



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

15 September 2025

Ni Sa Bula Vinaka,

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all students following their well-deserved mid-semester break. I trust you are all prepared and motivated for the weeks that lie ahead in this semester.

Reflecting on the achievements of the past week, I am proud to share some notable successes within our university community. The College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways Fiji, celebrated a historic milestone by recognising 33 individuals who successfully passed the Fiji Veterinary Examinations — the first ever in the country. These dedicated graduates are now officially qualified to register as veterinary professionals, poised to make a positive difference in animal health and agriculture throughout Fiji. Congratulations to all those involved; your hard work and dedication are truly inspiring.

In addition, we hosted the Pacific's first-ever STEMtastic Adventures Symposium at our Namaka Campus. This event marked a significant step forward in promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics across the region. Concurrently, we launched the Science Lab Manual 2 and Science Lab Kit at our Natabua Campus — initiatives undertaken in partnership with the US Embassy. We were honoured to welcome Her Excellency Marie Damour, the US Ambassador to Fiji, who graced both occasions.

Our university also commemorated the 140th Anniversary of the Fiji School of Medicine, now known as the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS). The celebrations were themed "Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future, and Celebrating Excellence in Health Professional Education." This milestone reflects the longstanding contribution of Fiji's medical education to our community. Alongside this, the Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium (PIHRS) 2025 was held at the Nasinu Campus, bringing together researchers, practitioners, students, and community representatives from across the Pacific and beyond. The symposium was especially significant as we commemorated 140 years since the founding of the Fiji School of Medicine.

Looking ahead, this week promises to be equally eventful and busy. Our staff and students will continue to engage in vital university activities. The Pacific Community (SPC), in partnership with FNU and Monash University, will host Fiji's inaugural Research Symposium on Loss and Damage in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This three-day event, from 16 to 18 September 2025 at Namale Resort, Wasawasa in Savusavu, will convene Pacific researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to share evidence and strategies on addressing loss and damage — from operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund to exploring non-economic losses, water security, and climate-health linkages.

Furthermore, we are proud to host the sixth National Conference on Information Technology, scheduled for Thursday and Friday at Warwick Fiji. The theme for this year's conference is "Leveraging Digital Transformation to Innovate the Business Landscape for a Connected Pacific." On Friday, the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies will celebrate its inaugural Cultural Night, bringing together students from various Pacific Island nations to showcase and honour their diverse cultures.

The Indigenous & Traditional Knowledge Conference will take place from 22 to 25 of September at the Bonunaqwele Namaka Campus, Nadi. This conference is a collaboration between World Bank, The Pacific Community and FNU. The theme for the Conference is "Na Vuku ni Vanua - Charting Our Cultural Destiny in a Changing Pacific Climate Environment". This conference will showcase Indigenous knowledge holders and researchers share their expertise and research outputs on issues that are affecting the Pacific communities. It will also showcase traditional artifacts by women.

I wish all staff and students a blessed and adventurous week ahead.

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