



23 MORE LEADERS GRADUATE AS LEADERSHIP FIJI CELEBRATES ITS 15TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In early November, Leadership Fiji celebrated the graduation of another 23 leaders from the Program taking the Leadership Fiji Alumni, now, to 300 members from a wide cross-section of Fiji.

In his graduation address, Board Chairman, William Parkinson shared valuable advice with the graduates as they embarked on another leadership journey. Mr Parkinson reminded graduates about keeping focused and being open to reviewing and adjusting plans to meet changing times.

Chief Guest at the graduation, Mr Andrew Fairley AM of Leadership Victoria had some reflections about the genesis of Leadership Fiji and how the Program came about. Mr Fairley shared insights on the aspirations of the group of individuals who helped establish the Program and how these have manifested themselves so successfully through the drive, passion and persistence of so many committed people in this country.

Mr Fairley added, "I want to talk about the importance of philanthropy, in all its forms, as a fundamental pillar of our values, and how your participation in Leadership Fiji equips you to take leadership of areas in your community that need drive and direction."

Guests at the graduation and 15th Anniversary occasion included many of Fiji's prominent leaders, including renowned lawyer Richard Naidu, Chief Justice Anthony Gates, Sashi Kiran, CEO of FRIEND FIJI, the New Zealand Ambassador, Mark Ramsden, Father Kevin Barr and Dixon Seeto.

Close to 300 friends and supporters of the Leadership Fiji Program attended the event on Friday November 4th.

ENDS



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



William Parkinson

2016, our 15th year in existence, has been a year of achievement.

We started the year led by a new management team with Sharyne Fong (LF2005) taking up the role of Executive Director and Tamara Smith (LF2013) Executive Officer. Working in partnership with our alumni driven board, they have successfully completed a much needed revamp of Leadership Fiji.

We finished the year with a range of new policies in place, an invigorated alumni and shortly, we will be launching a brand new website BUT the highlight of the year was of course the 15th anniversary celebrations.

It was a fantastic night filled with memories and lots of fun! I am always amazed at how quickly year groups "click" when they get together and the energy generated is very visible! The video and the booklet produced generated plenty of memories and provide us with some great promotional material going forward.

The focus is now on 2017 and we are currently reviewing the program and ways in which we can adjust to meet changing times. Most importantly we are recruiting. As you know diversity is critical to the Leadership Fiji experience. We have been successful in steadily improving participation from across the country and wider community. However we do recognize that we need more participation from the public sector.

The management team and board have been meeting various ministries and the disciplined services to promote Leadership Fiji and we are confident that we will see an increased number of public servants taking part in the 2017 Program.

But the most successful recruiters are alumni so please keep an eye out for potential participants and remember applications close January 20th, 2017.

It has been an extraordinary year for both Fiji and the world in general. I was very proud of the way in which various LF alumni played important roles in helping our nation overcome the various challenges we faced this year from assisting with the relief effort after Winston to winning gold in Rio!

As we wrap up the year I would like to take you back to the speech of our Chief Guest, Andrew Fairley, at our 15th Anniversary celebrations. I quote;

"In his seminal book on leadership, the author Max Dupre told us that we cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are. Our progress as citizens, as workers, as family carers and providers and members of civil society requires us continually question what it is we stand for, what it is that we want to be, and what standards and values we want our world and community to reflect".

The holiday season is a great time to take a moment and reflect on those "standards".

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017.

ENDS

SPEECH FROM LEADERSHIP FIJI'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE LF 2016 GRADUATION – BY ANDREW FAIRLEY A.M

Edited for publication

Creation of Leadership Fiji

As many of you will know, I have been deeply involved in Fiji Tourism over many years. In 1985 I became a director of Turtle Island, in the Yasawas, working with Richard Evanson. At the time, I was a practising lawyer in Australia, with minimal exposure to the tourism sector, and Richard taught me a huge amount about tourism in this country, about your source markets, and about the deep culture and heritage of Fiji.

As part of my role with him, I also was exposed to his deeply rooted commitment to social justice and to achieving success for both himself and his business through a commitment to a quadruple bottom line. That is, everything has to:

- make financial sense;
- have environmental integrity;
- benefit the local people; and
- celebrate the heritage and culture of place

He lived that commitment to a social licence in many ways in the Yasawas, but also identified the need to bring greater leadership cohesion into Fiji at a macro level. He wanted to create a mechanism which would build trust and achieve better cross-cultural understanding and sensitivity right throughout the country. That is why he wanted to establish a leadership program that would be inclusive, diverse and sustainable.

Our initial discussions took place in Suva with many of the city's leaders and luminaries in 1999, to see whether there was interest in such a leadership program being established. After 2000, the need for such a program became more urgent, and our efforts to establish the program intensified.

Benefits of Leadership Fiji

In promoting the benefits of the proposed Leadership Fiji to civil and corporate leaders, to professionals, to policy makers and to educators, I remember positing what I considered to be one of its most important outcomes - the creation of an alumni which after 15 years would comprise over 300 people from all different racial groups,



who would unconditionally trust each other, with the likelihood that they would be in senior positions within the country's institutions.

There were of course other benefits that we envisioned. These included:

- The opportunity for emerging leaders from diverse community sectors meeting each other and exchanging informed views on important issues.
- Being exposed to the current leaders of society, including community, corporate and political leaders, to discern what has made them successful.
- Learning more about Fiji, and the components of a diverse racially intertwined country with extraordinary natural resources, incredible opportunity in tourism and agriculture, with a view to formulating plans as to how it could be made greater.

After 15 years, all indications are that the program has been spectacularly successful in so many ways. It has identified and focused on the principles and skills of leadership. It has accentuated the importance of building relationships, and it has expanded participants understanding of the complex fabric of Fiji society.

The summary of community projects which have been delivered over the past 10 years has been astonishing, and it is clear that the impacts of your work as alumni and as graduates has been profound in many parts of this amazing country.

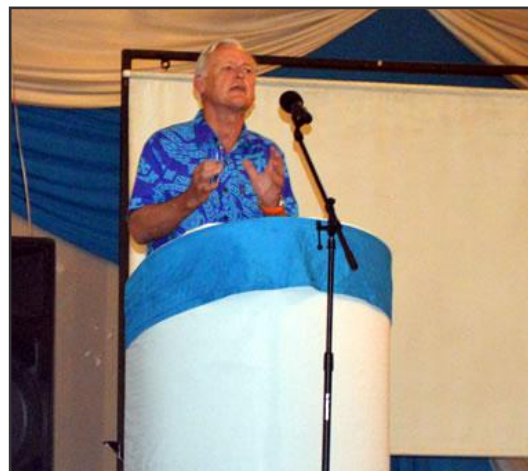


Fundamental Pillars of Leadership

My experience is that great leadership, as reflected through community leadership icons includes a number of fundamental pillars.

The first is using a leadership style of coaching rather than being directive or coercive. To enable others to reach their personal potential and their organisation's institutional potential through timely interventions, mentoring and patience are essential qualities.

Strong leadership by example helps in developing, expressing and defending civil and



Mr Andrew Fairley delivering his keynote address

community values, and normalises the concept of giving.

A further essential component of great leadership is to nurture the next group of leaders, giving them the confidence and skills to assume responsibility in roles for which they are suited. That includes the need for continual reinforcement of the organisational culture within which the institution operates.

International Success

For Leadership Fiji just to have achieved the outcomes domestically that it has, would have been proof enough of an extraordinarily successful initiative. However, there's more.

It has formed the genesis of leadership programs right throughout the Pacific, in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomons and PNG and those programs in turn have played and continue to play an extraordinarily important role in the development of tomorrow's leaders, and in the provision of social, political and commercial leadership in those countries.

For Leadership Fiji to have such a single impact on sovereign nations in its region through this initiative is game changing and deserves recognition at the highest levels.

Light on the Hill

I have always had a strong belief that in order to have success, an organisation needs to have a clear vision about why it exists - to have a Light on the Hill. I was always impressed by the vision statement for Microsoft years ago, when they were early on in their business development.

"A computer on every desk in every city in every country." *Continues...*



Continued

That vision had to change soon after, because they became so successful there was no stretch left in it. There are many examples of great vision statements such that anybody who reads them knows exactly what outcomes the business wants to achieve. A vision statement must be able to deliver the message about why it exists in a ride through 5 floors in an elevator.

A great example is that of the vision for Nike, which is: "To bring inspiration and innovation to every athlete in the world (if you have a body you are an athlete)." Really short, sharp, powerful and possible to imagine.

Personal Vision Statements

As emerging leaders, striving for successful careers and fulfilling personal lives, I believe that we need to put energy and intellectual rigour into creating our own personal vision statement.

Each of you will have some notion of where you want to be within a particular timeframe. However, if you don't have that constant reminder of an achievable long term aspiration, with a profoundly well considered commitment, then you are less likely to succeed. Years ago, I took the view that I should have both a professional vision statement and a personal vision goal.

One is about what I wanted to achieve in the rough and tumble of business and the practice of the law. The other was the very personal goal that you hope your closest family would be proud of.

I rarely share these with others, but I thought I would do so tonight, simply to give you some thought starters about how you might implement your own Light on the Hill. I urge you all to start that cerebral process of identifying what it is that you aspire to achieve. Don't be put off because its too hard. Start with setting out your basic values and principles of life, and build from there. Your vision will come, and it will be an absolute epiphany for you to live by.

I see philanthropy as being an essential part of a balanced life. Giving and altruism have many forms, and I think its best encapsulated as being one or all of giving time, talent and treasure.

It can involve volunteering to organisations which are community based and that need your help and expertise. Your time is valuable and it's a great contribution. Your talent is the professional skills that you are able to bring and your network in being able to facilitate things to happen.

Obviously, your treasure is when you are able to give money.

Although your day job means that there is limited time available for interests outside your offices or practices, I urge you all to play some role in organisations that desperately need your skills, your commitment and sometimes your money.

Apart from the privilege of helping those who are less well off than you are, you have an opportunity to see the way other people cope with their lives and their challenges, and this often contextualises the importance of some of your own problems.



Conclusion

This is a great country, with unbridled opportunity, and a strong and living culture and heritage. It has solid Institutions. The success of any country depends significantly on its ability to steward its young people into leadership roles to effect seamless succession in its major institutions and its civic leadership.

Leadership Fiji has proven over the last 15 years to be an extraordinarily important catalyst in facilitating this outcome. I am enormously proud to have played a small role in its establishment, and I wish it well for the next 15 years and beyond. ENDS

SESSION REPORTS

The following are activity reports, in summary, of the various sessions, site visitations and group retreats that have taken place this year. Traditionally, working groups are assigned to these reports, and the 4 Teams of Tui Tui, Tabua, Tagimoucia and Tilapia shared in the responsibilities of tracking and evaluating these activities.

Poverty & Social Welfare

This session certainly proved to be an eye opener for most of the LF2016 participants. Everyone went home with new and to an extent, alarming and worrying information to digest. Information from this session helped us identify the social gaps which we hoped to assist in closing.

Dr Neelesh Goundar shared statistics from the FBS Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) for 2002-03 and 2008-09 give the changes in poverty between these two survey periods and highlighted that given the declining agricultural output in the sugar and non-sugar sectors, rural poverty had increased steadily through this entire period. This led to a lot of discussions within the group about our contribution to the economy and how to assist communities in poverty stricken areas. The panel discussion with Lynn Roche, Marnorma Chandra and Father Kevin Barr was also insightful and we have learned to become more aware of the realities that exist not only within households, but factors outside homes – poverty, child labor, prostitution etc. LF2016 was reminded of the importance of our families and the risks of individuals becoming too self-involved to realize the impact of selfishness on society as a whole.



Mid-Year Retreat



Facilitated by Mr Greig Caigou, our mid-year retreat proved to be a reality check-point for us, after applying to be part of the Program and then having gone through a handful of sessions. Mr Caigou laid out the Retreat Program as such, that we reflected upon ourselves and our leadership qualities, checked them against what we were applying to every day decisions, and where we wanted to make changes.



Ms Cathy Wong spoke to LF2016 about the realities of organizing Community Projects and delved into her personal experiences as an LF Alumni member, highlighting challenges that her year group faced and continue to face. Major takeaways from listening to Ms Wong include, persevering to being agents of change, commitment to a purpose, the need for analysis, objectives and hard decisions. Knowing when to walk away and learning to say no, having an impact and leaving a legacy.

Environment

Dr. Wulf Killmann talked on the topic 'Coping with Climate Change in the 21st Century'. The relevance of his talk was highlighted plainly to us in the presentation of harsh facts that we realized were real and occurring in the present day, and the likelihood of more serious adverse effects for Fiji's environments. 2015 was the warmest year since 1980 and 2016 again was at a record 'warm', 13 months in a row. He encouraged us with a two ways approach – reduce (globally & internationally) and adapt. The group then discussed the Paris Agreement in great detail and moved onto means to assist with awareness and rehabilitation programs.

Mere Leba of the Department of Environment spoke about her Department's role and Waste Management. The Department of Environment's role is to develop, implement, enforce and monitor the Environmental Laws, Policies and Strategies with a main focus, currently on waste and pollution control. Ms Leba acknowledged that while there were Acts and Decrees in place to combat waste problems, there is a need for consolidated strategies and local awareness Programs. She thoroughly encouraged LF 2016 to take civic pride in Fiji and help the Department work towards building a cleaner Fiji.

Other speakers for the Environment Session were Mason Smith of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), LF2013 alumni member, Chinamma Reddy of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), John Philp of the Suva Harbour Foundation and Rajeshwar Singh, Chief Financial Officer of the Bank of South Pacific.

Overall, the session was very informative. We realized the importance of a sustainable environment and appreciate that we need to support conservation efforts, investing in a healthier robust community – community level development actions.



Fiji's Economy & Infrastructure

Held at the Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) Conference Room in Suva, this session was an interesting one for LF2016 especially coming out of a new budget announcement by Government and the many changes to economic infrastructure planned for the nation.

Dr Sunil Kumar, from the School of Economics, USP discussed how the economy had changed and developed over past 10-15 years, details of the borrowings and capital market, paid particular focus on a few major industries within our economy.

The Attorney General of Fiji, Mr Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum highlighted the vital role Government played in improving Fiji's Economy and Infrastructure and works in progress. LF2016 was made aware of plans put in place for robust developments in local infrastructure to attract more tourists and increase standards of services offered locally.

This was followed by a panel discussion with Mr. Fazrul Rahman (FIRCA), Saud Minam (ANZ), Mark Halabe (Mark One Apparel). These speakers all shared information on their professions, their personal backgrounds, their challenges as leaders in their fields of work, and their plans for a more prosperous Fijian economy.

We then heard from John Hutchinson (CEO, Fiji Roads), Daniel Lough (MWH Global), Opetaia Ravai (Water Authority of Fiji), on the topic of Fiji's Infrastructure. Overall, the experts that spoke at this session for LF 2016, shared similar sentiments on the need for proper planning with all relevant authorities.



Tourism

A visit to the nation's tourism hub was apt for this particular

session and LF 2016 made full use of the trip to learn about various aspects of the Tourism Industry that we only read about in the news.

We had the privilege of listening to a panel discussion with Tui Kabu of Fiji Backpackers Association (and LF Alumni member), Mr Brian Kirsch of Fiji Hotels & Tourism Association and Bradley Robinson, CEO for Raffle Hotels and Resorts. The focus of this session was mostly on the challenges faced by the hotel industries in Fiji and how they address these challenges. Despite difficulties, the tourism representatives remained optimistic about their work and the services they provided within one of Fiji's biggest industries.

Mr Thomas Valentine of Tourism Fiji, presented information on the history of Fiji Tourism and its evolving brand, industry developments, markets & performance, marketing strategies, new initiatives and moving forward.

Mereseini Baleilevuka, General Manager of Freebird Institute spoke passionately about their work around Educational tourism and the services they offer to foreigners who wish to learn the English language. She elaborated on many challenges faced in the industry and expressed their plan to secure some level of support from the Government.

The Tourism Session was rounded off with site visits to Flavors of Fiji, Sheraton Resorts and Port Denarau Marina in which we heard from Alona McElrath, Ravinder Dhesi, Loretta Ooms and Nigel Skeggs.



Health

Mr David Qumivutia, General Manager, Suva Private Hospital spoke about "Private Health Care". The objective of the session was to understand private health care system and the initiatives it provides to improve service delivery, the opportunities and the challenges it faces as well as future health care plans. The development of the private healthcare sector is expected to relieve some of the pressure on the public healthcare facilities, with the aim to reduce long waiting periods for patients seeking medical treatment.

Following this, a panel discussion on nutrition and wellness with Mrs Alvina Deo - Senior Nutritionist, Viliame Qio - Team Leader of Diabetes Fiji, and Belinda Chang - Manager - Fiji Cancer Society.

Among important lessons, was that the nutritional well-being of a population is an indicator of national development, and as such reflects the combined performance of key Ministries within the social and economic sectors. Generally, a healthy, well-nourished and educated population provides the best foundation for promoting national economic growth.

However, an unhealthy population experiences reduced mental and physical capacity, and a shorter span of working years, adversely affecting economic productivity of the nation.

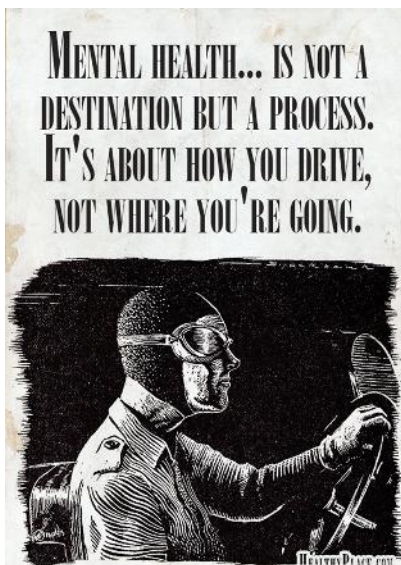
Then we had the privilege of hearing from Dr. Nirvana Karan - Mental Health Specialist - Ministry of Health, speaking to us about mental health issues in Fiji and the challenges in conducting mental health awareness and training for health workers and the public. One biggest challenge being stigmatization which obstructs a lot of clients



from seeking help.

The out-sourcing of mental health services to major hospitals and health centers has given people more confidence to seek help. The numbers of people that coming for outpatient visits in a year have increased over the last five years which indicates that there is more awareness now and people are getting comfortable coming in and asking for the right people for assistance.

Stress management is the most common issues faced towards due to the work-life style people have adopted. There are specialized stress management units available in almost all the hospitals. Continuous awareness to the public is very vital to reduce the stigma of mental illness.



Education



The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs Nanise Ravisa of Hilton Special School briefed LF 2016 on how the school started and aimed at children with special needs. Despite being a thriving learning centre today, the school has had its fair share of challenges especially around administration costs for day to day running and the lack of specialists in Fiji. They have been fortunate enough to overcome this barrier through the work of volunteer-specialists from other countries. Celebrated successes for Hilton include students improving on their abilities to the point they have moved into mainstream schools, some attaining high educational achievements.

We also heard from Mr Patrick Bower from Fiji Christian Community Schools on "Community Initiatives in the Education Sector".

Mr Nakaora, General Secretary of the Fijian Teachers Association spoke on the topic

"Teacher's perspective on education in the 21st century" while Dr Priscilla Puamau from the Access to Quality Education Programme spoke about "Improving Education Opportunities".

LF 2016 also had the opportunity to hear from the Tertiary Loans Scheme Board with a closer look on how it was set up to manage scholarships for tertiary students, guided by the government's area of priorities. Learning of their challenges was interesting as we discovered a high demand from school leavers wishing to further their studies.

Through these sessions we have learnt that education plays a very important role in our economy. There are many areas which need to be improved so that the children of Fiji are able to obtain a quality education.

Sugar & Mining

We learned from experts of Fiji's Sugar industry, starting with the Fiji Sugar Corporation Farm Enhancement Manager – Dhurup Kumar. Mr Kumar identified challenges of the Industry, firstly referring to modernization as having been one of its major challenges with more young people opting for modern careers. The industry is therefore lacking youthful workers. In comparing sugar production in the 80's and 90's, Mr Kumar acknowledged that production rate was decreasing and he gave us insight into how Government had helped with initiatives for farmers.



A visit to the FSC Lautoka Mill was a first for many participants and we had the opportunity to see how sugar was processed and got to hear from the Acting CEO, Sanjay Prakash.

Next was a visit to Koro-i-pita Settlement, by far one of THE BEST experiences for the entire team. We heard from Mr Peter Drysdale who initiated the community project which has given rise to 230 homes for underprivileged families in the Western Division.

Residents come from very poor background. They get taken through a progressive process to improve their social and economic, psychological, and financial status, and then later move on to allow for other families to come in. At a cost of a dollar per day only, families get improved the living conditions but also access psychological programs, financial literacy trainings and empowerment activities.

Vatukoula Gold Mine consists of structures and operations that are extensive and complex. The age-old mine sits on freehold land, a good thing as it reduces decreases conflict with the



surrounding villagers.

Work in the mine is very labor intensive, and we managed to catch a glimpse of hardworking workers going about their daily lives inside the mine.

Then we conducted a similar visit of the Tavua Town Council where operational structures were also discussed.

Site Visits

The Site Visits session, was the final session for the year which involved a bus trip around Suva and the outer Suva area, visiting sites that participants don't often have the opportunity to visit. The first stop was the National Fire Authority HQ in Walu Bay, where we discussed the latest facts, figures, challenges and plans for the NFA. The team was fortunate enough to also catch a glimpse of the Smoke House Drills in action for a primary school that was also visiting the crew.

Next up was a visit to the Kalabo tax free zone to Mark One Apparel, to hear about the ever-changing garment industry in Fiji and in the region, and how their business has developed and changed drastically since its inception many years ago. The team was fortunate to be addressed by Mr. Mark Halabe himself, who also took the team on a tour of the factory. Following this was a visit to the Pure Fiji Factory in Vatukoula, where again, participants were taken through the processes of producing world class products that have played a part in putting Fiji on the world commercial map.



Continues...

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ENDS



Closing Retreat: Leadership in Action - A Personal Reflection



"The very essence of leadership is [that] you have a vision. It's got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."

- Theodore Hesburgh



Facilitated by the Leadership Fiji Secretariat with input from Board Directors William Parkinson and Sufi Dean, the 2016 Closing Retreat was one of personal and professional reflections, centered on individual and group perspectives on leadership and leading communities in Fiji and the region.

Objectives of the retreat included a review of the LF 2016 programme, sharing future possibilities as well as individual/group commitments to LF and LFA, plus the synthesizing and presentations of group vision.

The facilitators brought focus on the importance of why and what LF2016 had learned as leaders from all the information they gained and programs they were exposed to during the year. After making discoveries and conducting further research on their visits to the different areas that makes up Fiji's society, LF2016 participants were asked to reflect on the importance and relevance of sessions conducted in the latter part of their program year.

What was the point of looking at Fiji's History, Government, Economy and issues of Human rights, Law and Order? Why the need for improvements to Social Welfare, Health and Education, and Fiji's changing relationship with the World? What was the importance of looking at Fiji's Industries, from Tourism, to Agriculture, to Sugar and Mining, Business and infrastructure? And on top of these deliberations, LF2016 were encouraged to "Reflect on yourselves and your relationship with YOU and how it affects your relationships with others."

The 2 day Closing Retreat was held on picturesque Leleuvia Island, where we were surrounded by pristine clear waters, white sandy beaches and sunshine. The surrounding provided an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, but also an ideal environment of serenity and peacefulness.

"We must begin to trust each other if this country is to progress the way we want it to. But before that we have to lay the preparatory work to engender that trust by building relationships every day."

- Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi

It could be fairly summed up that outcomes of the Closing Retreat were met and that LF2016 walked off the Leleuvia Jetty, onto their boats and returned to their everyday lives a little wealthier from the reflections off a whole year's program and a deep and meaningful look at their own lives and their own contributions to their families, communities, organizations and so on.

ENDS

Celebrating Successes

In every issue of the Leadership Fiji (LF) Newsletter, we will celebrate significant achievements of the Leadership Fiji Program, the works of the LF Alumni and notable works of venerated LF Fellows and Graduates in Fiji and abroad.

Do you have great news to share with us? Please email tamara@leadershipfiji.org.fj

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

From the 1st to the 7th of October this year, the Executive Director for Leadership Fiji, Sharyne Fong (LF2005) had the opportunity to attend the Aspen Executive Seminar, along with fellow Alumni Atu Siwatibau (LF2004) at the Aspen Institute's Wye River Conference Centre in Maryland, USA and was held at their Houghton House property that is managed by the Marriott Hotel.

Here are the highlights of their attendance as summarized by Sharyne Fong.

The Seminar Experience

This Seminar on Leadership, Values and the Good Society was the flagship seminar offering that launched the Aspen Institute in 1950, specifically tailored for corporate and other top leaders. The Seminar challenges leaders in every field to think more critically and deeply and "to help gain access to his or her own humanity by becoming more self-aware, more self-correcting and more self-fulfilling" (quote by the Institute Founder, Walter Paepcke).

It offers a unique opportunity to step away from the demands of the present and reflect with other leaders in moderated, text-based Socratic dialogue on the concept of a good and just society. It probes and challenges critical thinking and discussions on fundamental questions such as:

What is a good and just society and what is my role in making it a reality? What are my core values, and how do they align with others, my organization and my community? How do I navigate the competing tensions among the values which inform the decisions I make? (www.aspeninstitute.org)

Participants were from diverse professions and at various seniority levels in their organizations from 5 countries, namely; Fiji, Germany, Brazil, El Salvador and the United States of America.

The Seminar text readings were from great philosophers and leaders such as Plato, Hobbes, Aristotle, Darwin, Martin Luther King Jnr's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Confucius, Khaldun and Guin's The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas, to name a few. These readings together with the diversity of our group were the catalyst of thought provoking discussions.

Unlike other Leadership Seminar's we were not provided with clear and definitive solutions to the leadership challenges faced today, but rather the Seminar provided us a space for discussions and debate which gave us a better appreciation of the complexities, and knowing the fact that disagreements over objectives and opinions is reflective of the nature of (wo)man. It is a matter of understanding and appreciating what drives and leads these opinions and behaviors so we can respond appropriately.



The week-long Seminar was well worth the time away as it gave me the opportunity to reflect on my achievements and question what I more I can do for myself, my family, my organization and my community. The experience has certainly changed my view and given me a greater appreciation of the world in which we live in today. This Seminar has also given me a chance to make life-long friends and expand my network with global leaders. I've returned home so inspired to give back!

With sincere thanks, *ENDS*

Sharyne Fong



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Coming in as the new Executive Officer of Leadership for 2016, was an exciting time for me, being an Alumni member of 2013, and a staunch believer of the values and vision of Leadership Fiji. Having been through the experience of a participant, I felt at the time that I was well prepared to take on my new role and I looked forward to the familiarity of the program. What I was unprepared for was the massive learning curve this year has been for me personally and professionally, under the guidance of Sharyne Fong and a very active and supportive Board backing up the program in such practical and valuable ways! To be surrounded by such knowledge, skill, vitality and influence to draw from, has been a major plus for me this year. I am very grateful for this experience of LF 2016 and in particular, I am thankful to the participants who enriched the program with their personalities, passion and plans for the future, and who shared such interesting parts of their lives with me. In addition, I am excited and proud to be part of an invigorated LFA and look forward to working with them further, in both my capacities as Executive Officer and as LFA 2013.

I am confident that LF 2017 will be an even more exciting journey, upon a collective effort of the Board and the Alumni, and I look forward to getting 2017 off the ground in a bright and beautiful way!

Best wishes and happy vibes for this festive season, and a Happy 2017 to you all.

Tamara Smith



Apply for Leadership Fiji 2017. For an application form, visit www.leadershipfiji.org.fj

The Leadership Fiji family wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New year



Sponsorship Acknowledgement



The Fiji Times



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