

Partners in Community Development

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

RA KAKA NEWSLETTER



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Issue 2/11

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Water tanks bring new lease of life to Keteira village

In January 2011, eleven 5000-litre water tanks were installed in Moala Island, Lau, for the first time providing the community with access to safe drinking water. On February 22, Natural Resource Management conducted a monitoring visit to the village of Keteira to review the installation, conduct final reinforcements and train community members on effective water management.

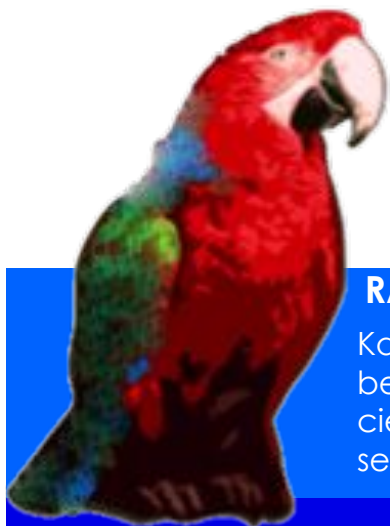


NRM Project Officer Ilisoni Tuinasavusavu (second from right) with the Keteira men during the inspection of the tanks

As part of the community training, men and youth were taught how to secure the tanks with cyclone strapping – training that had not been undertaken during the initial installation. Cyclone warnings occur frequently in the area, which is why these preventive measures are essential to ensure the security of the project.

NRM also conducted interactive water awareness sessions with primary school students and taught the children how to protect their drinking water to ensure sustainability of the storage facilities. The school had been struggling to provide its students with safe drinking water before the initiative and frequently sent their twenty-eight students home, due to the lack of water.

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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.



Uciwai Primary School students pose with their new water tank. Previously, students were required to bring their own drinking water from home

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Good management of water resources is also dependant on a number of other local factors, such as good governance and leadership. The session therefore included some general topics on governance, with a focus on the responsibility of the individual, particularly those in positions of influence and authority with regards to sustainable water management.

The workshop also highlighted the important role of parents in teaching their children their roles and responsibilities within the community from an early age. With regards to water management, parents were encouraged to continuously advise their children on how to practice good water management.

Village headman Maika Bolatolu was grateful to the assistance provided to his village, as they had been struggling for drinking water in the past.

"Women and children were the most affected as they had to walk long distances to reach water sources. The district nurse regularly advised us to boil all drinking water, because the quality of

the water before boiling was not very inviting."

"The education of our children was also affected, as they would be sent home when there was no water at the school. We thank Canada Fund and PCDF for making this project happen."

The village has a water committee that was established in 2007 and will oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the tanks and water systems. The committee was established in 2007 and will work with the village on a monthly collection that will cater for the costs of purchasing repair parts for the guttering and tank system. Youth and men trained during the installation of the tanks will work with the committee on a regular basis to monitor and maintain the rainwater catchment system.

53 year old Mrs. Sera Lakai says the new water tanks will help them make good use of rain water. "We didn't have proper water storage containers and so we had to walk to the creeks or just drink tap water, because boiling water was using up too much of our firewood"



Keteira women, Sera Lakai and Seini Vere Kelera collect drinking water from the new water tank a door away from their homes

"During the long dry seasons, there is no water in the village taps, so we had to take our laundry, dirty dishes and water bottles to the creeks. This was very hard for us, especially for the older women and we felt the strain on our health."

"Now we don't have to worry about drinking water anymore. I can get water from the new tank that is connected to the neighbouring house, which makes everyday life a lot easier for me."



PCDF coral tables installed by members of the NRM team. Located offshore of Moturiki, as featured in the Annual Report 2010.

Finance and Admin update

- The 2010 Audit Report is finalised.
- EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) funds from June-December 2010 are ready for the audit by KPMG.
- Review of EED Regional Office completed by an evaluator from Manila
- Review of BGLP (*Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific*) was completed by UNDEF (*United Nations Democracy Fund*).
- The Annual General Meeting is to be held on 26 March 2011.
- The staff Contract Review for 2011 was completed and all current staff contracts were renewed.

Media and Communications

2010 Annual Report

The Annual Report for the financial year 2009/10 has been finalised and will be ready for distribution next week. The report will also be made available on our website - make sure to get your hands on a copy to read about the great work PCDF has undertaken to strengthen Fiji's communities over the past year.

Communications Review

PCDF is currently undertaking a full communications review and analysis, to identify gaps and opportunities in the current approach, in order to better promote the work of the organisation. Internal communication tools and systems are also being reviewed.

As soon as the review is completed, work will commence on developing a **Communications Strategy** in line with the organisation's five-year strategic plan for 2010-2015.

Website refurbishment

Over the next few weeks, a new plan for the structure of the website will be drawn up and implemented. The main focus of this action will be to ensure that information regarding PCDF's projects is easily accessible and news updates are clearly visible. We will also work to implement a photo gallery.

Feedback is welcome

As we are reviewing and making changes to our communications output, we welcome feedback of any kind. If there is something you are missing from our monthly newsletter or if you have thoughts on our website, please don't hesitate to send an email to:

admin@pcdf.org.fj



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Donors

PCDF humbly salutes the following organisations, without whom we could not complete any of our important work:

AUSAID, NZAID, IFAD, FSPI, EED, Rotary Water for Life, Shangri-La's Fijian Resort, Canada Fund

Passionate about Community Development?

Why not become a member of PCDF and support our important work with an **annual membership fee of only \$20.00.**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please write to the Executive Director at our Suva office.

Previous members are also encouraged to apply

TRAINING AND MEETING VENUE FOR HIRE

Located only footsteps from town, on Denison Road, the **Vunimaqo Deck** is the ideal training and meeting venue. It can accommodate up to **50 delegates**, equipment for meeting and catering are available upon request. For more information please **contact** the **Office Manager** on Tel.: 330 0392, or send an email to: admin@pcdf.org.fj

