

Our vision is to develop and enhance the quality of leaders in Fiji

2019 The Year in Pictures



MESSAGE FROM THE
BOARD CHAIRMAN



William Parkinson

May you live in uncomfortable times!

Yes, I plead guilty to plagiarising the more famous Chinese proverb, but I believe this version is much more appropriate to Leadership Fiji, and in 2019 we lived up to it!

At Leadership Fiji we talk a lot about the process of change and the fact that we as human beings find it an “uncomfortable” experience. Truth be told none of us likes to change even when we know it is good for us!

2019 has been a year of much “discomfort” for Leadership Fiji. At the end of last year, we moved into our own office space, our “home” for the first time and in April 2019 we welcomed our first CEO Sharyne Fong LF2005. If you have worked with Sharyne you know she thrives on managing discomfort and so as we expected the pace of change picked up considerably!

As promised our focus this year has been on broadening the reach of Leadership Fiji. Early in the year a group of our LF Alumni launched our first school prefects program and later in June working with NZ based trainer Shayne Thomson, who also led the Mid-Year Retreat for LF2019, we launched our first ever Sales Leadership Conference. The event sold out almost

overnight and attracted over 60 delegates. In addition, we have run two series of our Adaptive Leadership Program as after-hours workshops, two Entrepreneurs Forum through the kind sponsorship of Kontiki Finance, and a number of in-house leadership programs for various organisations.

We finished the year with the highly successful National Dialogue on Substance Abuse which we ran in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and National Security with the support of the New Zealand High Commission and the University of the South Pacific. All of this on top of our core LF program!

Fortunately, in August we welcomed our Program Coordinator Ioane Nawaikula LF2009. Not only is he an Alumni and is familiar with Leadership Fiji, he also brings with him wide knowledge and experience in development and networks in the civil society sector in Fiji and complements Sharyne’s extensive private sector corporate background.

They are now working on a comprehensive program for 2020 combining both our core program with a wide variety of shorter form development opportunities focused largely on providing participants with practical leadership skills.

One of the ideas we explored in 2019 was a shorter but more intensive executive leadership program, the Leadership Fiji Masters Program. This will be targeted at senior leaders and executives who may have missed out on our core program or who did it and feel the need for a refresher!

I was also pleased to see the launch of the Leadership Fiji Community Fund under Chairperson Rajesh Patel LF2002. We hope that LFCF will provide our Alumni with the opportunity to continue to connect via the community projects and activities for which we have become known for.

It definitely looks like the “discomfort” will continue in 2020 so we look forward to your continued support!!!

I wish you all the very best for the upcoming festive season and holidays.



Celebrating Success!

In every issue of the Leadership Fiji (LF) Newsletter, we celebrate significant achievements of the Leadership Fiji Program, the works of the LF Alumni and notable accomplishments of venerated LF Fellows in Fiji and abroad. Do you have great news to share with us? Please email information@leadershipfiji.org



We are always proud of our LF Alumni achievements and acknowledge the perseverance and diligence of those pictured here, after being appointed into positions of influence both locally and internationally. From left to right, our hearty Congratulations to:

- 👉 Thelma Savua LF2003 on her appointment as an Independent Director of BSP Life.
- 👉 Avaneesh Raman LF2013 on his appointment as FSIP Program In-Country Lead AML, Myanmar.
- 👉 Artika Padarath LF2017 on her appointment as the Senior Business Advisor YES with the Ministry of Industry, Trade & Tourism.
- 👉 Viliame Waqalaivi LF2017 on his appointment as Senior Learning and Development Specialist at ANZ.
- 👉 Ilaitia Varani LF2018 on his appointment as Manager Audit, Government of Marshall Islands.

LF2018 Fellows Project at Dama District School, Bua

LF2018 took on the challenge to refurbish and resource the library of Dama District School in Bua, Vanua Levu as part of their Fellows Project. They were inspired by Laisa Bale LF2003 who introduced the school to LF2018 as part of their North Session tour.

Despite the challenge of commuting to Bua when majority were based on Viti Levu, the team managed to complete their project on plan and handed over the new look library to the School Committee the weekend before the start of the school third term.

A team of 13 from LF2018 with the assistance of the Dama District School Committee and parents carried out the refurbishment works. This involved a couple of first responders from LF2018 arriving a week ahead to prep and strip off paint and windows whilst the rest of the team arrived the week after help complete the works.

The works included the repainting of the internal and external walls of the library, installation of new library bookshelves, replacement of windows and resourcing the library with books. The library shelves were built in Suva and couriered across to Bua.

The success of the project was made possible by the teamwork of LF2018, their sponsors, the school management committee, parents and teachers.

The 26 graduates of LF2018 will be inducted as Fellows of Leadership Fiji at the 2020 Launch on 5th March 2020.

Congratulations LF2018!



LF2019 Graduation

We celebrated LF2019 participants graduation on Friday 1st November at the Holiday Inn. Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest was Her Excellency, The British High Commissioner, Ms Melanie Hopkins who shared her five lessons on Leadership with LF2019 and guests.

1. There is value in diversity.
2. Turn down the negative voice and focus on the positive.
3. Give yourself the space to learn and its okay to fail - keep going. Learn from mistakes and move on. Don't beat yourself up.
4. Surround yourself with people who cheer you on.
5. Look out for those who are coming behind you and support them in their journey. Build them up, don't tear them down.



LF2019 Community Projects

Leadership Fiji believes that *Leadership is Action*. As part of the requirement to graduate and become Alumni of Leadership Fiji, participants are required to undertake community projects during their year.

In order to become Fellows of Leadership Fiji the participants are also required to undertake another year of giving back to communities. We read about LF2018 refurbishing and resourcing the Dama District School library. Let's see what LF2019 has in store for their Fellows Project in 2020.

The community projects undertaken by LF2019 this year were:

- Cash donation to Samabula Old People's Home which assisted in the fit out of wardrobes for the men's ward
- Through the support of Gokals the group donated a washing machine to Saint Giles Hospital
- Dry forest tree planting at Sigatoka Sand Dunes

Gift to ease laundry burden

By ARIETA VAKASUKAWAQA

FOR the past six months, patients and staff members of St Giles Hospital in Reservoir Rd, Suva have been handwashing their dirty laundry after the Colonial War Memorial Hospital laundry room was destroyed in a fire.

This burden was lifted this week after participants of the Leadership Fiji 2019 gifted a washing machine from Gokals Group Fiji Ltd to the hospital.

Hospital senior technical officer occupational therapist Merewalesi Vasuikoro said the gift would boost laundry services they provided for close to 70 psychiatric patients.

"We want to thank the participants for their support towards mental health," she said.

"All the laundry from here is taken to the CWM Hospital laundry, but since that was destroyed, our patients have been washing their own dirty laundry.

"This is not the first time that we have received donations from Leadership Fiji. We hope to receive more donations like this in the future for the sake of our patients."

Leadership Fiji 2019 participant Victoria Vollmer said they were made aware of the problem faced by patients during a visit to the hospital a few weeks ago.

"We were told that nurses and patients were handwashing their clothes. So we thought that this could be the best donation, a washing machine," she said.



St Giles Hospital officials with Leadership Fiji members and Gokals Group Fiji Ltd staff members during the handover of a washing machine at the St Giles Hospital in Suva on Thursday. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU

Fiji Times coverage of the washing machine hand over to Saint Giles. LF2019 participants pictured here with Gokals staff

National Dialogue on Substance Abuse; let's talk about it. Finding a Fijian Solution!

Leadership Fiji facilitated a national dialogue on substance abuse with the support of the Ministry of Defence and National Security, New Zealand High Commission and the University of the South Pacific on Wednesday 13th November, where upto 140 delegates came together to talk about this issue.

The outcomes of the discussions were pulled together into the Laucala Document and presented to the Deputy Secretary for Defence that same afternoon.

The 14 outcomes of the Laucala Document are as follows:

Action 1

Invest in comprehensive research to gather data to understand and identify the issues surrounding substance abuse in Fiji.

Action 2

We request that the National Substance Abuse Council compile a standard strategic inclusive information kit for communities to use to create awareness. The kit should detail the physical and mental damage caused by substance abuse.

Action 3

We commit to building and using current networks across the community to spread information on the issue of substance abuse. This should include all government and traditional platforms.

Action 4

- We recognize the critical need for accessible rehabilitation centres to be built. Our minimum goal should be the establishment of centres in Suva, West and Northern Division.
- We recognize the urgent need for resources to be allocated to the training of social and clinical professional counsellors [AOD].
- If possible, drug rehabilitation centres should be separate from mental health institutions.

Action 5

We recognize the need to create safe spaces across the community in schools, churches and other groups where addicts and their families can go for help without being judged or prosecuted.

Action 6

We recommend that the law focus on drug addiction as a health issue rather than criminal act and that a working group be formed to look at the decriminalization of drug use or addiction.

Action 7

We recognise the importance of the community working with the police in tackling this issue. We recommend that crime prevention committees and community policing initiatives be established in crime hot spots to assist the police.

Action 8

We recognize that family plays a pivotal role and therefore we must strengthen family structures to prevent drug use and addiction.

Action 9

We need to allocate resources to the training and employment of counsellors in our schools.

Action 10

We understand the importance of promoting healthy alternative activities for young people like sports, arts, or music at community level.

Action 11

Employers need to be engaged to assist with drug use education and prevention in the workplace.

Action 12

There is an urgent need to support rehabilitation services in our prisons and these should be linked to the yellow ribbon program in assisting a successful re-entry of inmates to the community.

Action 13

We need to review laws and regulations to restrict the purchase of items that could be used for the manufacture of illegal substances or substance abuse.

Action 14

We know that there are new synthetic drugs entering Fiji all the time. We need to review laws and regulations regularly and make them flexible enough to prevent these new substances from entering the market.

We thank the Drug Harm Prevention Taskforce, our panel of speakers, rapporteurs, LF Alumni, friends and the youths who volunteered their time to assist the LF Secretariat that day.



Leadership Fiji Programs and Activities

We hosted a number of short course leadership programs in the second half of this year.

The first that was held in June, was the two-day Sales Success Conference which was a sellout within a month of announcing. We then held our first ever Entrepreneurs Forum in July, which was kindly sponsored by Kontiki Finance, to bring together our Alumnus who are entrepreneurs, and other interested entrepreneurs. We also held our first Adaptive Leadership program series in July.

In August we had our first Leading Others program targeting newly appointed leaders, and in September we hosted our second Adaptive Leadership series, followed by our second Entrepreneurs Forum in October which was also sponsored by Kontiki Finance. Keep a look out for our 2020 programs!

Day One delegates at the Sales Success Conference



Our inaugural Adaptive Leadership Series participants



Panelists at the first Entrepreneurs Forum in July (L-R) Liz Maki LF2009 Fitness Training & Entrepreneur, William Parkinson LF Board Chair & Founder of Communications Fiji Ltd, Eseta Nadakuitavuki LF2002 Chairperson Women Entrepreneurs Forum & Business Council (WEBC)



Participants of the Leading Others Program in August at the Novotel Lami with facilitator Karranne Bale of Beyond 360 People Development



Participants at the Adaptive Leadership Series in September with facilitator, William Parkinson



Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi sharing her journey as an entrepreneur and was guest speaker at the 2nd Entrepreneurs Forum

Executive Seminar on Leadership, Values & Good Society: Aspen Institute, Colorado

In September we saw Eseta Nadakuitavuki and Ivan Fong (our LF2002 Alumni) attend the Aspen Institute's Executive Seminar on Leadership, Values and the Good Society in Aspen, Colorado.

The Seminar was based at the Meadows Resort in Aspen Colorado where the Aspen Institute was founded by Walter Paepcke in 1949. The Aspen Institute seminars help leaders reflect on timeless ideas and values. Through text-based dialogue with expert moderators and accomplished peers, seminar participants enhance their capacities to think more creatively in solving the problems that confront society.

Eseta had this to say about her experience "the Executive Leadership Seminar surpassed my expectation in terms of the depth of the entire program, the exposures, enlightenment, resources, shared experiences, the robustness of teaching and learning styles, all blended into a highly conducive environment and facilities to allow participants learning and experience to blossom and flourish."

Participants in Aspen's leadership seminars engage in challenging and frank conversations about enduring questions of ethical and effective leadership, equipping them with the knowledge and moral fortitude to make sound decisions for the good of their organizations and society.

We are extremely grateful to the owners of Fiji Water and the Fiji Water Foundation for supporting the ongoing development of Fiji's leaders.



Editors Note: Eseta and Ivan now joins LF Alumni's Rajesh Patel LF2002, Glenis Yee LF2006, Atu Siwatibau LF2004, Sharyne Fong LF2005, Ritesh Singh LF2002, Cathy Wong LF2008 and Arshad Daud LF2002 along with Jaaji Koroi FNPF CEO as Fellows of the Fiji Water Foundation.

LF Community Fund

The LF Community Fund (LFCF) was established by Leadership Fiji with the objective to:

- Receive and manage funding from organizations, donors, aid funds, past LF year groups' and individuals to enable life-changing community developments by making a positive social impact for Fiji's communities through the use of LFA members talent and skills to:
 - Empower communities to be self-sufficient; and
 - Facilitate in the development of community-based projects.
- Provide scholarships for disadvantaged developing leaders to participate in LF hosted programs.
- Offer continued development opportunities for LFA members.

The LFCF Committee members are: Rajesh Patel LF2002 (Chairperson), Thelma Savua LF2003, Anare Manulevu LF2005, Ritesh Ratiram LF2017, Talei Tuitoga LF2018 and Ioane Nawaikula LF2009 and LF Program Coordinator as Secretary.

The Committee are establishing guidelines and we hope to hear more from them in the New Year.

Meantime, the recent TEDxSuva partnership was part of the support provided by a funder to LFCF.

Pictured here are the LFCF Committee members at their October meeting.



"We hope that through the establishment of this initiative we will inspire a philanthropic culture in Fiji."

William Parkinson, LF Board Chairperson

LF Alumni Spotted Socialising

Here we cover what we captured amongst our Alumni in the social scene. If you have stories and pictures to share, let us know.



LF Alumni with Jaoji Koro at their Aspen Fellows catch up which was hosted by Glenis Yee LF2006 at the Munro Leys Boardroom



LF2009 celebrate their 10th Anniversary of lifelong friendship following Leadership Fiji



LF2019 wrap up their year with a getaway to Tivua Island



LFA Christmas Catch Up following LF Board's last meeting of the year. The picture on the right sees LF2009 flanked by LF2019 - 10 program years apart yet we meet and have fun like long lost friends.



LF2017 returned to meet, donate groceries and plant a tree for the residents of their home that they built as part of their Fellows Project in 2018.



LFA at the TEDxSuva event



LFA Executive Committee meeting at LF Home



Coincidental meet up of LFA at a charity fundraiser



LF West meet up at Vanua Chocolate Café owned by LF2017 Arif Khan



LF2002 our inaugural class meet up for lunch



All the LFA that was in the room at the LF2019 Graduation Dinner

Upcoming Programs & Events

Courageous
Conversation
Series
Wed 29th Jan 2020
5pm - 8:30pm

Job Application
Skills Workshop
Sat 8th Feb 2020
9am to 5pm

LF Masters
Program Opening
Dinner & Retreat
Fri 28th & Sat 29th
Feb 2020

LF2020 Launch
& LF2018 Fellows
Induction
Thurs 4th March
2020
6pm to 9pm

LF2020 Opening
Retreat

Fri 5th, Sat 6th & Sun
7th March 2020

Adaptive Leadership
Series
Suva
Mondays in March
16th - 23rd - 30th
5:30pm to 6:30pm

LF2020 Fiji's
History

Wed 18th March 2020
8am to 5pm

Entrepreneurs
Forum

Wed 19th March 2020
5:30pm to 9pm

Courageous
Conversation Series

Fri 27th March 2020
5pm - 8:30pm

LF2020 Human
Rights & Media

Wed 1st April 2020
8am to 5pm

LF Masters
Program
Poverty & Social
Welfare

Fri 3rd April 2020
8am to 5pm

LF2020 Law &
Order

Wed 22nd April 2020
8am to 5pm

Job Application
Skills Workshop
West

Sat 26th April 2020
9am to 5pm

Courageous
Conversation
Series

Wed 13th May 2020
5pm to 8:30pm

Communication
Workshop Series

Thurs 21st & Fri 22nd
May 2020
9am to 5pm

Partners Acknowledgement



The Fiji Times



Bondwell



Digicel



For more information about Leadership Fiji visit our website leadershipfiji.org.

You can contact Leadership Fiji on Phone: +679 330 4664 or email: information@leadershipfiji.org

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