



# Dreamers & Achievers

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“A journey to graduation is rarely smooth; it is often filled with challenges”

Nemani Maravu Salu receives his Bachelor of Nursing certificate.

BY WATI TALEBULA

Nemani Maravu Salu’s journey to graduation was far from smooth, it was filled with challenges. His story mirrors the experiences of many students who face the ups and downs of education. Salu noted that struggles—whether academic, personal, or emotional—are all part of the journey. Overcoming these obstacles

often fosters personal growth and resilience. On 11 December, he graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing, earning a Certificate of Excellence and a place on the Dean’s Honours List. “It wasn’t easy, but I’m grateful that everything happens for a reason.” It has made me a stronger person,” Salu shared. “Looking back, I’m thankful that I never gave up when things got tough. It feels surreal to have graduated, and now the world is out there waiting to be explored.” Salu couldn’t pursue his nursing dream immediately after high school, but he is thankful for everything he has learned along the way. His path to nursing began when he enrolled in the Certificate in Enrolled Nursing (Level 4) programme at Fiji National University (FNU). “Due to unforeseen circumstances, I had to attend another tertiary institution where I began studying human resources. How-

ever, financial constraints forced me to stop,” Salu explained. “I then worked as a cashier at a prominent supermarket, but my passion for nursing never faded.” Salu comes from a family with a strong legacy in healthcare. His mother and grandmothers were nurses, and as the only son, he is proud to continue in their esteemed footsteps. He dedicated his achievement to everyone who believed in him.



The Fiji National University continues to maintain its Ranking with further improvement in overall scores.





# New Year's *Message* from the Chancellor of the Fiji National University

“ You are the leaders of tomorrow, and we are committed to providing you with the tools, knowledge, and experiences to thrive in an ever-changing world. ”



*Fiji National University Chancellor, Mr Semesa Druavesi Karavaki.*

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I want to extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to the students, alumni, staff, and faculty of Fiji National University. May the year 2025 be filled with growth, success, and fulfilment for each and every one of you.

This new year brings exciting opportunities and new milestones for FNU as we continue to uphold our commitment to the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. Our mission remains steadfast: to provide a world-class education, to foster a diverse and inclusive environ-

ment, and to lead the way in sustainable development. Together, we will ensure that FNU continues to stand as an icon of learning and innovation for not only Fiji but the entire Pacific region.

As we move forward, we are proud to introduce the launch of the FNU Foundation, a landmark initiative that will support our students and community in ways that were not possible before. This is just one example of the exciting developments ahead. The new year will bring numerous initiatives, partnerships, and programmes that will strengthen our role as a leader in higher education. From enhanced facilities to new research opportunities, and initiatives focused on social responsibility and sustainability, there is much to look forward to.

To our students, your journey at FNU is one of transformation. You are the leaders of tomorrow, and we are committed to providing you with the tools, knowledge, and experiences to thrive in an ever-changing world. We cannot wait to welcome new members of our vibrant FNU family in Semester 1, 2025.

To our alumni, your achievements inspire us all. We continue to value your connection to FNU and look forward to deepening our relationship with you as you make your mark in your respective fields.

To our staff members, your dedication, expertise, and passion make FNU the exceptional institution it is. You are the foundation upon which our success is built, and we thank you for your unwavering commitment to shaping the next generation of leaders.

As we step into this promising year, let us renew our collective resolve to make FNU a more inclusive, diverse, and sustainable educational institution, one that serves as a model for the Pacific and the world. Wishing you all a prosperous, blessed and impactful 2025.

**Mr Semesa Druavesi Karavaki**  
Fiji National University Chancellor and Council Chair

## Vice Chancellor's New Year's *Message*

As we step into the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your hard work, dedication, and commitment. A new year is upon us, and together, let us strive to make it a successful one.

The past year has brought its share of challenges, but it has also been marked by remarkable achievements, progress, and collaboration.

To our students: you are the heart of this institution, and your pursuit of excellence inspires us to provide the best environment for your success. May this new year bring fresh opportunities for you to achieve your academic and personal goals. Never lose sight of your dreams.

To our staff and faculty: your hard work, passion, and innovation have been pivotal to our progress. Your tireless efforts are deeply appreciated. Together, we have

continued to foster an environment of excellence, and I look forward to another year of shared achievements and success.

As we enter this new year, let us embrace it with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm. May we continue to collaborate, innovate, and support one another as we overcome any challenges that lie ahead.

Together, we will continue to build an academic community that is not only resilient but also forward-thinking and inclusive.

I wish you all a prosperous, fulfilling, and joyous New Year, filled with health, happiness, and success.

Thank you, Vinaka vakalevu, and Dhanyavaad!

**Vice-Chancellor**  
Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba

“ Together, we will continue to build an academic community that is not only resilient but also forward-thinking and inclusive. ”



*Vice-Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba.*



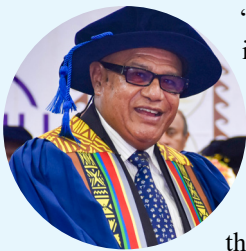
# Chief Guests' Graduation Messages



“As you step into the world wearing scrubs or carrying a stethoscope, remember that your journey is about more than just professional expertise. It is about embodying compassion, empathy, and a steadfast commitment to ethical practice.

In moments of challenge, when the weight of your responsibilities feels heavy, hold on to this truth: you are not just healthcare professionals; you are the guardians of humanity’s well-being.”

**FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR  
PROFESSOR UNAISI NABOBO-BABA**



“Graduates, as you take your next steps into the world, remember that learning does not stop here. The world is full of both opportunities and challenges, and I have no doubt that each of you will make an impact in your own unique way. You are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resilience to face whatever lies ahead. Keep striving for excellence, remain curious, and never be afraid to chase your dreams.”

**FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR  
MR SEMESA DRUAVESI KARAVAKI**



“Empowered by your education, you are now poised to contribute meaningfully to nation-building, to shaping the future, and to creating lasting change. Your generation faces significant challenges, but with your education and determination, I have no doubt that you are ready to tackle these challenges head-on.”

**MINISTER FOR LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES,  
HONOURABLE FILIMONI VOSAROGO  
CHIEF GUEST, DAY 1 2024  
FNU DECEMBER GRADUATION**



“I am proud to see how FNU’s College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences continues to uphold the highest standards of education, providing the next generation of healthcare leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to face the challenges of the future.

Through programmes that foster inclusivity, cultural awareness, and critical thinking, you are not only prepared for the practicalities of healthcare.”

**CEO AIRPORTS FIJI LTD, MR MESAKE NAWARI  
DAY 2 2024 FNU DECEMBER GRADUATION**



“Today, I stand here to remind you of the tremendous responsibility that comes with the qualifications you have earned. Education is not just about gaining knowledge for personal growth; it is about using that knowledge to contribute to the betterment of society. Every piece of knowledge you have acquired, every skill you have developed, is a tool that can help build the future of our nation.”

**MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORT AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES, HONOURABLE RO FILIPE TUISAWAU  
CHIEF GUEST, DAY 3 2024 FNU DECEMBER GRADUATION**



## A Mother's Hand: Dr Maile's Tribute to His Biggest Inspiration



Dr Lander Metali Koula Maile with his mother, La'akualofia Maile.

BY CHRISTAL KAPOOR

While most graduates walk down the red carpet alone to receive their certificates, one graduate stood out during the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences graduation held on 11 December. Dr Lander Metali Koula Maile held the hands of the woman who had been his unwavering motivator throughout his journey to complete his Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine – his mother, La’akualofia Maile.

“My mother has been my biggest supporter and motivator since my early days as a student back in Tonga,” revealed a teary-eyed Dr Maile.

“When I moved to Fiji to study to become a doctor at the former Fiji School of Medicine (now FNU), she continued to motivate me despite being physically apart.”

After graduating with an MBBS degree in 2013, Dr Maile worked for seven years as a medical officer in Tonga before embarking on specialist train-

ing in Emergency Medicine.

“During my second year as a medical intern, I realised that I absolutely loved the adrenaline rush of the Emergency Room (ER), which motivated me to pursue this area of study. Five years later, I am sitting here with my mother and my Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine!”

As an Emergency Doctor, Dr Maile says he has an instinctive drive to always put others first.

“Putting others' lives, health and feelings before me just comes naturally to me as an emergency doctor. It is because of this that I chose to celebrate my mother, my inspiration, on this special day.”

The occasion was a double celebration for the Maile family, as it also marked La’akualofia’s 70th birthday.

“I couldn’t think of a better gift for her,” said Dr Maile.

“She deserves to shine in every bit of my success because if it wasn’t for her, I would not be here today.”





Elisaia Ika.

BY SELITA BOLANAVANUA

Stepping back into a classroom after 12 years of professional life was not just a challenge but a leap of faith for Elisaia Ika.

The Deputy Director for Tonga’s Ministry of Agriculture had built a solid career, but the prospect of earning a

second master’s degree meant leaving the comfort of routine, uprooting his family life, and trading his office desk for lecture halls and research papers.

“At the beginning, it was tough being away from my family, and after so long out of school, transitioning back to being a student was a challenge,” Elisaia said.

Fiji, which he lovingly refers to as his “second home,” became the setting for this transformative chapter.

FNU Journey

Enrolling at Fiji National University’s College of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (CAFF), Elisaia embarked on a journey towards a Master of Science in Agriculture. His first master’s degree, from the University of Melbourne, had given him a strong academic foundation, but this second venture felt different.

“The transition from being a public

servant to being a student was very hard at the beginning,” he added. “But the dedicated and supportive staff at CAFF made all the difference.”

For him, balancing studies with his responsibilities back home in Tonga required strategic planning. He conducted much of his research in Tonga, an arrangement that allowed him to stay connected to his roots and profession while pursuing academic goals.

“I did the fieldwork at home in Tonga and returned to Fiji for the writing and thesis completion. It was a blessing that my supervisors supported this arrangement.”

Elisaia also credits his success to the sense of belonging he felt at FNU. “Out of all the universities I’ve attended, FNU was the most accommodating,” he said. “They understood the challenges of being away from family and made it possible for me to achieve my dream.”

Now a proud graduate, Elisaia reflects

on his two-year journey with FNU. “I’m so thankful to FNU and to the people of Fiji for the support they’ve given me,” he said. His only regret? That his wife and three sons couldn’t be there to witness his graduation.

Returning to Tonga, Elisaia looks forward to resuming his role in the Ministry of Agriculture, bringing with him new knowledge and skills that he hopes will contribute to the sector’s growth. But his academic aspirations don’t stop here. “I’m looking forward to hopefully pursuing a PhD,” he said with a smile.

ACIAR Scholar

Elisaia was one of two international students who graduated from the College of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry. He was a recipient of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Pacific Agriculture Scholarship, Support, and Climate Resilience Programme.

A Police Officer’s Journey to Graduating Twice this Year



Steven Camaisala with his wife Fane Diuca Kereilagi and children, Joyce Faith Camaisala, Lasarus Camaisala and Steven Camaisala(jnr).

BY SELITA BOLANAVANUA

For Steven Beranage Camaisala, 2024 has been a year of milestones. The police officer from Nabukelevu Village in Namosi has achieved what many only dream of, graduating twice in one year while managing the challenges of a demanding career and family life.

In April, Steven graduated with his Trade Certificate in Automotive Engineering, majoring in Heavy Mobile Plant. This month, he added another feather to his cap, earning a Certificate in Automotive Engineering (Motor Vehicle Electrical and Electronics) Level 4.

For Steven, each achievement represents more than just a qualification; it’s a testament to his determination, resilience, and belief in the power of education.

“Balancing work, study, and family hasn’t been easy,” Steven said.

“As a police officer, my shift hours can be unpredictable, and there were many days when I was exhausted from work but still had to focus on my studies. Sometimes, it felt like there wasn’t enough time for my

family, which was the hardest part.”

Despite the challenges, Steven found strength in his loved ones, especially his wife.

“She has been my biggest cheerleader,” he said.

“Her support kept me going, even on the toughest days. I couldn’t have done it without her.”

Steven also thanked the Fiji Police Force for supporting his educational journey.

“I’m so thankful to the Police Force for encouraging me to further my education. It’s given me the chance to grow both personally and professionally,” he said.

“It’s not easy, but don’t give up. The sacrifices you make today will lead to something greater tomorrow. With the support of those around you and a determination to succeed, you can achieve anything,” Steven added.

Now, Steven is reaching for even greater heights as he pursues a diploma in Transport Management.



Farrell Marika Tamani with his mother Asena Nakove.

First for the Family, A Victory

BY WATI TALEBULA

Farrell Marika Tamani’s journey has not been easy, but on 10 December, he graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Industrial Arts).

His mother, Asena Nakove, was beaming with pride when she finally met him after he received his degree outside the Vodafone Arena.

“This is my first child to graduate from all my children who attended FNU. I am so proud of my son today. Despite the hardships our family faced, he came out victorious,” Nakove said.

“The struggles my son witnessed motivated him to study hard. I always remind him to work diligently. My husband and I have separated, and most of the responsibility for raising our children is carried out by me.

“I always tell my children to put God first. Parents should always talk to their children, because one day we will no longer be working, and they will have families of their own to care for.”

Tamani remembered his first day at university. The transition was overwhelming, but he eventually found his footing.

He recalls late nights spent studying in the library, the support of friends during difficult exams, and the guidance of lecturers who encouraged him to believe in himself, even when he doubted his abilities.

Despite the financial difficulties at home, he persevered and overcame them to reach this point.

“Financial difficulties at home were my biggest challenge, but I managed to overcome them by working and staying focused on finishing my course. The challenges I faced pushed me to get this far, and I am happy to have made it,” Tamani said.

“I am the first in my family to earn a bachelor’s degree, and I always tell my sisters and cousins to strive for excellence in everything they do, and, most importantly, to complete their education.”

Tamani dedicates his achievement to his mother and sisters.



# Arieta's Journey from Despair to Triumph

BY CHRISTAL KAPOOR

For Asena Senimoli, a Naitasiri native, Fiji National University's (FNU) free TVET short courses were nothing short of a miracle. Earlier this month, she found herself fighting back tears of joy and relief as her daughter, 15-year-old Arieta Lewanivono, graduated with a Certificate in Floral Arrangement—a moment that seemed impossible just a few months ago.

At the beginning of the year, Arieta's life took a turn for the worse when she fell severely ill. Once she recovered, Asena remained hopeful that a high school would accept her daughter to complete her Year 10 studies. However, the reality was heartbreaking.

"I travelled back and forth along the Suva-Nausori corridor, visiting schools, pleading for someone to give Arieta a chance," said an emotional Senimoli. "But no school was willing to take her. Most were already preparing for the Term One End Examinations and told me it was too late for her to enrol."

Desperation drove Asena to seek help from the Ministry of Education, but even that avenue offered no solutions. With every door closing, she had no choice but to ask Arieta to drop out of school—a decision that shattered her heart.

But hope arrived when Asena heard about FNU's free TVET short courses offered at their Robertson Road Centre. Clinging to faith, she enrolled Arieta in the programme, determined to secure a future for her daughter through education.

"I am so grateful to God for opening another door for my daughter through FNU," Senimoli said, her voice quivering with emotion. "It was an answer to my prayers."

Arieta quickly adapted to her new environment and became one of the youngest graduates under the programme.

"I am proud of myself and glad I didn't give up," Arieta said softly, her words filled with hope for a better, more secure future.

For Senimoli, the journey does not end here. She is determined to see her daughter go further in her education, now looking to enrol Arieta in more programmes at FNU.

## Enrol at FNU

Interested students can Apply Now for Semester 1, 2025 studies via the FNU website at <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/student/> or email to [admission@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:admission@fnu.ac.fj)

For further information or queries, students can also Text (Toll-Free) to 857 for Vodafone and Inkk users. Alternatively, applicants can visit any of the FNU campuses to submit applications.

## A Son's Tribute

BY WATI TALEBULA

Kelepi Delairakabikabi has dedicated his recent academic achievement to his late mother, who tragically passed away earlier this year. Overcome with emotion, Delairakabikabi shared how his mother had always been his strongest supporter, urging him to continue his education despite life's challenges.

Delairakabikabi was among the ten graduands who successfully completed the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) short course. Originally from Nasekula Village in Macuata, with maternal ties to Arovudi, Ovalau, he is employed at Transam Fiji Agency.

"My mum passed away this year, and she always pushed me to pursue higher education. Today, I pay tribute to her," Delairakabikabi said, his voice heavy with emotion.

Reflecting on his achievement, he expressed his pride in being one of the graduands in an industry he feels is often undervalued.

"It is an honour to be one of the graduands. Our industry is often under-recognised because we don't have any official qualifications that support us in the current curriculum system offered by higher education," he explained.

Delairakabikabi also extended his gratitude to the Fiji National University (FNU) and the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies for making the course accessible.

"I am thankful to the Fiji National University, through the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies, for providing this course that allows logistics and opera-

tions specialists to be recognised not only for their knowledge but also for the qualification that validates the work we do."

His journey in education is far from over. Delairakabikabi has already enrolled in the next level of the programme, which he is determined to complete early next year.

"I would like to pursue further education. I have studied business management, accounting, and financial management, none of which are directly related to the work I have been doing for the last 12 years," he said.

The course has been a revelation for him, teaching invaluable lessons about navigating practical challenges in his field.

"The biggest lesson I learned from this course is that while things may look perfect on paper, it's important to know how to mitigate risks when they arise. We will also be able to share our knowledge with our colleagues when we return to work," he noted.

Delairakabikabi's journey is not only a personal triumph but also an inspiration for young people. His advice to them is heartfelt and powerful:

"Do not give up on your dreams. The road can be tough, and at times it can discourage you, but always remember your goal and strive to achieve it."

“My mum passed away this year, and she always pushed me to pursue higher education. Today, I pay tribute to her”

## 58 and Fighting



Adi Moala Racaca.

BY CHRISTAL KAPOOR

Age is no barrier, and you have got to keep fighting." These were the words of encouragement from a grateful 58-year-old solo mum, grandmother, and recent Fiji National University (FNU) graduate, Adi Moala Racaca, at her graduation from the free FNU TVET Short Course Programme.

"I am so proud of myself today," said the Nanukulua, Saivou, Ra native. "Today, I have proven to so many people that age is never a barrier to learning and achieving your dreams."

Racaca emotionally recounted that her journey as a solo mum of three daughters was not easy and that she had to battle against the odds to keep herself and her daughters alive.

"Life is hard, but it is harder when you

are a solo mum raising and providing for three daughters. I had to undertake odd jobs and even went fishing on the high seas to provide for my daughters and to ensure they could go to school and achieve their dreams. I was a fighter back then, and I still am a fighter today because I want to inspire my daughters and granddaughter to know that you can achieve your dreams at any age!"

Racaca's selfless sacrifices finally bore fruit as she graduated with a Certificate in Basic Garment Construction.

"I first heard about the free TVET short courses offered by FNU from a few ladies at church who had seen the news on social media. I just knew I had to enrol."

"The course was fun and educational. The practicals were the best part, and today I am wearing a dress that I sewed all by myself!" revealed an excited Racaca.

She now aims to open her own business and pursue further studies with FNU if given the opportunity.

Racaca was part of the 269 students who graduated from FNU's free TVET Short Course Programme, of which 60% were single/solo mums, 10% were street children, and 30% were unemployed youths and school dropouts from the greater Suva area.

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For further information or queries, students can also Text (Toll-Free) to 857 for Vodafone and Inkk users. Alternatively, applicants can visit any of the FNU campuses to submit applications.



# 'My Parents Never Gave Up'



Wainikiti Tabusiga with her family. They travelled all the way from Nadroga to attend her graduation in Suva at the Vodafone Arena.

BY SELITA BOLANAVANUA

For Wainikiti Tabusiga, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce in Management and Information Systems was a milestone made possible by her parents’ unwavering support. Despite taking five years to complete a three-year programme and failing a few units along the way, her parents never gave up on her. “Every time I went home

and asked my parents if they could still support me, they would say, that I have to keep studying and get that certificate,” Wainikiti said. Their words gave her the strength to keep going, no matter how hard it got. From Matokana village in the interior of Nadroga-Navosa, Wainikiti grew up in a humble farming family. Her parents worked hard, planting yaqona to support her studies. “When

I looked back at home and saw their struggles, I told myself I couldn’t give up. I had to keep going for them,” she said. Life at university wasn’t easy. Living in the hostel, Wainikiti faced peer pressure and moments of laziness, where she didn’t feel like going to class at times. “There were days I didn’t want to get up, but I kept thinking of my parents’ sacrifices. That’s what pushed me

forward.” Being the first in her family to study for a degree, Wainikiti didn’t always know where to turn for help, but she kept trying. “I stumbled along the way, but I never gave up.” On her graduation day, she smiled with pride, knowing her parents’ hard work and belief in her had paid off. “This is for them. I wouldn’t be here without their love and support.”



Ratu Jone Saumaibulu with Natabua Head of Campus and Lecturer, Mr Perry Gabriel.

## A Masterpiece for PM

BY NICOLETTE CHAMBERS

Ratu Jone Saumaibulu Lewenilovo has always had a passion for art, and in the back of his mind, he knew that one day this passion would take him far in life. The Somosomo, Taveuni native is a second-year student at Fiji National University’s College of Humanities and Education, based at Natabua Campus in Lautoka, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) in Physical Education and Art and Craft. Out of 12 submissions, Lewenilovo’s design was selected to be presented as a token of appreciation to the Honourable Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, at the official opening of the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies’ new building earlier this month. His journey began a few years ago as a construction worker, climbing the ladder to achieve what he held dearly in his heart. “When COVID-19 hit, since everything was on lockdown in 2021, I was out of work. But at home, my family started a business—tapa printing. When this family business began, I was employed as one of the artists to print masi,” he said. “I quickly gained knowledge of printing and developed a passion for art through tapa printing.”

Lewenilovo soon realised the financial potential in pursuing art. “I had an interest in art, but my parents didn’t encourage me to pursue it because the idea was ‘there is no monetary value in art.’” However, during the lockdown, when they saw the financial benefits, they encouraged me. That’s how our family business, ‘Leywanibole Cultural Collection’, was established.” **The Artwork** Lewenilovo revealed that his selected artwork took him one month to complete. “I was told a day prior that my artwork would be presented as a gift to the Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji. It truly is a blessing and an honour to know that my passion for art is reaching such heights.” The artwork, titled ‘Dina Ni Bula’, reflects Lewenilovo’s profound connection to his ancestral lineage. By incorporating motifs that symbolise his places of origin, he explores the cultural roots and personal significance of his heritage. His use of Cubist style and warm colours creates an abstract yet deeply personal portrayal of his identity, background, and life experiences. Lewenilovo expressed his gratitude for the support and guidance he received from his lecturer and the Head of Natabua Campus, Perry Gabriel. His advice to the youth is: “Do what you are willing to do and what you are passionate about.”



# Your Pathway to Earning a PhD



BY NICOLETTE CHAMBERS

Fiji National University’s College of Humanities and Education, through its School of Arts and Humanities, offers programmes that can pave the way for students to pursue a PhD. The Head of the School of Arts and Humanities, Dr Ravinesh Prasad, highlighted that the programmes—Master of Arts in Social Policy, Master of Arts (Geography), and Master of Arts (History)—are designed to prepare students for a successful future.

“The Master of Arts (Geography) programme emphasises a multidisciplinary study of geographical phenomena, sophisticated spatial analysis, and advanced research methodologies,” he said. “The programme prepares graduates for careers in academia, environmental planning, urban development, and related fields by fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent research skills.” Dr Prasad further explained that the Master of Arts (History) programme

provides students with an in-depth exploration of historical periods and events. “Graduates are equipped for roles in academia, archives, museums, and other fields requiring historical expertise, thanks to their exceptional research skills and comprehensive knowledge of history,” he stated. He also noted that the Master of Arts in Social Policy programme is aimed at equipping students with the professional and personal competencies necessary

for careers in social policy and practice in social development. “The programme prepares students to engage in professional practices that contribute to social development,” Dr Prasad added. Prospective students are encouraged to contact the Acting Head of Department, Department of Social Science, Dr Asif Iqbal, at [hod-ssc@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:hod-ssc@fnu.ac.fj), or Dr Ravinesh Prasad at [hos-ah@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:hos-ah@fnu.ac.fj), for more information.

## FNU Thanks Dr Fourman for Service

BY NICOLETTE CHAMBERS

United States English Language Fellow, Dr Garry Fourman, was farewelled by his colleagues and close friends at the Fiji National University’s Natabua Campus in Lautoka. Dr Fourman served at the Natabua Campus under the auspices of the US Embassy in Suva. He holds the title of Fellow under the US State Department. During his year-long tenure at the Natabua Campus, Dr Fourman frequently conducted professional development workshops for teachers at various schools across the Western Division. He was recognised for his enthusiasm and dedication to education, particularly in his core areas of interest – storytelling and critical thinking. “On my school visits, I encouraged teachers to engage in storytelling and shared ideas on fostering critical thinking,” he said. “I always keep a positive outlook when sharing with others, and success is a central theme in my presentations to inspire students.” Dr Fourman is one of approximately 150 Fellows worldwide engaged in this remarkable work.



From left: College of Humanities and Education, School of Education Assistant Professor, Dr Ratish Chand, US English Language Fellow, Dr Garry Fourman, Head of School, School of Education Vilive Cagivinaka and School of Education Lecturer, Khemendra Kumar.

## Priyanka Shares Christmas Spirit

BY NICOLETTE CHAMBERS

“I absolutely enjoy baking the most during this Christmas season, and I always aim to try something new to bring that little extra holiday cheer!” These are the words of Priyanka Devi, a Fiji National University Lecturer in Education (Secondary) with the College of Humanities and Education. Not only is she an educator, but she is also a passionate baker who creates cakes that are simply irresistible. Priyanka teaches education units for secondary education students and has been a full-time member of staff at FNU since August 2021. She is currently pursuing her PhD part-time at the same university. Her journey into baking began as a hobby many years ago.



Priyanka Devi

“I started baking as a hobby, something therapeutic to help me through a tough phase,” she said. “In 2018, my friends encouraged me to take the leap and open a small Instagram business account, and that’s when everything changed; I

never imagined that my passion would grow into something so meaningful.” Priyanka now owns Just Cake It Fiji, which you can find on Instagram and Facebook. “Today, my business is my heart; it is my escape and my therapy,” she added. “I specialise in cakes and pastries for all kinds of events. I began with cupcakes, which I’ll always remember. Everything on my page, Just Cake It Fiji, reflects my journey as a self-taught baker. “With no formal qualifications in baking or pastry, I’ve learned everything through research, YouTube, and a lot of hands-on practice.” Priyanka emphasised that Christmas is a time for warmth, creativity, and tradition.





# Health & Hustle

## Sport, Study, Success

BY SELITA BOLANAVANUA

At just 25 years old, Joshua Neville Ross Khan is a shining example of how dedication, persistence, and balance can help an individual achieve greatness in multiple areas of life.

From the rugby field to the classroom, Joshua has proven that with the right mindset, anything is possible, even when the demands seem overwhelming.

Born into a biracial family with maternal ties to Naqumu, Macuata, Joshua's story is one of commitment to his heritage and his dreams. Having graduated with a Diploma in Travel and Tourism Management, Joshua's educational journey is one marked by hard work, determination, and the incredible support of his family, friends, and faith.

Reflecting on the challenges of balancing the demands of rugby with his academic studies, Joshua said, "It hasn't been an easy road."

"There were times when it felt like I was being pulled in two directions, but I reminded myself that if I really wanted something, I had to believe in myself and keep pushing forward."

### Rugby Passion

Joshua's passion for rugby has been a key part of his life from a young age. He has played for various teams, including the Saru Dragons Rugby League, Ba Provincial Free Bird Institute, and Yasawa Rugby Union, steadily rising through the ranks to become a key player for the Saru Dragons Premier and the Kaiviti Silk Tails.

His career highlights include competing in the RON MASEY CUP in Australia and playing for the Saru Dragons in their Vodafone Cup Championship victory in 2023.

"I owe a lot to Saru Dragons. The family-like bond shared within the team has been incredible and has inspired me to push myself both as a player and as a person. Rugby has taught me discipline, per-



Pro- Vice Chancellor TVET Pasifika Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata with Joshua Neville Ross Khan.

severance, and how to work with others toward a common goal," Joshua says.

However, his athletic career is only one part of his story. While excelling on the field, Joshua has also been dedicated to his studies, managing to complete his diploma in Travel and Tourism Management while juggling intense rugby training and competition schedules.

This feat wasn't easy, and Joshua credits his ability to manage both pursuits to strong time management skills, a deep-rooted belief in himself, and his unwavering faith.

"My faith has been a huge factor in achieving my goals. I've always trusted in God's plan for me, and Luke 4:12 has been a guiding verse: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' I've held on to that, believing that if I stay true to myself and my purpose, I can overcome any challenge," he shares.

### Family Support

Joshua's academic success, alongside his rugby career, is a testament to the support he's received from his family.

"I dedicate this achievement to my Mum and Dad," he says.

"They've always believed in me, en-

couraged me, and pushed me to grow as a person. I also want to thank my family and friends for their constant support."

As Joshua looks back on his journey, he is thankful for all the opportunities that have come his way.

### Eyes on the Future

He is currently working at Fresh Choice Supermarket in Lautoka, but his eyes are set on the future, both in rugby and beyond.

"I encourage all young dreamers out there to believe in themselves and keep pushing forward," he says.

"It's not going to be easy, but with hard work and faith, you can achieve whatever you set your heart to."

For now, Joshua continues to train, grow as a player, and look toward the next phase of his journey, armed with the knowledge that no dream is too big and no challenge too great.



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