



- **NAOERO INTERNATIONAL**

Well, the Naoero International, the one we all circled in our calendars for November, has been postponed. And before anyone starts whispering, no, it's not because someone forgot to book the venue. It's simply that Naoero's top lifters are off to the World Championships, and honestly, who can blame them? Priorities. Stay tuned - the Coconut Wireless will blast out the new date the moment it lands.

- **NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL**

Now, over in Auckland, the New Zealand National Championships are gearing up for December 4th to the 6th and guess who's crashing the party? Samoa - with a full team, no less. And if that wasn't enough, Simon Kent has already sent out posters basically saying, "If you want to compete as guests, come on down," You are welcome!!

- **NEW ZEALAND LIFTER SHIFTS TO TONGA**

In other spicy news, New Zealand's female superheavyweight lifter Judy Soloai has packed her weightlifting gear and moved to Tonga. Yes, you heard right, she's now officially Team Tonga.

- **OWF PRESIDENT**

Meanwhile, our own President, the Hon. Marcus Stephen, is chairing a United Nations Meeting on INTER/Parliamentary Union in Tanzania with 184 countries attending. Our President is everywhere, one minute in the Pacific, next minute in Africa. Some say he has more air miles than half of Oceania combined.

- **TOP LIFTERS RETURNING**

Comebacks, Rumours, and Big Lifts 🤔 Commonwealth Games recent success has apparently woken up a few sleeping giants. Word on the Coconut Wireless is that Feagaiga Stowers walked back into training and casually snatched 110kg off the blocks in her first week. No warm-up, no drama, just "boom". And yes, the rumours are true: Nanai Livi has put his boots back on. When the old champions start stirring, you know something big is brewing. Jerry Wallwork no secrets please!!!!

- **OCEANIA JUNIOR CAMP**

Oceania Roll-Call, The North Pacific is sending a whole bunch of juniors to Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Kiribati, all joining the South Pacific regulars: PNG, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Australia, New Zealand, and of course Samoa, who never misses a party. Young lifters from eleven countries will descend on Apia for a ten-day training camp at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute and Academy from November 12th to 24th. It's basically an Elite Youth/Junior weightlifting training camp at this point. The camp will be run by Paul Coffa and Jerry Wallwork, and fully funded by the OWIA, in otherworld Samoa.

- **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Coconut Wireless sends a big, loud, Pacific-style "GOOD LUCK!" to all Oceania lifters heading to the World Championships in Ningbo -China from October 27 to November 8. Apparently over 700 lifters will be competing. The countries from Oceania attending are: Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Naoero, CNMI and Marshall Islands.

The Lifters competing are;

From **Kiribati** Reinataake Takenteiti, Taunikarawa, Ruben Katoatau

From **Naoero**, Ezeikil Moses, Kyle Itsimaera, Jo-Beth Deireragea, Family Notte.

From **New Zealand**, Cameron McTaggart, David Liti, Olivia Selemaia, Litia Nacagilevu and Judy Soloai.

From **Papua New Guinea**, Morea Baru and Dika Toua.

From **Tonga**, Uaealesi Funaki and JR Sikoti Manumua.

From **Australia**, Kiana Elliott, Oliver Saxton and Nya Hayman

From **CNMI**, Leowell Ladrangan Cristobal

From **Vanuatu**: Ajah Pritchard.

From **Marshall Islands**, Jans Atantaake

From **FIJI**, Wakanibua Apakuki Tabuwaiwai, Daniel Shaw, Taniela Rainibogi, Talie Claris Turanivalu and Leyna-May Domonatani.

- **QUIZ**

In which city was the 3rd Oceania Championships held? The first one with the correct answer will win an OWF 2026 Cup tee-shirt. Send your reply to owf@bigpond.com (**note**: Robert Kabbas you are not allowed to answer this, because we know you keep a record of everything 🤖)

- **LET'S CHAT**

And speaking of Robert Kabbas, if I am correct, in 1978 at a bodyweight of 82.5kg, known in those days as the light heavyweight category, - he jerked off the rack 212.5kg. Which at the time was more than the world record itself. What an incredible lifter he was. Three Olympic Games, three Commonwealth Games, two Commonwealth Games gold medals and one silver medal and most of all one Silver medal from the Los Angeles Olympics. A superb record.