



New Chairman for Bayly Welfare Suva Committee



Mr. Jed Peterson is the new Chairman of the Suva Bayly Welfare & Education Committee. He replaces Dr Wahid Khan who has voluntarily stepped down due to his ongoing work and social commitments.

Mr. Peterson is originally from the Garden Island in Taveuni. He has over 60 years commercial experience in senior managerial positions and retired in 2008 after having served 34 years with Colonial Life & Health. He has also worked with BP South Seas, Carpenters Fiji Ltd, Mobil Oil, Asco Motors and Coral Island Motors.

He is a very keen rugby and hockey sports fan and was a Rugby referee for past 32 years up until when he retired in

1997.

Mr. Peterson was the Deputy Chairman/Committee member for Lautoka Bayly Welfare & Education Committee for 18 years and is very happy to be joining Bayly Welfare & Education Suva as their Chairperson.

Mr. Peterson is married to Jane and they have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren who all reside overseas.

Suva Bayly Welfare & Education Committee comprises of: **Marie Lee** as Secretary and **Nilkant Lal** as Treasurer. Committee members are **Shanti Lakhan**, **Helen Southwick** and **Susan Knynenburg** with Senior Almoner **Michael Chandra** as ex-officio.

Shwanal scores the Highest Mark in English for Form 6

Shwanal Chand, a Form 7 student of Mahatma Gandhi High School was awarded with a Commemorative Certificate and cash token of \$250.00 for scoring the highest mark in English in Fiji School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) in 2009.

Shwanal was brought up in Sigatoka before moving to Suva in 2001. He attended the Sigatoka Methodist Primary School, MGM Primary and is currently a Form 7 Pure Science student at MGM High School.

He scored 95 out of 100 in English and a total of 389 out of 400 for Form 6. Shwanal said "I believe English, as it is a language, is a means of communication and a medium of expression rather than just a subject."

When asked about his career choices, Shwanal said he wants to become a Chartered Chemical Engineer with an undergraduate qualification in Chemical

Engineering, Biological Engineering and Computer Science and then proceed onto further studies to get a Masters in Chemical Process Engineering and Business Administration.

Shwanal takes an active interest in music, sports, internet surfing and psychology and has also participated in other extra curriculum and leadership roles in school. He was extremely excited and honoured to receive the award from the JP Bayly Trust.

The JP Bayly Trust has for several years been rewarding students who score the highest mark in FSLC English. The JP Bayly Trust feels that the vital key to breaking the poverty cycle in our society is through the education of its children. The Bayly Education programme provides tuition fees, stationery, books, uniforms and footwear to the children of the less fortunate families registered on the Bayly register in order for them to be able to attend school.



From left MGM Principal, Shwanal Chand, Education Officer Manorma and Senior Almoner Michael Chandra

Hot Cross Buns for Easter

Easter is a festival of fasting, forgiveness and of course - feasting! Whilst many families are able to feast and enjoy themselves during this festive season, many less fortunate families are left out because they are so poor that they can ill afford to celebrate and can barely manage to feed their families.



Volunteers - Ananya and Shanti distributing Easter parcel

An ordinary person may forget about these families, but the JP Bayly Trust and its Welfare centres do not. Bayly Welfare Suva made a huge effort to prepare special packs for Easter.

This year, Bayly Welfare Suva distributed Easter packs to 250 less fortunate families registered on its register which consisted of one dozen hot cross buns, margarine, juice, noodles and sweets which were in addition to their regular food rations. These packs may be insignificant to many but to our families it means the world to them. When

the packs are handed out to the families our volunteers working at the front counter treasure the looks of excitement from the families.

Due to ongoing financial and budget constraints, the Bayly Welfare Centres seek donations from individuals and corporate organizations to fulfil this ongoing tradition.

Therefore, we wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our donors for their invaluable support both to the Trust and to the Welfare Centres in being able to put a smile on the faces of our families and their children.

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Success Story *By Ravinal Kumar – D.A.V.College*



Ravinal with younger brother Shiuwansh Kumar

Ravinal Kumar age 16years, have together with my family been supported by Bayly Welfare and Bayly Education as my mother is a single parent. We are a seven member family and we all are supported by this very generous organization.

The Bayly Welfare department provides our daily basic necessities that a small household needs for which we are very grateful. The Bayly Education Fund is helping my mother to send us to school by paying our school fees and providing every needs of our school.

We cannot think of a way to ever be able to re-pay JP Bayly Trust for all their kindness but feel that by trying our best to study hard that is all the thanks they need. We also make the best use of the assistance given to us.

May our Good Lord bless the Bayly Welfare, Bayly Education Fund so they can help more families like us. Thank You all.

"GIRL AT THE COUNTER"

By: Tracey

I say Kaise, I say Yadra, I say Hello...
 I'm the girl at the counter you know!
 I say Moce, I say Namaste, I say
 Goodbye...
 I'm the girl at the counter you know!
 I say Vinaka, I say Dhanyavaad, I say
 Thank you...
 I'm the girl at the counter you know!
 I check the time, I close the book, I lock
 the door...
 I'm the girl at the counter you know!
 I say 'Goodbye Mrs.Michael, Bye
 Radhika, See you Rish'.....
 I'm the girl leaving the counter you
 know!
 I walk to the bus-stand, I get in the bus,
 I'm on my way home.....
 But I'll be back tomorrow....
 I'm the girl at the counter you know....



Bayly Welfare Labasa Donates Wheel Chair

Meli Tagasa left his village in 2000, to provide for a better life for his family and give his 8 children a good education.

His cousin, offered him 2 acres of land together with a 2 room tin house in Waiqele where he could start off a new life. Just imagine how 10 people could shelter in such a small place. Things went well till 2005 and then his wife – Nanise Caba started suffering from Diabetics which resulted in the amputation of both her legs. She could only sit and weave mats.

Life changed for Meli when he had to do all household duties and look after his wife. Now most of the time was involved at home and he could not cultivate his cassava patch. He had no option but to ask his elder son at the age of 15 to leave school and work on his patch. His young son could only manage to plant for their own use and had to harvest cane on nearby farms to earn additional income to pay for other expenses.

The Almoner asked Meli to apply for a housing and cash assistance from the Social Welfare Department after registering him as permanent case in June 2009.

Meli suffered from a heart attack in November and can not provide much assistance to his wife now. Upon a request to the Suva office, the Labasa Almoner was able to provide a wheel chair to Meli's wife which helped to ease the burden. Meli's wife was overwhelmed with the gift and gave thanks to the Bayly Welfare Labasa who came to assist her in terms to food rations, clothing and to fulfil her childrens educational needs.



Meli with Labasa Almoner Satishwar

Life Is Indeed A Struggle - By Gaytri Prasad

It was just another normal distribution day when Satish and I were in the office carrying out our normal duties. The noise, crying and yelling made me get up and see what the commotion was all about.

I noticed an elderly lady sitting with a group of children waiting to come into our office. I was so surprised to see six children, one only two months old, bundled in grandmother's arms and the rest clinging tightly to her skirt as if some one will take them away. I will never forget that day. I felt so sorry but at the same time a little angry as to how a mother can abandon her children and go away.

The interview with the elderly lady, Chandra Wati revealed that the mother of the children used to work for a motel and stayed there on working days but would visit her children on weekends with all the goodies until one weekend when she never turned up.

Weeks passed by, the mother didn't come home and this worried the grandmother so she went around asking and found out that she has left Labasa and gone to Suva with another man for good. This broke her heart but also gave her the courage to continue to bring up these children. She vowed to look after them till her last days.

After recounting her story, she was given rations for the day and we managed to give some baby's clothes and other items. She still continues to visit the centre and we are doing whatever possible to help this poor family.



Chandra Wati with grandchildren

Struggling for a better future

Originally from the Northern side of Vanua Levu, Losana Maria, had to leave her village life in 1985 so that she could stand on her own two feet.

A single mother of 2 daughters, she now resides just a few minutes from town and close to a school where her 2 daughters are enrolled. Losana's brother built a 2 room wooden house but this house is now falling apart. Losana also looks after her elderly mother and earns some money by selling her produce and receives \$60.00 per month from the Social Welfare Department. During the dry season Losana hardly receives any income due to the frequent water disruptions.

One of Losana's close relative told her that the Bayly Welfare assists needy families like hers. Life became very difficult for Losana and one day she made her way to our office. After the normal process of assessing all cases, the Almoner brought her onto their books as a registered case in February 2010.

Losana and her family now receive a double ration and all education costs for her two daughters are being met by Bayly Welfare, Labasa. Losana believes that by educating her children, a day will come when she will be able to live like other people. God bless them all and their families.



Losana Maria

Just another 'Normal Thursday'

This article is written as a tribute to the individuals and groups who give so generously to the JP Bayly Trust and Bayly Welfare Centres. Your generosity comes in small packs, plastic bags and large cartons. You bring us your offerings and leave them at the counter, you seldom, if ever, get to see the joy, happiness and thankfulness at the receiving end of your giving.

We want to relate to you all, a few instances that we as volunteers witness over and over again and this is a tribute to all donors.

A month or so back, we received several cartons of ladies "upper" undergarments. These were delivered to Bayly Welfare Suva and later shared with the Lautoka and Labasa Welfare Centres.

It was a normal Thursday morning for Bayly Welfare Suva, busy as usual. The Senior Almoner, Mr. Michael Chandra was busy interviewing some of our less fortunate families whilst the Education Officer, Mrs. Manorma Chandra was serving the children of these families. The then Chairperson of Bayly Welfare Committee, Dr Wahid Khan was enjoying his late morning coffee and the volunteers Shanti, Shanta, Vijaylakshmi and Una were engrossed with packing and distributing the food rations. Jasper and Kusum were bringing to an end their morning work by cleaning and tidying up.

All of a sudden, a loud laughter broke out of the distribution corner and Michael, Manorma and Dr. Khan came rushing out of their office to see what all the commotion was about. The sight that confronted them left them wide –

eyed and pleasantly amused. Michael and Dr. Khan withdrew discreetly but Manorma didn't waste anytime in joining the group in the front with her camera and started taking photos.

The ladies group at the distribution corner were having a ball, there was a lot of laughter and noisy comments. You may wonder what was going on?

Well actually, a group of older women were trying on different sized bras in the waiting room amongst all the laughter and bantering. Now don't get me wrong the ladies were trying on the bras on top of their clothes, of course. It was near closing time so most of the crowd had gone leaving only this group of ladies who were enjoying themselves whilst the volunteers looked on. The bras they were trying on were not only new but colorful with pretty lace and embroidery.

The good Samaritans in this case happens to be Ms Liz Baker of Melbourne Australia who kindly organized this donation through Ms Lila Naidu who was the local recipient. Approximately eight thousand brand new undergarments were delivered to us straight from the factory.

There was similar joy to be seen on the faces of our ladies at the Lautoka Welfare Centre as well.

A GRANNY, fronts up to the counter and the scene plays out

something like this. The young lady at the counter says...!! "GRANNY, would you like one of these?" She holds up the beribboned & bowed article of clothing. GRANNY's face breaks into a big smile and her eyes shine as she nods vigorously. "What size do you take GRANNY?" GRANNY looks taken aback, then suddenly the idea takes hold, she lifts up her top and says to the young lady "you see?" Well Tracey squeals, the apron brigade in the background smother their laughter and GRANNY grins broadly. Anyway the right size was sorted and there was one satisfied grandma.

We take so many things for granted, in this case, that every lady has the basic items of clothing, "NOT SO".

So to the donors, once more, you bring so much joy to the recipients and you teach us, the volunteers, to appreciate what we have, please know that down the line, your wonderful generosity is witnessed over and over again.

VINAKA VAKA LEVU, DHANYAVAAD and THANK YOU.



The Apron Brigade (Volunteers) with Almoner & Tracey, Lautoka

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