

## It's a "Love" match as Tennis and Hollywood Stars Discover the Heart and Soul of Fiji!



Children of Vunarewa posing with players and celebrities



Presenting gifts to the people of Vunarewa

The children and people of Vunarewa village in the heart of the Sigatoka Valley were filled with much joy and happiness when their village was presented with gifts from the tennis players and Hollywood celebrities who were in Fiji for the annual Fiji Tennis Invitational Classic.

Every year since the inaugural Fiji Tennis Invitational Classic in 2010, Mr. Oduwale, the brainchild of this tournament, has always included a Sigatoka River Safari experience for all tennis players, tennis officials and Hollywood celebrities because he wanted them to experience what life is like in a Fijian Village and to meet Fijians outside the comfort of the luxury resorts they were staying at.

As Mr. Oduwale presented the gifts to the villagers of Vunarewa, He said, "I made a Sigatoka River Safari trip 4 years ago and I had such a great experience and the warmth and kindness you showed me has made me start this tennis tournament and I will keep bringing people every year to my village". He added jokingly, "I am just waiting for my Fiji passport".

During the course of the visit, the children of Vunarewa were taught the basics of tennis by the tennis players and were gifted with *Wilson* tennis racquets and tennis balls as well as books and pens and toys.

Hollywood celebrities Raven Symone (*The Cosby Show*, *That's So Raven*, *Cheetah Girls* and *Princess Diaries 2*) and Dawnn (*Matakalailai*) Lewis (*Secret Life of an American Teenager*, *Dreamgirls*) thoroughly enjoyed their Sigatoka River Safari experience and each sang a song to show their appreciation to the villagers, much to the villagers delight.

Sigatoka River Safari, Managing Director, Jay Whyte was happy to see that the group enjoyed their trip to Vunarewa and their whole Safari experience.

"It was great to see the players and celebrities relaxing and mingling with the children and elders of Vunarewa and enjoying a bowl or two of *yaqona*," Jay said.



## Game...Set...Match!



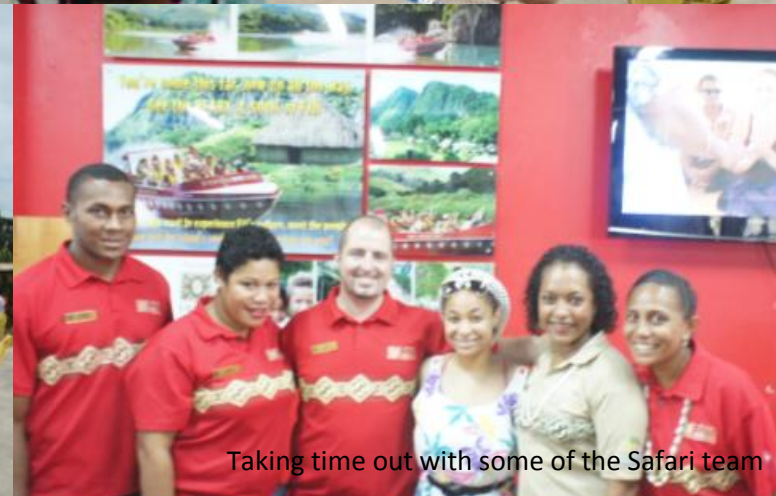
Tennis lessons for the children of Vunarewa



Tennis lessons for the children of Vunarewa



Tennis players and Raven display their tennis skills



Taking time out with some of the Safari team



Captain Jack poses with Raven and her mum



Cheering at the "vatuniloa" or shed



Chatting with the village children



Presenting the tennis gear to the children of Vunarewa



## A New Kindergarten for Toga Village

The villagers of Toga Village, in the heart of the Sigatoka Valley, officially opened their new kindergarten on Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

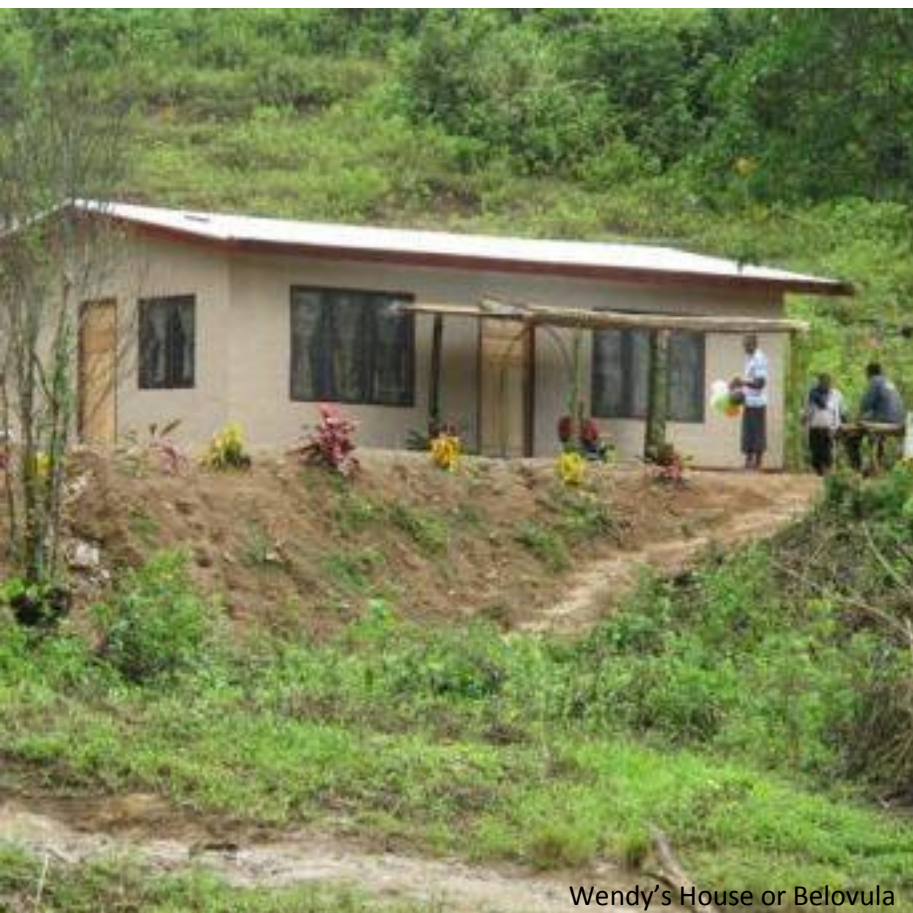
The building of the kindergarten was made possible by the financial support of David and Wendy Morgan of England, who went on a Sigatoka River Safari experience in April 2011 and have never forgotten the hospitality provided to them by the people of Toga Village. Both were present at the village to officially open it.

The Morgans asked their friends back in England to donate to their Toga Kindergarten fund, to help them fulfil their ambition to build a kindergarten for the village. They managed to collect over \$3000 pounds (FJD11,500) which they sent to Fiji via Sigatoka River Safari.

The kindergarten is named in Wendy's honour and also has a Fijian name "Belovula" or "White Heron". The Morgan's further raised FJD2000 to assist in buying furniture for the kindergarten.

Sigatoka River Safari, Jet Boat Captain, Josh "Captain Jack" Ratukuna, who had been overseeing the project was pleased with the outcome, "The villagers were quite moved when the Morgans contacted Sigatoka River Safari about assisting financially with this project after their first visit,"

The kindergarten took 4 weeks to build and will cater to all children (pre-schoolers) in Toga Village and other nearby villagers. The village of Toga had a feast to mark this auspicious event.



Wendy's House or Belovula



David & Wendy Morgan with the children



## From Russia with Love...

Russian Travel Agents, Natalia Minorskaya and Julia Ivanova took the road less travelled and learnt more about the history of the Naihehe Cave with the Off-Road Cave Safari team.

Both were in Fiji on a 14 day famil trip and were in awe of the beauty of the land and the people and looked forward to bringing more Russians to Fiji for a holiday.



Julia and Natalia with Off-Road guide/driver Kini



Inside the Naihehe Cave

## A Rewan in the Valley!

Rosie Holidays, Managing Director, Tony Whitton, took some time out to join his son and his friends on a simply unforgettable trip up the mighty Sigatoka River with Sigatoka River Safari.

Introducing himself to the villagers of Vunarewa as “Tony from Rewa and working in Nadi” Tony was on the receiving end of some deadly kava (yaqona) bowls and gladly danced (taralala) when asked by the women of Vunarewa.



Tony (with sunglasses) with the villagers of Vunarewa, and his son Mikhail (far right) with friends Tom (dark blue t-shirt) & Netani (black vest)



Tony Whitton with Captain Jack

## Safari Adds More Vehicles To It's Fleet!



**S**igatoka River Safari has added two more vehicles to it's current fleet.

A 30 seater Toyota Coaster and a 14 seater Toyota Hiace will assist greatly in the rise in the demand of both Safari tours as well as ensuring guests are as comfortable as possible during their land transfers.

Sigatoka River Safari, Managing Director, Jay Whyte, was pleased

with the new addition, "We want to ensure our guests particularly those who have a longer journey and coming in from the Nadi area are able to comfortable ride to and from Sigatoka".

"Also with a lot of groups booking with us, it makes senses to have them all in one vehicle or two," Jay added.



Maria Work

**Name:** Maria Work

**From:** Naweni Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji Islands

**Position:** Retail Attendant- Safari Shop

**Drink:** Red Wine and Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice

**Food:** Chillie Chicken with Dalo/Sheppard's Pie

**Sport:** Swimming

**Best Memory at Work:** Meeting different people from all over the world and especially famous people like rugby great, David Campese.

**Best Work Tip:** I believe in the 3 D's, Dedication to my work, Discipline and to be always Determined with all that I do.

**D**id you know? ... When Sigatoka River Safari first started in 2006, the jet boat departure point was from Sigatoka Town.

All five Safari Jet Boat Captains underwent vigorous jet boat training in N.Z.

### Contact Us:

P: +679 6501 721

Free Call: 0800 6501721 (Anytime)

E: [safari@sigatokariver.com](mailto:safari@sigatokariver.com)

F: +679 6501 723

W: [www.sigatokariver.com](http://www.sigatokariver.com)

M: +679 9297 337



**2007:** Sigatoka River Safari - Winner - Best Adventure Tour

**2008:** Sigatoka River Safari - Winner - Best Fiji Experience



— fiji islands —  
**SIGATOKA RIVER SAFARI**  
sigatokariver.com

