

# 1963

BUCKURST PARK, SUVA • AUGUST 29 TO SEPTEMBER 8



Auguste Cadousteau porte-drapeau de la délégation tahitienne 1963 © Patrick PONS

## FIRST SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES IN THE FIJI ISLANDS

On August 28, 1963, 745 athletes from the Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Nauru, Niue, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Papua and New Guinea, French Polynesia, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, American Samoa, and Western Samoa, the only independent country, marched behind signs bearing their names before Kenneth Maddocks, the Governor of the Fiji Islands.

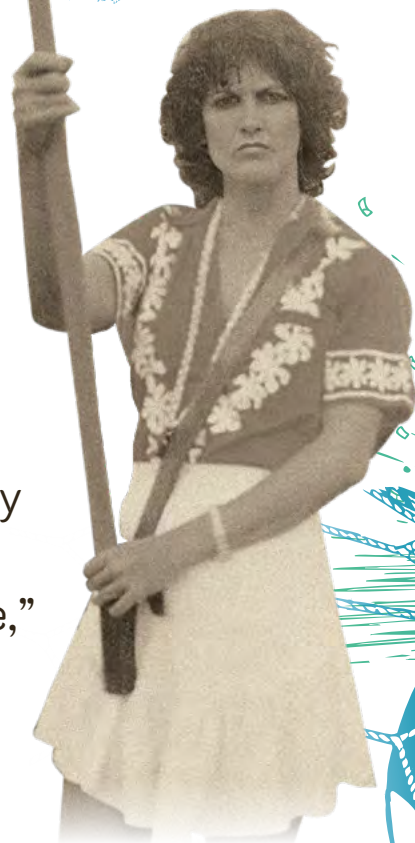
Tahiti's French tricolor flag was carried by shot putter Auguste Cadousteau. The Tahitian tracksuits were embroidered with a rooster on the chest and a coconut tree on the sleeve. More than ten thousand people applauded the thirteen delegations. Fiji, as the host nation, closed the parade in keeping with Olympic tradition.



### HÉLÈNE SARCIAUX, 16 YEARS OLD, TAHITI'S FIRST GOLD MEDALIST

The sports on the program were athletics, boxing, basketball, swimming, netball, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, football, and rugby union. Hélène Sarciaux, 16 years old and nicknamed "the Tahitian gazelle," won the 80-meter hurdles. Tahiti's first gold medal! A historic moment!

photo : Hélène Sarciaux © Patrick PONS



13

Nations  
participantes

10

Disciplines  
sportives

#### PODIUM DES MÉDAILLES D'OR

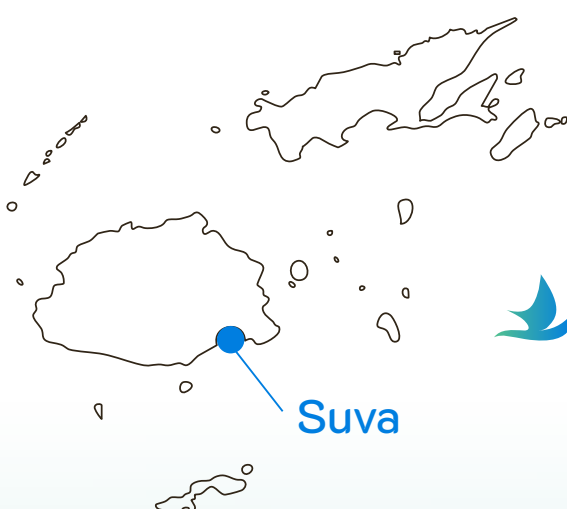
|                           |  |    |
|---------------------------|--|----|
| Fidji                     |  | 34 |
| Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée |  | 9  |
| Nouvelle-Calédonie        |  | 7  |



Délégation tahitienne 1963 © Patrick PONS

Tahiti's medal tally continued with Charles Tetaria in the 110-meter hurdles, followed by the basketball and volleyball teams. The footballers played for a place in the final against New Caledonia. Unfortunately, extra time proved fatal for the Tahitians, who were defeated 2-1. They would go on to win the bronze medal with an 18-0 victory over the Solomon Islands, whose players competed barefoot.

The Fijian delegate handed over the Games flag to his New Caledonian counterpart. Fiji, very well prepared, won the first edition with 34 gold medals, ahead of Papua and New Guinea with 9, New Caledonia with 7, and French Polynesia with 4. For its joy of life, carried by the sound of guitars and ukuleles, Tahiti would have deserved an additional medal. Fiji, for its part, deserved one for its warm welcome and flawless organization. Nouméa would host the second edition in 1966.



RENDEZ-VOUS À NOUMÉA  
EN 1966 !



JEUX DU  
PACIFIQUE  
TAHITI 2027