



CAMPUS  
**VC on ACADEMIC FREEDOM  
 & BEYOND 2018 ⇨ 4-5,7**

INSIGHT FEATURES  
**HUMAN MIGRATION ⇨ 11-13**



# 'ICE' MENACE

by SONAL SINGH



Former USP lecturer and founder of Wansolwara Dr Philip Cass cuts the commemoration cake at the USP Journalism Awards night last month. Looking on are, from left, Eliki Drugunalevu (broadcast tutor), Chrisnrita Aumanu (Best Wansolwara Editor Award recipient), Dr Shailendra Singh (USP Journalism coordinator), Dr Olivier Jutel (broadcast lecturer), Dr Cass, Irene Manarae (print and online tutor) and Sonal Singh (journalism student leader). CREDIT: RUCI VAKAMINO. STORY on pg 8-9

## USP Journalism 'protected' due to crucial role in region

by ANISHMA PRASAD

GOOD journalism is critical for a truly democratic and open society, and that is why USP's role in training the region's future journalists is important.

These remarks were made by

USP President and Vice Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra at a media conference with *Wansolwara* last month.

Professor Chandra was part of the advisory committee that founded the journalism programme more than 20 years ago.

He said journalism is essential for nation-building and good governance in the Pacific, so as a discipline it is "protected" from being "disestablished" at USP.

"So in that sense there is no risk that I can see to journalism," he said. Programmes of studies are

scratched if enrolment numbers do not meet the minimum quota.

He added that the need for good journalism in the region underscored the need to invest in the journalism programme.

Full interview on pages 4,5 & 7

THE use of the highly-addictive drug crystal methamphetamine appears to be on the rise in Fiji, according to reliable sources.

Commonly known as ice, its usage has also been detected among tertiary and high school students. Police spokesperson Ana Naisoro said the force was aware of the growing problem. She could not release figures requested by *Wansolwara*, but recent arrests for methamphetamine possession and other hard drugs is a testament to the problem.

Fiji has always been sheltered from hard drugs but this may no longer be the case. From 2015 to 2016, the following cases were detected:

□ July, 2015, two men appeared in Lautoka Magistrates Court for shipping of Methamphetamine outside Fiji. The 21kg consignment stored inside a pressure cooker was worth \$6.5million.

□ In August 2015, Fiji and New Zealand Ports Authorities intercepted 80kg of methamphetamine (worth \$80million) hidden inside car parts in a shipping container bound for Fiji.

□ In May 2016, a Rakesh Charan was found in possession of about \$46,000 worth of methamphetamine in Nausori

□ On September 1, a Sera Vakula was charged with unlawful importation of 27.4 grams of methamphetamine.

□ On September 20, a Atelaiteluvuci and Josateki Lalakai were found in possession of 0.2 grams of methamphetamine in Samabula.

A *The Fiji Times* article on September 26 this year reported that Fiji is the major transit point for methamphetamine and other illicit hard drugs in the Pacific region.

Continued on Page 2



# Check out our 24 hour banking service

SMS Banking.  
 Bank anywhere, anytime.  
 Call \*277# now

132 888  
 CC@bsp.com.fj  
 www.bsp.com.fj



Conditions apply. Service valid for registered BSP customers only.



# Trend shows more females enrol

by MATHEW WALTER

MORE females than males have enrolled into USP since 2010, and the gap continues to grow every semester.

According to data released by USP's Student Academic Services, all member countries, except the Solomon Islands, have

recorded a largely female cohort of students enrolling. This has resulted in 60 per cent of USP's overall population of 15,658 students being female.

Education expert Dr Sereima Naisilisili said the trend was largely because society's expectations of women had changed, with the norm now being women

pursuing paid employment. The educational reforms to make education accessible for all was also a major factor, said Dr Naisilisili.

She said the trend was very encouraging because it meant more women have the opportunity to contribute to decision-making platforms, which was dominated by men.

Fiji Women's Rights Movement acting director Michelle Reddy welcomed the news, but stressed that the high numbers were not reflected in the economic sector. "The Global Gender Gap Report showed a lack of data for wage equality in the country and indicated that women in Fiji earn 40 per cent less than

men," she said. Fiji is the only Pacific country to be included in the Global Gender Gap Report. This, she said, showed the need to improve on gender equality data in the region.

"There needs to be more access to gender segregated data to help us move towards closing the gender gap," said Reddy.

## Students speak of 'life-changing' Jenesys trip



USP students who were part of the Jenesys Programme in October visited areas of Japan's Fukushima Prefecture that were hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

by RUCI VAKAMINO

ALL 30 USP students who travelled to Japan as part of the Jenesys programme returned with a deeper appreciation of the importance of culture and their own heritage.

"I came home a changed student, with a lot of new and valuable knowledge and experience that I never knew of before," said Audrey Pina Ahtong of Samoa.

The Masters student said the resilience and perseverance of the Japanese people they met was inspiring. The group visited Iwaki City in the Fukushima Prefecture, which was one of the hardest-hit areas when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, 2011.

"(They have) motivated me as a student to never give up on my dreams and goals and no matter how many times I fall, I should always come back standing and striving," she said.

Another student Ilaisa Seniloli said it was amazing how these severely damaged areas had been completely transformed in under five years. "At

the moment those that used to live in this area have been relocated to other areas in Iwaki, but the reconstruction agency are looking to have the villages that used to be in this area restored and will encourage people to move back to this area," he said. Barriers have been raised as a preventative measure against future tsunamis.

Seniloli said another highlight was when the group experienced an earthquake simulator.

"Here we were put in a simulated earthquake where we had to survive the first 72 hours after an earthquake," he said, adding that they were also taught valuable survival skills. Another student, Arci Singh, said she found the Japanese people's generosity, respect and attitude toward time management insightful.

"The trip changed my life in ways such as to be able to manage time, to make healthy lifestyle choices, to respect the environment by recycling and most of all to treat people with utmost respect," she said.

Similar sentiments were shared by AhTong. "I had learnt that I should



spend my time wisely, especially on things or investments that yield greater returns or benefits; not only for myself but for others that I could help or reach out to," said AhTong.

She said USP students should be encouraged to apply to be part of the Jenesys programme.

"It is a life-changing trip that you would not want to miss out on," she said.

## 'Ice' menace

From Page 1

Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority acting CEO Visvanath Das stated that the current building of intelligence and partnership with Australia and New Zealand was not very successful in eradicating the transitional drug issue, and that more collaboration was needed.

Police indicated that local usage was increasing but did not provide data.

Besides the arrests, the fact that the Salvation Army and the Ministry of Education's National Substance Abuse Advisory Council are developing awareness campaigns for methamphetamine shows it is a local problem also. Naisoro said that drug pushers were finding new ways to avoid detection.

"We cannot rule out that there are criminal elements out there that will try new things or test the systems in place," she said. Another popular hard drug in circulation is ecstasy. Naisoro confirmed this but said she could not divulge more information. Interviews and investigations by Wansolwara indicate the police, the responsible government agencies and social workers are trying hard to stem the problem. Salvation Army's Captain Sera Toloi's work involves the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

She said usage of hard drugs had been detected among tertiary and high school students. She fears that the drug will become a scourge because it is extremely addictive – far more

than marijuana.

The local Salvation Army worker said their drug awareness programmes now covered methamphetamines because of its rising popularity.

"We are fortunate in Fiji that methamphetamine users are not that bad. However, there are warning signs in change of behavior and physical appearance," she said. A local crystal meth user who spoke on the condition of anonymity says ice is mostly sold in select night clubs in Nadi and Suva.

He said the local street name of the drug is fire or white fire, and is sold in small plastic packets in FJ\$50-\$150 quantities.

Another source said some taxi drivers were increasingly popular as middlemen and that crystal meth was easily cooked in backyard or makeshift labs.

Ministry of Education Senior Drug Advisor Josua Naisele said they have added methamphetamines into their campaign against drugs. He said that they visit communities upon invitation to educate not only youths, but the older generation also. This because the older generation in Fiji are not so aware about the dangers of methamphetamine, which is a relatively new drug. Naisele, the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council member, said every effort was being made to contain the problem so that it does not escalate into an epidemic like in parts of Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

### STUDENT EDITORS

**The Editor**  
Lowen Sei

**Deputy Editor**  
Anishma Prasad

**Online Editor**  
Natasha Begum

**Sports Editor**  
Simon Abana

### TEACHING STAFF

**Supervising Editor/ Print&Online Tutor**  
Irene Manarae

**Journalism Programme Coordinator**  
Dr Shailendra Singh

**Broadcast lecturer/ Insight features supervisor**  
Dr Olivier Jutel

**Broadcast Tutor**  
Eliki Drugunalevu

Wansolwara is the student training publication of the University of the South Pacific's Journalism Programme. It is primarily an online publication that has the best of its content published in this quarterly newspaper, which is printed by *The Fiji Sun*. The national newspaper distributes this student newspaper nationwide as an insert and gives about 3,000 copies to the Wansolwara team to circulate free-of-charge on USP's campuses and in the cities.

### Contact us

**E-mail:** wansolwaranews@gmail.com  
**Facebook:** Wansolwara Journalists  
**FB News Page:** Wansolwara  
**Newsroom#:** 3232-186  
**Hashtag:** #wansolwara #wansolwaves #wansolnews #uspjournalism

**Snail Mail:** The Editor, Wansolwara School of Language, Arts and Media (SLAM) Private Mailbag, Laucala Bay, Suva.  
**Twitter:** @wansolwara  
**Hashtag:** #wansolwara #wansolwaves #wansolnews #uspjournalism

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of the South Pacific's Journalism Programme.

# Concern over campus food

by SEMI LAUTI

THE lack of healthy food options at tertiary institutions needs to be addressed, says medical doctor Preetika Payal.

Dr Payal, who has visited several campuses of various tertiary institutions, said research was needed into the eating habits of

tertiary students and the extent campus food influenced their diet.

She said it was likely that the unhealthy food choices available posed a serious health risk because it made students more vulnerable to non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

"This sort of pushes students to go for outside food and based on

the budget they have, which is not a lot, they cannot afford to buy really healthy food so they end up eating things that are basically classified as junk food and fast-food," she said.

Dr Payal said fries, tuna and instant noodles have become a staple in students' diets for this very reason.

Meanwhile, Pacific Community Director-General Dr Colin Tukuitonga said a number of Pacific Island countries have experienced a plateau in life expectancy over the last 20 years because of the devastating impact of NCDs.

Life expectancy for males and females have plateaued at 64 years and 69 years, respectively.

## Green light for new Solomon campus



Solomon Island students at USP's Laucala campus perform a traditional item. Solomon Island students are the largest Pacific Island students at the campus. REPORTER & PHOTOGRAPHER: RUCI VAKAMINO

CONSTRUCTION of USP's Solomon Island campus is set to begin after the university sealed a \$15.4m loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank last month.

The loan, for which the Solomon Island Government is guarantor, will enable work to start on the long-awaited campus in Honiara. At the signing of the loan agreement, Solomons Education Minister John Fugui said it was a significant occasion because it meant better access to tertiary education for his people.

Less than five per cent of the Pacific island nation's population has access to tertiary education.

"That is very low for a coun-

try, so in terms of this development, it will help us increase accessibility to tertiary education for the people of Solomon Islands," he said.

ADB's Pacific Regional Director Robert Jauncey said the initiative would go a long way to helping the Solomons address future employment challenges it may face. The new campus will be on the King George VI School grounds, about 4 kilometers east from the existing Honiara campus.

Aside from additional classrooms, the campus will have an ICT studio, science laboratories and a solar-powered system that will provide 75 per cent of the campus' energy needs.

The campus, which will be over 6,000 square metres, will be the university's flagship model of a green campus. USP Vice Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra thanked the Solomon Islands government and paid special tribute to ADB for venturing into uncharted territory.

"This is an unusual journey for us as we did not have a loan in our method of financing and ADB had no system in funding an institution like USP," he said.

"It really is quite a creative and pioneering effort on both sides." An additional \$1.5m grant from the Clean Energy Fund is allocated for the project. The grant will be administered by ADB.

## Study explores Fiji

### Parliament's resilience

CIVIL society organisations, political parties and the international community were influential in upholding the key role of Fiji's Parliament despite the young democracy's political upheavals.

This was the main finding of a doctoral research conducted by Dr Avinash Kumar, a research fellow at the Australian National University where he is writing a book on the topic.

"(The research) turns the usual research question asked about Fiji – why has Fiji had so many coups – and asks why a working democratic legislature has been the default position of Fiji politics since independence despite repeated interruptions to the democratic process," said he said. Dr Kumar, who was a director at the Fiji Election Office, said his research was important in the Pacific because it re-emphasised the key role parliaments could play in a democracy.

"It can be considered a pioneering work that could become a basis for other studies or projects related to parliament strengthening or democratic consolidation in general," he said. He added that the research helped fill

an enormous gap in the literature on parliaments between the developed and developing countries.

Dr Kumar said he had long held a fascination with

parliaments and was convinced to pursue this area of research when he discovered that very little had been written on parliaments of smaller countries.

"Most of the research has been on European parliaments or the US Congress," he said. "Hence, more studies on parliaments from developing countries, such as the PICs (Pacific Island Countries), would help fill this gap."

He also pointed out the need for more young people to choose research as a career path.

"There are many challenges facing the PICs and one of the ways of tackling them would be to develop a skilled human resource," he said.

Written by SONAL SHIVANGANI

## Villagers adapt to climate change

by LAISEANA NASIGA

IT'S a daily fight against climate change for villagers of Daku, a coastal village in the Tailavu province located on the eastern side of Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. Daku Village headman Eroni Domonatani said they often had to relocate because of flooding. "On top of that, food that were once planted with our elders don't grow anymore, he said. Chairman of Daku Development Committee Olota

Rokovunisei said the village had secured some funds to build sea walls and floodgates to avoid water entering the village. To have a better understanding about data and climate change reporting, journalist from the different media were trained in a three day geojournalism workshop at *The Fiji Times* conference room.

The journalists were trained on the importance of data and how to write climate change stories from a human angle.

# Empower, drive change via social media

by ANASEINI CIVAVONOVONO

SEVERAL social campaigns are being driven by Fiji youth trained in a special project to harness social media platforms to effect the change they want to see.

This was the gist of the project Valuing Voices that was launched last month. The arts-for-development type initiative involves teaching youth how to empower,

build relationships and contribute to a fully self-expressed democracy.

"The project will also help Fiji get closer to its international commitments to media independence, in particular media freedom," said Ingrid Leary, the director of the British Council NZ and the Pacific, which sponsored the project.

Leary said the idea for Valu-

ing Voices mushroomed after a gap in youth's self-expression was found. There was also the lack of feedback to government to hold account issues that mattered to youth. Part of the solution was to harness the capabilities of social media.

"If youths are our audience, where do youths convene most to talanoa (telling stories) in social

media, and particularly Facebook is by far the biggest means for communication for Fiji youth today," Leary said.

The selected campaign projects include financial literacy, child labour, mental health and suicide prevention, and corruption. The training was conducted by international social change communication agency, Love Franke.

This was to follow an eight-week campaign by the various teams.

Leary said the teams would be monitored very closely to see the campaigns go online and to see how the campaign skills are used. "We hope to see some highly professional and engaging social media campaigns, and hopefully some (campaigns) will take a life of their own," she said.



Wansolwara student reporters conducted an extensive interview with the Vice-Chancellor and President of since taking over the helm. Topics covered included striving for excellence, the Strategic Plan, academic

# VC on academic freedom

**Q1: The Strategic Plan 2013-2018 is focused on transforming USP into an excellent university. Are you happy with the progress and execution of the Plan?**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR (VC):** I think on the whole I have to say yes, because when I took up the position, the university basically felt that with the enrolment declining and with deficits and a lot of scandals, and the rise of national universities, a lot of people, including my senior management, were saying that the heyday of USP was over. The initial strategic plan, and this one in particular, totally changed the situation. What you have today is a much more confident university that is already regarded as the premier university, and it has successfully navigated the uncertainties of how a regional university can coexist with an increasing number of national universities. In that sense, we have to say that we've been perhaps a lot more successful than people, certainly in 2008 or 2009, felt possible.

The big achievement is to have people believe that you can actually be excellent, because a lot of institutions, when they are worried about whether they will survive, are happy with some improvement.

Today staff feel that they can be excellent. There are things that they have done, like a number of accreditations and two patents, and so, broadly, I'd have to say I am very happy with the SP (strategic plan).

However, when you want to transform a university, and especially if you have short timelines - because a lot of these changes are fundamental changes, it's about doing things in a different way.

It's about positioning the university to leapfrog rather than incrementally change things. Then you see a lot of cultural change. So we are still working with staff to make that transition.

We need to be excellent. Are we in the top league of universities around the world? That's where a lot more things need to done. We are handicapped by the fact that a large number of initiatives in the SP were expected to be funded by aid.

Remember that we had no contribution increase in government funding from 2007-2015. A lot of changes had to be made so we are having to do with limited resources. There's been an increase in aid, but essentially there were a number of things in the SP that could not be done unless you had those additional resources.

But, other than that, I am still confident. I am still working on getting more people who are really committed and who really can envisage what excellent is. It's like an A+ essay. It takes a kind of person to understand why this is an A+ or why this is a B only, and that's what this transformation is about. It's a constant reference back to the top-notch standards and saying: "We are happy with that, but we need to move."



Vice-Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra talks to Wansolwara reporters who had sought a press conference to discuss a host of issues. PHOTO: VILIMAINA NAQELEVUKI

**Q: To date, what are the major achievements of the Strategic Plan and in what areas is further work needed?**

**VC:** The achievements have been very significant. The university's reputation and support from member countries has improved. Our enrollments have grown, our accreditations have increased to 17 now, (and) we have two patents in the whole history of USP during the term of this strategic plan. We have increased the quality of our staff.

There are explicit quality of research and quality of teaching documents against which people are appointed and against which people are being evaluated.

We have had very significant improvement in accommodation provision for students, and, of course, we don't have enough, so there are plans for that.

Broadly, we have very good satisfaction rating from the students and from the staff. We have built a new campus in Kiribati and we have tendered for the initial engineering and architectural work for the new Solomon Island campus. We have had the new Long Island hotel bought for us by the Marshall Islands Government for the new campus.

The Tongan Government has given us 14 acres of land so that we can expand the Tonga campus. At the (Pacific Islands) Forum, the prime minister of Tuvalu told me that they'll give us some land to expand operations in Tuvalu. The other achievement is that we are measuring things and using international benchmarks for establishing where we are: whether our students are satisfied, whether our staff are satisfied; and if they are satisfied, how to continue to keep them satisfied; if they are not satisfied, what elements are there that we can address.

For me as vice chancellor, obvi-

ously it is very important to have a sense that all our member countries are happy, because if they are happy, if they see value being delivered by the university, then you can ask for resources. Then they will send students and they will regard the university as their university.

I can honestly say that the relationship between the university and its member countries has never been better. There has been no complaint.

One achievement has been that, in the past, countries would ask for something (and) the university would say, "yes, we will do it", but they would not do it. So a cynicism developed.

What we have managed to do in the last few years is a very definite achievement, and that is if we get a request, we provide a clear response so that there is no ambiguity about what we will do, and then making sure that we do it.

**Q: What are the motivations for USP's recent introduction of courses on entrepreneurship?**

**VC:** Essentially our objective says that we should be an enterprising university. Part of that is about the university itself being enterprising about how it operates, about being more business-like, about being more enterprising and going out and looking for partnerships and funding, and so forth. That's on the staff and management side. On the other side, it means that we prepare students so that they don't always look for employment. So the university prepares them for lives as entrepreneurs. The motivation for doing all of that is you can't be successful unless you are enterprising.

The region cannot always provide employment. Employability of our graduates is very important, so on the students' side.

We want to make sure that our cur-

riculum is done in alignment with industry and stakeholders; that we have a lot of placement for our students so that employability of our graduates is about comparable to other universities. We also want to get our students to understand that being an entrepreneur is a very satisfying and rewarding way of imagining your life. So we want to ensure that our curriculum enables you (students) to begin thinking about whether you want to be an entrepreneur. We want you to value entrepreneurs because really the world runs on the contributions of entrepreneurs. So what are we doing about this? We are inviting a lot of firms to come and talk to our graduates. We have a careers hub now. Each programme has an industry-based advisory committee. We have a new programme, a graduate certificate in entrepreneurship. I have asked to have a final year capstone programme in areas in which entrepreneurs come through, like management and engineering, (so that they can) set up their own businesses. We have asked to set up an incubation centre so that we can bring entrepreneurs and our aspiring entrepreneurs together. And, we are ready to fund this. If graduates come and register a business and we feel there is a lot of possibility, then we can give some money to them and take equity. That's the top end of where we want to go.

**Q: PNG is trying to become a member of USP. What is the significance of this?**

**VC:** If PNG becomes a member, it will be extremely valuable for USP. Right now the total population that feeds into the university is around 2.5 million. PNG itself has more than 8 million people. Their population is increasing at a fast rate. Generally what we find in USP's financing is that the larger countries, like Fiji, Solomons and Vanuatu, contribute so that the smaller countries in

the family can all have the same kind of service.

So PNG coming in will add to the resources at USP. It has said one of the reasons it wants to join is to be able to be part of the regional education system and to help the smaller (Pacific Island) countries.

The very fact that PNG, with seven universities of its own, wants to join USP, reflects the achievement of USP. We started not so many years ago (with) people feeling that once a country has its national university, they are not going to be interested. So here is a country with a national university and six other universities wanting to join USP.

On the cost side, the significant issue is how do we incorporate a member that is bigger than every-one put together.

I think in net terms, USP will benefit immensely from PNG membership.

**“We are making sure that when we look at the viability of a programme, we are looking at what a comprehensive university should look like and that means subsidising the programmes that are not market viable.”**

the family can all have the same kind of service.

So PNG coming in will add to the resources at USP. It has said one of the reasons it wants to join is to be able to be part of the regional education system and to help the smaller (Pacific Island) countries.

The very fact that PNG, with seven universities of its own, wants to join USP, reflects the achievement of USP. We started not so many years ago (with) people feeling that once a country has its national university, they are not going to be interested. So here is a country with a national university and six other universities wanting to join USP.

On the cost side, the significant issue is how do we incorporate a member that is bigger than every-one put together.

I think in net terms, USP will benefit immensely from PNG membership.

**Q: The marketisation of education is increasingly branded as a concern in many discussions. What are your views on this and how does the Strategic Plan protect the university's integrity from being compromised, either wholly or proportionately, by market forces?**

**VC:** Every organisation, every business is operating now in a very open, very competitive environment in which the public sector support from the government is diminishing around the world. Every organisation needs to run itself with a very good understanding of its operations, its priorities, its focus and with planning so that it can excel in this environment. USP is no exception. It does not mean that you become a business,

but it does mean that you must know your business. At USP we probably have among the best ways of financing higher education that exists anywhere in the world. Because what it does is that it actually has a combination of governments making contributions on an agreed three-year framework, it has development partners contributing as much, (and) it has students who are prepared to pay a portion of the fees.

So the private students pay around 33-40 per cent maximum of the cost of the education they receive. And we also generate some entrepreneurial income. So in that sense we are not at all a market and private sector-oriented entity.

So I think we have invented, without thinking too much about it, a very good partnership because the governments are paying for students that are not being sponsored by them. We have had this discussion with governments that wanted to only contribute for their sponsored students but in the formula we have, when you pay your private regional fee, the 60 per cent is still paid for by the government.

So it's kind of a forced scholarship. So in that sense we are in a very good position. How do we protect it?

Well, first you are in good position that is not a market, not a private sector, university, and yet it is a very sustainable university.

We are making sure that when we look at the viability of programmes, we are looking at what a comprehensive university should look like, and that means subsidising the programmes that are not market-viable.

the University of the South Pacific, Professor Rajesh Chandra, to reflect on the achievements and challenges freedom, IT issues and infrastructural development, and future challenges to overcome.

# and the road beyond 2018

Continued from Page 4

but it does mean that you must know your business.

At USP we probably have among the best ways of financing higher education that exists anywhere in the world. Because what it does is that it actually has a combination of governments making contributions on an agreed three-year framework, it has development partners contributing as much, (and) it has students who are prepared to pay a portion of the fees.

So the private students pay around 33-40 per cent maximum of the cost of the education they receive. And we also generate some entrepreneurial income. So in that sense we are not at all a market and private sector-oriented entity.

So I think we have invented, without thinking too much about it, a very good partnership because the governments are paying for students that are not being sponsored by them. We have had this discussion with governments that wanted to only contribute for their sponsored students but in the formula we have, when you pay your private regional fee, the 60 per cent is still paid for by the government.

So it's kind of a forced scholarship. So in that sense we are in a very good position. How do we protect it?

Well, first you are in good position that is not a market, not a private sector, university, and yet it is a very sustainable university.

We are making sure that when we look at the viability of programmes, we are looking at what a comprehensive university should look like, and that means subsidising the programmes that are not market-viable. So we support history, we support politics, we support journalism, we support marine studies, and we support Pacific Studies.

We do that to protect our ourselves against a totally market-oriented behaviour. But we want those areas to do the best they can nonetheless; to make their programmes more interesting, to treat their students better, (and) to create a better sense of value.

We take this attitude that politics is important, history is important, sociology is important, journalism is important, governance is important, and we support it. So we subsidise, essentially, these programmes from the programmes that make more money.

Fiji, fortunately, has a scheme where any qualified person can go to tertiary education, either through a toppers scholarship or loans that are pretty much guaranteed.

But, nonetheless, we've put aside some money for the really poor people so that it's an inclusive university that we have.

**Q: Should USP's Journalism Programme be given protected status given the importance of good journalism to the region?**

First, journalism is very important. For me personally, I was the person, either as pro vice chancellor or dep-

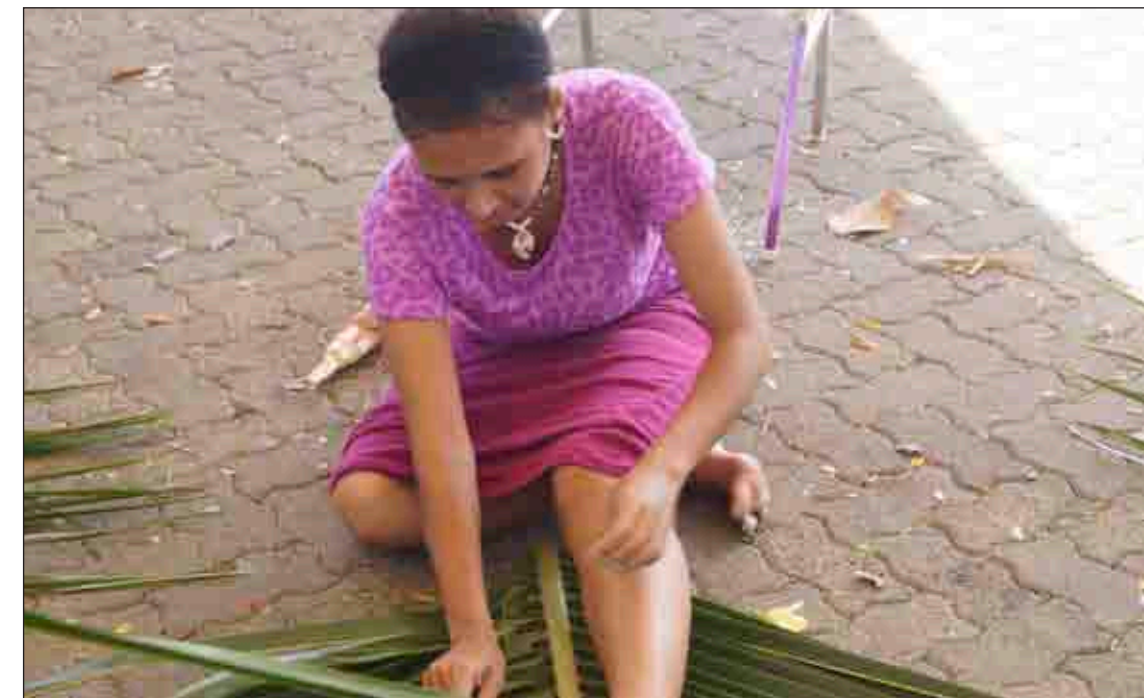
operate very freely.

**Q: There's an apparent confusion over what constitutes academic freedom. Is academic freedom a reality at USP?**

**VC:** Academic freedom is very important and central to the way universities are valued because they have bright people and are thinking about the future. Many institutions are just so busy doing things. Universities are the only place where people can sort of have four or five or six lectures a week and be paid full time. They are paid full time because society believes that they are going to think; they are going to solve our problems. The thinking will come from the universities. I have regular interactions with the public servants for instance and they will say, "we don't have the time to do all this research and reflections". That is what the university does. So academic freedom is very important.

What academic freedom really means is that the university is able to teach and research anything that the (USP) Senate and the Council want to be taught.

There are no restrictions. So we don't have any government that says, "You can't teach this programme or you can't teach that programme". So it means the ability to teach



Student takes part in the coconut basket weaving competition organised to mark Itaukei Week and Fiji Day. BELOW LEFT: Vice Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra, left, at the Vice Chancellor's Health Walk earlier this year. RIGHT: USP students at the USP student association special general meeting in the beginning of Semester Two. PHOTOS: RUCI VAKAMINO & VILIMAINA NAQELEVUKI



vice chancellor, who actually was involved from day one in setting up the programme.

For a long time I chaired the advisory committee and so, personally, I have a very strong commitment. I see journalism as an essential part of open government, accountability in government, and so forth.

We have given a protected status to the extent that we are protecting it from being disestablished when it does not have the numbers.

We continue to make investments in it to the extent we can. So in that sense there is no risk that I see to that programme.

Our role is to train journalists to the best international standards; for them to be working like professional journalists would do elsewhere with their codes and ethics.

Media freedom is very important but remember that in each country, the university is bound by all the laws of that country. We have been doing a lot of work in governance and a large part of governance training is that you have to comply with every law of every country.

So if there are media laws in particular countries, then the university would expect those laws to be followed because we become liable otherwise. But within the law, we should

what you want and how you want it. But remember there are rules about how you should teach. So if you teach badly, if you miss classes or you use old notes, then telling that person that you shouldn't teach in this way is not a breach in academic freedom. So it means you can develop your curriculum, you can teach in the way you want, and you can research any topic that you want without restriction.

Academic freedom comes to you on the basis of you being something different. And what's different about you is that you are trained professionally in your field and your view is superior to somebody else who hasn't been trained. So when you make a pronouncement as a professor, you get a lot of attention because people think that, "well, that person has spent a lot of time and must know more than me, I'm just a farmer."

So as long as you are doing your work in research, in teaching and pronouncing on things that are within your academic capability, then you have a thing called academic freedom. Any university will defend that. The moment you behave like a common person, if you fight on the streets, there is no academic freedom in doing that. You will be treated like anybody else and will be subject to law. If you go outside your field, then

your view is the same as the public. You don't have extra protection. If you go outside the (professional) code, like how journalists have a code, you have protection as long as you are within your code. If you are outside, then the law takes over and you are treated like a citizen.

So all of us are citizens bound by the law but we have something special as a lecturer. I have had discussions with Australian and New Zealand vice chancellors. Our provision of academic freedom is the same as Australia and New Zealand.

**Q: Generally, academics worry that tertiary education today is giving students too much customer-like powers over their lecturers. Is USP placed with the mechanisms it has in place to ensure this is not the case?**

**VC:** At the moment the power resides dominantly with the staff. It is they who determine the budget and policies. However, students are investing their life when they come to a university, and they pay money and they have the right to expect that what the university promises is being delivered to them. So to that extent, the student satisfaction is very important. It doesn't mean that the university has become subject to student control. The curriculum is done by staff and, in fact, I would like to see that students have more input into decision-making. Whether they go to the finance committee or they go to the Senate, students should be able to articulate their views.

**Q: What are USP's new plans for boosting local capacity in academia, including teaching and research?**

**VC:** At the moment, just over 70 per cent of our staff are from the region. So we have come a long way from the time I joined USP in 1976 when you could count the number of regional people. We need to work harder to build the numbers in the smaller countries, or countries like Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, that have not had too many of their nationals coming into the university system.

So we are actually quite proactive in identifying people who have good PhDs. We have put a lot of emphasis on PhDs so if we train more people in the region with PhDs, they have more opportunities to come.

We are talking about having an in-country PhD programme in the Solomon Islands, especially because their prime minister has made a particular case for getting more Solomon islanders trained at the PhD level. So we are building our capacity.

But having said all of that, the university wants to have the highest quality people joining because if the governments are wanting the university to be excellent, then the only way of delivering that is to ensure the staff are excellent.

Continued on Page 7



# Help to fight the 'ice' blight



by ANISHMA PRASAD  
The Deputy Editor

“ For it is when we work collectively toward a single goal, of ensuring a safe and prosperous community, that we can achieve much. ”

THAT methamphetamines are available on our streets is extremely worrisome. Police did not release the data that we requested but as our page one story shows, there is fairly strong anecdotal evidence of the growing use of methamphetamines in Fiji.

And, there is confirmed growing use of methamphetamines, otherwise known as ice because its crystallised form gives it an ice-like look. The drug, when in crystal form, is at its purest.

Unlike the unrelenting battle

against marijuana, the campaign to stop the spread or trade of these illicit drugs is foreign territory for police. It's uncharted waters for all stakeholders in fact.

Nevertheless, we all have a role to play. These crimes do not occur in a silo.

We can be the eyes and ears of our law enforcement agencies and alert them to anything that looks reasonably suspect.

There's also the awareness aspect. It is important that parents, teachers and peers help stop this growing menace.

Developed nations continue to struggle with it, and, despite being better resourced, appear to be losing the battle.

According to research, this is largely because of how extremely addictive these hard drugs are.

Therefore, any effort toward eliminating this problem is no effort too small. We all must do our bit to end this growing blight.

The Ministry of Education must be applauded for its proactive approach. It has already acknowledged this growing problem and its National Substance

Abuse Advisory Council has included "ice" into the list of drugs it must educate young people about through their awareness programme.

Their awareness campaigns target primary and secondary schools. It would be good to take these campaigns to tertiary institutions. Parents and guardians must also be attuned to what their young people are involved in.

The quality time they spend together must include discussions about the addictive and harmful effects of these illicit drugs.

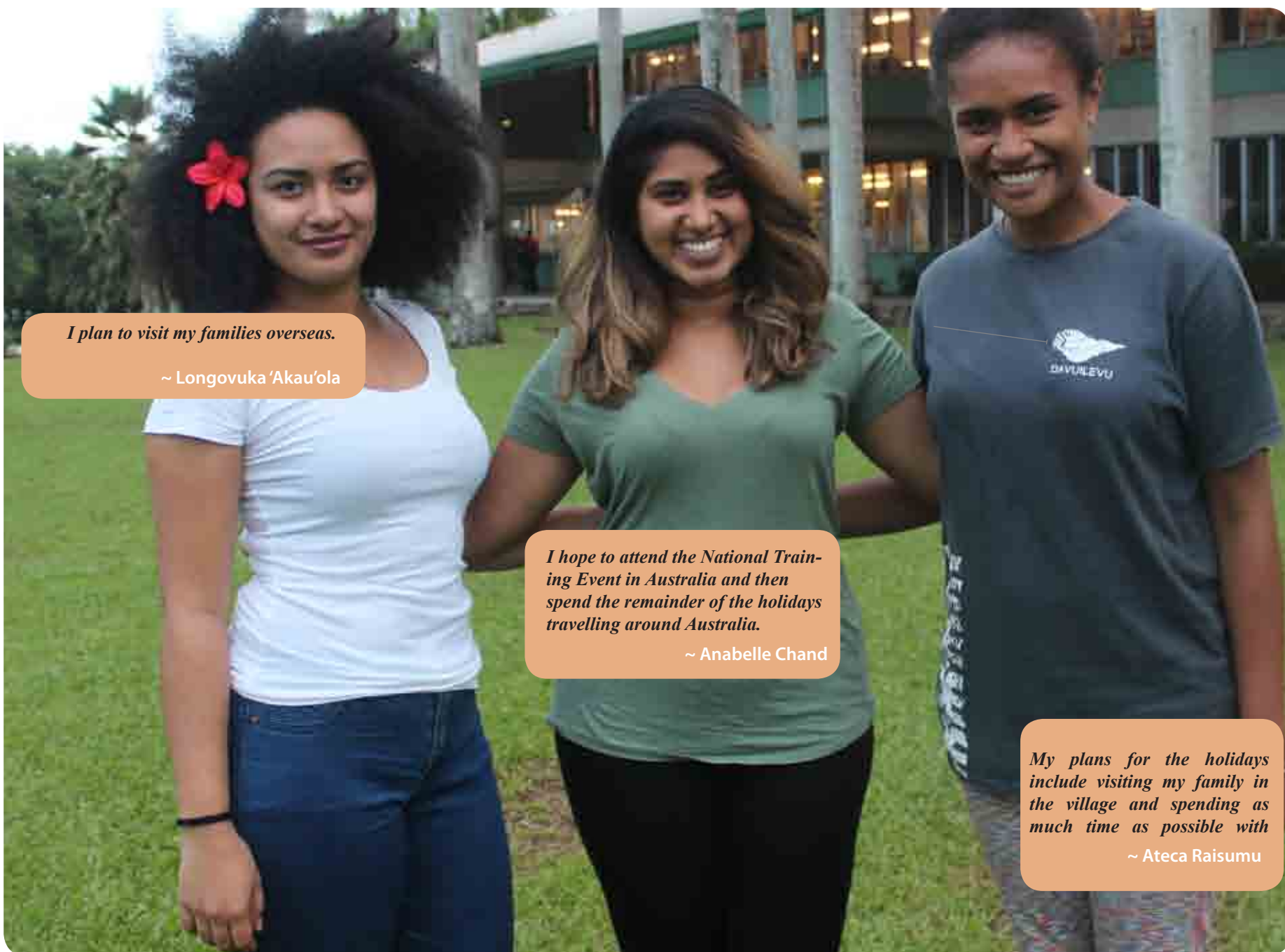
Society - the rest of us - also have a role in supporting these parents, and the community in general, by doing our bit to either raise awareness or identify the criminals.

For it is when we work collectively toward a single goal, of ensuring a safe and prosperous community, that we can achieve much.

When we look out for each other, be it in our classroom, work place or neighbourhood, we are collectively safeguarding our nation's future.

## Q What are your plans for the long break?

Vox-Populi & picture: RUCI VAKAMINO



I plan to visit my families overseas.

~ Longovuka 'Akau'ola

I hope to attend the National Training Event in Australia and then spend the remainder of the holidays travelling around Australia.

~ Anabelle Chand

My plans for the holidays include visiting my family in the village and spending as much time as possible with

~ Ateca Raisumu

# VC on academic freedom and the road beyond

Continued from Page 5

**Q: How is USP addressing IT issues, especially connectivity that is slow and unreliable in the regional campuses?**

**VC:** We are doing a lot but, despite doing a lot, we do not always get the quality and the reliability that we want.

Secondly, it is becoming much better. Now the deputy vice chancellor in charge of IT (produces) fortnightly reports on connectivity across the region. I look into it to see why something in particular is not up and running. And we have invested a lot of money in IT to enable better things to happen. I am talking about a new firewall that cost us more than \$1million. This enabled us to get a better understanding of why things were not working, and, equally important, what our bandwidth was being used for. And then we have instituted something called WAN optimisation (technology that maximises the efficiency of data flow over a wide area network).

Where we have invested, we have seen up to 300 per cent improvement in the speed of our system. So in some areas, we have seen a dramatic improvement. On the other side, there has been an unprecedented improvement in cable connectivity in the region -- something that two years ago nobody could have imagined.

Now we already have cable connection to Marshall Islands. We have cable connection to Tonga. We have cable in Vanuatu but we have not connected because we are negotiating for a reasonable price for that connection. Samoa has signed a contract to get a cable.

There is a plan to give cables to Nauru, Kiribati and Niue.

We found that 49 per cent of our bandwidth was being used by YouTube. I know that YouTube is not 49 per cent of our learning and teaching. I think another 21 per cent was by Facebook. So we sat down with the students and said, 'Look, you're complaining about not being able to do your Moodle (an open source online learning platform), and you're complaining about this, can we do something about this?'

So we agreed that we will constrain access for certain hours when you should be learning, and then afterwards you can access these. So I would say that 200-300 per cent improvement was made because of tighter bandwidth management. I am absolutely committed to making sure that USP has the best system, the most reliable.

The USPNet is central to our vision to learning anywhere, any time. I am not going to say that everything is perfect, but I would say that very significant improvements are being made.



Industry partners are a critical part of USP's teaching and learning approach, says VC Professor Rajesh Chandra. Journalism students listen to Fiji Broadcasting Corporation's deputy news editor Edwin Nand who took them on a tour of the station.

**Q: With regards to the Strategic Plan, there was a target to have 60 professors by 2018. However, USP seems to be losing professors? Where is the problem and what can be done to address them?**

**VC:** Let me start off by saying that we are getting more professors than we are losing by a big margin. So we don't have a problem of losing professors. We had 11 professors when I joined. We are close to 26 professors now and these are much better professors. So there is progress.

However, we said by 2018 we will have 60. It is unlikely that we will get that. We are losing some professors due to retirement and that has nothing to do with anybody. Some people have left in a short period. Some are of the kind that we shouldn't have appointed so we are tightening up on the scrutiny of these people coming in.

Remember, a professor is costing us about two and a half times the cost of a lecturer so it is a lot of money. We cannot hire new people unless we have the money. As I told you, from 2007 to 2015, we had no increase, and in that period we had 34 per cent inflation. We can get 80 professors tomorrow if we had the money to advertise it, but we only advertise if we have the money.

Our staff retention is better now than before. Our salaries are much more attractive. People are more attracted to USP because it has got a better name. So they can come and do some interesting research. A lot of people come to USP and become more marketable.

We are making some determination that at the moment, as it stands, the research performance of associate professors is better than that of professors. So it makes more sense to get more associate professors.

**Q: How is USP coping with the extra demand in terms of teaching resources and infrastructure. Has expenditure in this area increased in response to the increased enrolment?**

**VC:** We have coped very well so far, with 'so far' being the operative word. That is because some of those resources and spaces were not intensively used, and so there was some slack in it. In fact, in some areas, the increase is making a programme more viable, because if a lecturer has been teaching 10 students, that lecturer can then teach 50 students, so there's no big demand for additional resources.

We've also in that period abolished about 200 courses because these courses were no longer needed and had very, very small numbers.

“the new learning is not about the lecturer giving three lectures; it's really about facilitating your learning”

What had happened was, because we are 48 years old, if you have a system of everybody new coming in and adding a few courses and nobody is taking anything off, you'll (end up) with a very large number of courses. So we had a look and took some programmes out.

We have also changed the modality of our teaching to some extent because the new learning is not about the lecturer giving three lectures. It's really about facilitating your learning. That means you'll be doing a lot more work on your own, a lot more work on your mobile, (and) a lot more work in the lab.

So far I would say that we have coped very well with the

resources. We have allocated enough money to take care of the new increase, so when we do our budget, we look at a five per cent increase in enrolment and we make sure that we are providing all the increase in the staffing and non-staffing costs in line with that.

Now with a much more systematic review of what people are doing, we discovered that a large number of people are not doing research, which is part of what their contract requires them to do.

We fund academic staff to do research, to teach and to do engagement; which is broadly community service, consultancy and the like. So from next year, we have reclassified our staff. We have agreed to have a classification where a person who is not doing any research whatsoever, because they don't

want to, but is a good staff to keep, they will teach more.

Those people who are outstanding researchers and want to do a little bit more research, will become research-intensive. That means they will still teach but they will teach less.

And in the middle will be people who will do teaching and research in the way the ordinary staff are supposed to do. So what we expect is to be able to teach even more students, simply by improving the productivity of our staff and our resources. The biggest increase in our enrolment is in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, not here at Laucala.

So what I expect is the university being able to take more

students because this doesn't impact here. And these students are going to be online to some extent, so again they use different resources, not your classrooms per se.

With face-to-face courses, certainly the idea of everybody given three or four lectures, that's gone.

**Q: As the USP Vice Chancellor, what are the three accomplishments you are most proud of and why?**

**VC:** The first thing is that, and I can honestly say, when I came here in 2008, everybody was unnerved about whether we would be able to get out of the hole we were in. So the first contribution I made was to give confidence to the staff and students to say we could get out of this situation. And, not only that, but to say, 'We have a good future ahead of us'.

And to build that kind of confidence in the university to the point that we are now a very confident university. The fact that I had some credibility, behind saying, 'Look I understand finances. I know we can get out of it. We just need to take some tough medicine.'

Had I not done that, we would not be where we are. So for me, being able to go into a difficult situation and, despite everybody feeling unsure and pessimistic, to be able to say, 'No, they are not very big problems. If we do these things, we can get ahead.'

The second one is in choosing how to transform the university. So I knew that unless you have a document that outlines all the things the university needs to do, it will be too personal on one person. So we developed the strategic plan.

Most people look at our strategic plan as probably one of the best ways of doing a strategic plan. The next contribution was in lifting the vision. Not

everybody was convinced that you can be excellent.

I knew that you need to get a commitment. If you ask people everyday to ask to do this and that, they become irritated.

But if you get a vision accepted and everybody is part of it, then it's no longer an individual thing. So I would say that this Strategic Plan 2013-18 is my second achievement; to kind of make the leaders and the staff believe that we can be the best place in the world for Pacific Studies; that we can be in the top league for learning and teaching; that we can get our programmes accredited and be regarded as equal to other universities.

I think the third is in how I have managed the relationship with all governments because at the end of the day that is the most crucial relationship: to make sure that governments give you the resources, that they regard the university as giving value, and they make you part of the national system.

**Q: You have two more years of your last term as USP's vice-chancellor. What can we expect?**

**VC:** These two years are going to go into the lifting of it (to excellence). Sort of saying that, 'Okay, we've got these 17 accreditations and these improvements in IT, but why aren't we there?' So that is my most difficult challenge going on. I am often rejecting papers because they don't take us there.

So really working with everybody, reading the Strategic Plan everyday, just seeing which ones are not tracking well. I think completing the Solomon Island campus.

That's something I've personally been involved since 2003 when I went to Honiara as acting vice-chancellor.

It's just eluded everybody. So we now see the possibility of making that campus. So I would see that as a very big agenda for me going ahead.

And the third one is working with the council to see where we go beyond 2018.

See you have to think ahead at least 18 months before the plan ends because it involves a lot of work. What made this plan (SP) successful was the engagement.

We went to countries, we went to Cabinets, we had meetings with staff, we had meetings with students, we had meetings with stakeholders (and) we invited open interaction on the web.

We have now a large number of international friends of the university who are very good in their own fields (who give us their critical assessment of the plans). So we will need at least 18 months, which means we have to begin thinking about that as we go ahead. ☺



## Student newspaper marks another milestone

Of all the student newspapers Dr Philip Cass has started, *Wansolwara* - produced by students of the USP Journalism Programme - is the only one to survive.

At 20 years old in 2016, *Wansolwara* is now the longest surviving student publication in the Pacific region and continues to cover serious news on a quarterly basis.

Dr Cass is a former lecturer at USP Journalism when the programme started 21 years ago. He pioneered the newspaper with the first-year students of the time.

"It was very much an experiment," he said. "We were doing it with inexperienced first-year students so it was a big learning process for all of us because even for me we were using digital photography, things I had never done before."

He said the newspaper had become more ambitious in its coverage of issues that were important to the region. The publication has won several awards, including

a list of Ossie Awards. It has also won the coveted Dr Charles Stuart award for best publication at the regional Ossie Awards twice.

Dr Cass, who was the chief guest at the USP Journalism Awards night last month, said *Wansolwara's* 20-year anniversary reflected the hard work done by his successors and all the students and staff who worked on the publication over the years.

*Wansolwara's* print edition is produced twice a semester over two semesters.

The anniversary celebration coincided with the programme's annual awards night. Eleven students, pictured below, collected certificates and cash prizes for outstanding performance.

USP journalism coordinator Dr Shailendra Singh said the awards, which is an important event in the programme's calendar, is supported by the news industry who sponsor the prizes.

He said industry partners played a significant role in

the programme's teaching efforts throughout the year.

Newsrooms often send their senior staff or editors to share their experience and knowledge at the *WansolwaraTok* forums organised throughout the year. They also accept final year students to serve six-week professional attachments with them. The awards mark the end of another year of a successful partnership between the industry, students and journalism staff.

"It is important to encourage potential young journalists by recognising, incentivising and rewarding good examples of journalism," said Dr Singh.

He said USP's role was critical in nurturing future journalists to meet the needs of the region.

The need for well-trained journalists has intensified because of the onset of social media and citizen journalism, he added.

The USP Journalism Programme has produced close to 300 graduates to date.

Written and edited by STAFF REPORTERS



# THANK YOU

### to our industry partners

- ◆ Asia Pacific Report
- ◆ Business Melanesia (Fiji) Limited
- ◆ Cover Story Limited, the publisher of *Mai Life Magazine*, *Mai Life Style*, *Travel* and *FijiTime (Fiji Airways' Inflight Magazine)*
- ◆ Communications Fiji Limited
- ◆ FemLINK Pacific, the producers of *Suitcase Radio* - the Pacific's first women-led community radio network
- ◆ Fiji Broadcasting Corporation
- ◆ Fiji Live
- ◆ Fiji Media Watch
- ◆ Fiji Sun Limited
- ◆ Fiji Television Limited
- ◆ Fiji Times Limited
- ◆ Fijian Media Association
- ◆ Front Page Limited, the publisher of *Islands Business Magazine*
- ◆ Pacific Media Centre
- ◆ Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS)
- ◆ The Loop, the regional online news publication
- ◆ Newswire
- ◆ Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)



Award recipients: (from left) Lowen Sei (PINA Best Regional Reporter Award), Semi Lauti (Cover Story Encouragement Award), Telstar Jimmy (Fiji Live Most Promising First-Year Student Award), Shivika Mala (Fiji Times Best News Reporter Award), Shalveer Singh (Fiji Sun Top Journalism Graduate Award), Heather Traill (Islands Business Best Features Reporter Award), Linda Filiai (CFL Best Radio Student Award), Chrisnrita Aumanu (Business Melanesia Best Editor Award), and Ruci Vakamino (Fiji Times Best Photographer Award).



ABOVE: Fiji Sun Digital News manager Rosi Tamani-Doviverata presents the premium award to the Top Journalism Graduate of 2016 Sonal Shalveer Singh.



LEFT: Best Radio Student Linda Filiai receives her award from Communications Fiji Limited's editor (Viti FM) Rustate Balelevuka.



Fiji Times Editor-in-Chief Fred Wesley presents The Fiji Times Best News Reporter Award to Shivika Mala. Fiji Times also sponsored The Fiji Times Best News Photographer Award which was presented to Ruci Vakamino. In addition to cash awards, the Fiji Times awards include the opportunity to intern at one of their newsrooms during the semester break.



Second-year student Chrisnrita Aumanu, left, receives the Business Melanesia Award for Best *Wansolwara* Editor, an award sponsored by *Wansolwara's* very first editor Stanley Simpson.



Telstar Jimmy, middle, received the Fiji Live Award for the Most Promising Student. Editor Reginald Chandra, right, also offered Telstar the chance to join their news team during the break.



From left, Jone Tuipelehaki (communications specialist), Raehna Nath (Fiji TV News Editor, and Naziah Ali (publisher) were among the alumni at the awards.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) Derrick Armstrong presents the Islands Business Best Features Reporter Award to second-year student Heather Traill.



# Deals @ Bondwell

Apple iPhone 7

EXCLUSIVE



iPhone 7		iPhone 7 Plus	
32GB	128GB	32GB	128GB
\$1999-	\$2499-	\$2699-	\$2899-

iPhone 7 / 7Plus accessories also available  
Screen guards, cases, phone skin



Now Open in: Labasa; Nausori & Sugar City Mall Lautoka

Discover More @ Bondwell  
Moti St., Suva • Damodar City • Nakasi • Nausori • Nadi • Lautoka • Ba • Labasa

## HUMAN MIGRATION

Human migration and exchange is vital to Pacific societies both economically and culturally. Increasingly the Pacific finds itself at a crossroads with climate change, political unrest and economic pressures intensifying flows of human migration. In this Insight report, JN302 students look at the effects of these on Pacific societies.

# Rise in sea level forces relocation



by HENRY ORITIMAE

INHABITANTS of artificial islands in the Solomon Islands are migrating to settle in the bigger islands because of sea-level rise and coastal inundation.

University of the South Pacific's Director of the Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture, and Pacific Studies Dr David Gegeo said another reason for the sinking artificial islands was that its coral foundation was crashing as a result of overpopulation.

"The artificial islands are built on corals, and when people heavily built on it because of the rise in population, the corals died over the centuries, forcing the islands to sink underwater," he said. "So this may be another scenario causing people to migrate to the mainland."

Early migration to the artificial islands was due to security reasons. Sickness was another reason. Those days there was no cure for sicknesses



Inhabitants of man-made islands like Sulufou island in the Solomons, pictured above, are moving mainland because of the rising sea-level. PHOTO: Petr Ofadanni

like malaria, so people chose to settle them in the artificial islands, said Dr Gegeo.

USP student Aloysius Walekwate, who was raised on one of the artificial islands, said changes to the artificial islands had become obvious.

"One thing noticeable now a days are the giant tides, high-tides that are abnormal," he said.

"When they come in, they flooded the islands, but luckily the houses are built high. So people are building higher

sea-walls to withstand waves coming in."

Walekwate said inhabitants' activities also contribute to the sea-level rise.

"When people collected stones and rocks from the outside reefs to build the islands, they are also overharvesting and exploiting the marine resources, so there is also scarcity of seafood causing people to migrate out," he said.

Dr Gegeo added that more residents of these artificial islands were migrating to the

bigger islands.

"Migration of people started some years back but in a smaller scale compared to now," he said. "It's true, they are migrating out to the bigger islands at their own initiatives because there is not enough space to live due to sea-level rise and inundation. They bought lands somewhere to settle in or some may intermarry and move in to settle in the bigger islands."

University of Bonn's legal expert Dr Cosmin Coredea

said governments of the smaller island countries should listen to the people and communities directly affected.

He said much more needed to be done to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

"We need to think of the measures and we need to take action before it happens," said Dr Cosmin.

He added that traditional knowledge had a large role to play in working with international organisations to design suitable housing.

## LEGAL LIMBO: Caught in the crossfire



Soldiers of the Turkish army standing guard during the coup attempt. PHOTO: Supplied.



by MONICA AGUILARS

FOR a country that has survived four coups in two decades, Fiji is no stranger to political violence, ethnic tensions and the mass exodus of coup opponents.

Turkey, a country more than a 20-hour flight away from Fiji, is faced with a similar crisis.

In July this year, the Turkish government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was subject to a failed military coup. In response, Erdoğan detained and arrested tens of thousands and dismissed more than 80,000 government employees. Those purged by the government were suspected of being members of the Hizmet Movement, which is ac-

cused by the government of orchestrating the coup attempt.

The movement is led by Fetullah Gülen, a Turkish businessman and Imam living in exile in the US.

Dr Erman Kaplama, a native of Turkey who is a lecturer at USP, explained the complicated political relationship between Erdoğan and Gülen.

"Erdoğan came to power and got so many votes thanks to Gülen's support," said Kaplama. "They were good friends in the 80s and 90s; Erdoğan respected Gülen and called him 'Master' but in 2013, the Hizmet Movement managed to record Erdoğan's phone conversations and they released a lot of bribery, corruption and calls to his son to hide the money."

He added that while there was no definitive proof that the coup attempt was led by Gülen, it was most likely led by Gülen supporters within the military who were responding to the closure of Gülen's schools and businesses.

The rift between the government and the Hizmet had a huge impact on the lives and human rights of Turkish citizens.

One such citizen, Tom (not his real name), who requested his identity be concealed, has sought refuge in another country. Tom had worked as a volunteer for Hizmet since 2000.

Since the coup attempt, Tom has been advised by family and friends in Turkey not to return.

Continued on Page 12



# Climate change and migration

by SONAL SHIVANGANI

ONE of the early impacts of climate change in the Pacific has been the forced migration of people because of rising sea levels, erosion and the loss of arable land.

Tuvalu and Kiribati have been greatly affected. A recent UN Survey found that the majority in those countries would look to leave their homelands if the effects of climate change worsened.

However, what policies exist in the Pacific to manage this new reality of climate refugees. Are these policies adequate?

Academic Dr Cosmin Coredea, whose research looks into this issue, warns that there are no regional or national policies in the Pacific that look into climate change migration.

"Pacific states did not think yet of having national law which addresses migrants based on environmental degradation," he said. "They have disaster assistance and any other



Kiribati's population faces increased threats as climate change causes oceans to warm. PICTURE: AUSAID/climatechange.com

legal document which may be interpreted as assisting migrants in contexts of climate change, but none of the states in the Pacific have a migration policy."

From a legal perspective though, there are no climate refugees, said climate change scientist Dr Eberhard Weber.

"The Convention on Refugees from 1951 only protects people that are

persecuted by political reasons," he said. "The convention does not include climate or environmental change."

But Dr Coredea said forced migration and displacement are recognised at the regional level in the Strategy for Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development.

And, according to the Paris Climate Talks United

Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) expert, Dr Koko Warner, the internal migration of people from outer islands to the urban centres or mainland was not a durable long-term solution.

"The potential for Pacific households to use international migration to manage the risks of climate change...is limited today

and it's limited by lack of access to international migration opportunities," she said.

So what can be done to help those who are adversely affected by climate change and are forced to migrate?

Dr Coredea said the best way was to have a regional body that specifically focuses on such matters. This would serve as

an independent body where people could seek redress if they were unhappy with decisions made at the national level.

"The body would be like a court (like those in France and America) where people could go and appeal that they were unhappy with the decision made by a country on granting them a refugee status," he said.

He added that the focus on regionalism made sense because it was far more effective than the global bodies.

"I solely emphasise on regionalism because it has a history behind it and it has worked in other parts of the world," said Dr Coredea.

"The regional mechanisms from Asia and America worked better than the global mechanisms."

However, Dr Weber said the best way to help people who were displaced because their homes were uninhabitable was to give them a good education and upskill them in order to fill the skill shortages in developed nations. ☞

# When disaster forces internal displacement

NGO warns of 'dark menace'

by RITESH KUMAR

HUMAN trafficking of persons is one of the world's most heinous crimes.

And, with the increasing number of human trafficking cases emerging around the world, small and developing Pacific island countries like Fiji are very vulnerable to this "dark menace".

Non-government organisation Pacific Dialogue said human trafficking was happening in the islands but not on a large scale.

Pacific Dialogue spokesperson Patricia Kailoa warned though that it "is growing quickly."

"Perpetrators traffic people to work as a servant, in forced labour, prostitution, sexual exploitation (women and children), organ removal and forced marriage," said Kailoa.

"These are some of the ways people are being exploited and always for money. It is important that Pacific Island countries create more awareness on the issue of human trafficking."

Pacific Dialogue's work focuses on human rights, conflict resolution, democracy, good governance and traditional leadership,

Kailoa said there appeared to be many unreported cases of human trafficking in the Pacific.

"There have been cases where girls and children from the villages have been deceived by human traffickers who bring them to the urban centres and use them for cheap labour and sex," she said.

"While such cases have not been brought out in the public, these are some of the examples that it is already happening in the Pacific."

She pointed out the recent case of a Fijian man found guilty of New Zealand's first human trafficking case.

Fiji also recorded a case last year in which a single mother from Narere was involved in a similar case based out of Malaysia.

Kailola said it was very important that more awareness be conducted to educate people on the matter.



“People who are displaced often face discrimination in the distribution of food rations.”

Majority of the homes on the coast of Ra were flattened or severely damaged by Cyclone Winston.

PHOTOGRAPHER: HEATHER TRAILL

by NEELAM PRASAD

HUMAN migration within a country's borders may occur for a variety of reasons whether rural-urban drift, climate-related or natural disasters.

The damage caused by Cyclone Winston in February this year was not merely to homes and crops, but to entire communities who have been internally displaced.

One survivor Benita Kumari said the impact of the cyclone fully hit her when their home was destroyed.

"It was the realisation that we had been rendered homeless," she said. "I did not even think internal displacement was a big issue until leaving our home that night became the only way to save our lives."

More than 54,000 people were displaced after Cyclone Winston, according to Fiji's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). This is about one sixth of Fiji's population.

Academic Dr Eberhard Weber said while internal displacement was not a permanent issue in Fiji, it was a recurring one.

"In Nadi and Ba, whenever the rivers flood there, people get internally displaced and they go to evacuation centers and they stay there," he said.

"When the flood recedes, they return to their houses, most of them clean up, and life continues until the next flood."

Even when the displacement is

short-lived, the economic and financial impacts can be huge.

"Such disasters can undo the efforts, the development efforts, people have taken up," said Dr Weber.

## A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

In the wake of a disaster, saving lives is the most important consideration, but human rights must be taken into account to ensure the wellbeing of those affected.

The Centre, in its report on the situation, noted concern about the safety, protection, health, and overall living conditions of those who were displaced after the cyclone.

"Internally displaced people are particularly vulnerable," said Dr Weber.

He said in such situations, people depended on the goodwill of others to get by and their vulnerability factor increases when people do not come forward to help.

Dr Weber said human rights covered political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights.

"The right to food, the right to housing, the right to particular basic needs and these are to be fulfilled," he said.

"These, among others, are incorporated in the country's constitution. Another source of human rights is the Charter of the United Nations which Fiji signed."

Kumari said she believed human rights was often neglected when addressing internal displacement.

"People who are displaced often face

discrimination in the distribution of food rations," she said. "Safety and protection in evacuation centers is also an issue."

For women and people who are differently able, the challenge of meeting basic needs after being displaced is even greater.

This is why there is a need for a mechanism that guarantees human rights in such circumstances, said Dr Weber.

He added that if any of the rights are compromised such as food security and so forth, the issue could be addressed legally.

However, he said this was very theoretical because "usually court cases take longer than people take to starve."

## MEDIA, AGENTS OF CHANGE

The news media, said Dr Weber, offered the more effective option to address the issues of human rights violations and internal displacement.

However, he said this was dependent on how well the journalist assigned covered the issue.

"If there are proper journalists, they won't make it a political issue," he said. "They will make it a people's issue, and then I guess the political system would respond to it because they don't want to have bad public relations."

Preventing human rights violations and fulfilling the basic needs of internally displaced persons will undoubtedly be easier with the combined efforts of government, the news media and the legal system. ☞

## Caught in the crossfire

From Page 11

They told him it was not the right time.

Tom said he feared going back to Turkey because he was not sure whether his name was on the list of people ordered by the Government to be imprisoned.

"If they find out where I live, they can cancel my citizenship by creating problems with the other Government about me," he said.

In the meantime Tom and others like him are stuck in legal limbo unable to acquire travel documents or return to their home.

At the time of the interview, one of his children's passport had expired and he was unable to renew it because he is outside of Turkey.

"There is a rule in Turkey where if you have to renew the passport for the kids, the mother cannot request it without the father's permission and the father cannot try without the mother's consent too," he explained.

"So I prepared the consent letter with the assistance of the respective government departments. I was busy with these documents for five to six weeks and after six weeks they told me they can't accept any documents unless it is from the Turkish Embassy."

He said he then applied for a visa in Australia and New Zealand more than a month ago, but was still waiting for a

response. While waiting, he travelled to Malaysia but was advised by an officer at the Turkish Embassy that the system was not working and they could not do anything to help him.

"I waited another two days and they said the same thing," he said. "No solution. From Malaysia I was planning to go to Turkey but it's not the right time so I had to come back to the country I reside in."

While he still has not been able to renew his son's passport, he said he was at least thankful that his family was safe.

He said he missed his family very much and was always fearful for them.

"If the Government is not able to approach the person (on the list), they will take the husband, wife, father, mother or kids to jail," he said. "Whoever is near him or her, they will take to jail."

On whether he had sought help from international human rights bodies, he said their systems did not work in Turkey.

"Nothing is working," he said. "What everybody is worrying about is their position and that's why nobody is doing any movement or action."

He remains hopeful that foreign governments will help Turkish nationals overseas like him to secure documents for their children. ☞



**School of Education**

**Undergraduate**

Certificate in Teaching (In-service) – Primary special In Country Project  
 Certificate in Teaching (In-service) – Secondary special In Country Project  
 Certificate in Non-Formal Education  
 Diploma in Early Childhood Education  
 Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) special In Country Project  
 Diploma in Educational Evaluation & Assessment  
 Diploma in Educational Leadership and Change  
 Diploma in Library/Information Studies  
 Diploma in Multilingual Studies (Managed from the Emalus Campus, Vanuatu)  
 Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education  
 Bachelor of Arts Major in Education  
 Graduate Certificate in Education (Also offered in French)  
 – Major in Double Major: Education, Technology, Food & Nutrition Science  
 – Minor: Education, Food & Nutrition Sciences  
 – Minor: Information and Library Studies  
 Graduate Certificate in School Leadership  
 Bachelor of Arts & Graduate Certificate in Education  
 Bachelor of Commerce and Graduate Certificate in Education  
 Bachelor of Science & Graduate Certificate in Education  
 Bachelor of Education - In Service  
 – Early Childhood Education  
 – Primary Education  
 – Special and Inclusive Education  
 – Secondary Education (not be taken by those seeking employment in Fiji)

**Postgraduate**

Professional Certificate in Education Policy and Planning - special In Country Programme  
 Postgraduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching  
 Master of Arts, Major in Education  
 Master of Education  
 PhD

**School of Language, Arts and Media**

**Undergraduate**

Diploma in Pacific Journalism  
 Diploma in Vernacular Language (Fijian)  
 Diploma in Vernacular Language (Hindi)

**Bachelor of Arts**

– Majors: Literature and Language, Pacific Literature, Journalism, Literature, Pacific Language Studies  
 – Major in Double Major: Fijian, Hindi, Linguistics, Literature, Journalism, Pacific Vernacular Language (Fijian/Hindi), Literature and Language, Pacific Language Studies, Pacific Literature  
 – Minor: Creative Writing, Literature, Literature and Language, Fijian, Hindi, French

**Postgraduate**

Postgraduate Diploma in Arts: Linguistics and Literature  
 Master of Arts, Majors in Journalism, Linguistics and Literature  
 PhD

**School of Law**

**Undergraduate**

Certificate in Law - special In Country Program  
 Diploma in Prosecutions  
 Bachelor of Laws (LLB)  
 Bachelor of Arts – Major; Major in Double Major; and Minor In Law  
 Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Laws (Combined Degrees)  
 Bachelor of Commerce & Bachelor of Laws (Combined Degrees)

**Postgraduate**

Professional Diploma in Legal Practice  
 Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting  
 Postgraduate Diploma in Law  
 Masters of Environmental Law  
 Master of Laws  
 PhD

**School of Social Sciences**

**Undergraduate**

Certificate in Community Development  
 Certificate in Policing  
 Diploma in Social and Community Work  
 Diploma in Police Management

**Bachelor of Arts**

– Majors: History, Pacific Policing, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology  
 – Major in Double Major: History, Pacific Policing, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology  
 – Minor: History, Pacific Policing, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology

**Postgraduate**

Postgraduate Certificate in Gender Studies  
 Postgraduate Diploma in Arts: History, Psychology, Social Policy & Administration and Sociology  
 Master of Arts: History, Psychology, Social Policy and Sociology  
 PhD

**Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies**

**Postgraduate**

Postgraduate Diploma in Arts, Major in Pacific Studies.  
 Master of Arts, Major in Pacific Studies  
 PhD

**Undergraduate Studies**

Applications for admission to Undergraduate programmes should be addressed to: Admissions, Student Academic Services, Laucala Campus, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.  
 Tel: +679 3231444; email: helpdesk@student.usp.ac.fj

**Postgraduate Studies**

Applications for admission to Postgraduate programmes at the Faculty should be addressed to: Anilesh Singh, Administrative Assistant, Faculty of Arts, Law and Education, Laucala Campus, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.  
 Tel: +679 3232704; email: anilesh.singh@usp.ac.fj  
**Dean:** Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, tel: +679 3232049; email: akanisi.kedrayate@usp.ac.fj  
**Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching:** Salanieta Bakalevu, tel: +679 32 32372; email: salanieta.bakalevu@usp.ac.fj  
**Associate Dean, Research & Internationalisation:** Dr Cresantia Frances Koya-Vaka'uta; tel: +679 32 32296; email: cresentia.koyavakauta@usp.ac.fj

# Sports

## Bigger venue for FUSA Games

by SONAL SINGH

A BIGGER venue is needed for the annual inter-tertiary sports games next year, says the Fiji University Sports Association (FUSA). Association secretary Gabriel Qoro said more institutions of higher learning had relayed their interest of joining the Games next year and therefore it was important to secure a corporate sponsor to help them host the biggest inter-tertiary sports tournament.

A total 107 teams from

10 institutions took part in this year's tournament.

USP's Suva campuses formed 37 of the teams.

"This year the Ex-Comm (executive committee) of FUSA would like to commend on the participation of the institutions, namely FNU Suva, FNU West, FNU North, USP Suva, USP Lautoka, USP Labasa, APTC, Corpus Christie Teachers Coll, PRS and University of Fiji," said Qoro.

The sports played at the

tournament were football, rugby, touch rugby, rugby league, futsal, indoor volleyball, beach volleyball, netball, basketball, lawn tennis, and hockey.

The tournament was won by the Fiji Nationali University, which accumulated the most points to top the overall table.

Qoro said this year the only glitch was when two USP cultural groups organised sports events that clashed with the tournament.



A USP Islanders rugby player is tackled by the opposition.

PHOTOGRAPHER: VILIMAINA NAQELEVUKI



Netball was among the sports played at the FUSA tournament.

PHOTOGRAPHER: VILIMAINA NAQELEVUKI

**Why Study Journalism?**

**Radio Pasifik 89.4 FM**

**Multimedia Training**

**Confidence and Communication**

**Award Winning Newspaper Wansolwara**



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC  
Visit: [slam.usp.ac.fj/](http://slam.usp.ac.fj/)



# UNLIMITED CALLS WITH A SMART SIM PLAN



<b>\$35</b> PER MONTH	<b>Unlimited Digicel Calls</b>
	<b>200</b> Any Network and International
	<b>100</b> Any Network and International SMS
	<b>3GB</b> Data
	Valid for <b>30 days</b>
<b>SIMPLY TOP UP BY \$35 EVERY 30 DAYS</b>	
Existing customers can contact Customer Care on 700 3555 to convert their SIMs.	



**Digicel**

Terms & Conditions apply: Free 2GB bonus data on \$35 monthly recharge valid for 7 days. Bundle can be used to call or SMS any local network plus, top 15 International Destinations (Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, UK, India, China, Japan, HK, Malaysia, Singapore and Digicel mobiles in the Pacific). Free emails include (Yahoo, Gmail, Outlook & Hotmail). Sufficient credit is required for renewal. Simply recharge by \$35 to renew plan bundles.