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PRESS RELEASE

Macanalagi receives Fiji International PGA Scholarship

Suva, Fiji Islands.

Fiji National University's Trade Diploma in Hotel Management student, Apisalome Raiwalui Macanalagi was on cloud nine after receiving the inaugural Fiji International PGA Scholarship of \$5,000.00.

20 year-old Macanalagi, originally from Lomaiviti was part of the University student volunteer group who assisted at the Fiji International Golf tournament held at the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course last year.

As a result of his outstanding effort and commitment during the event, tournament organisers awarded the scholarship to assist him with his tertiary education.

"I'm really lost for words. I really can't believe this. I'm thankful to the tournament organisers for this wonderful gift. I never dreamt that I will be given this scholarship," said an elated Macanalagi.

"I really enjoyed assisting in the golf tournament last year. It was really hard work. I had to stay out in the sun to keep track of the scores posted on the board. I assisted with transporting players and officials around the resort. It was also an entertaining experience and I got to see some of the best players in action," said Macanalagi.

The FNU student says he will once again volunteer for this year's tournament. PGA Australia, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gavin Kirkman applauded the efforts of all FNU student volunteers for their initiative and enthusiasm during the tournament over the last three years.

"We are happy to involve the students. They have brought a new dimension to the tournament," said Mr Kirkman.

"When we got engaged with the government for this tournament, one of our key priorities was to leave something behind. It is about creating tourism for the Fijians and for the young people."

During the presentation ceremony Mr Kirkman reminded students to always maintain a positive attitude towards life as it was something that he strongly believed was a key factor in Fiji's tourism industry.

“What you're doing is representing your country, the experience the tourists have is the experience that you're providing them. Fiji International is televised globally for 20 hours that week. Televising is not only what is happening at the golf course, but we are also televising the experiences that tourists can have here in the beautiful country of Fiji and that will come down to the students and people working here in the hospitality and tourism studies,” Mr Kirkman added.

FNU's Head of School of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Eric Jioji acknowledged PGA Australia for this partnership adding such international exposure provided students valuable experience.

“This tournament provides an excellent opportunity to our students to gain first-hand experience on how international events are organised. Sports tourism is going to play a vital role in the near future; hence, I am glad that the School is pairing with one of the world's major sports event which is golf.”

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About the Fiji National University: The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).