALIA 26-29 April

June: JUNIOR World Weightlifting Championships, Suva – FIJI 1-8 June

ELEIKO

RAISE THE BAR

Paul Coffa MBE
OWF General Secretary

Photos courtesy of
Bowen Stuart
Australian Weightlifting Federation