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Introduction

After the success of the Foundation's first mission to Rotuma in June 2013 with the delivery of wheelchairs, walking sticks and frames etc. to 19 individuals , the response to the Foundation's next fund raising effort in October 2013 was quite overwhelming.

Some highlights of the fund raising event, the Rotuma Golf Day, forms a major part of this newsletter. The money raised again allowed the Foundation to embark on its next mission to Rotuma before the end of the 2013 year.

The 2013 Rotuma Golf Day

Sixteen (16) teams of four players per team took to the Denarau Golf & Racquet Club golf course on a sunny Saturday morning 5th October, not so much to win the best prizes but more to have fun and to catch up on old and also making new acquaintances, all for a good cause.

Players came from as far as Canada, US, Australia and New Zealand, not to mention the avid local golfers of varying handicaps, all queuing up for registration and keen to be teeing off. Most of the players have been registering since the first golf event in 2011 but the number of registrations for 2013 has increased significantly compared to 2012. Most, if not all have pledged that they shall return in 2014. Some have already started preparing for this year's golf event scheduled for 4th October 2014 at the same venue.



Team Canada

From left, Vamarasi Snelgrove, Patrick Snelgrove, Saverina Peters, Hilda Inoke



More Players

From Left, Rocky Peters, Gary Hudson, John Morris, Ann Dunn,
Pat Henning, Jenney Osborne, Des McMillan, Dennis Lin



Team Tumeke Poneke

From left, Arthur Shaw, Tony Tuatoko, Alfred Tuatoko, Metuisela Konrote

Support from non-playing supporters was very encouraging with prizes for the winners (and losers) all donated and the 18 holes all had sponsors, most were from Rotumans and friends residing overseas. A few have been hole sponsors every year since the inaugural golf event in 2011



The 2013 Hole Sponsors

The day culminated with an island night evening of feasting and dancing well into the night but the icing on the cake was when it was announced that about \$10,000 had been raised during the day.



The evening gala

The Second Mission & Assistance Rendered

The survey carried out by the Department of Social Welfare back in 2010 and the subsequent fact finding mission carried out in 2012 identified also a number of people on the Social welfare list that the Foundation was not able to assist e.g. those requesting hearing aids or cash etc.

With some of the money raised at the golf event in October 2013, it was decided to prepare grocery packs for these people in time for Christmas. The grocery packs were all identical and each pack contained basic food items as follows:

- 4kg rice
- 2tins corned beef
- 2tins fish
- 1bottle cooking oil
- 1pkt. Matches
- 4pkt. Sweet biscuit
- 1bottle jam
- 4kg sugar
- 4kg flour
- 2pkt. Biscuit
- 5pack noodle
- 2tins tuna

Twenty two (22) packs were prepared and were shipped to Rotuma on the Lady Sandy and accompanied by the same two Trustees who went earlier in June 2013 on the first mission; Rocky Peters and Lora Mua.



Lady Sandy anchored off Oinafa Wharf due to unfavourable weather & choppy seas



Off loading the cargo was quite a challenge

The 22 packs were delivered to 22 individuals and their families in the villages of:

- Lopta
- Malhaha
- Hapmak
- Itumuta
- Tua'koi
- Juju
- Pepjei
- Noatau
- Oinafa

The following pictures show some of the recipients of the grocery packs.





Continuous Work

Application for Assistance forms continues to be distributed to those seeking assistance and more requests have been received for items such as wheelchairs, bed pans and diapers. These are being processed for acquisition and delivery during this first half of 2014.

The next fund raising golf tournament has been earmarked for Saturday, 4th October 2014 to be held again at the same venue, the Denarau Golf & Racquet Club at Denarau Island in Nadi, Fiji. The event is fast growing in popularity as more and more people are planning their holidays in Fiji to coincide with the fund raising golf tournament which is getting to be a permanent fixture in the yearly Fiji Golf Calendar.

Conclusion

The committee is humbled by the immense and overwhelming support shown by the various communities locally here in Fiji and Rotuman groups and friends abroad and is a reflection of the spirit shared by everyone of wishing to make a difference to the less fortunate not only in Rotuma but also in the wider community in Fiji.
