

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

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

RA KAKA NEWSLETTER June 2010



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SUCCESS STORY

MORDI — New boat for Burotu community

A new outboard motor boat has brought relief to the community of Burotu after it was recently handed over to their youth by the MORDI team. The youth had submitted a proposal to MORDI requesting a new boat to be an alternative, quicker and more affordable means of transport for the community members.



New boat on the Wainikoroiluva

Previously, the community had access to only one boat. Burotu's remote location, a two hour trek from the nearest road, evidently means huge challenges to transportation.

A lack of alternative means of transport often led to problems such as children not making it to school, and a lack of relief for the sick who could not be taken to hospital.

An elated Burotu youth leader, Lorima Vakatalasau thanked the MORDI team and added:

"This one boat will solve a lot of problems for us. We can get our sick to the hospital. We can ensure that children can get to school every day. We can get our produce to the market more quickly. This is also an opportunity for our youth to prove to the rest of the community how organised and reliable a group of young people running a project can be"

The MORDI programme has organised governance, leadership and management training workshops in the Burotu community. With this training the youth group are empowered to take ownership of the boat and manage its use and upkeep.



Members of the youth group and PCDF on the river bank

Also present at the June 25th hand over were members of the Namosi Provincial Council and the PCDF Executive Director, Tevita Ravumaidama. The event was held at the Namosi Provincial Council office.

LATEST NEWS

MORDI: Nakoso Village Water Project Wailevu District

The MORDI team has yet again seen the successes of one of its village water projects. Nakoso village lies on the the Wailevu east slope an hours drive from Savusavu town. In the past the village's water demands have been met from the Wailailai creek, a creek that has had both practical and symbolic significance after it was gifted to the current community's grandparents.

Unfortunately in recent years the creek has been put under increasing pressure as the size of the community has increased and is no longer adequate to meet the villages requirements, furthermore there are growing health risks of drinking the water from the creek due to the pig pan and plantation that now exist beside the creek. The only option for the village community to continue to live sustainable livelihoods and restore safe and clean water for their daily living was to build a reservoir, sanitation and cleaning facility.

Now, thanks to the hard work of, Mr Sowani Nalico, the community facilitator, the villagers and the MORDI team, the village has access to 5 shower houses with a toilet and double tub washer in each.



The team building one of the shower houses

A few months after the completion of the project Mr Isimeli Taitoa, the village headman, has shared with PCDF the benefits for the village.

The members of the community no longer have to take the lengthy walk to the creek to

collect the water, the wash tubs have improved the quality of carrying out daily routines and of course the village now has the security of being able to rely on the reservoir during dry seasons.

To ensure the ongoing sustainability of the water project the villagers received training on maintenance and repair which has empowered them to take ownership of the water system. It is hoped that this experience in Nakoso will provide an opportunity to promote and implement other sustainable water projects in the district.

Natural Resource Management

The NRM team has been delighted by the response from high school teachers and students following the environment week. Both groups are interested in ways in which they can improve school awareness on conservation and environmental issues.

Continuing to raise awareness among all stakeholders the NRM team participated in the **Peace Corps Resource Fair** that was held at Novotel on June 22nd. Networking with the peace corps volunteers is allowing PCDF to build on its access to community settlements across the island.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MORDI

- Fish warden and Fish Handling training in Kubulau.
- Wainiyavu and Wainilotulevu dispensary project

NRM

- Establishing Batiki's nursery for native trees which will be facilitated by forestry dept and dept of environment
- 2. follow up trip to Moturiki with Moturiki environment Committee (MEC) and with the Serua fish wardens association.

Admin

- HIV & AIDS workplace policy workshop

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- First six monthly Programme Reports to donors to be submitted by end of July
- AusAid approving further Funding of PCDF's core activities
- UN/CROP micro-assessment for Agency and NGO will be done by Ernst and Young - PCDF is a UN Partner.
- PCDF is a member of Pacific Water Wash and Water Coalition
- PCDF's 5 year Strategic Plan was completed by Consultant Mr Robert Blake of Australian Business Volunteers in consultation with the Executive Director
- Staff at PCDF are mindful of the Health Promoting Policy, Child Policy, Gender Policy, and Environment Policy in work places.
- PCDF has a Training and Meeting Venue for Hire. The Vunimaqo Deck can accommodate fifty participants. For more information please contact the Office Manager.
- Admin and Finance support is on-going for all programmes and PCDF work.

PCDF COMMUNICATIONS

- PCDF Facebook Group set up.
- Website optimization continues.
- Case studies and project stories continue to be compiled.
- Communications strategy continues to be developed.

STAFF NEWS

PCDF welcomes Sereana Rakai who is our newly appointed Accounts Officer. Sereana joins the team from Habitat Fiji and she brings with her vast knowledge in NGO accounting – Sereana works as an accounts officer for Habitat Fiji for the last ten years.

With God's Blessing the team also welcomes Guy Jotcham from Two-Way Development. Guy comes in with immense experience in accounts work. He is assisting the accounts officer and the programme assistant accounts Officer with accounting strategies and also producing our monthly Ra Kaka.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

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

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:

- AUSAID - Australian Agency for International Development
- NZAID— New Zealand Agency for International Development
- IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development via FSPI
- EED - Church Development Service (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst)
- Shangri-La's Fijian Resort
- Canada Fund

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.**
- First Runner Up for Annual Report 2008, by the South Pacific Stock Exchange.

MEET THE TEAM

Patron: Archbishop Petero Mataka

Trustees: Verona Lucas, Adi Laufitu Malani,
Susana Tuisawau

Board of Directors: Sashi Singh (Chairperson),
Lionel Gibson, Dr Graham Roberts, Monica
Raghwan and Tevita Ravumaidama (Executive
Director).

Tevita Ravumaidama, 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
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Jane Henty, Waisea Vereadau and Guy Jotcham

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Abbreviations:

ED	Executive Director, Tevita Ravumaidama
YC4MH	Youth Champs 4 Mental Health
MORDI	Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation
CATD	Centre for Appropriate Technology and development

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.