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September 2013

## Editor's Note

Bula!

Firstly, our sincerest apologies for not bringing you an issue of our monthly newsletter in August. We have been kept busy with our summer volunteer arrivals over July and August and in this month's issue we bring you all the updates, progress and happenings of the past two months.

Over August and September; we had immense fun and excitement as we hosted 55 enthusiastic volunteers from around the globe. Our projects staff and volunteers have been kept on their toes during the busy months and we have had some fantastic opportunities to do worthwhile projects at the Vesida Hart community in Suva, a beach clean-up at Wailoaloa beach and renovation works of the Loloma Home in Nadi.

As usual, there is never a dull moment in paradise and for our volunteers the weekend away opportunities are certainly never boring. We have had volunteers visiting the mystical Taveuni Islands up north, the scenic Yasawa group, the laid-back Leleuvia Islands and for the adventurous the Nanuya-i-ra Islands in the north of Viti-Levu; just to name a few of the exotic locations our volunteers have the opportunity to visit.

The zeal and enthusiasm that our volunteers create and share is certainly inspiring and we here in Fiji have been continuously motivated with the skills and innovative ideas that they bring to their various projects. Our current volunteers are busy re-vamping school libraries, coaching football and rugby as well as busy looking after pets at the local animal shelters.

In our next issue, we hope to bring you more of our project updates and certainly build-up to our much anticipated Shark Conservation Project beginning January 2014.

We'd love to hear your thoughts, feedback and comments on our edition and to do this we encourage you to join our official Facebook page; Projects Abroad Fiji – the official page and also invite you to our Shark Conservation page at Projects Abroad Fiji – Shark Conservation Group. Alternatively you drop us an email at [Fiji@projects-abroad.org](mailto:Fiji@projects-abroad.org) and we will certainly get back to you.

Hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Cola Vina'a

Chinnamma Reddy  
Country Director – Fiji.



## Holiday School

During August, for 2 weeks, Projects Abroad Fiji run holiday school programmes with either one of our project partners in Care, Teaching or Sports in both Nadi and Suva. These programmes are specifically designed for children with the help of placement supervisors to encourage creative thinking, developing or discovering new skills and recognizing hidden talents in arts, drama etc that often go unnoticed in the conventional school systems in Fiji.



This time around we ran this programme at the Namaka Public School in Nadi and at Bainivalu Primary School in Suva and the responses received from both children and teachers were over-whelmingly encouraging. A total of 180 children participated from both regions.

It was definitely rewarding to see that participating children were able to actively engage in remedial work in math and English, perform drama and plays and at the same time have fun with the volunteers.

This opportunity was equally treasured by our holiday school volunteers as many of them get a unique opportunity to support the learning needs of our children. For many, a special bond is usually formed by the end of these two weeks which would be most definitely remembered for many years to come.



Well done! Tina Binstadt, Zoe Green, Marie Beinhauer, Christina Mahmens, Eva Zimmerman, Lizzie Quirke, Carolin Veltman, Madelein Van der Ploeg, Katharina Kimmich, Elise Gruber, Elisa Morrison, Caitlin McKenna, Emily Moss and Nadine Zund in Suva and;

Jaqueline Nebelung, Emilie Rizzo, Isobel Knowles, Ira Hackbarth, Martha Rasmussen, Anne Aaarsand Helene Osterhus, Carina Amundsen, Lisbeth Jossang, YueXuan Liu, Yue Hua Liu, Eric Wernersbach, Theresa Schilling, Alissa Westerschulze, Tobias Frank and Maren Stensen in Nadi.



### Volunteer Story – Nicole Carroll

Nicole Carroll is the second Sports volunteer received here at Projects Abroad Fiji. At 17 years of age, the Irish beauty initially came to being a volunteer due to some influence from friends, and now after completing her project hopes to raise money to send back to her placement, Dilkusha Boys School in Nausori. With her project, Nicole acts as the Physical Education teacher and feels that as a Projects Abroad volunteer, she is able to do more because she feels at home in her placement. Her daily responsibilities include arriving at 8am, and checking that students have the needed gear for training. She then takes sports lessons with the younger boys such as rugby, hockey or soccer and the older boys with the same sports later on in the afternoon. Apart from this, she is given a supervision task from time to time which involves the general supervision of any class.

Nicole shares that she did not experience any culture shock on arrival in Fiji but that the experiences gained have encouraged her to think about doing more work with kids in the future. Nicole added that she would have loved to teach the younger kids more soccer; had she realized earlier on that they mostly played more rugby and minimal soccer.

Her best experience however from being in Fiji would be a dance class put together as an alternative due to a rainy day. "I had the most wonderful time dancing and laughing away with the kids."

Nicole's advice to future volunteers would be to not waste time and make the most of their placement while they still can. Nicole loves the people and the kids in Fiji and says that she would definitely come back if given the opportunity.

To us, Nicole has defied the odds in being able to teach rugby [a respected game in Fiji] in an all boys' school. She has also positively contributed toward the mental and physical growth of the students in Dilkusha Boys. Above all and more importantly Nicole, in volunteering with Projects Abroad, has inspired the younger generations of Fiji to do good and serve for the betterment of others. It is our hope that Fiji receives many more Nicole's in years to come.





## Project Updates

### 2WS

In July and August this year, Nadi hosted 17 young and enthusiastic volunteers from around the globe to our summer 2 Week Special Programme. Under the guidance of their supervisor, Mrs Emi Sokidrau, the volunteers were on a mission to complete their respective projects; caring for the young children, assisting with and providing floor carpets, painting the children's park and refurbishing the school compound at Nawaka District and Sabeto District Schools.

The volunteers certainly had an experience of a life-time as they embarked on this journey, new friends were made, new families were discovered and an opportunity to give back to the two placements is certainly worth cherishing.



### Shark Conservation



Our newest and for Projects Abroad as a first, there is definitely a lot of hype and excitement building up to the inaugural start of this project with 11 volunteers booked to come in January 2014 and still counting.

We are very positively encouraged with the amount of support we've received and we hope that by embarking on this important project we will certainly raise the level of awareness and protection that is so needed for these vulnerable species.

Meet Ingrid Sprake—our very own Shark Conservation Project Manager!

Stay tuned for more updates on this project in our next editions.



## *Photos Galore! Our Volunteers Out & About*

