

AFL takes over CAAFI housing compound

AFL will now be responsible for the administration and maintenance of the 186 homes located in four sectors as well as the "extensive" compound in the AFL Housing Estate adjacent to the Nadi International Airport.

Most of the homes are part of the 450 hectare compound and include three of the sectors in Namaka called Delana, Old Town, and Korowai. The fourth sector is called New Town, and is located off Wailoaloa Road next to the 18 hole Nadi Golf Course.

The Fiji Government transferred the lease for the complex from its previous landlord, CAAFI, to AFL in a recent Cabinet decision.

In assuming the responsibility of operating the entire complex, AFL Chief Executive Ratu Timoci Tuisawau said that extensive work is required to upgrade the homes and the grounds.

"We are already cleaning the compound. Within the year we expect to improve the fencing around the compound, introduce security, expand the parks and



Just one of the 186 homes that make up the AFL housing estate.

sporting venues and upgrade all the homes," said Ratu Timoci.

"We do see the entire compound as an opportunity to expand our commercial base. With so many tenants there could be a need for shops, even accommodation, but it is early days and we first have to raise the quality of the homes and compound to an international standard," said Ratu Timoci.

But, he said, to achieve these improvements and services will require a substantial cost that AFL expects to be covered from the

income generated from rentals.

"We are now introducing individual rental agreements. We are also asking those who have not paid their rents to clear their accounts or find alternative housing off the estate.

"We do want reassure all our tenants that their rentals will remain the same into the foreseeable future," Ratu Timoci said.

"This is a big project and will take several years to finish, but we are totally committed to its completion."

AFL names new General Manager Airports

MR. LAWRENCE LIEW has been named General Manager Airports.

Mr. Liew replaces Luke Koroii who has been transferred to Nausori Airport as its new manager.

Mr. Liew brings over 40 years experience in the aviation industry to his new position, including executive positions with Qatar Airlines and Singapore Silk.

In announcing the appointment, AFL Chairman Rick Rickman said that Mr. Liew's experience would be invaluable



Lawrence Liew, new AFL's General Manager Airports.

in the operation of the airports.

"The numbers of visitors using Nadi International Airport, alone, are increasing yearly and our source markets are expanding to now include India and China.

"The Government of Fiji has targeted 1.1 million visitors by the year 2016 which will challenge the services and infrastructure at the airport. Mr. Liew's extensive international aviation background will help us to meet the challenge," said Mr. Rickman.

He further stated that with the ongoing developments at Nausori Airport, Mr. Koroii would be fully occupied, as well as his responsibilities of managing the 13 other domestic airports around the country.

Information desk brightens International arrivals

NOT only a beautiful beginning but an indication of things to come as visitors are now greeted by sun, sand, and palm trees at the new look AFL information desk located just outside the customs shed in the concourse.

Commercial General Manager Hank Arts said that the concourse will be filled with scenic views of Fiji to bring more colour to the airport and remind our visitors why they choose the country for their vacation.

Mr. Hank said that additionally AFL will be working with Tourism Fiji to promote their Fiji Me campaign.



A warm welcome from AFL greets all passengers into Fiji.

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HomeLink Security now on board

FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 14
GAMES • FOOD • FAMILY

Fun for all....be there

New home for Electrical and Mechanical Section

AFTER four years of working out of temporary premises, Electrical & Mechanical section finally has a home of their own.

Its previous centre was burned down in 2006 and their operation was then moved to the old operation building at the airport.

With the recent opening of its \$275,000 building E&M, as it is affectionately called, has offices and a training room that includes a facilitated lab all housed in its

two floors.

Adjacent to the building is E&M's electrical and heavy mechanical workshop - its automotive is located on the Namaka side of the compound.

E&M employs 27 people led by Janaka Kumara its manager.

Its responsibilities in the electrical and mechanical section not only include Nadi, but Nausori and all outer station airports.



Chief Executive Ratu Timoci Tuisawau opens the E&M new home while Pastor Savenaca Ratumaiyale and AFL chairman Rick Rickman look on.

New look Immigration with expanded presence



Faster service with 10 new immigration desks is making a positive difference.

WITH the increase from six to 10 newly designed desks, and an additional screening machine, Immigration can now process more passengers faster and more efficiently than ever before.

Included in the new look Immigration is a more welcoming entrance that leads passengers through

the screening machines and into clean appealing surroundings.

According to those passengers who have passed through the immigration process, the new presentation and system "is so easy and quick, that is a vast improvement on many airports in the world."

Simulated air crash at Labasa Airport

FIRE and medical teams were tested this morning (August 24th) at a simulated air crash of an ATR42 at Labasa Airport, organized by AFL.

The simulation was a part of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) that requires that the exercise be conducted every three years.

AFL Manager Rescue and Firefighting Services, Josefa Rainima, who was responsible for organizing the exercise said that they tried to make it as real as possible.

"We used the full fire services of the airport to put out the fire with foam; we included an ambulance and seven medical staff from Labasa Hospital to treat the fifteen volunteer passengers who simulated injuries, and we included the police who took over the crash scene when the fire was extinguished and the passengers treated."

Following the completion of the simulated plane crash an immediate debriefing was held with



A passenger receives 'first aid' treatment.

stakeholders and participants to determine the effectiveness of the response.

"We are initially reviewing the airports emergency plan to see what needs to be amended. But the final report will take an additional two weeks, at which time we will return to the airport for a final debriefing and final amendments to ensure that our emergency services are among Fiji's best," Mr. Rainima said.

The exercise lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

Wishbone now operates at Nausori Airport



Wishbone has been given the contract to operate the fast food takeaway cafe at Nausori Airport.

The popular Suva eatery will provide a full range of fast food specialties such as hamburgers, fish and chips, sandwiches, cakes, and a choice of other popular dishes.

While it is still at startup it will become fully operational in both presentation and menu

some time next month.

According to Ratu Timoci Tuisawau, Chief Executive of AFL, this is part of the Nausori Airport upgrade.

"We are addressing a number of issues at Nausori especially better utilization of space and appearance. We have already introduced a domestic lounge, repainted the interior and exterior of the airport, and reorganized the check-in counters," he said.

Nausori International Airport the Gateway to the islands and the capital



From the early 1950s when it was just a grass landing strip to today with its 1,868 meters of asphalt sealed runway, Nausori Airport continues to grow, servicing the nation's capital Suva and providing a gateway to the outer islands and the region.

Over the years it has been home to Fiji Airways, Fiji Air, and the first home for Air Pacific before the airline moved to Nadi. It has welcomed an array of aircraft including the Fiji Airway's Dragon Rapide, Drover and Heron, UTA's Caravelle (the first jet to land at Nausori) Air Pacific's DC3 and BAC 1-11 in its early years, and most recently the Air Pacific Boeing 737-700.

Its hangars that were once the centre of these operations now sit quietly awaiting their future,

although they are expected to play an important role in the airport's development.

The airport's terminal has been freshly painted inside and out, Wishbone, a popular Suva fast-food takeaway outlet has been opened, an air-conditioned departure lounge has been introduced (much like the one in Nadi), and the news kiosk has been moved to the opposite side of departure check-ins which now provides more space for passenger movement. Northern Air, Nausori's newest airline, has joined Air Pacific at the check-in counters.

As an international airport it has its own international departure lounge and VIP lounge, with a Tappoo Duty-Free shop its concessionaire. Customs, Immigration and

Quarantine are a part of the international operation.

It has also become a favourite destination for the rich and famous as they park their luxury jets at the airport while taking smaller aircraft to their favourite outer-island boutique resorts.

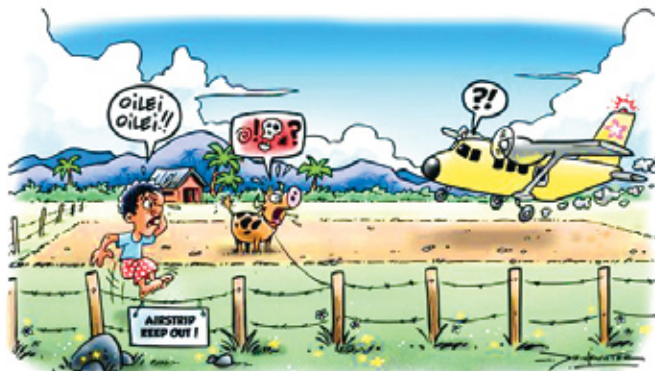
The airport has its own fire and rescue service, a fully equipped control tower and full security. Its baggage carousel is located adjacent to the terminal building.

The airport recently celebrated the return of the twice weekly Auckland services on Air Pacific's Boeing 737. Even the taxi operators recognized the event, introducing new uniforms for their drivers that also reflected the growing importance of Nausori International Airport.

NAUSORI AIRPORT

1. Busy again. The new Air Pacific Boeing 737-700, and its ATR 42 with a Northern Air Islander fill the tarmac awaiting passengers and destinations.
2. The sparkling clean departure area reflects a new spirit at Nausori.
3. The UTA Caravelle was the first jet to land at Nausori.
4. The first control tower in 1951.
5. Luke Vuetibau in his bookshop at Nausori Airport.
6. The Nausori Airport control tower.
7. Mr. Luke Koroii, new Airport Manager.

Animals, birds and AFL - an unhappy mix



THE irony of aviation is that one of the most complex phases of flight has nothing to do with flying; it is taxiing to and from the gate.

Highly visible runway and taxiway markings, signs, and useable procedures all assist the pilot in the maneuvering process, with the added assurance that any vehicle operating on the active area has a driver who is licensed and competent to be on the airfield. The threat that is difficult to control is an animal in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Few aerodromes are entirely free of animal incursions and despite the desire to keep animals away from an airfield by fencing the perimeter, there have been instances when the airfield has had maintenance problems - such as holes dug under fences, access through culverts and holes in fences - that allowed animals onto the properties.

Despite the desire to keep animals away, airports often are a magnet for wildlife, especially if grass is not kept short, or if it is surrounded by crops that can attract animals looking for food. Grass can attract livestock and small mammals, which in turn attract birds.

Frequent maintenance of fence lines, and vigilance with perimeter

checks is the key because many of the animals reported by air traffic control have been observed entering the airfield through damaged fences.

Studies in the US have shown that wildlife strikes cost more than a half a billion dollars each year and have been responsible for more than 350 human deaths in the last century. According to researchers many of the most hazardous species are increasing in population size.

In Fiji, this could be true of the dog and cat populations, which sometimes stray onto an airfield.

One of the issues in Fiji is that air traffic continues to increase. More birds in combination with more flights leads to more bird strikes. New technology means planes are quieter today, giving birds and other wildlife less time to detect and avoid being struck.

Still in active memory is the Hudson River ditching due to a flock of geese being ingested into the engines, and a recent bird strike which grounded an aircraft in Labasa was caused by a small kula.

Just a note on semantics, an animal runway incursion refers to a collision with, risk of collision, or evasive action taken by an aircraft to avoid an animal on a runway in use.

Soccer tournament a success



Financial Hunters celebrate their win in the finals.

IT was a hard fought battle that saw Finance/It Hunters outlast Terminal Termites 2-1 in the final game of an eight-week AFL inter-department round-robin soccer tournament.

Finance/It Hunters' Intiaz Ali scored two goals for the winners while David Watkins kept the game respectable notching a goal for Terminal Termites.

The winners received a trophy, presented by AFL CEO Ratu Timoci Tuisawau, and \$300 in prize money while the runner-ups received \$100.

ERA SHIELD SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Following close on the heels of the AFL in-house tournament

was the launch of the ERA Soccer tournament where Airports Fiji Ltd ATM battled JUHI/Pacific Sun side to a draw on August 28.

CAAFI and AFL has organized the business house tournament within the Airport boundaries with eight teams joining in this round robin competition.

The teams entered are: Border Police, Air Pacific Fiji Ltd, Airports Fiji Ltd, AFL Air Traffic Management, JUHI, Air Terminal Fiji Service Limited, Nadi Meteorological and AFL Sparkles are competing for the price money.

The tournament is expected to be completed in early November

HomeLink Security now on board




HomeLink joins ADT for to provide security at Nadi.

AFL has contracted Home Link Security to provide all its security requirements at Nausori Airport and a portion of its needs at Nadi International Airport.

AFL's Chief Executive Ratu Timoci Tuisawau said that security is becoming an important service at airports around the world and AFL is fortunate to have both HomeLink and ADT handling the responsibility. "HomeLink has both former

territorial soldiers and army reservists as their employees. They are well experienced in security matters and provide the airports a further dimension to our requirements. "HomeLink and ADT at Nadi means that we now have two security forces, sharing responsibility, ADT providing airside security while HomeLink provides landside," said Ratu Timoci.



SUGGESTION BOX

AFL wants your ideas and will pay for those that benefit the company.

Located at the Admin Building at the airport and at Headquarters, be innovative, be smart, be helpful, and place your ideas in the Suggestion Boxes today.