

FNUNIKUA

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ISSUE NO. 09

SEPTEMBER, 2021



FNU 2021 VIRTUAL OPEN WEEK,
AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

PUAPUA SETS EYES ON
BECOMING A DOCTOR

FNU 2021 Virtual Open Week, an overwhelming success



FNU's virtual open week was held from the 13th-17th September

The Fiji National University's (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week (VOW) had an impressive turnout of local and regional prospective students, parents, guardians and teachers participating in the live interactive sessions that were held on multiple online platforms including Facebook, Zoom and YouTube.

Eight sessions were held in total with each being dedicated to a specific College, as well as the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) and TVET Pasifika, which enabled participants to participate in forums they were interested in.

Normally, around this time of year, the Fiji National University would be hosting a full-scale Open Day.

Our main Campuses in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions would be buzzing with excited high school students and the general public, exploring the University's facilities, having a chat with current students and meeting the lecturers.

This year, because of COVID-19 and the associated public health restrictions, we did something a bit different. Innovation in response to changing circumstances is one of the skills we teach our students, and at FNU the pandemic has brought about swift innovation in how we deliver education, with online platforms becoming an integral part of our learning and teaching. Digital technology has also given us the opportunity to rethink how we conduct our routine business and host events. So, this year, in place of face-to-face Open Days, we successfully hosted a Virtual Open Week.



was designed to help students explore the study options across our five Colleges – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies; Engineering, Science and Technology; Humanities and Education; and Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences – plus the Fiji Maritime Academy and the National Training and Productivity Centre. For students attracted by the employability advantages of a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme, and the new availability of TELS funding for TVET, FNU's full range of TVET programmes were brought together in our newly-launched one-stop-shop – TVET Pasifika. Individuals who wish to reskill or upskill for new employment opportunities can do so by enrolling on the FNU short courses supported by the Government Re-Skilling Fund.

The Virtual Open Week's interactive sessions were designed to be fun and informative, with academic staff explaining FNU's wide range of programmes via live Zoom sessions. These sessions were also streamed through our Youtube and Facebook sites and are available for future viewing. Prospective students and parents and

Anyone with a device and an internet connection was able to attend FNU's Virtual Open Week from the comfort of their own home – whether they were in Fiji, the region, or anywhere else in the world.

The Virtual Open Week offered prospective students and their families all the valuable insights into life at FNU that they would get on a normal open day. Our customized online event

guardians were able to utilize the live chat feature on our website and ask further questions regarding course entry requirements, financial, academic and support services available to students, campus life and accommodation, and a host of other topics.

Given the current global economic situation and labour market adjustments, it is vital for students to consider carefully their choice of institution and career path. Attending an Open Day, even a virtual one, can assist students in making better decisions about their future. Whether someone is a school-leaver, already in a job, or thinking about switching careers, the Virtual Open Week provided the perfect opportunity to engage with FNU. The University provides multiple pathways for entry into our programmes, and a comprehensive range of courses to meet students' aspirations, irrespective of their financial or academic circumstances. The Virtual Open Week was designed to inform and answer students' questions.

The University will soon launch its Virtual Outreach Programme, enabling the University to remain engaged with prospective students after the Virtual Open Week. FNU teams will also liaise closely with schools to ensure Year 12 and Year 13 students receive the information they need to plan for their future.

In the meantime, Year 12 and 13 students, and those from the region, are encouraged to visit the University's website at www.fnu.ac.fj for study options suited to their interests and career ambitions. We are sure that FNU has something suited to everyone's goals, whether in TVET or Higher Education.

**Professor Toby Wilkinson,
Vice-Chancellor,
Fiji National University**

Labasa College scoops FNU's VOW 'Early Bird Registration' prize

The Fiji National University (FNU) indubitably provides education to cater for the growing demands of our youthful population. These are the comments of Anjaleen Radhika Raj, the Principal of Labasa College.

While acknowledging the national university for organising the 2021 Virtual Week Open (VOW), Raj said the wide range of study options offered by FNU provides students with an excellent opportunity to aspire towards building rewarding career pathways.

"Fiji National University has undoubtedly been the 'One Stop Shop' for aspiring leaders," said Raj.

"The inception of the University's Virtual Open Week is the absolute answer to overcome barriers as far as students career aspirations are concerned during this COVID-19 pandemic."

Labasa College was one of the many schools that

had registered early to go into the draw to win the 'Early Bird Registration' prize. The school won a HP brand 250G7 Laptop and HP Deskjet 2330 Printer.

Raj said they were elated with the win adding the prize will assist with their daily school operations.

"The surprise package is amazing and will surely assist the school in various ways considering the need for technology during this COVID-19 situation, where technology has become an integral part of education delivery and will remain so even post-pandemic," commented the Principal.

A total of eight sessions were in total during the VOW with each being dedicated to a specific College, as well as the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) and TVET Pasifika, which enabled participants to participate in forums they were interested in.

The dedicated sessions provided prospective students

with more time to listen and ask relevant questions to FNU staff through the chat platforms. Participants also had the opportunity to chat live with the FNU team through the website www.fnu.ac.fj daily from 9am to 5pm during the week.

"The students were informed and encouraged to participate in the live Zoom and chat sessions by respective subject teachers during the virtual teaching. The school was actively involved in encouraging and assisting the students to register their interest towards FNU's Virtual Open Week via the Zoom platform," Raj added.

Year 12 and 13 students from Labasa College actively participated in the week-long event.

Local and regional students interested in studying at FNU can visit the website on www.fnu.ac.fj to find out more about the wide range of programmes and entry requirements.

FNU will also hold Virtual Outreach Activities (VOA) from 4th October where academic experts will speak to prospective students directly regarding study opportunities and career pathways. If you are interested in attending the live sessions email us at outreach@fnu.ac.fj to register.



Puapua sets eyes on becoming a doctor

Deciding that she would attain tertiary qualifications at the Fiji National University (FNU) was an easy choice for Rimari Saapeta Puapua to make. The Lautoka Central College student believes FNU provides the right learning environment that will enable her to achieve her dream career.

After learning about the FNU Virtual Open Week through her school's Viber chat platform, Puapua made sure to schedule the livestream sessions into her daily routine.

"I was excited about the event," the 18-year-old said. "Although it was a new concept for us as it was a virtual event, it was both productive and enjoyable."

"I know some of the students were confused with their options but after participating in the Open Week, they were able to understand clearer after having their questions answered by the FNU staff who were online through the livestream and the live-chat feature on the FNU website."

"My ambition is to become a doctor and I have already decided to undertake the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme at

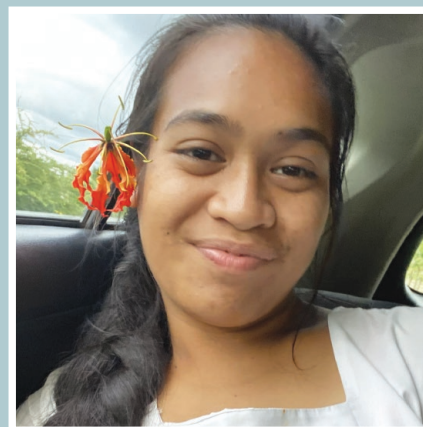
the University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS)."

The MBBS programme at FNU is a six-year programme that trains students to become doctors. Offered by the College's School of Medical Science, the course aims to produce graduates that are competent medical practitioners who are ethical and responsible, be a life-long self-directed learner and effective communicator, perform their roles as a critical evaluator, educator, manager and leader.

Numerous students from Fiji and around the region have graduated from the course since the 1880s.

Originally from Tuvalu, Puapua said her family are among those who have graduated from the programme at FNU.

"My mother and grandfather both graduated from



FNU and they have always been my motivation."

"They have shared their stories with me of learning and excelling at FNU and now I am excited for my chance to also experience it for myself."

Puapua said receiving academic qualifications was an important step towards achieving one's professional ambitions.

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VOW informative and organised – Prasad

True to his curious nature, Anubhav Aditya Prasad looked forward to the Fiji National University's (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week to learn more about the study opportunities available to him.

Although the current restrictions prevented Prasad from attending the event on campus, the online presentations, videos and live-chat feature provided him with the information he required.

The Year 13 student at Rishikul Sanatan College said he was excited to learn more about the University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) and his programme of choice – the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).



"From an early age, I have always been interested in science and was always curious about certain aspects of nature, space and human biology," he explained.

"I also want to provide medical service to the general public and believe I can do this through my ambition to become a doctor."

"I made sure to participate in the Zoom session during VOW and raised my queries during the question and answer session. The academics were very engaged and happy to answer all the questions by the students from various schools who were part of the livestream

and those watching from Facebook and YouTube."

"They were also considerate, even though we had exceeded the time limit. The Virtual Open Week was very informative and organised."

Prasad, who scored the highest Year 8 examination

marks at Koroqqa Primary School, said he was excited to begin his tertiary studies at FNU next year.

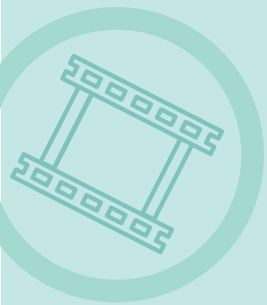
"This is an important time for me in my academic journey as I will gain the practical knowledge I need to carry out my duties in the workforce."

"Attending university also allows students to develop soft skills such as their communication, confidence, integrity, work ethic and teamwork capabilities."

"As a hardworking and inquisitive student, I am prepared for this next phase of my studies."

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Vasitaqiri eyes FNU's Film & Television programme

For Alipate Vasitaqiri, the Fiji National University's (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week gave him a real feel for what it is like to undertake tertiary education and the level of commitment and dedication needed to excel in the study programmes one is pursuing.

The 23-year-old joined the FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE) live Zoom session, anticipating to explore the wide range of programmes offered by the University and also firm up on a career path.

"It worked better for me digitally, I was able to attend the live sessions and also view a few video's relating to programmes and facilities at FNU. For me, the best part was that I was able to learn a lot of things about the University and the student life through my computer screen," said Vasitaqiri.

The former Mulomulo Secondary School was intrigued with the Certificate IV in Film and Television programme offered by the FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

"I have some knowledge in this area but it is also a good idea to learn from the experts," he stated.

Vasitaqiri added that he has always been fascinated with the vibrant and influential television industry which encouraged him to choose a career in this area.

"The FNU Staff have been helpful and I have been able to learn a lot about the programme and engage in meaningful discussions which helped me to articulate my thoughts and finalise an appropriate programme choice."

While appreciating the effort by the FNU in organising a virtual programme that allows prospective students to access information from the comfort of their homes, Vasitaqiri said had it been a normal 'on-campus'

event, it would have been difficult for him to spare his time.

"I highly commend the Fiji National University for coming up with a great concept which was beneficial for people like me who have full-time work commitments."

"I am very excited and I look forward to joining Fiji's national university next year and making a lot of memories with my colleagues."

FNU's Certificate IV in Film and Television enables students to learn the full range of specializations incorporated in film and television production. The one-year programme enables career-ready technicians as they enter into film and television industry.

The course is offered through the University's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) stream.

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Kumar obtains important information by attending VOW



Seventeen-year-old Prakrit Kumar is thrilled to obtain all relevant information about study opportunities and also had an opportunity to interact with academic experts in real-time during Fiji National University's (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week (VOW).

The Lautoka Andhra Sangam College student said the VOW had set him on the right pathway.

"I joined the chat session on the FNU website and also joined the live zoom sessions held by different colleges to gather information on various programmes which interests me. During the Virtual Open Week, I participated in the chat sessions several times to get all the necessary information regarding my tertiary education journey," he said.

The aspiring doctor said he wants to be well prepared and have all the necessary information before joining a tertiary institute.

"Apart from chatting and joining the live zoom sessions, I have watched the respective college videos to gain more information, especially from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS)."

The Year 12 student said that he

thoroughly enjoyed FNU's 2021 VOW, especially the exciting live online event, meeting the academics, and touring various campuses.

"Though the campus tour video, I now have a fair idea of what university studies will be like, especially the facilities that are available. If it were a traditional open day, I would have no idea what CMNHS campus looks like, as I would not have travelled to Suva."

The Lautoka native described the FNU virtual open week as 'flexible'.

"The virtual sessions gave me the flexibility to experience university life and learn more about the university, see facilities available and find out what student life is like. As the video content are available on the FNU website, I can get information any time at my convenience."

Kumar adds that the virtual open week is a safe and convenient way for students to access academic information from the comfort of their homes.

"With restrictions to our everyday life, FNU's VOW provided me all the answers to my queries, and I am well informed about the minimum entry requirements for the programme that I wish to pursue," he said.

Though Kumar has another year to complete his secondary education, he said it's essential to prepare for the future and research the available academic options.

"I am glad I attended the FNU VOW. It eased my concerns about what to expect and the requirements for pursuing medical studies after completing Year 13. I am super excited to start my studies after hearing from academics."

"With so much uncertainty in the current circumstances, being able to connect online and receive academic answers is a blessing. I want to thank FNU for organising well planned and informative VOW sessions."

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FNU's 2021 VOW 'dynamic' – Chand



Penang Sangam High School Vice Principal Shareeni Lata Chand has described the Fiji National University's (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week as dynamic as it provided students with timely and relevant information as they contemplate tertiary study options and map these against career aspirations.

According to Chand, the series of well-planned interactive sessions throughout the week enabled students to plan their day and join in the discussions with their family members.

"Despite schools being closed, students were able to get relevant information by joining FNU VOW and embark on the next phase of their academic journey. It was a dynamic event," said Chand.

"With social distancing in place, many students were looking for answers for their tertiary options and FNU, via its Virtual Open Week, provided students with a platform to have their questions answered," she added.

According to Chand, the live and interactive zoom sessions hosted by the university's five colleges, including the Fiji Maritime Academy, the National Training and Productivity Centre, and TVET Pasifika, allowed students to learn about the diverse range of programmes on offer.

"Given that our students are learning from home, many Year 12 and Year 13 students of Penang Sangam High School participated in live zoom and chat sessions to gain a more in-depth understanding of programmes and teaching facilities available at FNU," said Chand.

Chand stressed that it is still crucial for students to have access to all the information, talks, and experiences in these unprecedented times to make informed decisions for tertiary education.

"The students had a perfect chance to connect with academics and find out more about studying at FNU. It was great to hear from the academics and student

services support, who spoke about the key aspects of applying to study at FNU."

The Rakiraki based school vice-principal said that the FNU's virtual open week was flexible and very convenient for students.

"The sessions were perfect for all students as it enabled them to interact and be engaged with the presenters. It is helpful to note that the discussion videos related to VOW will be available online for students to refer in their own time and pace, from their own homes at their convenience."

Chand adds that students made the most of the VOW by accessing content, checking out the virtual tours and attending live sessions to have their questions answered.

"Many of our students and parents attended the sessions to learn about university life."

Chand said previously, the face to face Open Days required a lot of travel which drained students energy.

"Through technological innovation, students had a glimpse of what university life is like without having to leave the comfort of their home, which is really efficient."

"Even without the current COVID-19 crisis, I would prefer such events organised virtually as it allows students from far to enjoy FNU Open Week without the time and expense of travelling to various campuses," she said.

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Waqawai is keen to undertake media studies at FNU

Being open to learning and having the passion to advance his career in the media industry were the driving factors that led Tomasi Waqawai to participate in the Fiji National University's (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week.

21-year-old Waqawai is a Program Director at Mai Television Limited. He was among the thousands of online users who took advantage of FNU's online virtual platform to get an insight into the programmes that ties with his interest.

"Growing up, I always admired those who are well-established in the media field. It was the icing on the cake when I received an opportunity to work for the mainstream media. However, I always desired to learn more," said Waqawai.

The former Assemblies of God High School student registered and joined the FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE) live zoom session to enquire about the many programmes offered by the University.

He was thrilled to discover that FNU's Bachelor of Media and Communication programme is aligned exactly with what he wants to learn.

"The Bachelor of Media and Communication captivated my attention as we were informed through the virtual platform that this particular programme focuses on communication theory, approaches to communication, journalism, history and law of media, media ethics, writing for different media, digital media and the internet, and public relations."

"This seems like an all in one package type of programme where students will have coherent and comprehensive knowledge in media and communication," Waqawai stated.

"We were also informed by the FNU's academic staff that this programme provides the opportunity to gain

knowledge in the production and functioning of different media in society, to build practical skills in designing media products, and to develop advanced critical and thinking skills," he added.

The aspiring media specialist thanked the Fiji National University (FNU) for organising a platform to have student's queries answered, despite the demanding situation of not being able to invite students physically to the FNU Campuses, due to the restrictions.

"The staff were very welcoming and friendly and they took out time to provide every detail to queries in relation to my programme choice."

Waqawai is optimistic about joining FNU as a Bachelor of Media and Communication student next semester.

The Bachelor of Media and Communications is a three-year programme offered by the FNU's College of Humanities and Education at the Nasinu Campus.

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NTPC short courses attract Lal



Atik Avinesh Lal, an entrepreneur took advantage of FNU's 2021 Virtual Open Week to learn more about the short course in Managing Customer Services offered by the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC).

Lal, who operates a food mart in Nakasi, is venturing

into the liquor business soon, and for that, he is planning to improve his skills to assist his business flourish. He was one of many who signed up for the FNU 2021 VOW to acquire answers to his questions and prepare for future studies at the university.

"Customer service is a vital component of the business sector since customers will come to your business mostly because of your excellent services delivery. Apart from managing my business, I am also a vice-president of a Non-Government Organisation Nasinu Junior Chamber, where we meet and assist many people. The course would help me communicate with people in a better way," he explained.

The 33-year-old holds a Bachelor of Marketing and Management from FNU's College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS). According to Lal, education is a continuing process and to advance in your career it is essential to regularly upgrade your qualifications.

"I consider myself fortunate that the institute that has moulded my future, organised a Virtual Open Week for students during the pandemic, especially given the restrictions that were in place," Lal said.

"The sessions were quite instructive for the students since they were given the opportunity to ask questions about the various courses and programmes offered by FNU without any hassle," he said.

"I learned about the VOW via a friend who told me about the registration, and then it was easy for me with the FNU representatives being very helpful and answered all of my questions." Lal has over 13 years of experience in Sales and Marketing, and after completing his education in 2020,

he decided to start his own company.

"Being your own boss without having to report to anyone is always pleasant, and I had this notion for a long time, but after the studies, the dream became a reality," he said.

"The knowledge offered by university teachers greatly aided my understanding of the business model and how to run a business effectively and efficiently. Before entering the business sector, one must consider all of the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats that exist and then try to improve your shortcomings and eliminate any potential threats.

"I feel that customer service may have a significant impact on your company's profit graph; thus that is the only reason I want to study in the customer service course and expand my business.

"It is a course that helps people develop their skills, particularly when it comes to dealing with customers. It is also crucial in terms of presentation and conversing with prospective future clients."

NTPC offers a wide range of short courses, for more information email: info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj.

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Virtual presentations inspires Fonofaavae

Watching the Fiji National University's (FNU) livestream presentation on Facebook during the 2021 Virtual Open Week (VOW) motivated Meroma Sharon Fonofaavae to pursue her academic dreams at the University.

The 23-year-old Samoan said she was fortunate to have participated in the event from the comfort of her home and receive the necessary information to study at the institution.

"To be honest, I have never joined a live session online that relates to education, but I was glad I made time for the FNU sessions," she explained.

"Even though I was interested in the business, tourism and hospitality programmes, I watched the other sessions as well to listen to the presenters from the different Colleges and hear about all the other programmes at FNU."

"The University was very responsive to our comments on the livestream and responded to our questions with links to the FNU website that answered all our questions."

"I also took part in the giveaway competitions and won a hard drive. So that was also exciting."

Fonofaavae said she felt encouraged after hearing the academic presenters speak about the value of education.

"I was more confident in trying to achieve my goals after hearing this, as they said that age should not stop a person from learning and gaining more knowledge or upskilling their qualifications."

"I have worked in the tourism industry previously and know that tertiary education contributes to increased productivity in the workforce."

"After being part of VOW, I hope to undertake the Higher Education Diploma in Management course at FNU."

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TESTIMONIALS



"The live Zoom session was very interactive and I also managed to get relevant academic information via chat

sessions during FNU's 2021 Virtual Open Week. I'm looking forward to joining FNU to complete my studies to become an accountant."

Nimita Nandini Sharma, Student, Tilak High School



I was able to visualize how the courses are offered and taught at different colleges of FNU throughout the country. One of the most important components of the presentation is where the staff explains how to apply online for admission into a programme."

Risheek Pratap, Student, Bhawani Dayal Arya College



"I would like to study at FNU after completing my high school education because at this university, I strongly believe that students and lecturers both play a vital role in helping each student reach their greatest potential. I also believe FNU strives to enhance the teaching and learning opportunities for its students."

Anzaria Sabrina Bi, Student, Suva Muslim College

Devi eyes bakery business



Pratibha Devi believes life is about exploring new opportunities and ideas. The 24-year-old is now focused on joining the Fiji National University's National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) to take a courses in Baking and Patisserie and start a baking business.

She made up her mind after participating in the FNU's 2021 Virtual Open Week session that featured NTPC, where she discovered suitable courses aligned with her personal goal.

Devi, who formerly worked as an oven operator at a manufacturing company, is keen to embark on her new adventure of owning a bakery to support her family.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for me to learn more about the university's courses and programmes. It has greatly helped me in determining whether or not to start a business," she stated.

"I watched the live sessions on Facebook where the panellists discussed the programmes and how to set a professional path and achieve. FNU's Virtual Open Week for students was a fantastic idea, as they

spoke directly to them."

"The university has played an essential role in the lives of many students because of the friendly teaching and professional support staff, the affordable fee structure, and the university's assistance in finding work in most programmes."

Devi, who lives in Nausori, had to start working after finishing secondary school after his father passed away in 2015. She made sure that she provided for her family's daily needs and worked hard, and she began to enjoy her new duty as the oven operator in Lautoka.

"It was a wonderful accomplishment for me because as soon as I started in my new role, I began to appreciate the work that I was doing, and it became a passion for me because I enjoyed working. Staying away from my family, on the other hand, was difficult for me, which is why I decided to leave and return to my family," she explained.

"My younger brother has started a hairdressing and salon business, and I, too, want to create my own business so that we can both have a successful future. We both believe that instead of sitting back and waiting for opportunities to come knocking, one should work hard and create opportunities."

NTPC offers a wide range of short courses, for more information email: info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj.

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Namanu seeks upskilling opportunity at FNU



Benita Namanu saw the Fiji National University (FNU) 2021 Virtual Open Week as an opportunity to explore upskilling opportunities that would assist in his academic development and also place him on the path to career advancement.

Namanu said having the event online provided the chance for interested students from other Pacific Island countries, such as himself, the platform to also learn about FNU and its programmes.

From Bikenibeu, Tarawa in Kiribati, Namanu said the livestream presentations also provided a more personal, engaging and welcoming way for new students who may be nervous to learn about their tertiary prospects.

Currently employed as an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting

(ARFF) Officer at the Airport Kiribati Authority, Namanu said he was interested in FNU's Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Electronics Engineering course in Telecommunication and Networking.

"My goal is to become an Airport Engineer specialising in the Telecommunications and Network systems field," the 27-year-old said.

"Participating in the Open Week made me realise that I would be able to fulfil my dream at FNU."

"After listening to the livestream sessions, I also did my research on the FNU website and learnt that FNU offered both theory and practical learning for all its courses."

"I believe this is the perfect place for me to study because I will receive all the necessary skills, knowledge and exposure to carry out my work efficiently and diligently once I am back in the workforce."

Namanu has already applied for Semester 1, 2022 studies.

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Interacting with prospective students virtually



Receiving important information relating to study opportunities at the Fiji National University (FNU) and interacting with academic experts in real-time from the comfort of your own space is a testament to how technology has made it possible for prospective students to engage in meaningful discussions relating to their academic and career aspirations.

The FNU's 2021 Virtual Open Week (VOW) was organised to ensure students, parents, guardians and teachers can plan and participate in all or specific discussions that were hosted by the Colleges, National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) and TVET Pasifika.

The health safety measures in place because of the global pandemic has given rise to virtual tours, live web chats and video content – making virtual open weeks far more accessible and commonplace for students to gather all the necessary information regarding their career choices.

The online event enables prospective students to take a comprehensive tour of the University and explore

the programmes on offer. The FNU's Virtual Open Week provided the same experience to Penang Sangam High School student Nidhish Lal.

Lal was able to attend the informative live Zoom sessions from the comfort of his home and get his queries answered instantly by the University staff.

Participants were allowed to ask questions through the Zoom sessions, the live chat feature on the University website, post their queries on the FNU Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

"Every year high school students used to be so excited to attend the FNU Open Days, where we got to see the amazing student practical models and constructions," said Lal.

"However, COVID-19 changed the way this special event is now held. I am thankful to the University for organising this event despite the restrictions because of the global pandemic. The online event provided a platform for many students, including myself, to clear doubts regarding the careers that we would like to pursue."

"I was able to learn the importance of taking correct subject combinations in high school, which determined whether we could do certain programmes at

university after completing high school."

Lal is looking forward to joining the Fiji National University after successfully completing high school studies.

Senior academics of the University also shared their educational and professional experiences with the audience to give them a feel of what is expected of them when they join the workforce.

The Virtual Open Week page on the website will be live throughout the year. Don't forget to log onto <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/open-week/> to watch videos relating to colleges, programmes, fee information, application details, learning support, research or virtual campus tour.

Local and regional students interested in studying at FNU can visit the website on www.fnu.ac.fj to find out more about the wide range of programmes and entry requirements.

FNU will also hold Virtual Outreach Activities (VOA) from 4th October where academic experts will speak to prospective students directly regarding study opportunities and career pathways. If you are interested in attending the live sessions email us at outreach@fnu.ac.fj to register.

Participants win awesome prizes during FNU's 2021 Virtual Open Week



Principal of DAV Girls College, Sahindra Kumar.

A total of 186 prizes were given away during the FNU 2021 Virtual Open Week, with DAV Girls College and Jokaveti Saroivai Kubu scooping the major school and individual category prizes respectively.

DAV Girls College walked away with a laptop, printer and a projector while Jokaveti won a Samsung Tablet - Tab A10.1.

We acknowledge the support of our sponsors Vodafone, Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, Digicel, Telecom, Reserve Bank of Fiji and Fiji Sun. The prizes given out during the Virtual Open Week included laptops, Printers, Mobile Phones, a Tablet, Fitness Packs, Recharge Cards, Headphones, Bluetooth Speakers, Hard drives, Pocket Wifi's, Sports Packs and Blended Nutrition ON THE GO.

Principal of DAV Girls College, Sahindra Kumar said the prize has come as a blessing for the school as they will utilise the laptop, printer and projector for their classes.

"I am extremely surprised and overjoyed with the win," said Kumar.

"The Virtual Open Week is the way forward in educating the students about the courses and programmes offered by the University, how tertiary education is like, what campus life is about and how to enjoy life while getting the best education from a renowned University."

"The week-long program was well planned and conducted. Our students eagerly took part in the information-sharing sessions. I would like to thank University for its thoughts on having a marvellous week-long program. Our best wishes for future events," Kumar added.

Vice Principal Sunita Prasad shared similar sentiments and said "the 2021 FNU Open Week leaves us with many memories that are being added to the annals of FNU."

Prasad said the school will continue to participate

in such events hosted by the University as it will allow the students to gain much-needed information about their career aspirations.

"Whilst sitting in my office and reflecting on the presentations, I feel obliged to thank all the departments, colleges and in particular the Vice-Chancellor for the cornerstones laid during this Virtual Open Week."

"All the Year 13 girls of our school benefitted from the presentations. The eight sessions, divided according to the colleges of the University, provided an insight as to what programmes are offered and what career paths they lead to. The presence of the academics made a big difference for students getting their queries attended to instantly," Prasad added.

FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Toby Wilkinson, while officiating the major draw, congratulated and acknowledged the winners for their participation.

"Open days play an important role in assisting the students to make informed decisions while choosing their study programmes and of course the right institution that will help them realise their dreams," said VC Wilkinson.

"The University is pleased to assist the students in making this important decision about their future. we will continue to serve our region by offering programmes that will produce the much-needed labour skills for the regional markets."

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TESTIMONIALS



"Having different zoom sessions for each of the colleges was an excellent idea. Students were able to ask questions specifically about that college. It enabled our students to be focused on a set of subjects. I was also amazed that the top hierarchy of each of the colleges was virtually present which enabled students to communicate directly with them. The course descriptions of the different schools and the career opportunities elaboration were really helpful. A great effort from the FNU team for organising the virtual week. The students were even excited as there was even a session on how to do an online application."

Raymond Smith, IT Teacher, Adi Cakobau School



"The presentations made by FNU academics were marvellously done. I wanted to learn more about the University's Postgraduate Diploma in Physics. The importance of facilities such as lab equipment for a physicist is a must since we physicists do not accept theory or rely on our instincts. We tend to prove it experimentally and FNU has the right equipment for it all. They also offer flexible learning as well, with superb staff in Department of Physics."

Shiraz Ali, High School Teacher



"I would like to study either in Animal Husbandry or to become a secondary school teacher and the FNU Virtual Open Week allowed me to learn more about my interests in these two areas of study. The sessions were informative and I appreciated the flexible fee payment option available to students."

Swarti Salveena Kumar, Student, Ba Sangam College



"I liked and enjoyed the FNU's 2021 Virtual Open Week as it gave me a fair idea of the diverse range of programmes available. I have decided to join FNU next year but still deciding on my programme of study."

Lohzana Chandra Naidu, Student, Tilak High School



"I was excited to be part of FNU's Virtual Open Week as my top three choices of tertiary studies is in the medical field. The livestream videos were helpful and I was able to have all my questions answered by the academics present online. I want to have a successful future and be an asset to society and I believe FNU can help me achieve this."

Alisha Francis, Student, Votualevu College

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:** Shelvin Naidu | **Division Head:** Director Marketing and Communications Karen Lobendahn
Writers: Kalpana Kaajal, Shireen Lata, Charlene Lanyon, Saleszni Chaudhary, Pravin Narain | **Contributors:** Professor Toby Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor

FNU NIKUA wants to hear from you

FNU NIKUA 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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