



# Forever grateful Parents

*By Sarojani Michael, Manager Western*

Year 2020 was disastrous for the whole World. COVID – 19 came upon us and life as we knew has changed forever. People in Fiji are very badly affected especially in the Western Division, due to the huge number of people who were employed in the Tourism industry and are now without work.

In everybody's mind there was a big question of whether things will ever get back to normal. Their biggest worry was how they were going to send their children to School in 2021. Well, Bayly Welfare and Education which is funded by the JP Bayly Trust, will never leave anyone in the middle of the road. Once we decide to hold their hands, we ensure that they reach the other side and I am proud of that.

In December 2020, we distributed regular Christmas hampers along with a No.17 Chicken, tin corned mutton, soft drinks, eggs, and sweet biscuits. Everyone was so thrilled when they received the packs and most of them were in tears and could not believe their eyes! They never expected anything since we had earlier cancelled our Annual Fun Day



***Mothers at the Lautoka Welfare Center receiving their Christmas packs.***

due to COVID - 19 pandemic.

I was asked again and again if their children were still going to be assisted towards education in 2021 and I confirmed that they would be. They could not believe it and I feel this was largely due to the fact that COVID -19 still being around and the threat of the pandemic was here to stay. As the New Year began the cases started coming to the Center.

I think they only believed it when they actually saw that everything was ready - school bags filled with stationery, sandals and uniforms, ready to go! Some of them started to cry and said they were so lucky to be under the Bayly banner. I could see the happiness on the faces of the parents, guardians

and their children.

It is such a wonderful feeling to know that a place like the Bayly Center exists – a well-

oiled machine, turning out necessities with compassion and understanding.

I managed to do one on one counselling with the parents and reminded them that there were hundreds of people finding it so hard to put food on the table and unable to send their children to School with a proper meal or new bag, shoes and uniforms and to be grateful that the Bayly children are receiving everything new to start the 2021 year!

It is a privilege that these families are under the Bayly Trust and this is the time everyone must pull up their socks and truly appreciate all the good things that we are able to offer.

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***Children receiving their school items at the Lautoka Center.***

*Bayly News is published by the JP Bayly Trust for circulation to its sponsors, individual and corporate donors as well as the public, informing them of the work of its three divisions - the Bayly Clinics, Welfare and Education Centres.*

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

Printed by Quality Print Pte Limited Suva, the cost of publication is funded through advertising and the Trust wishes to thank JANTY KANVAN for its support towards this issue.

# Grateful Parents

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I also showed them the many parents and children waiting outside needing assistance and they should count themselves very fortunate.

Seeing the parents and children walking away with their schooling needs I felt so happy and it made me realize just how blessed we were in Fiji – to be able to enjoy life, move about and have a slice of normality while most of the World is restricted and confined.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the JP Bayly Trust for its continued assistance for the last 66 years and to the donors, volunteers, and the staff. May God bless Fiji and may we always be appreciative of all that He has given us.

## Dux of 2020

**A** Bayly Education assisted student Sevo Lusila Vakatawa in Year 13, received the 2020 Dux of the College award.

She attended William Cross College in Nasinu and was really overwhelmed with her achievement and thanked the Suva Bayly Welfare and Education for looking after her and her family since 2015.

While in Form 6, Sevo achieved the highest English mark of 85% in 2019 and was awarded a cash prize of \$250.00 by the Trust. Her mark topped other Bayly assisted students in Labasa, Lautoka and Suva that year.

She lives in Nabutubu Village in Nausori with her mother and five siblings. Her dad deserted them some years ago and the family has been receiving assistance from the Trust ever since. Her ambition is to become a Doctor.

Congratulations Sevo and best wishes for the future.



**Sevo Vakatawa receives her Dux trophy.**

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

# Former Trustee passes on

**M**alcolm Paterson, a Trustee and Board member of the JP Bayly Trust for twenty years, passed away in mid-December after an illness.

He also served as deputy Chairman of the Board and retired in March 2018 when he was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Trust by the Chairman Digby Bossley. Mr. Paterson came to Fiji as a young man in 1953 to work for Morris Hedstrom Limited initially on a three-year contract but decided to live here.



**General Manager John Yee (right) presents a cheque to the Chairman of Project Heaven Digby Bossley.**

He acted as Father Christmas at the Suva and Lautoka Welfare Centers on many occasions, handing out gifts to children. Mr. Paterson was a former Chairman of Project Heaven, a charitable organization with similar objectives as the JP Bayly Trust.

It was his wish that instead of flowers for the funeral, a donation be made to Project Heaven and this was done by a contribution of \$300.00 by the Bayly Trust and handed to the current Chairman of Project Heaven Mr. Digby Bossley.

The Trust and all staff pray that his soul is granted eternal rest and peace.

## Back to School Giveaways

*By Manager Central – Manorma Chandra*

**W**hen we look back at 2020, it's going to be easy for everyone to only remember COVID - 19. But you and I know there was so much more to the year as children missed school, meals, sports, meeting with friends and many more.

Parents losing their jobs, less hours of work resulting in lower income and even some on good salaries felt the pinch. All this hardship showed an impact on the JP Bayly Trust throughout all the three Welfare Centers in Suva, Lautoka and

Labasa.

We were however, prepared for this over pouring of families affected and determined that we will go along with creating a smooth and successful distribution of provisions and other assistance.

No one who came to our doors were sent back empty hand as long as they brought in proper documents from the Schools or authorities. It gave families such a relief to see

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## Back to School Giveaways

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their children being able to go back to School in 2021.



Parents and children at the Suva Welfare Center after collecting their schooling requirements. On the far left is the Manager Central, Manorma Chandra

## Care for a remote College

*“Come sun or rain, if you are willing to work hard to achieve your aim, nothing can stop you.”*

These were the words expressed by the 2020 Dux, Eseta Matai Vanua of Ahmadiyya Muslim College in Dreketi, Macuata when delivering the Vote of Thanks at the recent prize – giving ceremony.

The Labasa Bayly Center has been providing breakfast items to 25 students of this College since 2019. They wake up at 4.00 am and leave home at 5.00 am each morning without breakfast, to catch their transport to the College which is located 65 kilometers south of Labasa town.

The Center will continue to do so as further funds are approved by the Board of the Trust. The funds were raised during the Northern Crime Prevention Carnival in 2019.

Crossing the Batiri River either by foot or a bamboo raft and then walking about half a kilometer to catch a ride to the College has not been in vain for Eseta Vanua.

Labasa Bayly Welfare Manager Satishwar Chand felt honored to be a part of the Awards day as this was one of the best ways to



Ahmadiyya Muslim College Principal Mr. Masuf Ali, seated second from left. Beside him is the Manager Northern Satishwar Chand and the 2020 Dux Eseta Matai Vanua with staff and students.

to reach out to the community with our message. In his short address he acknowledged all award recipients since they had made both the College and their parents proud.

“Awards are a means to encourage good behaviour and the learning spirit and that’s why it is organized each year to mark one’s success. The aim is to recognize those extra talents of the students and motivate them to shine. The College has always provided its students with a healthy and a competitive environment to help them grow in every aspect, be it academic, sports or any other extra-curricular activity,” he stated.

Mr. Chand also acknowledged the hard-working teachers and all those involved in moulding the achievers and advised students who did not achieve a prize not to lose hope as this was not the end. He added that there will be many more opportunities coming their way in the future.

“Award ceremonies are just a beginning for you and those of you who will receive awards, I say very well done. And to the other students, I say, very well done too,” Mr. Chand concluded.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. The Manager also received a token on behalf of the Labasa Bayly Welfare.

## Making a difference to a rural School

By John Yee, General Manager

I went to Labasa in mid - December 2020 for the usual internal audit meeting and was met at the Airport by the Manager Northern, Satishwar Chand.

Due to the impact of COVID - 19, a lot of travel had been disrupted within the country and flights to the Northern Division and outer islands in particular, were always in question at the best of times. In addition, issues with the Labasa Airport runway also contributed to unreliable flight schedules.

I was therefore, unable to travel to Labasa for the mid- year audit but was finally there and briefed by the Manager Northern on a slightly different excursion.

We were to be accompanied by the Labasa Welfare Committee Chairman Bhupendra Sharma on a road trip to Nabua Primary School, in an isolated area located some 120 kilometers from Labasa within the district of Koroalau in Cakaudrove, to handover donated stationery packs to the Head Teacher and students.

Blessed with fine weather, our route involved going through the famous ‘Hibiscus Highway’ bridging Labasa and Savusavu. I have always enjoyed trips to the North, but this would be the first time to travel to an isolated School in Vanua Levu. The roads to Savusavu from Labasa are quite scenic and make for good driving. Savusavu is located on the coast and has a natural beauty to it. I had been forewarned by the Manager Satishwar that the sealed roads to Savusavu would change to rougher terrain once we began the inland road to the School.

This turned out to be quite true once we went off the tar sealed track and I was grateful that the 4 x 4 twin cab vehicle was able to master the rugged terrain as we slowly and bumpily made our approach. By way of a background, the School is located in Nabua village which consists around 200 residents. It is along the coast of Natewa Bay and has students from nearby settlements and neighbouring villages.

With such a rough terrain and isolated area, it is no wonder that 18 of its 70 students are boarders. After travelling an hour on the beaten track, we finally made it to our destination and were heartily greeted by the Head Teacher Mr. Bal Sanju Reddy, the

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# Difference to a rural School

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School Manager Mr Ponipate Loganimasi and Teachers, Ms. Ana Raramasi and Keresi.

They had prepared a simple but very refreshing lunch consisting of a variety of healthy fruits such as pineapples, bananas, papaws with *Bu* (coconut water) and fruit juices. After a few words of welcome, the Welfare Committee Chairman Mr. Sharma explained the purpose of our visit to the hosts. The Manager Northern and I also shared a few words of encouragement for the Teachers.

As we advanced to the hall, parents and children were already seated and waiting in eager anticipation. Following an introduction by Mr. Reddy, we proceeded with presenting each child and parent with the stationery packs. It was very moving to see the faces of the young children and parents break into wide smiles as they came to collect their packs. Knowing that we had assisted and saved them

some struggles brought a sense of happiness and well-being in our hearts.

Mr. Reddy then gave us a tour of the dorms, ablution area and dining facilities. These were very basic at best and needed extensive renovations to get it to a better standard and Mr. Reddy explained that this was still “work in progress” and they were trying to source funds for an upgrade. The Welfare Chairman Mr. Sharma gave further words of encouragement and mentioned that the School would be assisted where possible by Bayly Labasa.

This concluded our tour of the School and we were soon bidding farewells to our hosts. As we headed back, I could not help but feel sympathy for the hard struggle of the parents and students of an isolated village School. I however, was very glad that we were able to assist them in some way and proud to make a difference because of JP Bayly Trust.

For me, this trip was certainly well worth it and my appreciation goes out to the Bayly Labasa team for their initiative.



*Students of Nabua Primary School with their stationery packs. From left at the back are the Manager Northern Satishwar Chand, Head Teacher Bal Sanju Reddy, General Manager John Yee and Chairman of the Labasa Welfare Committee Bhupendra Sharma. Also in the picture are the School Manager, some teachers and parents.*

## Quality Health Care and Social Services

**M**edical Services Pacific (MSP), a NGO providing Pacific women, youth and children with access to quality health care and social services, made a presentation at a Bayly Trust Workshop in Suva which was attended by all three Committee Chairpersons from Labasa, Lautoka and Suva, Divisional Managers, the General Manager and Trustees.

Ms. Jacintha Mama’o elaborated on the services they provided while Ms. Sereima Seinibici gave an explanation on how they carried out the different types of counselling at their various centers. The Divisional Managers engaged with the MSP ladies with quality discussions on how MSP and the Bayly Trust could assist each other with the services offered. MSP left information booklets and posters which included the following:-

### Health Focus

The MSP program seeks to provide a comprehensive range of health and social services for women and youth. With a focus on strengthening sexual reproductive health care services and family planning and increasing options in service delivery.

### Youth Focus

MSP provides youth - friendly services and seeks to address key youth issues in SRH, such as:-

1. Teenage pregnancies
2. Unmet need for contraception in young people
3. STI, HIV/AIDs and Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI)
4. Sexual violence.

MSP is promoting healthy behaviours through the MSP “healthy choices” community awareness and outreach programs.

### Gender Focus

MSP is committed to rights based and voluntary family planning and works to ensure Pacific women and adolescents have access to quality and professional health services, particularly reproductive health and maternal and child health services. MSP works to raise the status of women and seeks to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and provides clinical services to respond to sexual assaults.

## Donors can receive a Tax benefit

If a Fiji registered company makes a donation to us it is entitled to use this as a legitimate expense to reduce its tax liability. The **Bayly Welfare** is an approved charitable organization with the Fiji Revenue & Customs Service for tax purposes.

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# Hamper give away in Suva

*By Manager Central, Manorma Chandra*

*As you think of giving presents  
To your friends on Christmas Day,  
Don't forget the poor and needy  
That you meet along life's way.  
Give them something that is helpful,  
That will tell them of your love.*

*If you cannot give in abundance  
Give a little what you can,  
For a little given rightly  
May be bread upon the waters.  
You will find again sometime  
Multiplied to lots of blessing,*



***Parents with their children, Welfare staff, Committee members and volunteers at the Christmas distribution in Suva. Standing in front on the left is the Manager Central, Manorma Chandra.***

*That are wondrous and sublime.  
Give to causes that are worthy  
Of your money with a care,  
Give and help to share the burdens  
That so many people bear.  
Let the Christmas thought of giving  
Go with you throughout the year,  
Then your life will be a blessing  
And you'll have the thrill of cheer.  
For in making others happy  
You will get a great supply,  
As our Lord who reigns in heaven  
Will then bless you from high.*

With the love and support of JP Bayly Trust staff, management and our generous donors, hundreds of families in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa went home with Christmas cakes, juice, biscuits, sweets, canned fruit, tin corned mutton, a dozen eggs and a Chicken. WOW!

Our Bayly recipients were really spoilt by the treat. For many 2020 was a year which created history due to COVID - 19 but for these families it was a Christmas to remember.

## Xmas brings Joy and Happiness

*By Akata Davi, Bayly Welfare Assistant – Labasa*

Christmas is celebrated by all and this year, the Labasa Welfare Center's pack comprised extra items and something different compared to the past.

They included a live Chicken and a dozen eggs, in addition to the normal items which consisted of tin fruit, cream biscuits, tinned corned mutton, 3 packets of nutrice juice and a fruit cake. Thanks to the CJS Group for



***Recipients with their live Chicken and Christmas gifts at the Labasa Welfare Center.***



***Smiling children with their Christmas gifts and schooling needs at the Labasa Bayly Center.***

donating 65 tins of fruit and to Ram Sami & Sons for 65 dozen eggs. The recipients were overjoyed as they had received something extra this year.

The students were also handed a bag full of gifts and school requirements as we could not hold the annual Fun Day due to the late school break and COVID - 19 restrictions. The recipients had been looking forward to this day of distribution to celebrate and brighten their lives with joy and happiness.

Most parents say that Tropical Cyclone Yasa just left them in destruction but they were blessed to have this great organization which is there to share Christmas cheers and gifts during the festive season.

Bayly Welfare also provides Easter and Diwali goodies each year and we request more corporate bodies to be associated with us in improving the lives of our beloved citizens of Fiji. May God bless you all.

## Assistance greatly appreciated

*By Afreen Raeesah Bibi  
Year 9 Student, Lautoka Muslim College*

Our achievement is that by the grace of Almighty Allah and with the support of the JP Bayly Trust, my brother and I have successfully completed our year 12 and year 8 schooling respectively in 2020.

Our Mother left us when we were of an early age with our sickly Father who passed away after an accident in early 2019. It was perhaps a blessing that when she left my Grandmother was there to take care of us since my Dad was not in a position to take the full responsibility.

Somehow our Dad came to know about the Bayly Welfare Center and approached its office in Lautoka where an interview and a home visitation were done which was

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### Assistance greatly appreciated

their normal procedure. Mrs. Sarojani Michael, the Western Manager came to visit us and was very emotional when she saw my Grandma taking care of a family of six which included three sickly adults in the house with a son and two daughters.

After a month my Dad went to the Bayly Welfare Center again where he was told that he will be assisted by the Center with food and all our schooling needs. That afternoon when he came home we could see the glimpse of happiness in his eyes and he couldn't stop crying, telling my Grandma not to worry as we will be fine for my brother and I will be fully supported by the Bayly Trust.

The same evening he made my brother and myself sit next to him and told us that we both have to work really hard with our education. He was a staunch Muslim and wanted us to follow our Muslim religion as he did.



*Afreen Raeesah Bibi with her Plaque and Medals.*

In 2018 my Dad had an accident while crossing the road near the house and was bedridden. Again the Bayly Welfare assisted us with a wheel chair for him and after 6 months he passed away. We thought our whole World was gone as we loved our *Abbu* (Dad) so much though he was sick but did his best for his children.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> day of his prayers one of my Aunties who was sick passed away as well and we thought this was not fair for our Grandma as losing two of her adult children was not easy to handle at her age of 67 years.

I felt that this is where my brother and I have to stand by our Grandma as both my *Abbu's* and Grandma's dream was to see us achieve something in life and in our education. We had to be strong to support our *Dadi* (Grandma). I am so proud of myself that I am fulfilling their dreams.

My *Abbu's* dream was for me to learn Urdu and reciting the *Quran Shariff* which I have achieved in last year's examination with the highest marks and received a Medal, a Certificate and a Plaque. I have done it *Abbu*. I am inspired by my beautiful Grandmother. Love you *Dadi*.

Once again a hearty thank you to Mrs. Michael, her team and the Bayly Trust for their continuous support. Without Mrs. Michael's continued support and assistance with counselling, I had moments of disappointment in life and felt low. She was able to pull me out of it in just one session.

Her words of encouragement got me back on track of feeling that life was beautiful and just waiting for me to enjoy in a blissful manner. Without her I would have given up ages back but with her strength and support towards my family and myself we just kept moving in the right direction.

My *Dadi* Salimun Nisha, my brother and I are proud to be a member the Bayly family and this will surely be treasured by mine. After our own, the second family

is none other than the JP Bayly Trust and the Lautoka Bayly Welfare team. Thank you all so much for being there for us at the time of need.

### Centers pursue additional activities

A part from its core function of providing Medical, Dental, Welfare and Educational assistance to its registered cases which continues to be ongoing, all Centers have embarked on Workshops which included counselling and awareness provided to our cases by external resource persons and organisations.

These have been presented by the Juvenile Unit of the Fiji Police, Empower Pacific as well as Medical Counsellors and the Fiji Women's Crisis Center on a variety of subjects which were considered prevalent, topical as well as relevant in order to create a better understanding as well as a greater awareness to the participants.

Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Rape, Domestic Violence, Harassment against Women & Children, Health & Wellness, Mental Health and Preventing Suicides, Child Protection & Drug Abuse and Positive Parenting have been such subjects.

So far a total of nine Workshops have been held and included one on Food Skills & Making Value Added Food Products such that participants not only gain a knowledge on the skills but utilize their learnings and engage in an activity which would bring financial gains to the family.

Additionally, all Centers have encouraged its cases to get involved in backyard gardening not only to improve their family's food consumption with better nutrients but also to save money in having to buy vegetables. This was promoted vigorously and implemented following an assessment by the National Food & Nutrition Centre of our food packs in early 2019.

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