



## THE OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING INSTITUTE MOVES TO SAMOA

Since our last newsletter published in June, there have been many events of importance which have taken place.

The most important one for our region is that the Oceania Weightlifting Institute has moved to Samoa. This was a unanimous decision made by the OWF Executive Board. The first meeting in relation to this was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September whilst the IWF President was in Fiji and was in attendance at this special meeting to view the two proposals put forward by Samoa and New Zealand. Then a follow up meeting of the OWF Executive Board, for the final decision was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Read below the details of this decision.

The Commonwealth Championships held in Suva, Fiji from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September was an outstanding success for the Oceania region.

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation electoral congress was held in Suva, on the 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Grand Pacific Hotel. The OWF had the honour of having in attendance the IWF President, Mohamed Jalood as well the President of Pan America, Jose Quinones.

**Below**, we you find some of the highlights for the last three months.

### PARIS 2024

At the Olympic Games in Paris, the Oceania region was represented by eleven lifters coming from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Guam. The expectations were high in a couple of the categories but unfortunately as is common in sport – on the day those expectations were not met. The highest placing which we got at the Olympic Games was 4<sup>th</sup> place with Australia's Eileen Cikamatana. Possibly the best performance was Morea Baru from Papua New Guinea in the 61kg category coming 5<sup>th</sup>.

This is how our Oceania lifters placed in Paris:

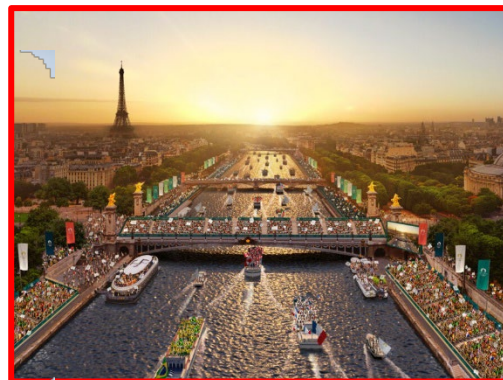
- 49kg Nicola Lagatao- Guam, placed 11<sup>th</sup> with 136kg total.
- 59kg Mathlynn Sasser – Marshall Islands, placed 10<sup>th</sup> with 209Kg total.
- 71kg Jacqueline Nichele- Australia, placed 10<sup>th</sup> with 209kg total.
- 81kg Eileen Cikamatana – Australia, placed 4<sup>th</sup> with 262kg total.
- 81kg Ajah Pritchard -Lolo Vanuatu, placed 11<sup>th</sup> with 197kg total.
- 87+kg Luniarra Sipaia – Samoa, placed 11<sup>th</sup> with 246kg total.
- 61kg Morea Baru – Papua New Guinea, placed 5<sup>th</sup> with 279 kg total.
- 61kg Erati Kaimauri – Kiribati, placed 7<sup>th</sup> with 220kg total.
- 89kg Kyle Bruce – Australia, placed 10<sup>th</sup> with 330kg total.
- 102kg Don Opeloge – Samoa eliminated in the snatch
- 109+Kg David Liti -New Zealand, placed 8<sup>th</sup> with 415kg total



**Eileen Cikamatana  
Placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the  
81kg category.**

Eileen Cikamatana set a new Oceania and Commonwealth snatch record with 117kg in the 81kg category whilst David Liti from New Zealand set new Oceania and Commonwealth records in the snatch and total in the 109+category with 184kg and 415kg.

The Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games was certainly different from all other previous Games. It was not in a stadium but on the Seine river with athletes travelling on boats. The facilities were excellent. The running of the event was as usual the best of the best. Congratulations Paris and congratulations to the IWF for securing already the 2028 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles.



### Suva Fiji - September 2024

On the 16<sup>th</sup> September, in Fiji, the 2024 -2028 OWF Electoral Congress was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. The OWF had the honour of the presence of the President of the IWF, Mr. Mohamed Jalood. Together with the President of PANAM, Mr. Jose Quinones. The elections went as follows.

- The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Nauru) was re-elected in the position of President of the OWF
- Paul Coffa (Australia) was unopposed and declared the General Secretary of the OWF.



- The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President re-elected was Jerry Wallwork from Samoa.

The three Vice President positions elected were:

- Della Shaw Elder (Fiji) was re-elected unopposed.
- Luisa Peters (Cook Islands) – re-elected to the position.
- Dika Toua (Papua New Guinea)– was newly elected.

The three Executive Board Members elected were:

- John Davis from Northern Marianas re-elected.
- Simone Pritchard from Vanuatu – newly elected.
- Edgar Molinos from Guam re-elected.
- Lilly Coffa from Australia was reappointed as the Assistant Secretary.

**Committee Chairpersons were:** Medical – Dr. Moni Kami and Dr. James Elwin, Technical – Sam Coffa, Masters – Coral Quinell, Women Development – Lilly Coffa.



Hon Marcus Stephen  
President



Jerry Wallwork  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



Della Shaw- Elder  
Vice President



Luisa Peters  
Vice President



Dika Toua  
Vice President



Simone Pritchard  
EB Member



John Davis  
EB Member



Edgar Molinos  
EB Member



Paul Coffa  
General Secretary



Lilly Coffa  
Asst. Secretary



IWF President Mohammed Jalood

The IWF President, Mr Mohammed Jalood congratulated the OWF Executive Board and spoke very highly of the achievement and the unity of the continent of Oceania in the last few years. Especially in the area of anti-doping where the Oceania continent is leading the war against doping as we move in to almost 18 years without any adverse analysis.

During the Congress Mr. Mohamed Jalood the IWF President was made Patron of the OWF, due to his enormous support which he has given to the OWF in recent years.

It was decided that the 2025 Oceania Championships will be run in conjunction with the Pacific Mini Games to be held in Palau in the month of June next year. The Oceania Junior and Youth Championships will be held in Melbourne – Australia, in conjunction with the Moomba International.

Also, the constitution amendment proposed by Australia was unanimously accepted and at next years Oceania Championships an athlete will be selected by all lifters competing at the 2025 Oceania Championships. This athlete will be included on the OWF Executive Board.



Members Countries of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation



The 2024-2028 OWF Executive Board

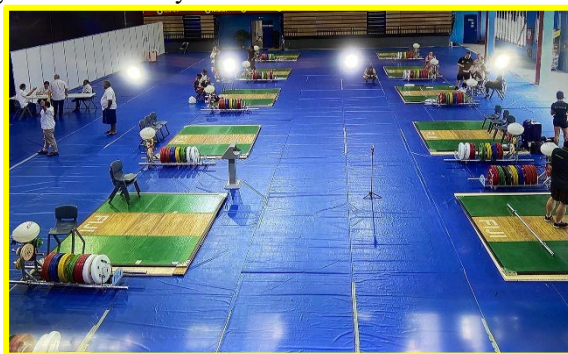
### Commonwealth Championships- Suva

The 2024 Commonwealth Championships for Senior, Junior and Youth was held in Suva, Fiji from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September. The event organised by Weightlifting Fiji under the leadership of Della Shaw Elder did a splendid job. The venue was world class with 12 warm up platforms directly behind the stage. The training hall had 35 platforms and was adjacent to the main hall. The championships were televised live on FBC and also webcast live. *Special thanks must also go to Bowen Stuart for setting up five days of live streaming, plus the set up of the technical equipment for competition.*

At the Commonwealth Congress held in Suva on September 16<sup>th</sup> it was decided that the 2025 Championships for Senior, Junior and Youth will be held in India sometime in July/August. Final date to be advised by the end of this year.



The crowd at the Commonwealth Championships



The warm up set up in Suva Commonwealth Championships



35 platforms in the training hall in Suva-Fiji



VIP's at the Opening Ceremony in Suva



The main stage presentation

Following the Commonwealth Championships, the UMWF World Masters was held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September. The event was run at the highest level and the majority of the master athletes complimented Fiji for putting on such a brilliant event to showcase masters lifting. The event was also televised by Fiji FBC as well as live streaming.

### 2024 World Junior Championships



*Numi Tepulolo- New Zealand*

This year's World Junior Championships was held in the city of Leon, Spain. Australia and New Zealand were the two Oceania countries represented in Leon. A brilliant performance was put up by New Zealand superheavy lifter Numi Tepulolo establishing a new Oceania Youth record with a snatch of 161kg which clinched him the bronze medal at the World Juniors. He totalled 343kg and placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

Whilst in the same category another teenage lifter from New Zealand, Isyss Schuster placed 15<sup>th</sup> overall and totalled 310kg setting new Oceania Youth records.

Other lifters competing from New Zealand were Georgia Theron in the 71kg category placing 11<sup>th</sup> with 205kg total.

From Australia, Noah Milford placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the 96kg category with a 326kg total. Chloe Perkins placed 19<sup>th</sup> in the 55kg category with 159kg total. Lily Strange placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the 59kg category with 165kg total. Nya Hayman placed 18<sup>th</sup> in the 71kg category with 186kg total.

### The Oceania Weightlifting Institute

The Executive Board of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, unanimously voted to select Samoa as the regions recognised high performance centre and to be known as the **Oceania Weightlifting Institute**. The institute will also incorporate the academic components for IWF international coaching certification and technical development.

The Government of Samoa is in full support of the Institute in Samoa and has given a 20 year lease to all the facilities required to run the program to the Samoan Weightlifting Federation. Furthermore the Samoa National Olympic Committee fully supports the establishment of the weightlifting institute in Samoa.

The institute which will be under the leadership of Jerry Wallwork – the President of the Samoa Weightlifting Federation and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the OWF, has informed the OWF Executive Board that the institute will have 30 and if necessary 40 platforms available for training. Other important matters: The institute will have accommodation for at least 35 participants as well as dedicated conference rooms. Students wishing to continue their education will be able to further their studies, at either secondary or tertiary level in Samoa.

Visas will be free and renewed every twelve months. Medical and paramedical facilities will be available. Internal transport will be made available (20 seater bus) exclusive for institute lifters. Insurance will be provided for each athlete for the duration of their stay in Samoa.

Finally at the first meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September in Fiji, whilst the IWF President was attendance, it was agreed that Paul Coffa will be the responsible person to certify coaches for the IWF international licence for the Oceania Continent. Whilst Sam Coffa will be responsible for the development and upgrading of ITO's.

The Oceania Weightlifting Institute will be launched in Apia- Samoa early February 2025. The Government of Samoa in conjunction with Samoa Weightlifting Federation and the OWF, will invite the key stakeholders to the launching. At the same time it will host a coaching seminar to certify coaches for the IWF International licence, a technical seminar and an elite training camp will be held during that period of time.



*The future Oceania Weightlifting Institute in Apia- Samoa*

**Other news from Palau:**

OWF President Marcus Stephen has been re-elected to the Pacific Games Council as Vice President during the PGC meeting in Palau. The OWF is very pleased to see that Marcus was re-elected as Vice President. Other news coming out from the meeting in Palau is that Cook Islands won the bid to host the 2029 Pacific Mini Games and Tonga won the bid to host the 2031 Pacific Games.

**Fiji Sports awards:**

On August 31<sup>st</sup> the Fiji Sports Awards were held with the sport of weightlifting scooping the major awards. Congratulations to Tanielia Rainibogi for winning the male Athlete of the Year. Congratulations also to Miriama Taletawa who won the female Athlete of the Year. The Junior male athlete went to superstar weightlifter Nehemiah Elder.



**Eleiko Email Club International Tournament.**

This event once again turned out to be a great success. 115 clubs took part and 719 competitors at no cost to clubs or competitors. Furthermore, the actual results of lifters this year were superb.

Our thanks must go to the Eleiko company and in particular Mr. Andreas Andren for their continued support to this event on an annual basis. Congratulations to the three clubs in the men category – Samoa HPTC, the Gros Bill from Canada and Rocks Gym from Nauru. In the women category, Papatoetoe Club from New Zealand, Rocks Gym from Nauru and Montage Club from Australia. Each of these winning clubs will receive a set of Eleiko training weights.

**ELEIKO**

**OUR OLYMPIC LIFTERS IN PARIS:**



**Kyle Bruce – Australia**



**Jacqueline Nichele -Australia**



**Eileen Cikamatana - Australia**



**Luniarra Sipaia – Samoa**



**Don Opeloge – Samoa**



**Mathlynn Sasser – Marshall Islands**



**Erati Kaimauri – Kiribati**



**David Liti – New Zealand**



**Ajah Pritchard-Lolo - Vanuatu**



**Morea Baru – Papua New Guinea**



**Nicola Lagatao – Guam**

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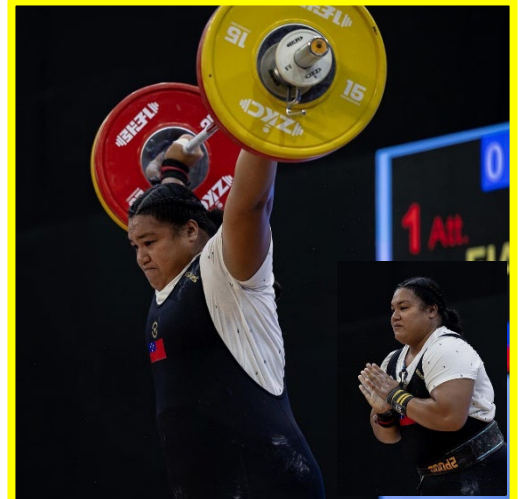
# Commonwealth Championships Oceania winners: SENIORS:



64kg senior champion  
Family Notte- Nauru



87kg senior champion  
Eileen Cikamatana – Australia



87+kg senior champion  
Lesila Fiapule- Samoa



102kg senior champion  
Don Opeloge- Samoa



73kg senior champion  
John Tafi – Samoa



96kg senior champion  
Jack Opeloge- Samoa



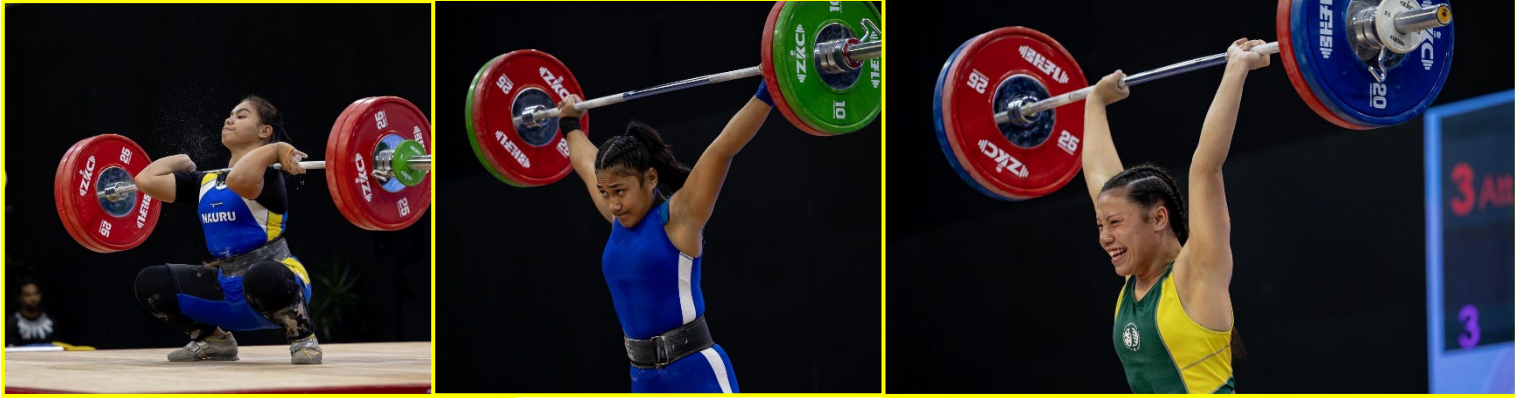
109Kg senior champion  
Taniela Rainibogi – Fiji



109+kg senior champion  
Sanele Mao- Samoa

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# Commonwealth Championships Oceania winners: JUNIORS



64kg junior champion Family Notte- Nauru == 76kg junior champion Seine Stowers- Samoa == 71 kg junior champion Taiamoni Pakoti- Australia



81kg junior champion Avatu Opeloge- Samoa == 87kg junior champion Litia Nacagilevu - NZL == 89 kg junior champion Nehemiah Elder-Fiji



109kg junior champion Taj Marsh - Australia



64kg YOUTH champion Family Notte - Nauru

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## Commonwealth Championships Oceania winners: YOUTH



102kg YOUTH champion Suliano Tuqalau - Fiji



89 kg YOUTH champion Nehemiah Elder-Fiji



71 kg YOUTH champion Taiamoni Pakoti- Australia



76kg YOUTH champion Seine Stowers- Samoa

( These magnificent photos of lifting at the Commonwealth Championships in Suva last month were taken by Bowen Stuart and we thank him sincerely for allowing us to use them.)

Paul Coffa, MBE  
Owf General secretary



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