

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

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

RA KAKA NEWSLETTER May 2010



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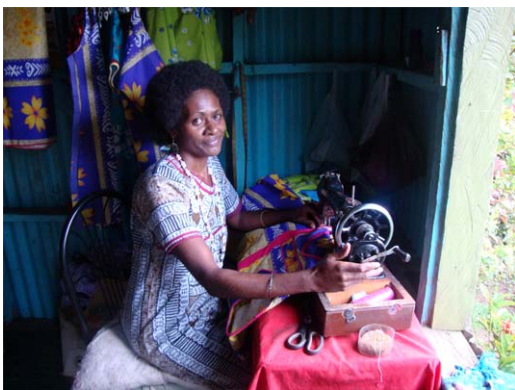
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SUCCESS STORY

MORDI—Successes in Business Training

MORDI continues to carry out extensive community business training helping groups and individuals to identify and manage new income generating opportunities. These work shops motivate and assist individuals and groups to realize their ambitions to use their own skills and resources to generate income for there families. For example Filome Nai's sewing business and Naitila Monika's new canteen.



Filome hard at work producing clothes for her new sewing business

Filomena attended the business training conducted by MORDI, in collaboration with the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development in April. This training focused on strengthening the income generating projects of individuals.

Representatives from the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited and Integrated Human Resource Development Programme attended on the last day to assess the participant's Business Plans. Following this workshop Filomena has been able to secure support from the Ministry of Women to start her sewing business.

Filomena has this to say about the training - *"I've always been good at working with my hands. I've been sewing for 4 years now and always wanted to use my skills to help me provide for my family. I'm so thankful for this training. Now I can confidently work towards running my own sewing business"*.

Naitila has been able to set up a small canteen from her house to serve the other people in her village day and night thanks to the training that she has received from Mrs. Ema Miller during the Vunidawamoli Village, Wailevu MORDI business training.

Naitila's canteen now provides villagers with groceries from the supermarkets that up until now had been difficult to obtain due to transportation problems.

This training programme was requested by the communities themselves to drive them forward to think about how they could create business opportunities and development in the community. The training was conducted in Fijian and by the end of the day, along with Naitila, 40 other participants were able to submit their own business plan along with their project proposal applications.

It was only 2 months after submitting the business plans that Naitila and her family were able to set up the canteen. Income from the canteen has since been saved and the family was able to secure 4 boxes for their honey bee project with the assistance of Micro Finance and the Northern Development programme. Naitila is delighted saying she always wanted to have a retail store so that income generated could be forwarded for her children's education.

LATEST NEWS

Youth and Mental Health

•**Youth Champs.** 17 Youth Champ volunteers received Safetalk suicide prevention training.



Youth volunteers at the safetalk suicide prevention work shop

The volunteers began by learning how to improve their general awareness of people at risk by identifying common signs of depression, isolation and anxiety. They then learnt how to connect with vulnerable people using the basic Talk steps framework and how to increase the immediate safety of the person at risk by exploring the various means by which they could be connected to further help. Integral to the workshop was the ongoing theme of understanding how the stigma towards suicide can be broken down in order to prevent suicide and promote life.

MORDI

•**The training on Disaster Management and First Aid** was conducted in Veinuqa district on 3rd to 7th May. A total of 29 successful participants completed the four days training. Participants were able to develop their Village Disaster Plan. The training was conducted by the Project Field Officer Mrs. Koroigasagasa from the National Disaster Management Office.



Participants of the disaster management and first aid training

A district facilitator of Veinuqa quoted; “Veinuqa district is very fortunate, in the past training has always been done with villages near cities and towns and now it has come to our door steps”.

•**Vuadomo Women Cooperative Shop** has been opened with the support of MORDI for store supplies and business enterprise. The women also received training and assistance from the Nakoso Community Facilitator.

•**The Good Governance and Leadership workshop** has been conducted at Namalata with a total of 56 participants.



Namalata Good Governance and Leadership workshop

One of the Elder at Namalata stated “this training is timely, challenging our leadership role in our communities and the expectations that is needed to accommodate the needs of our people”.

Natural Resource Management

•**Fiji Environment week:** The NRM team embraced this year’s environment week and seized the opportunity to campaign across a range of environmental stakeholders.



Watisoni Sokiveta describes PCDF coral conservation work to the Environment Minister

Within the week the NRM team managed to meet rural communities in Waiganake, members of the large scale industry, school children, the urban community in Suva, other NGOs and government officials; sharing their message on sustainable resource management and informing the people about the ways in which PCDF are working with communities to promote sustainable livelihoods.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- The EED and MORDI programme audits were completed by KPMG and sent to donors.
- Cost cutting measures have been implemented for programmes, Finance and Admin while awaiting funding transfers from current donors and new proposals. This should cease in first week of July.
- 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

- 30th Year Legacy Book *"An NGO Journey in the Pacific"* published in honor of PCDF's 30th Anniversary. A book not to be missed – copies are on sale at the office.
- Annual Report finalized and available on the website.
- 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
- Rotary Water for Life

UPCOMING EVENTS

MORDI

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

NRM

- Batiki sustainable land management workshop

YC4MH

- YC4MH representatives will be attending the CCF Youth Forum in to learn about human rights and multiculturalism.

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 Sokiveta, Susana Lewanituva, Annie Madden, Jane Henty, Waisea Vereadau and Guy Jotcham

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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 its domains, the mangrove, it serves as a communicator for God's living creatures.

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