

# First Quarter Newsletter



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## *Message* from the **Grand Biló**

Dear Biló Bar Members,

Ni sa bula vinaka from my team and I would like to extend our very best wishes to you and your families for 2018.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and vinaka vakalevu to you for your loyalty to Fiji tourism and to our resort. The last two years has been challenging for the team but we have started to see the much awaited transformation of our resort with the re-opening of our reception, Lagoon Wing rooms, Beach Bar & Grill, adult only Golden Cowrie Coastal Italian Restaurant and Golden Cowrie Lounge, the refurbishment of the Lagoon Pool area and as you are aware of by now the refurbishment of our all-day dining Lagoon Terrace and soft refurbishment in our ocean wings. Plans are also underway for the reconfiguration of the last two blocks in our Coral Wing into the adult wing including the infinity pool.

Tourism now contributes over 30% to Fiji's GDP annually and the responsibility to keep this industry healthy is on us all. Without your continued patronage to our destination this would not be possible and for that we thank you again.

On a final note we would like to pay special tribute to each one of you who we consider part of the wider Shangri-La family here in Fiji. We thank you for staying with us throughout the current refurbishment works but more importantly over the decades of visits and through generations of your families.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2018 and working with you for a smashing Biló Bar Reunion later in the year.

Vinaka vakalevu.

Francis Lee  
**Grand Biló, Biló Bar Club**  
**Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa**



## *Message* from the **Imperial Biló**

Bula All,

Hoping everyone has had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year and everything you wish for is delivered in diamonds during 2018.

The 2017 reunion is now in the distance and the 2018 programme is strenuously being worked on by Andrew and the trustees to ensure a new programme of events is well and truly completed before the next reunion.

The 2017 AGM report by the trustees have all shown that our activities in the community are showing dividends, particularly the Scholarship Programme for tertiary education which is being administered by Michael. The kindergartens all had good attendances and all teachers were very enthusiastic in the running of their individual kindergartens. However, the club awaits details of the Governments Teaching Programme and Wage Structure, which is of vital importance to the club as far as our wage contribution is concerned. At the last AGM it was approved to pay the teachers wages and a small amount of maintenance and all further expenditure was to be held in abeyance until the Government decision on the running and wage structures of our kindergartens.

The Sand Dunes project has been completed by our contribution in securing the two buildings to allow for the exhibition of historical displays and is worth a visit just to see the portraits of Na Kalevu's.

The 2017 reunion was a record achievement in fund raising for the club. At this stage I would like to thank Sue and Kevin Brett and their helpers for their organisational skills and work effort that they put into in raising the amount of money achieved. The individual amounts raised by the events held is shown on the final page.

It is good to see Ray up and about after being confined to home and hospitals in the last three months and he has arrived back at the hotel to keep the rum flowing and holding up the bar.

On a sad note two early members of our club passed away during the year, one being Edna Bee of two Edds are better than one fame and the other being John Ross from NZ who actually was one of the first two trustees to be appointed by the club in 1987.

Further details of reunion dates and prices and programmes will be available in a later news letter to give all members plenty of time to book for the 2018 reunion.

Hope this news letter finds everyone fit and well and looking forward to returning to our second home.

Vinaka Vaka Levu

Barry Hancock  
**Imperial Biló, Biló Bar Club**

# New Appointments



**Shashita Nand**

Director of Sales

Ms Shashita Nand as Director of Sales. Prior to joining the resort Ms Nand was the director of sales and marketing at the Nanuku Auberge Resort Fiji and has an extensive international career in senior marketing roles in Australia, Fiji and Thailand. She has also previously worked at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa as a sales executive for groups and then as sales manager for MICE from 1997-2000.

Commenting on her appointment Ms Nand said that she was looking forward to her new role at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa particularly in light of the transformations the resort was currently undergoing.

"I am very excited about returning not only to our beautiful destination but to come to a place where I started my career and which also represents not only the largest, but one of the most iconic resorts in Fiji," Ms Nand said.



**Bruno Bettinazzi**

Italian Sous Chef

Chef Bruno Bettinazzi is passionate about Italian food and he loves to cook house made pasta one of the specialities on offer at the newly re-opened Golden Cowrie Coastal Italian restaurant at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa.

He says "passion and creativity and fresh produce" are important elements of cooking Italian food and it's the skills he has honed over the years first in his native Italy, at luxury Swiss restaurants and a stint in Singapore that he now brings to Fiji.

Italian cuisine now he says is a mix of different regions in Italy and here in Fiji typical products that may be found include vegetables, fish, meat, tomatoes and a selection of imported items like a selection of cheese and salami.



**Emmanuel Fonmanu**

Assistant Outlet Manager

No stranger to you all Emmanuel Fonmanu was recently promoted as Assistant Outlet Manager with the responsibility of looking after the newly revamped Golden Cowrie Coastal Italian Restaurant and Golden Cowrie Lounge. Manu as he is known to his family and peers at work joined Shangri-la's Fijian Resort & Spa in 2004 when his father became too ill to work and as the oldest child in family of five the responsibility fell on him to support the family.

He started work as fine dining waiter at the Kalevu Restaurant, his mentors were well known personalities at the resort Simione Caglaba of Simi's coffees and Anasa and Lusi the latter of whom both are still at the resort. Simi sadly passed away in 2006.

"With Simi it was always about the sequence of service, his signature Simi's coffees and the prep of mis en place before service and I never forgot that," Manu says. Mesake who also recently retired always encouraged him to work his way up.

## Kindergarten Updates

## Kindergarten Handover

*This year's school roll for each of the schools and for the 5 years old are: Ron Jones Kindergarten (Cuvu) with 10 students, Betty Stevens Kindergarten (Navuevu) with 13 students, Kesenakula Kindergarten (Yadua) with 15 students and Jubaniwai Kindergarten with 31 students. Below are some of our students from the four kindergartens upon with donated school stationary.*



*The Ministry of Education (MOE) has taken over all Early Childhood Education and will be responsible for all teacher's salaries and FNPF contributions. In light of this, the Bilo Bar Club has ceased payment to all teachers effective from the 9th of February 2018. We would like to sincerely thank all teachers for their support and dedication in providing a good start for our young Fijians by offering them a quality education in the four kindergartens built and managed exclusively by our much beloved Bilo Bar members.*



Ron Jones Kindergarten



Betty Stevens Kindergarten



Kesenakula Kindergarten



Jubaniwai Kindergarten

## 2018 Bilo Bar Reunion Update: 28<sup>th</sup> October - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018

"I have had the pleasure of working with Chris, Maurice, Dee and their teams along with our Trustees to create this year's reunion programme. I am pleased to advise that a programme featuring tried and proven favourites, something new and more time to enjoy the resort has been devised. We look forward to sharing details of the programme in future newsletters. In the meantime feel free to provide your feedback for the reunion via the website."

Kind regards,  
Andrew Neaves



# New Bilo Bar Members and Weekly Cocktail

