



DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE & ARTS

HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER

Department 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.

Greetings, Bula, Namaste & Noala

The Heritage and Arts newsletter aims to provide readers an opportunity to understand the primary role of the Department of Heritage and Arts.

Department Vision

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

In this issue...

- Arts and Craft events
- International trip
- Regional Workshop
- Training for staff
- Cultural Grants
- Multicultural Centres



UPCOMING EVENTS IN QUARTER 3

NORTHERN CRAFT FAIR - Savusavu	ROTUMA CULTURAL MAPPING	FIJI MUSEUM OPEN DAY
February 2018	April 2018	Every 3 months



Above: Students performing
Bellow: Main stage

SUVA PRIMARY SCHOOLS ART FESTIVAL

The Festival aimed to, first, enable students to learn and understand their own culture and also to appreciate other cultures, and second, to showcase their talents and gifts through cultural dances/meke and craft live demonstrations. The traditional welcome



ceremony for the Chief Guest, former PSEHA Mr Tiko, was presented by the Year 7 and 8 students of Delainamasi Government school. The students did a marvelous job and we commend them for their magnificent presentation. Over 2000 students from 26 primary schools in the Central Division came together to celebrate the occasion.

CULTURAL OFFICIALS AND ARTISTS VISIT CHINA



Fiji sent a six-member delegation for a 10-day tour to China's Northern Henan Province in October 2017. Fiji – China, Cultural Exchange Programme aimed to enhance understanding and encourage a friendly relationship between China and Fiji. The highlight of the entire programme was the "Memorandum of Understanding" between Zhengzhou Public Library and Library Services of Fiji, for the establishment of the China Corner at Nasese Public Library.



This Cultural Exchange was introduced to allow Fiji to learn from China, in terms of Culture, language and Heritage preservation. The scenic tours taught us the value of preserving the past. It was amazing to see how the Chinese value their history, which is centuries old.

Top left: Shaolin Temple

Left: Zhengzhou Art Gallery and Exhibition Centre

Right: Signing of MOU between Zhengzhou Public Library and Library Services of Fiji.



NATIONAL CRAFT EXHIBITION

The National Craft Exhibition was held from the 11th to the 19th of August, 2017 at the Vodafone Arena. The annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the wide spectrum of Fiji's traditional and contemporary crafts. Over 45 artisans were awarded "Fijian Crafted" licenses at the Exhibition. The special event was organised by the Fiji Arts Council, with support from the Department.

Below: Images from the Event



TRAINING FOR GIS & IT

The Department's GIS Officer, Mr. Jovesa Matakasa, and Communication & IT Officer, Eroni Waqairagata, completed a short course on Geoinformatics & Intelligent Network Value Added Services at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing late last year. This was made possible by India's Ministry of External Affairs. The GIS Unit undertakes cultural mapping & data collection on Fiji's diverse cultural elements.

OPENING OF THE NEW INFORMATION CENTRE - MOMI GUN SITE

During World War II, guns and bunkers were set up here to protect Fiji from a potential attack by the Japanese. One of the bunkers has been turned into a museum with photographs and stories that explain the site's history.

The Momi Battery Historical Park Information Centre opened officially in August, 2017. This project has been made possible by the National Trust of Fiji - an agency of the Department of Heritage and Arts.

Tourism Minister, Faiyaz Koya, said "learning about the history of a place is a good way of bringing communities together through a shared understanding of the unique cultural identity that heritage sites give... Areas where the heritage is understood and valued tend to be better looked after than those where heritage items have no link with the community..." [Fiji Times 25 August 2017]



SUPPORT FOR LEVUKA WORLD HERITAGE



Left: Director Heritage & Arts handing over musical instruments to Levuka Village Musical Group.

The month of January started off with the official Handing Over of musical instruments to the Levuka Vakaviti Village musical group.

During this trip, we conducted one Ovalau Chiefs Forum and held community engagement programmes in the evening with the 4 tikinas.



Above: Ovalau Chiefs Forum Meeting in January 2018

This project was supported by the World Heritage Unit's Community Engagement Initiative, which emphasizes the Fijian Government's support for arts and culture.

PACIFIC WORLD HERITAGE WORKSHOP



Left: Fiji's World Heritage site in Levuka.



Right: Rock Islands Southern Lagoon World Heritage Site in Koror, Palau. Source: Ngerukewid Islands National Wildlife Preserve (2010) © Patrick Colin

This three day workshop was organised jointly by UNESCO and the Ministry for Community, and Cultural Affairs in Palau. It brought together government officials in charge of heritage protection from eight member states in the Pacific, the Pacific Heritage Hub at the University of the South Pacific, International Council of Monuments

and Sites (ICOMOS) Australia, ICOMOS Pacifika, Blue Shield Pacifika, the University of Guam, and several other stakeholders in Palau. The workshop shared information on the progress in implementing the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016-2020, promoted the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) Convention and the Hague Convention and its Protocols among Pacific Island nations, and enhanced capacity for heritage safeguarding with an integrated approach. Fiji was represented by Adi Meretui Ratanabuabua and Mrs. Anaseini Kalougata from the Department of Heritage and Arts.

Fiji's Multi Cultural Centres

Nausori MCC has been very busy with outreach movement therapy for women; Women's workshop on violence against women and children; Cooking classes; outreach dance class; passing on knowledge of holi songs to the younger generation. Of the many achievements, Nausorii MCC is proud to report the Sewing Class success. Students learnt to sew a sari blouse to generate income. Some students - who at first did not know how to operate a machine - have now started working in garment factories. We congratulate the efforts of all teachers and participants involved.

Ba Multicultural Centre has about 120 students who enjoy the benefits of learning Music, Arts and Sports. A major achievement in recent times has been the increased involvement of girls and women in all classes offered (Vocal Harmonium, Tabla, Yoga, Classical Dance, Art & Craft, Guitar, Keyboard, and Taekwondo). In Taekwondo, over 30 students were professionally graded by Asia Pacific Taekwondo Federation. Our students enjoyed competing in the Tournament at Vunimono Hall Nausori. We thank the parents who supported the students and our Tutor, Mrs. Olivia Farid. for her tremendous efforts. We encourage all parents to take advantage of all the programs run by the Multicultural Centre's throughout Fiji.

The Suva Centre trains and promotes multi culture in form of classical and contemporary dances, music, instruments, yoga, and Hindi language. The centre aims to preserve, promote and propagate the pure essence of culture, music and art. Our youths and future generations are the beneficiaries of this great investments of the government and respected persons involved for the past 28 years. A major event in August last year was "An Evening of Music and Dances". The event showcased a 3 hour programme of music and dance to over 400 people. Culture and Tradition is our identity, let's preserve and transmit it to future generations.

Labasa Multicultural Centre offers classes in Hamonium / Music, Tabla / Dholak, Classical / Yoga, Island Dance, and Sewing / Textiles. In 2017, the Centre organised a program that aimed to safeguard endangered cultural heritage. Over 300 people from different ethnic groups participated and shared their heritage - such as using "dhekee" to separate rice and weaving mats and baskets.

Savusavu MCC has worked under the theme of "learning and promoting culture and arts to create valubale impact". The Centre was revived in October 2016, and grew quickly in 2017. The centre offers Art and Weaving, Dholak and tabla, Fusion dance class, Island dance class, and Youth Sports class.



Above: Nausori MCC Outreach Dance Group
Below: Ba MCC Taekwondo Students



Left: Savusavu MCC Music Lessons **Right:** Suva MCC Evening of Music & Dance



Left: Labasa MCC - Women using "dhekee" to take out rice from its seedlings.

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