



## DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE & ARTS

# THE NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1 : August - October 2019/2020

*B*ula Vinaka.

Welcome to another edition of the Department of Heritage & Arts Newsletter. This edition highlights some important events and milestone achievements listed below:

- ◆ Fiji – China Cultural Exchange Program Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region
- ◆ Fiji's Intangible Cultural Heritage on the International Arena
- ◆ Fiji's Obligation on the Asia-Pacific Region & Intangible Cultural Heritage
- ◆ Implementing of the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention at the National Level
- ◆ Rabi & Kioa Community Awareness & Inventorying
- ◆ Intangible Cultural Heritage & Education
- ◆ Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- ◆ Intangible Cultural Heritage and Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals 1 & 2
- ◆ Monitoring & Evaluation of the Multi-Cultural Centers
- ◆ Ministry of Tourism and Department of Heritage Partner to Rejuvenate Heritage Tourism in Ovalau

The Department continues to focus on its major role in spearheading the coordination of the culture sector in Fiji by aligning its activities relevant to the UNESCO Conventions, Regional Cultural Strategies, 5 - 20 Years Fiji National Development Goals, Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and other relevant national and international laws.

Thank You.  
*Collin S Yabaki*



# Fiji - China Cultural Exchange Program : Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region



The Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts, Hon. Rosy Akbar and the Vice Governor of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region Mr. Yang Peijun

The delegation from the Fijian Government led by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts travelled to Ningxia province to honour a bilateral cultural exchange program. The delegation includes representatives from the Department of Heritage, Curriculum Advisory Service of the Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts and artists from the Fiji Arts Council.

The Department had sincerely thanked the Fiji China Cultural Centre (FCCC) and the Chinese Embassy for organising the 10 days trip. It had enabled the Team to visit various Tourist sites and Museums which was of great learning experience to them thus these experiences will benefit the Department and the Culture Sector as a whole. According to the Team, the Ningxia province rendered them an excellent host which they would cherish throughout their lives.



Rock Paintings Museum in Helan Mountains



Helan Mountains

## Tour Site Visits

### 14th August, 2019

- Ningxia Museum
- Ningxia Grand Theatre
- Yinchuan Intangible Cultural Heritage Project
- Yinchuan Green Park

### 15th August

- Rock Paintings in Helan Mountains
- Zhenbeibu West Film Studio
- Ningxia Chateau Zhihui Yuanshi

### 16th August

- Shapoo in Zhingwei City
- Shuidonggou Scenic Spot
- Qin Opera Theatre of Ningxia

### 17th August

- Chateau Changyu Moser XV
- Imperial Mausoleum of Western Xia
- Qingtongxia Yellow River Tower
- Yellow River Grand Valley

### 18th August

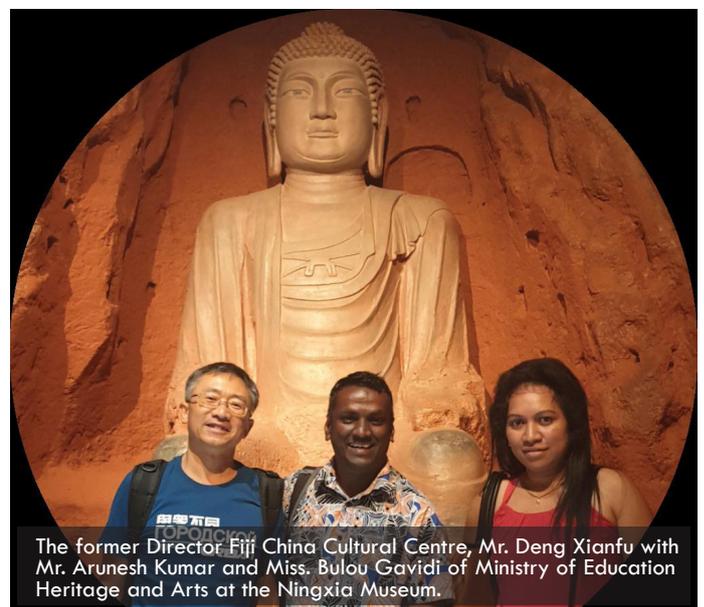
- Yanchi County - Haba Lake
- Huamachi Great Wall



A modern Monument reflecting the Great Wall of China at the Yinchuan Intangible Cultural Heritage Project



The Fijian Delegation to Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region during the Fiji-China Cultural Program



The former Director Fiji China Cultural Centre, Mr. Deng Xianfu with Mr. Arunesh Kumar and Miss. Bulou Gavidi of Ministry of Education Heritage and Arts at the Ningxia Museum.

# 7th International Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival



The 7th International Cultural Heritage festival conducted in Chengdu, China

The Department of Heritage & Arts in collaboration with the China Cultural Centre sent a delegation from Fiji to the 7th International Cultural Heritage festival held in Chengdu on 22nd of October, 2019. The Conservatorium of Music (Kabu Ni Vanua) performed traditional meke reflecting the theme of “Cultural Inheritance and Happy Life”. This festival consisted of one main event and 28 themed parallel events. The Chengdu International Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival was established in 2007 and is held every two years in Chengdu, China.

It is an international cultural activity aimed at promoting the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity and promoting mutual learning and exchange of implementation practices among the parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is also an international platform for friendly dialogue between Chinese civilization and civilizations around the world. To date, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival has been successfully held for 7 sessions, with more than 2,500 events, more than 8,000 intangible cultural heritage projects and more than 500 performance teams.

More than 4,000 delegates from various countries and non-governmental organizations and more than 40,000 domestic representatives attended the meeting. It has become an important festival widely recognized and actively participated by the international community. The six-day festival attracted nearly 10 million visitors. It was a great opportunity to showcase Fiji’s intangible cultural heritage on a world platform.



The Conservatorium of Music (Kabu Ni Vanua) performing at the 7th International Cultural Heritage festival held in Chengdu, China



The New Zealand Artists performing at the 7th International Cultural Heritage festival held in Chengdu, China

# Fiji's Obligation on Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Asia-Pacific Region



The Department of Heritage & Arts representing the culture sector of the Fijian Government, also attended and facilitated the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO which embarked on a Review Capacity Building Workshop from the 16th-19th of October, 2019. The purpose of the Workshop was to analyze the short and long term outcomes of the capacity building activities for the implementation of the 2003 Convention conducted by CRIHAP from 2012 to 2018 in the Asia-Pacific Region. At the same time it was to identify capacity building needs and possible activities to ensure the continuity of capacity building in beneficiary countries. Fiji's representative to the workshop was not only representing the country but also the voice of the South Pacific.

At this CRIHAP workshop, it was stressed that even though regional workshops was of benefit to State Parties there was a need for Fiji and the South Pacific Region to have national workshops conducted by the UNESCO Category Two Centre. National Capacity Building on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Media; Intangible Cultural Heritage and Gender Equality; Intangible Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Education were some of the major themes raised during the workshop which could be considered by CRIHAP as themes for the proposed workshops at national level so that State Parties can effectively implement the 2003 ICH Convention at country level.

# National Implementation Programs- 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention

## Multi-Cultural Centres Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements Capacity Building & Awareness



In the promotion of relevant cultural conventions, we share some highlights from the endless activities that reflects the adoption of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage signifies the widespread recognition of the importance of safeguarding the living practices, expressions, skills and knowledge that communities cherish and recognize as their cultural heritage, which must be achieved with the active and full involvement of these communities themselves.



In the spirit of the 2003 Convention – the Department of Heritage & Arts is actively engage at the community level in conducting community capacity awareness as well as intangible cultural heritage inventorying which is in-line to the operational directives of the 2003 ICH Convention

The Labasa MCC Administrator attending a meeting with the representative from the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation

## Rabi & Kioa Community Awareness & Inventorying

Further, our team visited Rabi and Kioa the two islands on the outlier of Vanua Levu. Kioa was purchased by settlers from Vaitupu atoll in Tuvalu, who came between 1947 and 1983. Rabi is home to a displaced Banaban community. Both communities have political anomaly. Though part of the Cakaudrove Province, both communities have a degree of autonomy, with its own council controlling local affairs.

The Department of Heritage & Arts team carried out Awareness as well and ICH Inventorying in these two migrant communities. Through the community engagements with these various communities it can be argued that even though ICH is considered the foundations of people's identity and demonstrates the creative human spirit, ICH is in danger.

The Department of Heritage & Arts is undertaking awareness and ICH Inventorying to ensure that these ICH domains do not disappear over time. We are currently working towards the second phase of national consultation on the National Cultural Policy which will ensure the safeguarding of heritage and culture of migrant and minority communities.



The Rabi and Kioa community during the ICH consultation



The Rabi and Kioa community with the representative from the Department of Heritage & Arts



# Intangible Cultural Heritage & Education

Rabi High School students during the ICH Educational Program

In terms of the promotion of heritage and arts in schools, the Department of Heritage & Art of the Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts carried out an awareness program at the islands of Rabi & Kioa through – cultural awareness programmes session in the schools on the islands. As a result of the engagement, we realised the needs of the community and the schools to strengthen cultural learning through transferring of cultural knowledge, skills and values through community revitalizations programs.

This finding is reflected in the Operational Directives of the 2003 ICH Convention which stipulates that State Parties need to ensure that intangible cultural heritage is integrated as fully as possible into the content of educational programmes of all relevant disciplines, both as a contribution in its own right and as a means of explaining or demonstrating other subjects at the curricular; cross-curricular and extra-curricular levels.

The Department of Heritage & Arts notes that schools have allocated certain cultural periods to cover culture during school terms. It was encouraging to hear from the school that these programmes have some correlation between improved behavior and academic results on the island of Rabi due to the incorporation of quality cultural classes in their allocated timetables. The Department of Heritage & Arts is shining more light towards conducting valid research methodologies to address some of the issues at community level which will in turn strengthen policy development at the national level.



Students after the ICH Awareness Program



Teachers in Rabi after the ICH Awareness Program

# Rotuman Community Intangible Cultural Heritage Workshop & 2030 Sustainable Development Goals



In terms of culture contribution to the 2030 Agenda, for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN Member States on 25th September 2015, is an action plan for tackling the most challenging issues of our world today. The hope is that within the next fifteen years, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will encourage universal effort to end all forms of poverty and ensure that no one is left behind.

The Department of Heritage & Arts had formulated strategies in identifying relevant ministries; institutions and non-governmental organizations on how the 2003 Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Convention can be incorporated into various activities that can effectively address the 2030 SDGs. The Department of Heritage & Arts worked alongside the Ministry of Agriculture in carrying out capacity awareness to Rotuman Farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture focused their sessions on best farming practices as well as the services available through their Ministry that can assist the rural farmers.

In relation to the 2003 ICH Convention, it is noted that there is diversity of our ICH with the understanding that there is a sense of longing for sustainable development and community well-being. Traditional and local knowledge have always played a pivotal role in protecting clean water supplies, coral reefs, and rainforests; healing the sick through traditional medicine; and building homes resistance to climate change. The Rotuman Farmers Workshop conducted on the 28th of September, 2019 gave the opportunity for the Department of Heritage & Arts to stress the importance of transmission of local knowledge to the younger generation. The Department of Heritage & Arts has made findings through its Monitoring and Evaluation on the island of Rotuma that there is a deterioration of transmission to the younger generation. The Workshop reached a number of Outcomes which needs to be addresses in this fiscal year.

# Intangible Cultural Heritage and Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals 1 & 2



Teachers and students of Rabi Island with the representatives from the Department of Heritage & the Ministry of Forest.

There have been initiatives from the Department of Heritage & Arts in working and collaborating more closely with relevant ministries to affectively address the SDGs. The Operational Directives of the 2003 ICH Convention clearly stipulates that State Parties to the Convention shall endeavor by all appropriate means, to recognize the importance and strengthen the role of intangible cultural heritage as a driver and guarantee of sustainable development.

On this note on SDG 1 – No Poverty and SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: The Department of Heritage & Arts worked alongside the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the preservation and sustainability of our forests and local hardwoods. Schools within Rabi were delivered seedlings to plant within their school premises aimed towards achieving the Ministry of Forestry output of planting 30million trees by 2030. This was used as the opportunity to stress to students the importance of preservation and environmental sustainability.

Students were reminded of the delicate balance of human activity and the need to show respect and preservation towards our natural resources. SDG1 and SDG 2 through heritage and culture – students were reminded with the importance of building local knowledge and practices related to traditional farming, fishing, food gathering, and food preservation and incorporating them into modern practices instead of depending on imported items. In addressing SDG 2 – students were informed of adopting measures to recognize, respect, promote customary rights to their respective land, sea ecosystems and help promote bio-diversity.

# Monitoring & Evaluation of the Multi-Cultural Centers

The Multi-Cultural Centers (MCC) operate through annual grants from the government through an MOA signed between the Chairperson of each center and the Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage & Arts.

Formally known as the Indian Cultural Centers, the Multi-Cultural Centers (MCC) were initially managed by the Indian High Commission and later in 2001 on the formation of the Ministry of Multi Ethnic Affairs saw the alignment of the MCCs to the new Ministry which led to a change of name to MCC. The Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts took over the MCCs on 1st January 2011 as the Multi Ethnic Affairs was disbanded.



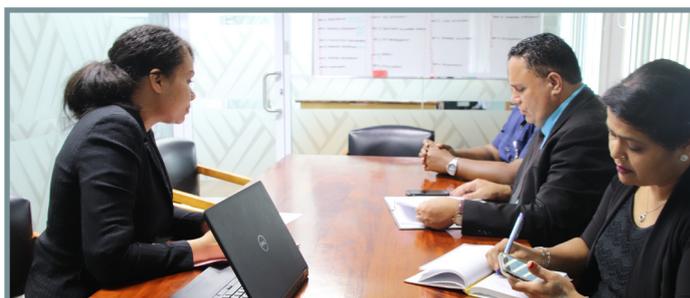
Department of Heritage and Arts representative during the MCC monitoring session

There are five MCCs in total and they are located in Suva, Nausori, Ba, Labasa and Savusavu in operation to date. All MCCs are centrally located and accessible to both tutors and students. The cultural classes are mostly in the afternoon for the week days and the centres also open on Saturdays. The tutors are mainly experienced members of the community.



Students attending Cultural Classes at MCC

The MCCs various cultural programmes are diverse and cater for all ethnic groups. The Department of Heritage & Arts undertook a monitoring and evaluation activity in the 1st quarter of the 2019-2020 fiscal year throughout the five centres. It was also an opportunity to formulate strategies with the MCC Administrators on how they can effectively implement activities to address certain international conventions pertaining to culture and heritage which government has ratified.



Director Heritage & Arts, Mr. Collin Yabaki with staff meeting with stakeholders

# Ministry of Tourism and Department of Heritage Partner to Rejuvenate Heritage Tourism Program in Ovalau

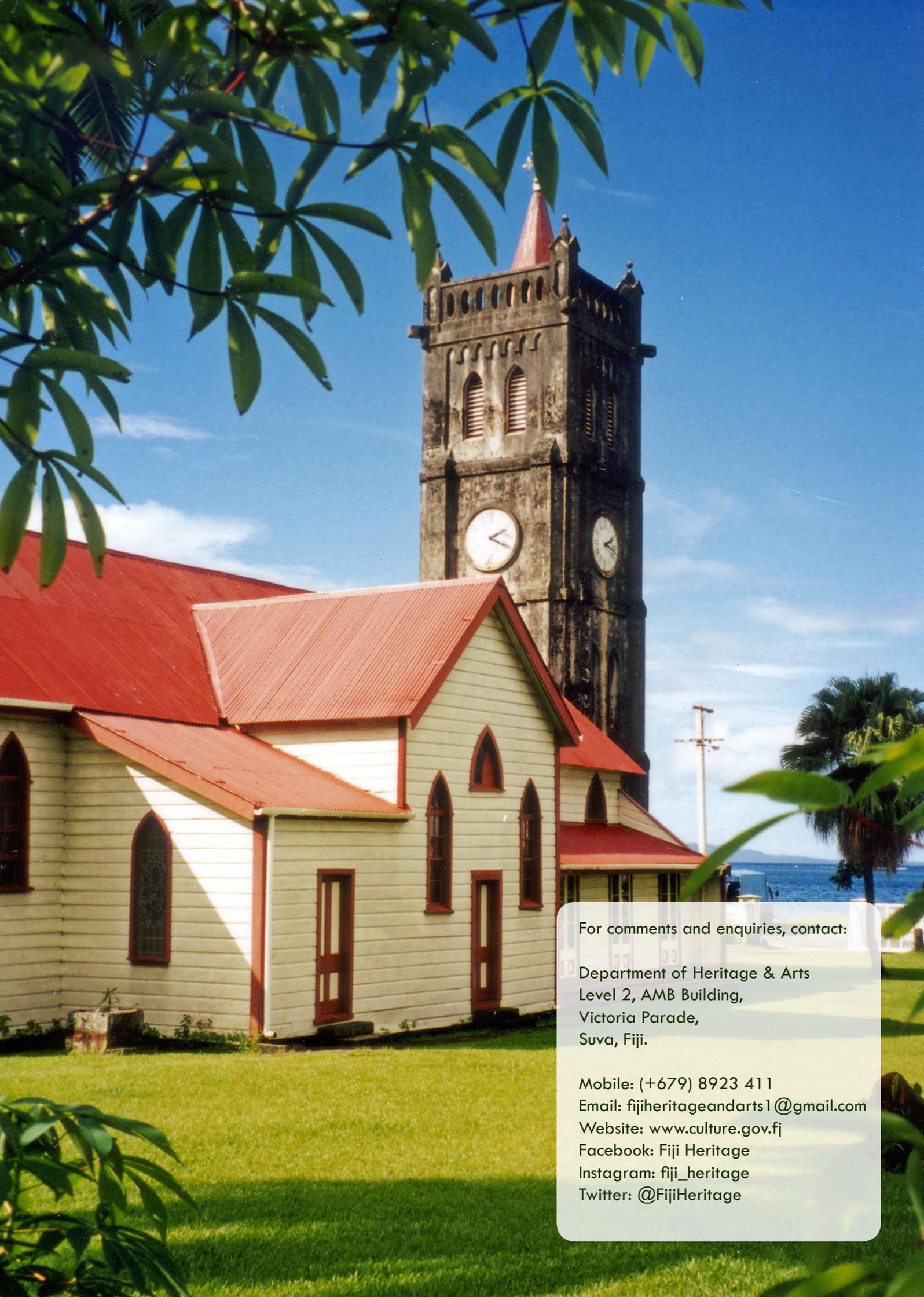


Fiji's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, Port Town of Levuka

Heritage Tourism still remains an under developed sector on the island of Ovalau coupled with the use of the World Heritage status of the Historical Port Town of Levuka. In a long attempt by the Department of Heritage to make a meaning of the World Heritage status in the lives of the local communities. A partnership was established with the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade to realize this potential.

On the 5th-6th of September 2019, officers of the two Departments undertook an awareness and scoping exercise on the island of Ovalau with the partnership of the Provincial Administrator Lomaiviti, the Lomaiviti Provincial Office and the Levuka Town Council. Villages visited by the team were encouraged to consider engaging in heritage tourism so as to provide a source of income for the local villages.

In the second phase of this program, a visit has been scheduled for the 28-29th November for the two Departments to invite a number of tour agents for a Familiarization Tour of Ovalau.



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