



CANTERBURY FIJI COMMUNITY

7th October 2017

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2017

Bula Vinaka everyone. I am sorry that I am unable to be there with you today but I know that you will have a great meeting and wish you all the best.

I want to thank my committee for their time and the energy that they have put in and in particular I would like to remember Sireli who sadly passed away this year. Sireli was a good friend and was dedicated to improving the lives of everyone in our community. His patient advice and counsel in all things will be sadly missed.

Serving the community is not an easy task and can sometimes be a thankless one but we all do it with the hope that our efforts will in some little way improve the livelihood of our growing community and most importantly for our children as they are our future.

I would also like to thank our funders for their generous support, Ministry of Pacific Peoples, Rata Foundation, Dept of Internal Affairs, Christchurch City Council, Pacific Trust Canterbury, Pasifika Futures, Community Organisation Grants Scheme.

This report will provide highlights and areas to improve on.

BREADTH OF WORK includes:

- Advocacy of community issues in different forums. There are many meetings called by various government departments and other organisations where the committee is invited to participate and be a voice for our people.
- Support community (immigration land VISA letters / character reference letters)
- Be a contact point for new arrivals to help them settle in Christchurch.

HIGHLIGHTS include:

- April 2015 - Welcoming Professor Steven Ratuva – newly appointed Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies. Provided \$1,000 for Canterbury Fijian Rugby Club to cater.
- May 2015 – Pacifika Futures Grant \$15,000 to support our community members in obtaining Learners, Restricted, Class 1, Class 2, Class 4 and Forklift drivers licenses. Over 80 people benefited directly from these funds over the next 2 years.

P.O.Box 8534

Chairperson

Maureen Moala

Secretary

Riccarton

CHRISTCHURCH

V/Chairperson

Suliano Vuniamatana

Treasurer

Ropate Siwatibau

0274 319 716

Email – secretary@canterburyfijicommunity.org.nz www.facebook.com/canterburyfijicommunity

- August 2015 - Canterbury Fiji Tertiary Students National Tournament – Provided \$500 to sponsor our youths' initiative.
- September 2015 – Fiji Nurses Health Information workshop – sponsored costs of venue and expenses.
- October 2015 – Fiji Day Celebrations including family sports day and opening and closing community church services.
- October 2015 – Fiji Language Week – Fijian Language speech competitions and shared meal
- December 2015 – Waiora Trust Community Garden – shared garden plot for use by the community members.
- December 2015 – Christchurch Santa Parade – represented Fiji along with the Canterbury Fiji Indian community. Fun day out with two trucks and a boat!
- January 2016 – End of Year Family BBQ – great way to bring the year to a close before school starts again.
- January 2016 – Fiji Girl Guides Christchurch tour – sponsored \$400 to help with expenses.
- February 2016 – Fiji Rugby Sevens team competed in Woodend Sevens – sponsored \$200 and provided Spark marquees.
- April 2016 – Canterbury Fiji Bati League team versus Canterbury Samoan League team fundraising game for Cyclone Winston relief. Great day for the boys and plenty of food for the spectators.
- May 2016 – Organised along with Canterbury University to fill and ship two containers to Fiji for Cyclone Winston relief.
- August 2016 – Community Health Day Fiji Nurses – sponsored hire of venue and \$200 for expenses.
- August 2016 – Community Welcome for Dr Steven Ratuva – sponsored \$300 for expenses.
- August 2016 – pilot Canterbury Trades Employment Initiative – organised accommodation for pilot carpenters when they arrived in Christchurch.
- October 2016 – Canterbury Fiji Sevens Rugby trip to Dunedin. Invited by Fijian Community to also celebrate Fiji Day with them – sponsored \$300 for fuel.
- October 2016 – Fiji Day Celebrations - Family Day sports day and BBQ
- October 2016 - Fiji Language Week 2016 – a week of activities aimed at promoting the use of the Fijian language. Highlight of the week was the Speeches evening where students from primary school to high school ages participated.
- December 2016 - Santa Parade – Colourful presence led by our Rugby and Rugby League boys.
- December 2016 – End of year family BBQ
- February 2017 - Rugby Sevens 2017 – the community supported the Sevens team in their bid to win the tournament here in Christchurch and the Western Team won the Woodend Sevens!
- February 2017 – Fiji Nurses National Meeting and activities – sponsored venue hires costs.

P.O.Box 8534	Chairperson	Maureen Moala	Secretary
Riccarton			
CHRISTCHURCH	V/Chairperson	Suliano Vuniamatana	Treasurer Ropate Siwatibau
			0274 319 716

Email –secretary@canterburyfijicommunity.org.nz www.facebook.com/canterburyfijicommunity

AREAS TO IMPROVE include:

- Contacts Database (to improve communications to the community)
- Commitment of office bearers
- Role of Church
- More open communications between the different district formation groups



I would like to wish the new Chair and committee all the best as they move our community forward. I would also like to encourage our Fiji community to support the new office bearers as the job ahead is not an easy one.

Thank you all for your support.

Maureen Moala

P.O.Box 8534	Chairperson	Maureen Moala	Secretary	
Riccarton				
CHRISTCHURCH	V/Chairperson	Suliano Vuniamatana	Treasurer	Ropate Siwatibau
			0274 319 716	

Email –secretary@canterburyfijicommunity.org.nz www.facebook.com/canterburyfijicommunity