

# **SALT MAKING & CRAFT WORKSHOP**

## **TIKINA MALOMALO, NADROGA**

### **24TH - 28 TH JANUARY, 2005**



**PREPARED BY: MS NIQA TUVUKI**  
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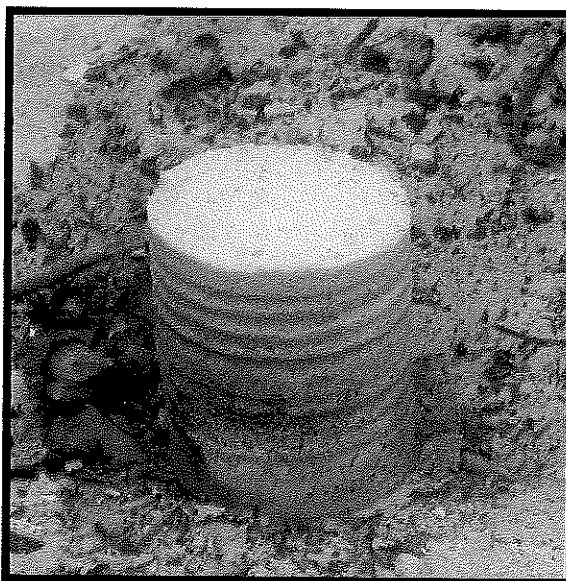
**Salt Making and Craft Workshop**  
**Tikina Malomalo, Nadroga**  
**24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2005**

## **1.0 Introduction:**

It is vital to consider all our heritage values when making decisions that will affect the future of a place, both natural and cultural issues that relates to the conservation of cultural values that may affect the selection of appropriate conservation processes, actions and strategies for the place's natural values.

The conservation and preservation of indigenous heritage places are places that a group of people believe they should protect for the benefit of its future generation to better understand the nature of their physical world and how they might live within its means.

The Tikina Malomalo in Nadroga, were renowned for salt making production, a skill which is now dying. Salt was used as a traditional format for exchange, as practiced by their forefathers in the past and has now ceased to be utilized and replaced by modern commodities such as kerosene.



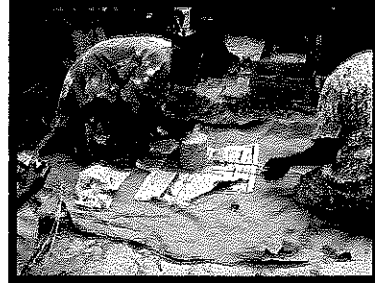
Other craft skills learned in the one week's workshop included jewellery making out of local shells and materials, screen printing and flower arrangements. The knowledge gained from the workshop will be an opportunity to link into other income generating activities in tourism developments especially around the Coral Coast such as Natadola Beach.



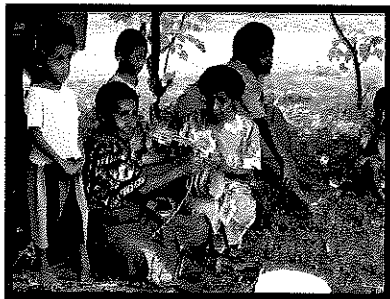
## 2.0 Aims and Objectives:

Taking into consideration their need to learn the processes of new crafts skills along with their knowledge, and creativity, the Fiji Arts Council under the auspices of the Department of Culture & Heritage identified the importance of reviving the dying art of salt making and the risk of its disappearance. The outstanding root value of salt making will reaffirm the cultural identity of the peoples and communities concerned.

The 45 participants, a large proportion of which were made up of youths from the eight villages in the Tikina Malomalo benefited greatly from the workshop, thus, justifying the followings:



- Providing participants with a sense of belonging to a place which connects and help them to define their distinctive identity as custodians and caretakers of a unique art.
- Enable the younger generation to learn their traditional art that was unique to their forefathers, so not to let their tradition and skills fade away with the inclusion of modern commodities.
- In learning the art of salt making, the people of Malomalo will continue to foster and preserve their traditional knowledge and skills that will contribute to the creation of village or self projects as an income generating initiative.
- To maintain the pride of salt making amongst members of the Tikina Malomalo.
- Learn to appreciate and utilize their natural resources as means of great potentials and lucrative talent, considering the fact that the raw materials are in great abundance.



- Learn subsidiary skills that would supplement existing traditional practices, however, on the verge of disappearance, in terms of economic survival, in the long haul. For instance, screen printing, jewellery making, and flower arrangement.

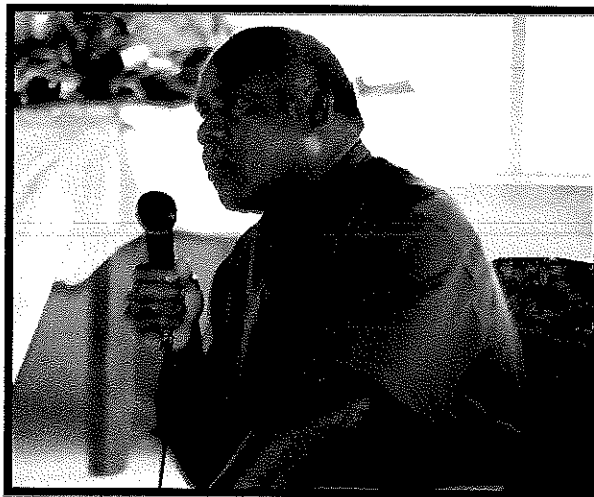
- Enhance the transmission of traditional knowledge to the younger generation.

### **3.0 Official Opening**

The Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa, Mr Lote Naikasewa, was invited by representatives of Malomalo Tikina to officiate the opening of the one week workshop which begun on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

In his official address, to the participants, who were mainly youths, he encouraged and stressed the importance of fostering and preserving their cultures and traditions. Knowledge gained in the workshop would be a chance for the participants to experience something unique, beautiful, rare, and authentic or of great cultural significance that would provide a strong appeal for tourists in the near future.

He also encouraged youths to be aware of the fact that life in the rural villages is beyond compare and communal existence in the villages is to be appreciated and viewed that the rural community setup are the basis of conservation and existence of our Fijian tradition and culture.



### **4.0 Participants**

The involvement of 32 youths out of the total 45 participants who represented the eight villages encompassing the Tikina Malomalo (ie: *villages of Naidiri, Malomalo, Nalele, Navisabasaba, Vusama, Batiri, Sanasana and Togovula*) identified the interest that existed in the aforementioned age group

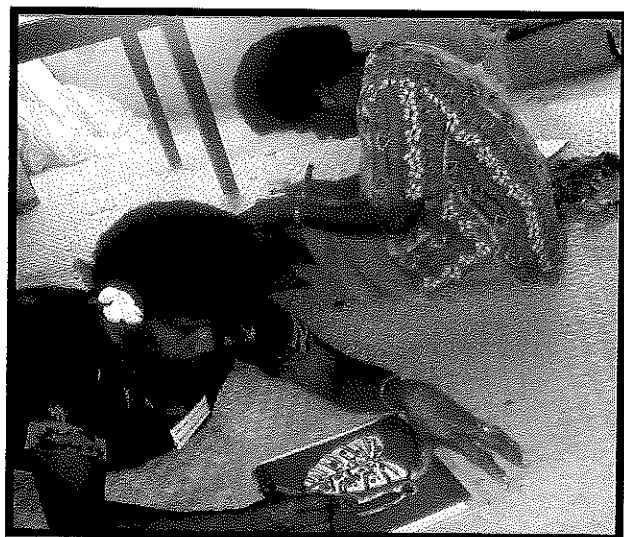


within the community. They were divided into three main groups; group members represented the various villages that were tasked to learn the skill and later pass on to non-attendees within their own villages.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE VARIOUS SKILLS**

SKILLS	VILLAGE OF SANASANA	NAVISA- BASABA	BATIRI	NALELE	NAIDIRI	MALO MALO	TOGOBULA	VUSAMA	NAEVUEVU
SCREEN PRINTING	7	3	3	5	3	6	1	4	
JEWELLERY MAKING	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
FLOWER ARRANGE- MENT	7	3	3	5	3	6	1	4	
SALT MAKING	8	5	4	7	5	8	2	5	1

Each village was represented in the four main level of art genre that was taught. These include screen printing, local shell jewelry and flower arrangements. The art of salt making was considered of high importance; hence, participants were required to watch the demonstrations presented by the two ladies who were the only surviving members of the clan renowned for the practice of the latter many years ago.



## 5.0 Resource Persons:

Five resource people shared their extensive knowledge in the different genres of art and craft that they specialize in:

- **Seniloli Tora: (Shell Jewelry Making)**- one of the driving forces behind recent developments in the crafts scene in Fiji, Seniloli specializes in coilage work incorporating natural fibers and shell in most of her art works. Gaining prominence as a contemporary craftswoman in the 1970's, she represented Fiji at several overseas art events. In the past, her works have won awards in most art and craft exhibitions organized by the Fiji Arts Council. She also runs her own jewelry shop at the Suva Flea Market.



- **Samuela Cabe: (Screen Printing on Fabric)**- specializes in screen printing and hand painting on different fabrics. He portrays his unique styles in joyful and colorful form so that his work is often distinguished as an extension of his own creativity. From his home based environment, Samu has developed his own screen printing business which has appealed to most local and overseas fabric buyers. He won the 2003 Contemporary Crafts Person of the Year Award and exhibits regularly through out Suva, Lautoka, Nadi and also has a small outlet in the Garden City in Raiwai, Suva.



Samu was part of the Fiji Delegation to the 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Festival of Arts held in Palau in 2004.

- **Adriu Naivalu: (Flower Arrangement)** – has participated in many flower shows conducted in the City and has been in the business for sometimes where he has proven his ability and creativity of this art in many public functions such as marriages, birthday parties or exhibitions he is invited to do the decors. This had also been an eye opener for the participants that flower arrangements are practiced by both women and men as a form of income generating in the business market.



- **Milinia Naisamu and Sereima Ronikai (Salt Making)-**

The participants were fortunate to learn the skills from the only two surviving members of the clan, both 80 and 72 years old respectively and have practiced the art in their young days.

Sharing their skills and knowledge, transmitted by their parents, to the



youths of the Tikina, was a great desire for them to achieve before they die. Sereima reminisced her young days whilst sharing her knowledge with the youths. It was like a wake up call for the youths of Malomalo, but a mission to be accomplished by the two sisters, just as Sereima lamented:

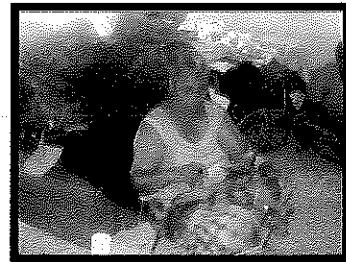
*" It is a wish that I had to accomplish before God calls*

*me..... The original village of Naidiri was here before we actually moved to this new sight. I was only 25years old then, the last time I practiced the art of salt making with my late mother..... Salt was a local product used as a form of gift exchange during ceremonial occasions with other Vanuas such as marriages with people from inland areas."*

## 6.0 Materials Used:



Screen printing – fabric (new or used plain fabric), paint, screen (x-ray film, screen printing board. Participants were taught how to create and shape their own boards, prior to



cutting the screens and painting resulting in the final product.

Jewellery making – sea shells, bark of vau tree, sinnet, pandanus leaves, local seeds, coconut shells.

Flower Arrangements – oasis, flowers, stem of banana trees, bamboo stems, molded soil.

Salt making – raw materials and resources is unique only to the salt making site in Tikina Malomalo.



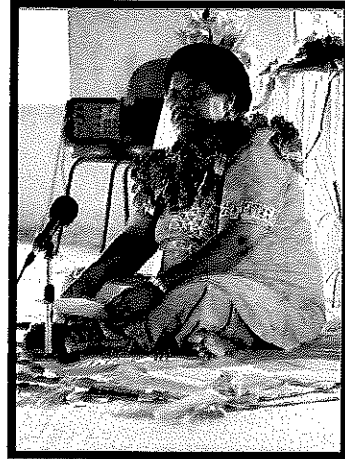
## 6.0 Official Closing:

The Assistant Minister for Culture & Heritage, Hon. Nanise Nagusuca presided over the closing ceremony for the workshop on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2005.

It was the Minister's first official engagement with the Fiji Arts Council, and was quite at awe with the magnitude of work undertaken to organize such workshop, the level of participation and interest shown and most importantly the preservation and revival of a very important intangible cultural heritage of the Tikina Malomalo, i.e. salt making.

The workshop was blessed with the presence of the Roko Tui Nadroga/ Navosa, the Film and TV Unit of the Ministry of Information whose presence at the workshop was beneficial as they were able to create video footages of the site where raw

materials for salt making is extracted, and the processes with which that is utilized to create the end product – masima (salt).



## 7.0 Budget:

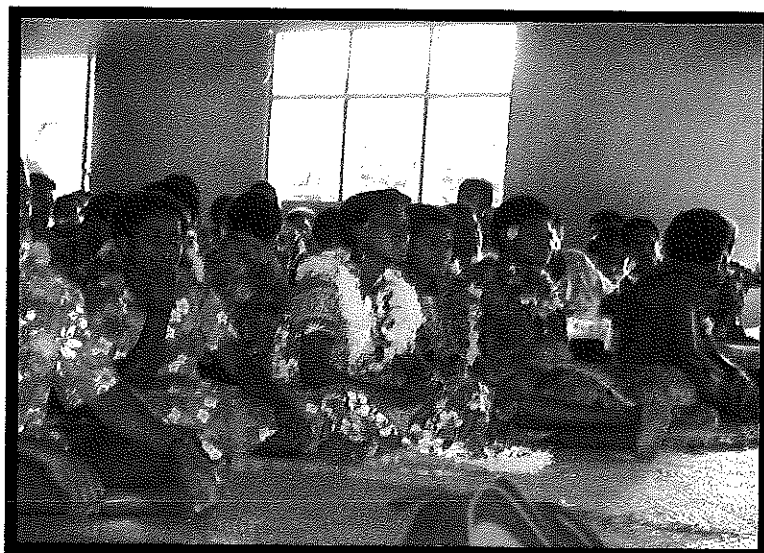
The Department of Culture & Heritage was able to allocate \$ 6, 000.00 from the Cultural Grants to cater for all expenses incurred for the one week workshop. All expenses details are highlighted in the Financial (Statement attached to this report).



## 8.0 Recommendation

The workshop was fruitful as the following constructive comments and suggestions were made by participants, observers, and the Department of Culture & Heritage:

- Involvement of the Department of Mineral Resources to make a mineral impact analysis /study of the salt site so that new products of the current end products is created enhancing other sectors of our economy. For instance, the possibility of creating manure from salt. Also the Fiji Meat Board can be involved since salt can be used to preserve cow skin for the creation of Fiji leather, a renowned raw material for most fiber products.
- Enhancing and developing the present site and status of salt making so that it can be used as form of attracting tourists in the area.
- Recommendation to Fiji's Heritage Subcommittee to study the salt-raw material site so that it can be properly preserved and safeguarded for future generations.
- A follow-up study by the Fiji Arts Council to evaluate the progress of its initial objective prior to its visit and or facilitation of the workshop at the Tikina Malomalo.
- The Fiji Arts Council through the Department of Culture & Heritage can work closely with the Eco-Tourism unit of the Ministry of Tourism to develop strategies that could enhance and utilize the skills that participants have gained at the workshop in a constructive manner such as the setting up of micro-tourism enterprises (the village of Malomalo has some initiatives of such nature in place, however, there needs support from government and non-government stakeholders e.g. Village hall which is currently under construction).



# List of Participants

## Malomalo Village.

1. Šanaila Navuasai
2. Šolomoni Nahula
3. Lorima Naisilo
4. Milinia Tuitavuki
5. Ašena Vulumakosoi
6. Weku Ratumainaceva
7. Lavenia Volotui
8. Nanise Meli



## Naidiri Village

9. Miriama Bakewa
10. Vani Talei
11. Meli Bete
12. Ana Tuvounikaya
13. Losalini Navuga



## Navisabasaba Village

14. Kelera Kunauwa
15. Anare Rakuro
16. Šalote Vasutoga
17. Mere Narabe
18. Mereisi Bainivalu

## Nalele Village

19. Anare Galuvakadua
20. Iliesa Ratuva
21. Tevita Vueti



- 22. Tevita Huna
- 23. Emosi Navonowale
- 24. Silina Tolua
- 25. Miliakere Adisusu

## Batiri Village

- 26. Maikeli Sova
- 27. Semi Tuidraki
- 28. Elenoa Nakita
- 29. Mereani Namoumou.

## Vusama Village

- 30. Saini Naivalulevu
- 31. Naina Loqavono
- 32. Taraivini Nakure
- 33. Livia Raitala
- 34. Joeli Kunaleca

## Sanasana Village

- 35. Reavi Nahemira
- 36. Serupepeli Moeituba
- 37. Esava Tubu
- 38. Vika Ciri
- 39. Reijiei Senivesi
- 40. Lanihana Tubailagi
- 41. Vaseva Doro
- 42. Adi Vasiti Ranadi

## Togobula Village

- 43. Apisaki Kasatoka
- 44. Sailosi Naewe

## Naevuevu Village

- 45. Ema Locoloco



**FIJI ARTS COUNCIL**  
**MALOMALO CRAFT WORKSHOP**  
**SCREEN PRINTING, JEWELLERY MAKING, FLOWER ARRANGEMENT &**  
**SALT MAKING**

**24<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005**

**FINAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Tutors fees	-	\$2,000.00
Jewellery Making Materials	-	214.00
Flower Arrangement Materials	-	66.80
Screen Printing Materials	-	781.90
Food for Participants	-	1,200.00
Transport Cost for Participants	-	600.00
Office Taxi runs	-	53.45
Certificate Papers	-	40.00
Yaqona	-	40.00
Telephone Recharge Cards	-	33.00
Refreshment for Tutors	-	7.35
Fuel – Dept. Vehicle	-	170.00
Printing of Certificates	-	150.00
Closing of Workshop	-	310.00
Overtime & Meal Allowance	-	688.83
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		<b>\$6,355.33</b>
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