



Takitaki

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SUVA ON SALE



A selection of products introduced at "Suva on Sale".

FRIEND was part of the mega-event "Suva on Sale" from 28 April to 5 May. We thank FBCL, the event organizers, for sponsoring our stall. This week-long street market happened at an opportune time, as we were able to introduce our latest products in the ever growing *Friend's Fiji Style*[®] range of handicrafts. These include locally-made unique jewelry boxes, coconut shell fruit bowls, soap dishes, pen holders etc, which are made by ex-offenders and other communities to earn an income and get out of poverty. Also newly available is Lime Pickle in 150g and 330g jars. Lime Pickle is an oil free product – great for people who are health conscious.

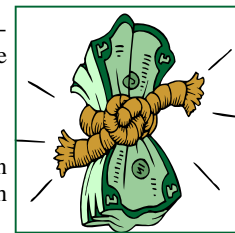
"Suva on Sale" was also a valuable platform to interact with people and raise public awareness about the work FRIEND does in social and economic empowerment. We sincerely thank everyone who visited us at our stall or purchased *Friend's Fiji Style*[®] local, quality chutneys, pickles, jams, handmade cards, clothing, and handicrafts and contributed towards poverty alleviation. Last but not least, a big *vinaka vakalevu* to all volunteers who helped at "Suva on Sale"!

TEACHING EARNERS AND SAVERS ABOUT BUDGETING

Budgeting training is conducted with all the IGP producers and Save Scheme members who are interested to learn how to better budget for savings. The purpose of the training is to provide tools for savers that will assist them in achieving their goals.

The budgeting training process:

1. Get individual to know and realize their financial situation.
2. Do income and expenses exercise so they can know how much they earn and how much they spend. After this exercise, it will be clear how much they spend and on what.
3. Differentiate "wants" from "needs".
4. Learn to prioritize needs and wants.
5. Set a goal and prepare a budget for it.
6. Explain the need to save (life events, investment, emergencies, community obligations).
7. Tips on making a budget work and having savings.



The budgeting training takes from one to two weeks to conduct. Then there is follow up with the participants to assess whether they have understood the training or still need assistance in their budgeting. Some of the groups which have gone through this training include the IGP-Masi, Quill & Painted Cards group, the IGP-Food group and the Save Scheme group. After going through this budgeting training, the IGP Food group has joined FRIEND Save Scheme to help them reach their goals.

NEW! MASI PAINTED CARDS



Salesh creates masi painted cards.

The latest exciting project from the IGP Art Department at FRIEND is the masi painted cards. These fine art pieces are created by

Salesh, a part-time student at USP.

Salesh worked in many jobs for various companies before deciding to pursue his studies at USP, as well as to do something to earn money for himself by using his artistic talents.

Salesh uses unique techniques to paint masi, creating beautifully evocative designs which reflect and depict the richly diverse culture and traditions of Fiji.

INTRODUCING COMMUNITIES TO FRIEND

The first stop in FRIEND's recent road trip to visit four communities from Tavua to Ra was Narewa village in Rakiraki. The community invited FRIEND to present about the work we do. We presented our *sevusevu* to the *turanga ni koro*, then spent time conversing with the group. As with any community, this one has its challenges which FRIEND may be able to assist in overcoming.

We then visited a community just outside Rakiraki town, consisting mainly of Indian women. They were interested in our Income Generating Program (IGP).

Next we made our way to Tavualevu village. It was a courtesy visit to Radini Tui Tavua. She took us on a tour to their first community kitchen. We were very amazed by the kitchen and the effort put in by the community.

Finally we visited Vatukoula. This community is located next to the Emperor Goldmine and consists of former employees of the mine. People are finding it very hard to survive as the mine was their only source of income. They have requested FRIEND to start IGP with their young people.

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK



Serevi with FRIEND staff and supporters at our Youth Week stall in Churchill Park.

The Ministry of Youth launched National Youth Week activities in Churchill Park with most organizations associated with youth in Lautoka participating. The celebration was launched by Chief Guest Waisale Serevi, followed by performances from the Fiji Police Force and other youth groups around the Western Division. FRIEND had a stall where handicrafts and products from the communities were sold and displayed, and also had the opportunity to give a presentation on the organization and provide entertainment programs for one day of the festivities. Serevi also visited the FRIEND stall where our staff gave him a brief outline of the organization and the mission it has for the Western region regarding Youths and other programs on alleviating poverty.

FRIEND organized a mural competition for High Schools in the Western region on the themes 'Stand up against Poverty' and 'Peace and Stability in Fiji' where students painted the walls of Shirley Park. FRIEND also had a youth team that participated in the Business House volleyball competition which, surprisingly, grabbed the first prize! Read more about these and other National Youth Week activities below.

What's Happening?

May

- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 29 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 31 World No-Tobacco Day

June

- 4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 World Environment Day

MURAL PAINTING

The mural painting activity to commemorate National Youth Week began with most of the participating schools, including Tilak High School, Natabua High School, Central College Lautoka, Jasper Williams High School and Pundit Vishnu Deo, arriving at Shirley Park with their teachers and students. The schools had previously submitted their mural designs based on the themes 'Stand Up Against Poverty' and 'Peace and Stability in Fiji' to FRIEND for review. The approved designs would be the basis for the murals at Shirley Park. The painting took three days, as the students learned color mixing and some of the other basic skills associated with mural painting. It was a fun event where the students worked to complete the paintings and also had the opportunity to intermingle with students from other schools. During the time they spent working together they also reflected on the themes depicted in the murals.



Central College and Jasper Williams HS students surveying their handiwork.

The mural painting was part of the National Youth Week celebrations put together by the Ministry of Youth and coordinated by FRIEND. It was generously sponsored by APCO Coatings and The Waterfront Hotel. Thank you to them for making this successful event possible.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Volunteerism plays essential part in youth development, thus we had two institutional visits as part of the National Youth Week celebrations. A group of youths accompanied by FRIEND staff visited the Lautoka Hospital children's ward and the Old People's Home. The youths gave back to the community simply by spending time with the patients and residents, singing and listening to their stories. The seniors were especially moved by the visit with the youths. Tears were freely shed as they got very emotional when the youths sat holding their hands and listening to what they had to share.



The visit was very inspirational and it really empowered us to educate young people to take care of older people and share their love, as love never decreases when it's shared with others.

OUR COSTUME CONTEST WINNER!



Fazilat, in her Yu taka, leads FRIEND in the Youth Week parade.

Promoting cultural understanding is what I portrayed at the National Youth Week Celebrations on the 30th May at Narara Park.

I wore a *Yu taka*, usually worn by Japanese women in summer weather, in the costume parade. I won the first prize which was presented to me by none other than Waisale Serevi!

I was so proud to be representing FRIEND and actually winning the first major prize. From my experience I think youths should be encouraged to actively participate and show commitment towards these types of activities.

—Fazilat Shah