

In this issue

*A New Perspective
For School Staff*

*Upgrades for
Bureniu*

*WASH Inspires
Higher Learning*

Handover of Tools

Bula Vinaka! As 2022 comes to a close we are beginning to wrap up project activities and prepare for upcoming 2022 cyclone season. Since our last newsletter we have now completed our engagements with change agents from schools and communities in 29 sites.

In this newsletter edition, we hear from staff members of different rural schools. They take us through their new perspective of their roles and positions since undergoing School Engagement training (SE3) with Habitat Fiji. We hear from a headteacher who is pursuing higher education with WASH and more!

A New Perspective for School Staff



Mr. Yabaki is the School Manager and a Committee Member of Ratu Apenisa Memorial School. After the School Engagement training (SE3), Mr. Yabaki started to look at his role and that of the school committee, differently.

“I used to believe that the school committee’s main role was to focus on general cleaning and catering for school visitors. After the training I realised that the school committee should focus on water supply and general school cleaning. There is also a need to allocate specific roles with regards to water supply to school committee members, while I provide support.”

Image: Mr. Yabaki speaking during a school Committee meeting. © Habitat for Humanity Fiji

School manager of Gaunavou Primary School, Master Suliasi had this to say about his new perspective since the training.

"I used to think my role in the school revolves around grass cutting and catering for school visitors. After the training my understanding changed. I now realise that the school committee needs to make sure there is soap available for hand washing, ensure change rooms or Menstrual Hygiene Management Facilities are available for girls and ensure the number of WASH facilities meet the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts minimum WASH standards.

WASH Inspires Higher Learning

Mr. Neel Kant is the headteacher of Yaqeta Village School in Fiji's Yasawa group of islands. Habitat Fiji has been working through Master Neel and his team to introduce and implement WASH activities for the school. "When Habitat Fiji came into the Yasawas, they helped with education and the development of infrastructure which really helped the schools. It brought about behavioural change in the students and at the same time the community and the teachers also benefited. Seeing that sort of motivated me."

Master Neel created a proposal titled 'The Effectiveness of WASH on students health and education.' He intends to use this proposal for his Master of Education Degree. Master Neel believes that the data he'll be collecting through his proposed research will also be valuable to the Government and other organisations as he has found very little WASH information for Fiji's maritime areas.



*Image: Yaqeta Village School Headmaster
- Mr. Neel Kant*

© Habitat for Humanity Fiji

Upgrades For Burenitu

Burenitu village has a population of 440 people. The community's reticulated water system is supplied from a nearby stream. To cater for Burenitu and the surrounding villages, the water from this stream is stored in a 20,000-gallon ferro cement tank. However, with the increasing longer lasting dry spells, the water supply is not enough to meet the growing needs of the village. To ration the community's water supply, the village water committee has had to make water accessible for only a few hours each day. With the lack of funds and inconsistent upkeep, the water pipes have also degraded leaving the drinking water supply at high risk of contamination.



To address this problem, the villages of Burenitu and Habitat Fiji are working together to install two 10,200 litre rota tanks and are upgrading the community's reticulated system with new pipes. This will assist Burenitu store more water throughout the dry season.



Images: Burenitu villagers and Habitat Fiji working on the village's water pipes and cement foundation for water tanks.

© Habitat for Humanity Fiji

Handover Of Tools

Having the right tools to carry out operation and maintenance tasks is critical for every water committee. As part of our support to create lasting change in rural communities, we provide water committees with basic plumbing tools. Something as simple as a hammer and wrench can mean the difference between a family receiving water or not.





Images: Handover of tools at Nalidi village (L) and Nalawa village (R) from Habitat Fiji.
© Habitat for Humanity Fiji


Click [here](#) to see more project highlights.


Click [here](#) if you'd like to volunteer.


Click [here](#) if you'd like to make a donation.

 +679 331-2012

 hfhfiji@habitatfiji.org.fj

 habitatforhumanityfiji

 @HabitatFiji

 www.facebook.com/
Habitat for Humanity Fiji

