

Crafting Futures Together

FNU VC First Fijian on ACIAR Council

By SELITA BOLANAVANUA

The Fiji National University (FNU) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba, has made history as the first Fijian academic to be appointed to the Policy Advisory Council (PAC) of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Her appointment is a significant recognition of her leadership in regional education, research, and community development, as well as her commitment to advancing Pacific-led solutions in agricultural research and capacity building. Professor Nabobo-Baba joins the PAC as one of only two representatives from the Pacific region, alongside Professor Teatulohi Matainaho, Vice-Chancellor of the Pacific Adventist University.

“I am truly humbled and grateful for ACIAR’s confidence in appointing me to its Policy Advisory Council. It is both an honour and a responsibility that I carry not only as Vice-Chancellor of the Fiji National University, but also as a representative of the Pacific region — our communities, our farmers, and our researchers who work tirelessly to strengthen resilience in agriculture,” said Professor Nabobo-Baba.

“I promise to uphold the Council’s mandate with dedication and integrity, and to bring honour to the Pacific at this important point in time.”

Leaders from across the Indo-Pacific

The Policy Advisory Council brings together leaders and experts from across the Indo-Pacific to advise Australia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and ACIAR on research priorities, partnerships, and strategic directions. The Council ensures that Australia’s agricultural research investments address the needs of partner countries and deliver meaningful regional outcomes.

An ACIAR delegation, led by Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Suzie Newman, met with Professor Nabobo-Baba and her executive team at FNU’s Nasinu Campus on 7 October to reaffirm ACIAR’s commitment to its long-standing partnership with the University. Discussions focused on ongoing collaborations in agricultural research, capacity building, and the Pacific Agricultural Scholarship and Support (PASS) Programme.

Dr Newman congratulated Professor Nabobo-Baba on her appointment and acknowledged FNU’s growing

leadership in agricultural research across the Pacific.

“This appointment strengthens our partnership with FNU and the Pacific, and we are confident it will deliver lasting benefits for agricultural research and development in the region,” she said.

During the meeting, ACIAR also highlighted the redesign of the PASS Programme, which aims to provide greater flexibility and shared ownership, enabling Pacific partners such as FNU and the University of the South Pacific (USP) to co-lead and adapt activities to local contexts.

FNU’s Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Professor Paul Iji, and the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Dean, Dr Kaliova Ravuiwasa, were commended for their strong partnership with ACIAR in implementing key research projects and strengthening local research capacity.

Six Ongoing Projects

ACIAR currently collaborates with FNU on six ongoing research projects across four thematic programmes and continues to engage with a strong cohort of FNU academics who are ACIAR alumni now serving in senior leadership and research roles within the University.

Professor Nabobo-Baba is expected to attend her first official Policy Advisory Council meeting in Australia next month which coincides with the Digital Agrifood Summit hosted by Charles Sturt University in New South Wales.



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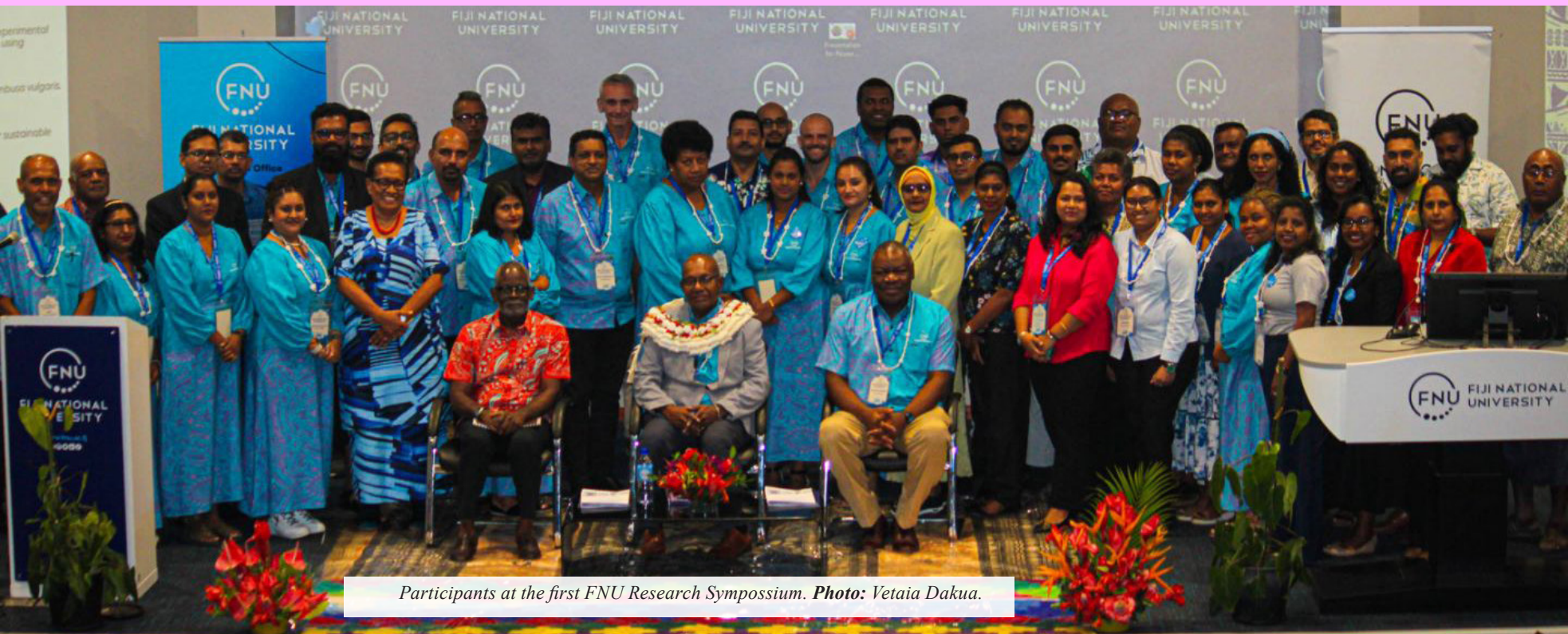
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FNU’s Research Leadership Praised



Participants at the first FNU Research Symposium. *Photo: Vetaia Dakua.*

By **CHRISTAL KAPOOR**

The Higher Education Commission of Fiji (HECF) has commended the Fiji National University (FNU) for its growing research impact and reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the University to address Fiji’s national challenges through knowledge-driven and innovation-led initiatives.

Speaking at FNU’s inaugural Research Symposium held at the University’s Nasinu Campus, HECF Director Dr Eci Naisele said the event demonstrated FNU’s strong role in advancing applied research that responds directly to national priorities.

Dr Naisele’s remarks come as the Fijian Government, through Cabinet, recently endorsed the appointment of the National Research Council, aimed at strengthening Fiji’s knowledge-based and innovation-focused development agenda.

“I commend the vision of the University in creating a platform that fosters knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation within higher education,” said Dr Naisele.

“At the heart of national development lies research and innovation. Evidence-based policymaking, effective service delivery, and forward-thinking governance all depend on robust research. The Higher Education

Commission remains deeply committed to supporting institutions like FNU that produce high-impact research benefiting communities, strengthening industries, and building Fiji’s knowledge economy.”

Dr Naisele said the Commission’s collaboration with FNU will support the work of the newly established National Research Council and ensure that academic research contributes to Fiji’s broader development aspirations.

“By drawing upon diverse areas of expertise, FNU’s interdisciplinary research provides holistic, inclusive, and practical solutions aligned with our national priorities

and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,” he added.

“With 22 research papers presented across a wide range of disciplines, this symposium is a clear testament to FNU’s commitment to academic inquiry, capacity building, and research excellence,” he said.

FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba thanked Dr Naisele and the HECF for their continued support.

“This is a great achievement for a young university like FNU, and I am confident that this symposium will continue to grow in the years to come,” said Professor Nabobo-Baba.

FNU Empowers Pacific Nurses Through Innovative Hybrid Learning Model

By **WATI TALEBULA**

The Fiji National University (FNU) is leading the way in transforming nursing education across the Pacific through its Bachelor of Nursing Bridging Programme, now delivered in a hybrid model that combines online learning with face-to-face clinical practicums.

According to Head of Nursing, Dr Elina Veitamana, the shift to a hybrid format was driven by FNU’s commitment to accessibility, innovation, and regional inclusivity.

“The hybrid approach enhances accessibility by allowing students from across the region to participate without the need to relocate, reducing financial and logistical barriers,” Dr Veitamana explained.

“It also provides flexibility for working nurses who wish to upgrade their qualifications while continuing to serve in their local health systems.”

The move also reflects FNU’s broader goal of building a resilient and skilled



FNU graduates during the graduation ceremony in April 2025. *Photo: Tomasi Korovou.*

Pacific health workforce. By leveraging technology, the University is ensuring that nurses from smaller island nations have equal opportunities to advance their education and careers.

Expanding Access Across the Pacific

The hybrid model has had a profound impact on nurses based in remote and outer islands, who can now pursue higher qualifications without leaving their communities.

“Previously, relocation and time away from family and work were major barriers. Now, nurses can engage in online learning while continuing to contribute to their local health services,” said Dr Veitamana.

She added that this approach reduces financial strain, as students avoid travel and accommodation expenses. The programme’s

structure combining virtual coursework with periodic face-to-face sessions ensures that practical skills and peer interaction remain integral to the learning experience.

“This model has created a more inclusive pathway for nurses in geographically isolated areas,” Dr Veitamana noted.

“It empowers them to upgrade their qualifications while continuing to serve their communities.”

Strengthening Fiji’s Health System

With 95% of local nurses now upgrading their qualifications through the bridging programme, FNU has observed a tangible improvement in Fiji’s health system.

“We’re seeing a more skilled and confident nursing workforce one that’s better equipped to deliver evidence-based care and respond to

evolving health needs,” said Dr Veitamana.

She highlighted that the programme has led to better patient outcomes, stronger leadership within health facilities, and higher retention rates among nurses.

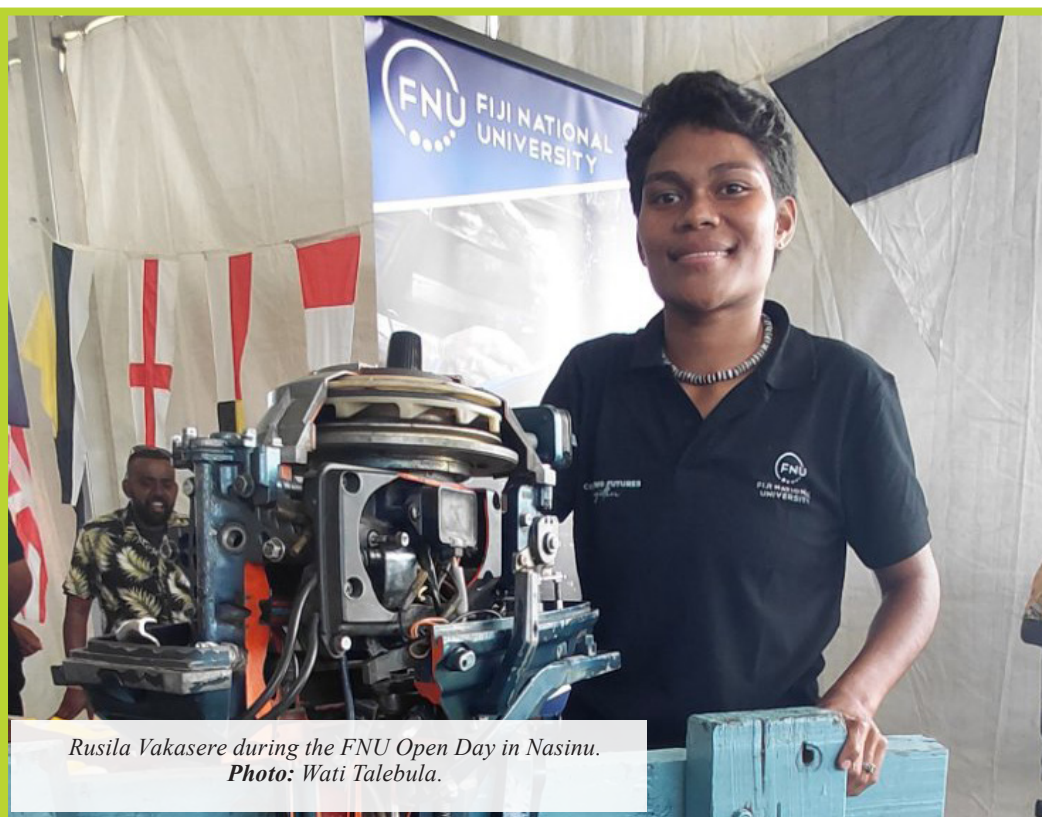
“Having a greater proportion of degree-qualified nurses also aligns Fiji with international standards which enhances our contribution to regional and global health priorities.

“Our goal is to uphold the reputation of nursing education in Fiji and the Pacific,” said Dr Veitamana added.

The Bachelor of Nursing Bridging Programme stands as a testament to FNU’s innovative spirit and regional leadership in higher education empowering nurses across the Pacific to pursue professional growth and shaping a stronger, healthier future for all.

Dreams Beyond Limits

Breaking Barriers, Shaping Futures



Rusila Vakasere during the FNU Open Day in Nasinu.
Photo: Wati Talebula.

Rusila's Journey to Become a Chief Engineer

By WATI TALEBULA

Rusila Vakasere is charting a course toward a future few from her community have dared to dream by becoming a Chief Engineer aboard a ship.

Now in her third year of a Diploma in Marine Engineering at the Fiji National University's Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies, Rusila is one of the few women in a field traditionally dominated by men. Her journey hasn't been easy, but it's one she's chosen with purpose and pride.

At the last day of the FNU Open Day in Nasinu, Rusila shared how she is still proving people wrong when they discovered her career choices.

Inspired by Struggles at Sea

Growing up in Nawaikama, where the sea is the main means of transportation, Rusila witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by her people.

"While I was at the village, I always saw the hardship our people faced, especially when the sea is our main transportation," she shared.

"That's how my dream was born."

Despite having no family members in the field and no clear path laid out before her, she was determined to pursue marine engineering. But her journey started in silence.

A Dream in Secret

"When I started, my parents didn't know. I asked my sister not to tell them," she said.

It wasn't until they saw her in uniform during a video call that the truth came out. Their reaction was disheartening.

"They told me it was a male-dominated field and that I couldn't do it. But I knew I had to prove to them that their daughter could do it

too."

Now in her third year, she says things have changed. Her parents are beginning to accept and even support her decision.

"They're starting to see that I can succeed in this field too," she said proudly.

Facing Challenges Head-On

Marine engineering is physically and mentally demanding. The environment is often harsh, and as a woman in a male-dominated industry, Rusila admits there are moments when she feels demotivated.

"But I always remind myself that one day I will be a Chief Engineer. That dream keeps me going."

With courage shaped by adversity, Rusila offers honest advice both to parents and to children.

To parents, she says: "Never look down on what your children want to become. We know what we want to do as a career and we can do it. Parents should talk to their children and understand what they want to do and not be so quick to overrule their decisions."

To other young people, especially girls dreaming of breaking into tough fields: "Prove everyone wrong. Always do your best, because all eyes are on you."

Looking Ahead

Rusila's story is one of quiet defiance, resilience, and rising tides. She's not just studying marine engineering, but she's navigating a new course for women from her village and beyond.

And with each wave she overcomes, she's moving closer to her dream: the day she stands on the deck, not just as a marine engineer—but as Chief Engineer.



Varitema Rokovesa
Photo: Wati Talebula.

Varitema Rokovesa Navigates Her Way to Success

By WATI TALEBULA

Varitema Rokovesa, a 22-year-old from Nailaga Village in Ba, is making waves in the maritime industry.

She is currently pursuing her Diploma in Nautical Science at FNU's Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies.

The third-year student was inspired by her grandfather, a former sailor, Varitema developed a deep passion for life at sea — a path not often pursued by women.

Entering a male-dominated field hasn't been easy. She faced discouragement and doubt from others but remained steadfast in her goal.

"It's all about mindset," she says.

"If you believe you can do it, then you can."

Varitema encourages other young women, especially those in Year 13 to break free from gender stereotypes and pursue maritime careers with confidence.

"Stay focused, keep your priorities straight, and don't let fear hold you back," she advises.

Interestingly, her initial dream was to become a pilot, but she now sees her maritime journey as equally meaningful.

"Pilots navigate the sky; we navigate the sea. Both require passion and discipline."

Varitema stands as a role model for young women in the Pacific, proving that with determination and the right mindset, even the roughest seas can be conquered.

Guo Jin Brings Flavour and Warmth to FNU Open Day

By AVISH REDDY

At The Fiji National University’s Open Day 2025, the air at Nasinu Campus was filled with the sounds of laughter, music—and the irresistible aroma of freshly cooked dumplings. Behind the sizzling stall stood Guo Jin, a cheerful vendor from China whose English may be limited, but whose food and smile spoke a language everyone understood. With skilful hands, Guo flipped golden Chinese pancakes and folded dumplings with care, serving hundreds of curious students eager to try something new. Though communication was sometimes a challenge, her warmth made every interaction special. “I like cooking for students,” she said softly, her accent gentle but her enthusiasm

clear. “They smile, they like the food—that makes me happy.” Many students were drawn not just by the taste of her dishes, but by her kindness. “She’s so sweet,” one visitor shared. “Even if we don’t understand each other perfectly, we can feel her heart through her food.” For Guo, the Open Day wasn’t just a business opportunity—it was a way to share a piece of her culture with the FNU community. “Fiji people are friendly,” she said with a grin. “I like to be part of this day.” As the final day of The Fiji National University’s Open Day 2025 came to an end, Guo continued serving dumplings to the last group of students, her stall glowing under the afternoon sun—a small corner of connection, flavour, and friendship that made the event even more memorable.



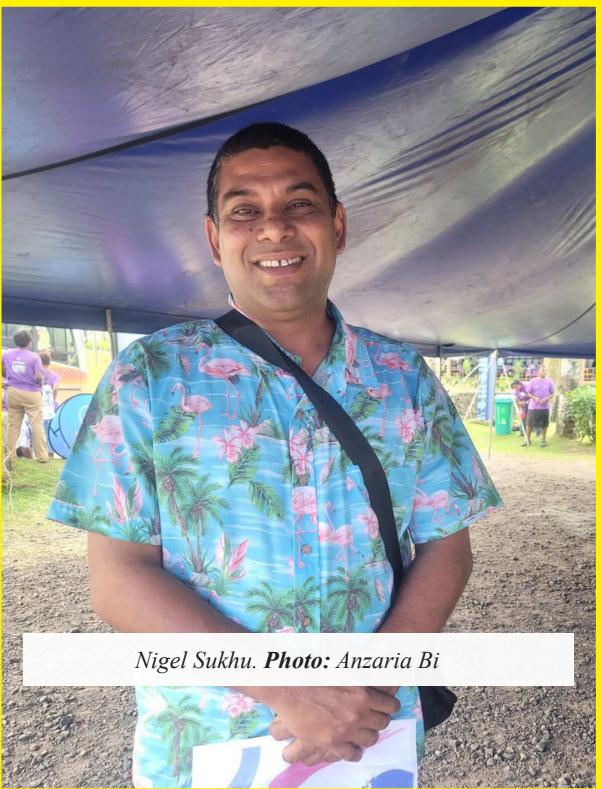
Guo Jin at the 2025 FNU Open Day. **Photo:** Avesh Reddy.



Ratu Sailosi Nawerecaqa . **Photo:** Romeka Kumari.



Grace Merewalesi. **Photo:** Anzaria Bi



Nigel Sukhu. **Photo:** Anzaria Bi

FNU Open Day Inspires Hope and Inclusion

By ANZARIA BI, ADI VENIANA, ROMEKA KUMARI

The Fiji National University’s (FNU) Open Day at Nasinu Campus was more than a showcase of academic programmes, it was a celebration of inclusion, empowerment, and the limitless potential of every learner. Among the hundreds of visitors, stories of courage and hope shone brightly, especially from students and educators from special schools who experienced firsthand FNU’s commitment to accessible education. **Disability Fails to Deter Nawerecaqa’s Inspiring Journey** For Ratu Sailosi Nawerecaqa, a student from Marist Champagnat Institute living with hearing and speech impairments, the Open Day was an unforgettable experience. Originally from Nabutautau in Ba, Nawerecaqa’s visit to FNU’s National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC)

booth was filled with excitement and inspiration. “I really like the atmosphere here at the Open Day,” he signed with a smile. “I visited all the booths and found NTPC very encouraging to join their Centre.” Driven by a passion for woodwork and engineering, Nawerecaqa hopes to enrol in the Carpentry programme after completing high school to build a better future for himself and his family. A highlight of his visit was discovering FNU’s Disability Resource Centre at the Nasinu Campus. “I was very surprised to see that FNU has a disability centre. I consider myself fortunate. When I entered the centre, the FNU team greeted me warmly. I felt very comfortable and at home,” he said.

A Day of Inspiration for Grace Merewalesi Equally inspired was Grace Merewalesi from Suva Special School, who attended the Open Day for the first time. Brimming with excitement, Grace explored

the campus and its many learning opportunities. “I’m really excited to explore what FNU has to offer,” she said. “When I learned that FNU has a Disability Resource Centre that supports students like me, it made me feel more confident about pursuing my studies here.” The Disability Resource Centre provides inclusive support and guidance for students with disabilities, ensuring they can access learning opportunities and thrive academically. “This is my first time at the Open Day, and it’s amazing to see that FNU cares about every student,” Grace shared. “I feel welcomed and encouraged to follow my goals, just like any other student.” **Teacher’s Perspective: Empowering Futures Through Inclusion** Among the visitors guiding and encouraging students with special needs was Mr Nigel Sukhu, a dedicated teacher from Marist Champagnat Institute Special

School. His presence at the Open Day underscored the vital role of educators in bridging the gap between secondary and higher education for students with diverse learning needs. “It’s incredibly important for my students to attend the FNU Open Day,” Mr Sukhu said. “It’s about exposing them to possibilities they might not have considered. For students with special needs, it’s crucial to see that higher education is accessible and that there are programmes and support systems in place to help them.” He praised FNU’s approach to inclusivity, noting the University’s commitment to creating an environment that embraces diversity. Mr. Sukhu also encouraged greater collaboration between tertiary institutions and special schools. “FNU can better support schools by providing more resources and training for teachers who work with students with special needs,” he suggested.

Students More **Confident** About Career Choices



Nilsen College teacher Irfaan Ahmed with his students the 2025 FNU Open Day in Natabua Campus. **Photo:** Nicolette Chambers.

By **NICOLETTE CHAMBERS**

Many students felt inspired and are now more confident about their career choices after being part of the 2025 Fiji National University Open Day. These were the words echoed by Nilsen College teacher, Irfaan Ahmed who accompanied his group of students that visited Natabua Campus for the 2025 FNU Open Day earlier this month. Ahmed said the group of 49 students from Year 12 and Year 13 and six teachers, departed at 8.00am for Natabua Campus

and the students could not contain their excitement discussing amongst each other what the FNU had to offer them. He highlighted that the students expressed appreciation for the interactive booths, hands-on demonstrations, and friendly staff while the teachers noted how the FNU Open Day helped align classroom learning with real-world applications. “The FNU Open Day was a valuable opportunity for students and teachers to gain firsthand insight into FNU’s programmes, facilities, and career pathways. It helped

students visualise their future and understand the academic requirements and support systems available,” he said. “It is more than an academic showcase; it’s a bridge between education and community. “The students returned home that day with knowledge that influenced family decisions, especially in rural areas where our students come from, access to information is limited. It empowered families to support their children’s ambitions and plan financially and emotionally for tertiary education.”

About Nilsen College

It is located in Vatukoula, eight kilometers away from Tavua Town. The school was established in 1969 to educate the children of mine workers and Vatukoula Gold Mine is the major stakeholder. The school, which also serves the wider Vatukoula community, offers various subjects for students in Years 9 to 13, including English, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Commercial Studies, Agriculture, VosaVakaviti, Office Technology, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts.

Jese Chooses Music Over Rugby Career

By **NICOLETTE CHAMBERS**

While his brothers joined others for a game of rugby every afternoon, Jese Mocenacagi stayed back home and always knew where his passion belonged. He chose a different path from his brothers and that was to become a singer and inspire the next generation. The first-year student at the Fiji National University’s Natabua Campus in Lautoka is pursuing a Bachelor in Education, in Physical Education and Music. Mocenacagi was also a familiar face during the 2025 FNU Open Day at Natabua Campus, welcoming students at the Department of Secondary and Sports Education booth by entertaining them with different genres of music. His passion has grown ever since, and he is now grateful to be pursuing music as a lifelong career. “I started singing when I was a little boy with my aunties and uncles at home. Music

has greatly influenced my life, and it has also changed how I view things in life,” he said. “I am also thankful to continuously receive invites to sing at church occasions, to which I humbly accept.” Interestingly, Mocenacagi is also a familiar face to many Fijians, taking part and becoming one of the finalists in this year’s Season 4 of The Vocal Battle competition. “I also took part in the Selah Quest (Gospel Singing Competition) in 2021 and was one of the finalists too,” he added. He also highlighted that his siblings and FNU Music Lecturer, Waisake Rabuatoka encouraged him that there was nothing more to do but to pursue his passion at the FNU. “Even though we didn’t have much, my family supported me through and through,” he said. His advice to individuals who intend to pursue their career in music - follow your passion because it will take you miles.



Jese Mocenacagi. **Photo:** Nicolette Chambers.



Saint Therese of Lisieux College students at the 2025 FNU Open Day. Photo: Romeka Kumari

Paulo Inspired to Follow Dream of Aircraft Engineering



Emosi Paulo. Photo: Romeka Kumari

By ROMEKA KUMARI

For Emosi Paulo, the Fiji National University (FNU) Open Day at Bonunaqwele Campus in Nadi was a very special moment. It made him realise that his future possibilities are endless. Paulo, a Year 13 student at Saint Therese College in Sigatoka, was amazed when he saw an aircraft at the Pacific Centre for Aviation Studies hangar in Nadi. “I’ve always seen aircraft flying through the sky and disappearing into clouds,” Paulo said. “But I never knew how they took off or landed. I wondered about it as a child.” “Whenever an aircraft flew over our house, I would run after it, trying to catch it. I always wanted to see how it worked.” But at the Open Day, Paulo had a very emotional experience. “When I touched an aircraft for the first time, I was overwhelmed. It was a proud moment for me. Such planes I used to chase as a child was now right in front of me, and I

could touch it.”

Day begun at dawn

The day started early for Paulo and his schoolmates. They woke up at 4am, full of excitement. After getting ready, they crossed a river and then took a three-hour bus journey to Nadi. “The trip was tough, but it was worth it,” Paulo shared. “We all learned so much about our future options.” He is currently taking subjects like Technical Drawing, Applied Technology, Mathematics, English, and Computer in high school. “Seeing the aircraft maintenance students in action at the Open Day really inspired me,” he said. “It made me even more sure about my career goal and now I am determined to become an aircraft engineer” “Attending the Open Day was not only inspiring for me but also gave me ideas for my siblings. I want them to dream big and believe they can achieve anything.”

Ram Finds Passion in Cookery

For many students, the Fiji National University (FNU) Open Day event was a chance to explore new opportunities. But for Ranisha Ram, a Year 10 student at Sigatoka Methodist College, it was a revelation that ignited her lifelong passion. During a live cookery demonstration at the Bonunaqwele Campus, Food and Beverage students showcased their cookery skills. Ram watched intently, her eyes shining with newfound inspiration. “I never knew that cookery was such an incredible passion until I saw the demonstration,” she said with excitement. “Cooking was something I was always afraid to try, but seeing the students work with such confidence was mesmerising.”

“What I really admired was how the students controlled the flame and moved the wok around the stove, something I never saw.” Ram admitted that her initial understanding of chefs was limited to preparing familiar meals at home. “I thought chefs only cooked the food we eat daily, but this opened my eyes to a whole new world,” she explained. “I saw that culinary arts involvesw creativity, skill, and dedication and I am eager to develop such elements in future.” Moved by the experience, Ram is determined to pursue a career as a chef. “Watching the students in action made me realise that I want to be a part of this exciting world,” she said.



Ranisha Ram, Year 10 student of Sigatoka Methodist College passionate to become a chef. Photo: Romeka Kumari.

Daksh Overcomes *Life's Challenges* to *Chase* His Dreams



Fourth from left: Daksh Mudliar with the Savusavu Secondary Students at the FNU Open Day in Naduna Campus. **Photo:** Selita Bolanavanua

By **SELITA BOLANAVANUA**

Daksh Mudliar, a Year 10 student from Savusavu Secondary School, dreams of making his mother proud. Daksh lost his father when he was just three months old, and his mother, who

lives with a physical disability, has been his greatest source of inspiration. His older sister, now 18, helps care for their mother and sometimes works for neighbours to support the family. Despite the challenges, Daksh remains determined. He was among the 300 students

who attended the Fiji National University’s 2025 Open Day at Naduna Campus. “For me, my aim is to be successful in life. After visiting FNU today, I have made up my mind to pursue a career in business. Now I know exactly the requirements for FNU and I’m familiar with the subject

combinations I need to take next year,” he said. Daksh thanked both FNU and his school for giving him the opportunity to attend the Open Day, calling it a turning point in helping him plan for his future.

Duavata Secondary Students Chase Their Dreams

By **SELITA BOLANAVANUA**

In the still darkness of dawn, a group of Year 13 students from Duavata Secondary School in Udu Point boarded a bus for the journey to Fiji National University’s Naduna Campus. For these students, who live in one of the most remote parts of the country, today’s FNU Open Day was more than an excursion, it was a glimpse into the future they dream of. For the past two consecutive years, Duavata Secondary has achieved a 100% pass rate for both Year 12 and Year 13 external examinations. Assistant Principal Master Nemani Moi said travelling over 97 kilometres from Duavata, they

came from a school with few resources, limited exposure, and constant challenges, but one that has defied the odds. “This is an eye-opening experience for them. Being so far away, we are deprived of so much. For our students to finally see university life up close is a blessing. The expectations from their parents and our community are very high, and our students have always risen to meet them.” For Duavata’s students, meeting lecturers, exploring study options, and for the first time, picturing themselves walking the corridors of higher education was an exciting experience. Meanwhile Mr Moi said each trip like this comes with a cost. For this trip, it costs them around

\$400, an amount that stretches beyond the means of many rural families. “For a small school like ours, raising this money is very difficult,” Mr Moi added. He is calling out to the alumni of Duavata to help support the children of the school. “We humbly ask our former students, those who have gone through Duavata and are now doing well, to remember their beginnings and help sponsor trips like this. It would mean the world to our children.” Mr Moi thanked FNU for giving his students the chance to learn, explore university life, and discover options to turn their dreams into reality and shape their future.



Assistant Principal Master Nemani Moi. **Photo:** Selita Bolanavanua

FNU Reclaims FUSA Glory After 3 Years

By **CHRISTAL KAPOOR**

The Fiji National University (FNU) has reclaimed the coveted 2025 FUSA Games Overall Champion title, marking a triumphant return to the top after a three-year hiatus.

The Games, held from 18 to 20 September at the University of the South Pacific (USP) and Fiji Sports Council (FSC) grounds, brought together hundreds of student-athletes in an exciting display of sportsmanship, skill, and university pride.

FNU dominated the competition, securing nine gold medals across 16 sports, ahead of USP with five golds, while UniFiji and Corpus Christi each claimed one. This impressive performance crowned FNU the overall winner, reaffirming the University's strength and unity both on and off the field.

The University's gold medal victories came in Men's Rugby 15s, Women's Rugby 15s, Women's 7s, Men's Rugby U20, Men's Soccer, Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Women's Netball, and Mixed Netball. FNU also celebrated major milestone wins by retaining the Men's Soccer title for the fourth consecutive year and Men's Rugby 15s for the third year running.

'More than just medals, it's teamwork'

FNU's Sports Coordinator, Iliesa Namosimalua said the victory represents more than just medals, it symbolises teamwork, resilience, and the true FNU spirit.

"Being crowned the 2025 Overall FUSA Games Champions is not just a win for our athletes but also a proud moment for the entire FNU community," Namosimalua said.

"It's an incredible and wonderful feeling to see all the hard work, dedication, and teamwork throughout the year pay off. Our teams gave their all, on and off the field, and this victory reflects their passion, discipline, and true FNU spirit."

With 49 teams and approximately 870 participants (600 from Central, 230 from Western, and 40 from Labasa), FNU's presence was unmatched throughout the three-day event. The success was a collective effort, supported by the Office of the Registrar, which led months of preparation and logistics, as well as the Heads of Campuses, team managers, and divisions of Finance and Estates & Facilities.

"I would like to thank all the teams that represented FNU, players, coaches, and managers, as well as the logistics team working tirelessly behind the scenes during the FUSA Games and not forgetting the team from the Office of the Registrar," Namosimalua added.

Gold medal captains who led their teams to victory include Kemueli Mikaele (Men's Rugby 15s), George Kutus (Men's Soccer), Marika Saisai (Men's Rugby U20), Michael Maikoto (Men's Volleyball), Aqela Diqiso (Women's Volleyball), Semaimea Bavatu (Women's Netball), Salote Natuna (Women's Rugby 15s), Barbra Francis (Women's Rugby 7s), and Karalaini Dausiga (Mixed Netball).

The victory marks a defining chapter in FNU's sporting journey, proving once again that through perseverance and teamwork, success follows.

Through perseverance, we can overcome all challenges, and this year, FNU did just that.



Top Pic: FNU Sports Coordinator, Iliesa Namosimalua, receives the trophy on behalf of the University.



Bottom pic: FNU staff members celebrate with the winning trophy and shield.



2025 FIJI BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Saturday 8 November 2025



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