

## **Bula Vinaka!**

Welcome to another new week here at the Fiji National University!

We are officially a week away from Mid Semester Break and I am sure our students are finalising assignments and group work, attending examinations and planning out their break.

I encourage our students to utilise your time wisely and ensure you have enough time to relax and enjoy pursuing your hobbies before resuming your studies again for the next half of the semester. If you've been planning to start that small venture you've been thinking about, now is the time to do it!

Take time during the break to also celebrate your academic milestones – whether small or major – during the first half of Semester 2. I am certain there were some challenging yet rewarding times that you encountered during these first 7 weeks that you were able to overcome.

I hope our support services were of assistance to you, our students. If you still require assistance once, you resume studies – do not hesitate to reach out to our Student Support Services team!

During the weekend, FNU participated in the 2023 Inter-University Debate Competition on Climate Change which was organised by Dialogue Fiji and funded by the European Union. Congratulations to Team FNU for winning all their rounds and the overall debate competition. I look forward to hearing and celebrating the many more achievements of our students!

In line with our ongoing discussions on climate change and sustainability, I will be hosting the next OVC Leadership Seminar in the coming days that will feature the Pacific Elders' Voice. The independent group consists of prominent leaders such as Dr Hilda Heine, Anote Tong, Enele Sopoaga, Dame Meg Taylor, Thomas "Tommy" Remengesau Jr, Professor Konai Helu Thaman, Kaliopate Tavola and Professor Robert Underwood. Together with the group, I will be coordinating a Talanoa on Leadership for a Sustainable Pacific and I encourage our students and staff to join in the seminar once details are released.

As we navigate through another new week, I would like to encourage you all to continue sharing your innovative ideas within your networks on how we can foster a dynamic, engaging, and sustainable University community for all.

Vinaka

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