

# PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

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

## RA KAKA NEWSLETTER November 2009



PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

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### SUCCESS STORY

#### YC4MH

"Keep on walking" is the message of a new locally produced mental health music video. Launched on 26 November on PCDF's Vunimaqo Deck, the video is aimed at de-stigmatizing mental health.



Guests including (left to right) Dr Chang, Mr Sashi Singh, Gary Rounds, Margaret Leniston, Alisi Daurewa and Tiri Naulivou.

The purpose of the video is to empower young people to overcome their challenges through accessing support. It's creation was inspired by a

true story of a young person in Fiji, his journey through depression and his ability to overcome hardship.

### MAIN ARTICLE

#### MORDI

#### Vanua Levu villagers bee-ing on top of things

It is clear, beekeeping makes sense. There's just something about honey, something that makes it special. It may be the simple fact that such small insects can work so efficiently together to create a beautiful food which is enjoyed by millions of people every year.



Participants learn how to harvest honey

The MORDI team arrived at their host village, Nakorovou, in the far western region of Vanua Levu, after a 24-hour journey from Suva. Over the next two days teams of participants will rotate between three workshops— bee keeping, poultry and cattle farming. These workshops aim to bring resources, knowledge and motivation to all those who participate.

Each of the newly installed hives is initially stocked with a swarm of 2000 honey bees consisting of one queen bee, drones (males) and worker bees. In around four months this little section of forest will be home to a colony of 60,000 – ten times larger than its original size.

The hives will also be ready for their first harvest in four months time. Beekeeping is a potential source of rural income that doesn't require a big investment to get started, and once the hives are established, the honey can be harvested four times a year.



One of these hives can bring in \$300 per harvest - totaling \$4800 per year for these three hives. The beekeeping industry is a growing industry in Fiji and holds much promise for the country.

Participants construct a new fence during the workshop



The MORDI team and participants with their certificates

## LATEST NEWS

### From the Chief Executive

This month, PCDF participated in a series of workshops conducted by the Ministry of Provincial Development and Multi Ethnic Affairs.

The aim of these workshops was to produce an integrated development roadmap of Fiji's 15 provinces within the requirements of the Peoples Charter for Change. PCDF helped by sharing experiences and engaging with community representatives who shared their own stories.

It was obvious from these month-long workshops that under-developed infrastructure, costly and unreliable transportation and communication services, poor education teaching facilities and lack of markets to regularly and efficiently buy directly from the suppliers are responsible for ongoing hardship and poverty for rural communities. These issues are also responsible

for increasing the rural to urban pull. While we recognize that urbanisation is a global phenomena, Fiji, at least is in a position to do something about it because its rural areas are rich with readily available natural resources.

The problem is, the system does not seem to encourage a people-centered economic development model. For example, the shipping companies in the country that service outer-islands are given franchises by the Government. While this might sound good, the people however are no better off because the shipping company not only charge exorbitant fares, there is a freight charge for every single time one takes on board. And the charge is high. This actually 'kills' any enthusiasm by a rural farmer to take their produce to Suva to sell.

The questions I ask are; where is the arm of Government that is supposed to look after the marketing of these produce? Secondly, where is the arm of Government that is supposed to monitor the shipping services, to ensure that cost of travel and freight are in line with the requirements of the Price and Income Board (PIB) - I wonder if the PIB has such a provision?

### Natural Resource Management (NRM)

**November 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Water Resource Awareness and Management Workshop – Navutu, Wai, Nadroga:** The NRM team conducted a general water awareness and resource management workshop in Navutu village, using the participatory approach method. There were 41 participants from Navutu, Kubuna and Lomawai villages and a representative of the Management committee of Lomawai Secondary school. The PLA tools used enabled the participants to understand the need to conserve their forest resources. There was a lot of slash and burn agriculture practiced in the area and improper maintenance and protection of their water resources. Their management plans compiled at the end of the workshop are a guide for these communities into addressing the erosion, polluted water and health issues they are currently faced with.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>: Revisit Navutu village and other communities in Tikina Wai, on water resource Awareness** The team revisited the community on Saturday, by request of the neighboring communities, to recap on the awareness session on the importance of conserving and sustainable management of land and forest resources. As learnt during discussions, many of these communities were unaware of the impacts of their slash and burn

practices. They also visited current water sources of these villages and identified agricultural and livestock farming practices that were impacting on the quality of their water. This was an eye-opener for the communities, who also face health problems. The team would be following up again with these communities to note improvements made in the management of their water and land resources.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: Evaluation of Water Project, Nakorokoro Indian Community:** A 6-month evaluation of the water project and the progress of its water committee was conducted. Discussions were held with members of the water committee and members of the community to obtain feedback on the progress of the project. The water committee has been collecting levies from their community members for repair and maintenance works and the payment of monthly electricity bills for their water pump. The committee is also looking at purchasing another 10,000L tank as the current tank is not able to cater for the demand from the communities, particularly at peak hours. The committee is also requesting assistance from the Rotary Foundation on this. The water project in Nakorokoro was officially opened at the end of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>: Presentation at Stakeholders consultation and planning workshop for Nadroga/Navosa Province.** Following the Government's initiative to map 5-year work plans for each Province (involving the stakeholders working within these provinces), NRM compiled a presentation of PCDF projects and sites within the Nadroga/Navosa Province – past and current projects and sites and what has been achieved thus far.

The presentation proved successful as community and district reps were eager to engage PCDF in some of their community initiatives. Also it was apparent that the Provincial Officers valued the development work that PCDF was engaged with in the Province and saw its contribution to the strategic planning workshop.

**November 21<sup>st</sup>: Mangrove seedling planting, Navutulevu, Serua:** During a meeting with the Serua Fish Wardens Association, the Fish Wardens of Navutulevu requested assistance in the planting of mangrove seedlings within their MPA. This is towards their efforts to rehabilitate their MPAs and replenishing their mangrove forests to help reduce the impacts of strong wave action, normally felt on Navutulevu's coasts. The team and the Fish Wardens were able to plant

about 200 mangrove seedlings.

**November 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>: Bio-monitoring for Serua Island and Culanuku:** These two monitoring activities are hands-on practice for the new Fish Wardens. There were about 15 Fish Wardens engaged during the activities who were very proactive in the implementation of the work. The fish wardens also participated in the evening discussions and the presentation of the results of the survey to the communities. This proved very successful as the association wishes to be in the forefront of future surveys, and the reporting of the findings to the people in the district. These activities themselves were empowering the Fish Wardens to drive development in their district.

### Community Capacity Enhancement (CCE)

#### YC4MH

- See the Ra Kaka 'success story'.
- Secured funding for the hosting of the Youth Champ website. This is now in the programming phase.
- Signed a new lease for the Youth Champs office at PCDF.
- Mental Health Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in RakiRaki. The Youth Champs performed the 'Keep On Walking' song and other entertainment.
- Fund Raiser at the Roc Market (Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov) – Raised enough money for the rent of the office for the whole year.

#### MORDI

- See the Ra Kaka 'main article'.
- Community Facilitators refresher training ended on November 6<sup>th</sup>. This training included revision of job descriptions, allocating new tasks, aiding programme management and improving their overall standard of facilitating.
- Two projects were completed in November — the Nakorovou water project and the Vunidavo footpath project.
- Sixteen new projects were discussed during the Project Review Advisory Committee (PRAC) and National Advisory Committee (NAC) team meeting. Eight will be implemented early next year, while others need more discussion.

Four projects were are ongoing in Nakoso, Naviavia, Nakorovou and Natokalau villages (Vanua Levu). The purpose of this meeting is to approve projects before implementation.

#### FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- This is a beginning of another financial year - October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010.
- The annual audit by KPMG is almost complete.
- The audit of EED funding (January to June 2009) was completed by KPMG.
- Dialogue Fiji had moved into their new office space at PCDF.
- A rental agreement between Youth Champs for Mental Health (YC4MH) and PCDF was signed to operate from 8 Denison Road.
- PCDF has a training and meeting venue for hire. The Vunimaqo Deck can accommodate fifty participants. For more information please contact the Office Manager.
- Work for finance and admin staff continues in supporting the work for PCDF programmes i.e. finance, admin, graphics, reporting, fundraiser, publications, media releases, assisting the programmes in the field and facilitating in meetings.
- Staff at PCDF are mindful of the Health Promoting Policy, Child Policy, Gender Policy, and Environment Policy in work places.

#### PCDF COMMUNICATIONS

- The website has been completed and is in the process of being launched.
- One piece of press coverage on the launch of the "Keep on Walking" video.
- The annual review is being drafted.
- A successful field trip to Vanua Levu to document the beekeeping, poultry and cattle farming workshops for future internal publications and press article.

#### STAFF NEWS

- Volunteers from AYAD and Two Way Development are still working for PCDF until the first half of 2010.
- A new Social Club Committee has been appointed to look after staff social issues.
- PAWA Hour will be revived

#### AWARDS

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
- IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development via FSPI
- EED - Church Development Service (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) via the Diocese of Polynesia
- Shangri-La's Fijian Resort
- Canada Fund
- Rotary Water for Life

#### UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- Meetings with IFAD on 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> December.
- Disaster management training in the MORDI communities (Kubulau, Wailevu & Veinuqa), facilitated by the NDMO Officer.
- ADRA Alcohol, Drugs and Sex Survey Communication Workshop (2<sup>nd</sup> Dec)
- Youth Champ's informal opening of the office.
- Staff Picnic.
- Staff Reconciliation.

#### INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

- **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

Patron: Archbishop Petero Mataka  
Trustees: Verona Lucas, Paula Kunabuli,  
Susana Tuisawau  
Board Members: (Chairperson) Sashi Singh, Adi  
Laufitu Malani (Deputy Chairperson), Ratu Joni  
Madraiwiwi, Dr Graham Roberts, Lionel Gibson,  
Monica Raghwan, Bernadette Rounds-Ganilau,  
Alisi W Daurewa (Executive Director)

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

## KEY CONTACTS

**Finance & Administration** - Annie Madden  
**Graphic Art** - Filipe Waqairagata  
**Press** – Kirsty Barnby (and Ra KaKa Editor)  
**MORDI** - Iliapi Tuwai  
**Youth and Women** - 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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Images from MORDI's recent beekeeping workshop

