



FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

FNU NIKUA



ISSUE NO. 07

JULY 2019

Thousands of students attend FNU Open Day 2019



*Professor James Pounder
Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching*

Eager to learn about the full range of programmes offered at Fiji’s national university and subsequent career pathways, more than 12,000 students flocked to Open Day venues in the Central, Northern and Western divisions to obtain a clearer perspective of their future.

More than 130 schools from across the country attended the two-day event at Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu, Civic Centre in Labasa and Natabua Campus in Lautoka.

Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Professor James Pounder said the success of the annual event was a testimony to the hard work and enthusiasm of support and academic staff and student volunteers who all worked tirelessly to mount a series of professional Open Days at various locations.

Professor Pounder said the level of interest in FNU programmes is extremely high and reflects a community perception that the University is a quality institution with high ambitions.

He said given this, FNU looks forward to welcoming suitably qualified school leavers.

“From the viewpoint of the general public, and in particular high school students looking to further their studies, there is nothing quite like a visit to the University to get a general ‘feel’ for the institution, to get questions answered and to meet

students who are actually studying at the University,” said Professor Pounder.

“High school students need to take full advantage of Open Days such as the ones organised by FNU at various locations because the choice of programmes of study is critical at this stage of their lives.”

Professor Pounder said it was critical to choose the right programmes as it would lead to a fulfilling and rewarding career, whereas a wrong option could lead to disappointment.

According to AVC Pounder, FNU is rapidly developing and is now making its presence felt in the South Pacific and beyond.

“Much of this development work takes place behind the scenes so to speak and our Open Days allow the Fijian community to gain some idea about the progress that is being made in the University, the high standards we apply when developing our programmes and courses and our commitment to providing programmes of study across our campuses where this is possible,” commented the senior academic.

“We in FNU are justifiably proud of what we are doing as a University, but we are also conscious of the big step that high school students are taking in transitioning from school to university. For this reason, we have introduced systems to make this transition as smooth as possible.”

“Open Days are an important part of the FNU University calendar because they enable us to showcase our programmes and courses to the general public and especially to potential FNU students.”

Below are some of the highlights of the various College displays from the three Open Day locations.

College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST)

CEST is one of the largest Colleges at FNU. The College provides both Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education programmes in engineering and science. The students at CEST undergo hands-on training in almost all the engineering, science and transport discipline to cater to industry need.

Amongst the displays during the Open Day were a 3-D printing machine, a launch scanner to diagnose vehicle problems, and automotive engineering displays, e.g., modified battery-operated carts. Besides, there were exciting exhibits from the Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) including a life-raft exhibition, navigation equipment, shipbuilding projects and marine engineering equipment.

College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF)

CAFF comprises two schools - the School of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry and the School of Veterinary Science, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Over the years, the College has progressively developed its facilities to improve learning and teaching. The latest development is the construction of a new Veterinary hospital, which is currently underway at FNU Koronivia Campus.

CAFF was very popular among the students with their interactive displays. Their display at Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu was based around the concept of an Integrated Agricultural Village or what we can call an Artistic Agricultural Village showcasing the traditional and modern concepts of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Animal Husbandry.

There were breeds of livestock such as pigs on display as well. The visitors were also informed about the new programmes that the College is looking to offer soon.

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS)

CMNHS provides quality education for future health professionals in Fiji and the South Pacific island countries.

The College had amazing displays where students got the opportunity to assemble human organs inside the display mannequins, use medical equipment such as stethoscopes as well learn about human anatomy. A creative photo booth relating to careers in the medical field was also popular amongst secondary school students.

College of Humanities and Education (CHE)

CHE offers a diverse range of programmes for careers in teaching, childcare, music, film and television, graphic design and journalism (new programme) to name a few.

In terms of displays, music students and lecturers showcased their skills with live singing and the playing of instruments – students even got the opportunity to perform karaoke songs. Live demos were also conducted for fashion, hairdressing and beauty programmes.

College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies

CBHTS offers programmes in the areas of Accounting, Economics, Finance, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Hotel Management, Law, Office Administration, Front Office Management, Pastry, Cookery, and so forth.

The CBHTS booth was abuzz with students and visitors as there was live cookery demo by the staff and students of the School of Hotel and Tourism Studies. The College also had freshly baked pastries on display. Pizzas and danish pastries baked during the live demo were given to the College booth visitors.

Overall, the FNU Open Day events mounted at its various campuses were a resounding success and attracted an unprecedented number of visitors.

Fiji National University Students Association

The FNUSA tent provided lively entertainment for the visitors to roundup their tours. FNUSA members conducted a brief presentation on the association and its operations.

Students took part in quizzes and other competitions to win merchandise. The association was also giving out free books and was creating awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Information Booths

The following information booths were present at the two-day event:

1. Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts
2. Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board
3. Water for Women – Fiji in partnership with Habitat for Humanity
4. Land Transport Authority (LTA)
5. Bank of the South Pacific (BSP)

Yasawa North Secondary School visits Open Day for the first time



Fourteen students from Yasawa North Secondary School braved the unfavourable weather condition as they journeyed to Valelevu Grounds, Nasinu for their inaugural visit to the FNU Open Day 2019.

The Year 12 students, accompanied by three teachers, were excited as they toured each of the display tents.

“We left our school at around 1 pm the previous day. We reached Nadi in the afternoon, and from there, we made our way to Suva. It was a long journey, but it was worth it,” said teacher Jovesa Natinavou.

Natinavou said despite the hectic travel, students gained a lot from the visit to the Open Day.

“We started Year 12 studies from this year, and we did not want to miss this opportunity at any cost. We want the students

to know which programmes and career path is available for them when they finish their secondary school studies. The FNU Open Day is a convenient time for students to get all the necessary information they require for the programmes they are interested in studying,” he said.

“We have been planning for this for a long time. We are grateful to our school management that supported us and arranged for the accommodation for students and teachers while in Suva,” said the teacher.

Natinavou added that students were excited about the visit and had a lot of questions about FNU.

After the tour, Head Girl Piniana Rokomatu said she was pleased to discover the wide range of programmes FNU offered.

“I am glad to know that we can enrol in some programmes without completing Year 13 studies,” she said.

Rokomatu was captivated by the ,fantastic displays at the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

“As an agriculture student, I wanted to know more about the courses FNU provides in this field, so I spent the most time at the agriculture booth. Not only did I get the information I needed, but I liked the different things that were put on display. It was great to see livestock display as well. We took a lot of pictures, and this visit will always be close to our hearts,” she said.

Rokomatu hopes to join FNU next year.

Every day is Gold Medal Day: 7s Skipper

After completing his secondary school education at Ratu Kadavulevu School (RKS) in 2009, the towering Paula Dranisinukula decided to pursue tertiary studies, however financial difficulties forced him to shift his focus.



(Standing L-R) Paula Dranisinukula, Alasio Naduva, Meli Derenalagi pose with supporters of Fiji 7s team at CMNHS Booth during the FNU Open Day.

What a shift in focus that turned out to be for Dranisinukula, who now proudly captains the Fiji 7s rugby team, which won the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2018-19 title.

The Navuniivi Villager from Nakorotubu Ra said, “I changed my focus to rugby, and it has taken me to a good level, and I am happy that I have made something out of myself”.

The Fiji 7s Skipper’s comments came during his visit to the Fiji National University’s (FNU) Open Day.

“It is inspiring to be here with so many students coming in and seeking information about their future... and I think this is a good initiative by the University where students get all information at one spot.”

He said the Open Day was an eye-opener for visiting students as they would be able to decide what to do in future.

As soft-spoken Dranisinukula eyes the Olympic Gold Medal next year, he had timely advice for prospective students saying, “every day is a gold medal day”.

“You have to set a standard for yourself and chase your goal every day. Work hard and

chase your goals until you achieve it.”

An ecstatic student from Ra High School, Selena Delana was among thousands of students who attended the CMNHS booth during the two-day FNU Open Day.

“I am excited to be here because I have seen so many things and learnt a few new things too. The information I received today has helped me make my mind that I want to pursue Pharmacy studies in the future,” young Delana said.

Meanwhile, the Dean of CMNHS, Dr William May, said he was impressed with the commitment shown by the various schools within the College.

“I think the displays put up by the five schools at CMNHS were awesome and there was a lot of enthusiasm within the booth.”

“There is no way the rainy weather conditions dampened the spirits of our staff and student volunteers. The student volunteers had a good time, and they did a tremendous job, and I would like to thank them as well,” Dr May said.

According to him, the visiting students showed a lot of interest in the displays this year, which was a different twist from last year.

“The live ultra-sound show, dentistry mannequins and medical science demonstrations are some examples of changes that we made from last year. These were meant to stimulate the visiting students’ interest, and it did capture their attention.”

The Senior Academic highlighted that the College offered more than 50 programmes at different levels which the students could choose from.

The Dean also advised prospective students to choose wisely when deciding on the programmes they wanted to undertake.

Live cookery demo and sweet delights attract students to CBHTS tent

The live baking station and the formal table setting with tableware such as eating utensils and napkins by the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) was one of the many popular stops for the visitors at FNU Open Day at Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu.

The College also had on display cake models and freshly baked pastries. Pizzas and Danish pastries, particularly pineapple turnovers, which are French breakfast pastries were prepared by FNU students at the College booth.

Assistant Instructor at the Department of Food and Beverage, Jone Koroi Ledua said the team was showcasing some of the skills training that students typically undergo in their respective programmes at the School of Hotel and Tourism Studies.

“We did some live cooking demonstrations with the current FNU students making dishes and also explaining to those that came in on what we teach in school,” said Ledua.

“We showcased to the visitors, how these pastries are rolled out, the piping of all the fillings of fruits before it is baked in the oven and the required temperature that’s needed to give the dish that nice flaky texture when people bite into it.”

Ledua said this event was a perfect opportunity to give the prospective students an insight into some of the skills that are of utmost importance to complete programmes in the field of hotel and tourism.

“Potential students need to be aware of punctuality, sacrifices and commitment required to be successful in this field.”

“Our students have been sharing their own experiences with the visitors with regards to



the duration of the programmes, some of the things that they enjoy in this programme and their attachment stories at restaurants or any commercial cookery business.”

For young Tevita Saumalua of Queen Victoria School (QVS), it was an informal chat session with Ledua that was most informative.

Saumalua attentively listened to the career experiences shared by the academic.

“Listening to him is very encouraging for us students. It is these types of talanoa sessions that we need to be able to make the right choice about our future,” said Saumalua.

The Year 12 student said he was amazed by the history of dishes shared by the FNU students and that he was eager to go back home, research and learn more about his favourite dishes.

“I just witnessed how pizza is made – it was very well demonstrated by the students and staff here, and I must admit I love pizza. I even got the opportunity to taste the one baked right here in front of us,” commented the QVS student.

The 17-year-old from Tailevu added that it was a pleasure to witness the FNU students do the presentations and demonstrations at the different booths.

Excited students tour Open Day display twice



Basden Anglican College students (from left) Lewabale Sainiana, Shirley Tara, Amy Reami and Kesaia Raratabu at the CEST School of Transport Open Day booth.

After completing a full tour of the FNU Open Day 2019 at the Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu, a quartet of Basden Anglican College could not contain their enthusiasm and were seen huddled in a group deciding which tent to return to for a second round of presentations and confirm the minimum entry requirements for study programmes which greatly interested them.

Year 12 students Kesaia Raratabu, Amy Reami, Shirley Tara and Lewabale Sainiana were found outside the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) tent eagerly discussing their future study and career options.

“We were the first school to arrive here this morning, and we were amazed at the presentations and displays at all the booths,” Raratabu said.

“We visited all the tents of the FNU’s five Colleges. After the orientation at the Academic tent we visited the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) before proceeding to the College of Engineering, Science and Technology, the

College of Humanities and Education (CHE), then the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) and the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS). We were glad we did because we learnt so many new things and we also did a second round.”

“We now know that from just one subject we can learn in so many different programmes in university and become anything we want to be. This was a beneficial trip for us,” Raratabu added.

The science students unanimously agreed that each of the Colleges had unique aspects that caught their attention.

“The CAFF booth had live animals and fish that we could view, so that was quite exciting,” Raratabu highlighted.

“It was interesting being in the veterinary section and looking at their models of animals and their organs and also learning about the different soil, wood and edible crops. I am now considering taking up a course in Agriculture when I finish high school.”

Soft-spoken Reami said learning about the human anatomy

appealed to her as she planned to study at CMNHS to become a nurse.

“As a science student, I am very much interested in the human body and how it works. I met current nursing students at the booth, so I got to ask them a lot of questions, and now I can’t wait to be a medical student too.”

Vanua Levu lass, Tara said she had her mindset on becoming a doctor ever since she was a little girl.

“It’s good that we have this sort of events organised by FNU so that we can come and learn for ourselves about the programmes available for us and figure out what we want to learn and become later on in life,” the 18-year-old said.

“This is our first time attending the FNU Open Day, and we can’t wait to return next year.”

The four were part of a group of about 50 Year 11, 12 and 13 students from Basden Anglican College that attended the Open Day.

Live music, interactive displays attract students to CHE booth

them to each section of the College who had put up impressive displays.

The first stop was the Department of Language and Literature and Communication and Media, which attracted students who were interested in fields such as Journalism, Literature, Public Relations and Creative Writing.

The Departments of Early Childhood Education (ECE), Primary, Secondary and Sports Education were on hand to discuss the benefits of being a teacher and playing an influential role in moulding the lives of students from a young age.

Students were in a for a surprise halfway through their tour of the CHE tent as three members of the Fiji national 7s team were at the Sports Education booth with the Paris 7s, London 7s and IRB Series 2018-2019 trophies.

HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series Rookie of the Year, Ratu Meli Derenalagi, captain Paula Dranisinukula and winger Alasio Naduva greeted delighted fans and happily posed for pictures that added to the memory bank of students’ highlights at the FNU Open Day.

DAV Girls College students Nanise Lasaro, Salote Leilani, Adi Dauna Mereoni and Sera Rasau, were quick to congratulate the boys on their success on the rugby pitch and listened to words of advice shared by the captain.

“Work hard, listen to your and strive for success. The displays here are awesome and informative, and we encourage all students to make the most of being here. It’s important that students set their goals and work hard towards achieving them,” Naduva shared.

“This is awesome. We also got to speak to the staff in the sports science department and found out we can work in this field through qualifications in courses such as physiotherapy,” Year 12 student Rasau said.

“We also visited the film and television and graphics sections and saw how we can also study and work in things we are good and passionate about, such as drawing, screen printing and filming.”

The Governance and Ethics and Social Science departments emphasised the importance of courses offered by the University that directly addressed current national issues such as climate change and social policy work.



DAV Girls College students Nanise Lasaro (left), Salote Leilani, Adi Dauna Mereoni and Sera Rasau with Meli Derenalagi, Paula Dranisinukula and Alasio Naduva.

Thousands of students that walked through the Fiji National University’s (FNU), College of Humanities and Education (CHE) booth during the Open Day in Nasinu were treated to live music, manicure sessions, grooming tips, highlights of becoming a teacher, sports stars and creative arts courses offered by the University.

Dean CHE, Dr Eci Nabalarua was on hand to welcome students, teachers and visitors and guided



Khan excited to meet Professor Baba

Adibah Khan (left) with her classmates excited to have met Professor Unaishi Baba

Year 12 Nadi Muslim College (NMC) student Adibah Aaiza Khan’s visit to the FNU Open Day at Natabua Campus in Lautoka could not be better as she was not only able to familiarise herself with the full range of programmes offered by the University but also meet one of her idols, Professor Unaishi Nabobo-Baba.

Khan said meeting the FNU Natabua Campus head, Professor Baba in person was a great honour.

“There is no better way to explore your future study opportunities than by meeting lecturers during the Open Day and going through all the displays and asking relevant questions,” said Khan.

“For me it was also a great privilege to meet Professor Baba, who is a well-respected and senior academic,” she said.

Though the meeting with Professor Baba was brief, Khan said she was inspired by her to strive

for great things.

“She (Professor Baba) encouraged me to work hard and get as much information as possible to prepare for university life. She also encouraged me to meet face-to-face with the lecturers and academics while exploring the on-campus facilities,” she said.

“My advice for prospective students is not to miss an opportunity to attend events such as the Open Day as it will help you map out your future.”

The Nadi lass said she had made some notes on interesting things she heard and had even taken pictures of the Campus and the surrounding area.

“I hope to attend the Open Day again next year. It’s exciting and we learn a lot of important things,” said Khan.

Students submit enrolment form at Open Day



Khalsa College students with teacher Sailesh Singh (Right) handing enrolment forms during the FNU Open Day.

Students from Khalsa College, outside Ba town, took advantage of the Fiji National University’s (FNU) Open Day to submit their application form for next year’s intake.

Thirty Year 13 students submitted their completed provisional enrolments forms after exploring the courses and programmes on offer by the University.

Accompanying teacher, Sailesh Singh said the students decided to submit the forms early to avoid enrolment rush at the end of the year.

As part of FNU’s outreach program, a team from the University had visited the school last month and imparted relevant information regarding the full range of study programmes and the minimum entry requirements to students.

“The school visit by the University provided the relevant information for the students to fill their forms. The Open Day was a great opportunity for them to submit their completed forms to the academic officer at the meet and greet area,” he said.

Some students did require clarification to complete the forms, and they were assisted by the FNU academic team

present at the Open Day.

“Attending the Open Day has made my students realise that they need to think very carefully before applying and that they need to scrutinise the course in more depth before making any decision,” commented Singh

“Most of my students found the tour very informative, as it provided a good overview of what the life of a university student is like.”

“The presentations by the academics extremely helpful to the students, as it was done informally and in small groups which allowed students to ask questions without fear.”

Singh said the one-on-one sessions with academics at the end of the tour help clear any doubts the students had about study options and career opportunities.

Year 13 student Nitika Nandani said she decided to submit her forms early so that she can concentrate on her external examinations.

“During the school visit by FNU we received the necessary information regarding the programmes and enrolment procedure, and the open day provided an excellent avenue for us to submit the forms, seek clarifications and explore the campus,” she said.

Student Profiles – West



Name: Avneet Chand
School: Votualevu College
Age: 17

“ This is my second time attending the FNU Open Day and I got a guided tour around the university campus and the visited various college booths. There were lots of demonstrations’ and interactive sessions especially in the areas of my interest – biology and physics as I want to pursue Bachelor of Engineering after completing Year 13. My message to fellow students is don’t be afraid to ask questions and get as much information as possible in your field of interest.



Name: Ilbario Vono
School: Tavua College
Age: 18

“ FNU Open day has opened the pathway for me in deciding what career options are available for me when I finish high school this year. I did ask the academics about the course structures in Engineering programmes, as I wanted more details about specific modules. One of the most important thing about attending the FNU open day is that we get to know the details of the course and the staff and also get the general feel of campus life.



Name: Eleni Hura Sesebaravi
School: Sigatoka Methodist College
Age: 18

“ The FNU open day was very good and informative and I managed to get course information relating to my field of interest from the Department of Language. One of the highlights of my visit to the open day was being able to see and interact with the current students and lecturers for different courses. My advice to other students is to make use of the University open days and make the right career and university choice. Definitely, I choose FNU.



Student volunteers commended for their tireless commitment

More than 100 student volunteers braved the elements and worked diligently to ensure that visitors to the two-day Open Day event at the three venues toured all booths and received the necessary information regarding the study programmes they were interested in.

John O'Connor, a student from Wainimala Secondary School said volunteers had played an integral part during their visit to the Open Day event held at the Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu.

"As soon as we got off the bus, we were greeted with a smile by two volunteers. It was heartwarming to see them greeting students from all other schools in a similar manner," said O'Connor.

"They told us to wait in the queue, and when it was our turn, two of the student volunteers took us to all the different booths that were set up," he added.

Another student, Luisa Boila while sharing the same sentiments said the Open Day would not have been possible without the input of the hardworking student volunteers.

"I saw some of the visiting students distracted at times and not listening to them, but the volunteers were very patient with us. I liked how they explained things at each of the booths and also the different career pathways," said Boila.

"It was an event like no other, and it was only possible because everyone pitched in, the staff and students from FNU and those students who were volunteers," she said.

First-year Fiji National University (FNU) student Lucy Ryland was one of the many student volunteers at the Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu.

Ryland said volunteering at the Open Day was a great learning experience for her.

"It was a unique opportunity for me," she added.

Reminiscing her days as a secondary school student, Ryland said she was fascinated with the role volunteers played when she attended the FNU Open Day with her friends and teachers from Nasinu Secondary School.

"These volunteers were very active, and we, as secondary school students who were wanting to join the University, learnt a lot of things from them. I had then decided that when I join the University, I will also take up this role if given an opportunity," she said.

Trade Diploma in Information Technology student at FNU, Unaisi Rokomarama said being a volunteer helped her to develop community awareness skills.

"I was able to engage well with the students who came to the Open Day. They had lots of questions, I answered some of their questions and referred them to respective Colleges as well," said Rokomarama.

"Being a volunteer was fun and challenging. I met some students from schools that are in the interior areas. The most important thing for me was to see them enjoying the atmosphere," she said.

Year 10 students take advantage of FNU Open Day



The thought of waking up early and travelling for more than two hours failed to diffuse the level of excitement of close to 50 students of Bau Central College who were part of the Fiji National University (FNU) Open Day this year.

FNU volunteers at the Valelevu Grounds greeted the inquisitive youngsters and ensured they took full advantage of the presentations and interactive sessions offered by the FNU Colleges.

Careers teacher, Valeria Bainivanua, said the students were part of the Year 10 stream as the school was established recently.

"This is our highest stream at the college right now, but there are plans to add Years 11 to 13 in the future," Bainivanua said.

"Nevertheless, when we received the invitation from FNU to be part of this Open Day we were very excited and extremely honoured."

"Even though these students have about three years left of high school, it is never too early to start talking about what they want to become later in life because this affects what subjects they study in high school."

Bainivanua said in the weeks leading up to the Open Day visit, the students were reminded of the importance of choosing a career path wisely and ensuring it aligned with their interests.

"We asked them to reflect on what they dream of becoming and of course, we got a lot of answers

because these children do have their dreams and aspirations."

"So we told them that to achieve their goal, they had to plan how to reach there. This was through simple issues such as subject combinations in high school and which course to enrol in when they got to university."

"We never want our students to be in a situation where they are halfway through studies and realise they are unhappy with the programme or that they took the wrong course."

"So we encouraged them to write down their questions and ask as many questions as they could to the lecturers and current students of FNU."

She added that it also empowered the high schoolers to see FNU students with similar interests currently working towards their goal.

"Children feel motivated more by actions and visualising compared to just telling them things so when, for instance, the female students saw female students in the maritime programmes or when the boys saw male nursing students they learn for themselves that careers are no longer dominated by a particular gender."

"I believe these students are at an advantage because they would have a few more FNU Open Days to attend over the years, so by the time they complete high school they are 100 per cent sure of their tertiary studies."

Boat and bus ride, students travel from Levuka to attend Open Day

The excitement of visiting the Fiji National University's (FNU) Open Day had 38 students from St John's College in Levuka wake up at 3 am, get ready and make their way to the Buresala Jetty for a ferry trip to the mainland Viti Levu, before embarking on a road trip to Valelevu Grounds to participate in the annual event.

The Year 13 students, accompanied by two teachers, were filled with excitement despite the early morning travel and gloomy weather.

For Tupou Tagicakiverata, it was an enlightening experience where she got her doubts cleared and managed to choose a programme that allied to her interests.

Tagicakiverata said she was fascinated by planes and had a dream to pursue a career that deals with aircraft.

"While my cousins used to play with dolls, cars and diggers – my favourite was planes. I have always wondered how they are operated and maintained," said Tagicakiverata.

The 18-year-old said visiting the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) booth gave her an insight into the programme that she could take up to realise her dream career.

Tagicakiverata said she fancied pursuing Certificate IV in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering – Avionics.

"I have been told that in undertaking this course, I will be trained to maintain avionics equipment and systems. It's something that has always interested me, and I will do my best to make the final selection. I hear competition to get into this programme is tough, but I'm optimistic," said Tagicakiverata.

While explaining about her career choice, she took out a paper on which she had made notes and said: "I will be trained on complex aircraft systems including electrical, instruments, radio, navigation and autopilot systems. I am eager to research and find out more about this programme."

Mathematics, Computer and Office Technology teacher at St John's College, Ms Muni Laxmi Prabha Raj said the students were thrilled to witness the displays and be part of the interactive sessions with the staff and students of FNU in the Central Division.

"We do advise students on their career choices, but we feel that being a part of events such as this gives students first-hand knowledge and vision about the many career opportunities available in this fast-evolving world," said Raj.

"The students have really enjoyed visiting the different booths. The models and projects on display make it even simpler for the high school students to understand the profession they want to enter."



Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Katonivere encourages students to excel in their studies



The Fijian Government’s vision to create better infrastructure and grant incentives to attract expansion under its ‘Look North Policy’ was commended by Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Katonivere.

Speaking at the Open Day event in Labasa, the high chief said the initiatives offered by Government laid the platform for significant development including the establishment of the state-of-the-art Fiji National University Labasa Campus, which is currently under construction.

“The new Labasa Campus will have an enhanced teaching and learning environment for you. I must thank the Vice-Chancellor and his team and the government for their vision in investing in higher education for the people of the North,” he said.

Ratu Katonivere said with the new Campus, new programmes that will be introduced and will provide a significant boost to the northern division.

He encouraged secondary school students to rise and go beyond the frontiers to pursue their dreams and return home to support the growth of their ‘Vanua’ and country.

Ratu Katonivere, who is also the Chair of the FNU Labasa Campus Stakeholder Advisory Committee, said Government had provided students with scholarships and an affordable loans scheme which they could obtain to pursue higher education.

“Don’t let your circumstances dictate how you, as a person will turn out. You are in FNU for a purpose. You are in this school for a reason. That purpose is to accomplish your studies, secure employment and give back to your family and your country,” said Ratu Katonivere.

“If people from poor backgrounds can rise to be Presidents of nations, so can you; if orphans can turn out to be doctors and pilots, so can you; if those who didn’t finish school can turn out to be millionaires in agriculture, so can you.”

“It all begins with you determining in your hearts to get the best of the time that you are here at FNU.”

He reminded students of the wide range of programmes offered by FNU and urged them to make an informed decision and ensure they excel in their studies.

“I urge you all to pursue your education and invest in the North. For programs that are available at FNU Labasa, I say to you to complete it here. For those not available here, yes you can move to Viti Levu and complete it there,” he said.

“The Labasa Campus provides many programmes in Engineering, Commerce, Science and Education together with many short courses run by NTPC. The programmes run from Certificate to Degree and even in some areas up to Postgraduate level,” said Ratu Katonivere.

“These programs will enable our children to be independent. We want to see more businesses established in the North. The North is expanding fast, and we need well-educated people to propel a vibrant and productive economy,” he said.

“I am told that the blended mode will be offered from 2020 and will make it more accessible for students to pursue their education from just about anywhere,” he added.

Also speaking to hundreds of students, teachers and parents during the annual Open Day in Labasa, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor James Pounder said it is not too long before Labasa will have a new state-of-the-art Campus and wide range of programmes for students.

“We have a brand new Campus under construction just up the road which will be one of our showpiece Campuses, due to open in February 2020. It is a purpose-built Campus designed with the Labasa community in mind and will be situated next to a major Damodar City development that will result in a shopping city larger than the one in Suva,” said Professor Pounder.

Nand sisters amazed with displays at CMNHS tent



Amazed at the various exhibitions inside the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) booth during the Fiji National University (FNU) Open Day, sisters Ishanvi Nand and Tanvi Nand were the youngest visitors at the two-day event.

Their curious eyes and talkative demeanour caught everyone by surprise at the CMNHS booth

Ishanvi, a class six student at Rishikul Primary School and her sister, only in class three, were very ambitious and wanted to explore with their father, Rajendra Nand, at the FNU Open Day.

Obliging parent, Nand said he wanted to give his children a holistic development and always cared for their educational needs.

“I wanted to show my daughters how things are done at University level, and I wanted to get them interested in the medical field.”

“I believe, regardless of their young age, when children see things for themselves, they will make right decisions for themselves in the future,” Nand added.

A vocational teacher by profession, the caring father advocated other parents to bring their children to educational events such as the FNU Open Day.

“Nowadays I believe small children have a more mature mindset than my time, so we are always discussing things with them openly at home to channel their energy in excelling academically,” Nand highlighted.

The bubbly nature of both sisters caught lifted everyone’s spirits even more at the CMNHS booth as student volunteers took turns to explain the pictures and demonstrations at the booth.

Tanvi said their father asked them if they wanted to attend the FNU Open Day and both sisters agreed happily.

“I loved being here because I saw so many things. I like how they told us to brush our teeth too,” she said.

Sister, Ishanvi said she loved the General Subjects curriculum in school and now wants to be a doctor in future.

“I will tell all my friends and teachers that I went to FNU Open Day”, she said

Student Profiles – Labasa



Name: Rishal Chand
Year: Year 13
School: Labasa Sangam College

I wanted to find out about the courses offered by FNU’s College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CMNHS) as I am planning to study Human Resources Management next year. Following the discussions with the FNU staff, I have gathered more information about this programme. They informed me about the total number of units I need to complete if I enrol in the HR course.



Name: Shinal Singh
Year: Year 13
School: Labasa Sangam College

Through the Open Day, I was able to know about the developments that are taking place in Labasa. I have been told that a new Campus is under construction. One of the speakers also gave an overview of what the new Campus will look like. I cannot wait to join FNU as a student next year.



Name: Prabjit Kaur
Year: Year 13
School: Shri Guru Nanak Khalsa College

The Chief Guest, Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Katonivere shared a few words which inspired me as a student. I want to work hard and complete my secondary school examination with flying colours to secure a place at FNU.

MY FNU Open Day



OUR OPEN DAY PARTNERS



The Fiji National University's Nikua is a monthly newsletter which aims to promote the University's activities to the wider community. This newsletter is produced by the University Marketing and Communications team. For views or comments please email mprc@fnu.ac.fj or contact 3394000.

Publisher: Fiji National University | Editor: Ranbeer Singh | Design & Layout: Rusiate Vada | Division Head: Director Marketing and Communications: Jenies Mudiliar
Writers: Kalpana Kaajal, Shireen Lata, Charlene Lanyon, Ronish Kumar, Salesni Chaudhary

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FNUNIKUA welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the newsletter. Please send your suggestions, comments or articles for consideration to mprc@fnu.ac.fj



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