



**S**igatoka River Safari prides itself in having custom built jet boats especially for Fiji's longest river, the mighty Sigatoka River.

When the company started out in 2006, there was only one jet boat, that comfortably sat 11 people. Over the years as Fiji's original river safari became popular more custom built jet boats were brought in from KeelowCraft Boats in New Zealand.

Consequently more jet boat captains were recruited and undertook intensive training in New Zealand under the watchful eye of Neil Ross, a pioneer in the Jet Boating Business with over 25 years experience.

"Our jet boats are named after words derived from the Nadro and Navosa dialect," says Jay Whyte, Managing Director, Sigatoka River Safari. "The names are *Davutukia*, *Karua*, *Nabuavatu* and *Qulewe*," Jay added.

The two larger vessels have the capacity to comfortably transport 20 people (19 passengers plus the jet boat captain).

"The take off depth is 2 meters and whilst in motion the jet boat can plane over water that is only inches deep," says Jay.

The jet boats can travel up to 60 or 70 kilometres per hour and can make 360 degree spins at that speed. The 360 degree spins are popular and guests always ask for more from the jet boat captains.

Sigatoka River Safari jet boats are serviced in Fiji as Kiwi Engineer, Tim "Timoci" Cruickshank is based at the Sigatoka Valley and part of his responsibility is ensuring the jet boats are in top conditions at all times.

So next time you're on Safari you will know a little more about the jet boats, however, never hesitate to ask questions with your Captain or you will be on the receiving end of some BulaS#&%!

## Imraaz Is Safari Staff of the Year!



Jay presenting Imraaz with his certificate

**S**igatoka River Safari accountant Imraaz Ali was surprised to hear his name called out as the Winner of the 2011 Sigatoka River Safari Staff of the Year.

Imraaz who has been with the company for the last 2 years was lost for words and could only manage a shy smile when his name was announced.

When making the announcement at the annual Sigatoka River Safari Christmas Party, Sigatoka River Safari, Managing Director, Jay Whyte sang praises for all the hardworking Safari staff for making 2011 yet another memorable and successful year.

“On behalf of the directors, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for yet another wonderful year,” Jay said. “However, Imraaz has stood out overall with his consistent performance throughout the year,” Jay added.

Imraaz was very thankful for being recognized for his hard work even though he wasn't expecting to win the award.

“I was quite surprised when I heard my name but I am thankful for this award,” Imraaz said.

Imraaz who is from Cuvu, Sigatoka won a trip for two to Hideaway Resort & Spa and hopes to take his wife for a treat on Valentine's Day.

Other staff with special mentions were Miri Kunavula and Josh ‘Captain Jack’ Ratukuna who were thanked for their ongoing commitment since Safari launched in 2006 and Mela Taliadrodro for her hardworking Sales at the Safari Office located at the Shangri-La Fijian Resort & Spa.

## On Safari Famils

**A** number of industry associates took some time out from their schedule to experience the multiple award winning Sigatoka River Safari. Naviti Resort & Spa Front Office team of 3 were delighted to finally have some free time to enjoy the tour.

On New Year's Eve, some of Shangri-La Resort & Spa's Sales team took the road less travelled and giving their official thumbs up on the new Off-Road Cave Safari.

The Warwick Resort & Spa Sales team (see below) went on the Off-Road Cave Safari trip over the weekend and were delighted to experience a tour with a different edge.



Warwick Fiji Sales staff at the valley (photo (s) courtesy of Meli Titoko)



Posing at the *Naihehe* Cave entrance

## Fiji Coral Coast 7s T-Shirts on Sale!

**S**afari Shop is selling Fiji Coral Coast Sevens round neck T-shirts FJD20.00 each!

This deal is available for all sizes and is only for a limited time until stocks last.

Please call Safari Shop on 6501721 and speak to Maria for more information!



## Humbled by the Safari Experience

One of Sigatoka River Safari's goal is not to change the way villagers live but to help improve it. For every visitor into the village, the company distributes a certain percentage to the village and this is used by the villagers for their various village projects. Nonetheless, many guests who experience the trip and are touched by the hospitality and the warmth of the Fijian people usually go back home and send donations to their host village.

Here are two recent highlights:

Roberts Family, stayed at the Shangri-La, visited Navula Village, 28 Dec, 2011. Provided gifts for the children of Navula via the Sigatoka River Safari office. [See more.](#)

Stephanie Ferreira, from Canine Street Rescue, visited Koroua Village, Oct, 2011. Working on organizing a vet to visit the villages along Sigatoka River and check on dogs in the area. [Read More.](#)

## The Works On Safari!

**Booking Queries:** Please reach out to Anne Mateyawa (Bookings Coordinator) for all booking queries. Free Call 0800 6501721 (24 hours, 7 days a week within Fiji).

**Sales Queries:** Please reach out to Angie Lal regarding any Sales or Marketing opportunities via email on [sales@sigatokariver.com](mailto:sales@sigatokariver.com)

Missed out on our earlier issues? Read our previous On Safari Issues Online. [Click Here.](#)

**D**id you know? ... Sigatoka River Safari and Off-Road Cave Safari prices for 2012 now include the 5% Service Turnover Tax (previously known as the Hotel Turnover Tax) as per Fiji Government Budget Announcement.

Sigatoka River Safari is the only tour company which visits a different village each day of the week to ensure guests have a genuine Fijian experience and not to encroach on the villagers way of life.



Maikeli Sulua

**Name:** Maikeli "Captain Black Jack" Sulua

**From:** Nalawa Village, Ra Province, Fiji Islands

**Position:** Jet Boat Captain- Sigatoka River Safari (since 2007)

**Drink:** Orange Juice

**Food:** Fish in Miti with Dalo

**Sport:** Rugby

**Best Memory at Work:** Driving the jet boat and meeting different people everyday.

**Best Work Tip:** Work hard always and you will be rewarded.

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**SIGATOKA RIVER SAFARI**  
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**2007:** Sigatoka River Safari - Winner - Best Adventure Tour  
**AON Tourism Fiji Award**

**2008:** Sigatoka River Safari Winner - Best Fiji Experience  
**AON Tourism Fiji Awards**

