

WHAT'S INSIDE:

PAGE 2

- From Farm to FNU
- Western Girls Embark on New Journeys

PAGE 3

- FNU Roadshow Pictorial

PAGE 5

- DPM Kamikamica’s Strong University Relationship Honoured
- Naiduki and Grandma Celebrate dream Together

PAGE 7

- Single Father of Three Receives EMBA Offer Letter
- Teaching dream begins at Roadshow
- Waqavou Enrols After 5 Years as a Mechanic

PAGE 8

- Pitch to progress



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL... The Fiji National University’s roadshow was a great success, providing students from all backgrounds, especially mature applicants, with the chance to pursue higher education. **Pictured:** An emotional Iva, who has worked as a Librarian and Office Admin Officer at Nakauvadra High School for nine years. Iva received her offer letter at the Rakiraki roadshow to study a Diploma in Front Office Operations (Level 5). **Photo:** Aaron Fatiaki

Farm to FNU: Journey to a Bright Future

BY SELITA BOLANAVANUA

The road was not easy. "We woke up early this morning," Meiva Raikanawa said, her voice soft but filled with quiet pride. "We didn't have breakfast because we heard that the Fiji National University (FNU) team would be in Rakiraki today. So, we rushed to get ready."

Meiva and her family live on a small farm in Dawa, a few hours from the bustling village of Navitilevu in Nalawa, Ra where she is from. Their farm is their livelihood. For them, the road to Rakiraki is long and filled with many challenges.

"It takes us about an hour to walk from our farm to the main road," Meiva said. "Before we even reach the village, we have to cross two bridges. It's not an easy walk, but we do it because we want to make sure that our daughter, Alesi, gets enrolled at FNU."

Alesi, their eldest child, had always dreamed of studying agriculture. Alesi wanted to make a difference in our community, to help improve farming practices and ensure that there is enough to eat. It was a dream Meiva and her husband, Ananaisa Naucukidi, supported.

"Today was especially important to us," Meiva added. "We are thankful that

we finally made it here. Most of the time, we miss the FNU team, and then we have to travel all the way to the college to complete the enrolment, which is another challenge for us. But today, we're here, and we're going to make sure everything is done before we head back to the farm."

Meiva's husband, Ananaisa, a carpenter by trade, works hard to support the family. "If he's lucky, he'll get a contract," Meiva said, "and that's how we get some extra money, aside from selling our farm products." They lived simply, working together as a family to make ends meet.

"I'm from Navitilevu in Nalawa, and my husband is from Naitasiri," Meiva said. "But today, we are here for Alesi. She's been working so hard for this day, and we want to make sure she has everything she needs for her future."

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

Alesi had applied to the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at FNU, and was enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture programme. For Meiva, this moment wasn't just about the paperwork or the registration; it was about seeing her daughter's dreams beginning to take shape.

"This is for Alesi's future," Meiva said, wiping a tear from her cheek. "We don't have much, but we have hope. We've



Proud Parents Meiva Raikanawa and Ananaisa Naucukidi with their daughter Alesi and son Ananaisa Jnr at the FNU Roadshow in Rakiraki.
Photo: Aaron Fatiaaki

always believed in her, and we'll keep believing in her. She will make us proud. We've come this far, and we won't stop until she achieves what she wants. For her, we will always keep going, no matter the obstacles."

"Today, it's all worth it," she said softly. "All the struggles, all the hard work. It's

for this moment. For Alesi. She will do great things," Meiva said.

Alesi, standing beside her parents, knew the sacrifices they had made for her, the long hours spent on the farm, the early mornings and late nights. She knew that every step of this journey had been paved with love and hard work.

Western Girls Embark on New Journey at FNU

BY CHRISTAL KAPOOR

When Laisa Roqica discovered she had not met the minimum entry requirements to follow in her mother's footsteps as a teacher, she felt as though all doors had closed. However, her prayers were answered when she dropped by the Fiji National University (FNU) Ba Roadshow booth.

"I was hoping to become a teacher and had filled out an application for it," said a soft-spoken Roqica.

"When I came to collect my offer letter, I was told I didn't meet the minimum requirements. I went home feeling shy and upset."

After returning home, Roqica confided in her grandmother, who encouraged her to revisit the roadshow booth.

"We prayed about the situation, and my grandmother believed there would be a programme I could enrol in," Roqica explained.

Accompanied by her grandmother, she returned to the booth and received an instant offer letter to study for a Bachelor of Laws at the College of Humanities, Education and Law. Now poised to become her family's first lawyer, Roqica

"FNU has made it so convenient for people in the West by bringing the roadshow to our towns"

expressed gratitude for the FNU staff who provided free academic counselling.

"I'm excited about my future!" she said, encouraging other i-Taukei girls to never limit themselves and to trust in God and their abilities.

Similarly, Rishna Prakash is ready to begin her new journey at FNU's Tamavua campus after enrolling in the Bachelor of Public Health and Primary Care programme. She praised FNU for making the enrolment process seamless at the roadshow and appreciated the ability to make cashless payments for her fees on-site.

"FNU has made it so convenient for people in the West by bringing the roadshow to our towns," said Prakash.

"I'm looking forward to my new journey, the friendships I'll make, and the memories I'll create in Suva. While it is bittersweet to leave my hometown, sacrifices are necessary to succeed."

The 2025 FNU Roadshow will continue across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu until 1 February.



Rishna Prakash with her Mother, Jotishna Prakash.
Photo: Penioni Kolinisau



Laisa Roqica at the FNU Roadshow in Ba.
Photo: Penioni Kolinisau

2025 ROADSHOW PICTORIAL



BRINGING DREAMS CLOSER... Snapshots from FNU roadshows across various locations, including Vanua Levu, highlight moments of hope and opportunity. Students and parents came together to explore education pathways, with many receiving offer letters and beginning new journeys. These photos capture the excitement, inspiration, and fresh starts made possible through these successful events.



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DPM Kamikamica's Strong University Relationship Honoured



Deputy Prime Minister Honourable Manoa Seru Kamikamica with Fiji National University Vice Chancellor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba. *Photo: Vetaia Dakua*

BY NICOLETTE CHAMBERS

Fiji National University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba has commended Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Manoa Kamikamica for his impactful relationship with the University.

Professor Nabobo-Baba made this comment while delivering the welcome address at the 2025 Fiji National University Conference on Resetting TVET and Higher Education.

The conference, which was attended by FNU educators and industry experts was held at Nadi's Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa

on January 16 and January 17.

Professor Nabobo-Baba said Honourable Kamikamica's leadership was obvious, particularly in the areas of business and trade.

"We understand from the way you have reacted with FNU in the past, your relationship will impact FNU making sure that you understand your vision of the way we are getting into the future through the NDP (National Development Plan). The shared vision of this Government and we together as a university will build together a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Fiji," she highlighted.

Fiji National University Conference- She said the conference came out of the refurbished refreshed Strategic Plan where

FNU's Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Professor Jimaima Lako is heading the reviewing of all FNU's curriculum (2024 – 2026). "Fiji is a leader in the Pacific. In doing that, through the University of the South Pacific, the University of Fiji and the Fiji National University jointly, and all other universities in the Pacific, we are called to reset and rebuild as is our purpose here today," she said.

Honourable Manoa Seru Kamikamica highlighted in his keynote address that the theme of the conference 'Transforming Skills, Shaping Futures: The New Era for FNU' underscored a profound and urgent call to action for Fiji.

"By resetting our Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

and Higher Education (HE) sectors, we are equipping our people not just to survive, but to thrive in this rapidly evolving world. Education is the great equaliser, the key to unlocking individual potential and national prosperity," said Honourable Kamikamica.

FNU FOUNDATION FORMATION

She added that in April, FNU would launch its foundation to help those in need.

"Not so far into the future, on 02 April one of the things we are doing at FNU is to launch the 'FNU Foundation' which is going to make sure that the underserved population among us, the rural to the remote, the underserved, will be served through the 'FNU Foundation'," Professor Nabobo-Baba said.

Naiduki and Grandma Celebrate dream Together

BY ROPATE ROBI

It was an emotional and unforgettable moment at the Nausori Roadshow as Susana Sulisuli and her grandson, Jovilisi Naiduki, received life-changing news.

The pair, from Matala Village in Tailevu, were handed an offer letter for the Certificate in Film and Television (Level 4) – a significant milestone in Jovilisi's journey to pursue his passion for film and media. "I raised my grandson since birth, I have been Jovilisi's constant source of support and encouragement.

This moment was much more than just an academic achievement – it was the culmination of years of dedication, love, and perseverance," Susana said. Together, they've faced numerous challenges, but through it all, their bond has only grown stronger.

This offer letter symbolises not only Jovilisi's bright future but also the resilience of their shared journey.

For Susana, witnessing her grandson's accomplishment was a deeply emotional moment. "This is one of the biggest achievements we've had together as a family," she said, with tears of joy.

"It's a testament to the hard work we've both put in, and it shows that no matter how tough life gets, you can always find a way to succeed." Jovilisi's acceptance into the Certificate in Film and Television programme marks the beginning of a new chapter in his life, one that will allow him to pursue his passion for the arts while contributing to the growth of the Fijian media industry.

The support from his grandmother has been his greatest motivation, and together, they continue to defy the odds. This heartwarming story is a reminder that with family, determination, and hard work, dreams can indeed become a reality.



Susana Sulisuli and his grandson Jovilisi Naiduki. *Photo: Nanise Veikoso*



ORIENTATION

2025

Welcome to FNU

Join our **New Students'** Orientation Week!

College	Campus	Venue	Date	Time
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM STUDIES	Nasinu Campus & HTS Nasese Campus	CBHTS New Lecture Theatre, Nasinu Campus	Monday, 10th February (WEEK 0)	9.30am – 12:00pm
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FORESTRY	Koronivia Campus	NLT, Koronivia Campus	Tuesday, 11th February (WEEK 0)	9.30am – 12.00pm
PACIFIC CENTRE FOR MARITIME STUDIES	PCMS Nasese	Room 004	Wednesday, 12th February (WEEK 0)	9.30am – 12:00pm
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES	Pasifika, Hoodless, Tamavua Public Health & Nursing	Pasifika and Tamavua Nursing Campus	Thursday, 13th February (WEEK 0)	9.30am – 12:00pm
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING	Derrick & Nabua Campus	MB Hall, Derrick Campus	Friday, 14th February (WEEK 0)	9.30am – 12:00pm
BA CAMPUS	Ba	C301 Hall, Ba Campus	Monday, 17th February (WEEK 1)	9.30am – 12:00pm
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & EDUCATION AND LAW	Natabua Campus	Na WereLevu, Natabua Campus	Tuesday, 18th February (WEEK 1)	9.30am – 12:00pm
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM STUDIES	Namaka Campus	Lecture theatre, Namaka Campus	Wednesday, 19th February (WEEK 1)	9.30am – 12:00pm
LABASA CAMPUS	Naduna Campus	Lecture Rooms	Thursday, 20th February (WEEK 1)	9.30am – 12:00pm
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	All Campuses	CBHTS New Lecture Theatre, Nasinu Campus	Saturday, 22nd February (WEEK 1)	9.30am – 12:00pm
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & EDUCATION AND LAWS	Derrick, Nasinu & Narere Campus	CBHTS New Lecture Theatre, Nasinu Campus	Monday, 24th February (WEEK 2)	9.30am – 12:00pm

Students can access course materials and information from the Online Orientation portal on the following link: <https://elearn.fnu.ac.fj/my/>

For more information, please contact:
Ms Maraia Naqura | Student Support Coordinator
Email: maraia.naqura@fnu.ac.fj | Phone: 3394000 | Ext: 2405

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Single Father of Three Receives EMBA Offer Letter

BY ROMEKA KUMARI

As a single father of three, Ratu Jone Suliano's life has been a balancing act of work, family, and personal ambition. His hard work paid off when he received his offer letter for the Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA) programme during the 2025 Fiji National University (FNU) Roadshow launch. For the 32-year-old, this moment marked

the culmination of 10 years of dedication as an administrative staff member at the Republic of Fiji Military Force (RFMF) Headquarters. Holding the offer letter in his hands, Suliano's emotions overcame him. "It's a dream come true, a symbol of hard work, sacrifice, and my dedication to my family and future," he said. Raised in Nayavu Village in Wainibuka, Suliano's journey has not been easy. Balancing full-time work with raising three children and supporting his mother has been a challenge, but he has never given up.

"I'm just grateful that all my efforts have paid off," he said. "This moment is a reminder that with determination and hard work, anything is possible." Suliano's journey embodies the spirit of FNU, resilience, hope, and determination. "Education is a powerful tool that not only brings personal success but also opens doors for our families and communities," he said. "I'm thankful to FNU for giving me the chance to realise my dreams and make a positive impact on my community."



Ratu Jone Suliano receives his offer letter at the launch of the 2025 Fiji National University (FNU) in Nausori on Saturday, 11 January. **Photo Courtesy:** Eroni Navunisaravi

Teaching dream begins at Roadshow

BY WATI TALEBULA

Growing up, Alpita Bhan knew she wanted to become a teacher. Despite the challenges she faced, her dream career was something she would not let go of. At the Fiji National University (FNU) Sigatoka Roadshow this month, she was one of the many students who enrolled. She received her offer letter for the Bachelor of Education (Primary). However, becoming a teacher was not

"The roadshow makes it easier for us. We don't have to travel all the way to where the campuses are located. So, thank you, FNU."

only her dream but also that of her father's. "I knew I wanted to become a teacher, and to know that I am a step closer to my dream career is just surreal. This is thanks to FNU," Bhan said. "When I saw the post on Facebook that the FNU Roadshow team would be in Sigatoka, I knew I had to be at the venue.

I made sure I had all my documents." "The roadshow makes it easier for us. We don't have to travel all the way to where the campuses are located. So, thank you, FNU." Bhan expressed her gratitude to her parents for their continuous support. "My dad always wanted me to become a teacher, and now I will be fulfilling our dream. I know it won't be an easy journey, but with the support I have, I can overcome anything in life," she said. "I am looking forward to starting the semester and learning as much as I can."



Rashika Kumari with her offer letter at the 2025 Fiji National University (FNU) Roadshow in Nausori. **Photo Courtesy:** Romeka Kumari.



Joshua Bacolo Waqavou (right) with his father Setareki Valerau at the 2025 Fiji National University (FNU) Roadshow in Nausori on Saturday, 11 January. **Photo:** Romeka Kumari.

Waqavou Enrols After 5 Years as a Mechanic

BY ROMEKA KUMARI

Joshua Bacolo Waqavou has taken a big step toward his dreams. After five years of working as a mechanic in Nadi, he has now enrolled in the Certificate in Automotive Engineering (Light Motor Vehicle Level 4) at FNU's College of Engineering and Technical Vocational Education and Training (CETVET). Waqavou was overwhelmed bursting into tears of joy when received his offer letter. Having left high school after completing Year 12, Waqavou never imagined he would have the opportunity to pursue tertiary education. "I never thought this day would come," he said. "After dropping out of high school it was

very tough for me to find a job and I was lucky to have moved to Nadi where I started to work in a garage as a tool kid. "Later, I started to learn about repairing cars and that's where my motivation grew." Sharing paternal links to Cicia village in Lau, the 27-year-old recognised that gaining this qualification will not only elevate his career prospects but also help him fulfil his parents' dreams for him. "I want to make them proud and show that hard work pays off," he added. "I'm very happy to have enrolled at FNU because it has opened the closed doors to gain tertiary qualification something I never knew, I would achieve. Vinaka FNU!" "Education is the key to unlocking my potential. I want to not only improve my craft but also set an example for others in my community."

Sigatalevaki's Inspiring Return to Education

BY ROPATE ROBI

Salote Sigatalevaki's journey is an inspiring testament to the power of determination and the impact of a strong support system. After taking an 11-year break from formal education, Salote has decided to return to school and pursue her dream of helping her community. She is currently enlisted in the military as a territorial force. Enrolling in a Certificate in Ageing and Community Support Care, Salote is now on a path to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to make a positive impact in the lives of others, particularly the elder-

ly and vulnerable members of society. "This decision is deeply personal. My desire to support those in need, particularly in my local community has been a long-standing passion," said Salote. However, it is the encouragement from her family that has fuelled her decision to return to education after such a significant time away. Their unwavering belief in her abilities has highlighted the importance of a solid support network when chasing personal goals. Salote's choice to study ageing and community support care reflects her commitment to fostering meaningful change. "This course will equip me with the prac-

tical knowledge to care for and uplift the elderly, helping them live with dignity and comfort. More broadly, it is a stepping stone toward my lifelong goal of providing better care and support for my community. Her story is one of resilience, passion, and dedication. Salote's journey is a powerful reminder that it is never too late to pursue your dreams, and that with the right support, anything is possible. Salote's return to education serves as an inspiration to others, showing that with determination and family backing, significant personal and professional goals can be achieved.



Salote Sigatalevaki with her offer letter at the 2025 Fiji National University (FNU) launch in Nausori on Saturday, 11 January. **Photo:** Luke Salababa

PITCH TO PROGRESS

BY CHRISTAL KAPOOR

Saula Waqa, a resident of Ba and a celebrated Fiji footballer, is paving the way for life after his sporting career. Waqa recently achieved a significant milestone, earning his Class 3 Welding Certificate through the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre's (NTPC) Trade Test and Apprenticeship Scheme.

A proud product of the Ba football development system and a national representative currently playing for Lautoka, Waqa exemplifies how success can extend far beyond the football field.

Starting his journey at FNU in 2024, Waqa faced the challenge of balancing work, studies, and his football career after several years away from formal education. However, his unwavering determination to secure a brighter future helped him overcome the odds.

The Ra native credits his achievement to the dedicated staff of the National Trade Testing Department at NTPC, saying, "I am so grateful to my lecturers, Josaia Dau and Richard, for their advice. I completed my theory classes at FNU's Naceva campus in Lautoka and practical sessions at the Ba campus."

Waqa's choice to focus on education alongside football was strategic.

"I told myself I needed to concentrate on my studies because my sporting skills were already strong. Having an FNU campus close to home meant I didn't miss much," he explained.

Currently employed by 4R Electrical and General Contractors, Waqa extended heartfelt thanks to his boss, Rishi Kumar, for his encouragement throughout the journey.

"This achievement is just the beginning," Waqa shared. "I'm now aiming to complete my Class 2 Welding Certificate."

Saula's journey is an inspiring reminder to footballers

in Fiji that education and skill development are essential for creating opportunities and securing their families' futures. His message to young players is clear: "Life must go on after football. Secure your future with FNU. Don't just work without pursuing education—education changes lives and ensures your family's future is secure."

For those inspired to follow in Saula's footsteps, the FNU Roadshow team will be in Ba from 23 January to 1 February. Take the first step towards your future today!

“

I told myself I needed to concentrate on my studies because my sporting skills were already strong. Having an FNU campus close to home meant I didn't miss much

Saula Waqa

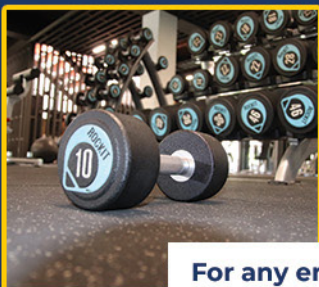
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Saula Waqa in action
Photo: Getty Image



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INSIDE FNU is a monthly newspaper which aims to promote the University's activities to the wider community.

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INSIDE FNU welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the newsletter. Please send your suggestions, comments or articles for consideration to mprc@fnu.ac.fj

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