

Partners in Community Development Fiji

Working to empower communities by assisting them to make informed decisions for their future development

RA KAKA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Book drive extends to New Zealand thanks to overseas generosity

In July, 32 banana boxes of books from New Zealand were received at our office in support of the primary schools in Cicia, who have been struggling for education material.

The generous donation was made possible by the kindness of two New Zealand citizens with the support of six Bay of Plenty primary schools.



The children of Cicia are eagerly awaiting the new books

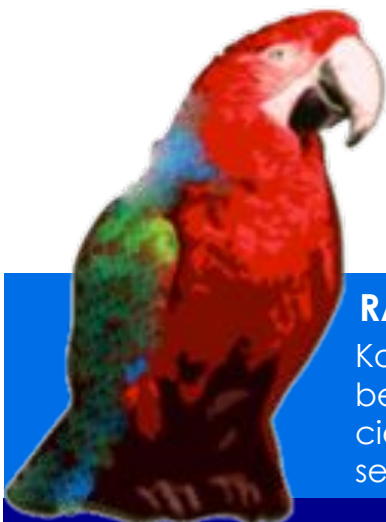
After reading PCDF's news release on the need for book donations for Cicia while working in Fiji, New Zealander Peter Mead decided to take action. Once back home, Mead and his partner Leela Lala started collecting books from local primary schools.

"It started off just as a few, then more local primary schools found out about it and the collection grew," says Peter, an operational engineer in Fiji. "I think it will give them a better start in life and give them a chance to learn different things".

As donations rolled in the couple secured the support of Air New Zealand and Peter's employer RCR Energy Service to cover the cost of Transport from Tauranga to Nadi.

Peter is planning another shipment of books and donated goods at the end of the year. **We are very grateful for this kind support.**

Source: Weekend Sun/New Zealand



RA KAKA

Kaka is Kadavu for parrot. Kadavu Province is the home of the beautiful shining parrot, 'prosopeia splendens', an endemic species. The Kaka is a messenger not only on land but also on sea - it serves as a communicator for God's living creatures.

Teaching students the work of NGOs

On July 28th, our Office Manager Annie gave a presentation at Marist Brothers High School's career day, to educate the students about the structure and work of NGOs through the example of PCDF.

The presentation helped students understand the significance of PCDF's community development work, the role of donor funding and PCDF's commitment to its donors.

Annie answered the eager questions of students, many of who were very interested in joining the NGO sector and making a contribution in Fiji!

PCDF hits the road!



Artwork from our environmental awareness posters has been used for a national campaign organised by the Department of Environment.

The artwork is featured on three buses, along with other participating organisations such as UNDP and UNEP.

The graphics can be seen on buses in Suva, as well as in the Northern and Western Provinces, so see if you can spot one!

Community takes charge of water project

Following the installation of eleven 5000-litre water tanks in Keteira village, Lau, earlier this year, a follow-up visit took place in early July to inspect the tanks and assist the community with maintenance.

Since the initial implementation, which provided the community with access to safe drinking water for the first time, the villagers have been regularly cleaning the tanks and guttering systems to ensure that they continue to provide quality drinking water.

NRM Project Officer Ilisoni Tuinasavusavu conducted two awareness sessions with students from Uciwai primary school, as well as elder community members, which focused on issues such as maintenance of the tanks and the effects unclean water can have on their health.



Reinforcing the strainer on the water tank in Keteira village.

The project was part of the 'Good Governance and Water in Rural Fiji' initiative, funded by Canada Fund. It is the first of its kind for our Natural Resource Management (NRM) programme and Project Officers were pleased to see the community take charge

of the project.

Community member Jone Tuiloma said, "these water tanks have provided a new refreshing water source that will serve us well during the dry season – I would like to express my thanks to PCDF and Canada Fund."

MORDI NEWS

Sanitation projects dramatically improve standards of hygiene in rural communities

Two sanitation projects for villages in Kubulau and Wailevu have been completed, for the first time providing the communities with access to flush toilets. The project, implemented by our MORDI programme, has dramatically improved the standard of hygiene and sanitation and enhanced the everyday lives of villagers.

15 flush toilets were installed in Nadivakarua village, Kubulau and 14 flush toilets in Keka village, Wailevu, villages that had been struggling with sanitation and were only using pit toilets located far away from individual houses.

It took only six weeks to complete the projects, due to the remarkable team spirit amongst community members who worked tirelessly together to dig the tunnels, join the pipes and construct the sewage systems.

Nadivakarua resident Iosefa Malakai, 41, says, "We are so



Before and after: The previous pit toilet and new flush toilet in Nadivakarua village, Kubulau

grateful to MORDI for giving this project to us. We approached many organisations beforehand but eventually MORDI were the only ones who offered to help us - this will benefit generations to come."

Village elder Sevesaini Dikalouniwai, 80, added "During the rainy season I used to walk a long distance to reach the old toilet, but now it's attached to my house and so easily accessible"

Sowani Nalico, 56, contracted as External Service Provider (ESP) in Keka, added "A lot of the homes will be getting a flush toilet for the first time."

MORDI is now in the fifth year of operation. External Service Pro-

vider Aisake James Vokula, 39, who supported the Kubulau project reflects: "When I first started working with MORDI, Kubulau and Wailevu were quite behind in regards to development, both in food security and infrastructure in the village, especially water and sanitation."

"It is easy to work with MORDI communities as they have been trained which has really changed the way they think towards development - they really want to improve their lifestyles"

MORDI contributes to sustainable, improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities, living in remote rural areas of Pacific Island countries, in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

Microfinance Week in Port Vila

building a brighter financial future for Pacific Island countries

A week-long series of events, presentations and meetings of a range of organisations and individuals with an interest in promoting the provision of sustainable financial services in the Pacific took place in Port Vila, Vanuatu from July 26 – 29th.

Our Executive Director Tevita Ravumaidama was invited to

give a presentation as part of a session entitled 'Pacific Islanders Demand for Financial Services', to share his extensive experience of on the ground work in Fiji. Tevita's trip was kindly sponsored by AusAid.

To read more about the event, visit: www.microfinance-pasifika.org



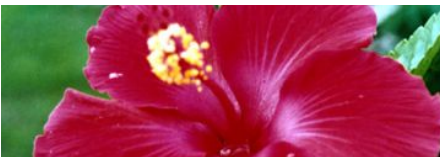


Training and meeting venue for hire!

Located only footsteps from town, on Denison Road, the **Vunimaqo Deck** is the ideal training and meeting venue.

The deck can accommodate up to **50 delegates** and equipment for meetings and catering are available upon request.

For more information please **contact** our **Office Manager** on Tel.: 330 0392, or send an email to: **admin@pcdf.org.fj**



Visit us at Hibiscus!

Come and visit our booth in the E-Care village at the annual Hibiscus Festival at Albert Park from August 20th-27th. We'll be giving out posters, selling crafts and products from our communities and running a competition with great prizes!



Published by PCDF
8 Denison Road,
P.O.Box 14447
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Ph.: (679) 3300392

Fax: (679) 3304315

Editor: Alexandra Schiffmann

Website: www.pcdf.org.fj
www.facebook.com/pcdfjji

To join our mailing list, please email **media@pcdf.org.fj**

For general enquiries please email **admin@pcdf.org.fj**



Store keeper Tavusila Vuvuve (left) and Group secretary Vaseva Turua (right) in their store

Patience and hard work pay off for Waisa's Women's Group

With the support of MORDI, the Women's Group of Waisa village in Kubulau opened a cooperative store for their village in 2009. After a difficult start, the store is now running well – we caught up with the women who were happy to share their experiences so far.

In 2009, after seeing neighbouring villages start income generating projects with the help of MORDI, the Women's Group of Waisa decided to set up a cooperative store to improve the standard of living for village women.

At the time, the nearest store was a two mile walk away – quite a distance, especially for elder members of the community. Waisa is situated at the very edge of Kubulau, on the southern coast of Vanua Levu.

After applying to MORDI for help, a Business Training was conducted in the village to ensure that the group was ready to take on the project. The store was finally opened in late 2009 and proved hugely popular in Waisa and among other communities.

But it wasn't always an easy ride, and after initial success, the business collapsed.

Vaseva Turua, 37, the secretary of the Women's Group, reflects, "When we first started out the store ran really well, then it broke down. At the time I lost hope and almost gave up, I didn't want to be the secretary anymore."

But even though community support was fading, she knew that she had to take responsibility and help the store.

"We started to think of ways to uplift the project again and MORDI gave us some really good advice and words of encouragement."

Now the store is up and running again and is making so much profit, that the income is regularly deposited in a Rural Banking account. Residents from neighbouring communities come to Waisa to buy their groceries, and the store even delivers goods on horseback if requested.

"My advice to other women opening a store is to not lose hope. Have faith in what you are doing and just stay positive. Don't pay attention to people who are gossiping about you, just work towards your goals. When you are running a business you have to be prepared and have faith in what you are doing."