

**Mark Bartlett competitor report:  
World Archery Oceania Championship 2023**

85 competitors from the Oceania region including Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands gathered in Adelaide, South Australia, at the Ashton Oval from the 13th to the 16th April for the 2023 World Archery Oceania Championships.

This is the first time that Barebow Recurve has been included at this level of World Archery Target competition. 15 Barebow archers were in attendance for the inaugural event with 8 men and 7 women competing.

The format was 2 x 50/720 rounds on day 1. The first round was used to rank archers for the individual Matchplay competitions held on day 3, with the gold medal matches live streamed on day 4.

The highest ranking male and female archers in the same bow type category were also selected from the first round results to compete in the mixed Matchplay competition held on day 3 with the gold medal matches also live streamed on day 4.

The highest individual combined scores from both rounds on day 1 decided the medallists for the 2023 Oceania Championship.

Australia put in a very strong showing in the Women's Barebow Recurve with Nicky Fairweather winning the gold and Marianne Rieckmann winning the silver. The bronze was awarded to NZ archer Nicky Luis. For the Male Barebow Recurve it was a dominant Australian performance with Michael Fisher taking the gold, yours truly receiving the silver medal, and Ross Gooding receiving the bronze.

The second day was a scheduled rest day, however Archery SA hosted a Grand Prix event (Open categories only) at the same venue and invited all Oceania competitors to participate along with a host of South Australian archers.

The third day was the individual and mixed teams Matchplay.

Australia continued to dominate the Women's Barebow medal places with the gold going to Nicky Fairweather, the silver to Marianne Rieckmann, with the bronze going to NZ archer Nicky Luis.

For the Male Barebow it was another all Aussie podium with Ross Gooding taking the gold, Michael Fisher with the silver and yours truly with the bronze medal.

The mixed Barebow recurve teams was won by Australia's Nicky Fairweather and Michael Fisher, with the silver going to NZ Mieke Voigt and Mark Slade and the Solomon Islands team of Margaret Melue and Talu Talu bringing home the bronze.

What a fantastic experience. To return home with 2 world archery medals is immensely satisfying and motivating at the same time. Thank you to Archery Australia for team selection, support and organisation of the very well run event. A huge thank you to Archery ACT and the Canberra Archery Club for their support and assistance in enabling me to be able to attend and represent our region and club. As a member of the ACT Regional Development Program I am being regularly coached and supported by local legend Paul Smith. Thank you coach!

Mark Bartlett



2023



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