



## Sponsor A Family Programme– A Success Story

*by Barry Whiteside, Trustee.*



In early June of this year in a talanoa and catch up session with a former cricket mate now living in Adelaide, Australia, discussion centered on the fact that many Fijian families are facing severe and unprecedented hardship due to the economic fallout caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. We spoke about the thousands of jobs lost over the past year in our dominant tourism sector and all its ancillary industries.

We spoke of many others fortunate to still have some work, but on reduced hours or reduced pay. Many of the job losses were those of sole family breadwinners. There are many instances as well where both partners within the



family lost their jobs. A second wave of Covid 19 positive cases Fiji is currently facing, and consequent lockdowns, has impacted most other industries and businesses and resulted in further job cut backs with many small businesses simply unable to continue operating. The result of all this is that poverty levels in Fiji are at their highest and we do not see much improvement until our battle with the Pandemic is won and our economy bounces back. In our talanoa my mate and I agreed that we did not see this happening until the new year at the earliest.

Then our discussion got more interesting as we asked ourselves what can we



do about this, in addition to the normal welfare support at the Bayly Trust? We heard that there were many former Fiji residents in Australia and New Zealand and other countries, who would be more than willing to help in some way. Many were already assisting in one form or another. The challenge was to mobilise this goodwill. Fortunately the Bayly Trust has some super friends in these countries to drive the donor search (my former cricket mate being one of them).

And so was born the idea of bringing together willing friends of Fiji to “sponsor a family”, using the JP Bayly Trust as the conduit to deliver the sup-

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### Board of Trustees:

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

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port. The initiative is not a “once off” handout to identified families, but one that will provide them with food and vanity packs over six months. This would ensure some relief and stability for the family over this period.

It is so pleasing to note that since the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021 launch of the Programme the Trust has already received sponsorship commitments to cover 110 families with total funds received amounting to just under \$45,000.

. A big vinaka vakalevu **Jalal Dean** (Adelaide) and **Atma Maharaj** (Brisbane). Our immense gratitude, as well, to sponsors and friends of Fiji who have already come in to support the initiative. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Should anyone reading this also like to be a part of the “Sponsor a Family Programme”, or if you want more information, please contact John Yee at email: [gm@baylytrust.org](mailto:gm@baylytrust.org).

## Working from home– the COVID 19 experience

*-by Manorma Chandra, Manager Central*

The deadly second wave of the COVID-19 and the lockdown at Rups Nakasi beginning at 4am Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 had put me in a difficult situation as I reside in Nasinu and my work place is in Suva.

The road block at the Rups Nakasi demarcated the containment border and prevented me from coming to work. I spent more than a few sleepless nights worried about how our recipients would receive their food packs. Thankfully I managed to organize myself and coordinated with my staff Kusum Lata who was able to come in to work and got details of all recipients phone contacts and communicated with them.

With the help of the General Manager, Mr John Yee, I was able to order stock, make arrangements for the payments from the Head office and request for several volunteers to assist in packing, and ensure all recipients got their food packs. I made arrangements with the families living in the Lami area to get their relatives to collect their dues and deliver at the border. All had happened as planned through my coordination with each individual concerned.

However, I was still worried that a third of the cases helped through JP Bayly Trust resided in the Nasinu – Nausori containment area, and wanting to help those families became my major concern. I knew that getting rations across the border would have been too much of a hassle arranging labor and transport as the Trust vehicle was with me at this end.

Nevertheless, my brain was not resting. I was determined to find a solution and finally got it.

I assured my superiors that I could work from the comfort of my home and I began this project 'Feeding Ones in Need' in May 2021, with the support from my soulmate and husband, Rev. Michael Chandra to reach out to the needy. I got the listing of families to support in my containment area, pur-

chased all food items such as rice, flour, sugar, dhal, blue peas, bathing soap, washing soap, milk, salt, rolled oats, oil, tea, potatoes, onion, egg, tin fish and kerosene.

Along with my husband and son, I began packing at home and delivered rations to all our cases and they were overjoyed as they had no hope to be able to cross the border to get food.

Once the lockdown was opened I had submitted for reimbursement and was paid back as I had no other options in that short time. And the bottom line is that our Bayly families were cared for at that time and will be looked after in all times. Good times or bad times if you can't come to the Branch to collect food it will come to your doorsteps.



*Manager Central Manorma Chandra (R) being assisted by her husband, Reverend Michael Chandra preparing food packs for distribution at their residence.*

## A Heartfelt Donation

*-by Satishwar Chand, Manager Northern*

“Being happy does not mean that you should not strive further to achieve more in life.” Just imagine how one will feel after losing their only son who was in his 20's. Anuj Sharma, and his family had gone through some difficult times and needed much time to fully recover. He had to bring a suitable device (stroller) for his son from NZ worth \$350 but could not use it as his son passed away. Residing at the river end of Waiqele airport he joined Bayly Labasa team as Secretary and this year was elected as deputy chair. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Manager North called him and asked if he wished to donate the stroller to a special child named Solomoni. Without any hesitation he said yes. When he saw this particular child, memories came flooding back of his son. Upon receiving stroller, Solomoni can travel safely from the bus stand to Labasa



Special School. His teachers really appreciated this and expressed that people have to look after these special children so they are not left behind in school life. [Solomon Bayly](#) is one of the oldest NGO in Fiji and, being part of this team, Anuj Sharma has learnt a lot and met new people and showed how people should live in this modern world. He believes his son's soul will be at peace as much as he needed. By volunteering in this organization, he feels happy and satisfied.

By taking the vaccine you can protect yourself, loved ones and your country and by not taking the vaccine you can lose your loved ones and your job and your life as well. **LIFE IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE YOU ONLY GET ONE.** We need to have the stability to encourage social and economic activity.

One of our biggest concerns is Education, our children's future. It has been about four months since the schools were closed, and they are behind academically. Once everyone is vaccinated, things will begin to normalize.

We have lost so many lives due to this pandemic and it is continuing. I am so thankful to God that all my volunteers and staff are fully vaccinated.

I am proud that during the first wave of the Pandemic in 2020 I had emphasized backyard gardening to our Bayly recipients, and it has become so beneficial at this time. I continue to encourage them, and the outcome has been a success.

JP Bayly Trust wanted things to run as smoothly as possible through this time of hardship and we have worked out ways to allow this to happen. JP Bayly Trust did not let our recipients go to bed on an empty stomach, and during the lockdown we made sure that they have their food packs in time. We issued them with two months worth of packs. This is to ensure control over their movements and encouragement to "stay in their bubble". The packs also contained face masks. We are doing the best we can to safeguard them from this terrible and invasive disease.

The work was not easy without the help of our volunteers, but my staff and I coped with what we needed to do. I did not want to get the volunteers involved as they were safe in their own bubble.

The recipient families who were in lockdown areas like Tavarau and Nadi were delivered their food packs. We took it to the borders and we were on our phones with the families as to when and where to pick the rations up. Many of the recipients who could make it to the Branch in Lautoka to collect their packs with the help of friends and families with transport did so, but for the majority we had to deliver.

## Protecting oneself from COVID-19

*-by Manorma Chandra, Manager Central*

As the struggle of the pandemic continues, my staff and I stay protected with mask and sanitizers. With God's grace we will pull through this unfortunate situation. While delivering food rations to the families residing at Wainibuku Hart, I observed that the tenants there couldn't afford to buy a mask or didn't have resources to make one, It was really sad to see that the children were neglected and running around without masks.



**Labasa Welfare Deputy Chairman Anuj Sharma** (standing left), presenting Solomon with a wheel chair. Looking on is Mr. Dharmendra Prasad, a work colleague of Mr. Sharma.

## Making the best of hard times

*-by Sarojani Michael, Manager Western.*



After the first wave of the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020 everything was going smoothly, people were settling back into a somewhat normal life, then suddenly the second wave hit in April 2021, and everything got worse. People started getting sick, dying, jobs were lost while many remain on reduced

Given an opportunity to do so, I quickly took advantage of talking to the children and their parents on the importance of wearing a mask.

Perhaps one of the most striking lifestyle changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic is the mandatory use of face masks in grocery stores, restaurants and other public places. Wearing a mask, especially when in close proximity to others, is imperative to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

But if you look outside of your home, you might find people wearing masks in a variety of different styles: dangling from one ear, pulled down below the nose or resting below the chin. These common mistakes decrease the effectiveness of masking and increase the wearer's risk of catching and spreading the disease.

Many people who have COVID-19 don't show symptoms but can still spread the virus through droplets that escape from the mouth when speaking, sneezing and coughing.

My advice especially to the parents at the HART homes as they are the role models was:

Hands should be washed for at least 20 seconds before and after touching a mask. Wearing a mask might feel uncomfortable at first, so it is important to adjust the mask to make sure it fits properly over the nose, mouth and chin and allows for comfortable breathing and speaking.

- Don't wear the mask under your chin with your nose and/or mouth exposed.
- Wash your hands and sanitise frequently.
- Don't remove the mask while around others in public.
- Don't share your mask with family members or friends.

Lets all work together and be proactive to fight this disease.

The above tips go a long way to assist in this.



**Manager Central, Manorma Chandra handing out face masks to children during her visit to the HART homes.**

## Thank You Bayly for our Breakfast!

*By Mrs Elesi Gade ( Teacher and Co-Ordinator Students Breakfast Committee) Ahmadiyya Muslim College*



**Satishwar Chand, Manager Northern presenting breakfast packs to Ahmadiyya students. On hand to receive this at the extreme right is Mr. Ajenesh Nand, the teacher in charge.**

We, the Ahmadiyya Muslim College family would like to convey our sincere appreciation to Bayly Trust for their continuous support in the last three years in providing breakfast to our students. This year a total number of 26 students are receiving breakfast.

It's a great blessing for their basic needs to be met when students have challenges and struggles to go through daily such as walking distance, transport problem, single parent, unemployment, only certain meals are prepared, none or very little food, living with extended family and even to the extent of no breadwinner in the family. While others stay and watch things happening from the comfort of their homes, Bayly Trust opens its door to care and provide opportunity to these students for their brighter future.

Thank you Bayly Trust for reaching out to these named communities that many might have not seen or heard .....Naiselesele, Nabavatu, Nakanacagi, Valelawa, Lutukina, Vunisea, Natekateka, Batiri and Vunisisiti...This is where the students are from but surely you have touched their hearts. Surely Bayly Trust will be blessed every time these students sit around the table for breakfast.



# Overseas Donors to the Rescue

– by Satishwar Chand, Manager Northern



2021 was yet another disastrous year for Fiji when COVID 19 struck leaving so many jobless and without means to put food on the table. Many lost their loved ones although this pandemic generally affected the Western and Central regions of the country. The biggest question is whether things will get back to normal. It was a blessing that former residents of Fiji now living abroad stepped in to assist the Trust. I believe this is the first time this has happened and hopefully not the last. With their timely cash donation Labasa Centre was able to support 30 families for 6 months till December. The Trustees of JP Bayly Trust managed to allocate close to \$11,000 to Labasa which was used to distribute 10 kg flour, rice, 4 kg sugar, blue peas, split peas, tea leaves, washing & bathing soap, milk, potatoes, onion, rolled oats, cooking oil, egg, biscuits and dignity items including baby milk and diapers. The families were blessed to have these donors that came to rescue and ease their burden during these difficult moments.

## Gone but not forgotten– a tribute to Mrs Stella Smith– by Sarojani Michael, Manager Western



The Board of Trustees, the staff of JP Bayly Trust, The Bayly Welfare and Volunteers together with all our families and friends were deeply saddened to learn, of the passing of our chairperson, workmate, and dear friend Mrs. Stella Smith.

Mrs. Smith started with Bayly Welfare Lautoka in 1999 as a volunteer and held the position of chairperson for the last 12 years.

The Board of Trustees acknowledges her as a woman of substance, command, and acknowledges the commitment she had for the Bayly Trust.

On behalf of the Board of trustees, staff, the Lautoka Bayly Team and Recipients would like to convey our heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the grieving family, and we pray that her soul may Rest in Love and Peace.

From the Bayly family and myself we will never forget you and we love you always Mrs. Smith

## Tribute and Obituary– Mr Joel Sahai – by the Trust office



The JP Bayly Trust is deeply saddened by the loss of Trustee Joel Sahai (pictured left) who passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Joel had spent over 11 years with the Trust and on his passing was Chair of the Welfare, Education and Public Relations committee

He had vast experience in working in the Private Sector and also served on many Public Boards and the Trust benefited immensely from his skills set.

In particular he was in charge of obtaining sponsors and producing our regular newsletter.

Joel was not only highly regarded by the Trust, he also made sure to spend time with the different welfare Committees in Lautoka, Labasa and Suva. Most, if not all, the Committee members had met and communicated with Mr. Sahai. He was well liked and was easy to talk to and converse with.

From the Bayly staff, Trustees and Volunteers, we bid you farewell and you shall be greatly missed indeed. Rest in Peace dear friend.

# Thank You Inner Wheel New Zealand



The JP Bayly Trust was very fortunate to have received \$15,298.57 from Inner Wheel New Zealand (IWNZ). In an email to the General Manager John Yee on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the President of IWNZ, **Michelle Atkinson** confirmed that this amount had been sent to the JP Bayly Trust bank account.

She also mentioned that this came about after the Inner Wheel Clubs in New Zealand had responded to an appeal to assist the JP Bayly

Trust. The JP Bayly Trust is very grateful for this generous and timely support.

Inner Wheel has been a long time benefactor of JP Bayly Trust and we hope to have a long and mutually beneficial relationship with them into the future. At a time when this was most needed, IWNZ has once again come through to help us. We want to say a big **VINAKA VAKALEVU, DHANYAVAAD AND THANK YOU to Inner Wheel New Zealand.**

**Michelle Atkinson**

(picture supplied from IWNZ website)

## JP Bayly Trust welcomes new Trustees

*by the Trust Office*



**Mr. Warren Yee**

Mr. Warren Yee joined the JP Bayly Trust team in February 2021 as a replacement for Waqa Bauleka who had resigned from the Board.

Warren brings with him a wealth of experience in management and properties and is currently the Managing Director at Irwin Alsop Pacific Limited.

A mechanical engineer by trade, he is a member of the Fiji Institute of Engineers and holds numerous licenses and certifications in his field both in Fiji and internationally.

In addition, he has had a long association with sports in Fiji, being honored with the Sports Administrator of the Year 1997 from the Fiji Amateur Sports Association National Olympic Committee.

Warren has been associated with the sport of Badminton in Fiji from his very young days as a player and as an administrator and past President of Badminton Fiji. He is currently the Patron of Badminton Fiji.

The Bayly Trust warmly welcomes Warren to the Board of Trustees and looks forward to a long and fruitful association into the future.



**Dr. Rufina Latu**

Dr. Rufina Latu joined the Bayly Trust in May 2021 as a replacement for Mr. Joel Sahai who was called to rest on 26<sup>th</sup> April this year. Rufina graduated as a medical doctor from the Fiji School of Medicine and holds a Master degree in Public Health from the University of NSW in Australia.

She brings to the Board immense experience and expertise in health and development, in particular the health of women, children and marginalized groups. She has worked widely in the Pacific region and held positions based in Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea working at national, regional and international levels. Following her retirement from WHO in 2018, Rufina continues to contribute to health in the Pacific working as an international consultant with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Bayly Trust warmly welcomes Rufina to the Board of Trustees and looks forward to a long and fruitful association into the future.



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