

NATIONAL TRUST OF FIJI ISLANDS

Our heritage in trust

August Issue, 2009

Bula and Welcome to our first newsletter for 2009

The National Trust of Fiji has performed exceptionally well so far in 2009, building on our successes of previous years. In 2008 launched its Strategic Plan, conducting school visits, eco workshops and eco camps with students, and working closely with our partners and associates.

There have been a few changes in our staff. Here is just a brief introduction to who is new and who has new responsibilities within the organisation.

- Elizabeth Erasito (Director) has been appointed the new Executive Officer for IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), currently chairs Fiji's Protected Areas committee which is responsible for implementing the Programme of Works for Protected Areas (PoWPA), she is the Deputy Vice-Chair for Pacific World Commission on Protected Area (WCPA) and is a member of the Fiji CITIES Management Authority.
- Avisaki Ravuvu is the Supporting Services Manager (SSM) her role is to coordinate and support the work of the project officers.
- Kasaqa Tora (Protected Area Project Officer)
- Teresia Malaucake (Assistant Marketing Officer)
- Elizabeth Niumataiwalu (Information/Communication Officer)
- Jason Tutani (Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park Manager)
- Josefa Ravuso (NZ AID Projects Officer – Waisali Rainforest Reserve, Koroyanitu Heritage Park and Bouma National Heritage Park)
- Milika Ratu (NZ AID Project Assistant)
- Jone Niukula (Project Officer for Yadua Taba, Momi Gun Battery, Garrick Forest Reserve)
- Jasmin Fraizha (Accounts Clerk)



NTF staff during 2008 Wasawasa Festival

National Trust of Fiji's mission is to consolidate, enhance and reinforce the role of the National Trust of Fiji in the conservation, protection, sustainable management and research of Fiji's natural and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the peoples of Fiji, the Pacific Islands and the World

Site Updates

Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park was the site of an Eco-Workshop for primary school students during the first week of school break early in May of this year. The students had an exciting and educational three days discovering the dunes and learning about the plants, birds and the ecology of the dunes. Following from the success of the first workshop a second and third Eco-Workshop are scheduled for late August, during the second term school break.



Students enjoying some of the activities during the Sigatoka Sand Dunes Eco-Workshop in May 2009

The National Trust is grateful to the British High Commission for their sponsorship of the Eco-Workshops.

Koroyanitu National Heritage Park also staged its first Eco-camp during the second week of the term one school break. Sixty-three students from six villages participated in the Eco-camp.



Heritage group during the Koroyanitu Eco-camp in May 2009

The children had a wonderful time sharing, discussing ideas, and most importantly learning about their environment.

In July, the village of Abaca and Navilawa had the privilege of witnessing the fruits of

their labour when honey was harvested from their bee farm.

The **Levuka Community Centre** staged the first round of their school outreach program for 2009 on the north side of Ovalau, targeting three primary schools. Saturdays at the Library is an on going programme where different activities are organized for members and non-members, the response has been very good.

We thank Vodafone ATH for funding library books and equipments for the Levuka Community Centre library which has made this program possible.



Students at the Levuka Library

The Waisali Rainforest Reserve near Savusavu has been receiving a lot of visitors this year, especially with the arrival of several cruise liners to the area. The popularity of the site has led us to build another toilet facility to cater for visitor increase.

To raise awareness of the National Trust and of the Waisali Rainforest Reserve a School Outreach program for the Cakaudrove District in Vanua Levu took place in June - five schools were visited.



Track patrol by the Waisali rangers



Students of Qalitu Primary School during the Cakaudrove School Outreach program in June 2009



Students and villagers saying good bye to a tagged turtle at Yadua

Denimanu villagers on **Yadua Island** experienced their first ever turtle flipper tagging exercise carried out by

WWF and assisted by the National Trust. Other future activities planned for Yadua include vegetation mapping, building of a site office for the Yadua Taba Island ranger, reforestation exercise training and the continued species awareness program for the community.

Garrick Rainforest Reserve is one of the organisation's least known sites due to its restricted visitor access. Aside from six monthly boundary clearing and the occasional site visit by staff and researchers, the Garrick is mostly unvisited. The nature of the forest reserve has made it an ideal place for the planting of two endangered palms, the Fiji Sago Palm *Metroxylon vitiense* and the Navua Palm *Heterospathe phillipsi*. This effort is a partnership between the National Trust of Fiji and Nature Fiji.

The senior ranger of **Momi Gun Battery** has been busy assisting in some field work in Koroyanitu Heritage Park. He also participated in a Heritage Management Workshop held in Levuka in June.

Our **Marketing and Information sections** have begun their work in advertising our cultural and natural sites to the public, hotels, resorts, restaurants and tour companies as we continue to find that many are completely unaware of the rich aesthetic and recreational values of our sites.

Fiji Hosts Global Experts on Island Wildlife

The National Trust of Fiji and University of the South Pacific teamed up with the world-renowned Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to deliver a 10-day course on Island Species-led Action (ISLA) here in Fiji.

Twenty two people from eight Pacific nations participated in the course from the 6th to 15th of July. Since its launch on the British Channel Island of Jersey, where Durrell is based, the ISLA course has been run in some of the most biologically important island groups in the world including the Seychelles, Mauritius, St. Lucia, Galapagos, Guam and now Fiji.

Four National Trust staff participated in this course; they were Jason Tutani, Milika Ratu, Pita Biciloa, and Jone Niukula.



Participants at the ISLA course

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and don't forget there is more information about us and our project sites on our website.....www.nationaltrust.org.fj

Fiji's natural and cultural heritage is valued and protected for future generations.

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