



## THE GROWING FORCE OF LEADERSHIP FIJI

Welcome to Edition 02 of Leadership Fiji's 2017 e-Newsletter.

The growing force of the Leadership Fiji (LF) Alumni this year, welcomed another 33 graduates of the Leadership Fiji 2017 Program after having successfully completed their 10 month participation.

We now have 383 members of the LF Alumni that have completed the LF Program and have immersed themselves into various areas of leadership and development within local, regional and global communities. These individuals are part of an ever increasing community of Fijian leaders that are working together to enable a sustainable, resilient and economically vibrant country.

Each year we aim to accomplish our objectives by involving local leaders and broadening their understanding of the many issues affecting the community and country. Notable speakers that have generously contributed to the Program this year through sharing their knowledge and leadership experiences include the Attorney General Honorable Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, Dr. John P. Leckey (Ph.D) of NASA's Langley Research Center, Fiji Military Forces Commander Naupoto, H.E Litia Mawi, Fiji's Roving Ambassador/ High Commissioner and other experts from various sectors.

Participants of the LF Program are middle to top level managers and leaders selected from around the country with diverse socio economic backgrounds, who meet twice a month for full day workshops and weekend retreats. A key component of the Program is a further commitment by the graduating participant to another year of community work before they are inducted as LF Fellows.

LF's Executive Director, Sharyne Fong, herself a graduate of the 2005 Leadership Fiji Program said, "This year's intake of participants was the biggest ever for the LF Program and it is a testament to the solid reputation that LF has established nationally. We continue to grow each year and the quality of leaders that pass through the Program enrich our annual activities. It is always inspiring to see the development of each participant as they progress through their 10 month leadership journey, who then, take out their experiences and make an impact in their organizations and communities."

Participants are given the opportunity to dialogue with experts from varied backgrounds and interests, influential in public and private institutions. While participants learn from Speakers, there's every likelihood that Speakers also exchange perspectives with participants, who themselves are also leaders within their respective communities and organizations."

The Program encourages participants to make greater commitments to the development of their communities and provides a forum for networking, personal and professional development and exchange of ideas. *ENDS*



2017 has been a year of many achievements for Leadership Fiji (LF).

We began the year a little nervous about the size of the 2017 year group but I am pleased to report that not only have we had one of the highest completion rates with 33 graduates joining the Alumni, but we've also been able to challenge ourselves with a number of 'firsts' in the program. The highlight was our first ever excursion to the Northern Division. We have also reconnected with Australian leadership organisations and concluded 2017 with the visit of 2015 Australian Of The Year, Rosie Batty. Just a few highlights of 2017.

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



*William Parkinson*

For me every time I connect with the LF Alumni, I am inspired by their enthusiasm and determination to drive change and growth in their community. The success of LF2017 is a tribute to Tamara Smith and Sharyne Fong's hard work in their executive roles but also to the participants of the LF2017 Program. A job well done.

This year we have continued to develop the message that leadership is about change and that anyone at any time can be a leader. We have now incorporated this perspective as part of the program's core principles of 'adaptive leadership'. This theory accepts that leadership is an action not a position and that in exercising leadership we promote a process of change. This recognizes that change comes with its own challenges requiring specific skills and tactics to deliver a positive outcome.

In partnership with the Ministry of Women, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Fiji Women's Rights Movement, the LF Alumni succeeded in bringing Rosie Batty to Fiji. Rosie's tragic story of horrific family violence and the courage she has shown since the murder of her son touched many, and motivated the LF Alumni who were able to spend two days with her at the Alumni Leadership Summit.

This is a first step in a new mission for Leadership Fiji as we seek to broaden our reach beyond the core program and LF Alumni activities. We have, for some time received requests from various organisations ranging from school prefects to corporates to provide short form training in addition to our main program. We have done some training on an ad hoc basis but in 2018, are looking to expand this element of Leadership Fiji and hopefully offer regular short training programs.

Of course all of this costs money! One of the great features of the LF Program is that it is quite flexible and it is expensive to run. We have always been determined that we remain primarily funded by local corporates and small aid grants. This guarantees our independence but also ensures we are directly accountable to our community. We are very grateful to our sponsors but one of the challenges in the coming year will be to seek new forms of income. It has been another amazing year for Leadership Fiji and once again we look forward to a new year filled with new challenges.

Thank you all for your support and stay tuned for 2018! *ENDS*

# SPEECH FROM LEADERSHIP FIJI'S 2017 GRADUATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FIJI ISLANDS, MAJOR GENERAL (RET'D) JIOJIKONROTE

*Edited for publication*

Ladies and gentlemen, we will all agree that the development of leaders is fundamental to a nation's well-being and to the creation of a society that is economically, socially and politically successful. Leaders usually come from specific sectors with significant knowledge in that area but a limited appreciation of the whole social framework. For leaders to be truly successful, they should have a positive, caring and inclusive approach with an inherent understanding of the local dynamics of our beloved Fiji as a small and young democratic sovereign nation.

In view of this, I commend the Leadership Fiji initiative which is aimed specifically at assisting our emerging leaders who come together from various sectors, to improve and enhance their ability to cope with the varying challenges and demands of the ever-changing world so that Fiji reaches its full potential. I commend the Vision of Leadership Fiji, which is to "develop and enhance the quality of future leaders of Fiji" through skills development and building relationships characterized by respect, trust and understanding amongst leaders representing the diverse elements which make up Fiji. Most importantly, Leadership Fiji encourages participants to take action.

Leadership Fiji is synonymous with taking action in our communities with various projects, undertaken by each year group, ranging from environmental projects, to social welfare and housing, animal welfare, fire safety and awareness, education, health, financial literacy, and the list goes on. Thank you, to all the year groups and Alumni of Leadership Fiji for your perseverance and useful contributions to the successful completing of your projects.

Congratulations to Leadership Fiji for maintaining your focus on the values and traits of good Leadership and applying them within your families and workplaces. The overall success of the programme is evidenced by the growing numbers of participants which has culminated with the largest intake ever this year.

In 16 years, you have established a special Alumni of 383 Leaders, of differing ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities, spanning over a wide range of sectors that make up the fabric of our society. From government, to civil society, to the private sector, and the many different industries that keep our economy stable resulting in harmonious social cohesion, the Leadership Fiji programme has been highly relevant and most successful.

It is encouraging to note that many Members of the Leadership Fiji Alumni are now in influential positions in organisations locally and abroad, with many of them running successful businesses and new ventures, and taking lead roles in national sports teams and administrative positions.

It is also encouraging to note that in 16 years, you have maintained successful and long lasting relationships with your corporate sponsors and supporters, as well as the New Zealand High Commission that has enabled the programme to continue running, and indeed grow even stronger.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the Leadership Fiji programme evolves, I appeal to you to strengthen the ideals of inclusivity and the implementation of policies and programmes that are of the national interest. Specifically, I ask that you reflect on the path that our country has taken since independence; by learning from the past, it becomes clear that compromise and inclusivity has led to a far brighter Fijian future than fear and division. While we will all agree that it is part of human nature to have different views and ideologies on certain issues, it is crucial that national



*His Excellency the President of the Fiji Islands delivering his keynote address*

leaders are not only inclusive in their efforts to move the nation forward, but that they also also consider implementing policies that are in the best interest of the entire nation, and not just a select few.

In saying this, I implore you to consider and deepen your understanding of the Fijian Constitution of 2013, which provides among other things, an unprecedented raft of rights to all Fijians, without exception. The Constitution is also aimed at removing all forms of discriminatory practice. Our increasingly stable and improving economic achievement is one of the many direct results of this inclusive approach. We have had eight consecutive years of positive economic growth.

Importantly, as you are all aware, any improvement to a nation's economic growth is based largely on the increased level of confidence from investors. In Fiji's case, this confidence is premised on the inclusive and non-discriminatory foundations that our Constitution provides. The Constitution empowers our leaders at all levels of society to implement policies that are in the best interest of all Fijians so ultimately, No One is Left Behind.

I could go on with a host of other reasons why national leaders should be inclusive, but I am encouraged that many of you here tonight are already leaders in your respective areas of expertise, and that you will appreciate the concepts of inclusivity and the implementation of policies that are in the nation's best interests.

May God continue to bless our beloved nation. *Ends*



*For more information about the Leadership Fiji Program, please log onto our website [www.leadershipfiji.org](http://www.leadershipfiji.org)*



## 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 5 Teams of Tui Tui, Tabua, Tagimoucia, Tilapia and Tauratale shared in the responsibilities of tracking and evaluating these activities.



### Poverty & Social Welfare

The aim of this session was to provide an overview of the state of Fiji's economy within the Pacific Region, examine the role of the private sector in Fiji's economy and highlight prospects and challenges of private investment in Fiji. LF 2017 was also provided with an overview of infrastructure development in the country with achievements, challenges and opportunities also discussed.

Dr. Sunil Kumar from the Faculty of Business and Economics, USP spoke about Fiji's Economy with respect to the last Decade & the future. He elaborated on the key economic development and examined prospects for future growth

LF2017 was fortunate to hear from the Honorable Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum who spoke on the topic 'Steering Fiji to Economic Prosperity'. As Minister for Economy, he discussed Fiji's Economic growth and development and also delved into Governments' major achievements, challenges and opportunities.

Other speakers included Mr. Fazrul Rahman, Director Corporate Services, Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority, Saud Minam, CEO, ANZ and Mark Halabe – Mark One Apparel (Private Sector). We also had the privilege of hearing from Robert Sen, Acting CEO – Fiji Roads Authority, Opetaiia Ravai – CEO - Water Authority of Fiji and George Samisoni - CEO – FINTEL. Each speaker provided, from an organizational perspective, an overview of infrastructure developments in Fiji in the context of their respective work and examined major achievements that contribute to economic development. *Ends*

### Health

Conducted at the BSP Training Centre, Marks House, Suva, the objectives of this session were to examine the health care system in Fiji, its challenges and development plans, to also examine major health issues in the country and discuss operations of the only psychiatric hospital in Fiji, its challenges and future plans.

We had the privilege of hearing from Dr Isimeli Tukana – National Advisor, Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) who spoke about the increase in NCDs and emphasised the importance of controlling consumptions. He also provided an overview of Fiji's NCDs care system and government initiatives in place to address challenges.

David Qumivutia, General Manager, MIOT Hospital spoke about the Suva Private Hospital partnership with MIOT in providing alternative medical care. He delivered from an organizational perspective the opportunities and challenges in operating a private health care system and initiatives to improve service delivery.

Asaeli Naika, Senior Nutritionist from National Food & Nutrition provided timely reminders about nutritional values of locally grown fruits and vegetables and why, now, more than



ever, in the wake of increasing NCD cases, that we advocate for the consumption of organic fruits and vegetables. He went on to provide an overview of nutrition issues in the country and identified opportunities in improving nutrition and national wellness. Complementing Mr Naika's presentation, the Team Leader of Diabetes Fiji, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, enlightened the group on the diabetes crisis facing our country and spoke at length about their challenges in combating this crisis.

Then we heard from LF Alumni Inoke Bainimarama (LF2004) who spoke about the Fiji Cancer Society and the services that it provided for cancer patients and survivors. The day concluded with a site visit to St Giles Hospital, an eye-opening trip that allowed a renewed appreciation of mental health care, the services provided and current facilities. *Ends*



### Tour of the North

The inaugural Leadership Fiji Northern tour was one marked for excitement and adventure from the start, by both the organizing executives and the LF 2017 participants, especially those who were making their way to the Northern division for the first time.

Despite a few hiccups, as anticipated with a trip of such nature, undertaken by close to 40 diverse individuals, Day 1 was a success with regards to what has become an eye-opening experience for most of us. The 4 hour boat ride on the Spirit of Harmony isn't one for the faint-hearted but it proved memorable with such a big group and no short of entertainment.

We toured Bua on our way to Naulumatua House, making a few stops on the way, with LF Alumni of 2003, Laisa Bale providing narrations of economy and opportunities in

*cont...*



areas and locations she was versed with, having operated her business in the North over recent years and having grown up in the region herself. At Naulumatua House, we were given an overview of the Bua province and briefed on the plans of escalating the province into a new dimension of development – a holistic and sustainable developed province. Bua province has a population of 16,863 with a land area 137,858.99 hectares. The major economic drivers in this area are agriculture, fisheries, forest, Gravel aggregates, mining, livestock pearl, aqua culture, pine chips and tourism. The plans for Bua province's development includes upgrading road connectivity, telecommunication access, upgrade water status, electricity upgrades which includes additional generators as an interim measure, Nabouwalu new town development project is expected to complete by 2019.



Then onto Cacao Fiji Farm, located at Dreketi, in the Macuata Province, founded in 2014, and is run by our very own LF2017 participant, Arif Khan. Mr. Khan took us through the whole process of cocoa farming from the planting, harvesting, fermentation, drying and the quality control checks. He also shared with us the opportunities and challenges of running such a business. Mr. Khan returned to Fiji in 2013 with the aim of giving back to the nation. This was very evident when we saw how he has revived the dying sector and kept the locals employed while contributing positively to their lives.

Day 2 started with a trip to the J Hunter Pearls. Here we got an opportunity to learn about the history of pearl farming in Fiji and Justin Hunter's own journey in creating a successful commercial pearl farm in Fiji that produces the world's rarest pearls coveted by pearl connoisseurs around the world for their distinctive earthy colors. Here we also learnt about the pearl culturing process and how Justin Hunter has adapted pearling to suit the Fiji environment through his partnership with the local community. We were also showed pictures of pearl oysters at different stages of growth, suspended on 200-meter-long lines that run 3 to 5 meters below the ocean's surface. The major challenge discussed with LF2017 was the lack of



technical expertise and natural disasters.

Then onto Kula Palm Fiji – Kuladrusi, the Simpson's Estate located just outside Savusavu town. We learnt how the Simpson's started off with a shipping business, moving on to Copra production in the late 1800's and early 1900's and currently diversified into other productions off their land. The family is now involved in exports for charcoal, Kura (Noni) and other herbal soap under the brand Kula Palms. He and his wife also make and sell local fruit pickles/jams and coconut oils. The major reason for the transition from copra farming to soap production is mainly due to the low price of Copra and high labor costs and manual efforts to keep afloat that industry. Mr. Simpson briefly took us through his workhouse on the property showing the quick and simple procedure of manufacturing his soaps and oils. All his raw materials are available from his own farm. The quaint chapel on their estate hill was a special sight with some of us stepping in to take a quiet moment on our own.

Vunidogoloa Settlement is a model-town for climate displacement. The settlement is made up of 32 houses and around 154 villagers. Here we had the privilege to meet up with Ratu Sailosi who is the head of the Village. Vuniadogoloa was the first village to be relocated about 4 years ago, because of climate change and sea level rise. Ratu shared with us the advantages and disadvantages of the relocation and also his aspirations of talking to world leaders in Bonn for COP23.



Next stop – Nayarabale right in the interior of the Western side of Natewa Bay. The Nayarabale farmers mainly consist of the youths of the village who with the guidance of their elders have a very strict work program that has delivered them a successful year 2016-2017. Besides their very lucrative yaqona plantations, Nayarabale youth have diversified into dalo and yam farming as well as sandalwood. The program started with only 300 to 400 yaqona plants and 11 years later, produced up to 5,000 plants last year alone, raking in an income of \$300,000 last year and \$200,000 YTD in 2017. It was impressive to note that each villager that participates in the maintenance and harvesting of the crops get paid, right down to the children when they are on school break. The group leader shared that their success was only possible through good leadership, hard work, dedication and discipline.

The Commissioner North hosted our last stop in his Labasa office. Here we learnt about their Vision which is – "A better, prosperous, and sustainable Northern division for all". One of their purpose is to grow the economy within the Northern division and improve living standards. We were also taken through their plans on the Public Sector Investment Program and the Town and country planning which included the Nabouwalu new town and Seqaqa New Town, Moreover, there is also a lot of focus on housing and income generation projects. Department of Energy is also running some energy projects and the education sector has plans for the upgrade and ddevelopment of Early Childhood Education, Primary and High Schools. The other projects include Higher Education, Water Projects, Roads Upgrades, Agriculture, Youth and Sports. We also heard of their 5-year development plan for the whole of Vanua Levu. *Ends*



## Fiji and the World



This session was thoroughly invigorating and educational for most of us who were new to discussing Fiji's relationship and engagement with the rest of the world. Dr. Wesley Morgan of USP was the first to speak to us about Foreign Policy Developments, Challenges and Prospects. Then we heard from Fiji's Roving High Commissioner, Her Excellency Litia G. Mawi who

detailed Foreign Relations in the Pacific, Development Policies and future prospects. There was a follow up discussion about the Pacific islands Development Forum (PIDF) and its functions with regard to Fiji's positioning on a regional scale.

We enjoyed taking a closer look at Fiji's relationship with New Zealand through the presentation of His Excellency, Mr. Mark Ramsden, New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji followed by a riveting session of questions and answers. Much was also learned through the perspectives of the United Nations regarding Fiji and foreign affairs, discussed by Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, Country Director, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and Head of Regional Programme and Policy Support. He provided an overview of key UN functions in Fiji and highlighted current programmes and activities in Fiji and the Pacific region. *Ends*

## Etiquette Dinner *By Tamara Smith*

The purpose of this event as a program session is to introduce participants to the finer details and etiquette of fine dining, including cocktail networking and business dinners. This year the group was fortunate to have Amerika Grewal a Social Media Specialist and Consultant, in attendance, who generously offered her expertise in the area of fine dining etiquette and business cocktail networking, to provide participants and their partners with some valuable takeaways that will be useful in their professional and personal Leadership journeys. The group and their guests enjoyed a 3 course meal with white and red wine, while engaging in discussions on the topic. *Ends*



## Sugar and Mining

The objectives of this session were for LF2017 to gain an understanding of the Sugar and Mining Industries, discuss challenges faced by workers and employers and look into plans undertaken to tackle these challenges. We also visited some of the key institutions within these industries as well as other stakeholders.

Our first presentation was by the CEO of the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), Mr. Graham and he spoke about plans to revitalize the sugar industry, identifying new approaches to sugar cane farming, attracting young, educated farmers.

Michael Parker from the European Union Accompanying Measures for the Sugar Protocol Programme, Coordination Unit provided an interesting perspective with regards to tracking the success of the Industry and its management over the years. Mr Parker spoke about methodologies of sugar cane farming, the roles that they have played in Fiji's sugar cane industry. This equipped us with key knowledge that became handy as we visited the FSC Lautoka Mill. We were able to understand the workings of a Sugar Cane Mill with regards to supply and demand, seasonal functions and operations.

Our first site visit for the trip was to Koroipita (Peter's village). Koroipita is home to over 1,000 people living in comfortable 2-roomed homes with amenities, located near Lautoka. Conceived, developed and maintained by Peter Drysdale and his loyal crew, including residents, and many overseas volunteers, Koroipita is a life giving community and an outstanding model of how a good quality of life can be provided for such large numbers of under-privileged people. This visit gave us an appreciation of the work that one man was doing to improve the livelihoods of an entire community.



Then we visited the Vatukoula Gold Mine where we were provided an overview of gold mining, the difficulties faced by the Industry and what it was doing to up its game in this sector. We also visited the Tavua Town Council where we learnt a great deal about what the Council was doing to support economic growth in the town. *Ends*

## Participants Choice

Minister for Economy, Honorable Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum provided the group with an overview of Fiji's economy. In his presentation, he was able to provide the group with an understanding of why it was important to have a broader based economy. He emphasized how this platform would allow Fiji's GDP to take care of national debts which the country has to incur in order to upgrade its assets. rs. Viniana Namosimalua, Secretary General to Parliament, spoke on the workings of Parliament and also provided the group with her personal experience as a leader.

Then followed a Panel Discussion comprising political party leaders. We had Mr. Mahendra Chaudhry, Professor Biman Prasad, Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka and Ms. Lynda Tabuya on the panel (Fiji First Party were not able to attend). Each of the leaders spoke of the policies that their parties were taking into the 2018 General Elections. *Ends*



Photo courtesy: Getty images

## Closing Retreat: Effective Leadership

By Tamara Smith

Once again, the venue for the Closing retreat for LF 2017, was different from the usual, as the group ventured out to the Mamanuca's to Plantation Island Resort, thanks to the kind consideration and support of their management team.

The group were fortunate to have as their resident speaker for the weekend, Dr. Wame Baravilala, prominent Fijian Doctor and Leader in his field locally and in the region. Dr. Baravilala shared lessons on leadership and tied these in to the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles in order to be effective leaders.

Mr. William Parkinson, Chairman of the LF board also facilitated and shared concepts of Adaptive Leadership in a newly introduced session of the Closing Retreat program, while the rest of the retreat was focused on participants individual reflections, and revisiting their WHY's, in the context of moving forward in their Leadership Journeys.

As usual, the evening activities were full of drama, fun and hysterics, as the group made the most of their final overnight stay together for 2017! Friendly rivalry between two groups saw a dancing competition, a chanting completion and a very unusual competition including orange balls. What a way to end the year!

The Closing Retreat was also useful for the group to plot their way forward into their fellowship projects for 2018, and we wish them all the very best with their plans. *Ends*



## Graduation

By Tamara Smith

LF 2017 was very fortunate this year to have His Excellency the President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote in attendance as our esteemed Chief Guest for the biggest graduation event ever to be hosted by Leadership Fiji.

His Excellency the President reminded the graduates about the importance of Leadership in Action to continue the legacy left by the 15 previous years of LF groups. He also asked them to keep in mind the Leadership Fiji values that had been inculcated in them throughout the year, and to use these values as a guide in all their decisions and actions in both their personal and professional Leadership journeys.

The graduation event was an emotional one for the 33 graduates, who provided for the audience a video showing the highlights of their year including some their trials, triumphs, charity, fun and reflective times.

Their elected Leader of the group Viliame Waqailivi, BSP Life's Training Manager presented a riveting speech in which he thanked, on behalf of the group all the people they thought had contributed in one way or the other to the success of LF 2017.

The night was filled with a sense of achievement, with good food and drinks, and culminated in dancing and merry-making befitting a well-deserved celebration. *ENDS*



The LF2016 Graduates presented an impressive account of community projects completed in line with their group vision: "By 2036, Fiji will be transparent and accountable, with equality and justice for all. Our people will enjoy innovative education, health, and infrastructure systems that will drive economic growth in a sustainable environment." A selection of the group will be inducted as LF Fellows in 2018.



Community projects listed overleaf. Above photos taken at the LF2016 Group Vision Presentation at the Reserve Bank of Fiji, Suva.

**Community Projects :**

- Homes of Hope – outdoor shelter for new school, picture library for 3-5 years age group and donation of toddler mattresses
- Go Fiji Go Book – assistance with information and photos and the supply to selected schools in Fiji
- Sago Palms – support for Sago plantation awareness, maintenance and financial literacy awareness for various villages



**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](mailto:tamara@leadershipfiji.org.fj)*

**Rosie Batty Event Series On Family Violence : Creating A Movement Of Change**



In November, this year, Leadership Fiji (LF) embarked on its first annual signature event in partnership with the Luke Batty Foundation of Australia, to bring 2015 Australian of the Year, Ms Rosie Batty to Fiji and collaborate on a campaign against Family Violence. Dubbed with Hastag #move2change the series of events saw LF, through the very capable assistance of Bold Alliance, cover three major events over the cause of a week.

The Public Symposium, moderated by Virisila Buadromo LF2002, included the Acting Director of Women - Selai Korovusere, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Executive Director - Shamima Ali, Fiji Women's Rights Movement Executive Director – Nalini Singh and Rosie Batty, herself an advocate on family violence in Australia following the tragic murder of her son, Luke by his own father. This Symposium attracted over 150 people in attendance.

The Symposium explored the realities of violence against women and children in Fiji and discussed strategies underway to eliminate and address some of its root causes. The speakers and

discussions highlighted some of the issues that lead to violence experienced by women and children as well as discussed some of the strategies that they are implementing to combat and eliminate the prevalent culture of violence in Fiji. It is hoped that these catalytic conversations had inspired members of the public to commit to support a national movement of non-violence.

The Fundraising Gala Dinner saw 200 dinner guests enjoy an evening of good company, food, drinks, raffles and auctions, with entertainment provided by popular Suva Band Inside Out. The evening which was hosted by Master of Ceremonies, Dave Lavaki (LF2009) and Amelia Rigsby (LF2010) raised just over \$4,000 which will go towards various works in the elimination of family violence.

The week ended with the LF Alumni (LFA) Summit at the Warwick Hotel with LFA members in discussions and working with Rosie Batty, in an effort to re-energize and motivate a consistent movement of change within the LFA in raising awareness on the issue of Family Violence and for their own personal causes.

Those present at the LFA Summit were inspired and now have a heightened awareness of the issue, understanding that family violence or domestic violence is not only about physical abuse, it stretches beyond to even psychological and financial abuse, whatever it is, it is violence and it is "NOT OK". The LFA members committed to creating a movement of change on the issue, within their workplaces, homes and communities and we look forward to seeing these outcomes.

*Continued..*



LF wishes to express its sincere gratitude to members of the public and organisations who attended the Public Symposium and Fundraising Gala Dinner; corporate organisations who bought tables for the Fundraising Gala Dinner and sent their staff who are LFA members to the LFA Summit; and in particular the major event partners – The Fiji Government's Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, the Australian Government, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC), and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM). Also generously aided by Communications Fiji Ltd, The Fiji Times Ltd, Fiji Television Ltd, Fiji Water, Pacific Destinations and hosts Grand Pacific Hotel and the Warwick Fiji Resort. *ENDS*



### Alumni At Work

It's great to see LF Alumni making an impact and contributing to the development of our colleagues in the Pacific region, including the strengthening of institutions. Avaneesh Raman, graduate of the LF2012 program and a board member and director LF spent two weeks respectively in the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Cook Islands doing just that.

Mr. Raman who is currently the Manager Intelligence Management at the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit was part of a Technical Assistance (TA) Mission funded by UNDP to "Strengthen the Intelligence Management Framework for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Financial Intelligence Unit. This mission was carried out from the 10th -21st April 2017.

Mr. Raman is an experienced intel specialist and a qualified FIU/ law enforcement assessor with the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. He is recognized as an AML/CFT practitioner with more than 9 years of experience in the field.

Mr. Raman was recently engaged in the onsite visit for the mutual evaluation of the Cook Islands which was conducted from 20 – 30 November 2017 in Rarotonga. This mutual evaluation assesses both technical compliance with



*Mr Raman (centre of back row, in grey jacket) delivers a training on AML/CFT reporting requirements*

the FATF international standards and also the effectiveness of the Cook Islands' implementation of AML/CFT measures, as required under the 2013 FATF assessment methodology. *ENDS*

### Helping ignite women's rugby



Lailanie Burnes LF2009 started playing rugby in high school in Australia before moving onto Club and Representative Rugby. After being offered a job opportunity to work in Fiji, she returned to Fiji in 2008 where she identified a void in women's rugby and founded the Nadi Blazers Women's Rugby Club. They operate under the Nadi Rugby Union which is also the provincial team representing the western region.

In 2014, Lailanie and her sister were selected into the national Fijiana 7s team and were the first siblings to make it into the team together. After that she pursued her MBA and in 2016, was selected to Captain the Fijiana XV's team which won

the first ever title in Fiji women's history at the Oceania Rugby Women's Champions defeating Papua New Guinea 37-10, before going onto the Asia Qualifiers in December 2016 playing against Hong Kong and Japan.

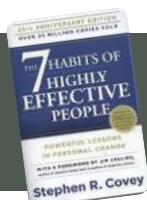
At Club level both Lailanie and her coaching and management team at the Nadi Blazers continue to develop players both on and off the field and have seen 12 players don national jerseys in both the 7s and 15s codes. The Club itself is a regular on the women's rugby circuit here in Fiji competing in all major 7s and 15s tournaments and completions and has travelled internationally to New Caledonia, Australia and Samoa. *ENDS*

### LF2017 on "Successful Fijians"

Tanuj Patel and Arif Khan, LF2017 participants featured in FBC's Successful Fijian and Fiji Times news on Bayshore Real Estates expansion plans, respectively. Tanuj is owner of Phoenix Foods Limited trading as Eagle Boys Pizza and Arif Khan is Director Bayshore Real Estate and Founder of Cacao Fiji. *ENDS*



### Recommended Read



A top selection in the Harvard Business Review:

Stephen R. Covey, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. Covey's book represents the best in self-help. His advice — about prioritization, empathy, self-renewal, and other topics — is both insightful and practical. Seven Habits can be useful to the personal and professional development of anyone charting a career in business.



## NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI



### Computer Donations

The LFA Executives handed over computers that were sent over from Australia by LF2013 Linesh Kumar to some not-for-profit organisations. LFA President, Tupou Halofaki LF2009 and Treasurer Anabel Ali LF2012 handed over computers to Savusavu Special School executive, Vineeta Prasad (Left). Also present was LF2017 participant Artika Padarath



### LFA Women in Leadership Training



Leadership Fiji Alumni were fairly represented at the Asian Development Bank Private Sector Development Initiative Women in Leadership Training that was organized by the South Pacific Stock Exchange to encourage more women to serve on company boards. Pictured (L-R) Tamara Smith LF2013 Principal Bold Alliance (Consultancy) & LF Executive Officer; Thelma Savua LF2003 Communications Fiji Limited Director; Atelina Muavono LF2010 BSP Life's Chief Operating Officer; Sufi Dean Communications Fiji Limited Director & LF Director; Sharyne Fong LF2005 BSP's Head of Paramount Banking & LF Executive Director (Volunteer) and Nancy Loaloa LF2009 Solicitor Toganivalu Valenitabua Barristers & Solicitors & LF Director

### Timely assistance for Pearce Home

LFA hand over a Dell Computer to executives of Pearce Home, Suva to assist with their admin work.



### LF Alumni in Solidarity with LF2017

Leadership Fiji Alumni members supported LF2017 with their Vision Presentation preparation, conducted at the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

### Networking while catching up

Some LFA caught up at the Fiji Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Networking Cocktail held at the GPH in September. (L-R) Ritesh Singh LF2002, Sharyne Fong LF2005, Thelma Savua LF2003 and Aisake Mausio LF2009.



LFA members are encouraged to become members of the AICD to tap into the vast range of learning and development material plus get to network with other like-minded professionals, and who knows you may get an opportunity to serve on a company board. Where practical and if you're available, you're encouraged attend the AICD Fiji Directors Course scheduled for February 2018 in Nadi or keep an eye out for the Suva session which will be held later in 2018.



### Helping children with disabilities

LFA Anabel Ali LF2012 spends time with children of the School of the Blind. LFA members who are interested to be part of this weekly reading and colouring session with the children of the School may contact Anabel.

### Donation from Alumni towards ending family violence

The LFA donated \$4,000 to Leadership Fiji to assist with the Family Violence series of events held in November. President of the Leadership Fiji Alumni (LFA), Ms Tupou Halofaki, presented a cheque of four thousand dollars (\$4k) to Leadership Fiji (LF) in the presence of LF executives and members of the Alumni.



Ms Halofaki in her donation said, "Part of our Alumni mission is to build relationships characterized by respect, trust, integrity and understanding with members of our Alumni and our communities. We are happy to be joining the partners of this event in the works towards raising awareness around family violence and helping create a movement of change." She added, "Members of the LF Alumni understand first-hand how impactful the LF program is, and we are always grateful for the value that our experience in the program has provided in our development. As such, we had no hesitation in giving back to the program with our donation towards this inaugural signature event."

**Gifts for homes – an article from the Fiji Times, by Avneel Chand, Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Homes of Hope is grateful to Leadership Fiji's class of 2017 for their gift of five computers to the organisation. Leadership Fiji 2017 participants gathered to give five computers to the Homes of Hope as part of their final project for the year.

Leadership Fiji 2017 president Viliame Waqalaivi thanked Homes of Hope for allowing Leadership Fiji to help them achieve their vision. "Thank you Homes of Hope for opening your doors and having us this morning. I just wanted to say that Leadership Fiji is happy to be associated with you," Mr Waqalaivi said.

"One of the main objectives of Leadership Fiji 2017 as per our vision is to ensure that we make people's lives better."

A look back on the year that was 2017...



## Sponsorship Acknowledgement



The Fiji Times



aliz pacific Bondwell



You are receiving our bi-annual newsletter as you are on Leadership Fiji's contacts database. Through this medium, you will also receive event notifications, invites and news on national interest. We thank you for your continued support. You can opt out of receiving our newsletters, by emailing [tamara@leadershipfiji.org.fj](mailto:tamara@leadershipfiji.org.fj) with the subject "unsubscribe".