



**DECEMBER 2013
EDITION**

BULA NEWS

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Editor's Comments

Bula & Welcome!!

It's already the end of 2013 and people are busy making preparations for the Christmas holidays with families and friends. It sure has been a busy year full of cherished memories and successful projects. We thank all volunteers who have graced our shores throughout the years and made a difference in Fiji. Further, how can we ever forget the amazing and hardworking staff in all our regions? We Love you guys!! Moving on, we have updates from our Community & Animal Care projects, as well as Holiday schools from Suva and Nadi, not forgetting Shark conservation Projects which starts Next month!

Until next time, Have A Merry Christmas and A Prosperous New Year!!

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Country Director's Address



Coming from Wales, celebrating the Christmas festivities in a tropical climate is quite a novelty. There is nothing like seeing coconut palms decorated with Christmas lights and Santa Claus and Rudolph's sleigh suspiciously parked on top of a wooden bure, whilst hearing 'Frosty the Snowman' as I go around the supermarket!

The winter of Europe feels like a distant memory as I spend my Sundays on the beach, being bathed in glorious sunshine and swimming in warm blue waters!

As I look back over the last year, I am blown away by the incredible people I have met, work we have done for the local community and international organisations. I feel totally excited to evolve and grow Projects Abroad Fiji in 2014.

We are already seeing an increase in numbers of volunteers for the coming year, which is great! We have become a vital part of the volunteer effort in Fiji and the more volunteers we have, the more of an impact we will make.

We are being contacted every week by local people and organisations asking for our help. As our reputation strengthens, I foresee us becoming the leaders in the volunteer sector.

I feel proud to be part of the work that Projects Abroad supports throughout the world and I am feeling excited to meet all of the new volunteers who are choosing to donate their time, money and energy to make a brighter future for Fiji.

Onwards and upwards we go keeping the spirit of volunteering alive.

Wishing all readers a magical 2014!



Chinnamma Reddy - We would like to say farewell to our former Country Director Mrs. Chinnamma Reddy, who has been a great asset to Projects Abroad. Chin, who has been with the company since 2010, has taken the organization to a higher level and we sincerely thank her for her achievements, outstanding contribution and most importantly her sacrifices. She is also the Secretary of the steering committee of the International Volunteer Organizations in Fiji and has involved Projects Abroad during the International Volunteers

Day event, so we thank her for working tirelessly for the community. She has played a huge part in setting up such an event that shares a common goal for other Volunteering organizations, including Projects Abroad. Under her Leadership new projects and policies were introduced, including MOU's for Host families and placement. We thank Chin for all her hard work and we wish her the very best for her future endeavors!

Vinaka Vakalevu Chin ☺

New Appointments!!

Ingrid Sprake- Country Director (November 2013)

Prashneel R. Goundar- Deputy Director (November 2013)

Andy Hill- Project Manager (November 2013)

Erik Lindstrom– Marine Biologist/ Field Coordinator (December 2013)

Lindsay Graff – Marine Biologist/ Field Coordinator (January 2014)

Holiday School – Saunaka Village Nadi

The holiday school in Saunaka Village Nadi is progressing well. The students are enthusiastic in learning and are responding well to the volunteers. There are currently 8 volunteers who are looking after 60 children between the ages 5-14 years old. They learn Math's, English, Arts & crafts and Sports. Wouter van Toorn teaches baseball to the students, while Ms. Melanie Feess, Ms Juliana Fischer, Ms Jasmin Blum, Tayla Dun, Camilla Kjelstrup, Josefine Nielsen and Keiko Yone focus on making their learning fun and interactive for the students.



Juliana teaches the difference between circle and straight waves



Holiday School- Dilkusha Boys-Suva

The holiday school in Suva is based at Dilkusha Boys Primary School, which is located in Nausori, which is closer to Suva City.

At the start of the holiday school, we began with 7 hardworking volunteers namely: Karina Ison, Hannah Crabb, Jonas Hansen, Erica Ram, Kelsey Kongas, Sofie Nann and Katharina Schaefsmeier.

The volunteers lead with an assembly and devotion every morning and afternoon with the help of the students. Daily activities include Science, English, Math's and different sporting activities in the afternoon. Art and craft is a big part of the curriculum where students decorate their classroom and their outstanding Christmas Cards. Volunteers are in charge of conducting classes in their own classrooms with a member of staff from Project Abroad and a Teacher from the school for supervisory purposes.

Students are having a great time learning from the volunteer's use of various activities and using different learning methods. The volunteers love the freedom of conducting classes on their own and actively engaging with students in lessons.

Last week, we bid farewell to 3 volunteers, we said Moce Mada (Goodbye) to Teacher Erica Ram, Sofie Nann and Kelsey Kongas. The students threw a spontaneous farewell party which included a lot of biscuits, Coke and tears.





Animal Care: Volunteer Falls in Love with Animal Care Project in Fiji

Lisa Schopper (20) came all the way from Austria to volunteer at an Animal Clinic in Nadi with Projects Abroad.

Lisa hopes to further her studies after she completes her volunteer work.

"I wanted to go into a Gap year and I thought volunteering would be the best way to utilize it," she shared.

"I hope to go back to studying at University and pursue a career in veterinary," she added.

Working at West Charity Animal Care is a challenging job. Lisa shares her experience at the beginning of her volunteer work.

"At first, it was difficult for me because I wasn't used to the hardwork, I had to Dee tick a dog and clean up after the animals," she remarked.

"It was surprising for me then, but now I can do it so easily because I'm used to it," she added.

Furthermore, Lisa said that "Projects Abroad makes a lot of difference because there is less pressure on the staff of the animal clinic when volunteers are present."

"Daily tasks begin at 8am where we clean cages and feed the animals. Then, we clean up the kitchen, do the laundries and attend to customers. After Lunch, we do cleaning and feeding again before we finish off from work in the afternoon," Lisa shared.

"I was also able to assist with surgery and vaccinations and I absolutely loved it. I want to stay here in Fiji," she added.

"I love the food; the people are calm and relaxed, not stressed every time and I love the weather and sceneries," she opined.

She describes the most memorable experience in Fiji.

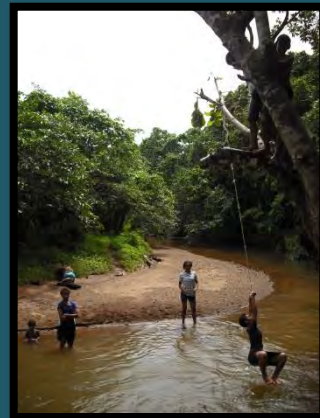
"My best experience would be working with the staff of the Animal clinic. The staffs made me feel part of the team from day one. I feel welcomed and that's the best part of the animal clinic. I love the food and people here, everyone is so friendly," she enthused.

The Austria lass concluded with advice to potential volunteers who wish to come to volunteer with Projects Abroad in Fiji.

"My advice to future volunteers is not to expect too much because it's different from where you come from. You definitely have to work hard, and be ready for the challenges that come your way and have fun," she concluded.

PROJECT DAY-GALOA VILLAGE

The hardworking volunteers in Suva successfully completed their mission to build a fence for the villagers of Galoa. The fence built to protect the village plantation and livelihood. The volunteers and staff of Projects Abroad Suva have done an amazing job and we thank them for their efforts. Thumbs up to Projects Abroad Fiji-Suva Team!!



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM PROJECTS ABROAD FIJI

