

FRIENDS OF FIJI

2017 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Fiji,

It's been a busy few months for Friends of Fiji. Our 2017 Gala Fundraiser was a huge success, raising over \$16,000 for projects at the Navatusila District School initiated by the Fiji Association of Washington DC (FAWDC) in response to Cyclone Winston. I'm very happy that our long term relationship with the Fijian community in the DC area is continuing and that we're able to work together like this on worthy projects. Vinaka vaka levu to FAWDC and the Fiji Embassy for co-sponsoring the event, and to Dennis McMahon, Country Director, for coming and offering his kind words for our group on short notice.

The best part of gala planning – I hardly had to do anything! Our gala coordinators Lalesh Nagy and Sala Sucu took care of business as always, and with the help of many volunteers, guaranteed the event came off without a glitch.

However, our work didn't stop for the gala. Since our last newsletter, we've received requests and contributed funding toward five PCV sponsored projects. It seems the tables have turned from times when we couldn't find enough projects. Our projects fund is lower than it's been in several years, which is a good thing because it means we're putting your money to work. It also means we need to encourage donations to keep this work going and gear up for the 50th Anniversary events in 2018.

What's next? Paul Korenberg is coordinating a Fiji I reunion on September 7th in Provincetown, MA. We also have a Bay Area gathering coming up on September 23th in Palo Alto, CA thanks to Paul Milo (Fiji 24) stepping up as host. Planning for the 50th Anniversary activities will also be getting kicked into high gear. Read more about these events further on in this issue.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and please give us your feedback. We'd love to hear any suggestions you have.

Vinaka Vaka Levu, Bahut Danyavaadh

Jay

2017 Gala Report – Sala Sucu

We held the 2017 Friends of Fiji gala on June 17th (Saturday) at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association ballroom in Arlington, Virginia. Friends of Fiji, together with the Fiji Association of Washington DC and the Embassy of Fiji, co-hosted our biennial celebrations. We had Dennis McMahon as our chief guest and gave him the opportunity to share his thoughts and appreciation for Fiji on stage.

This gala is the largest single gathering of returned Fiji Peace Corps Volunteers and Fijians in the East Coast, and because it only takes place once every 2 years, it has become a highly anticipated event in our community and friends from neighbouring Pacific islands. The gala showcased Fijian artefacts through a silent auction, and live, cultural performances provided guests with entertainment as they dined on the most delectable Fijian cuisine. Meanwhile, the famous 'Tuinisau' band set the mood for the evening and kept everyone on their feet to endless 'taralala / tuisi / tuiboto.' A record turnout filled the hall almost to capacity and raised a total of \$16,130.82 for improving the Navatusila District School.

A big, vinaka vakalevu to our major sponsors; Fiji Airways, who kindly provided two return tickets to Fiji from Los Angeles, and the Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay for providing five nights' accommodation (including breakfast).

Vakavinavinaka vakalevu to all our 2017 Gala Supporters – the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Fiji Water, Hot Glass Fiji, Tuinisau band, The American Samoa Society of WDC Dance Group under the leadership of Ms. Isapela Coggins, Rhythmaya Dance Troupe, the Indian drum beater, and all of our generous Silent Auction Donors and Wonderful Volunteers!

Sota tale yani ena 2019.

Projects are jointly sponsored by the Fiji Association of Washington DC.
<https://www.facebook.com/fawdc/> and the Friends of Fiji Organization.

Read more about it [here](#).

Our very own Luigi Zeccardo made a video of the Gala [here](#).



Raffle Grand Prize Winner!

Dewayne Morgan of Washington, DC won the raffle grand prize of a trip to Fiji with a resort stay. Dewayne volunteers with Friends of Fiji board member, Beth Shearer, as a volunteer tour guide on Friday mornings at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Beth was inspired by John F. Kennedy to join the Peace Corps and served in Fiji from 1970 - 1973. Every time she gives a tour, she points out the flag of Fiji in the Hall of Nations and explains Kennedy's creation of the Peace Corps in 1961. How fitting that Beth presented the prize to Dewayne at the Kennedy Center!



Fiji 1 Reunion – September 7 -10 – David Downes

Paul Korenberg has been working on getting the Fiji 1 group together for a 50th year reunion. To date, the group includes 34 attendees: a mix of volunteers, staff, spouses, a brother and a daughter. The event will take place in Provincetown, MA (at the Tip of Cape Cod) from Thursday, September 7th through Sunday, September 10th. Several are taking time to travel locally after the event. After 50 years, we have lost contact with some volunteers and hope that if you were missed you can still schedule time to join. Paul can help with any last minute requests for hotel space, travel options, etc. You can contact Paul on his cell at [978-808-3995](tel:978-808-3995) or by email at korenbergpe@gmail.com. Hope you can attend!



SAVE THE DATE! Friends of Fiji Bay Area Get-Together

Please join us for a Friends of Fiji Bay Area Get-Together!

Date: Saturday, September 23, 2017
Time: 11:00am to 3:00pm
Location: University Club of Palo Alto - [UClub](#)
Host: Paul Milo, Fiji 24 (paul.milo2@yahoo.com)
Format: BBQ / Pot-luck / BYOB
RSVP: http://www.fofiji.org/bay_area_gathering

Friends of Fiji (FoF) is inviting you to this get-together because we are eager to explore ways to support local Fiji Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) activities in areas with interest. Sadly, we were unable to find a day that accommodates everyone and have settled on a timing that works for the majority of those who responded to our survey.

In addition to sharing a meal and socializing, we want to catch up on news (e.g. celebrating Peace Corps/Fiji's 50th Anniversary next year) and brainstorm possible follow-up plans for the Bay Area. One of our FoF Board members will attend this event to get your thoughts.

We will be grilling some burgers - both meat & veggie. Please bring your own drinks and a dish to share if you can. Yaqona will be on us.

We hope to explore ways to organize activities, like we have on the East Coast, which serve the purposes of FoF: (a) to be the alumni association of RPCVs and staff who have served in Fiji; (b) to carry out activities in support of the educational and charitable goals of the Peace Corps; (c) to inform and educate its members and the public on matters relating to Fiji; and (d) to develop a community to assist in accomplishing these purposes.

This event is open to all RPCVs, families, and others from the West Coast Fiji community. Paul will be connecting with the ACS (Adi Cakobau School) Old Girls Association that is active in the Bay Area. We will also reach out to the local Fijian community by placing an announcement in the US Fiji Times. If you know of other Fiji community groups that we should contact, please let us know. Also, please forward this invitation to any Fiji RPCVs in the area that you know, just in case we didn't have their email addresses.

We plan to share notes on the results of this get-together with attendees and with others who couldn't attend. We hope to follow up with a similar event in Southern California soon and are seeking volunteers to host this.

Please confirm your attendance and tell us who will be coming with you.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

For more information on Friends of Fiji, go to www.fofiji.org. In you have questions, please contact us at info@fofiji.org.

Thanks very much, vinaka vaka levu & bahut dhanyavaad!

Congratulations Fiji 92 on Completing Your Service!

A COS conference was held for Group 92 on July 24 & 25, 2017. The group put our Dan Cantor fund to good use by buying two rounds of drinks to celebrate. Thanks to Adrian Mines for coordinating.

The Cantor fund was established by Friends of Fiji in 2009 in honor of the late Dan Cantor, Peace Corps Fiji Country Director from May 1971 through January 1976. Funds are used to “provide support to current Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff serving in Fiji that may not be available from the Peace Corps itself”, i.e. buy drinks.



Congratulations to Group 92:

Kendall Axt, Northern, Cakaudrove; Hannah Beath, Northern, Macuata; Clara Califf, Northern, Macuata; Leonor Cantu, Northern, Bua; Meaghan Connor, Central; John Cortright, Central, Suva; Taylor Faiella, Northern, Cakaudrove; Eric Hillgren, Western, Nadroga / Navosa; Katherine Hillgren, Western, Nadroga / Navosa; Julianne Insogna, Central, Tailevu North; Kelli Maddock, Western, Sigatoka; Kaitlan Mahoney, Northern, Macuata; Adrian Mines, Eastern, ; Emily Mount, Northern, Cakaudrove; Adamarise Pickett, Central, Suva; Ruth Rosas, Western, Lautoka; Jennifer Saunders, Eastern, Lomaiviti; Eric Spindelman, Northern, Cakaudrove

Welcome New Board Members!

FoF is extremely pleased and honored to welcome our two newest Board of Directors members Luigi Zeccardo and Madeleine Pennock (both Group 91). Luigi will be helping us with our website and social media, and Madeleine will be our new Membership Chairperson. Additionally, Seokmin Kim has agreed to take over as Secretary for the remainder of the year.

Fundraising Drive

The past two years have been our biggest ever in terms of contributions made to projects in Fiji. Our total outlay since the beginning of 2016 has been over \$49,000. This is great news. The flip side is that we now find ourselves with less than \$3,000 in the Projects Fund, and requests for project support continue to come in. Many RPCVs will be returning to Fiji in 2018 who would like to participate in service projects. We anticipate those projects will need financial support as well, so we are kicking off a fundraising drive. Please help us by making a donation. Also, send us any ideas you may have for fundraising. Note, donations will go to projects in Fiji and associated administrative costs, which are very low. No part of the donations will be used to subsidize travel or entertainment for the 50th Anniversary trip. Donate at www.fofiji.org. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible!

Design Opportunities – Show off your creative skills!

1. Achieve immortality with your design on a postage stamp!

We sent out an email blast a few days ago requesting design submissions for a Peace Corps Fiji 50th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp. Publication of the stamp will be a collaboration with the US Embassy and Fiji's Philatelic Society. This will be circulated for use in normal postage in Fiji. The main challenge at this point is to come up with some good designs. This is where all of you come in...

We are inviting submissions of designs for the stamps. These can be photographs or artwork, but should somehow capture the unique relationship between the US and Fiji that is enabled by the service of Volunteers. Here are some details to keep in mind:

- Please submit design suggestions by 31 August 2017 for submission of images
- Historical photographs are most certainly welcome, as are sketches and other artwork
- Designs can be submitted to the following email address: dennis.mcmahon@gmail.com
- If you have a large number of images, you can send lower resolution files initially, and then send the full version once they've been selected. (But if you do this, please indicate if you have higher resolution images).

Deadline for submissions: August 31, 2017

Submit to: dennis.mcmahon@gmail.com

Or....

2. Achieve short-lived notoriety with your design on a t-shirt!

We can't have a major event without a t-shirt. Here's your chance to see your fellow PCVs and RPCVs wearing your very own art work.

Extensively detailed criteria can result in a cluttered hodgepodge of symbols in attempts to touch all the bases. We'll keep this simple to encourage your utmost creativity: Peace Corps; Fiji; 50 years.

Submit a full back design approximately 11" wide x 12" tall, and a pocket design approximately 3" x 3". Submit pdf files for selection. Original file format for winning design may be required for printing.

Deadline for submissions: September 30, 2017.

Submit to: info@fofiji.org

Fiji Day Picnic in Arlington, VA

We'll be celebrating Fiji Day with a Pot-Luck Picnic in Arlington, VA

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2017

Time: 12:00 noon till 5:00 PM

Location: Potomac Overlook Regional Park
2845 Marcey Rd, Arlington, VA 22207

Bring your drinks, something to throw on the grill and a special dish to share. All members of the Fiji & Peace Corps community are invited. Guitars & ukuleles welcome!

[Click here for more info](#)

Fiji Trip / Projects / 50th Anniversary Planning – Jay Sztuk

With the gala behind us, I was able to take some time off and make a long overdue trip back to Fiji. The last time I was there was in 1997. Each time I've visited since my COS in December of 1976, there have been many changes, but not as dramatic as after this last 20 year hiatus - paved roads all the way around Viti Levu, the Denarau development, huge new buildings in downtown Suva, a major road running through what used to be my backyard. Sadly, the site of the mango tree in 3 Miles where I spent many evenings drinking kava is now occupied by the Nabua Police Station. On the plus side, dining options have improved greatly, with many more choices besides the New Peking or back of a Morris Mini panel wagon. Weather in early July was perfect. Fijians complained about the cold with evening temps in the low 70's, days never got above the mid 80's, it hardly rained, and there were very few mosquitos. Definitely the best time of year to visit.

I was able to take some time away from visiting family and old friends to get out and meet some of the people FoF has been working with in Fiji and try to get some ideas for service projects we might work on during next year's 50th anniversary celebrations. I'm including a report on some of the stops here as a sample of some possibilities and to generate some interest. If you see anything here that piques your interest or inspires any ideas please let us know if you'd be interested in participating or helping organize.

I met with Dennis McMahon, Peace Corps Fiji Country Director, who will be helping to coordinate things on that end. He met with the Ambassador recently, and we are planning on going ahead with the celebration between June 23 and July 1. The first weekend will be an opening function somewhere in the Nadi area, after which folks can visit their old sites, participate in some service projects, or just relax and be tourists. In the following weekend, there will be a commemorative event in Suva.

We will continue working on plans over the next several months and will keep you updated.

Happy Chickens

My first stop was at the [Sustainable Environmental Livelihoods for the Future](#) (SELF) farm to meet Dr. Austin Bowden-Kerby (see John Reeder's article in our spring newsletter). Spending a few hours with Dr. Bowden-Kerby is almost worth a trip to Fiji in itself.



Fiji Trip / Projects / 50th Anniversary Planning – Jay Sztuk

Austin's ties to Fiji date back to the 1970's when his father worked with UNDP in Suva. He's been working in Micronesia and Fiji for many years as a marine scientist and more recently has delved into sustainable farming in the Sigatoka Valley. He's working with some PCVs to hold workshops for their communities.

A few survey respondents said they would be interested in something related to farming, environmental work, or marine resources. Austin's work covers all those areas so there should be some potential here. In any case, they offer a homestay at the farm and can accommodate up to 30 people if anyone wants to visit. Austin will definitely find some way to make productive use of your time.

Rise Beyond the Reef

Next, I visited Janet Lotawa of [Rise Beyond the Reef](#). RBTF works with remote communities in the Western District, and Friends of Fiji has supported their projects for a few years. Most recently, we helped fund crop restoration projects after Cyclone Winston. One of RBTR's programs helps women generate income through contemporary traditional arts & crafts, and we would love to put some of our former art teachers in touch with Janet to talk about conducting a craft workshop or two, if anyone is interested!



Marist Champagnat Institute

Three years ago, following Ann (Fiji4) Couzens' lead, FoF established a scholarship at the Marist Champagnat Institute in Vatuaqa – a school for special needs students. The institute has a vocational program, which trains students to work as pre-school teachers. There are currently 12 students in the program; one is on a scholarship established by Ann and another on a FoF scholarship.

We'll be following up on a small project Ann has proposed that will require some carpentry and maybe welding skills. The school has a workshop so it may be a good chance to work hand in hand with the students. There may also be some opportunity to help with classes or preparation of learning materials.



Rotohomes, Koroipita

I've been interested for some time in being involved with Koroipita, a community for displaced families near Lautoka. Peter Drysdale has built hundreds of homes in Fiji, including the 231 at Koroipita that survived Cyclone Winston without any damage.

Fiji Trip / Projects / 50th Anniversary Planning – Jay Sztuk

Rotary Club of New Zealand had funded Koroipita initially, and New Zealand Aid had offered some assistance as well recently. This is a very impressive undertaking, and Mr. Drysdale hopes Koroipita will be a model community for climate change refugees.



They will be wrapping up the final phase of construction around the time our group arrives for the anniversary. However, there should still be small projects that we can help with, like building security gates for breezeways that separate living areas from the kitchen/bath area. In any event, Peter has invited our group to visit the site for a couple of hours and view his presentation. We're looking for someone who will take the lead in coordinating activities with Peter. Please contact us if you're interested.



Daniel Naidu — 5+ Nambarrrr 1 place to live.Very greatfull to mr Pita Drysdale for giving my family the opportunity to stay here. Thanks Sir.

Like · Comment · about 2 years ago · 1 Review ·

Ra Projects

The last stop on our Viti Levu circuit was to visit John (Fiji 63) & Judy Caldeira just outside of Rakiraki. Cyclone Winston had damaged this area most, and John & Judy's own home lost part of its roof during the storm.

Immediately following the cyclone, John started receiving emails from friends & family asking how they could help. Within seven days, he was putting donated funds to work by ordering building materials to help his neighbors repair their homes. By the time FoF got in touch with John, his work was already underway. Nevertheless, we were able to make a small contribution to repair roads and replace bus shelters.



Fiji Trip / Projects / 50th Anniversary Planning – Jay Sztuk

Installing culverts (shown in picture), in particular, proved how just a small contribution can have a big impact. Heavy rains had washed out the road previously, but with the culvert installed, storm water now flows through without washing out the only access to several homes down the road. The Caldeira's neighbors we met were all extremely appreciative of the assistance they received. John will be helping with anniversary planning on the Fiji end.



What next?

Several survey respondents were interested in a Habitat type project. We're exploring opportunities, either through Habitat or other organizations. We're also working on getting a group deal on air fare and group rates at hotels.

The Friends of Fiji Board of Directors will do its best to help organize and promote activities both in Fiji & stateside, but we can't do everything alone. Here are some ideas on how you can help:

- Organize a reunion for your group
- Host a get together in your area
- Organize a local service project with other RPCVs in your area
- Organize a fundraiser for the FoF Projects Fund

Although events in Fiji will be during a specific time frame, events in the U.S. could be held any time during the year. We will gladly help promote any initiative through our contacts list and social media.

THEN AND NOW

Thanks to David Downes, I managed to get a copy of the Peace Corps Fiji newsletters from the 60's and 70's. Back when I was a volunteer, I shared sections from the old newsletters for current volunteers. Comparing the thoughts and experiences of some of the first volunteers with ours gave insights into the state of Fiji and how much Fiji has changed (or hadn't!). With the 50th Anniversary coming up, David and I thought it would be good to share some of these old stories again here.

The following is a section of an article by Gary Mitchell for the 1969 summer newsletter, describing his first impressions of his visit to Tonga. The full article and the rest of the newsletter will be on our website!

Seokmin Kim

KCHKCHKCHKCHKCH!! – Gary Mitchell

I.

There were no shadows over the land except the shadow of our plane. Two-dimensionality of sky and plain, of plane and coconut forest, of blue and green, of sky and coral. The straight yellow lines were sand trails that cut the green into huge, raw chunks of vivid green. We swooped lower. Millions of coconut trees, the glimmer of a tin roof, the impact of flatness and green-ness and quoth the raven, nothing more.

Then, before I had time to think of where the stretch of airfield was, the plane was rolling over a “pasture” and turning and taxiing and stopping in front of a duplicate Nausori airport, sans flags, sans flaming cuttings, sans crowds, sans nearly everything.

A brisk breeze startled me with its coolness, at 1:30p.m.! My foot touched the grassy turf and noted the softness of sand under the vegetation.

And it was as if a time machine had carried me into the past – twenty or thirty years into the past, and that time had flattened and dulled Fiji, turned its citizens fat and pimply and lax, taken away the color and the spicy odor and the drama of sand and lava, Fijian and Indian, capital and poverty, cane, and coconut.

II.

“Why in hell are you taking leave in Tonga, of all places?” One Tongan PCV asked me. And

in his sardonic smile, I read the pleasures he had experienced during his leave in Fiji, in Suva. His questions came five days after the plane touched down, and after five days, I couldn't really answer him. Tonga receives only a handful of tourists via air; most come by ship. Except for one expensive hotel in Nuku'alofa, there is no really nice place to stay in the whole of the country. Unless you like staying at the Beach House: Quonset hut bedrooms, cold showers, a snappy German manageress, and “No-Tongans-Allowed-On-The-Premises” strictly if unwittingly observed. Or unless you like staying with PCV's, Tongan-style.

I looked at that sardonic smile and said, ‘I came to see if things in Tonga are really so bad as people, you people, say. What's the Peace Corps bag in Tonga? How do you people live? How do you keep your sanity? What do you people eat? Talking about? Relate to? Bitch about? Is there anything you're doing better than we are in Fiji? Are you guys so happy or as messed up as we are? Do you –’

At which point, he interrupted me with that famous clearing-of-the-throat glissando that Tongans use when they wish to show undisguised disgust.

“Kchkchkchkchkchkch!” – which I took to mean, ‘get out of here and find out for yourself.’ But he went on, “We just got rid of two Peace Corps assessors who went through that same jive. And they left us after plastoring an ‘APATHY’ label all over us. See if I'm gonna help you!”

COCONUT WIRELESS

Coconut Wireless is the current Peace Corps Fiji Volunteer newsletter. Written and edited by current volunteers, it gives PCVs a medium for sharing their thoughts and experiences in Fiji. Friends of Fiji posts the latest publication on our website, and if you would like to read more about current volunteers, please check it out!

The following is an article written by Connor MacKenzie, a current volunteer living in Natokalau Village in Kadavu.

Seokmin Kim

Jimoni Vulavula – Connor MacKenzie PCV 92



If I had to pick one of my favorite aspects of Fijian culture, it would be their storytelling ability and variety of tales. While many of us are familiar with the tried and true stories of someone's cousin-brother catching a 50kg fish with their hands or that one time the Fiji 7's team visited the village after Rio, I might guess that not many of you are acquainted with the best Fijian stories out there. These would of course be the tales of the Jimoni or in English, the devil.

Most villages across Fiji have some version of a unique Jimoni who wanders the village, preying upon those unsuspecting wanderers at nighttime. Whether it be Muro the shape shifter of Beqa, the six headed snake in the Yasawa islands, or the three curses of Vabea, Ono; these stories are unique and customized to each village.

The manner in which I discovered the history of the Jimoni who preys upon my community was both hilarious and terrifying. The first day I arrived in Natokalau, Kadavu my confidence in Fijian children instantly loving me was shattered. For the first week whenever a young child saw me, they instantly broke down crying and ran as fast as they could back home to the safety of their Nau. Talk about a comforting welcome, even the kids would not talk to me.

As I would later find out from my community members, the reason for their fear was because of the stories of the Jimoni Vulavula who wanders through our community and everyone is familiar with from a young age. Eventually, the children realized I was not in fact the white devil, but it did cause the nickname Jimoni to stick amongst some of the cheekier youth. Lucky me. Looking back on this part of the story, it is certainly comedic, and now when guests visit me, I laugh along with the rest of the community as children break down crying and screaming as they flee in terror from them.

Jimoni Vulavula – Connor MacKenzie PCV 92

But it was once I learned the full tale of this Jimoni Vulavula that the terror began. The condensed version of the story is as follows:

Located ten minutes' walk from the village is our school compound consisting of Richmond Methodist Primary, Vuli Lotu, and the secondary school. The school began way back in the late 19th century and was founded by a group of white Methodist missionaries. During the founding years, one of these missionaries died under "mysterious" circumstances and was buried right under the compound. Thus we have the origin story for our Jimoni Vulavula.

I've heard from countless members of my community that they've seen an older white man with long white hair wandering around the area at nighttime dressed in a dirty grey sulu. Typical areas where he is seen are at the beach during nighttime waiting to snatch the ladies fresh catch of fish, along the paths to the dalo plantation looking for some nice dalo to accompany his stolen fish, or in the more sinister locale, atop the Church in the evening. I personally have never seen this Jimoni in real life, despite my father in the village asking if I wanted to go on a 3am hunt for him, but I've still had some "eerie" experiences.

The most unsettling was right before I learned the complete tale of the Richmond Jimoni Vulavula. I was visited in a nightmare by a man who matched the physical description of our Jimoni, yet the terrifying part was that

nobody had described his appearance to me yet. My neighbors face as I described this dream man to him and his wife will never be forgotten.

My other encounter with the Richmond Jimoni Vulavula was during night classes last year. As one of my students was headed back home from the school compound through the jungle path to the village, she came across a white man with long hair in a sulu, expecting it to be me returning as well. She belted out a hearty "BULA" as they crossed paths, but no response was given. Such a rude Jimoni. The next day at school she asked me why I didn't say "bula" last night when she saw me, only to be shocked into silence as I told her that wasn't me as I was home asleep... shudders all around.

So whether or not you believe the tales of the Richmond Jimoni Vulavula or think that I've watched one too many episodes of the X-Files and spent a too much time telling stories with my neighbors, I encourage you to still reach out to your community about these stories. They are fascinating and may help to reveal some truth or reasoning behind village mysteries or odd events.

Then the only question left will be, do you believe?

Friends of Fiji

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EDITOR'S NOTE – Seokmin Kim

Colo gali! I hope you enjoyed this latest publication. As Jay said, Friends of Fiji has had a busy past few months. Luckily, I spent my summer interning in Washington DC, so I was finally able to help out in person! After hearing so much about them and getting invaluable support from them, it felt good to contribute.

I am now away from DC, but I still hope I can help out. Thankfully, making this newsletter doesn't require me to be on site with everybody. As I said before, I will attach the old and current volunteer newsletters for those getting this through email. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter!

Vinaka
Seokmin Kim

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