

Project Update

Fiji Preschools Development Project



WELCOME TO OUR UPDATE NEWSLETTER

In January 2018 we launched the Fiji Preschools Development Project for our eight preschools around Fiji.

This newsletter contains general updates on what has occurred in the project from October 2018 until April 2019.

We are happy to see the progress that has taken place in recent months and we are excited for what we are hoping to achieve in the future.

I would like to thank everyone who supports the preschools. Everything you do for the preschools is greatly appreciated. I trust everyone will enjoy reading through this newsletter.

Pr Mike Groom

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May 2019



OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

This project has three goals that were developed to assist in achieving the overall aim of the project that is laid out in the major objective. The major objective of the project is:

To have eight fully functioning preschools complete with facilities that meet government and OHS standards, trained and certified teachers, and sewing courses to empower mothers and other women in the preschool communities.

Goal one is to establish and maintain preschool facilities that meet government and OHS standards. The outcome of this goal will be to have fully functioning sanitary toilet facilities and safe playgrounds in every preschool by the end of 2020.

Goal two is to improve quality of education and management of the preschools through enhancing teacher capacity. The outcome of this goal will be to have preschool teachers that are professionally equipped to run preschools and deliver quality education.

Goal three is to provide sewing courses to empower mothers and other women in preschool communities to better provide for their families. The outcome of this goal will be to have women who are equipped with skills that enhance employability and improve the livelihoods of target communities.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATIONS

In November 2018 we held graduations in each of our preschools. These events are a highlight of the year where children are dressed in graduation gowns and



family members come and celebrate their children's achievements.

The number of graduates from each preschool are highlighted below.

Nacavanadi: 14 graduates
 Savu Savu: 43 graduates
 Labasa: 27 graduates
 Daku: 11 graduates
 Koro Island: 10 graduates
 Sigatoka: 30 graduates
 Suva: 73 graduates
 Lakena: 31 graduates

MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES

Over the last few months we were able to perform maintenance work and general upgrades on some of our preschool facilities.

In our Lakena preschool the classroom was painted, new carpet was laid and a new blackboard was installed. Our Koro Island, Daku, Sigatoka and Suva preschools also enjoyed new paint jobs. Our preschool in Nacavanadi received new carpet, however, this preschool and our one in Savu Savu are relocating to new properties in the coming future so no further upgrades were undertaken.

Finally, our preschool in Labasa were able to extend their facility to create more room for the children. This is an exciting development and something that has been a goal for the Labasa preschool for a while now.

PLAYGROUND FOR OUR SUVA PRESCHOOL

A brand new playground and fence were



built for our preschool in Suva. This includes slides, swings and a sand pit among other things. This is our biggest preschool so it is exciting to have an outdoor area that the children can now enjoy.

Our Pukekohe church in New Zealand funded the development of this playground and were heavily involved in its construction. We would like to extend a very big thank you to them for their generosity and hard work.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND NEWS

We have seen a number of other exciting developments to playgrounds in preschools outside of Suva. Our preschools in Labasa and Sigatoka enjoyed some upgrades to their

playgrounds. In Labasa the swings were upgraded and in Sigatoka the whole playground was repainted and a swing was added.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Our Preschool Teacher Training Workshop that was held from Tuesday the 23rd of April until Thursday the 25th of April in Suva was a huge success! We had multiple teachers from each preschool in attendance as well as a few Bible school students who were encouraged to join in.

A lady from Adelaide, who has ran our last two workshops, ran this year's one as well. She is an accredited trainer and she was joined by another young lady from Adelaide who works as an early childhood educator.



The major focus of this year's workshop was *The Importance of and Theory Behind Learn and Play*.

A couple of practical sessions were held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. During these sessions it was evident that the teachers were having a lot of fun! On the Tuesday afternoon they focused on 'Setting up a Learn and Play Environment'. Our two trainers gave some practical examples of how to link different themes into the children's play.

On the Wednesday afternoon they explored 'Teaching Children Craft'. Various craft activities were set up around the room and the teachers had an opportunity to experiment. This session ran overtime as everyone had too much fun creating different items and experimenting with new ways of teaching children different lessons through craft.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

"I enjoyed learning ideas and the ways of dealing with children in preschool when they are not feeling good when they enter the classroom. I also enjoyed our time together with all the teachers."

"I enjoyed learning that we should value play, and art and craft."

"I enjoyed learning about how we can share with and support the children with craft and other activities. I also learnt that we need to educate the parents with what we are doing so they have a better understanding about the preschool."

"I enjoyed my time energising before the workshop sessions through dancing and singing along with the other preschool teachers".



SUCCESS STORIES

A number of ex-students have achieved great success in their futures. Some have become doctors, lawyers, policemen, teachers, health inspectors, chefs, nurses, blood doctors, members of the British army. A number of younger ex-students have been doing very well in school. For example, students who graduated from the Koro Island preschool last year are reportedly the best students in their year one classes and their English is at a high level compared to other students.

CHALLENGES

Our main challenge revolves around changes in the government. We are believing that everything will work okay for us and that any changes do not have a negative impact on our preschools.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

Over the next six months for our first goal we plan to continually upgrade our general preschool facilities where funds permit. In addition to this, we would also like to continue building new playgrounds and upgrading existing ones.

Within our second goal we are continuing to develop our Preschool Teacher Training Course so we can receive accreditation and approval from the necessary bodies. We are also focused on setting up our in-country NGO so that our course has a covering body.

For the next six months in our third goal we are focusing on simply running sewing classes in our Suva preschool after our head trainer has completed her studies.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

We have been able to secure tax deductible benefits for this project thanks to our partnership with Global Development Group (GDG). If you would like to donate towards the Fiji Preschools Development Project with the benefit of tax deductibility please follow the instructions below.

Step 1: Direct Bank Deposit (online)

Direct Deposit tax deductible donations can be made using the following details.

Account Name: Global Development Group
BSB: 064118
Account Number: 10200094
Reference: e.g. J. Smith J352N

Please make sure you include your initials (e.g. J. Smith), followed by **J352N** in the reference section so GDG can trace your deposit.

Step 2: Email GDG your donation details

Email info@globaldevelopment.org.au with the following details.

- a) Your name and address
- b) Amount and date of donation
- c) Project number - **J352N**

GDG will send you a receipt for your tax deductible donation.

If you would like to contribute to the project on a regular basis you will need to set this up with your bank and then let GDG know that it will be a recurring donation.

Thank you very much for your support!

Partner Information

Bethel Crusade Preschools is a partner for project J352N Fiji Preschools Development Project with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for this approved development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J352N. If funds raised exceed the requirement for this project, funds may be directed to another approved activity.

Please note, no non-development (evangelistic, political or welfare) activities are a part of, or funded by, GDG projects.

For more information about Global Development Group please visit:
www.gdg.org.au

For more information about the project please visit:
www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ352N



PROJECT VIDEO LINKS

Fiji Preschools Development Project - Goal 1 Overview
<https://youtu.be/40XXW1fZF6Q>

Fiji Preschools Development Project - Goal 2 Overview
https://youtu.be/RBgDW5xb_zE

Fiji Preschools Development Project - Overview
<https://youtu.be/vVbdkv5-3ww>