



Takitaki

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WELCOME BACK FOR 2008

2008 is here beckoning new developments and growth for FRIEND. January, usually a quiet month for many has seen many projects undertaken - photography workshops, the Saweni Beach clean-up, new calendars, new product ranges and hurricane Gene creating uncertainties in the market and production. The programs were all planned out late last year and is already rolling with changes after evaluations. The Youth Program has grown in content and size and new FACE (FRIENDS Art and Cultural Enterprise) project will take off from February targeting youths interested in learning the techniques of visual arts, theatre, dance and vocal and instrumental music.

Other new development will see a community kitchen being erected funded by AUSAID as well an office in Labasa to benefit the communities there. The Suva shop has moved to Garden City allowing more parking access. This new products and promotions for these are being planned.

Demand for our services seem to be growing with more and more requests for assistance forcing our team to be innovative in trying to meet these demands. However resource, skill and market constraints make it difficult. In 2008 we are hoping for new partnerships in corporate and donor sectors to be able to reach out to more than the current 5000 beneficiaries. We look forward to your support in our efforts towards poverty alleviation this year.

Sashi Kiran

SNAPPING UP THE OPPORTUNITY



Left: Kemueli, Semi, Julie, Mere, Tash. Middle: Tash's photo of pigeons. Right: Eroni, Ema, Jenni, Jone, Priya and Stee.

Ten youths, who attended a Photography workshop at FRIEND, were amazed at how much skill was needed to be a professional photogra-

pher. Jenni Hammonds, a volunteer from New Zealand who facilitated the workshop, said that it takes time to teach the basics but sharing the knowledge with the youths was rewarding. Workshop coordinator Jone Nawaikula said that the four day photography workshop involved high school, university and community youths who were interested to learn about photography. Some youths who were only interested in photography as a hobby now intend to further their photography classes and make it as a career. FRIEND intends to hold more workshops in a range of areas throughout the year. For more information contact Jone Nawaikula.

YOUTH PROFILE: SITIVENI VASU



*Form 6
Tilak High School,
Lautoka.*

Jone: What's the interest in photography, Stee?

Stee: I thought I could do this as a follow-up of last year's Art class. I can compare art in painting and art in photography.

J: What have you learnt in the photography class that you can apply later?

S: I am hoping to be the photographer for our school magazine this year and apply the skills I learnt to this school project.

YOUTH PROFILE: PRIYA CHANDRA



*BA Major in Tourism Studies
University of the South
Pacific, Lautoka.*

Jone: I believe you had enjoyed taking the photography class. What have you learnt in the lessons taken?

Priya: How to take professional shots using professional cameras. Most of the time I just focus and shoot not really concerned how the picture would turn out to be.

J: What changes if any, would you make to the course?

P: Preferably a longer course and more in-depth training such as graphic designing as well.

SATURDAY'S SAWENI BEACH CLEAN-UP



Top: Volunteers carry rubbish bags to the pick up point. Above left: Organizing lunch. Above right: Painting the rubbish drums sponsored by Panjas Edible oil Ltd.

“Think big and act locally” was an apt catch phrase for youth program that organized to clean up Saweni Beach, a popular picnic place in Lautoka. The event was coordinated by FRIEND volunteer Jenni Hammonds and Devina Devi, with the aim of beautifying the place, creating awareness for global warming, and restoring pride in young people to take care of their environment. About 35 people took part in the whole day event, from the painting of bins, picking up rubbish through to a BBQ and a swim. The beach had become a dumping site for people, from diapers to beer bottles and anything in between but now, hopefully, attitudes will change. Business houses around Lautoka supported the cause and our vinaka vaka levu to all the sponsors and volunteers.

THE NEW SUVA SHOP

FRIEND's first retail outlet, *Friends Fiji Style Shop* in Toorak, closed its doors for business on 10th January 2007 after one and half years in operation. The new location in Garden City, with more space and more parking, was shifted into by a handful of hardworking volunteers who managed to open doors for business the very next day. A stream of FRIEND friends dropped in for moral support and our founding trustee Marie Chan marveled at the new address, aptly recalling that its 'like coming back to the roots' - the previous occupant of the new location, Fresh Direct, was the first store in Suva to stock Fiji Style products ! Suva's well known personality Dr Mridula Prasad, and a 'friend of FRIEND', provided our team with Saturday brunch. The official opening of our new shop is marked for the first week of February. In the meantime we are open for business from the new address. Please do visit!



Above: The new Suva shop.

Sandhya Narayan

What's Happening?

Friend's Fiji Style Shop Official Opening, 9th Feb
Come and enjoy the art exhibition and a new range of products.

MH Promotions, month of February
Look out for our products on specials in MH stores around Fiji!

Business House Netball Competition, 9th February
Come down to the courts and support

WHO'S YOUR VALENTINE?



The new Valentine's card range.

Check out our new Valentine's Day card range to give your sweetheart! Delicately handcrafted paper work cards as well as beautiful painted designs on masi. Buy a card and receive a gift tag free of charge. Sure to make your valentine smile :)!

A MULTICULTURAL AFFAIR



Above: Orientation at FRIEND

Ten young women from around the USA are in Fiji for a semester at USP and as part of their orientation visited FRIEND's Lautoka office. Lecturer Taomi Tapu-Qiliho accompanied the girls as they absorbed what we had to share with them and asked away their questions. Taomi, an academic director at USP, lectures Fiji Multiculturalism and Social Change and sees the exchange as a synthetic attempt to merge experience and theory in this field. The program is organized by American university World Learning who have 75 different programs around the world with two in the South Pacific.