

## Jonah Lomu Unveils Commemorative Plaque at Sigatoka Town's Rugby Walk of Fame!



Jonah Lomu with his two boys Brayley and Darelle.

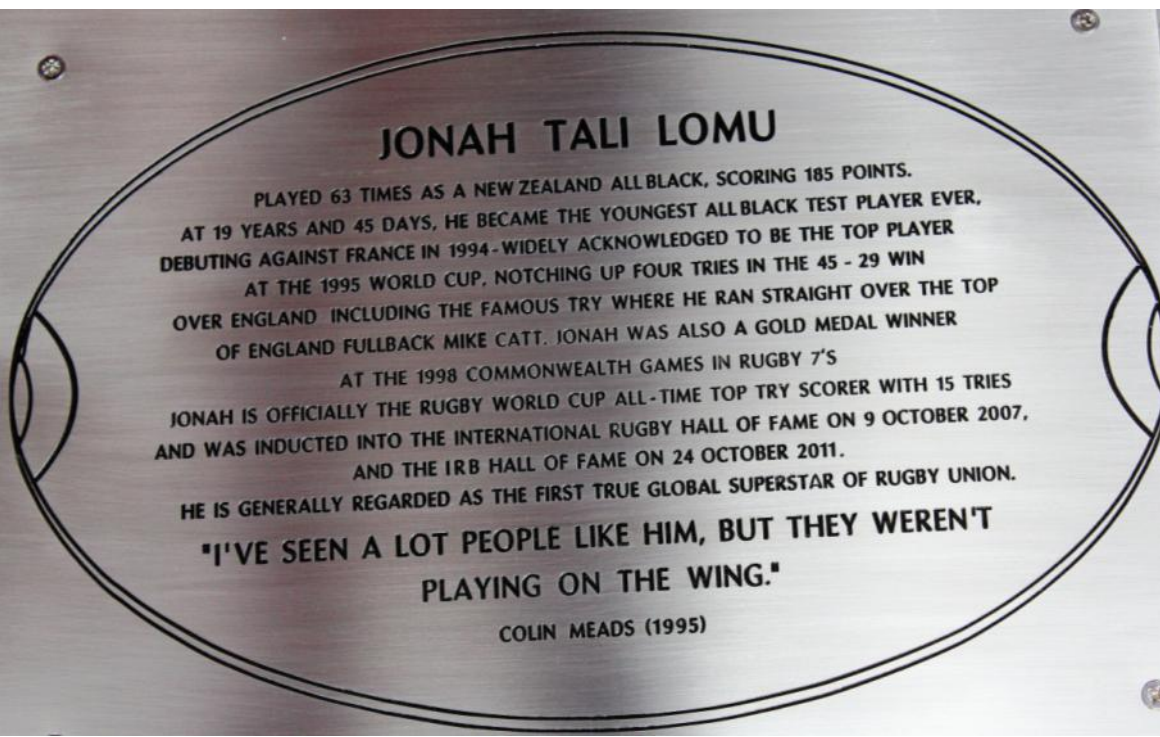
A large crowd gathered as former All Black Jonah Lomu unveiled his very own commemorative plaque at Sigatoka Town's Rugby Walk of Fame on the 15th of November.

"It's an honour to be part of the Coral Coast 7s tournament and my family and I are very happy and thankful to be here," Lomu said. "Fiji is known as the Mecca of 7s so any of the teams from overseas who win here it'll be very special," he added.

The Rugby Walk of Fame is located along the main street of Sigatoka and the town had its first plaques revealed last November with Australian Rugby Legend David Campese and Fiji's very own rugby son, Waisale Serevi who were the tournament ambassadors.

"We started the Rugby Walk of Fame last year and it was quite special for Serevi and Campese so having Lomu unveil his own plaque has really added to this little area in town and its fast becoming an attraction of its own," said Jay Whyte, Chairman of the Coral Coast 7's. "We hope in years to come as the tournament grows we will bring in more big names and have more special occasions such as this".

A special "JONAH LOMU MEDAL" was also created especially for the tournament sponsored by Sigatoka River Safari awarded to the player with the highest scores during the 3 day tournament. The medal was eventually won by Sunnybank's Junior Laloifi, who will be representing Australia at the Dubai 7's that kicks off at 6.00pm Fiji Time tonight.



This year's tournament was won by Fiji's Red Rock Club for the men's competition while the Aussie Pearls won the women's.

Next year's tournament will be held from November 14 - 16, 2012 at Lawaqa Park, Sigatoka.

**More pictures of the Coral Coast 7s on page 6....**

## Gus the man from Mavua Village!



Gus showing his village to his new family



All in a day's work for Gus

**A**utiko Qasevakatini or Gus as he is commonly known is the guide for the village of Mavua. A man of few words, he has one brother and three sisters and has been the guide for the village since Sigatoka River Safari started in 2006. He has enjoyed meeting people from all walks of life when they visit his village every Friday from November to April.

“The village along with myself have been blessed to meet all kinds of people different ages and different backgrounds,” he said. “Not all of us can go out of Fiji and visit the world but its nice to know the world can come and visit us here in our province,” he added.

When asked if he had any favourite memories from throughout the years, Gus did not hesitate to say that each time is always special.

“We never know whose coming, sometimes it will be 100% Aussies and other times there are more Kiwis or Americans and Asians even guests as far as Russia,” he said.

“However, a special occasion for the whole village was when the Neumatrix Group came in 2011 and they really enjoyed their time in the village and donated some money in which the villagers used to build our community hall’.

So what does Gus do on other days apart from Friday.

“I like to work on my farm and sometimes I go to town to buy groceries and of course drink kava,” he said.

“Also I am still single so I am still hunting as we like to say,” he added with a smile.



## Top “Middle Earth” Media Visit!



Taking time out for a picture with Captain Hi-Jack

Several top media Editors and journalists from New Zealand took time out of their busy schedule to visit Fiji and were on board safari on the 16th of November.

They were Sarah Stuart, Editor NZ Woman's Weekly, Kelly Makiha from APN NZ, John Clarke from Media Web, Shane Boocock, Editor for Let's Travel Magazine and Patrick McElligott from On-Board Inter Islander / Our New Zealand

Even though they have been to Fiji before this was the first time for all of them to visit the interior and to

spend some time in a Fijian village and they thoroughly enjoyed it.

The group's visit to Fiji was organized by the Outrigger on the Lagoon Resort and they were accompanied by Outrigger's Australian based PR rep, Donna Parkins.

## “Places We Go” Film Crew on Safari!



“Places We Go” film crew with Captain Joey and Freddy

The Australian based travel show, “Places We Go” recently filmed their hosts Clint Bizzell and Jennifer Adams experiencing

Sigatoka River Safari.

With Fiji's very own first female jet boat captain Jordana Whippy as their guide the hosts who previously haven't been to Fiji before were touch with their first village experience.

“It was lovely meeting the villagers and

just having an insight on how the locals who still live in the village live their daily lives,” said Jennifer.

The show is expected to air around April/May next year on Australia's Channel 10.

Follow “Places We Go” on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) for updates on their Fijian experience.

## Brazil...La! La! La! La! La! La! La! La!



The travel agents from South America with Tourism Fiji guides and Sigatoka River Safari staff

**A** group of 8 travel agents from Brazil recently experienced Sigatoka River Safari as part of their familiarization programme to Fiji with one in particular wowing the villagers of Vunarewa with his dancing skills.

After only spending a few days in Fiji, few of them were already well versed with some of the i-Taukei (Indigenous Fijian) phrases, such as “*Wananavu*” (fantastic) “*Sega na leqa*” (no worries) “*Au domomi iko*” (I love you) and even one knew the lyrics to a local nursery rhyme (*Kana Mada*).

“The Fijian people are so friendly and the land is so beautiful and there are so many things you can do here, our people will love your country and the children are so beautiful,” said Cristina Rocha Mafra.

The group, most of whom were on their first trip to the South Pacific, had enjoyed their time in Fiji and looked forward in getting more of their people to travel to Fiji.

With the inclusion of 7s rugby in the 2016 Olympics game in Rio the travel agents also took time out to catch some of the action of the recent Coral Coast 7s.



## Extending the Safari Family!



Fox Sports Camera-man Tony and Presenter Alanna with the Chief of Mavua Village



Air Pacific's Shane Hussein



The ladies from Tourism Fiji's PR Agency based in Los Angeles



TJ from Four Winds Travel in Canada at Koroua Village

## “Say Cheese” Nalebaleba!



Amalie & Josh Young with Safari Bookings Coordinator Miri



Miri presents the camera to the Chief of Nalebaleba Village.

**A**malie & Josh Young went on Safari on the 22nd of November and visited Nalebaleba village.

After seeing how much the children loved their camera they decided to buy the village a digital camera for the Chief to look after the day after the tour.

Later on that same afternoon, the Chief of Nalebaleba decided to come by the Safari office for a visit and was very surprised to see that there was a package for him and was touched by the kind gesture from the couple.

Vinaka Vakalevu Amalie and Josh from Nalebaleba village and the Safari team!



## Touch...Pause...Engage!



Red Rock Club from Fiji celebrate their win as 2012 Fiji Coral Coast Champs

**S**igmatoka River Safari a sponsor of the Coral Coast 7s also

sponsored the Great 8 tournament leading up to the Coral Coast 7s as well as the Campese-Serevi Medal (awarded to the player with the most points).

For more images from this year's tournament please [CLICK HERE!](#)



Aussie Pearls with their spoils celebrate with Lomu and Gollings



Sigmatoka River Safari sponsored Campese-Serevi medal winner Jasa Veremalua



Crowd also came out to win Best Dressed Supporters.



Chairman of the CC7s Jay Whyte with Ben Gollings



## On-Safari Postcard Moment!



**C**hief Young and Mrs Chief Young from the United States with Siteri of Tubeirata Village.

The Young couple were our oldest couple on safari this year. Mr. Young who is 88 years old was the Chief of the day & in his thank you speech said, "I have travelled extensively all over the world and there has been no experience such as this".



**Name:** Inia Bakewa

**From:** Votualailai Village, Nadroga

**Position:** Mini-Coach Driver - Hafari

**Drink:** Local Cappuccino otherwise known as Yaqona or Kava.

**Food:** Fish in coconut milk with Dalo (taro)

**Sport:** Rugby 7's

**Best Memory at Work:** Meeting guests from different countries each working day.

**Best Work Tip:** Be honest in whatever you do, always work hard and if you are part of a big team always ensure to help others when they need it.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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### FIJI EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM AWARDS

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2008: WINNER - BEST FIJI EXPERIENCE



Read reviews of  
Sigatoka River Safari

