

Tangaroa with Pio!



Pio with the elders of Sautabu village

Sigatoka River Safari recently had a visit by Pio who hosts Tangaroa with Pio that features on Maori TV in New Zealand. Pio who travelled to Fiji with his crew spent a whole day learning more about the Sigatoka River and how the people of the valley utilize it daily. According to Pio, Tangaroa was one of the great gods and the god of the sea.

“My people believed that Tangaroa was our God who looked after the sea, lakes and the rivers,” Pio said. “On our show we go out and meet our Pacific people and find out how they still use the rivers and the sea today,” he added.

On the way up the Sigatoka River, with Captain Joey, Pio came across a villager and his young son spearing for some fish for lunch as “Tangaroa with Pio” underwater camera-man, Dean, quickly jumped into the river to capture the action as the rest of crew waited.

Much to Pio’s surprise the father and son duo had already caught three “Malea” (Mullet) after 20 minutes of spearing and were now too shy to spear as neither had seen an underwater video camera before.

Pio and the crew visited Sautabu village and as village guide, Luisa shared how the village use the river today for fishing and washing clothes and for farming and most recently a way of getting people from all around the world to experience an insight into village life via Sigatoka River Safari.

Tangaroa with Pio airs on Maori TV in New Zealand and Pio’s visit to Fiji will be aired later this year.

Learn more about [Tangaroa with Pio](#).



Jordana "Captain Joey" Whippy with Pio



Filming by the Sigatoka River



The film crew with Luisa of Sautabu and Captain Joey



Pio joins in on the entertainment

On-Safari Postcard Moments!!!

On the 27th of April, baby George, only 3 months old at that time, was on Sigatoka River Safari with his family. George is pictured here with Gus who is the guide of Mavua Village.

George along with his 3 month old cousin Mitchell (pictured below with Sigatoka River Safari staff) are our youngest guests to date.



Neil Ross...The “Jet Boat” Man!

“In the beginning” - When Sigatoka River Safari, Managing Director, Jay Whyte made the bold move to follow his dreams and start Sigatoka River Safari, there was only one name that kept popping up when he researched jet boating on the internet and that was “Neil Ross”.

Jay shared his dream with Neil and from the beginning Neil was confident that it was going to work and it was a just a matter of time.

“I was quite excited when Jay first shared his dream of starting Sigatoka River Safari and giving visitors that opportunity to visit the interior of Fiji,” Neil said. “The unique thing about Sigatoka River Safari is when people travel up the river they not only get to see the beauty of the interior but also have a chance to meet the people who to this day still live up in the interior,” he added.

“Get a hobby” - “I got into jet boating because my wife Robyn wanted me to have a hobby,” Neil said. “So jet boating for me began in 1979 and it was something that I did in my spare time and by 1982 I managed to build my first boat”.

“River Safari” - “In 1988, Neil started the first commercial river safari, [Dart River Safari](#), in Glenorky, Queenstown. Neil was a “one man” army for the first months as he converted his own 5 seater jet boat into a commercial jet boat and took tourists up the Dart River.



Neil during a jet boat race

“Eventually I had assistance from Eileen Todd and John Stevenson who were involved in the accommodation and restaurant business and began to recommend the tour to their guests,” Neil said. “When I first started, people thought I was crazy and thought it would never work but if you have a passion and a vision to achieve something and work towards it then you must not be discouraged by the negativity that will no doubt arise whenever you want to achieve something,” he added.

Neil went on to start many other River Safari’s including [Haast River Safari](#).

“Jet Boat Racing” - Neil is an accomplished jet boat marathon racer and has won many titles including the World Title in 1995 and has won every major title in New Zealand, more than once. He has also assisted in having Sigatoka River Safari Jet Boat Captains participate in Jet Boat races as navigators in New Zealand.

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ON-SAFARI NEWS

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“Sigatoka River Safari” - Neil trained all of Sigatoka River Safari’s Jet Boat Captains both in New Zealand and in Fiji. Neil’s friend, Tim “Timoci” Cruikshank is the Workshop Manager for Sigatoka River Safari and is based at the Safari HQ in the valley. Tim looks after all the maintenance work required with the Jet Boats and other machinery.



Neil with Inoke at the Safari workshop in the valley

“Home Away from Home” - “Many of the guests on Safari go back home and think about their time in the village and when I first went on the trip, it was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had, just seeing the view and spending time with the people,” Neil says. “It’s always nice to know that when we go back home we also have a second home somewhere in the interior of Fiji,” he added.

Gear Up at Safari HQ!

Safari HQ now has a range of merchandise available including hoodies, jackets, trench coats plus round neck t-shirts, polo shirts, hats, sulus, rugby jerseys and more. With a range of colours and different sizes all available at affordable prices Safari HQ is the one stop shop to get that something special for families and friends.

Safari HQ is located along the main street of Sigatoka Town, right next to the Sigatoka River Safari office. For more information call 6501 721 and ask to speak to Maria Work.



New Chinese Website for Safari!

Sigatoka River Safari has launched a Chinese version of it's main website this week .

The project was possible with the assistance of the team at Travel Abroad Online based in Beijing, China. Access the website by clicking on this link - [Click Here!](#)



Name: Anaise Ralulu or Ana

From: Tavualevu Village in Ra

Position: Accounts Clerk

Drink: Water

Food: Fresh fish in *lolo* and *dalo*

Sport: Volleyball and Netball

Best Memory at Work: Coming to work and learning new things everyday and of course meeting famous people from movie stars to rugby players but especially the rugby players *wink*.

Best Work Tip: To be successful in whatever we do, we should always do it whole-heartedly and to always give our best. If we are ever in doubt to always "Ask Questions" as we will not learn anything if we just sit and pretend that we know or be shy about it.

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