‘No vacancies’ for new teachers

Grads left in limbo

By LITIA CAVA

With three days until the new school year begins, some graduates are still waiting to be posted to schools.

Most of the graduates are also contemplating how to pay back home to the Tertiary Education Loans Board.

This is after they received an email from the Education Ministry informing them that there were no teacher vacancies available for new graduates at the moment.

Those teachers were among others who gathered in frustration outside the ministry’s head office in Suva on Tuesday, seeking answers about what will happen to them now.
Always proactive

The Fiji Times

inter-island shipping services to the Lau Group has also resumed.

The revelation is encouraging.

More of us should give themselves a tap on the back for being proactive.

That's why we should be in the face of natural disasters.

Such disasters have not just popped out of the woodwork.

We have an annual cyclone season which stretches from November to April.

Our challenge is always to be vigilant and place safety on a high pedestal.

When early warning messages came out about Cyclone Mena, it was evident that thousands of people wisely opted to be proactive, placing the safety of themselves and their loved ones on a very high plane.

It was a positive reflection of how much of us value such warnings.

But we should be thankful to those people who disregarded such safety warnings. Children were still seen playing in floodwaters, crashing through deep pools of water for instance.

Such decisions can come back to haunt us.

It was also clear that there were many people who still harboured notions of the natural beauty of coastal waters. And such notions are dangerous.

The recovery for many was long and hard.

Mona, however, showed us why being proactive is important.

It eventually did not cause as much damage, but the fact that thousands of people had joined forces for Mena was a positive reflection of the value we now place on safety.

— FRED WESLEY

YOUR SAY

Delightful picture

THAT IS A delightful photo indeed (03.07.61). The picture of the crew of the Race for Water Foundation's turtle teaches a huge lesson that we must preserve our marine life.

Sadly, man is the worst species on Earth, trash our oceans and now a study by healthy ocean advocate polygons has indicated that there will be more plastic in the sea than fish.

It is a toxic time bomb.

The study has also revealed that 30 per cent of fish have microplastic. It is frightening.

— ALLEN LOCKINGTON

Rasa Place, Waidrop, Lautoka

Scary reality

TOO: The Fiji Times front page picture and page 3 report by Race for Water Foundation on the "Toxic time bomb" is a scary reality we face.

Fiji having 79 per cent microplastic is quite concerning.

New Zealand at 20 out of 34 and the rippin' data keeps going.

Plastic waste is universal and the awareness must start now. Indeed it is the notion of more plastic than fish in our oceans by 2050.

Recently, there was an article I read where a plastic waste was generated in Indonesia and 197 tons of plastic was removed. This is scary indeed.

At home in Fiji I agree that more awareness is required at schools, however, this notion must really be on the source.

Where do these products originate from and if you look at Fiji it this the scenario which is another major area that the relevant authorities must look at are the municipalities markets.

There is a huge tonnage of plastics and people buy fish for consumption plastics is the most common thing being used.

Supermarkets have a control process with plastic tax levies but what about the markets, fish stalls, the barbecue and market stalls on the sides. Plastic bags are traded and thrown everywhere.

Prevention is better than cure and 30 per cent of fish in this scary reality.

We need to work hand in hand with organisations such as Race for Water Foundation.

For fish, for Fiji forever.

— SHALWYN PRASAD

Mota Bela Place, Nabua, Suva

Meet raterpayers

I REQUEST the Minister Premila Kumar before declaring Nadi a city if she can meet the raterpayers of Nadi, Mavulei and Nacovi to name a few residential areas and see for herself for drainage, roads and rubbish before the declaration is made.

We, raterpayers, have made complaints to the council, and nothing happened because they are not elected, they give as raterpayers excuses as they are only workers carrying out instructions.

I hope you will be able to make a real change to the government.

MACA NAKSUAVU

Ferry terminals

GOVERNMENT ought to seriously consider and construct two ferry terminals to service the two main islands.

Nanu and Namosi would be the appropriate locations for these terminals.

The terminals need to be efficient enough to handle at least 300 people, loading, unloading, passengers, ticketing and check in/out counters, lavatories, baggage...drop off

— RASHID JANG

Natalavu, Lautoka

EDUCATION

NAMODUAMU: Korovou may have pioneered in Fiji what is a common practice in education across the globe. He has produced some copies of Year 12 Naitasibau textbooks.

School text materials in many countries is based or grounded in the local language to make teaching and learning an easier exercise.

It will not be a digression to initiate that Fiji's school materials are predominantly present in English language which could be hindering student learning.

We tend to base interest in those things that are difficult and beyond our comprehension.

Education should be interesting, not difficult.

Fiji is a multicultural nation and a simple concept should be adopted Mr Korovou's brilliant idea.

Besides, it should be adopted by the students for those students who are struggling with comprehension.

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Rugby and municipalities

Tough Coral Coast 7s

This year’s McDonald’s Fiji Coral Coast 7s title will be hotly contested. Last year, the Fijian side defeated First Light Tavua 14-7 in the final. In the thrilling semi-finals, Police beat Sunnake 12-7, while First Light Tavua upset Fata Fise 8-7.

Now that the defending champions have recruited stylish fullback Witi Talun, the Sunnake outfit looks favorable to defend its title although the likes of Drabugi, Wardens, Fata Fise, Talunika and Fosa Stallions will pose a threat to the defending champions.

With days counting down to the Hamilton 7s and the fact that contention for a spot in the 8-man squad is tight, the McDonald’s Fiji Coral Coast 7s tournament is surely going to add spice and flavour.

Our national side missed out taking part in the Punti delte Rome (Umanzy) 7s tournament at Pazz Montoya, but I’m hopeful of a good outing in NZ.

With the inclusion of giants Paula and Jonas and elusive playmakers Ratu and Tawaseki, Gareth Bulley’s headband is bound to intensify.

After all we would have less reason to lose a repeat of last year’s win in Hamilton!

Municipal action

It would appear that our new Minister for Local Government, despite having a ministry of “local government”, is now setting expectations for not having municipal elections (PT 08/11). I believe that “younger and progressive thinking” applicants sound very good in job vacancy adverts, but I am a ratepayer who wants to be able to have a say in the ballot box.

If those old and complex legislations do not allow for free and fair municipal elections, I believe they should not allow for collection of rates. I believe we should freeze all payment of rates until new legislations are drafted and elections held.

French rugby

What a weekend of rugby in France for our boys. Peceli Yato scoring for Clermont, Jean Gouffra scoring for La Rochelle, Leonis Bakari was in his best form for Racing 92 while others who may have not scored tries for their respective clubs displayed their Fijian flair.

Even before the Fijian Fixers beat France in the Test match later last year, our boys had always been popular with the French clubs.

More of our boys should be heading to France in the future as they seem to dominate in all aspects of the game world wide.

Best wishes to all our boys in France and may we spring more surprises in the upcoming Rugby World Cup.

TOMAS ROBINSO
Nausori Rd, Nausori

TRIUMPH OF KARASU IN DAIRY MILK PLASTIC MACHINE

LET ME GUESS, IT’S MADE OF PLASTIC RIGHT? 

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Letter of the week receives a set of Umbilical pens

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Letter of the month receives a Sony X821 EXTRA BASE PORTABLE SPEAKER Sony SRS X821

LETTER OF THE YEAR

Letter of the year receives a Sony M600 High Power Audio System with DVD Sony MHC-M60D

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Traders criticise northern airport facilities

By SERAFINA SLAITOGA

A PROMINENT Savusavu-based

businessman says the Parama-

lase and Taveuni airports need to

be upgraded.

Aron Niumbik, of K-Max Fiji, said members of the public have suffered years of poor service and substandard terms

and conditions while the major 

airport drew in big profits.

Although an uninvited top-

the-disrupting state of their 

tables must be acknowledged," he

said.

The travelling public deserve better from a company that makes a massive annual profit.

"The toilets at Savusavu Airport are not very nice, no soap, no hand wipes and often no toilet paper. The foreign Jetblue and Jetblue DX is not much different.

"The last time I flew out of Taveuni, I photographed the rusted toilet-seat coverings that looked like they had been constructed decades ago."

Mr Niumbik said many plans of upgrading had been made known.

"But these promises are too late for a company that keeps giving us profit to workers and management who are already extremely well paid," he said.

"We are addressing these challenges progressively and aggressively."

"Rumah runway was a work in progress for 40 years — so did this last year (2018)," he said.

"All terminals cannot be upgraded at once.

"We hope our users of the small airports have some more patience as we work hard to deliver the brand new terminals in Labasa and Savusavu with works starting this year (2018)," Mr Niumbik stated.

Ocean experts in Fiji

By REPEKA NASIKO

THE Race for Water Foundation's dedication to preserving Fiji's freshwater resources has been rewarded.

The organisation has been a finalist in the ambassador vessel Race for Water, a team of scientists, engineers and environmentalists, which won a four-year international expedition which began in 2017 in France. Race for Water Foundation project manager Carole Leong shared her vision for the voyage into her own words, the team had embarked on a journey that would be a lifetime's work.

"We will be looking to reduce the amount of plastic that is now in the ocean," she said.

"There was a study in New Zealand that found out of a group of 4,3 fish species, 35 had microplastic in their stomach. We see this by scientific evidence, the foundation aimed to find alternative solutions that we could make use of the large amount of plastic waste." The solution is turning plastic waste into energy.

"We have come up with a feasible concept that burns plastic waste and turns it into energy. We try to develop local projects in which we can implement the concept.

"The learning part of our project is in our scientific research, while our share of the research is an education to the public, our awareness programs. As for the art program, we work in implementing solutions for the conversion of plastic waste into energy and处物 in a state of health and protect our environment."

The group was officially presented to the Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroi rela-seau and was welcomed at Port Denarau Marina in Nadi.

BRIEFLY

Associated costs

By REPEKA NASIKO

I think a total ban on plastic would be the ideal solution. I understand that Government is working towards..." While speaking in Nadi on Tuesday, he said the government had faced a number of challenges in combating plastic pollution. To a small island state like Fiji, with limited resources, challenges currently faced by Fiji include the identification of alternative packaging, identification of better mechanism for recycling and generating revenue from non-degradable plastics.

"I am learning from the experiences of other island nations and working with environment-friendly organisations to find a long-term solution."

Koroi rela-seau calls for total plastic ban

By REPEKA NASIKO

THE 30 cent levy on plastic use has made an impact on the plastic waste in the country, but a total ban would be even better, says Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroi rela-seau.

He said removing the use of plastic completely would have a greater impact on the environment.

"It has an impact, but it has not reached the benefit that Fiji would like to have considering the amount of plastic pollution that we have," he said.

"I think a total ban on plastic would be the ideal solution and I understand that Government is working towards..."