

# FNU NIKUA



ISSUE NO. 3 | MARCH 2022



## Starting a New Journey at FNU



**FNU WELCOMES**  
NEW AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

**FIRST YEAR**  
EXPERIENCE AT FNU





# FNU WELCOMES

## NEW AND CONTINUING STUDENTS



**Professor Toby Wilkinson**  
Vice-Chancellor

**A**s the new academic year gets underway at higher education institutions across Fiji, the Fiji National University (FNU) is excited and honoured to welcome new students from across the nation and region, and to welcome back continuing students.

FNU knows that students have a choice of where to study for their tertiary education, and we are committed to repaying the trust that our students and their families have placed in us by choosing FNU.

FNU has recently embarked on its new five-year strategic plan, entitled ‘Opportunity and Ambition’ – opportunity for our students, ambition for our alumni and communities. At the heart of our Strategic Plan are the pillars of Education for Employability and Student Experience. Our strong links with employers in the private and public sectors ensure that all our programmes are tailored to maximise graduate employability. We offer students industrial attachments and internships as an integral part of their course, making them ‘day-one work-ready’ when they graduate.

FNU is also well-attuned to today’s labour market because of its ‘dual-sector’ status: this means that we offer a full range of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as well as higher education programmes. Businesses large and small know that TVET is key to the post-pandemic economic recovery in Fiji and across the region, and this year enrolling in a TVET course at FNU is a wiser choice than ever, with 5,000 funded places on our TVET programmes.

Last year was a difficult one for all Fijians. At FNU, we responded to the pandemic by moving all our teaching and assessment online. This ensured continuity of learning for our students, and generated some positive innovations in digital

delivery which we intend to retain. But switching online also brought its challenges, and everyone is looking forward to returning to on-campus face-to-face classes this Semester. At our vibrant campuses in the Northern, Western and Central Divisions, our students can be assured of a warm welcome.

To help support new students who experienced disruption to their school education, FNU has developed a comprehensive suite of induction and bridging programmes. These will enable students to catch up on lost learning and be better prepared to make the most of their university career. FNU’s Centre for Learning & Teaching Enhancement and Centre for Flexible and E-Learning have launched a wide range of tools and support packages to ensure that every student can succeed in their studies at FNU.

FNU is a diverse and inclusive community, where students from every background can discover themselves, maximise their potential and realise their aspirations. We recognise that, after the challenges of the pandemic and in the face of climate change, we must value our relationships – with each other and with the natural world.

That is why FNU was proud to celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD) on 8 March. Gender equality is not an optional extra, it is an essential component of a prosperous and harmonious society. This year’s IWD theme, ‘*Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow*’, highlights the importance of actively promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in order to build a brighter future, and to deliver opportunity and ambition for our students, our communities, our nation, and our planet.

A warm welcome to all our students, new and continuing. We look forward to seeing you on campus.





# FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE AT FNU

At FNU, we ensure that our first-year students transition smoothly into tertiary studies. To aid in this experience, the University’s Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (CLTE) has developed a few initiatives, such as those below, that students can participate in to aid in their learning journey at FNU.

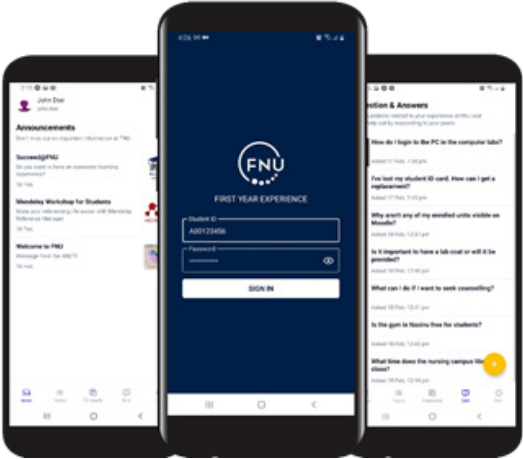


## FNU FYE APP

Mobile App for First-Year Students

Information at your **fingertips!**

The FNU First-Year Experience (FYE) app is designed to help you navigate through your first year at FNU. This app has multiple features to help you get the latest updates, create your personalised timetable, get your questions answered, and assist others by answering their questions. Download the app now for an exciting first-year experience!



**MULTIPLE FEATURES**

Announcements

Tasks

Timetable

Q & A

Notifications

Information

**Download Now!**

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

IOS APP ON App Store

Scan here to view a demo of the app

## SUCCEED@FNU

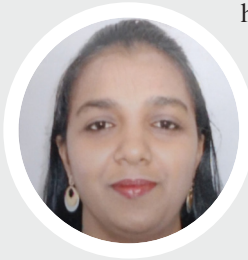


Succeed@FNU is a free-of-charge online course on Moodle to help your transition to higher learning. This course helps you to realise your potential, locate resources, practise FNU’s academic regulations and learn the tips and tricks of taking care of yourself. Here’s what our first-year students have to say about Succeed@FNU course.

I am **Shazana Nisha Khan**, currently enrolled in Master of Commerce in Accounting. I reside in Navo, Nadi. Succeed@FNU has helped in enlightening me with my goals and introducing me to the reality of a student’s life at university. It has made me see perspective and helped to set both personal and academic goals to achieve personal and career development. A motivator for young students, it stands by and supports students throughout their learning journey by providing guidance and ways to grab opportunities to enhance learning. I will recommend Succeed@FNU course to all first-years as it will help them achieve their goals while completing their respective programmes.



My name is **Bavlyn Rafiza Muktar**. I am from the beautiful heart of tourism, the Coral Coast. I have local, regional and short time international stints as a Pastry Cook. Currently, I am enrolled in the Baking and Patisserie Certificate III course. The Succeed@FNU course has helped me to better understand how the online portal works and I have gained much-needed information on how I can always find help and support through various sources. Most definitely I will recommend all the first-year students to attempt Succeed@FNU course.



My name is **Oripa Biu Navunigasau**, studying Management Development & Leadership Skills for Hospitality & Tourism Professionals Assessment. I found the Succeed@FNU course very informative as it guided and directed me to the relevant support services at FNU and enlightened me on FNU regulations that all students must adhere to. I would recommend Succeed@FNU to all first-year students.



## noquBuddy

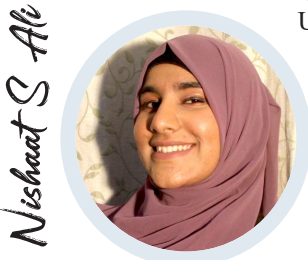


The noquBuddy programme pairs first-year undergraduate students (noquBuddy Mentees) with continuing students (noquBuddy Mentors), who help them adjust well to life at FNU. Here’s what our noquBuddy mentors have to say.

“I am a second-year student at Natabua Campus in Lautoka doing the Bachelor of Education (Primary) course. I enjoy meeting people and the noquBuddy initiative will give me a chance to make a difference to someone who needs help. As a mentor, I will make sure my mentee feels safe and accepted at FNU, is aware of facilities and knows that they are not alone; someone is there to guide them as a friend. I will also get an opportunity to meet new people and learn from them and get to know more about CLTE support services. This programme will be very useful to first-year students.”



Roseline Nisha



Nishaat S Ali

“I am originally from Lautoka, enrolled in Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours) at the Derrick Campus in Samabula, Suva. I have always considered helping people, especially my juniors, hence I decided to volunteer as a noquBuddy Mentor. As a mentor, I wish to make my mentees feel at ease, safe and motivated. I will try to provide them with every possible suggestion or assistance to overcome any issues they might face. I would be friendly and kind to them, so they do not feel nervous around me. I would encourage all first-year students to sign up as ‘mentees’.”

“I am a final-year student at FNU Labasa Campus doing Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management & Information System. I enjoy socialising, hence I volunteered to be a noquBuddy Mentor because when I was a first-year, I faced many difficulties. I encourage all first-year students to join the noquBuddy programme as it will assist you with university life, you will be able to connect with your fellow senior students.”



Avishke A Chand



Contributed by;  
**Dr Deepak Prasad**  
Associate Dean – Learning & Teaching Enhancement  
Centre for Learning & Teaching Enhancement





# FNU KONA



**Students seeking to apply**  
can visit our **FNU KONA** Teams at the  
**following locations:**

- Tappoo City, Suva
- Nausori Market (Bus Bay)
- Shop N Save Supermarket, Navua
- Sugar City Mall, Lautoka
- My FNP Centre, Nadi

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**  
**from 9am - 4pm**

**APPLY NOW**  
**FOR SEMESTER 1, 2022**



Students can also log onto the following link to  
apply: <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply/>

## Ralulu excited to pursue TVET STUDIES AT FNU

**S**avenaca Ralulu was initially unsure of what he wanted to study, however, discovering the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) triggered his interest. And being interested in making things and working with his hands prompted him to enrol in a Certificate III in Fabrication and Welding at the Fiji National University (FNU).

The twenty-one-year-old is pursuing his studies at Ba campus through FNU's College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST).

The Rakiraki native said that he chose to study fabrication and welding to learn how to assemble fabricated components to perform gas tungsten and arc welding.

"I like working with metal, and I wanted to do something practical, so fabrication and welding suited me since the course encompasses practical lessons," Ralulu (*pictured right*) said. The former Nakauvadra High School student completed his secondary education in 2020 and took a break to explore his study options.

"I decided to pursue studies in a TVET programme because I couldn't just sit around, as I know that vocational

and skills training will equip me with specific skills needed at the workplace. My studies here at FNU will provide me with a hands-on practical experience that will prepare me for challenges and opportunities that I may face at work. I am certain that my studies will build my confidence, and I will be job-ready when I graduate," he said proudly.

Ralulu said he opted to study at FNU because it is widely recognised and it has industry-standard workshops which reflect a real working environment

"I researched and found out that this programme prepares me to enter the occupation of trade assistance and that I will attain knowledge and skills to gain employment in various welding occupations."

"The best part about the course is that it is offered at the FNU Ba campus, making it easier for me to commute from home," he said.

After completing his one-year programme, Ralulu plans to upskill and enrol in the Certificate IV in Fabrication and Welding programme. With the knowledge and experience gained, in the near future, he hopes to open a welding shop.

***Year 12 students can Apply Now for Semester 1 studies whilst awaiting their results.***



## FIRST-YEAR FRIDAYS

**F**irst-Year Fridays (FYF) is a warm and welcoming space that gives you a direct line of communication with our friendly and approachable Student Success Specialists. Join the Friday virtual *talanoa* sessions over Zoom, to learn essential tips on navigating life at FNU, locating resources, and becoming aware of support services. You are welcome to ask any questions pertaining to your studies at FNU.

First-Year Fridays Schedule – Semester 1, 2022

Date	Time	Zoom link
1 April, 2022	10 – 11 am	<a href="http://bit.do/fyf-s1-22">http://bit.do/fyf-s1-22</a>
8 April, 2022	11am – 12pm	<a href="http://bit.do/fyf-s2-22">http://bit.do/fyf-s2-22</a>
22 April, 2022	9 – 10 am	<a href="http://bit.do/fyf-s2-22">http://bit.do/fyf-s2-22</a>



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## FREE RESKILLING and UPSKILLING SHORT COURSES

Eligible Fijians have until Friday, April 15 to apply for a Free short course at the Fiji National University (FNU) as part of the Fijian Government’s reskilling and upskilling initiative. As announced in the 2021/2022 National Budget, the Government allocated \$1 million to the national University to assist those who lost their employment due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This would assist eligible Fijians with re-employment and or entrepreneurial ventures.

To qualify for the Free Reskilling and Upskilling placement at FNU, prospective students will have to submit a;

- Statutory Declaration of unemployability due to COVID-19
- Valid Photo ID
- TIN details
- Birth Certificate

Visit this link to complete the form: [www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply](http://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply)

The eight-week short courses will begin in May. The courses offered are as follows:

- National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC)**
- Management Development & Leadership – Hospitality
  - Payroll Management
  - Strategic Planning, Effective Budgeting & Cost Control
  - Construction Fundamentals
  - Plumbing Basics
  - Tile Laying
  - Brick Laying
  - Plastering Basics
  - Certificate of Attainment in Care Giving
  - Fundamentals of Baking & Patisserie
  - Fundamentals of Cookery
  - Fundamentals of Food & Beverage
  - Creating Screen Printing Artwork & Design
  - Household & Sanitary Plumbing
  - Domestic Electrical Installation

- College of Engineering, Science and Technology**
- Analysis of Cloud Data Management
  - Office Automation
  - Diagnose & Repair AHVAC
  - Cyber Security Digital Platform
  - Data Communication & Networking
  - Engineering Project Management
  - Explore the Uses and Applications of Artificial Intelligence
  - Automotive Light Machinery Repair

- College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies**
- Business Startups
  - E-Commerce & Digital Marketing
  - Sustainable Tourism
  - New Tourism Soft Skills
  - Basic Operations in a Call Centre (Level 3)

## Khan strives in MALE-DOMINATED TRADE

Women can excel in any industry, whether they work in a white or blue-collar profession. These are the words of Fiji National University’s apprentice, Afiel Alisha Khan.

The 22-year-old has taken on the challenge to break stereotypes and smash the glass ceiling. Khan (*pictured right*) works in a challenging environment that necessitates electrical skills.

She is currently part of the National Apprenticeship Scheme and is working as an Electrical Engineering (Fitter Mechanic) apprentice at Vatukoula Gold Mines Limited.

According to the apprentice, women should not be afraid to apply for male-dominated jobs as times have changed and females have proven to be as capable as their male counterparts in all areas of work.

“As a woman in the twenty-first century, I feel that gender should have no bearing on a job. Today, men and women have equal rights, and it is only fair to allow women to engage in such trades to promote variety and advancement in the workplace. No career should be gender-specific today because men and women are equally capable of doing the same jobs,” she explained.

This year’s International Women’s Day theme “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow,” emphasised the crucial link between gender, social justice, and climate change, recognising that without gender equality now, a sustainable and equal future will be unattainable.

Khan believes individuals must overcome bias in order for the world to become a fairer and more inclusive place to live, free of inequality, stereotypes, and discrimination while recognising and valuing both men and women.

She added that every woman should be allowed the freedom to live without fear of tyranny in any given scenario, whether she is doing domestic duties or working in a male-dominated sector. This equality is essential to preventing violence against women and girls and ensuring their success in life.

“Being in a male-dominated environment and having to talk with males were some of the first challenges I faced at work.”

“Furthermore, repairing motors and pumps was initially challenging, but with the ongoing guidance of my superiors, I overcame these



challenges,” she stated. “Every day, my male employees guide me through my tasks and motivate me to do better. They are supportive and helpful, frequently reminding me of workplace safety precautions and pushing me to have confidence in my profession and express my issues and thoughts openly. Furthermore, they are kind and treat me decently.

“I learn something new every day, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and work in this field. As a woman, I want to encourage all women who desire to work in a field that they perceive is dominated by males to go for it and not let anything stop them.”

Khan has ambitious goals for the next five years, including becoming a successful tradeswoman at Vatukoula Gold Mines Limited.

“My father previously worked for the Vatukoula Gold Mines as a shaft clerk; also, my father’s relatives have all worked for VGML,” the former Xavier College student revealed.

“My friends and family encouraged me to pursue this job because I was always interested in this field of work.”

“Because my father and his family had previously worked in the mine, I aspired to follow in their shoes.”

Women, Khan advises, should not be discouraged from applying because they are afraid of working in a male-dominated environment.

## Disability not a deterrence FOR WAQAVAKATOGA



“I have five sons – one in high school and four in primary school. Despite the situation, I am grateful to have the opportunity to study. I am so blessed to be here and enroll to further my qualifications,” Waqavakatoga (*pictured left*) said.

He said that if he could do it, others could do it too.

“If I can do it, those who are young, those who are more able-bodied, and those who have a complete family are able to study too and enroll like I’m doing. If you still have the time and if you still have the years to study, go for it,” he added.

FNU is committed to providing a welcoming, encouraging, and empowering environment for students with disabilities to ensure they are provided equal access, full participation and reasonable accommodations for their academic pursuits.

The Office for Disability Services, under the Department of Student Services at the Office of the Registrar is responsible for coordinating support services, reasonable academic accommodations and promoting disability awareness in the University community.

The Office for Disability Services is committed and ready to assist students with disabilities to achieve their goals.

Sakiusa Waqavakatoga is a testament to the notion that persons living with disabilities can still pursue their tertiary ambitions.

Waqavakatoga, 43, has mobility issues due to a spinal cord condition. This did not stop him from making his way to the Fiji National University roadshow at Sigatoka town to apply for Semester 1 studies.

The single father to five sons is a school teacher at Sigatoka Valley Secondary School and said the roadshow made it accessible and easy for him to complete his application process.



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# New students welcomed by the FIJI MARITIME ACADEMY

**S**eated in their crisp black and white uniforms, new students of the Fiji National University's (FNU), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) listened attentively to the Academy staff during their Orientation session for the new academic year.

The new batch of students was briefed on the dress code, code of conduct, enrollment and payment plans, the role and services of the FNU Students' Association (FNUSA) and other academic and support initiatives available to them.

Following the presentations, the students were taken on a guided tour around the campus to familiarise themselves with the lecture and simulation rooms.

Amongst the excited students were Adi Aloesia Kalokalodromu and Frances Masaurua, who quietly

took in their surroundings and made notes of what was required of them.

Kalokalodromu said she was eager to begin her Diploma in Nautical Science studies as it was a career ambition she had since she was younger.

The former Bhawani Dayal Arya College student said she had researched maritime studies and career opportunities available so that she could make an informed decision about her studies.

"As a young girl, I know I wanted to be in the seafarer industry and was glad when I learnt about the courses offered at FMA," Kalokalodromu said.

"I read through the programme outline online and applied successfully to the Academy."

"I am ready to begin on-campus studies and hope to one day work on a regional vessel."



Masaurua, who like Kalokalodromu is also from Cakaudrove in Vanua Levu, said she was able to easily adapt to her tertiary studies due to the helpful academic staff.

"I am glad we have this orientation session to help us get ready for studies at the Academy," she said.

Through the Nautical Science programme, the duo and their classmates will undergo units in Technical Communication, General Ship and Nautical Knowledge, Practical and Marine Navigation & Chart work, Managerial and Leadership Skills, Applied Science, Engineering, Marine Environmental Awareness and Administration.

## NTPC'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE SKILLS GAP



**T**he National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) of the Fiji National University (FNU) is committed to reducing the skills gap in various industries and working closely with stakeholders through its Industry and Community Discussion Forum (ICDF) to achieve this.

Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata, NTPC Director, stated that as the designated National Productivity Organisation for Fiji, NTPC's key role is to help reduce skills gaps and increase efficiency in the workforce through in-service training, productivity training, trade testing and apprenticeship.

"Anyone interested in strengthening their professional and trade abilities is welcome to participate in the ICDF, regardless of how big or small the business is, whether you are based in the Central Business District or in Levuka or Kadavu, whether you run a canteen from home or manage an export business. We would like to hear from you about the skills you require. The results of the month-long ICDF and survey will help NTPC rethink and design relevant programmes and courses to fill the present and future skill shortages," Dr Tagicakiverata said.

Dr Tagicakiverata stated that during the last two years, everyone has adjusted to the new normal of working remotely from home, and many individuals have had to start small enterprises after losing their employment due to the pandemic. Organisational training needs have changed a lot around the world, and Fiji, which is a developing country, was no exception.

"This year, 2022, the tide has slowly turned, and international travel has resumed, the tourism sector is operational again, and many businesses are slowly operating again, so there is a sense of urgency, and there is an accelerated demand for employee upskilling and reskilling in order for organisations to compete and become sustainable in the new normal."

"The annual ICDF, which includes the survey, enables the Centre to better plan our courses to meet the ever-changing needs of employers and employees from a wide range of sectors, including big corporations and

non-profit organisations, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and individuals looking for ways to supplement their income."

For the first time in NTPC history, the Centre also hosted the Careers Fair on Thursdays in March for current and prospective students interested in studying Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes at the NTPC.

The participants were able to engage with NTPC Heads of Training, Managers, and Senior Training Instructors.

"The Careers Fair sessions were open to all companies, employees, and community members from the jobless and informal sectors, as well as NGOs. This will provide an average individual with the opportunity to learn about the courses they may take to improve their current profession or future work prospects," Dr Tagicakiverata added.

"This will let anyone who wants to learn more about how to improve their job or future job chances learn about the courses they can take."

During the ICDF, NTPC managers, senior training instructors, and heads of departments also met with businesses, organisations, and industries both online and in-person to talk about how to best meet their training needs.

The ICDF concluded on March 31.

For further information or queries, please email us at [info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj) or call us at 2417779.

## FNU HAS FLEXIBLE FEE PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE!!

Enrolment

Enrolment Fee Payment

Sign up for Payment Plan

**For Example: Unit cost \$400**  
Unit cost/ Semester period  
400/ 16 weeks OR 400/ 4months

**Weekly \$25 weekly**  
**Monthly payment \$100 monthly**

**\$25**  
under the payment plan is equivalent to a day out with friends

**STUDY WITH A PEACE OF MIND**  
**AND PAY FOR YOUR TUITION AS YOU GO ALONG.**  
For further enquiries please email: [RevenueQueries@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:RevenueQueries@fnu.ac.fj)

**SCAN TO APPLY**





# Chandra joins FNU TO BECOME A SCIENCE TEACHER

For eighteen-year-old Suhani Chandra, her love for life sciences and a strong desire to teach young people about environmental issues drove her to pursue studies in Bachelor of Education (Secondary) in Biology and Chemistry at the Fiji National University (FNU).

Offered through the FNU’s College of Humanities and Education (CHE), Chandra (*inset, right*) is a step closer to empowering students to develop an abiding appreciation for the natural world.

The former Ba Sanatan College student believes that education is the most powerful weapon that one can use to change the world for good.

“I want to make an impact on the future generations and teach them the understanding of the living world, from cells, chromosomes and genetics to the wonders of evolution and the scientific principles that guide them,” she said.

After seeing the impacts on COVID-19 and the invention of new vaccines, the Ba lass is on a mission to help students grasp the importance of scientific discoveries.

“After I become a teacher, I will be able to take young minds on a journey from tiny organisms to the environment and the world itself.”

“I am so excited to follow the footsteps of my biology and chemistry teachers, who also



graduated from FNU. They inspired me to enrol in this programme,” she said.

Chandra received all her information relating to the programme when she visited the enrolment centre at FNU’s Natabua campus Lautoka.

“It was an easy process for me when I visited the enrolment centre. The information was beneficial as it cleared my doubt about the programme and the best part was that I could speak with the lecturer,” she said.

Chandra adds that she decided to join FNU to study a high-quality teaching qualification close to families and friends.

“The best part about studying at FNU is that most programmes are offered in western campuses. We don’t have to be away from our families.”

“FNU has a strong reputation for producing quality graduates. I wanted to pursue studies at FNU because of the practical component I will gain before graduating. The practical component not only will give me hands-on experience in our potential career but will enable me to start building a network,” she said.

Chandra is looking forward to a productive 3-year journey at FNU.

“I am excited to meet and make friends who share similar interests.”

## TESTIMONIALS

**Name:** Shivneel Shalvesh Kumar  
**Age:** 19  
**Programme:** Short Course in Electrical Engineering  
**Centre:** NTPC, Narere  
**Where are you from?:** Naduru, Vuci Nausori  
**Reason for studying at FNU:** To attain qualifications and training in the electrical field.  
**Goals:**

- Complete my course this year and undertake my industrial attachment.
- Apply for Trade Test at NTPC in the future.
- Obtain my wireman license.
- Open up my own business.

**Name:** Donna Leilani Finau  
**Age:** 24  
**Programme:** Certificate of Attainment in Cabinet Making and Joinery  
**Centre:** NTPC, Narere  
**Where are you from?:** Vadravadra  
**Reason for studying at NTPC:** To learn new skills  
**Goals:** I want to become a Master Builder.

**Name:** Peni Motoya Junior  
**Age:** 20  
**Programme:** Certificate of Attainment in Cabinet Making and Joinery  
**Centre:** NTPC, Narere  
**Where are you from?:** Natumua, Tavuki, Kadavu  
**Reason for studying at FNU:** To better my skills and knowledge in Cabinet Making and Joinery.  
**Goals:** To become a successful leading manager in a construction company.

## Targetted training offered by NTPC ASSISTS ORGANISATIONS TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY



The interactive 2022 virtual Industry and Community Discussion Forum (ICDF) platform allow businesses to connect with the training provider, Fiji National University’s National Training and Productivity Centre, to discuss the training needs of their organisations to boost efficiency and productivity with the right skills training.

These were the words of Altaab Khan, the Senior Manager, Learning and Capability of the Raffe Group of Hotels and Resorts.

Khan (*pictured, above*) and his team were part of the ongoing ICDF, which started earlier this month.

“The ICDF is an excellent platform to gain a better understanding of the organisation’s needs and align

learning and development accordingly. I am convinced that the university has done an outstanding job of bringing this to the attention of all stakeholders,” said Khan.

“As a Learning and Capability Specialist, I find all officers extremely helpful anytime I have business dealings with them. On the other hand, it’s a useful tool for the university to adapt to demands, grasp the post-COVID world, and create something exceptional for each unique customer,” he explained.

Raffe Hotels and Resorts have been in operation for more than 50 years. The group has three distinct locations around the country, which include the Fiji Gateway Hotel, which is located directly across from Nadi International Airport, Plantation Island Resort, and Lomani Island Resort, which are in the Malolo Lailai Islands. The group employs more than 300 ambassadors.

At the Raffe Hotel, we are adamant about our ideals, one of which is commitment. As a result, we ensure that we are committed to continuously developing and enhancing our people’s capabilities and providing a platform for them to grow and thrive throughout their professional journey with us,” he said.

“We communicate with FNU frequently on learning and development; we send our employees for external development; and we adore the ICDF approach, which we find quite collaborative. It enables us to communicate with one another and freely debate accessible resources.”

Khan stated that the top priority for any hotel

industry at the moment is to provide a robust welcome back package for team members, which is why their focus is on guest-centric training, change management, adaptability skills, resilience, the Care Fiji Commitment, and occupational, health, and safety training.

“The university has successfully adapted to the new norm and communicated with all stakeholders in a timely manner,” he remarked.

“The discussions were really fruitful, and I am confident that you will continue to excel at allowing organisations to succeed in 2022. Congratulations to the virtual link team for bringing the discussion to the convenience of the organisations. I have participated in the Industry Discussion forums for several years and appreciate your efforts to foster an inclusive culture.”

As Fiji’s designated National Productivity Organisation, NTPC’s primary duty is to close skills gaps among our workforce through in-service training and to encourage economic growth in Fiji through productivity promotion. This event also aligns with our new FNU strategic strategy, which is organised around two pillars: Pillar One - Education for Employment - and Sphere Two - National Development. As a result, we are conducting a month-long intensive industry and community stakeholder engagement to ensure that we successfully carry out our mandate and strategy.

The month-long ICDF forum and survey results will assist NTPC in revising and designing new programmes and courses to close present and future skill gaps.







SCAN TO  
REGISTER

# Talanoa with our Alumni



## Rakula champions in-flight WELLNESS AT FIJI AIRWAYS

Bachelor of Environmental Health at its College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences' (CMNHS)."

"My upbringing was not an easy one but I am grateful I was able to overcome them and successfully complete my degree."

He said FNU provided the necessary skills and knowledge he needed to become an environmental health advocate amongst his networks.

"In 2018, I participated in the Hibiscus Festival as a King contestant and used this platform as a way to highlight the importance of what I had learnt at FNU."

"FNU also made me multi-skilled. I'm also thankful for the highly qualified lectures that impart knowledge and skills that empowered us to work with confidence when out in the field."

Rakula also participated in various initiatives that have enriched his learning experience.

"In addition to the Hibiscus Festival, I was a facilitator for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, attended the Association of Commonwealth Universities, did my attachment with various town councils in the Central Division, volunteered for various community health initiatives and managed community awareness and educational talks."

### Career

After graduating with his degree in 2020, Rakula immediately started work as a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Officer and eyes and Ears Technician at Project HEAVEN Trust.

"In this role, I conducted WASH education and awareness in rural communities, provided advice and counselling, assessed children for neglect and abuse and refer cases to the relevant authorities.

Last year, Rakula began work in his current role as a Customer Wellness Champion at Fiji Airways.

"I am responsible for the wellbeing of all passengers and staff onboard a flight and ensure that all COVID-safe protocols are followed," he explained.

"This role was introduced by the national airline as part of its Travel Ready programme to promote safe travelling as international borders slowly opened up after months of lockdown and restrictions."

"It is an added incentive that I can still

work in my field of interest and travel around the world while doing so."

Upon reflection, Rakula was quick to credit his grandparents for his success, saying they were his main source of encouragement due to their words of motivation.

### Current goals

Despite his current work schedule, Rakula still finds time to assist new FNU graduates in drafting their job application letters and curriculum vitae.

"I want to give back to the University and its students. This is just a small way in which I can contribute," he said.

"I also intend to complete my Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Health (Disaster Management) and be a lecturer at FNU in the coming years.

### Words of Wisdom

"The great thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you," Rakula shared thoughtfully.

"Therefore, it is very important that you pursue studies to the level that you wish to, to make yourself and your families proud."

He added that graduates should consider employment as a journey of self-discovery.

"When working, you are still growing and learning about yourself, what you're good at, what you dislike and what you need to improve on," he said.

"Use this to your advantage as you develop personally and professionally."

Rakula said students and workers alike should always strive to be "principled, proactive and productive."

### Alumni Connect

Graduates of FNU and its former institutions can register to be part of the exclusive Alumni Connect portal and remain connected to their fellow classmates and the University.

Registered alumni can receive news and updates on key University activities, read alumni success and feature articles, scholarship and upskilling opportunities, networking events and professional development and training seminars.

To register, please scan the QR code at the top left corner of this page.

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has redefined the way people live, work, learn and play. As we adapt to living in a 'new normal' world, new forms of roles and

responsibilities have emerged that priorities the health and safety of families and communities. For Tevita Mikaele Rakula, this means he is responsible for the well-being of a specific set of people – passengers and staff onboard the Fiji Airways flights he is rostered on.

### Education

Rakula, from Nawi in Cakaudrove, spent his childhood growing up in Taveuni and said observing public health workers as a young boy developed his passion to work as a health inspector.

"Compared to clinical medicine, I was motivated to study and work more in the preventative field of healthcare," he said.

"I was pleased when I learnt that the Fiji National University (FNU) offered the

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**FNUNIKUA wants  
to HEAR FROM YOU**

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](mailto:mprc@fnu.ac.fj)

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