



## An Unexpected Blessing

by Sarojani Michael, Almoner Bayly Welfare - Lautoka



**Baby Arika with Sarojani Michael and the \$100K.**

**M**arch 27<sup>th</sup>. 2017. What a day it was!

I was out on my field visit when I received a call.

The young lady on the other end was enquiring about making a donation to our organisation. I told her she was most welcome to pay us a visit and actually see what it was that we did at the Bayly Welfare, Lautoka.

After our little chat we agreed that she pops in the next day. I was in for a BIG SURPRISE.....The casual pop in was of a beautiful family - men, women and children, all part of the Jennings clan.

My staff, volunteers and committee members gave them a warm welcome and got busy preparing morning tea, while I took them on a little tour of the premises. They were very impressed and just happy to be here, laughing and yarning with everyone.

I remember that day being sooooo hot and I kept looking around at all the red and flushed faces and felt so sorry for them especially baby Akira. Perspiration was dripping off all of us that day and that's when I suggested we should go to the office where there was air-conditioning so off we trotted and what a relief it was.

Naite Jennings, the young lady I had corresponded with, said that the family was here to make a cash donation of \$100,000.00 !!!

Wow, I was shocked as I was expecting clothes and other normal stuff which we usually receive. I was speechless as this was a donation of a grand scale and by far, the largest ever made to our organization in Lautoka.

I couldn't believe it and after I calmed myself down, Naite explained that the donation came from Mr. Arthur Jennings a former Fiji resident and now living in New Zealand. Naite stated that his wish was for baby Akira to hand the cheque over to me since she was the youngest in the Jennings' clan.

The handing over of the cheque went through with lots of cameras clicking away and flashes going off. It was all so exciting.

Naite called Mr. Jennings and put him on the speaker. I was happy to make the acquaintance and we spoke for a while.

He was very emotional and so was I. He made reference to Malaqereqere in Sigatoka where he owned land and I told him that my family also had ties with the area and my dad's home still stood on our property.

We said goodbye to Mr. Jennings and made our way back to the distribution area and enjoyed a beautiful morning tea together. While I was busy in the office, the volunteers and staff were engaged in putting together all kinds of wonderful packs. We all enjoyed and once everybody got talking I realized that the saying, "It's a small world", was so true!

There were connections with the Jennings family and friends been made left, right and centre....someone knew someone who knew someone...and it went on and on ... we all had a good laugh.

All too soon it was time for them to leave and we said our goodbyes. It had been a truly beautiful day and I am humbled by their kindness.

Thank you so very much Mr. Jennings for this amazing contribution to our organisation.

The Bayly Trust is forever grateful....  
*Vinaka! vinaka! and vinaka!*



**Arthur and Zita Jennings**

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## Bossley is new Chairman

The JP Bayly Trust has appointed a new Board Chairman. He is Digby Bossley, a Management Consultant who has been a Trustee since 2007.



**Digby Bossley**

Mr. Bossley was General Manager and a Director of Carter Holt Harvey Limited from 1969 to 2003, managing

the largest international paper products company in the South Pacific.

Currently he serves as a member on the Council of the University of the South Pacific, Director of Toyota Tsusho (South Sea) Limited, Bossley & Associates, Scanlan & Theodore (Fiji) Limited and is Chairman of Fiji Meats Limited and the Board of Trustees of the Sugar Festival.

He has been Chairman of the Board of Future Forests Fiji Limited, Fiji National University and Airports Fiji Limited, President of the Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation and a Board member of the Fiji Exporters Council.

## New Trustee appointed

Mrs. Viti Whippy is the new Trustee appointed to the Board in late August 2017. She was involved with the Mission to Seafarers for over 30 years until December 2015 and was Secretary for the Oceania Mission to Seafarers for 10 years, which covers New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Mrs. Whippy also managed a local passenger/cargo ferry which operated between Kadavu, Suva, Gau and Nairai, for six years. During that time she was President of the Local Ship Owners' Association and a member of the Fiji Marine Board and also served as President of the Board for two years.

She was on the Maritime & Ports Authority and the Ports Terminal Limited Boards for 8 years, the Hotels Licensing Board and was President of the Pacific Women in Maritime Association which she served for two years.

Mrs. Whippy was awarded the recognition of "Women in the Maritime Industry" in 2010.



**Viti Whippy**

## Sahai is back

Joel Sahai, who was a Trustee earlier for seven years until 2009, has been reappointed. He has served as Chairman and a Director on numerous Government Commercial Companies and Statutory Authorities as well as Boards and committees and has held leadership positions in several Social and Charitable organizations.

He was awarded a Member of the Order of Fiji in 1998 in recognition of his services to the community, appointed a Justice of the Peace the following year and made a Commissioner for Oaths of the High Court of Fiji in 2002.

## Tribute to the past Chairman of the Board

Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees Joseph Sukhendra Singh (Joe Singh) was laid to eternal rest on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He was aged 79 years and joined the JP Bayly Trust officially as a Trustee in August 1994.

Although his expertise lay in land valuation, he had very wide knowledge in many facets of business, law, finance, government and charitable organizations. He also held trusteeships and was board member on other organizations such as the Fiji National University, Chevalier Training Centre and the Pearce Home, to name a few.

The JP Bayly Trust Board benefitted immensely from his wealth of knowledge and networks. He became Chairman of the Board in April 2008 and held the position until the time of his passing. Interestingly, the only other Chairman with this record is the late John Percy Bayly, the founder of Bayly Trust himself.

Well known for his wry sense of humor, Mr. Singh was a strict disciplinarian who did not mince his words.

He was a keen sporting person and as a football commentator, is well remembered with his famous coined phrase, the "Waidina Banana."

His funeral was attended by people from all walks of life. This truly reflected his personality and extensive reach with the wider spectrum of society. In the eulogies which were delivered, his children mentioned that his greatest love in life was his family.



**Late Joe Singh**

Indeed, the family of JP Bayly Trust considers itself very fortunate to have had the services and contribution of our immediate past Chairman Mr. Joe Singh. He will be sorely missed for his leadership and example to everyone. *Moce mada.*

## Ravishant shares his gratitude

The credit goes to JP Bayly Trust. I was only 4 years old when my father passed away and we were a big family which included my mother, 5 brothers, and a sister. My mother didn't have any source of income and therefore, was unable to send us to school due to financial difficulties. She then went for help to the JP Bayly Trust's Welfare Centre in Suva.

The Senior Almoner at the time was Michael Chandra who interviewed her and visited our home in a squatter settlement in Khalsa Road in Tamavua. After completing his investigations, Bayly Welfare started providing us all our school requirements

through the Bayly Education programme.

They also arranged for some building materials to repair our house as it was leaking. After receiving assistance from Bayly Education my eldest brother

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**Ravishant Kumar**

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completed his form seven studies and is now employed at Courts Fiji Limited. He is supporting the family hence we are out of Bayly Welfare assistance but still receiving education support as the Trust's policy is to never deprive a child's education.

Although my eldest brother manages our family's other needs, the education assistance is a great help as we four children are still in school. On behalf of my family I'd like to thank the Bayly family for making our lives much better. Without their love and support we wouldn't have been able to get this success in our lives.

A BIG *Vinaka Vakalevu* to the Bayly Team for your guidance and support all these years and above all, for the smiling and welcoming faces. May God always shower his blessings on you all. Thank you.

## Lions Club's support in Labasa

by Satishwar Chand, Labasa Almoner



*Lions Club of Labasa President Subhas Chandra (extreme left) with some of the recipients*

As we were getting closer to festivals the Labasa Bayly Welfare Centre was also looking forward to receiving packs to be given out to our registered families. A great surprise came from the Lions Club of Labasa which supplied 15 packs of groceries to mark World Food Day celebrations.

The donation was worth close to \$350.00 and the Club has always assisted our Centre whenever requests are made. This supply of groceries reduced a lot of burden on the Centre and added to the contribution to our less fortunate families.

On distribution day the recipients were given snacks and juice as well. The Club's President Subhas Chandra shared his words and was happy that they were able to provide food for these families.

They were very excited to see additional items on the list and during the little time spent with the Almoner and staff, Mr. Chandra shared his thoughts and complimented the good work done by the Labasa Bayly Welfare in looking after the needy people in our community.

The Club will try to provide more assistance to the Bayly Welfare and he will encourage his group to do more projects like this in cooperation with our Centre. The Bayly Welfare Labasa thanks the Lions Club for taking time and assisting our cases. God bless their good work.

## Light at the End of the Tunnel

by Sarojani Michael, Almoner - Lautoka

The story of 52 year old Jone Botitu goes right back to the nineties when he had his left leg amputated due to diabetes, leaving him to work on his farm in Ba with only one leg and a crutch to aid him in moving around.

He had a family of four, two girls and two boys who were very small at that time. For Mr. Botitu life had to go on despite the disability. His family situation took another bad turn when in 2015 his loving wife died of cancer, leaving him to look after his four children, two of whom were attending Secondary School while the other two younger ones were still in Primary.

Things were no better for him as his right leg also had to be later amputated due to the spread of the killer disease. This challenged him to be a stronger and a better parent to his four children. He called into the Social Welfare office for assistance and was given \$80.00 per month to assist towards his family needs.

When Tropical Cyclone Winston struck in early 2016, the family again became victims as their house was destroyed leaving them homeless. This forced the family to move to his relatives' house for shelter. Life was now more of a struggle as he had to work harder to cope for the demands of the two families. Relationships between the children did not go well as everything had to be a competed for, even food.

Jone could not continue to see his children go without food so he started to look elsewhere and heard of the HART homes where he enquired and was glad to be accepted. In 2016 the family moved to a Lovu HART home in Lautoka.

He continued to go back to the farm in Ba for their root crops and vegetables with the two younger boys who were still attending school there. With both legs removed and no wife to look after the family, Jone knew in his heart that he had to remain positive for the sake of his four children. When the school year ended in 2016 he was thinking of his children who would have to go back to school come 2017. He called into the Bayly Welfare office in Lautoka and after the home visitation, he had high hopes that his life would be better.

Today Jone is seeing that light was at the end of the tunnel he had been going through. He received his new pair of crutches and all the children's school necessities as well as their food ration for the month.

Upon receiving these Mr. Botitu could only say, "Thank you," with tears in his eyes as he believes that this is the beginning of a new journey for him and his children.



*Lautoka Almoner Sarojani Michael with Jone Bobitu*

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# Struggle and sacrifice reaps an Award

by Satishwar Chand, Labasa Almoner

“Education and sacrifice will only get you out of poverty”. These were the words of Shiu Nadan Raj who walked away with the Labasa Bayly Award during the recent fun day. He scored 310 in four subjects and plans to become an Economist.

Shiu is the only child in his family and was brought up by his grandmother since birth. He has seen the hardships of life and this encouraged him to work towards his goals.

His studies is the only value that will carry his family out of poverty and into a good standard of living. The form six student of Batnikama College, just few kilometers from Labasa town, hopes to grow up and work in an air conditioned environment dealing with facts and figures.

“My grandmother has been the inspiration in my studies and she is always telling me the value of education. I have been supported by the Labasa Bayly Education since Class one and my grandmother has always told me to study hard since it is the only way that will get us a better life”, he said.



**The Secretary of the Labasa Bayly Welfare Committee Anuj Sharma (second from right) presents the Award to Shiu Nadan Raj**

“Bayly Welfare Labasa has been a great help to us since they have been kind enough to support me with my schooling needs together with food items and clothing. Bayly support is the only assistance we rely on after the Social Welfare department discontinued the welfare allowance,” Shiu told me.

Shiu Nadan Raj vows to earn the toppers scholarship scheme provided by Government after completing Form 7.

“Struggle is very important and we will only be able to help our children if we struggle,” said grandmother after wiping her tears.

“I do not want my grandson to fall into my cycle. I thank all who supported my family in bad and good times. God bless you all,” she concluded.

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The pair of crutches he was using was almost falling apart and I was really touched when I asked him, “Would you like to have another pair of crutches?” With tears in his eyes, he said, “Thank you Mrs. Michael, I would love to”.

I am pleased to say Jone Botitu made my day with humility and gratitude towards the Bayly Welfare and this I would like to pass on to the Trust. Thank you for making stories like these possible for the underprivileged and less fortunate.

# Retired but never free - Bayly in my heart

by Rev. Michael Chandra JP. Former Senior Almoner

When I first joined the JP Bayly Trust in 1989 as an Almoner in Suva, there was a lot which had to be done. Although names and addresses were in the files but when visiting the cases no one by that name was there. They had either moved or made concrete houses or passed on and the children, who by then had strong earning power, were still collecting food rations or some who were lazy and unemployed were receiving rations.

I implemented new systems and created proper records by preparing individual case folders on my manual typewriter with two fingers. As time went by the Trustees saw that there was much need for full time staff and therefore, management and more staff were brought in which resulted in better systems and accountability.



**Michael Chandra JP**

Volunteers were always there and are still valuable to the Bayly Welfare. I brought to the attention of the Trust that the money being given to another NGO to assist our children in education was being abused. I fought tooth and nail with all facts right and later our own Bayly Education program was set up in 2002. It was our pride to see our children going to school, getting employed, advancing in life, looking after their parents and after taking them off our books they are doing very well.

This encouraged the whole Bayly family and we worked even harder for better achievements. As the cost of living became higher the Trust's Board was never hesitant to continue funding this worthwhile program.

The Lautoka Almoner was trained and an Education Officer was also recruited. A Center in Labasa was opened after we had bought a property there and did the setup with an Almoner and Education Officer. I was promoted as Senior Almoner to look after all three Centers.

Today the three Welfare Centers are each run by Almoners who were well trained under my guidance and leadership. They are all doing both the Welfare and Education work without any hiccups or complain. Every now and then I still visit the Centre in Suva to give my volunteer service and render any kind of donation.

I am proud that I have worked for the Trust for 23 years with sincerity and am blessed. In year 2012, I realized that I had worked and earned enough in my life so might as well do some work for God. I am now a senior Anglican Priest serving my Lord in St. Christopher's Church in Naulu and St. Laurence Church in Nausori.

I have also been appointed a Justice of the Peace and serving the people of my community. My best wishes and blessings to all three Almoners in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa. Keep up the good work!

## Suva Bayly Welfare Committee

Chairperson - Mrs. Shanta Lakhan, Deputy Chairperson - Mr. Jai Narayan, Secretary - Mrs. Cathy Narayan, Treasurer - Mrs. Rastika Deo, Mrs. Asina Sahu Khan and Mrs. Georgina Yee.

## Lautoka Bayly Welfare Committee

Chairperson - Mrs. Stella Smith, Deputy Chairperson - Mrs. Isobel Singh Secretary - Ms. Albertina Lilo, Treasurer - Ms. Joselyn Whitcombe, Mrs. Mary Newton, Dr. Jane Penjueli, Mrs. Sarojani Michael and Ms Tracy Beddoes