

Our vision is to develop and enhance the quality of leaders in Fiji

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



William Parkinson

In our April Newsletter I highlighted our response to these uncertain and “uncomfortable” times.

As I write this column Fiji is entering cautiously into a post Covid-19 phase however it is clear that globally we are far from getting control of this disease and that the effects of the pandemic will continue to be felt, if we are lucky, until the end of 2021.

I am very proud of the way in which our Leadership Fiji (LF) Secretariat team responded to this crisis and they prove the point that recognising and managing the “heat and discomfort” in times like these leads to learning and ultimately growth.

For us, like for many others, primarily it has been about learning to exploit distance learning via Zoom and other digital solutions.

Our flagship LF program has continued with participants logging in from around the country to take part in our fortnightly sessions. LF2020 has quickly adapted to this new style of learning and it has been great to see that participation rates have remained comparable to previous years and in normal face to face sessions.

I must thank our speakers and contributors who have also adapted. We invite stakeholders from the various industries and sectors to contribute and speak to our participants and we would love to see more public sector speakers at our sessions.

As I have raised previously one of our goals at Leadership Fiji is to share the core principals of Leadership Fiji across the community in support of our message that “anyone can be a leader at any time”.

The mass adoption of digital learning via Zoom has been a blessing as it has allowed us to launch a number of online leadership programs. These have included short courses on Adaptive Leadership and more recently on developing specific leadership skills focused on understanding ourselves as leaders and in August we will run a course focused on understanding and leading others.

We have designed these programs to run approximately 90 minutes over two days, and typically on a Monday from 5pm so participants can extend work hours to take part. The response has been very encouraging, and it has been great to see people taking part from across Fiji. We are now looking to promote these online programs across the Pacific.

For me, the most exciting of these programs has been one developed by our LF Secretariat aimed at primary school children, the Kids Lead Up Program. This has been a great success and we have some exciting plans to develop this into a separate leadership program for children under 12.

Another of LF’s core roles is, as a facilitator of public discussion on key issues affecting our community. You may recall our National Dialogue last year on Substance Abuse. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic we have hosted a series of virtual forums, the most recent was on Active Citizenship. Once again it has been very encouraging to see the level of participation not only from across Fiji but also the region.

Finally, it has been a long-term goal to develop our community outreach programs in support of our belief that leadership is about taking action and solving problems. A group of our Alumni led by one of our founding program participants, Rajesh Patel (LF2002) have activated the Leadership Fiji Community Fund and will be shortly seeking applications for funding of community initiatives. Their goal is to focus on small grants of F\$5,000 to F\$10,000.00 recognising this is an area that larger donor organisations find difficult to support. This is an important new initiative for the Leadership Fiji community, and it comes at a critical time for Fiji.

As you can see Leadership Fiji remains as busy as ever and I want to thank our partners and sponsors for their continued support in these challenging times. Like most organisations we face very tough financial constraints so we welcome any help that we can get. I think you will see from this Newsletter that we can guarantee a very satisfactory return on your donations!

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Kidpreneur Invests In Own Self-Development

Meet Ethan John! A kidpreneur and true leader who invested in his own self-development. Ethan is in grade 6 and paid for his own registration fee to attend our inaugural Kids Lead Up Program from the sale of his Organic Juicē & Lemon Grass Infused Iced Tea.

This is Ethan's story adapted from his Facebook page Ethan's Organic Juicē & Drinks Bar and with the permission of his parents (follow his Facebook page!).

Ethan's special Iced Tea brewed with love, is now bottled with wholesome goodness and will soon be available at shops and service stations in Nadi.

This follows the success born from the grounds of Votcity Flea Market in Votualevu, Nadi when Ethan started off his small Kidpreneur business out of boredom whilst accompanying his mum to the Flea Market. On his mum's 2nd day at the Flea Market, he was hot and bothered from playing "tag" with his friends and went looking for some chilled juice. He didn't get what he wanted and ended up walking to the nearby New World Supermarket to buy juice.

Ethan said "there was only like 5 vendors at the Flea Market when it initially started. On my way back from New World I figured that whilst mum was busy doing her designer thingy at the markets, I could set up beside her selling something. This would keep me busy and less of an irritation to mum."

So back to the stroll that he took to New World to buy juice. Ethan said "Ok, that's it, I'm an Ice Tea boy, as I didn't find Ice Tea at New World. On our way home mum stopped at the service station, as usual when we stop at the service station, we usually get a cool drink. I looked again for Ice Tea and found none."

At home I discussed the option of setting up a Kidpreneur business and got some good advice from my parents. They asked me to think of one product, provide a plan, a budget and explain how I was going to "execute" it. Big word for my 11-year-old brain. My parents said "be consistent" and they drummed that into me. He added "now when mum and dad said one product, I began to start dreaming of two; an Ice Tea and Organic Juice Bar."

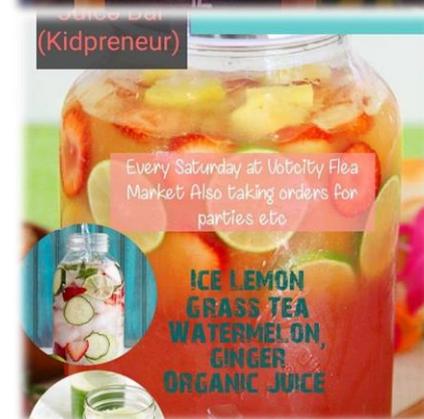
The next day Ethan made a simple budget, got all the ingredients and its approximate costing, and made a sales plan. Growing up watching his parents hustle, somehow seemed like a natural process for him. Ethan believes that being dragged around too often from selling and delivering valves and fittings to promoting designer made wear at his mum's retail outlets gave him the confidence. He said "tell me to sell something to you and I would probably sell you your own house. No kidding! Have you walked into Votcity Flea Market and heard my distinctive voice haling "Ice Tea! Organic Juice!?"

Ethan is proud and not ashamed of his side hustling. He added "I've seen kids who know me or are related to me walk into the Flea Market and look embarrassed at me for selling juice. Simple eh? This juice concept was once a dream, and is now a reality."

Parents and children around Nadi and out as far as Lautoka go to Votcity Flea Market to hunt for Ethan and support his dream. What has he got to lose? While Covid-19 has left him without actual classroom schooling, he is at the Flea Market being street smart. He said "I'm schooling right beside the best teachers, my parents and many other hustling entrepreneurs who teach me customer service and values very few kids will ever have to experience at my tender age. Shoutout to the King and Queen of Votcity, I have self-appointed myself as Prince Ice Tea."

Ethan's uncle and aunties as well as his parents decided to sponsor his Kidpreneur Juice Bar. When you pick up a bottle of Ethans Ice Tea, you will remember its humble beginnings and the kid that dared to dream big. You will remember his voice haling "Ice Tea! Organic Juice!" You will remember how your dollar went a long way and how you were a huge part of Ethan's journey as a Kidpreneur. Ethan's special brew of Ice Tea and Organic Juice is always sold out before mid-day. He is only at the Flea Market on Saturdays as the other days he is at home schooling. Check him out on Saturdays if you're in Nadi.

Ethan proudly said "through my Kidpreneur business I managed to pay for my own online course and now got my very 1st certificate in Leadership, thanks to Leadership Fiji."



THE "A" CONNECTION

Guess who is the writer behind The "A" Connection Blog?

He is none other than our very own Leadership Fiji Alumni, Avaneesh Raman LF2013, the A Connector himself!

Avaneesh launched his Blog on 10th May 2020 having returned home from Myanmar due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. He is an avid traveller and writer, and now keenly captures his interests on his blog site under 6 labels - L.I.F.E, Travel, "A" Creation, F&B, Pic A Theme and A Guest.

L.I.F.E is an acronym for LEAD.INSPIRE.FOCUS.ENERGIZE. This label is about Avaneesh sharing his life's experiences and learning which encompasses leadership lessons, appreciating culture and being compassionate.

The Travel label captures Avaneesh's travel sights and scenes, mapping his journey and experiences of 19 countries across the globe with an interesting array of pictures.

The "A" Creation provides insight into Avaneesh experimenting styles and forming "A" trend. He showcases his own creation and designs, styles and fashion trends whilst appreciating arts and culture.

The F&B label covers amazing culinary and beverage experiences, from home cooked delicacies to restaurant reviews, wine tasting to mixing cocktails and searching for the perfect tea formula.

Pic A Theme captures and showcases Avaneesh's passion for photography. His passion for capturing the moments in scenery paid off when one of his submissions to Alliance Française's "At Home" Photography Exhibition Competition was selected and showcased. The image that was selected (above) for the exhibition was a random click on his iPhone during an evening jog along the Suva foreshore in mid-April. Avaneesh had paused briefly in front of the "State House" when dusk hit. The sun had just parted leaving behind beautiful reflections and it was that opportune time for reflection.



The A Guest label covers interviews with budding entrepreneurs, on their growth and expansion opportunities and challenges.

Subscribe to the "A" Connection [here](#) for updates.



In every issue of the Leadership Fiji (LF) Newsletter, we celebrate significant achievements of the Leadership Fiji Program, the works of the LF Alumni and notable accomplishments of venerated LF Fellows in Fiji and abroad. Do you have great news to share with us? Please email information@leadershipfiji.org

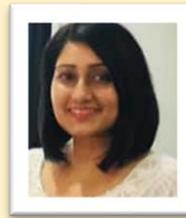
We are always proud of our LF Alumni achievements and acknowledge the perseverance and diligence of those pictured here, after being appointed into positions of influence. Our hearty Congratulations to:



Cathy Wong LF2008 on her appointment to the World Rugby Governance Committee.



Lailanie Burnes LF2009 on qualifying as a World Rugby Coach Educator.



Anabel Ali LF2012 on her appointment as a Director on the Boards of Housing Authority and the Public Rental Board.



Patricia Naisara LF2020 on her appointment as Senior Manager Legal at Westpac.

LF2019 Alumni Mobilizing Community Initiatives

LF2019 collated funds and donated 22 food packs to the Veilomani Food Bank in May, whilst Shurti Kumar rallied some of their West based participants with other Alumni and did a clean-up of Wailoaloa Beach in June.





LF2020 Virtual Sessions Journey

Our Leadership Fiji 2020 participants continued their learning journey virtually through Zoom following the COVID-19 restrictions that were implemented in March. This is their infographic journey of the 6 virtual sessions that were held.



Education

- Key lessons:**
- Impact of Covid-19 on education, especially for vocational
 - Private school curriculum and the initiatives in encouraging early childhood learning
 - Dance and arts are important for a child's development, it strengthens problem solving and critical thinking skills



Fiji's Economy and Infrastructure

- Key lessons:**
- The whole world is suffering due to COVID 19
 - We need to learn the benefits of value-added products
 - In this new world order organizations and businesses need to think differently
 - Infrastructure such as telecommunication, water and electricity have an ever-growing demand



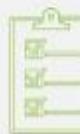
Human Rights & Media

- Key lessons:**
- there are a lot of legislation
 - appreciation of child rights
 - women need to be empowered to take up leadership roles
 - Media plays an important role in our society



Environment

- Key lessons:**
- Conservation of the environment must start early at home
 - It is everyone's responsibility to save our environment and natural resources
 - Sooner or later, we will have to recognize that the Earth has rights too



Law & Order and Government Machinery

- Key lessons:**
- The authority and power to make laws for the state is vested in Parliament
 - Role of opposition is to positively promote effective transparency and accountability
 - Leadership is a process of social influence



Poverty & Social Welfare

- Key lessons:**
- Poverty is a global issue
 - Social Welfare Department is working tirelessly with individuals and communities in an effort to reduce poverty
 - Civil society organizations play an important role in poverty alleviation

Source: LF2020 Duty Group Session Reports

LF2020 Advocacy Challenge

As part of this year's Leadership Fiji Program each team are assigned an international day for their Advocacy Challenge to get them thinking and implementing initiatives that help contribute to mother earth, the society and our communities at large.

Team Tabua were assigned World Environment Day on 5th June and was the first team to kick off their Advocacy Challenge initiative despite the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place. After seeking the necessary approvals from the relevant authorities, they organized a "clean-up" of the Suva foreshore with their family and friends on Saturday 6th June. Meanwhile, Mereoni a participant based on Plantation Island who could not join the group in Suva rallied with her workmates on the Island to plant mangroves, create herb gardens and plant coral.

Team Tuitui were assigned World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day on Saturday 27th June and they organized a virtual panel discussion for interested participants and the entrepreneur community. 38 attendees were part of this engaging virtual talanoa and the panellists were from our Alumni, Eseta Nadakuitavuki LF2002 and Chairperson of the Women Entrepreneurs Business Council (WEBC) and also Senior Manager Women's Markets and Sustainability for Westpac; Glenis Yee LF2006 and Partner of Munro Leys and Arif Khan LF2017 and Founder Owner of Cacao Fiji and Bayshore Real Estate. Some key takeaways for aspiring entrepreneurs from this panel discussion were: think global start local; ensuring proper registration and record keeping; save now for your future start-up capital and have a safety net; understand your market and branding is important.

We look forward to Team Tauratale, Tagimoucia and Tilapia's Advocacy Challenge in the coming months. Keep a look out for updates on their initiatives.

Here are some snaps from Team Tabua and Team Tuitui's initiatives.



Meet our LF Alumni Couples

We are delighted to feature a number of couples who were participants of our Leadership Fiji Program and are now making an impact as our Alumni. We showcase these loving couples who agreed to feature in this Newsletter and were the inspiration to each other for being participants of our flagship Leadership Fiji Program.



Left to right:

- Virisila Buadromo and Arshad Daud were participants in the inaugural Leadership Fiji program in 2002.
- Joseph Magnus was a participant in the 2010 program and Penina is in this years program.
- Elvin Lal was a participant in the 2008 program and Fareesha Shah was a participant of the 2017 program.
- Mereia Tofinga-Kumar was a participant in the 2017 program and Ajay was in the 2012 program. Pictured here with their children.
- Andre Crocker is in this years program and Rokowati was in the 2017 program.
- Neelam Sharma was in the 2017 program and Tirath was a participant in the 2018 program. Pictured with their daughter.

Activities, Events, News & More

Kids Lead Up Program

We launched our inaugural virtual children's leadership program titled Kids Lead Up Program on 2nd June with 14 participants in the inaugural class, and 10 in the second class that was held on 16th June.

The three-part series that runs for 90 minutes each are focussed on the following:

Part One – Great leaders understand themselves

Part Two – Great leaders respect and serve others

Part Three – Great leaders build great teams

The target group for this Kids Lead Up Program initially called for children in grades 6 to 8, however we had children from grades 4 to 8 register. The children embraced the learning with a purpose and made new friends in the process.

The children who go through our children's leadership program will become part of our Leadership Fiji Kids Lead Up Club where they will get exclusive access and exposure to guest speakers and learn the etiquettes of hosting such speakers whilst also giving them the confidence in public speaking. There will also be organised site visits and engagement in community initiatives and projects to inspire gratitude and serving others.

The first guest speaker on 8th August for our Kids Lead Up Guest Speaker Series will be Dr. Thelma Raman, Sustainability Education Advisor at Macquarie University in Sydney and a trained Climate Reality Leader and Mentor. Dr Raman has worked with children and will speak on the topic Young Champs for Mother Earth.

We will also run our 3rd Kids Lead Up Program over three Saturdays in August. Details are in the Flyer below.



LEADERSHIP FIJI

KIDS LEAD UP SERIES

Being a leader will help our kids build confidence and succeed in activities like group projects, team sports, clubs, civic responsibility and helping others. And these skills will only continue to benefit them as they grow older.

This Kids Lead Up Series is a virtual three part leadership program targeting children who are in classes/grades 5 to 8.

Register your child for this virtual leadership series as you prepare them to lead. They will receive an e-Certificate on completion.

Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd August @ 3pm to 4:30pm

Register online or scan the QR Code

\$45
Covers 3 days + e-Certificate

Virtual Leadership Programs

We also hosted two virtual leadership programs targeting leaders in the corporate sector; the Adaptive Leadership which ran over three Mondays in May and the Leaders Understand Themselves First as a follow on from the Adaptive Leadership Program.

Participants that registered were from across Fiji and one from New Zealand, which is a great thing with going virtual.

The next virtual program that we will host is the Leading Others Program as a follow on from the Leaders Understand Themselves First Program and the Adaptive Leadership Program. This is scheduled for Monday 10th August and Monday 17th August. Registration for this Program can be done through the link [here](#).

Continue to follow us on our Socials for updates on the various programs available.



NEW VIRTUAL PROGRAM

LEADING OTHERS

This interactive Leading Others Program aids in the transition, growth and development to successfully lead others. You will emerge a more confident and effective leader able to engage and empower those around you.

ZOOM US
MONDAYS
10th & 17th August
5PM to 6:30PM
Register Now!

\$55
Visit Events at
www.leadershipfiji.org

Upcoming Sessions & Events

Sugar, Mining and Alternative Agriculture Session
Thurs 30th July
Fri 31st July
Sat 1st August

Health Session
Wed 12th August

Etiquette Dinner
Wed 12th August
6:30pm to 9:30pm

Tourism Session
Fri 28th August
Sat 29th August

Leading Others Virtual
Mon 10th August
Mon 17th August

Kids Lead up Series Virtual
Sat 8th, 15th and 22nd August

Kids Lead up Speaker Series
Sat 8th August

Adaptive Leadership Virtual
Dates: TBC

we are social →   

Partners Acknowledgement

FIJI WATER **NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION** **ANZ** **Communications Fiji Limited** **BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO**

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For more information about Leadership Fiji visit our website www.leadershipfiji.org

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If you have any questions or need to contact Leadership Fiji, please contact us [here](#).