

LājeRotuma Initiative Update

On Saturday, the 9th of April, Monifa Fiu and Alfred Ralifo of LājeRotuma Initiative together with four OISCA volunteers, Mereoni Mataika of Fijian Resort Marine Resource Center and staff of the of the Sand Dunes attended the Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park's Breakfast at the Park which started at 6.00 in the morning.

The programme involved a 2 hour walk on the dunes followed by a warm breakfast of fruits, pastries, freshly squeezed lemon juice and coffee.

After the breakfast, a planned meeting was held, chaired by the Park Manager, Jason Tutani regarding the proposed National Trust of Fiji Guardianship Initiative Programme for the park.

The National Trust of Fiji Guardianship Initiative is an environmental programme that provides an opportunity for the children of the Sigatoka District to make a real difference in their everyday surroundings. The initiative is flexible to student imagination and promotes team efforts and innovative thinking on creating vibrant environmental futures in their schools and communities.

It is a capacity strengthening programme for children guided by four key principles:

- Bringing people together
- Connection with the Earth
- Empowerment
- Education by Doing

The National Trust of Fiji in partnership with the Sigatoka Town Council, OISCA, Yanuca Island Marine Centre and LājeRotuma Initiative will pioneer an adapted Guardianship Initiative in six primary schools in Sigatoka this year.

Together these organisations will form the Sigatoka Guardianship Team. This Team will be responsible for introducing the Guardianship Initiative in the schools and working with schools to sustain the initiative.

Each of the local organisation in the committee brings with them knowledge and experiences of different fields of environmental work ranging from the land to the sea.

The Guardianship Initiative provides the opportunity for this wealth of knowledge and experience to be summed up into an effective educational programme for the Sigatoka children-
The Sigatoka Guardianship Programme.