



Koroipita – a Model Town and Community Development Programme

By Barry Whiteside

On Wednesday 4th March, following our Board Meeting in Lautoka, some Trustees from the JP Bayly Trust had the privilege to visit the Koroipita Model Town in the foothills just outside the City.

Koroipita is the brainchild and long-time dream of its founder Peter Drysdale. This dream was not just to build houses but more to build cyclone-safe, serviced and green sustainable as well as progressive communities for disadvantaged families. Hence the term model town. It is easy to relate to Peter's dream as we at the Bayly Trust are working to share the dream of our own founder John Percy Bayly, way back in 1954.

It all began in 1985 following the battering of the Western Division by Cyclones Eric and Nigel which left thousands homeless in the Ba - Lautoka corridor. With Rotary Club's assistance and through the Rotahomes Project, Peter set about building basic cyclone - safe homes for the poor. 738 homes were completed across rural areas of the Western Division in

the first 35 years.

The "model" town concept came about in 2002 with the project gearing to address the growing number of impoverished squatter families living in slum-like conditions just outside Lautoka. Koroipita was born following the successful land lease from the landowners of Vitogo Village.

It is a model town and fully serviced subdivision with wide road access, water supply, electricity, sewerage treatment, storm water drains and garbage collection systems. With 3 stages completed since 2002 there are now 261 one and two bedroom cyclone - safe homes at Koroipita which rent out for around \$1.28 per day.

All the homes escaped damage during Category 5 Cyclone Winston in 2016, an amazing statistic considering the damage sustained across much of Central Fiji. A fourth stage is on the drawing board and will add another 123 homes, making a total of 384, with an estimated "town" population of 1,740 people. Funding and support for the early stages came from Rotary Clubs and NZ Aid while the Fiji Government will

be assisting with the upcoming 4th stage.

What impressed us during our visit was the commitment to being a green community. All the households are required to have backyard gardens for vegetables, root crops, and fruit trees (the idea of self sustenance). Hence we saw a tremendous amount of greenery, which may seem a little out of place in the dry surrounding Western Division landscape! Compost bins are placed throughout the community with the end product being put back into the gardens.

What also sets Koroipita apart is its comprehensive Community Development Programme. This is designed to improve the lives of all the residents and in some cases, moving them on to jobs and homes in the Lautoka area. The whole place is set up like a town, with a community hall, a council comprising representative resident Block Leaders, Kindergarten, shops run by residents, market (to sell excess garden produce), and a building to cater for residents running SME type businesses.

There is also a computer room and Library for the residents. The men of the community, who have not secured jobs outside, are employed to build the community homes and do other construction work as required. Various programmes run by community staff, are designed to help residents learn life skills, income generation, financial management, self - sufficiency and environment conservation. What further sets the community apart is the absolute zero tolerance on violence

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From the left are Pravneil Chand, Phyllis Danford, Chairperson of the Lautoka Welfare Committee Stella Smith, Susan Naidu, Trustees Digby Bossley, Viti Whippy and Barry Whiteside at Koroipita.

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Digby Bossley (Chairman), **Waka Bauleka**, **Joel Sahai**, **Viti Whippy** and **Barry Whiteside**.

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Koroipita

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against women and children.

Education for the children of the community is a key part of the vision of improving lives. The registered Kindy currently has a roll of 48 children while all the other children attend primary and secondary schools in the area. 35 residents also attend tertiary institutions.

The community staff is proud of the great results through 2019. These include a 100% school retention rate (zero dropouts) and 4 students on National Toppers scholarships. All the children have access to the community library and computer room. The JP Bayly Trust has also awarded a scholarship to a young lady resident to undertake a Bachelor of Education degree course at the USP Lautoka Campus from this year.

As Trustees of a long-time institution with similar goals to help the poorest in our Fiji community, we were thrilled with the results achieved by



Some of the homes in Koroipita at Naikabula in Lautoka.

Peter Drysdale and his Koroipita Community. We are also proud to know that the JP Bayly Trust supports 11 families within the Koroipita community. They receive regular food packs, medical assistance and all education requirements.

We were also pleased to meet Alumita Rakidiva, a mother of seven children who has come out of a violent relationship. With the Trust and Koroipita Community support, she and her children have been able to focus on healing themselves physically and mentally from the trauma they faced. Today Alumita works as the cleaner at the community hall and assists in events preparation. She also earns

money as a valuable sewer in the Koroipita Boutique factory, a small business enterprise of a number of women in the community.

I must say the visit to the Koroipita Model Town and Community was a true eye-opener for the Bayly Trustees. This is an example of a project which is truly successful. One that I could only feel should be emulated across Fiji.

We congratulate Peter Drysdale for living his dream. We also thank his kind staff, Susan Naidu, Phyllis Danford and Pravneil Chand and our own Manager West, Sarojani Michael, for making our visit possible. *Vinaka vakalevu.*

Trust fulfills wishes of Benefactor

Proud Sevo Lusila Vakatawa of William Cross College in Nasinu was so cheerful the day she got the message from the Manager Central, Manorma Chandra that she was the JP Bayly assisted student who scored the highest mark

in English in the Fiji Year 12 Examination in 2019.

Of all the assisted students in the three Centers in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa, Sevo scored 85% and qualified for the \$250 award from the JP Bayly Trust. She hails from

Nukutubu village in Nausori and lives with her deserted single mother and 5 siblings and aims to become a Doctor after completing her Secondary education. Congratulations Sevo.

If readers have not heard of him, the late John Percy Bayly had great love for books and the English language. To honour this, the Trust decided to award an annual prize of \$250.00 some years ago to a JP Bayly assisted student who scored the highest mark in English in the Fiji Year 12 Examination.

The JP Bayly Trust is a charitable, non – profit organization created to assist the less fortunate citizens of Fiji and to enable their children to receive education. It was incorporated as a Charitable Trust on 30th July 1954. Mr. Bayly died in 1963.



Manager Central, Manorma Chandra (left) and Trustee Viti Whippy (right), hand over the award to Sevo Lusila Vakatawa.

A girl who became a successful lady

“Poverty is not a hindrance to success”

By Mrs. Roslyn Chand

My Dad lost his left leg due to acute diabetics when I was six years old. Since he was the only income earner in my family, life became difficult as my Mum had to take care of all our basic needs.

In 2007 the Bayly Trust family, a charitable organization, opened its doors to us and was there to give support to my family in terms of providing food as well as educational necessities such as bags, shoes, uniforms and stationery till I completed Year 13.

The assistance began from Class 6 and I was also awarded \$100 worth of goodies for scoring the highest marks in Form 6 in 2012.

Later, I received a TSLB scholarship and joined the Lautoka Teachers' College where I completed a Diploma in Education and was posted to Vuya District School. This is my fifth year in the teaching profession and currently I am at Nasarawaqa Primary School in Bua, Vanua Levu.

I salute the Bayly organisation for helping the poor families around the country as it was there for my family for 7 years when we were facing a financial crisis.



A smiling Roslyn Chand

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Counselling on abuse and neglect

By Manorma Chandra, Manager Central

Empower Pacific's Suva Branch Manager and Counselor Ms. Sisilia Siga and fellow Counselor Ms. Kavita Kumar facilitated a one-day Workshop for 19 ladies and one gentleman of the JP Bayly family at its Welfare Centre in Suva on the 4th March 2020.

The turnout by the participants who comprised our registered mothers and guardians, ranging from 28 years to 55 years was very encouraging and they all enjoyed the topics covered. These included:-

- Abuse and neglect of Children;
- Types of abuse;
- Effects on Children;
- What can I as a parent do to protect my Child;
- Gender based violence;
- Physical and mental health issues;
- Being judgmental of others; and
- Reaching out to other families and neighbours

Summarizing at the end of the Workshop the participants opened up with the Counselors and expressed their views on how they were handling things in their own homes. They comprehended on how to deal with situations such as when children and adults become victims of abuse either physically, sexually or emotionally.



Some of the mothers who attended the session in Suva. Branch Manager and Counselor Ms Sisilia Siga and Counselor Ms Kavita Sheetal Kumar of Empower Pacific are seated in the front with the Manager Central, Manorma Chandra.

New staff at Lautoka Center

The Lautoka Bayly Center has a new lady at the Distribution counter. Filomena Susana was appointed in January 2020 and replaces Tracey Beddoes who has resigned after several years of service.

Aged 58 years and a Roman Catholic, she resides at Waiyavi in Lautoka. Filomena is

While sharing their experiences in life, some mothers were in tears. Comments like, "We are just so fortunate to attend this Workshop and now we know how to talk to our children at home". A mother of 5 children who has been a cancer patient and through her faith and treatment is surviving, cried.

She said she was so blessed to be part of the Bayly family and receive so much love. Her children are good but now growing up and they are facing difficulties with the challenges they are going through because of peer pressure. She said, "I will go and sit with them tonight and tell them all I've learnt today".

This Workshop has been an eye opener for all of us and we have plans to work in partnership with Empower Pacific by having future Workshops with more issues and more participants.

The Trust strongly believes that abuse in this area is very prevalent in Fiji and decided to provide counseling to mothers and guardians in all its Centers in Lautoka, Suva and Labasa.

Whilst the Lautoka Center has already completed a session, the Labasa Welfare Center will be having a similar session in due course.

a mother of two, grandmother of three and a dedicated social worker. She is a person with a passion for the less fortunate.

Filomena also loves to give her time for field visits which she finds very interesting and within a short time she has really adapted with the Bayly family.

A successful lady

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Today, at the age of 24, I own a piece of land, managed to build a new house for my family, upgraded my qualifications to Bachelor of Education and got married last year.

I believe dreams can be achieved if you work hard with determination and have the love and support of your family.

3rd Graduation

By Joshika Lata

The event I am going to tell you about is one that changed my life in many ways. Everyone goes through changes and a majority of people have had the opportunity and privilege to experience the changes that come with graduation. I would have to say this is the one thing that has had a great impact on my life.

After completing my secondary education, I started my further studies at the Fiji Institute of Technology with a Diploma in Business Management which was a two-year course. I successfully completed it and graduated in 2005 and joined the work force as a spare parts clerk which didn't bring me much happiness because the earnings I received each Friday was not what I expected.

I started looking for other jobs and got an opportunity to work as an accounts clerk and then my Father encouraged me to go back to University for Bachelors studies in Accounting. I got myself enrolled for a Bachelor of Accounting degree program at the Fiji National University for three years.

During the days of my Bachelors studies, my Mother had to undergo an eye surgery and was advised by the Doctors not to do any house chores. The difficult time began and it was challenging but however, made me strong enough to tackle all that came in my way.

I had to rise early at 4 am to do all the house chores and then leave for work, spending eight hours at work and attending classes was not an easy task. I found it stressful and tiring but as days went by things eased out.

I realized that I was capable enough of handling multiple things at once. I saw myself growing in many ways like enhancing my skills, knowledge and experience that made me stand to a better position.

A day came when my phone rang and this call was from the JP Bayly Trust's General Manager Mr. John Yee, informing that I was selected for the Accounts Officer's position.

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I was put on a three - month probation and after a successful completion, the Trust confirmed my appointment to the position of Accounts Officer with an increase in the salary scale which brought smile on my face and a thought in mind that I should go further with my studies.

I pursued a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting which was a one-year program and after successful completion the day came to graduate and 12th March 2020 was a day to celebrate - I finally graduated, yippee!!

My parents have been very supportive of me. My father's word of encouragement made me what I am today. I take this opportunity to thank some important people who I come across daily: Life becomes a Cakewalk when guided by parents like you so sweet. Thank you.

Last but not least I thank the Trust Chairman, Trustees and the General Manager of JP Bayly Trust that I really appreciate your understanding and support regarding the changes we're making to the project plan. Thank you for your confidence in me. I'm sure you're going to be pleased with the results.

Since the day I started to work with this organization I know I've changed a lot that really helped me to become a better person inside and out. You are one of the reasons why I'm always trying my best. Thank you. You know I appreciate you in so many ways.

I am so grateful that you took me under your wing when I first started with this organization. Your leadership and example have helped me grow into my potential. I would not be where I am today without you.



Joshika Lata holding her Postgraduate Diploma with her proud and happy mother Prem Lata

Tracey calls it a day

By Sarojani Michael, Manager Western

When I first started work with the Lautoka Bayly Welfare Center in 2002, I was very nervous since this was the first time for me to work outside with others.

I really didn't know where and what to start with and then I saw this charming gorgeous person with a beautiful smile and a cup of tea in her hand entering my office and with a sweet voice said, "Good morning Mrs. Michael, I am Tracey Beddoes".

That really made my day. She left the tea on the table and gave me a tight hug and I can still feel that hug. We worked seventeen years together and our love and relationship became stronger and stronger.

All five Trustees travelled to Lautoka in March for the Board meeting after which Tracey was hosted to a lunch joined by all staff, committee members and volunteers and was presented a gift by the Trust. It was a portable stereo turntable, a CD player



Tracey Beddoes with flowers is surrounded by Volunteers, committee members and staff. In front is her gift of a portable stereo turntable, a CD player with Bluetooth attachment.

with Bluetooth attachment.

I learnt a lot from her although she used to work three days a week only, but we never missed out talking to each other a single day, about work, personal or any other reason. The best thing was we both belonged to the same church.

Tracey is such a loving and caring person and welcomes everyone with her beautiful "Colgate" smile if ever for some reason she is not at the counter. My cases walking in will first ask where is that Kailoma girl?

After 27 years of service with Bayly Welfare Lautoka, Tracey decided to leave and spend some quality time with her Mum, who she feels is very lonely after her Dad's recent death.

It was a very big shock to me and then again I realised that our parents come first than anything other thing. All the Bayly cases were in tears as they came to know that she will not be with us from 2020.

I know nothing will be the same without her; it's a big loss for me as she was not only a staff but more than a daughter to me. My recipients, staff, committee members and the volunteers will all be missing her dearly.

Thank you so much Tracey for your contribution, love and support towards Bayly Welfare, Lautoka. As I know she cannot leave Bayly and Bayly cannot leave her so she is with us as a volunteer. Thank you so much Lewa.

May God bless you abundantly and keep you in good safe hands. We will miss you and love you always.

Ladies' Day Out

Showing a lot of concern towards the day to day running of the Welfare Center and since there has been a rise in the quantity of rice and flour in the packs distributed to our cases, there has been an increase in the workload of packing food items as a result.

Trustee Viti Whippy thought of sacrificing her Tuesday Coffee mornings with her friends. Four ladies have now planned to give their first Tuesday of the month to the Suva Bayly Welfare Center to do volunteer service. With Trustee Whippy we have Mrs. Marie Lee, a former Secretary of the Suva Welfare Committee, Mrs Ruby Davis and Mrs. Elisabeth Sorby.

Service with a smile - the four beautiful ladies are enjoying their work and feel so refreshing and blessed.

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Fellowship awarded to John Yee

On the evening of the 5th March 2020, the General Manager of JP Bayly Trust John Yee, received a Fellowship Award from Leadership Fiji. He was among 27 recipients of the award which recognizes the leadership qualities and community involvement of its participants.

The Fellowship Award was the culmination of two years of being involved in the Leadership Fiji program. Whilst he had graduated from the program at the end of 2018, there was a further year of organizing and participating in a community project in order to obtain a Fellowship.

The selected project was to modernize and refurbish

the library at Dama Primary School which is located in an isolated area of Vanua Levu in the province of Bua. It did not have any electricity and relied heavily on solar power for its needs. The library was the most neglected area and it was decided that this project be undertaken by the group.



*Trust General Manager
John Yee*

Due to work and personal commitments in Suva, Mr. Yee was not able to travel with the group for the final stages to see the handover of the school library. However, he was part of the project committee that planned the fundraising and logistics of the event.

“Our group has set quite a benchmark for Leadership Fiji Alumni with this project. We recognized that most of the money and assistance was focused in the urban areas and we decided to help Dama Primary School in Bua. No other group has ever done a project in Vanua Levu and I am proud that I was part of the group”, Mr Yee said.

Despite the logistical and financial difficulties faced, the project was delivered on time. Mr. Yee also wished to acknowledge the Board of Trustees of Bayly Trust for allowing him to join this

programme and for their encouragement.

“Being in this programme has broadened my mind on what leadership means. One of the biggest lessons that I have learnt is that everyone is a leader - from the most junior staff to the CEO. We need to take responsibility for our actions rather than let others do it for us”, he concluded. Congratulations.

We welcome your comments or suggestions on any of the articles published in this Newsletter. Please send these by email to gm@baylytrust.org

Years of service rewarded

By Sarojani Michael, Manager Western

Mrs. Eliza Eastgate has been a volunteer with the Bayly Welfare Center in Lautoka for 30 years which is funded by the JP Bayly Trust, beginning in the early 1990's at a time when she was very young.

That was the time for her to work, earn and enjoy but no, she decided to serve the less fortunate in volunteering her time and later her husband Mr. Godfrey Eastgate, who was working for the Fiji Sugar Corporation, joined as a committee member with the Lautoka Bayly Welfare.

Both husband and wife loved to serve the less fortunate and after I joined the Lautoka team as the Almoner a couple of

years later, Mr. Eastgate passed away. This is when Mrs. Eastgate whom I call Auntie Eliza, really broke down and we all felt for her very much.

I asked her to take a break but she would not and continued her volunteering with the Bayly family. I feel this is where she was getting peace and had no time to think about anything.

A few years later she lost her daughter who was a banker with my daughter and this is where our bonding got stronger. Auntie Eliza at such a young age had so many tragedies in her life but nothing stopped her from volunteering, for she has a passion

working for the less fortunate.

She is 70 plus now and even today says, “I am not retired from Bayly, the day I leave then I will retire”. Isa, Auntie Eliza, I see a motherly figure in her and feel so free sharing anything even personal with her. She is a great person to work with.

In recognition of this milestone she was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the Trust in March this year. Present at the Lautoka Center were the staff, committee members, volunteers and all five Trustees as well as the General Manager.

I always pray to God to give her good health so she can stay with us longer. Love you always and may God bless you.

Working beyond the Limits

By Manorma Chandra, Manager Central

During the 2 week lockdown within the greater Suva area in April, providing food packs to our recipients in the Nausori was not possible and created a great concern.

At this time of the Covid-19 virus my main concern was the availability of food in their homes. How could I sleep knowing that part of the Bayly family resides in Nausori.

One of our recipients, a widow, was finding it difficult in meeting the needs of

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Mrs Eliza Eastgate being presented the Certificate of Appreciation by the Manager Western Sarojani Michael. Behind her is the Chairman of the Trust Digby Bossley and seated on the right is the Chairperson of the Lautoka Welfare Committee Stella Smith.

Working beyond the Limits

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her 3 children. She was very young when her husband died and had gone into a second marriage for the sake of her children.

Unfortunately, when her children grew up to be teenagers this very man molested her 2 daughters and while waiting to go through the Court case he committed suicide. The family was struggling but did not lose hope in life.

On 14th April this year the family was due to collect their food from the Welfare Center in Suva but could not, so I loaded the packs in the Trust vehicle with another staff and took off to see how the work could be done. I had called the lady and asked her to come to the other side of the Nausori



Manorma Chandra, Manager Central

boarder. I parked along the road side and walked to the Officers on the site.

I had a very scary look on my face but a lot of courage within me for a good cause. The Officers on duty and their work were admirable. They attended to me so politely and brought the Government vehicle to where I had parked away from the checkpoint and loaded the 2 month's food packs and it was delivered to our recipient on the other side.

I have learnt that the limits of what we can do and what Bayly is striving for even when we are faced with such difficulties. I was happy for the valuable experience which was worth the effort.

The JP Bayly Trust offers its humble apologies to the recipient and her daughter for publishing their names in the earlier edition of this Newsletter.

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Labasa family's success story

By Kajal Lata

"Education is not the answer to a question. Education is the means to answer all the questions."

Education does not only mean getting Degrees, Certificates and good jobs, it also means getting a life. A life which can change many lives.

For a single parent family with three siblings, getting a better education was just next to impossible but then the Labasa Bayly Welfare came to our rescue. My brother Kaushik Chand, sister Kartika Chand, mother Shashi Lata and I Kajal Lata, would like to share our story and experiences about how we have been helped by the Bayly Welfare team.

Being the eldest and having the responsibility for my brother and sister was a major challenge for me. Located in the rural area of Labasa was our small house with our mother being the sole bread winner for the family who used to earn a few dollars by working in farms.

It was very kind of the Bayly Welfare team who provided my family with all the essential school items, including fees, stationery, bags, books, shoes and uniforms. Before we started attending Primary School, we used to receive regular food packs and then school necessities for more than 20 years and were assisted from Year 1 to 13.

With their support and my mother's efforts, I was able to achieve an aggregate mark of 307 out of 400 while my sister scored 248 and my brother achieved 302 in the Fiji School Leaving Certificate examinations.

Currently I am a staff of Ashabhai & Company and also a student at the Fiji National University, completing my Bachelors degree in Economics and Finance. My sister is pursuing her Bachelor in Economics and Official Statistics at the University of the South Pacific while my brother has completed his Civil Engineering degree course from the Fiji National University.

This is like a dream come true which was only made possible through all the efforts put in by the Labasa Bayly Welfare team in terms of educating us and all the needy children around Fiji.

Indeed, it is a noble cause of the organization and I salute the founder, the Trust and the people who were and are behind its operations, ensuring all needy children get a good education.



A smiling Kajal Lata