

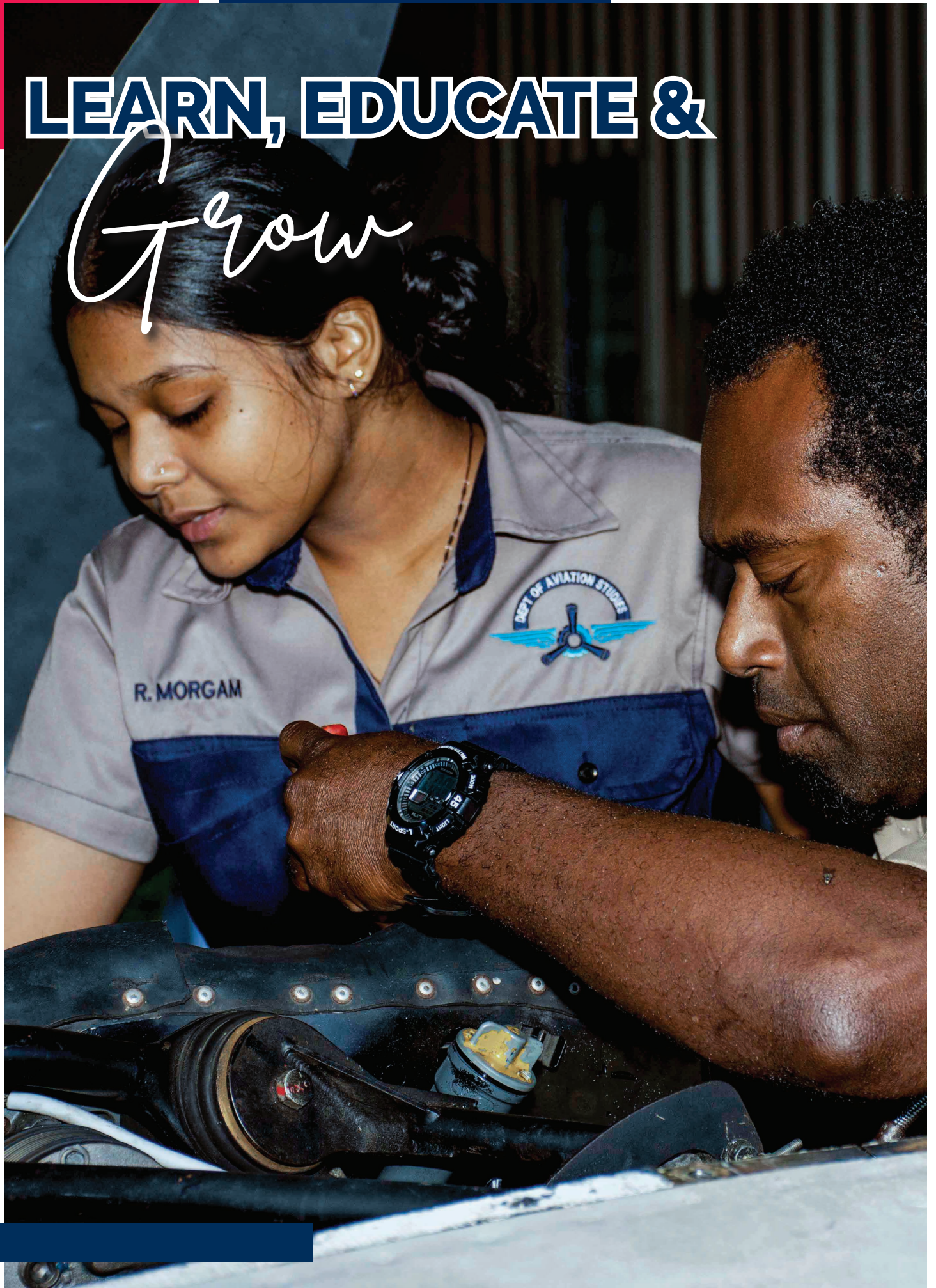
# FNU NIKUA



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## LEARN, EDUCATE &

*Grow*



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**PRIORITISING  
EDUCATION**

**GAUNA PROGRESSES  
IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FIELD**





## Prioritising Education

**I**t is widely regarded that the purpose of a university is learning, and that all of us who are part of an institution become a community of learners. While students come to learn from the knowledge, intellectual skills and habits that academics possess, faculty members are also learners in their own right as they engage in research and upskilling to be more purposeful in their teaching.

### WHY IS EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

There is a distinct relationship between education and personal goals. The most common reason individuals seek a qualification is to ensure a better future for themselves. For the most part, education helps hone communication skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. While these may seem to be rudimentary requirements for any learning institution from primary to higher education, the benefits to seeking and gaining a qualification far outweigh the costs.

Education also develops critical thinking and helps individuals use logic when making everyday choices. It provides stability in life as gaining a qualification increases chances for better career opportunities.

### BENEFITS OF EDUCATION

#### Meeting Job Requirements

Education helps individuals meet basic job qualifications and makes them more likely to secure better jobs. Many employers have minimum education requirements and without meeting these requirements, an interested applicant is unlikely to get an interview. In other circumstances, employers consider those who do not just meet standard requirements but exceed them. Those with advanced studies or qualifications in a specific field become more attractive job candidates, making them more likely to secure a job.

#### Improved Job Skills

Some consider education as just a piece of paper. This is widely negated because time spent through the education system whether in high school or university has helped individuals master both basic and advanced skills which are crucial in a competitive job market.

Actively participating in research and classes can also improve technological skills. Computer skills are key in the job market. Most employers

require some form of computer knowledge to be able to successfully carry out jobs. The social skills developed at university can also help individuals well in the search for employment.

#### Opportunities for Advancement

The benefits of education continue even after securing employment. Higher education may be a requirement for promotions or for managerial positions, and if you continue your education, you'll be eligible for these higher paying, more prestigious jobs.

If a position in your company or organisation opens that's specific to your field of study, you'll probably be the most competitive candidate given you have the skills and the qualifications aligned to the job.

#### Economic Growth

Today, having an education is considered a vital part of society and allows you to make contribution in spaces that influence change whether at a community or national level. An educated society is crucial for economic growth. We need people to continue to learn and research to constantly stay innovative. Countries with higher literacy rates also tend to be in better economic situations. With a more educated population, more employment opportunities are opened.

#### TVET PROGRAMMES

The University's goal is to train the region's workforce for employability and productivity. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Pasifika enables students, employers, and development partners across the Pacific to select the technical and vocational education and training programmes that meet their specific needs.

The wide range of courses available offers individuals and organisations opportunities to train, up-skill and re-skill to meet the changing requirements of national and regional labour markets – now and in the future.

#### ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

FNU has diversified its service delivery to ensure that students are not only job seekers but also become job creators. The University understands that education and training can have a definite role in enhancing entrepreneurship, particularly in developing countries like Fiji that helps to create a

large pool of entrepreneurs.

FNU is well equipped to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings. It has developed entrepreneurial ecosystems to support enterprise growth and equip students with skills to plan and launch start-ups and other business ventures.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

The University provides Higher Education programmes that have been evaluated to be suitable for addressing the skills gap and building the necessary skills that could help improve economic success and social cohesion. The University continues to modify its programmes to adapt to changing economic and workforce development. FNU offers degree programmes in all five of its major colleges and has accredited postgraduate and masters' programmes.

#### LEARN, EDUCATE AND GROW WITH FNU

As we tread towards the new academic term, we encourage both new and continuing students to register for courses that enable them to gain employment or provide them with the much-needed skills that would allow selection for better job opportunities or launch startups.

The University stands ready to support students in their academic pursuits and looks forward to welcoming them in the new academic term.



**Dr William May**  
Acting Vice-Chancellor





# Kete Relishes WORLD CUP OPPORTUNITY

**J**imaima Vakacegu Kete had always set her sights towards a career that would accommodate both her passions and hobby.

The 20-year-old Makadru, Matuku, Lau, native was elated at having being part of the Fiji Pearls Netball team that qualified for the Netball World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa in 2023.

Kete (pictured right) currently undertakes Preliminary Science at the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at the Fiji National University and has had to work hard to be able to maintain balance between her academic and sporting pursuits.

“The journey has been difficult and challenging so far because I have to coordinate my time between family, netball and school,” she said.

“Being in University marks an important step in my academic pursuits. The experience so far has helped me to make decisions independently and also enables me to exercise time management.”

She said being selected to the National netball team and later qualifying for the Netball World Cup

was no easy feat.

“Qualifying for the World Cup is a big achievement and I feel very happy and amazed. It was not easy getting here and I honestly cannot put into words how happy I am because it has been a challenging journey.”

“We had two training sessions in a day – one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. I usually have classes at around 9am and training would conclude at 8am. By the time I go for classes, I’m already tired. This, however, has turned me into a more resilient person, one who has had to handle several things simultaneously.”

Kete credited her success to her supportive family.

“I am thankful to God for giving me such beautiful and supportive parents. If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t be here. Even if the results didn’t go our way, they were always there to support me, pushing me to never give up.”

Kete hopes that like her, more individuals would be willing to pursue their academic aspirations alongside their sporting goals.



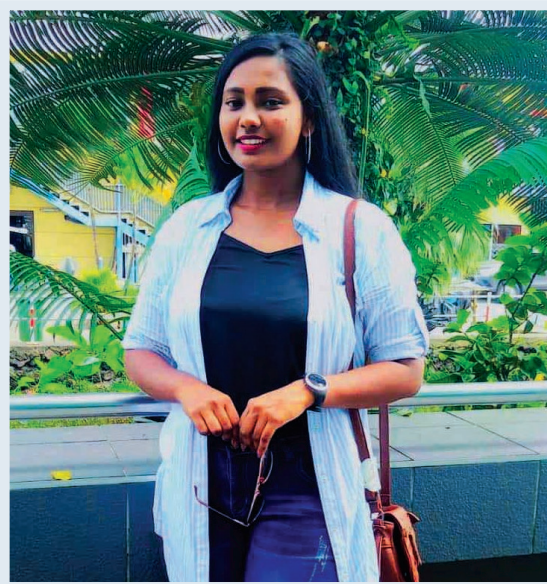
## Krishnan Honoured TO REPRESENT FIJI

**S**onia Krishnan, a third-year law student at Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Business, Hospitality, and Tourism Studies (CBHTS), is excited to visit the Taj Mahal when she travels to India to represent Fiji at the 75th anniversary of India’s independence.

She was selected from a pool of applicants who expressed interest in participating in the Ministry of Youth and Sports Youth Exchange Program (YEP).

Krishnan (pictured centre), of Naikabula, Lautoka, said the opportunity would allow her to reconnect with her ancestral roots, from which her forefathers came under the Indenture Labour System.

“I will do my best to be a good Fijian ambassador to India, connecting the two peoples through official engagements and sharing stories from the visit. It will be a thrilling journey during which I will learn more about India and its diverse culture,” she said.



“I’ve always seen India through the lens of film, but on this trip, I’ll get to see the beautiful historical sites in Agra, Gujarat, New Delhi, and other parts of India.”

Krishnan is also the president of the Nakasi Youth Club, where she volunteers to help people in the community, and it was through her involvement in this organisation that motivated her to apply for the YEP.

“I am honoured to be returning to the homeland of my forefathers. My family had always told me stories about how our ancestors came from India.”

“Every Fijian of Indian descent’s dream has always been to visit India at least once in their lives, and I had no idea it would come so soon for me to visit different parts of India.”

Krishnan leaves for India on August 6th and returns on the 20th.

## STUDY AT FNU

**A**s a dual sector institution, the Fiji National University plays a vital role as a knowledge creation hub for a nation through education and research.

It serves as a resource that generates prime knowledge and innovative solutions to guide policy agendas and to achieve national development goals.

The Fiji National University was established to aid the country’s social and economic development and adopted a dual sector identity, combining technical and vocational education and training with higher education for this cause. Now 12 years since its inception, FNU has made significant strides to achieve its objectives.

The University has prioritised education delivery to expand the novelty, relevance and the standard of research and innovation of academics and scholars and stands ready to support and assist all students who walk through our corridors.

FNU remains committed to producing work-ready graduates at undergraduate and post-graduate levels, with the skills, knowledge, competencies, aptitudes and behaviours

necessary to succeed in competitive jobs market, including by establishing new businesses.

The University’s extensive TVET programmes is tailored to support diverse industry sectors relevant to our region, including agriculture and the marine sector, hospitality and tourism, business and commerce, engineering and technology, education and community care.

These programmes play a crucial role in providing education opportunity and reducing inequality, filling skills gaps and supporting sustainable economic growth, particularly in rural and remote communities.

With knowledge considered the true foundation for Higher Education, FNU works to ensure that excellence in the delivery of all teaching, whether in TVET or Higher Education programmes.

For information on programme details and entry requirements, students can visit our website at [www.fnu.ac.fj](http://www.fnu.ac.fj)

For enquiries relating to applications, please send your email to [admission@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:admission@fnu.ac.fj)

## APPLY NOW

FOR SEMESTER 2, 2022



**APPLY ONLINE**

Applicants are encouraged to Apply Online for Admission using the link <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/student/academic-services/apply-here/>







## TONG SAILS TOWARDS HIS DREAM

**R**oata Harry Tong is determined to realise his dream of becoming a seaman travelling the world.

Originally from Kiribati, Tong (pictured above) indicated that the only way to realise his dream was to complete his Diploma in Nautical Science programme at the Fiji National University's (FNU), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) and secure employment.

"I am from a small island in the South Pacific that is surrounded by water, so I've always wanted to work in the maritime sector. That's why I decided to join the programme," he said.

"The nautical science programme is exciting and will allow me to develop my career abilities and knowledge. It's also one of the most important jobs in my country, because it connects the mainland with the 33 smaller continental islands."

"With a strong desire to travel and see the world, I believe that with my current programme, I can achieve my goals and desires, which I hope will also lead to further opportunities that would help me grow personally and professionally."

The 22-year-old believes that hard work, perseverance, and dedication to his studies will allow him to prepare for and establish his career as a junior officer.

"After I get my first junior job, I will further my studies to help me move up the ranks to more senior roles that align with what I have learned at FNU."

"Learning new things every day makes the programme so fascinating. I believe that learning new things gives us new experiences, encourages self-improvement, and helps us expand our talents and capacities."

He admitted that although being away from home was difficult, he knew that the sacrifices made now would lead to a career that achieved his goals and made his family proud.

"Studying overseas is really appealing, but it is not simple. It's difficult to be away from home because you're in a different country and many miles away from your family and friends' support network," he admitted.

"My educational experience at FNU has been both challenging and exciting. The experience has helped shape my future goals and ambitions despite the challenges. My teachers have played an important role in bringing out the best in my academic and personal abilities and interests. My experience at FNU has assisted in my intellectual, personal, and professional development, as well as the discovery of new abilities and hobbies for myself."

Tong believes that everyone should continue to push themselves to accomplish their aspirations and surround themselves with positive energy to learn and grow.

"I will push myself and challenge myself to accomplish more and find new ways to serve my people to the best of my ability. This is one of my main career goals."

## TAKALA EXCELS IN BEEKEEPING BUSINESS

**L**etila Uluiqalau Takala did not let her situation as an unemployed single mother, caregiver to her mother and guardian to her younger siblings define her destiny or deter her from pursuing tertiary studies to gain skills and create a better livelihood for her family.

Takala (pictured below) was flipping through the daily newspapers at home in 2016 when she stumbled across an advertisement regarding a government-sponsored course that was offered at the Fiji National University (FNU).

"The advertisement was for all unemployed youth and school leavers," she explained.

"The government was providing sponsorship for those interested in undertaking the Certificate III in Commercial Agriculture programme at FNU's College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF)."

"Without hesitation, I applied and was grateful to be chosen. During my studies, I decided to specialise in Apiculture (Beekeeping)."

"I have always been interested in the environment, insects that pollinate our plants and how we as human beings depend on them for survival."

Takala, who is from Toki Village in Ovalau, Lomaiviti had completed her pre-tertiary education at Yasayasa Moala College, Jai Narayan College, and Adi Cakobau School.

She was excited to be learning new skills and knowledge and in the second year of studies, she was able to implement her theoretical learning in a practical environment through her industrial attachment at Commercial Honey Supplies in Nausori.

"By the end of my studies, I was eager to start my own beekeeping venture and with the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) that I received at FNU, I was confident in my capabilities of being an entrepreneur."

"I also did an interview with the owner of

Commercial Honey Supplies (Satish Narayan) in 2016 on how his company started as a hobby before progressing to become a commercial beekeeping operation. They were my host employer during my industrial attachment and always imparted words of advice and encouragement, which has contributed to my success."

"This guidance will also help me achieve long term plans that I am working towards as an entrepreneur."

In 2018, the then 29-year-old graduated from FNU and sought permission from village elders to lease 10 acres of mataqali (clan) land to establish her beekeeping farm.

During this time, Takala came across another advertisement regarding a Startupper challenge, whereby individuals could pitch their business idea to a panel of judges and win funding for their proposals.

"I applied with my beekeeping business idea in mind and was overjoyed when I won the overall challenge and used the prize money to fund my business venture," she shared.

"It was perfect timing as my lease request was also finalised. I bought bee hives and colonies, including beekeeping equipment to help me harvest, bottle and sell honey."

Takala said she was a proud alumni of FNU, and that age or gender should not be a barrier to what a person can achieve.

"FNU was the launching pad for me in terms of providing me with the skills and qualification I needed to venture into something I was passionate about and make a living out of it," she said.

"I want to encourage young people – whether you are a FNU graduate or are about to graduate – to make use of all the time and years you've spent at University and turn this into something successful that you'll be proud of."

"Don't ever give up on your dreams."

Takala now operates her Honey Love Fiji Apiary business in Nakorotubu, Ra.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE HUB

**T**he Fiji National University's Centre of Learning and Teaching (CLTE) has coordinated an English Language Hub (ELH) that seeks to support English Language learners.

ELH is dedicated to helping FNU students from all disciplines and abilities to become more effective writers (both in academic and non-academic genres) and oral communicators—both of which are essential to student success at FNU and beyond.

To this end, FNU offers a flexible tutoring service with workshops, open and free English as a Second Language (ESL) courses and a range of resources.

Instructors' nurture students' English language skills to prepare them for communicative competence in both written and oral discourse. ELH is for all students—whether you are struggling, doing OK or a high achiever.

The ELH provides students with the opportunities to enhance written and oral English skills. The instructors are TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) qualified, who have demonstrated commitment in working with students on the continued development of their written and oral communication skills.

For more information contact [clte@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:clte@fnu.ac.fj)







His Excellency the President of New Caledonia, Honourable Louis Mapou (front centre) with CMNHS staff and students.



Honourable Saia Piukala.

## Regional Leaders VISIT CMNHS

The Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences' (CMNHS) has deeply rooted history in both Fiji and the region.

With former national institutions established over a century ago to train students in the medical and nursing fields, many local, regional and international students have studied and graduated from the College.

CMNHS graduates are now employed in the public and private sector healthcare systems across the region. At present, the College currently has the highest number of regional students at the University, with students from countries such as American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Hence, the College regularly undertakes regional collaborations, activities and visits from regional neighbours.

### Presidential Visit by New Caledonia Delegation

CMNHS was visited by a delegation from New Caledonia that was led by His Excellency the President of New Caledonia, Honourable Louis Mapou. The team were in Fiji for the 51st Pacific Islands Forum

Leaders Meeting and requested a tour of the College campuses and facilities.

CMNHS Acting Dean, Dr Donald Wilson and members of the College's senior management group welcomed the group on campus. Following a brief presentation on FNU's history and strategic objectives, Dr Wilson highlighted the programmes offered at the College and answered queries from the delegation regarding quotas and specialist courses.

The group then toured Pasifika Campus and were shown the medical laboratory science, physiotherapy and dental labs and spoke to students regarding their study experiences at FNU before visiting the Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) project lab at the Public Health campus in Tamavua.

The delegation concluded the visit at the Nursing Campus, viewing the auditorium and dormitories.

HE Mapou said the team were impressed with the staffing and training and teaching resources available at the College. He commended the College for employing a people-centred approach in its research projects and noted how certain skills and approaches could be implemented in New Caledonia to manage their health systems and efficiently respond to health emergencies.

### Tongan Health Minister Visits Students

Tongan students at the College were also paid a visit by the Tongan Minister for Health, Honourable Saia Piukala earlier this month.

"I wanted to visit the students, who are in various undergraduate and postgraduate studies and convey the support of the Tongan government in regards to our students studies here at FNU," Hon Piukala said.

"We also had engaging discussions so that I could see how we could provide support to the students if needed."

"I know it can be difficult studying and living away from home and their families so I just wanted to provide words of encouragement and remind them of the support services we offer through other regional agencies here in Fiji."

Minister Piukala was accompanied by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Deputy Director-General Science and Capability, Paula Vivili during the visit. The Minister added that Vivili was appointed as the focal point of contact person between the students, College and the Tongan Government.

Hon Piukala is also an alumnus of the College, and was the first regional student to become President of the Fiji School of Medicine Student Association (FSMSA).

## FNU CONTINUES OUTREACH ACTIVITIES to Villages and Schools

Teams from various Fiji National University (FNU) campuses have conducted outreach activities to ensure that communities and schools around the country are aware of the accessible and affordable technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education programmes offered at FNU.

FNU's Ba Campus head Niraj Dharmendra recently led a team to Navala community in Ba to create awareness on courses offered by the University which individuals could undertake and secure employment upon graduation; or start their own businesses.

These activities align with FNU's Strategic Plan 2021-2026, whereby the University strives to attract, retain and produce work-ready graduates at undergraduate and postgraduate levels with the skills, knowledge, competencies, aptitudes, and behaviours necessary to succeed in a competitive job market, including by establishing new businesses.

Dharmendra said Navala villagers at the information session were able to have their programmes, fees and academic queries answered by the team.

"We had over 50 individuals who attended the

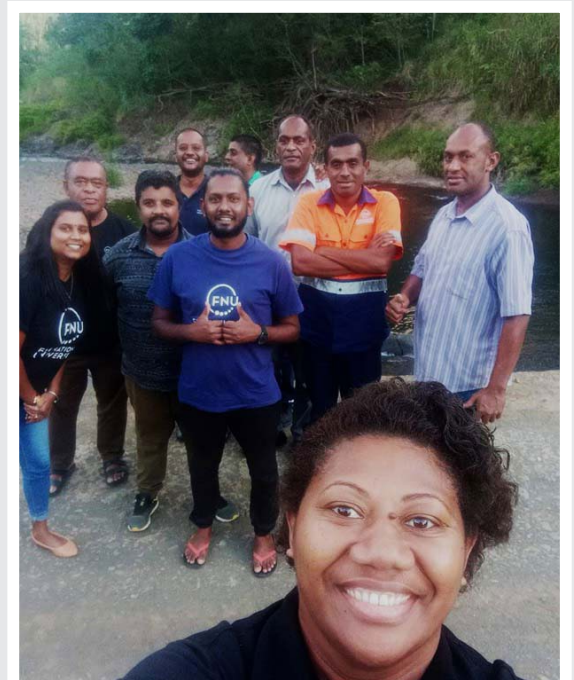
programme and many were youth. They were invested in their future and enquired about the various study pathways available at FNU," he said.

"Our aim is to ensure prospective students, parents and guardians are provided with the necessary information they needed to make decisions regarding tertiary studies. Our students are the primary reason we exist, and our duty is to provide them with the best possible experience that allows them to develop personally, morally and spiritually as well as intellectually, and to thrive, learn, question and succeed as global citizens," Dharmendra said.

"Our focus is on empowering individuals with the education and skill sets so that they may be easily absorbed into the workforce. A key focus will be on skills development and turning the job seekers into job creators."

"We had good interaction with the members of the community, and they were grateful for the visit by the team," he said.

If you want the Outreach team to visit your community, contact us on [outreach@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:outreach@fnu.ac.fj) or call 3394000 ext: 2896.



FNU's outreach team pose with Navala villagers.





# FNU Introduces ETHICS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION IN OCEANIA (EACO) COURSE

**F**iji National University's (FNU), College of Humanities and Education (CHE) has introduced the Ethics and Anti-Corruption in Oceania (EACO) Course to help in eradicating corruption and unethical practices from the country.

The course is a continuation of the very successful Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) Online Anti-Corruption Module, which was offered in 2021 with the support of Integrity Fiji, Transparency International, and the Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption (FICAC).

Commissioner FICAC, Rashmi Aslam, who officially launched the course said combating corruption is a multifaceted and challenging endeavour, requiring the finest competence, meticulous preparation, and rigorous execution. It is the obligation of society as a whole and cannot be accomplished by a single individual or organisation.

"FICAC has been fighting corruption in Fiji for the last 15 years. The key lessons we learned were of multi-dimensional. The corrupt activities have been evolving rapidly with new strategies, and technological advancement has accelerated them to another level. Then came COVID-19, and the fight against corruption has become increasingly difficult.

"This is the opportune time we gather and unify all our efforts to elevate our unified game plan to fight against corruption. Particularly at this point, the initiative of the Fiji National University is very welcoming.



Acting Dean CHE, Mr Jerry Wong (left) with the Chief Guest Mr Rashmi Aslam (middle) and Acting HOD Ethics and Governance, Ms Makareta Mua (right).

"The course is directed towards the individuals working in both public and private sectors and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) who have an interest in learning more about ethics, moral reasoning and anti-corruption within the Oceania region. I believe this is an excellent starting point to rejuvenate our values and ethics. We will encourage all civil servants to take up this course."

The Acting Dean of FNU's College of Humanities and Education, Jerry Wong said that FNU views ethics as a vital trait that should be fostered in all students.

"Education and training, such as this course, will lead to changes in people's attitudes. By adopting a mindset infused with the ideals of integrity, individuals would not simply accept corrupt activities and would

freely report them to FICAC," Wong said.

"With the large amounts of money being made available in Fiji and the Pacific for climate change and sustainable development initiatives, we at FNU believe that the most effective technique for combating corruption is to teach good values to our students and the general public.

Acting Head of Department Ethics and Governance Makareta Mua, emphasised that corruption is a global scourge that has permeated all levels of society and all areas of life, including public officials, business managers, and even residents of our country. Corruption exists in all of our nations' governments and public agencies. It has eroded effective government in Oceania and is harming our people.

"It is timely to introduce this Ethics and Anti-Corruption in Oceania Course for Year 11 to Year 13 students and individuals working in Civil Society Organisations, Non-Government Organisations, and government agencies who are interested in learning more about issues of ethics, moral reasoning, and anti-corruption in the Oceania region," she said.

"The EACO course is a six-week, 10-credit-point course. It begins on August 8 and concludes on September 16. It consists of five modules covering ethics, values, and integrity, as well as ethical theories. We examine corruption case studies in Oceania as well as the function of anti-corruption agencies and their activity in Oceania."

## DREAMS TO SOON BECOME REALITY for Rupeni

**F**or as long as he can remember, Francis Rupeni has always yearned to be able to secure a paying job that would help him earn a living.

Having faced a tumultuous childhood, his interest in education slowly waned when he reached high school as he felt he did not receive the support he needed to succeed. This, he said, caused him to drop out of high school in Form 6 (Year 12).

After a lapse of several years, he decided staying home was no longer an option.



He wanted to be like his friends who would go to work or toil the land to help their respective families. His physical condition however, prevented him from joining them. Rupeni (pictured left) was born with deformed hands which ruled out many physical tasks.

He knew that only through gaining an education would he be able to get out of the monotonous cycle he had succumbed to while staying home.

"I was back in the village and went through a lot of things and I thought that was what life was all about," he said.

"I was looking at my friends and I saw them going to farms and, in the West, they would go to cut cane and they would get money and I would just stay home."

"I thought if I stayed this long, I would not be able to get anything and knew that I have to study, I have to work and get something."

Now on the verge of completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer and Information Systems from the Fiji National University (FNU), Rupeni is grateful he made the decision to return to school.

He joined the Nabua Matua Program to complete his high school education and qualify for university studies.

"Every month, I would receive my disability allowance and I would keep money aside to be able to purchase my stationery and school fees."

"My family did not know of my intention to go back to school because I had been home for a long time, but I knew this was something I had to do for myself and did not want to depend on anyone else."

His experience at FNU was challenging at first, but with the right support he was able to persevere and is looking forward to completing his degree programme.

"Support from family was a challenge. When I made the decision to return to school, I had to do everything for myself. My relatives had even told me to return home to the village. They were shocked of my intention to pursue higher education."

"I am grateful for the Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS) initiative that's enabled me to attain an education."

He added that FNU's academic support and auxiliary aides and services at has been instrumental in his tertiary success thus far.

"I want people to know that no challenge is too great. Nothing is impossible. If the heart is willing, you can achieve anything."

### Disability Services at FNU

The Fiji National University is committed to providing a welcoming, encouraging and empowering environment for students with disabilities to ensure 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 also known as the Disability Unit is responsible for coordinating support services, reasonable academic accommodations and promoting disability awareness in the University community. The Unit is committed and ready to assist students with disabilities to reach their goals.

## MATH HELP HUB

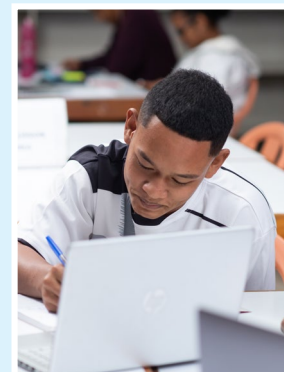
**T**he Fiji National University's (FNU) Centre for Learning and Teaching, in collaboration with the School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences (SMCS) under the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), has set up a Math Help Hub (MH<sup>2</sup>) – a service to provide mathematics and statistics support and advice to students from all disciplines.

MH<sup>2</sup> is a free face-to-face service for FNU students that is facilitated by staff members at SMCS. The service is open to

FNU students taking any course that involves mathematics or statistics.

Students will be able to access tutoring and guidance to aid understanding in a broad range of mathematical topics; learn quick, thorough, and efficient revision methods; and engaged in more learning opportunities.

The sessions are conducted by experienced lecturers and tutors from SMCS. For more information contact Mandeep Singh on [mandeep.s@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:mandeep.s@fnu.ac.fj)





# Waqasiwa chooses to **STUDY EDUCATION AT FNU**

**F**ollowing the COVID-19 pandemic, Viliame Waqasiwa had to reassess his career goals and how to achieve it.

The 19-year-old from Vunivutu village in Macuata had always imagined he would walk a different path in his academic pursuits having initially sought to become an aircraft engineer.

With many airlines coming to a grinding halt at the height of the pandemic, Waqasiwa reassessed his position and how to best meet his family's economic needs.

He chose then to become an Industrial Arts Teacher.

Although this was not his first choice, he knew that it was the best decision considering the global impact of the pandemic.

Now following the completion of his first semester pursuing a Bachelor of Education in Industrial Arts, at the Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Humanities and Education (CHE), Waqasiwa (pictured right) said he did not regret his choice.

"Being an Industrial Arts teacher has benefits in the sense that it involves both learning and practicals at the same time," he said.

"Regardless of this being my third option, I believe that studying this programme will help in building my career and the learning experience will assist me in achieving my goal."

He added that his family was instrumental in

the pursuit of his goals as they were always great supporters of education.

"My family knew my plans and were still happy with my decision. They were happier that FNU had a place for me considering my first two options were not supported through TSLs and were overjoyed that I was able to secure a National Toppers Scholarship for my current programme."

Waqasiwa said he was passionate about teaching having helped his peers in assessments and tutorials for much of high school.

"Through this experience, becoming a teacher is something I feel strongly about. I want to be able to guide and motivate students to achieve their academic goals and help them accomplish their dream of becoming something."

Waqasiwa said the transition to university life was challenging at first, but he was able to adapt and get well with new friends to make his experience more fruitful.

"FNU has academics with advance teaching experience. The structure of learning, weaving both theoretical and practical experience will greatly assist me in my goal of becoming a teacher. It is a great learning system and I have become more confident in expressing myself both in my writing and public speaking and I know the University will be able to assist many others in their different ambitions with this learning structure."



## Clean cooking energy **TO HELP EMPOWER WOMEN**



**G**reater financial support is needed to support households to switch to utilising clean cooking energy and realise climate and development goals in the country.

These sentiments were expressed by Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) Assistant Professor in Physics, Dr Ravita Prasad who

is collaborating with a group of researchers looking into clean cooking energy access in local communities.

The researchers from Fiji, Nigeria, Ghana, Cyprus, and the United Kingdom are part of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and the British Council's Climate Research Cohort that have continued to collaborate to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy.

The researchers received funding from FNU and are collaborating with Cagimaiwai Women's Group who have received funding from UNDP Small Grants Programme to implement Homebiogas units to 22 households in Kavewa Island, Macuata.

The research helped households in Kavewa Island switch to clean cooking energy using homebiogas systems which feeds on food waste to produce cooking gas and also gain insights on how to further develop such projects in other locations to promote clean cooking.

Dr Prasad (pictured left) said the 2017 Census indicated that 68 per cent of rural households in Fiji use polluting fuels such as wood and kerosene for cooking, and that switching to clean cooking energy could greatly benefit communities.

"The use of this (biogas system) has a direct impact on the health of women who are mostly doing the cooking and children who are also at risk of developing respiratory problems," she said.

"The transition to clean cooking will help alleviate this problem among others. The use of wood requires long hours collecting firewood and going farther away

from their homes to search for firewood. Using clean energy (in this case biogas) would mean that children get more time for studies as there would not be a requirement of fuel collection."

"In addition, women would get time to do other productive activities. The use of biogas for cooking also helps in waste management, where kitchen green waste and animal (livestock) waste are used as input into the biogas digester to produce biogas."

Dr Prasad's participation in the cohort of researchers contributed to her current research which focuses on *Renewable energy to help mitigate emissions, improve communities' livelihood, and promote sustainable development.*

Her research is also aligned to Pillar two of the FNU's Strategic Plan 2021-2026 – Research with Real World Impact, which emphasises the need for integrated development and multi-sectorial solutions.

She said the clean cooking energy access project ensured more opportunities were accorded to women.

"It is envisioned that the health of women will improve, and they will get more time to do other productive activities such as income generation activities. Using the fertilizers from biogas digester in their flower gardens or farms, women will get fresh flowers, fruits, and vegetables that they can sell in the market. Hence, these home biogas systems help promote women empowerment."

She hopes more support will be rendered to help initiate similar projects across all districts in Fiji and the Pacific.



## OUR 2022-2023 PROSPECTUS IS

# Out Now!

Prospective students, parents, guardians and stakeholders can now learn more about the Fiji National University's (FNU) programmes, campus life, support services, entry requirements and college details in the newly launched Prospectus 2022/2023.

The Prospectus is available on the FNU website and will be provided to all prospective students during school, community and other outreach visits conducted by the University.

Students who wish to undertake technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education courses can learn more about the entry requirements and programme outline contained in the Prospectus. The publication also contains information on the support services available to students, campus life and student activities, College information and financial support and services of the FNU Students Association (FNUSA).

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## Gauna Progresses in Information Technology Field

Information Technology as I had envisioned a career pathway in my field of interest,” he shared.

“It was an enriching experience for me, having studied at FIT and later at FNU’s College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS).”

“The quality and affordable learning I received at FNU in both theory and practical made it easy for me when entering the workforce.”

Gauna said he had also observed the progression in digital and physical infrastructure and other services at FNU.

“FNU has developed tremendously,” he said.

“The University has enhanced its student support services, learning and teaching resources and research and innovation.”

“I have noted the success FNU has achieved over the years, and it is great to see the clear vision and targets that it has for the future.”

After graduating with his degree in 2021, Gauna has plans to continue with postgraduate studies at FNU.

### Career

After working as a Computer Operator at ITC Services for a year in 2005, Gauna then joined his current employer, the Fiji International Telecommunications Limited – more commonly known as FINTEL – as a Customer Service IT Support officer.

In 2007, he was made Technical Officer - Team Leader Technical Customer Services until 2012.

He then progressed to being a Senior Technical Officer responsible for ISP Broadband Wireless and IP Core Network from 2012 until 2020.

Gauna’s current role is being an Engineer IP & IT Systems, with responsibilities that include managing the operations and maintenance of the FINTEL Wholesale and Retail Internet Data and Ethernet systems and services, overseeing the timely development and maintenance of technical policies and updating of procedures manuals and network development.

“My role also involves business plan responsibilities, research, development and training, risk management and disaster recovery and quality control,” Gauna explained.

“I have to ensure that efficient service is provided to our local providers (Telecom Fiji, Vodafone Fiji and Digicel Fiji), including our regional service providers in (Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, New Caledonia and so on) and international service providers in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, China and so on”

“I enjoy my career because I work in a culturally diverse environment locally, regionally and internationally. We have strong working relationships and build on this to support each other.”

### Words of Wisdom

The father-of-three attributed his success to his family. “I am grateful to my parents for supporting my educational journey from primary through to tertiary studies,” he said.

“My father was the sole breadwinner as a Prison Officer and although we were transferred around the country due to his postings, my parents ensured that my two younger sisters and I could achieve our future goals through education.”

“My beautiful Tongan wife also deserves credit for constantly supporting me in my career and studies.”

“And lastly, my advice to students would be to remember to focus on what is best for you and your interests, don’t overcomplicate things, never do shortcuts and always use the internet as a tool for education more than entertainment.”

### 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 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.

### Study at FNU

Students interested in studying at FNU can visit our website at [www.fnu.ac.fj](http://www.fnu.ac.fj) to learn more about our programmes, minimum entry requirements and the application process.

**D**espite a seven-year gap in his academic studies, Filipe Gauna was excited to return to the Fiji National University (FNU) and upskill his qualifications to help him progress in his career.

Having completed high school studies at Marist Brothers High School, Labasa College and All Saints Secondary School, Gauna (pictured above) decided he would enrol in a programme that was aligned to his interests.

The 38-year-old then begun his tertiary studies at the former Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT) in 2003 with a Diploma in Business Applied Computing in Labasa and graduated after completing his programme at the Suva campus.

In 2010, he enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Applied Computing. Due to circumstances, Gauna could not continue his studies two years later and took a break from tertiary studies

From Susui village in Vanaubalavu, Lau, Gauna has shown that despite setbacks, perseverance and determination makes it possible to achieve one’s academic goals.

### Education

“I have always wanted to pursue a career in

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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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