

The Soul of the Water

News from our Vanua

FIJI
WATER



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A Quarterly Newsletter for Our Fiji Water Family

September 2008

As-Salaam Walekum!

Or peace to you. Fiji is home to a diversity of cultures, including a large Muslim population. This month, we are mindful of our Muslim friends, brothers, and sisters as they fast and honor their holy month of Ramadan. We also all look forward to joining in the celebration when they break the fast with the great new year's feasts of Eid! Eid Mubarak!

Three Down, Two to Go...

Yet another local kindergarten received a much needed makeover on August 16th when an enthusiastic group of employees descended upon Togovere. The residents of Togovere were ready and waiting with able bodies, tools, and of course, plenty of yaqona (kava) to keep spirits high. A group of 20 of us managed to repaint not only the interior, ceilings, and bathrooms, but also the exterior of the school.

We also installed a new sign to replace the faded one on the school's side, which announces FIJI Water's investment in local education to all passers by. Many thanks to all who joined in the work day, and to those who missed it, not to worry, you still will have the opportunity to join in painting Drauniivi and Naseyani Kindergartens later this year! ■



Water systems tech Adi Tanuwidjaja painting with the girls from Togovere.

Walking on Water

FIJI Water Foundation organizes a company WALK-A-THON to benefit local hospitals and sports facilities.

In the last year, FIJI Water employees have cleaned, painted, screened varnished, power-washed, and pounded nails in the name of goodwill for local schools and hospitals, but on Saturday September 27th, they did something a little different: they walked.



FIJI Water's Walk-a-thon covered 10km (6.2 miles) from the Yaqara Factory along the scenic Kings Highway to the nearby village of Drauniivi and back to the plant. Due to the strong daytime sun in Yaqara, the walk was scheduled for 6:30am to maximize the cool morning cloud cover- a time which may have daunted the weak of heart, but not FIJI Water's finest. Employees, family members, and supporters showed up with an estimated 150 participants, not including volunteer stampers, drivers, first aid, and refreshment teams. The weather

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Let There be Light!

Electricity reaches the highland settlements above our plant.

After a lifetime of living by lantern and candlelight, the villagers in Naseyani, Nananu, and Viti Vanua Indian Settlement will soon be able to illuminate their houses, churches, and school rooms with the flick of a switch. The project which has been 3 years in the design stages is now weeks away from becoming reality.

Rural electrification in Fiji is done by means of community and government partnerships. In 2005, Fiji Water's NWVL Trust provided to the government the initial funds needed to start the project, while communities in Naseyani, Nananu, and Viti Vanua each fundraised their shares to install wiring and fuse boxes in their homes. Three years of "Fiji time" later, some were beginning to lose hope of ever seeing the fruits of these investments.

But good things come to those who wait. Progress began in June as the Fiji Electricity Authority began to clear a path for the 7 km worth of poles and power lines. Although many of us lamented the pruning and felling of trees necessary for this work, a certain Fiji Green Gal has assured us that FIJI Water will be replacing the lost trees and then some.

Work has gone surprising quickly, and in the blink of an eye the landscape leading up to the Nakauvadra Mountains has undergone a drastic change, with cement poles standing at attention along the road. The official "Let there be light" ceremony is scheduled for the 24th of October; for communities that are used to waiting, a few more weeks is not too much to ask. ■

Employee Spotlight: Meet Vani

Promoting Women in Sport

For as long as there has been FIJI Water, Vani Naitura has been a fixture at the Yaqara plant. A Drauniivi village native born in Tavua Hospital in 1978, Vani started working at Natural Waters of Viti Ltd. in 1997 as a shipping clerk. She and her husband, Viasi Niudamu, also a FIJI Water employee, have two children, a son, Ratu Marika and a daughter, Litia Adi.

Vani has held a variety of positions at FIJI Water including receiving clerk, receptionist, and purchasing officer. One of the things she has enjoyed most about working for FIJI Water over the years has been "getting to know more people, especially those with foreign expertise." In her current role as Community and Administration Officer, Vani connects with numerous overseas consultants, and also works to build relationships with surrounding communities, including her own village of Drauniivi.



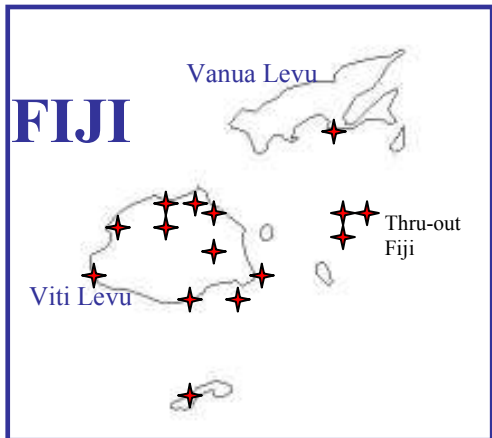
Vani lends a roller to help paint Togovera Kindy.

Outside of work and time spent with family, you'll be most likely to find Vani out on the grass courts at Drauniivi Public School, where she is the driving force behind the Vatukaloko Netball Association. Vani's love for netball began early, when she learned to play on these same Drauniivi courts at the age of 5. Though nowadays Vani often coaches, referees, or runs the show from the sidelines, she is still a force to be reckoned with when she steps onto the court to play her lead position: Center. For those who are unfamiliar with the game of netball, it is a version of basketball with no backboard commonly played in British Commonwealth countries. It is predominantly a women's game, but casual and competitive men's and mixed teams exist in Fiji.

A lot has changed for the VNA in the last few years. Vani notes that, "In previous years we would only do netball for women from 20 to 30 years-old but today we start from

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FIJI Water Foundation News: *Our contributions and projects throughout Fiji*



FIJI Water Foundation Project Locations

FIJI Water Foundation celebrated its one year anniversary in August, and what a year it has been! The foundation has progressed from sponsoring one-off projects to regularly funding and managing as many as 14 ongoing projects in multiple locations throughout Fiji per quarter, some with NGOs and some directly with grassroots communities and schools.

We have seen a marked shift in general public awareness on the street and in our Suva-based office, where interested parties daily drop by to request an application or discuss potential projects. As the foundation gains momentum, we are thrilled to see the positive changes our work and the work of our partners have made possible.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead



Grade 7 students paint the roof. Teacher and completed wire fence.

SAIVOU KINDERGARTEN

SAIVOU, RA PAINTING, FENCING, RENOVATION

Fencing and repainting of school facilities may seem like a simple task, but for the children of Saivou Kindergarten it has made all the difference. Their kindergarten, once an abandoned building, is now well painted, upgraded, and fenced, providing children with a playground area which the school will continue to develop. All work was accomplished by teachers, primary school students, and community members. The kindergarten now complements the primary school and is a model facility for the region, serving as a host center for teachers' conferences.

VUNISOCO VILLAGE

VUNISOCO, NAMOSI WATER TANKS

Although the community of Vunisoco overlooks the capital of Suva, they could not be farther removed from the amenities of city living. The mud roads are in poor condition, there is no electricity, and for years the residents of Vunisoco have relied upon water drawn from a dirty creek. With funding from FIJI Water Foundation and in partnership with the outreach organization The Good Neighbor International, (TGNI) Vunisoco now has two 5,000 L tanks collecting rainwater from the clean, guttered

roofs of two centrally located homes. Without electricity to run a well pump and with the plentiful rainfall on this side of the island, rain water collection is the best option for this community. TGNI organizes projects in underserved communities like Vunisoco around the country and FIJI Water Foundation looks forward to partnering with them on future projects.



Vunisoco Tank Blessing.

Turning the tap for clean water.

SAVUSAVU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SAVUSAVU, VANUA LEVU HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION

Composed of concerned citizens from the Cakaudrove province in Vanua Levu, Savusavu Community Foundation concentrates its aid in the core areas of Health, Education, and Cultural support. This year with FIJI Water Foundation's aid, they have organized free dermatology, pulmonary health, and eye clinics given by visiting experts for the citizens of Northern communities. Thanks to the SCF, over 1700 citizens received glasses and eye exams, 175 were provided cataract and corneal procedures, and 200 were treated for tuberculosis, asthma, and other pulmonary diseases. In November, they'll host a school-based dental health program, and they also continue collecting and distributing books to schools, food hampers to the needy, and working on the construction of Savusavu's first fitness and sports facility. ■

FIJI Water Foundation Spotlight:



ROTARY PACIFIC **WATER FOR LIFE**

Piped water at last... Safe clean water in the pipeline... "Christmas came early for some 342 villagers of Solevu in Malolo who now have bore holes to provide water thanks to the Rotary Water for Life Foundation. The villagers have relied on wells and rainwater for 20 years..." FIJI Water Foundation is proudly playing a part to make sure stories such as these become more common in Fiji's newspapers.

The inaugural project of the FIJI Water Foundation, Rotary Pacific Water for Life Trust provides schools, communities, and health centers with the technical support and funding necessary for the delivery of safe and clean water, by the best possible means. In an effort to empower communities to take ownership of their water solutions, RPWFL works directly with stakeholder committees to design, build, and maintain the water projects. The RPWFL Trust was officially launched in September 2007 by the Rotary Club of Suva East and founding sponsors FIJI Water, Vodafone, Golden Manufacturers, & Westpac Banking Corporation. Sixty-eight projects are currently in various stages of assessment and construction, while completed projects have already touched communities across Fiji from Vanua Levu to the Mamanuca Islands.

Sounds great, but sustainable water solutions do not spring up by themselves over night. RPWFL depends upon the services of volunteer hydrogeologists,

engineers, and technical advisors, but most of all, it depends upon the tireless efforts of organizational manager Joel Sahai and project coordinator Resina Koroi. Though hired only a few months ago, Joel has already injected new energy and improved direction into RPWFL's organization and processes. Meanwhile, Resina has been at the heart of RPWFL since its inception. She starts her days at 6am answering emails, following up on project applications, and by the time most of us are arriving at the office, she's heading into the field to visit her ongoing and potential projects. She is more than happy to be the one behind the scenes, quietly getting this important work done. "Access to safe drinking water is a human right and there are many communities who have suffered in silence," says Resina with obvious passion for her work. "One out of every four deaths under the age of five worldwide is due to a water-related disease and in developing countries like ours about 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions."

Projects such as RPWFL address UN Millennium Development Goal No. 7: to reduce by half the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. With projects like this gathering speed, we all can look forward to more good news to come.



Resina Koroi and Waisale Serevi with RPWFL founding sponsors

Employee Spotlight *continued from page 2*

Primary School level right to veteran grade, which is great because it contributes to their health."

Another big change came with FIJI Water's decision to support the local netball clubs' fundraising efforts and to provide transport to weekly games and trainings. According to Vani, FIJI Water's assistance "has lifted participation to another level on and off the courts" in addition to improving the girls' skills. As a minor division team, the VNA has managed to beat major division teams in the Fiji Netball Association.

Vani says it is very important for women in Fiji to be involved in sport "to help develop healthy living and also to provide employment in terms of playing locally and overseas." Her future goals for the Vatukaloko Netball

Association include the construction of a multi-purpose court in Drauniivi, the like of which is only found in Fiji's largest cities. Such a facility would not only help develop the talent and enthusiasm of young sportsmen and women, but it will also make Vatukaloko a destination venue for sports competitions and events. Vani would like to see the VNA "develop through outreach programs to villages and communities in rural areas" so that someday the vanua Vatukaloko will be synonymous with netball excellence. Many would agree that she is already well on the way to achieving this goal.

As a final thought, Vani asks only that players and supporters alike remember to keep alive "the spirit of netball." Vinaka Vani. ■

was ideal- not too hot, not rainy or muddy- and it held out until the last of the walkers finished around 9:30am.

We had participants from all “walks” of our FIJI Water family. World Famous Rugby legend Waisale Serevi joined us with his wife and two daughters and they made excellent time despite the numerous photos they stopped to take! Tavua Police and our own Homelink Security force joined in the walking and also helped to keep King’s Highway traffic moving at a cautious speed. Adi Tanuwidjaja, Moses Hicks, and William Greig raced their way to a fast finish and had everyone on the road cheering, while William Morrison and Amoi Mausio started early and kept a great pace. Impressive were Vinay Kumar and Nanise Levi, both who completed the walk barefoot.

It was fantastic to see so many families out walking. Lance and Vicky Allen had three generations of Allens out on the course. Congratulations are due to the many mothers, among them Ili Momo, Elenoa Koro, Emma Cola, and Anna Morris, who were able to herd their little ones AND make good time- no small effort there! A big shout-out also goes to our late starters Titilia, Aymie, and Naomi who joined us all the way from the Lautoka office and cruised along at an athletic pace despite the sun.

All the funds raised by employees will go towards much needed equipment and medical supplies at Rakiraki and Tavua Hospitals, as well as supporting a capital fund to construct multipurpose courts and improve drainage at the Drauniivi School sports ground. Improved sports facilities will be a great community and school resource for improved health and fitness, and they will be the only such facilities on our side of the island, drawing more events to an area which is well known for its sporting talent. Participants raised funds by soliciting businesses around Fiji. Our business associates from all over Fiji contributed, from Vodafone and ANZ to Westpac Banking Corporation and Elisha Engineering. Glamour Arts donated their services in producing our sponsorship cards free of cost, while Unipro printed t-shirts for us at discount. We’re still waiting for all the money to be collected, but early calculations suggest we’ve raised well over \$4000. Every dollar will be matched by the FIJI Water Foundation.

Grand prizes went to our top finishers in the Men’s, Women’s, and Children’s categories, as well as first employee from each of the 3 shifts, biggest fundraiser, and oldest and youngest walkers. This was FIJI Water’s first such event, but as Red Team representative Ernest Petuelli

enthusiastically proclaimed “Not the last!” We hope the Walkathon will inspire future fundraisers for years to come.



Waisale Serevi with the Walk-a-thon’s oldest and youngest participants: Ilaisa Bete Snr. and Lilly Anne Allen. ■

GET INVOLVED!

For those of you interested in participating in outreach opportunities, there are a number of ways you can help make a difference in our Fiji communities:

1. **Make a \$\$ Foundation Donation:** Through Roll Giving Employee Grants or Matching Gifts, you can make a tax deductible donation to the FIJI Water Foundation. www.rollgiving.com
2. **Send us Material Donations:** Whether you’re coming to Fiji, know someone who is, or can put a stamp on a box and mail it, send us your used or new **toys, children’s books, and school supplies** for our schools. Visit the Well for more info: <http://thewell.roll.ad/Pages/Default.aspx>
3. **Join in:** If you’re on your way to Fiji for a week or more, ask about weekend activities- you may be able to help us paint a school room, participate in events like the walkathon, attend ceremonies like the opening of the Tui Vatu’s home, or hand out some of your gifts in person at a school or in a village.

If you have more questions about FIJI Water’s outreach or the FIJI Water Foundation, please feel free to email me: mpowers@fijiwater.com and stay tuned for an upcoming Foundation website in the next few months. Until September...

Moce mada and Fir Milenge!

Molly Powers, Foundation Coordinator