

PVCC and team visits SINU Aruligo land

A team from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) led by the new Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate (PVCC) Dr. William Parairato successfully conducted a site visit to the SINU land at Aruligo in late December 2024.

The visit was conducted on 11 December 2024 with an aim to assess the land's condition, evaluate its agricultural potential, address settlement challenges, and propose actionable recommendations for its sustainable development.

The visit included key SINU leadership and staff, bringing diverse

PVCC Dr.Parairato had an informal discussion with Mr.Chaha during the site visit discussing the way forward for SINU to deal with settlers on the land.

Following the visit, the team has come up with six recommendations they are:

1. Boundary Identification and Security:

- Hire a registered surveyor to identify the survey pegs from the 2005 survey to fully establish the boundaries.



SINU team led by PVCC Dr.William Parairato posed for a group photo at the SINU Aruligo land.

expertise to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the site.

Accordingly, the Aruligo land, registered in SINU's name, is an 83-hectare property. The land title expired in 2013, and SINU is actively working with the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Survey to renew the title and seek exemption from premium payments.

The land was first surveyed in 2005, but the survey pegs have not been located, making it difficult to confirm the exact boundaries of the property. Identifying these pegs is essential to fully delineate and secure the land.

For over 24 years, Mr. Lariho Chaha a native from Guadalcanal and a former SICHE employee, has served as an informal custodian, safeguarding the property from encroachment.

However, 13 semi-permanent houses are now occupied by settlers, creating challenges for SINU developmental plans.

-If necessary, conduct a resurvey to revalidate and secure the land's limits.

-Install physical markers or fencing to prevent future encroachments.

2. Agricultural Utilization:

-Launch pilot farming projects, including crop cultivation, tree planting, and gardening, to establish visible and productive use.

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-Develop essential infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and access roads, to support long-term agricultural activities.

3. Formal Custodianship:

-Employ Mr. Lariho Chaha and his wife as formal groundsmen to oversee the land's security and contribute to farming initiatives.

4. Relocation of Settlers:

-Collaborate with the Guadalcanal Provincial Government and West Guadalcanal Constituency MP to finalize relocation arrangements for

-Strengthen partnerships with the Sahalu House of Chiefs, Guadalcanal Provincial Government and West Guadalcanal Constituency MP to address settlement issues and foster goodwill.

With that, the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau acknowledged the effort of the team led by PVCC Dr. Parairato stating, "I extend my gratitude to all team members for their dedication and insightful contributions."



Mr. Lariho Chaha who occupied SINU Aruligo land discussing with SINU PVCC Dr. William Parairato.



A new house erected on SINU Aruligo land.



SINU Council Secretary Mr. Biku pointing to a potential farm land that SINU could use to do farming in the future.

settlers at Takaboru.

-Explore acquiring additional land at Takaboru for subdivision and allocation to SINU staff.

5. Land Title Renewal:

-Work with the Commissioner of Lands to renew the Aruligo land title and apply for premium payment exemptions through the Land Board.

6. Stakeholder Engagement:

"I look forward to receiving updates on the progress of this initiative and remain available for any further guidance or assistance."



SINU Staff mingling with settlers at the SINU Aruligo land.

SINU Taekwondo Club opens door

More members of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) community have recently joined the newly introduced SINU Taekwondo Club.

Since its opening in late January this year, the club has continued to grow, with enrolment still open for interested members of the SINU community. According to Chief Instructor Wilson Saeni, the idea of establishing a Taekwondo club for SINU was conceived last year but was delayed due to various factors.

Saeni, a former national Taekwondo coach, expressed his enthusiasm about the increasing interest from children, youths, and staff in the sport. He emphasized that the club's primary objectives are to promote self-discipline, self-defense, and physical fitness among students and staff while also scouting for potential fighters to represent the country in the future.

"So far, a total of 100 application forms have been distributed to students, and the SINU Taekwondo Club is steadily growing," he said.

The club conducts training sessions three times a week—on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Saeni also noted that the club is fortunate to have the support of some current national fighters who are assisting with training sessions.

Training sessions are held at the New Hostels Hall at Kukum Campus.



Chief instructor Wilson Saeni



SINU Taekwondo Club members posed for a group photo after one of their training sessions.

Miss Pacific Islands Contestants Visit SINU During Orientation Week

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) was honoured to welcome the reigning Miss Pacific Islands, Moemoana Schwenke, along with the eight contestants vying for the next Miss Pacific Crown, during its Orientation Week (O-Week). The visit was a fitting highlight of the program, as the contestants shared words of encouragement and advice with SINU students, inspiring them on their academic journeys.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (PVCA), Dr. Eric Katovai, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, which included Miss Solomon Islands Elsie Polosovai, Miss Samoa Litara Jeremia-Allan, Miss Tonga Racheal Guttenbeil, Miss American Samoa, Pauliana Felise Vitale, Miss Kiribati Kimberly Tokanang, Miss Papua New Guinea May Torowi Hasola, Miss Nauru Charlei Andrianna Deiye and Miss Cook Islands Ngatepaeru Maoate.

Dr. Katovai shared a few remarks on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau,

"We are deeply grateful for your visit and for gracing us with your presence as you add excitement to our orientation program today. Your participation is more than an engagement in a celebrated tradition – it is an embodiment of leadership for women and girls in communities across our beautiful Pacific region.

To the Pacific Queens, as role models, you carry with you stories of resilience, grace, and achievement. Your commitment to excellence not only motivates our youth but also serves as a catalyst for positive change throughout our communities.

By engaging in events like these, you help spark conversations about empowerment, cultural pride, and sustainable progress.

You remind us all that every step taken toward self-improvement and community engagement can ripple out to inspire change on a larger scale.

As you go through this week's competition, we wish you all the very best. Remember that while in any competition, there can only be one winner, each of you is already a winner.

The positive impact you have made and will continue to make in your respective countries and communities is immeasurable. Your courage, dedication, and spirit will continue to shine brightly, making you queens in the hearts of many, regardless of the final outcome on Saturday night.

Once again, thank you for being here, for your dedication, and for lighting the path toward a brighter future for our people, both young and old.

Your visit is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we work together, uplift one another, and celebrate the strength of our shared heritage."

SINU extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Miss Pacific Islands contestants for their visit and for inspiring students with their words of wisdom and encouragement. Their presence added a special touch to Orientation Week and emphasized the university's commitment to nurturing leadership and empowerment among young people in the Solomon Islands.



Miss Pacific Contestants, along with Miss Pacific 2024/2025 Moemoana Schwenke and SINU PVCA Dr. Eric Katovai and a MAO dancing group posed for a group photo in front of the Kukum Lecture Theatre.

Staff Profile

Name: Jeffrey Varuia

Province: Malaita (Are'are)

Age: 43 years

Workstation: Kukum Campus

Department: Property, Facility & Projects

Job Title: Supervisor – Carpentry Maintenance

Qualifications:

- Diploma in Construction Management – SINU
- Certificate in Trade Carpentry & Joinery – SICHE

How long have you been working at SINU?

I have been working at SINU for 13 years.

Tell us about your job.

I supervise carpentry maintenance work for SINU's facilities and properties. My responsibilities include overseeing apprentices on attachment, conducting repair assessments, preparing scopes of work, and providing support to faculties, departments, and students when needed.

What do you like about SINU and your job?

I appreciate SINU's role in providing higher tertiary education to Solomon Islanders. I am proud to be part of the Property & Facility team, contributing to the university's academic growth and development.



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Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Pacific Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands."