



DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE & ARTS

HERITAGE & ARTS NEWSLETTER

BULA VINAKA!

The Department of Heritage & Arts was established to coordinate and safe guard (preservation, protection and promotion) Fiji's rich Cultural Diversity, its multi-faceted art forms, and Unique Heritages that engulf our beautiful shores. It engages in a lot of activities on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, Cultural Pre Assessment Site visit, Promoting Cultural Diversity and Supporting Culture Education in schools.

We also work closely with in line Ministries and the Culture Sector in ensuring the Sustainability of our Cultural Heritage for future generations. Collaboration with International Organizations such as UNESCO, International Committee of the Red Cross; University of the South Pacific, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; Non-Governmental Organizations, and various Government Departments is an area that the Department is heavily involved in. This is to ensure that culture is discussed at the international level, regional level, national level and community level. This newsletter highlights some of the work done by the various units.



Vision

A National Identity that celebrates and promotes Fiji's cultural diversity and unique traditional culture in all its forms.

Mission

The Department in partnership with industry stakeholders will facilitate and lead the cultural development of Fijians by:

- ◆ Coordinating at the national level to direct and guide development in the culture and heritage sector.
- ◆ Developing national policy and overarching legislative framework.
- ◆ Preserving , promoting and developing cultural heritage in its movable, immovable, tangible and intangible forms.
- ◆ Developing and enhancing institutional linkages internally and externally.
- ◆ Developing cultural infrastructure.

In this issue:

- Ovalau Mapping Project
- Hague Convention
- Revitalization ICH School Cultural Programmes
- National Trust Project Assessment



HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER



OVALAU LOCAL HERITAGE SITES MAPPING PROJECT (8th January–8th March 2018)

The Geographical Information System team completed Phase 1 of the Ovalau Local Heritage Sites Mapping Project on the 8th of January to 8th of March 2018. This Mapping exercise is mainly focused on the 26 villages on the Island of Ovalau to collect data on local heritage features including Natural Sites, Cultural Sites and Performing Arts. Mapping exercise involves a Talanoa Session with the villages, communities followed by a site visit to all the Natural and Cultural Sites around the Island of Ovalau. The Department wishes to acknowledge the support of the Vanua of Ovalau and assistance towards achieving this Mapping Project.



NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE HAGUE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS (26th -28th March 2018)

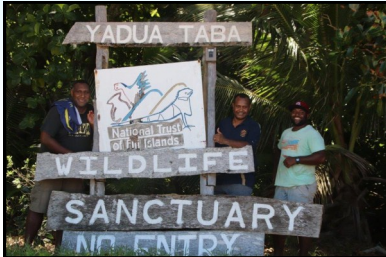
The National Consultation event carried out in Suva at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community from the 26th -28th March 2018. There were two main aims for the National Consultation:

- 1.) To provide information on benefits and obligations of the state parties to the Hague Convention and its Protocols to Fijian Stakeholders.
- 2.) To develop an Action Plan towards Ratification, including actions for Policy improvement and integration of Cultural Property Protection (CPP) into Military training Program.

The 3 days Workshop brought together government officials in charge on the UNESCO Conventions in culture nine Pacific Islands states, the representatives of the Blue Shield and Interim Blue Shield Pacifika (BSP) as well as observers in Fiji.



HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL TRUST CAPITAL PROJECT PRE-ASSESSMENT VISIT TO YADUA TABA CRESTED IGUANA SANCTUARY (13TH–16TH MARCH 2018)

Yadua Taba Island Crested Iguana Sanctuary is the only island in the World where the largest population of Crested Iguana can be observed in the wild. After years of successful co-management between National Trust of Fiji and the Denimanu Community in preserving the islands as a wildlife sanctuary, it deserves to be shared with people of Fiji and the World.



REVITALIZATION OF ICH IN SCHOOL CULTURAL PROGRAMMES (11th April 2018)

Revitalization is a key component of ICH Activities - as such the ICH Unit works in collaboration with in line cultural Ministries to ensure that culture is kept alive at the community level. Schools are such an area - which carry out Cultural Programmes. Culture in Fiji is embedded in the Curriculum - both at Primary Level as well as Secondary Level. Subjects such as Social Science; English; and Vernacular have culture embedded in their Scope of Content. The ICH Unit has managed to carry out consultation visit to six schools in the Central Division. Through these consultations, strengths as well as strategies have been identified in which this schools can further enhance their Cultural Programmes that they carry out once a week in their various institutions.



OVALAU HANDICRAFTS MAPPING FOR 26 VILLAGES ON OVALAU

Noting the need for the creation of an Ovalau Artist Directory, the World Heritage Unit of the Department of Heritage undertook a survey aimed at 26 villages on Ovalau. Phase 1 of this survey was conducted from 8th Jan to 8th March and covered 13 villages. Talanoa session was convened with the womens groups in these villages and an individual profile of every women engaged in handicraft work was collated by the Department. A form was specifically designed by the Department of Heritage that captures data on every women and the various crafts that each women knew how to make. A total of 132 women were recorded in these 13 villages with a wide range of crafts ranging from use of pandanus leaves, coconut leaves and shells, sea hibiscus, bamboo etc. The 2nd Phase of this survey will be conducted from May to June 2018 .



HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER



CONSULTATION WITH DIRECTOR PACIFIC HERITAGE HUB ON NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY (20th April 2018)

The National Cultural Policy is embedded in the National Development Plan and is stipulated to be completed in 2014. Secretariat of the Pacific Community had funded the project and had commissioned Dr. Francis Koya Vakauta to write the policy. DHA along with the Dr Vakauta - are nearing the completion of the document and have held various meetings regarding the Policy. National Consultation is scheduled to take place commencing in the month of August throughout the four Divisions in Fiji. A Task Force Committee is currently being formulated by DHA - made up for 10 individuals who are specialists or have extensive background knowledge in the cultural sector to make up the Task Force. The Policy Unit will look in scheduling various Ministry Departments for consultation after the National Consultation.



TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE HAGUE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

Ratification Process of a United Nations Convention is long and also procedures have to be followed to allow the ratification to take place. As such a Task Force was assigned after the National Consultation on the Hague Convention to take government toward ratifying the Hague Convention and its Protocols. The Task Force is made up of the Armed Force; regional organizations and various government ministries. The Committee has had two meetings and will be meeting often after the submission of the Draft from the National Consultant who is working on the document to be submitted to the Solicitor General's Office. The Task Force is also identifying ways in which they could tap into resources which further build capacity building on the Hague Convention and its Protocols



HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER



CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Culture and Education is an important Unit within the Department. The Unit is responsible for ensuring that culture is captured and mainstreamed to curriculum. The Fijian Curriculum has culture embedded within its key learning areas and it can be seen in subjects such as vernacular and the social sciences. The Education Unit has plans in the near future to carry out monitoring exercises in selected schools as well as hosting a National School Festival of Arts towards the end of the Second Term. The Unit also carries out Workgroup Meetings with teachers regarding the planning and logistical preparation of the School Festival of Arts.



In its mandated area, the Education Unit has had a meeting with the Fijian Teachers Association to develop a resource for Vosa Vaka Viti Years 1-3. The idea behind it is to have readily available resources in Primary Schools specifically for culture which could be used by teachers as supplementary texts.

The Culture and Education Unit is heavily involved in the development of Resource Materials in conjunction with various other Units in the Department. This is to ensure that our Resource Materials reaches a wider scope of audience as well as informing readers of the work that is carried out within the Department; the importance of culture and its sustainability for future generations.



MULTICULTURAL CENTRES

Ba Multicultural Centre celebrated Holi at our Centre on the 8th March 2018. The teachers together with the students learned about the importance of celebrating Holi Celebration, it signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget, forgive and thanksgiving for a good harvest. Light refreshments were also sponsored by the business houses and parents. The parents and well-wishers were very pleased to see our students and teachers perform. This was a very successful programme as the new students were also given a chance to present themselves to the audience which included their parents as well teachers and Council members present.



HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER



CULTURAL GRANT ASSESSMENT

Pre- Site Awareness Visit (Vunatovau Village, Nadroga)

Heritage officials visited Nawau Village Entertainment Committee on 31st January 2018 to follow up on the request to procure Meke costumes and Musical instrument for village youths. Team took time out to discuss with villages on the importance of organizing such activities in the manner traditional skills and knowledge are transmitted to younger generation.



Built Heritage Assessment (Nakasaleka Methodist Church Circuit, Kadavu)

Villages in the Tikina of Nakasaleka Kadavu invited the Department to assess the current status of the old Nakasaleka District Church and seeking assistance for the restoration of structure work Project.



Pre- Site Assessment Visit (Vunatovau Village, Nadroga)

Brief discussion with village headman the need to organize Bure building revitalization Project to assist on their reconstruction of village Bure which was damaged by TC Winston on 21st of February 2016.



HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE AND ARTS

LEVEL 2 AMB, BUILDING

VICTORIA PARADE

SUVA

[679] 3316956 Mobile: 8923411  *Fiji Heritage Page* Website www.culture.gov.fj

