

IRCA Oceania visit to Veilomani Boys Home 29.05.25

We received a warm welcome at the Veilomani Boys Home by the administrator Vika Leba, and some of the Staff, with coconut milk straight from the coconut. We ate a delicious packed lunch as Vika shared the story of the Home.

In 1900 Dilkush Children's Home was opened in Suva for Girls and Boys, often Indian families who were struggling would place their children for care, others were orphans with no appropriate family to care for them, and others were picked up off the streets, having been neglected. As time went on it was decided that a separate home for the older boys was required for the safety of the young girls.

In 1970 a property was found at Veilomani, meaning "LOVE" near Lautoka that would be suitable to establish a Boy's Home. After five years of negotiations the Methodist Church purchased the property and the Home was established and opened in 1985 to care for 24 boys, with a good loving home providing good values and nutrition.

The goal is to bring the boys up in a secure loving Christian environment, and help them to achieve future stability in life. Currently there are 13 boys in residence between the ages of 12 and 18, who have been placed with 'Care Orders' by the State Social Workers until they reach age 18. They come from the streets or from abusive or struggling families from all over Fiji.

Once in the Home, they attend School and have spiritual guidance and are taught Life-skills with three caregivers, plus having Vocational training with two staff members who teach Mechanics and Construction as well as being father figures for the boys. There are two boys doing work apprenticeships and have been given permission to stay on for a couple of years until they are able to get themselves established.

The Carers are employed by the Methodist Church and need to have qualifications in Child Care and Protection, Pastoral Care, and have Social Work Training.

There are people from the Community who visit the Boys regularly and make donations towards the running expenses. Other support is made from Church Organisations and members.

At the end of June, a special bus is being laid on from Suva to bring family members to visit the Boys at Veilomani, as part of an ongoing attempt to keep the boys connected with their families.

Their Email is veilomanicollege9056@connect.com.fj if you would like to make a donation or gain more information. The main request is for prayer for staff and boys, present past and future.