

Authority largest utility in Pacific

Source: WATER AUTHORITY OF FIJI

Out of the 22 water utilities in the Pacific region, Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) is by far the largest utility with over 140,000 water connections and 55,000 wastewater connections recorded last year.

This was revealed in the 2012 edition of the Pacific Water and Wastewater Utilities benchmarking report.

The report was released by the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) with the support of the Pacific Infrastructure Advisory Centre (PIAC) on May 14, 2013.

Based on the PWWA report, the Authority was rated the Best Wastewater and Sanitation Utility in the Pacific.

The PWWA report stated that only WAF and Water Papua New Guinea were compliant with the Pacific benchmark on managing the collection and treatment of wastewater.

According to the report, WAF had shown a remarkable increase in the population coverage of wastewater from 49 percent in 2011 to 75 percent last year.

The report further stated that WAF was one of the few utilities where most of the treated wastewater was compliant to secondary standards.

"In Fiji, the upgrading of existing plants

is in progress and will bring the standard to an advanced level complying with international standards."

Team Leader Wastewater Central/Eastern Matapule Finiasi said there are a total of 11 wastewater treatment plants in Fiji.

"The Authority is continuously working on improving its wastewater facilities in the country," he said.

Mr Finiasi said wastewater treatment was important for the environment as well as the people of Fiji.

"Wastewater is treated to prevent bad odor, water bone diseases, spread of disease organisms and other hazardous substances that could prove fatal for the marine life as well," he said.

Despite the Authority's continuous efforts in improving its wastewater facilities to cater for the growing population, the Authority is also facing challenges at the same time.

Mr Finiasi said manhole blockages and overflows were some of the common problems faced by the Authority almost on a daily



Water Authority of Fiji Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kinoya.

basis.

He said some of the common causes of blockages resulted from the dumping of rags, plastics and other projects in the manholes.

Mr Finiasi said other factors which contributed to blockages were the open wastewater chambers due to the missing manhole lids.

He said overflows from manholes posed

health risks on the public.

"By throwing rubbish into the manhole, you are not only affecting your health but the whole community in which you live," said Mr Finiasi.

Customers who are aware of wastewater blockages are advised to immediately inform the Authority's personnel.

Bounty strategy to help eradicate American Iguana

Source: BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY OF FIJI

Last week the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) launched the American Iguana Bounty Programme as one of its strategies to prevent the spread of and eradicate the pest that is a threat to Fiji's agriculture, tourism, food security, biodiversity and human health.

The bounty is to provide incentive to people on Qamea and Matagi Island to catch the American iguana and assist BAF in eradicating the pest on these islands.

The American iguana is a declared pest in Fiji. It was smuggled into the country in 2000 and released on the Qamea Island. This illegal introduction has resulted in the establishment of American iguanas on Qamea and also to the nearby islands of Laucala, Taveuni and Matagi.

Challenges

Since the discovery of American iguana in Fiji, a number studies and research has been conducted by local and overseas scientists to learn about the behaviour of this new animal in the country and develop strategies to control or eradicate it. The overall view has been that eradicating these animals will not be easy. Some of the challenges faced in eradication include:

- American iguanas in Fiji do not have any natural predators to control their population

- It is very difficult to detect American iguanas as they mainly dwell on trees, well camouflaged and have excellent eyesight and the ability to avoid detection in high canopy. Searching for it can mostly be futile. Two herpetologists, Theo Blossom and Dr Peter Harlow, brought into Fiji to conduct research on American iguana spent a total of about seven weeks on Qamea trying to search for the American iguanas without any success. The five iguanas caught during this period were by the villagers who had encountered them while going about their daily activities. Hunting of

American iguanas is also likely to scare them off deeper into the forest making it more difficult to capture them. American iguanas are also excellent swimmers and when threatened, they usually escape by diving into the water and staying submerged for hours.

Eradication plan

The scientists involved in conducting research on American Iguana in Fiji made several recommendations on eradicating and control the pest. Some key recommendation include containing the spread of American iguana, involving communities from affected areas to be involved in the eradication campaign, targeting American iguana nesting period and using firearms and detectors dogs. Plans to use firearms are still being considered by BAF for safety of the villagers proposed to use it.

- Activities undertaken to controlling the spread of American iguana

- Declaration of Biosecurity emergency areas for American iguana-** To control the spread of the American iguanas from infested to non-infested islands BAF has declared the islands of Qamea, Matagi, Taveuni and Laucala as Biosecurity Emergency Areas for American Iguana. Movement of all stages of the American iguana including its egg into, out of, or within the declared Biosecurity Emergency Areas is strictly prohibited. People found in breach of this Declaration shall be liable to a fixed penalty of \$1000 for individuals and \$5,000 for corporate entities or a maximum fine of \$50,000 or imprisonment for a term of 5 months for individuals or to a maximum fine of \$250,000 for corporate entities.

- Strengthening monitoring and surveillance** – BAF has also strengthened inspection of all vessels going out of islands infested by American iguana. BAF also has an MOU with the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) which would see the maritime officers helping BAF in monitoring the movement of American iguana and other domestic pests in the outer islands of Fiji.



American Iguanas are very difficult to detect as they are well camouflaged and have the ability to avoid detection in high canopy

- Increasing awareness-** Billboards carrying messages on restrictions on movement of American iguana and the penalties on not complying has also been installed in key locations such as Savusavu, Qamea, Matagi, Natuvu, Nabouwalu, Koro, Taveuni, Vanua-balavu, Natovi, Lautoka and Suva. BAF has also produced a video on domestic quarantine including American Iguana to be played on all inter island shipping vessels in Fiji.

- Involving communities in eradication plan

- Training on monitoring American iguana nesting sites**

BAF and NatureFiji-MereqetiViti conducted training on monitoring of nesting sites (coastal areas) for heads of villagers and Turanga ni Koros from Qamea and Taveuni. The aim of this training was to develop basic observation skills and data recording technique required for potential nesting/egg laying sites for Qamea to assist in eradication. Some of the aspects participants were trained in included

- Difference between an American iguana from a Fiji banded and crested iguana
- How to identify an American iguana nests
- Difference between an American iguana burrow from a land crab hole
- Difference between American iguana tail marks from land crab claw marks.
- Euthanising an American iguana
- Handling an American iguana.
- Monitoring an American iguana nesting site
- Filling in data sheets

- Implementing the Bounty Strategy**

Last week BAF introduced the Bounty strat-

egy offering to pay \$10 per adult, \$5 per juvenile and \$0.50 per egg of the American Iguana. This bounty is for live or dead iguana and it is restricted to Qamea and Matagi islands only.

The bounty is to provide an added incentive to the people to report all sightings of American iguana. Currently, reporting of any sightings is on prerogative of the villagers.

The bounty is to target the American iguana mating and nesting season which is currently going on and will last until December. The nesting period is an ideal time to capture these iguanas because they are most visible and vulnerable at this time. The female iguanas migrate from their inland forest habitat to coastal areas to lay their eggs in sandy and well drained soil.

BAF appointed the volunteers who had been trained on monitoring of nesting beach as temporary biosecurity officers. These temporary officers are to receive the American iguana from the villagers, confirm their species, record the relevant data, euthanize the iguana and ensure that the dead iguana is disposed off well. BAF has an officer stationed in Savusavu to coordinate the bounty operations and provide regular updates to management as the bounty exercise progresses.

The bounty operations will end in December.

- Use of detector dogs and firearms**

Recommendations to use firearms and detector dogs are still being explored by BAF. As result of limited funding for American Iguana eradication, BAF has to prioritize its activities. Also the use of firearms is still being considered by BAF for safety of the villagers.

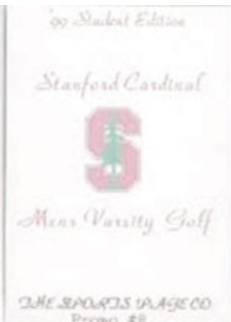


GOLFING IN PARADISE

By JOSE CALLEJA

General Manager,
Natadola Bay
Championship
Golf Course

This week we continue with the biography of golfing great Eldrick Tont Woods. Part 2.



College Golf Career

Tiger Woods enrolled at Stanford University in 1994 under a golf scholarship and won his first collegiate event. He majored in economics and was nicknamed "Urkel" by college teammate and now also a US PGA Tour player, Notah Begay III. In 1995, he successfully defended his U.S. Amateur title at the Newport Country Club in Rhode Island and was voted Player of the Year, NCAA First Team All-American and Stanford's Male Freshman of the Year (an award that encompasses all sports). He participated in his first PGA Tour major, the 1995 Masters Tournament and finished 41st as the only amateur to make the cut. This week he will attempt to master the tournament once again.

After two years at college Tiger Woods decide to turn professional in 1996. At his official press conference he fare welled amateur golf and greeted us all with his unique two word phrase "Hello World", such appropriate choice of words for the golfer who would later dominate world golf like no other player.



Professional Career

The moment Tiger turned professional in August 1996, he was an instant millionaire. He signed deals with Nike and Titleist that ranked as the most lucrative endorsement in golf history at that time. He was named Sports Illustrated 1996 Sportsman of the Year and PGA Tour Rookie of the Year.

After just one year of turning professional



Tip of the Week

PLAYER REVIEW

This week's between shots is **Mr Jack Ford**

What clubs do you use? Callaway

Where is your home club? The Lakes, Sydney, Australia

Who is your favuorite player? Adam Scott

What course do you love to play? Hapuna Course, Big Island, Hawaii



What is your favourite hole? 18th Hole at Riviera

What shot will you always remember? Hitting green at 17th at Sawgrass

Who are your dream playing partners? My Family

This was what Mr. Ford had to say about Natadola Bay Golf Course:
Fabulous

EQUIPMENT REVIEW AND TOUR UPDATES



CG ULTRALITE STAND BAG

Patent-pending CG Comfort Suspension System reduces fatigue through shock-absorbing shoulder strap materials, Easy fit into motorized golf carts, Rubber gripping feet to prevent twisting, 9" 6-way top with individual full-length club dividers, Ergonomic rubber foot pads for 360-degree flexibility.

PGA TOUR UPDATES



Last week, Martin Laird of Scotland carded a course-record-tying 63 Sunday to win the Valero Texas Open, move inside the FedExCup top 20 and secure a spot in next week's Masters. Laird collected \$1,116,000 for his win together with 500 FedExCup points.

"I came in here quietly confident, even though my record this year has been poor to say the least," Laird said. "But golf's a funny game; doesn't matter what you did two weeks ago. It turns around pretty quickly."

This Week's Event

This week, the PGA tour will host the first major for the year namely **The Masters Tournament** to be played at the Augusta National Golf Course. The prize money on offer is \$8,000,000, winners share is \$1,440,000. Defending Champion is Bubba Watson.

LPGA TOUR

Last week Inbee Park of South Korea won the Kraft Nabisco Championship at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California. Park finished the tournament at



Inbee Park with the Kraft Nabisco Championship

15 under par, four shots clear of her nearest rival. Inbee Park collected \$300,000 for her win.

This week the LPGA tour is on a break. Next week the LPGA tour moves to Hawaii where the LPGA Lotte Championship presented by J Golf will be played at the Ko Olina Golf Club, Kapolei, Oahu. The course is 6383 yards and plays as a Par 72.



Defending Champion Ali Mayazato

NATADOLA BAY COMPETITION

RESULTS:

Last Saturday's competition results are as follows:

Event: V/Par

Winners:

1st: Luke Mitchell - +1 won on Count back

2nd: Rosco Greenville - +1

Nearest to the Pin:

15th Hole – Neil Strokes

Last Sunday's competition results are as follows:

Winners:

1st: Lindsey Palmer – 39 Points

2nd: Neil Strokes – 37 Points

Nearest to the Pin:

13th Hole – Jeral Sharma

NEXT WEEK'S COMPETITIONS AT NATADOLA BAY GOLF COURSE

10th -Mixed competition-Stableford

12th-Bula Friday-Stroke

13th-Open competition-Stroke

14th -2 Ball Stableford Aggregate