

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

'Working in partnership to empower communities to make informed decisions about their own development'

RA KAKA NEWSLETTER September 2009



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1. Bio monitoring activity
2. Narata's new spring water catchment system
3. Marketing of farmed corals
4. National Youth and Mental Health Summit
5. World Suicide Prevention Day celebration
6. MORDIs 2010 work plan and budgeting workshop
7. Four published articles

SUCCESS STORY

The Fiji Sun published a comprehensive write up on one of our handicraft workshops in the Serua District. The page-long article highlighted the success of the workshop, its history and future plans. Three large photos, PCDF's mission statement and objectives added value and we hope to inspire others to attend such workshops in the future.



Participants in the handicraft workshop

MAIN ARTICLE

NRM staff and members of the Serua Fish Wardens Association conducted the Yanuca bio monitoring training on 16 -17 September. It was encouraging to note that this activity was greatly supported by the youths of the village who actively participated in the monitoring activity.



Fish count training

These youths (18-30yrs) helped conduct the fish count along with invertebrates and substrate surveys. The Association thanked PCDF for providing maps of the village's individual fishing boundaries since they were uncertain of their locations.



Diver counting fish

These maps help them understand their district water boundaries and also assist with planning their sustainable management. They also thanked the NRM staff, who conducted the bio monitoring with them, for providing a presentation of the monitoring results immediately after the activity.

LATEST NEWS

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

1

Thanks to Rotary, Narata now has a spring water catchment and Navutu and Vatukarasa have borehole water-systems. Both communities were very grateful that they now had access to good quality water. This was of great importance to the communities as they have had great difficulties accessing water in previous years. PCDF are carrying out the training for these new systems so three villages in the Nadroga Province were visited on 23-24 September. The team went to meet the Village Headmen at Narata, Navutu and Vatukarasa to discuss upcoming dates for their respective workshops. The meetings touched on environmental and health concerns to be addressed in the upcoming events.

2

The EED and AUSAID six monthly reports were submitted. The NRM team did a lot of desk work this month, completing reports for the major activities conducted earlier in the year as well as working on forward planning.

3

NRM staff together with Programme Director, Iliapi Tuwai, had discussions with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on the marketing of farmed corals in Moturiki and Serua. The meeting was promising as there were suggestions from the representatives of SPC on how to target the markets, whether local or international, and the standards this trade has to abide by.

Community Capacity Enhancement (CCE)

1

On the 8 - 10 September the Youth and Mental Health project organised a National Youth and Mental Health Summit. This was done in collaboration with the Youth Champs for Mental Health and the Ministry of Health for the 'Stop Stigma against Mental Illness' campaign.

The purpose of the summit was to build a body of knowledge on youth and mental health in order to enhance and integrate mental health into other youth services and research. Participants included youth facilitators, community workers and youth advocates.



Youth and Mental Health Summit participants

This year's World Suicide Prevention Day celebration was held on the last evening of the National Youth and Mental Health Summit at the Nausori Health Centre. The participants of the summit organized the programme for the evening. Hibiscus King, Gary Rounds and Ms Hibiscus, Mere Nailatikau, attended the event and delivered their messages of hope.

MORDI

The team visited Veinuqa and Namosi to review the MORDI management and development plan before the annual work plan and budget workshop started.

On 21-25 September the team attended the annual work plan and budgeting workshop at FSPI with the other MORDI teams from Kiribati and Tonga. During the week-long workshop the MORDI 2010 work plan was analyzed, amended and finalized. Community Representatives from Tonga and Fiji also participated and gave some valuable feedback from the community level. The workshop was a great chance for all the MORDI teams to join forces to enhance team spirit, share ideas and learn from one another.



MORDI members at the workshop

The reservoir water project at Nakorovou and Ratu Emeri Primary School in the district of Kubulau was completed by ESP Tukana with the help of the villagers. The villagers are very happy that the water has now reached the village, and the school can remain open without any water problems.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- The finance team have been organizing the accounts books for the annual audit.
- Audit of EED books as at January-June 2009.
- Audit of PCDF's assets.
- Youth and Mental Health Programme finishes this month so we are working on a proposal to AUSAID to fund YMH specifically focusing on human rights.

PCDF COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy writing continues for the website.
- The annual report committee met to form the 2009 annual report timeline.
- Work on the new-look Ra Kaka (this edition).
- Work on the new PCDF leaflet continues.

With our new Communications Officer on board we have been working hard to raise our profile over the last month. The below articles were published in September and we hope to keep up the same levels of coverage running.

Fiji Times – ‘Hope in sight for water problems’. A description of Kirsty’s role at PCDF and some of the water projects currently underway.

Fiji Times – ‘Demystifying a taboo’. Alisi writes about the Youth Champs for Mental Health.

Fiji Sun – ‘Time to clean up NGO’s’. Alisi talks about NGOs in Fiji, levels of productivity, funding, government monitoring - her general opinion of these, that NGO’s should pull up their socks.

Fiji Sun – ‘Reviving the skills of handicraft’. A page description of the Serua handicraft workshop with three photos.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

1. **World Mental Health Day**
2. **Youth Multi Stakeholder Summit**
3. **MORDI – two week refresher training for**

Community Facilitators

4. **NRM – Preliminary visit for phase two of the EED project in the Ba Province**

STAFF NEWS

- Vanuatu student at USP currently attached on part-time basis with YMH.
- Staff at PCDF are mindful of the Health Promoting Workplaces policy.
- News Social Club Committee to look after staff social issues was appointed.
- PAWA Hour will be revived

BUSINESS TIP FROM PCDF

Internal communications such as weekly updates and reminders between departments help to unify and inform everyone of what is happening, it also motivates and inspires your team – a win, win situation.

MAJOR DONORS

PCDF could not complete any of its important work without the continuing support of local, national, regional and international donor organisations. Accessing support from some of these donors was only possible through the support and partnership of the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI), Counterpart International of USA, the Archdiocese of Suva and the Diocese of Polynesia. PCDF humbly salutes the following:

- NZAID - New Zealand Agency for International Development via FSPI
- AusAID - Australian Agency for International Development
- IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development via FSPI
- EED - Church Development Service (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) via the Diocese of Polynesia
- MISEREOR & Happel Foundation – The German Catholic Bishops’ Organisation for Development Cooperation via the Archdiocese of Suva
- Shangri-La’s Fijian Resort
- Canada Fund
- EU – Fiji Government – EDF9 for Just Water Project
- Rotary Water for Life

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

2003 BBC Television – Coral Gardens
2004 BBC Radio – Coral Gardens
2008 BBC Television – The Coral Gardner
2008 ABC – Sustainable Tourism

AWARDS

- **Gold for International Green Apple Award (Environmental Best Practice) 2004.**
- Cuvu Site, Nadroga, awarded status of 'Model Site for Coral Reef Conservation'.
- **by the United Nations Environment Program (ICRAN Program). 2002.**
- Cuvu Site, one of 3 (along with WWF's Ono and USP's Verata) in Fiji's award by the UN Sustainable Development programme, Johannesburg 2003.
- **Best Annual report, South Pacific Stock Exchange – Not-for-profit section. 2003.**
- International Green Apple Award (Soil Conservation) Winner 2006.
- **First Runner Up for Annual Report 2006, by the South Pacific Stock Exchange.**
- First Runner Up for Annual Report 2007, by the South Pacific Stock Exchange.

MEET THE TEAM

Alisi W Daurewa, Feke Serau, Ferine Bano, Filipe Waqairagata, Iliapi Tuwai, Ilisapeci Whippy, Matelita Kedrayate, Setefano Nauqe, Seruwaia Hoyte, Patrick Daurewa, Tiri Naulivou, Talica Anderson, Ilisoni Tuinasavusavu, Watisoni Sokiveta, Susana Lewanituva, Annie Madden, Jane Henty and Kirsty Barnby.

KEY CONTACTS

- **Finance & Administration** - Annie Madden
- **Graphic Art** - Filipe Waqairagata
- **Press** – Kirsty Barnby (and Ra KaKa editor)
- **MORDI** - Iliapi Tuwai
- **Mental Health/Youth/Violence** - Tiri Naulivou
- **Natural Resource Management** - Matilita Kedrayate

RA KAKA

Kaka is Kadavu for parrot. Kadavu is the home of the beautiful shining parrot, '*prosopeia splendens*', an endemic species for Kadavu Province.

The Kaka is a messenger not only on land but also on sea. When sitting in one of it's domains, the mangrove, it serves as a communicator for God's living creatures.

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Photos from the Serua handicraft workshop