



Taking time out after the race at Loma Primary School



Tuki Yaqona Challenge

Cure for Kids Extreme Challenge on Safari!

Sigatoka River Safari recently hosted a part of the annual “Accor Cure for Kids Extreme Challenge” as 54 participants from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji carried out various challenges in their efforts to fundraise money for children in Fiji.

Dubbed the “Great Sigatoka River Challenge” participants worked in pairs with 18 in each group and had 3 different challenges to complete before a certain time.

“We were specifically requested by the organizers that the challenges had to be tough so we combined 3 activities that also ensured that the participants spent some time at the village, the school and at Naihehe Cave,” said Jay Whyte, Managing Director, Sigatoka River Safari.

Each group had different start points and had to complete 3 different activities, *Vuli Challenge*, *Cavin’ Challenge* and the *Tuki Yaqona Challenge* (refer to map on next page) before heading out to Loma Primary School and spending time with the students of the school who were undergoing Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) screen tests by the RHD team from CWM Hospital.

At the school, each group had to paint the school kindergarten before introducing themselves to the class in the Nadroga dialect. With the village, the challenge was to pound yaqona before drinking one “tsunami bowl” of yaqona and the cave, teams had to find the bête (priest) of Naihehe Cave inside the cave within a limited time.

The participants managed to raise FJD462, 290 during the five day challenge which began in Suva and ended on Denarau.

Learn More About [Accor Cure for Kids Challenge](#). [Click here](#) for more images from that day.



Manly's Stella Marist Visit Vunaqoru Village!

Twenty-eight students and two teachers from Stella Marist College in Manly, Sydney Australia, recently experienced Sigatoka River Safari during their one week educational visit to Fiji.

The all-girl group (age 13 to 17 years old) donated some jerseys, rugby and soccer balls to Vunaqoru village and despite a few showers during the day they thoroughly enjoyed their experience with the villagers of Vunaqoru.

One of the teachers was appointed Chief and drank the first bowl of kava during the “sevusevu” or welcoming ceremony. A few of the students were curious to taste kava and some politely said pass and looked on as the few brave ones decided to taste Fiji’s traditional drink.

Vunaqoru village guide, Tupou gave an insight to life in the village especially for children around the same age as the girls.

During lunch the *panikeke* (Fijian pancakes) and fried taro leaves were the most popular dishes among the girls as most of them tucked in on a meal that they otherwise would not have back at home.

School age kids particularly the young teenage boys of Vunaqoru were in awe of the girls as it was the first time for the village to host a group of school students and to be an all girl group at that.

As soon as the *taralala* (entertainment) began not a single Stella Marist school girl was found sitting as the villagers of Vunaqoru both young and old came in full force to show the girls how to boogie “Vunaqoru Style”.

While in Fiji, the group visited schools in the Nadi urban and rural area playing soccer and netball and making new friends as well as learning a bit about Fiji’s school system. **More pictures next page...**

ON-SAFARI NEWS

OCTOBER, 2012 - ISSUE 11



Heading up the river with Captain Black Jack.



Heading up to Vunaqoru village from the river bank



Few were brave to try out kava while others looked on.



After presenting their gifts to the village of Vunaqoru



Merely awaiting what the village women have prepared for lunch



Height difference wasn't a problem for these two



Taralala time with the villagers

“International Tribes” on Safari!

Sigatoka River Safari recently had a number of travel agents as well as guests from the other side of the world visiting the heart & soul of Fiji.

As villagers are unable to travel to other parts of the world, they are always excited to hear that someone has travelled very far to visit their part of the world.

After every sevusevu, guests are invited to share with villagers a little about themselves.

Majority of the time its always families from Australia and very rarely will other countries out number Australians.

However, the month of October, has seen many faces from different parts of the world and here are a few of those wonderful faces!



Captain Jack with a couple from Romania.



Gengis and Moaz Khan, brothers from London, United Kingdom dancing at Koroua Village.



Couple all the way from Uruguay with the Chief of Koroua Village.



Travel agents from Russia take time out at the safari base after their safari experience.



On-Safari Postcard Moment!

Emma from Stella Marist College hi-5s Ema from Vunaqoru village.

Emma was part of her school tour to Fiji visiting schools and was quite delighted to meet another girl named "Ema" during her trip on safari.



Name: Paula Dranisinukula

From: Ra

Position: Tour Consultant

Drink: Water

Food: Fish with coconut milk and cassava.

Sport: Rugby (Paula plays for the Navosa Warriors)

Best Memory at Work: First day of work and I realized I was the only male tour consultant. There were so many girls, I was not used to it...now they can't live without me (laughing).

Best Work Tip: Always be honest in everything that you do.

Fiji's Coral Coast 7s is on from November 15 - 17, 2012 at Lawaqa Park, Sigatoka Town. For tickets please contact Jay Whyte on 6501721. This year's tournament ambassador is former All Black, Jonah Lomu.

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