

Time to treasure newsletter – NOVEMBER 2002

Bula! and welcome to Treasure Island Resort's third online newsletter. We have put together a list of the promotions and specials that are currently being offered on the Treasure Island website www.fiji-treasure.com together with an update on the latest developments that have taken place over the past three months. If you would like more information on any of the news items below please contact us direct by email treasureisland@is.com.fj, phone (679) 6666-999 or fax (679) 6666-955. Vinaka!

NEWSFLASH!

STAFFS' OVERSEAS TRIPS

Bimal & Jiuta:

Bimal Datt is looking forward to spending a month in Adelaide, Australia, but he's not going on vacation.

Training in the area of fine dining and gaining more experience in all areas of gourmet catering from award winning Jarmers Restaurant is what Bimal is focussing on.

In May this year Jiuta Rogo, Executive Chef also spent two weeks at Jarmers Restaurant. The intense training included spending five days per week learning from Master Chef Peter Jarmer Senior.

Jiuta claims the training was an excellent educational experience and great exposure. Peter Jarmer, Junior, is of course, Treasure Islands Director of Sales and Marketing.

Mika & Ulai:

As part of our programme to enhance staff skills Treasure Island will send two experienced and long serving maintenance staff members to New Zealand for further training.

Mika Mocolutu and Ulai Rasolosolo will go to Auckland in November for training in boat and tractor maintenance.

Graeme Bensemman of Bensemman Boating Centre who is responsible for the service and supplies on outboard motors will further develop Mika and Ulai's skills in outboard motor repairs and maintenance works.

Afterwards Mika Ulai will also spend some time with Ross Redward, a tractor expert to learn more on tractor maintenance.

ART EXHIBITION

Treasure Island's Apisalome Neisoro participated in an art exhibition in Nadi in September.

Our gifted resident artist is special because he is deaf, dumb and blind in one eye.

Competing against some of the country's finest artists, Neisoro submitted two paintings, "The Fijian Crested Iguana" and "Underwater World."

At the end of the week- long exhibition votes were tallied and “Underwater World” won Neisoro ‘The People’s Choice’ Award.

Neisoro’s works of art can be found on Treasure Island and recently on our sister resort Bounty Island.

The walls of Bounty’s buildings are adorned with beautiful murals.

IGUANAS BIRTH

Jimmy Rogers, known as the Iguana Man on Treasure Island Resort, is looking forward to playing dad. No, it’s not his wife Betty who is the centre of loving attention. It’s five iguanas eggs which hatched on Wednesday October 2.

It is the first birth in captivity on Treasure Island.

Three of the iguanas survived and, as the picture shows, are thriving under Jimmy’s special care. They are hand- fed ripe fruits three times a day.

Guests Frances Wilmhurst of Lower Hutt, New Zealand who has visited Treasure Island 30 times and Mrs Suzanne Jones of Sydney, Australia, who has notched up more than 20 visits to Treasure, were lucky enough to be near the cage as the iguanas broke their shells and made their much- anticipated appearance.

Jimmy raced to the cage when he heard the news and is now fussing over the new arrivals. His job entails looking the island’s iguanas, turtles and a few birds, the feathery variety, that is.

Jimmy’s iguana expertise was gained at Sydney’s Taronga Zoo. The intense two- day attachment at the zoo enabled Jimmy to learn more from its reptile experts.

Earlier this year Jimmy and Betty spent a week with Howard and Elizabeth McGrouther of the Yellow Eyed Penguin Reserve in Dunedin, New Zealand to enhance their knowledge on how to care for endangered species.

Mr and Mrs McGrouther were on week long visit to Treasure Island in October to hold further discussions with the management, and in particular, with Jimmy.

Readers are invited to suggest names for the three new iguanas which are causing such a stir. If you have a suggestion, please email Jimmy Rogers on jimmy@treasure.com.fj

WHITE DOOR CHAPEL & CONTRACT

Preparations are underway to build an ocean- view, flying roof glass wedding chapel on the North East beach on Treasure Island.

The beautiful chapel will be located on one of the most picturesque locations on Treasure, looking out to Bounty Island at sunrise.

This was all made possible through a contract Treasure Island secured with one of Japan’s top wedding producers and wholesalers, White Door.

White Door is famous for the latest fashion wedding gowns and Treasure Island has made it among their top wedding destinations in the world.

White Door will present Wedding and Honeymoon packages to the Japanese market.

This wedding program is aimed at emphasising Fiji's tropical island atmosphere with professional wedding arrangements.

Milika and Losana will be in charge for the wedding arrangement on the island and Taeko Ruggiero, Japanese marketing representative will co-ordinate with Japanese clients.

Construction is expected to begin by January next year.

TREASURE CHOIR

Treasure Island choir is making a name for itself.

In August this year our very soulful choir participated in a competition at the Annual Methodist Conference in Suva.

Their attention was to hold the audience's attention and this they did.

Out of the 32 choirs from around the country competing Treasure Island choir came in seventh place.

This was an excellent placing considering the odd hours most of the choir members work, practice time can sometimes be hard to squeeze in.

Nevertheless, our choir participated in another competition on Thursday, 10 October 02. The competition was part of the Remembrance Day for the Vuda Methodist Church Circuit.

A church service, choir and fundraising competition were part of the one day event.

After work the choir members went to Viseisei Village (Treasure Landowners) to participate in the competition.

The choir was placed second in the singing competition and won first place in fundraising.

Not to be outdone, Treasure Island choir will compete against other choirs from across the country in the National Tourism Week Choir Competition to be held on 3 November 02. And this time they plan on coming back to the island with a trophy.

Treasure Island guests experience the choir's performance as part of our entertainment program every Sunday evening.

THE PASSING OF A STATESMAN

In August this year the staff of Treasure Island was saddened at the loss of a director and a great father figure, Ratu Josua Toganivalu C.B.E., J.P.

Not only was he respected by staff of Treasure, Ratu Jo was also a highly distinguished dignitary in Fiji and in countries where he served as Ambassador.

Between the years of 1966 to 1977 Ratu Jo served as a member of the House of Representatives, the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources as well as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests.

His overseas diplomatic posting saw Ratu Jo serve as the first Fiji High Commissioner to New Zealand.

In the years that followed he was appointed to serve in the United Kingdom, Denmark, West Germany, The Vatican, Egypt and Israel.

Ratu Jo's contribution to Fiji has been so outstanding that in 1980 he was awarded the Distinguished Order of the Commander of the British Empire (C.B.E) by the Queen for services to Fiji.

Ratu Jo is survived by his wife- Alice, four children and nine grandchildren.

STAFF NEWS!

On Friday 4 October, two couples working on Treasure had their marriages blessed.

Ulai and Alumita (Mita) Rasolosolo; and Eseroma and Laisani Baba had their marriages blessed in front of a staff filled church.

Ulai and Mita are two of Treasure's longest serving staff members.

Ulai has been working for Treasure since 1972 and Mita since 1975.

Ulai and Mita were engaged in 1976 and a year later had a civil wedding.

They have three children and one grandchild namely Litia, 25, Sikeli, 22 and Mere, 19.

Their granddaughter Kalesi is three years old.

It was only until this year that Ulai and Mita decided that it was time to have their marriage blessed.

Eseroma and Laisani share the same sentiments. They have been married for the last six years and have a daughter, Elenoa, two.

Watching four of Treasure's family members pledge their marriage promises to their partner was touching and emotional for all the Treasure family.

We congratulate both couples and wish them every happiness.

TREASURE UPGRADES IN BRIEF

In effort to lift the standard of the Treasure's facilities and service the following upgrades are in process:

- 1) Treasure has contracted a painter to revamp the bures, restaurant and dining area. We expect these works to be completed by Christmas in time for the festive season.
- 2) Treasure has invested in beautiful and traditional guests' compendium. Covered in 'tapa' traditional cloth made from the tree bark, the compendiums contain information that is of importance to all guests- be sure to read them.
- 3) Rethatching of our beach bures is complete. A group of about 20 men from Nacula Island in the Yasawa Group was brought to Treasure for their special skill at thatching. The men worked tirelessly at rethatching all 64 beach bures.
- 4) Sand replenishment works is set for the beginning of November. Treasure bought a three ton scraper to shift sand around the island thus improving the beach. Works will be done progressively through the low season.

BOUNTY UPDATE

Our sister resort Bounty Island Sanctuary Resort is the latest rave in Fiji.

For a baby resort Bounty has a significant number of returnees, 10 to be precise - bear in mind the resort opened on 01 August this year.

Why? The atmosphere, food and our people are a great reason to return.

For a low budget resort, Bounty offers high quality standards of food and accommodation at affordable prices.

Forty eight acres of tropical wilderness to explore, bicycles for hire, watersports include kayaking, sailing and snorkelling. Enjoy table tennis, volleyball, DVD player, book exchange, one of the best snorkelling spots in the country, housekeeping services, and fun activities are part of the package.

Theme buffet or three course dinners, ala carte lunch, buffet, continental breakfasts are part of the F\$25 per person per day meal package- where else do you get this?

One guest's comment reads something like: "Bounty is the equivalent of a four star resort - only cheaper." And that pretty much sums it up.

For more information check: www.fiji-bounty.com

FESTIVE SEASON CELEBRATION

Here's the good news. Like every other year Christmas and New Year celebration on Treasure will be a blast- guaranteed.

From mid- December onwards, Treasure has a special program including theme dinners and entertainment every night to celebrate the year.

The bad news? Treasure is booked out from 29 December 02 to 05 January 03.

Christmas and New Year are always fun occasion. At this time every year staff's families are brought to the resort to spend the week with their loved ones and guests.

The scrumptious Christmas dinner, the beverage, the church service and staff entertainment is great not to mention children's party.

As for the Mini- Olympics scheduled for the last two days of December is a tiring yet memorable event for both staff and guests.

Staff and guests are put into three teams and they compete in both western and traditional games from swimming to basket weaving.

On New Year's Eve, after management sunset cocktail and yet another scrumptious dinner the three Mini- Olympic teams compete in the area of entertainment. The winning team is announced and the resident band has everyone dancing up to the countdown.

Don't forget as the sun rises on the first day of 2003 mature Hawksbill turtles will be released into the ocean, also an event everyone looks forward to.

A cake to celebrate the beginning of the New Year is cut and the celebration begins again.

If you are one of the unlucky ones this year remember, next year is only a few months away so to avoid disappointment- Book Now!