



## Message from Mr. Barry Whiteside

Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji

It is my privilege to present to you Fiji's new flora and fauna design banknotes and coins officially unveiled by His Excellency the President of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau on 12 December 2012. The new banknotes and coins will be issued into circulation from 2 January 2013.

Fiji's endemic flora and fauna designs will now replace the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II across all denominations. It is important to recognise the

biodiversity around us. Some of the flora and fauna that have been chosen to feature on our banknotes and coins are so unique that they are only found in Fiji while some are even believed to be extinct since they have not been seen recently. We should be proud of nature's gift to us. It is therefore important that we recognise these in conserving our biodiversity and creating awareness of the threats to biodiversity. What better way to do this than on our currency which is used by all citizens.

The change in designs is a significant one since we all have been so accustomed to seeing members of the British Royal Family on our currency over the past 78 years. At the Reserve Bank we feel it is now time to promote our own unique natural treasure.

Work on the design process commenced in 2010, the United Nations declared International Year of Biodiversity. A Currency Design Committee (CDC) comprising eminent Fijians was approved by the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance to oversee the design selection process. The CDC finalised design selections which were approved by the RBF Board in November 2010 and by the Cabinet in March 2011. Following a competitive tender process, the world's largest commercial banknote printer De La Rue

Currency, United Kingdom and one of the world's leading coin mints, the Royal Canadian Mint, Canada, were awarded the tender to design and produce our new notes and coins in their respective categories.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of those people who assisted with the design and public education process through the provision of unique and rare photographs. Very few people have actually seen the design subjects alive and we are fortunate to have had this assistance. I am truly grateful to these individuals for their contribution to our new currency.

The RBF for the first time will introduce a new \$2 coin and a polymer banknote in \$5 denomination in its new vibrant green colour. These measures have been taken to improve banknote durability and to also save costs for our nation. Various strategies have been set to withdraw the old \$2 and \$5 banknotes. Public awareness will commence in January 2013 to ensure an efficient and effective transition for these two denominations. Other banknote denominations will continue to co-circulate and will be subject to a gradual withdrawal process. Coins will continue to co-circulate and the old designs will not be withdrawn.

Design and technical changes include more vibrant colours and modern security features for the higher banknote denominations. Designs on the front and back of all coin denominations have now been named in promoting our natural heritage even better. We all will get to know and recognise the importance of what we have. Many of us did not know what a saqāmoli was until we put it on the \$1 coin.

For the visually impaired, banknotes will continue to be of varied sizes and coins will continue to have different edges to assist in differentiating between the denominations.

I am sure that we all will be proud of our natural heritage and our new design flora and fauna currency. I am also confident that our new currency will be amongst the best in the world.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Executive Management and Staff of the RBF, I extend my seasons greetings and best wishes to you all for this festive season.

- Do not apply sellotape on banknotes. Applying sellotape on banknotes damages them and also destroys their look and feel.
- Do not write on them. Writing on banknotes destroys the look and feel of them. Writing on banknotes is also illegal.
- Store banknotes in cool and dry places. Water, moisture, excessive heat and dirt will damage the banknotes.

### Coins

In February 2009, the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) issued smaller and lighter coins to save cost. Approximately 73 million smaller and lighter coins have been issued by the RBF since February 2009. This equates to 278 tonnes of coins.

It is estimated that less than 50 percent of these coins are actively used in circulation to pay for goods and services. The rest are assumed to be lying idle in homes, offices and in cars. Some may even be lost. Coins, unlike banknotes, are much more durable, and on average, can last 15 years in circulation if used actively.

The RBF, on average, issues 11 million brand new coins into circulation each year to meet demand costing the RBF approximately \$1 million. The rising metal prices are causing the cost of coins to increase every time the Bank orders new coins.

You can help save money for the nation by reusing coins that may be received as change from your shopping. Using idle coins will help the RBF order less coins and help save money.

## Did you know?

### Banknotes

The Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) on average issues 55 million brand new banknotes into circulation each year to replace worn out and damaged banknotes and to meet demand. Replacing worn out and damaged banknotes is an expensive exercise costing the RBF approximately \$2.4 million annually.

You can help save money for the nation by looking after your banknotes, keeping them cleaner and making them last longer.

### Tips to care for your polymer banknotes

The RBF for the first time has introduced a new polymer banknote in the \$5 denomination. Polymer banknotes require special care. Some tips are:

- Do not staple or pin banknotes. Polymer banknotes tear easily from the holes created by staples or pins. Use paper clips instead. Paper clips don't damage polymer banknotes.
- Do not expose polymer banknotes to excessive heat such as ironing, heaters and driers. Exposing polymer banknotes to excessive heat could cause them to melt. If melted, you will lose your banknotes and these will be of no value.

### Tips to care for your Polymer and Paper banknotes

All banknotes must be looked after carefully to ensure they remain clean and can be used for a longer period of time. Some basic banknote handling tips are:

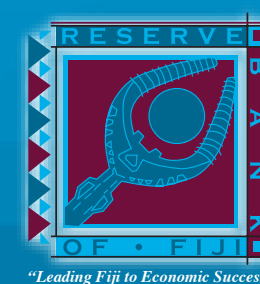
- Keep banknotes straight to help them last longer. Folding and crumpling damages the banknotes and reduces their life.
- If possible, keep banknotes in wallets and purses. Wallets and purses prevent banknotes from being damaged and also help in keeping them clean.

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# FIJI BANKNOTES AND COINS

## NEW FLORA AND FAUNA SERIES



POLYMER BANKNOTE

\$5



Front design features Fiji's endemic *Kulawai* (Red-throated Lorikeet), our smallest member of the parrot family. Predominantly green, the *Kulawai* is a very rare inhabitant of the mountain forest canopy which feeds on nectar and pollen. *Kulawai* has only been recorded from Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Ovalau. The last confirmed sighting was in 1993 and searches in the last few years have failed to find it. A clear window with an image of an *i-Taukei* man is featured on the note. An image of a *Kato ni Masima* (salt basket) is also featured on the front of the note.

Back design features Fiji's endangered Crested Iguana, endemic *Balaka* Palm, *Masiratu* flower and Mount *Vailili* in Vanua Levu.

PAPER BANKNOTE

\$10



Front design features Fiji's endemic *Beli* (Lever's Goby). *Beli* is one of few true freshwater fish, living all its life in fast-running fresh water as it flows over stones to which they often attach. *Beli* are widespread and found in mid reaches of clear streams on all the high islands, sometimes over a hundred metres above sea level. Their presence in any river is an indicator of good habitat quality and minimal catchment disturbance.

An image of *i Buburau-ni-bete* (duck dish) is also featured on the front.

Back design features the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva in 1914 and the Joske's Thumb in the background.

PAPER BANKNOTE

\$20



Front design features one of the world's iconic rare birds, the *Kacau ni Gau* (Fiji Petrel) which is known to nest only on Gau Island in Fiji. Experts believe that no more than 50 pairs survive. For much of its life, the *Kacau ni Gau* is a true ocean bird and remains at sea probably well outside Fijian waters for months on end. Adults return to Gau only to breed in a burrow in the upland forests, and do so only at night and leave for the ocean before dawn. The *Kacau ni Gau* has a very distinctive flight style which helps to make it stand out.

An image of a *Foa* (Rotuman coconut scraper) is also featured on the front.

Back design features fishing, forestry, sugarcane and mining industries of Fiji. Mount *Uluinabukelevu* in Kadavu is also featured in the background.

PAPER BANKNOTE

\$50



Front design features the *Tagimoucia* (*Medinella waterhousei*) flower which is perhaps Fiji's best known flower and has, in the past, been recommended as the national flower. It is the subject of songs, stories and folk lore. The name *Tagimoucia* is synonymous with the plant in its home in upland Taveuni around the lake with the same name, but *Medinella waterhousei* also occurs on Mount *Seatura* in Bua.

An image of a *Wasekaseka* (Whale's tooth necklace) is also featured on the front.

Back design features a culture and heritage theme with descriptions of a traditional *Tabua* and *Yaqona Vakaturaga* ceremony.

PAPER BANKNOTE

\$100



Front design features Fiji's *Nanai* (Cicada). Fiji has the richest fauna of cicadas in the south west Pacific with 19 species, all of which are endemic. Cicadas are well known for their loud calls, some of which resound through Fiji's forests. *Maka* is the common Fijian name for cicadas in general, but the *Nanai* is unique due to its striking appearance. *Nanai* is extremely well known to the inland communities of Viti Levu as it emerges in enormous numbers once every eight years and is not otherwise seen.

An image of a *Buli kula* (Golden Cowrie) is also featured on the front.

Back design features the map of Fiji with 180° Meridian Line marking the dawn of a new day, smiling faces representing Fiji's friendliness, a cruise boat for island hopping and tourists snorkelling.

1 Polymer Clear Window (\$5 only) Hold the note up against the light to see the clear window with an outline of an i-Taukei man.

2 Watermark (\$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 only) Hold the note up against the light to see a watermark of an i-Taukei man and the denomination.

3 See-through Feature Hold the note up against the light and you will find that the white circle inside the tagaga on the front of the note is neatly filled in with the patterns on the back of the note.

4 Security Threads (\$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 only) Hold the note up against the light and you will find the thread appearing as a continuous line with the letters RBF, RBF logo tagaga, and the denomination numeral clearly written on the thread. When viewed normally, the thread will appear as metallic dashes.

5 Hidden Text (\$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 only) Tilt the note at an angle to see the word "FIJI" on these notes.

6 Foil (\$10 only) The \$10 note features a foil with a star printed over it. Tilt the note to see a movement inside the star.

7 Hologram (\$20 only) Tilt the note at different angles to see the image of the bird Kacau ni Gau, letters RBF, RBF logo tagaga and the number 20 inside the hologram. You will also be able to see different colours in the hologram as and when you tilt the note.

8 Holographic Stripes (\$50 and \$100 only) The front of the \$50 and \$100 feature a new design dual image holographic stripe. Tilt the note at different angles to see the Fiji Coat of Arms, the letters RBF, RBF logo tagaga, the denomination numeral and flora and fauna design decorations. You will also find that the thread displays bright colours as and when the note is tilted.

9 Colour Changing Thread (\$100 only) Tilt the note at different angles and you will find that the new 4mm thread changes colour from red to green.

10 Raised Intaglio Bars (\$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 only) The left and right edges on the front of these notes have raised line prints. Fold the note so that you can rub the two edges together. You will find that when the edges are rubbed together, the raised line prints will grind against each other and give a crackling feel.

11 Raised Print (\$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 only) Run your finger across the front of the note and you will feel raised print across the front of the note.



New front design features a *Nuqa-roro* (Bi-colour Foxface Rabbitfish). Discovered in Fiji waters, this distinctive species has since been found from Tonga to New Caledonia but remains relatively uncommon throughout its range. *Nuqa-roro* is an algal feeder and is sought after by the aquarium trade.



Back design features a *Lali* (drum).



New front design features a *Beka-Mirimiri*, (Fiji Flying Fox) which is one of the world's rarest mammals. It has only ever been recorded for certain on three occasions – most recently in 2009 and on all occasions in the upland cloud forests of Taveuni, at elevations near or higher than 1,000 metres. Because of its rarity, nothing is known of its behaviour and ecology.



Back design features an *I ulā tavatava* (throwing club).



New front design features a *Kakā* (Kadavu Shining Parrot). Fiji's shining parrots are a strikingly beautiful group of two to six varieties. The most distinct of them is the *Kakā* or Kadavu variety which is generally accepted as a full species. Formerly, the red feathers of Fiji's parrots were the currency of trade for many of the Pacific's earliest inhabitants. Despite this and the advent of modern science we currently know next to nothing about the status, ecology and behaviour of the Kadavu parrot.



Back design features a *Tabua* (whale's tooth).



Front design features a *Varivoce* (Humphead Wrasse), one of the largest reef fishes in the world earning its name from the prominent hump that develops on the forehead of mature individuals. *Varivoce* are known to survive for at least 30 years, and taking around five to seven years to reach sexual maturity. Although now protected in Fiji, the flesh of this fish is highly prized and it remains one of the most highly sought species.



Back design features a *Camakau* (traditional outrigger canoe).



New front design features a *Vokai* (Banded Iguana), found on many islands of the Lau group. Banded iguanas are extremely well camouflaged and cryptic in nature and so are very rarely seen. Recent genetic work on Fiji's three species of iguana show that each island population differs genetically and so all need to be conserved as distinctive populations.



Back design features a *Saqāmoli* (drinking vessel).



New front design features a *Ga ni Vatu* (Peregrine Falcon). The Peregrine Falcon is one of the world's best known 'birds of prey'. Fiji has a distinctive subspecies – *nesiotes* – or 'the islander'. This subspecies is the most handsome of all the Peregrines worldwide. For Fijians, the *Ga ni vatu* has a powerful mystique which stems perhaps from a now largely forgotten legend of a fabulous *Ga ni vatu* from the Yasawa Islands. In Fiji, the population of the *Ga ni vatu* is less than a hundred pairs and is believed to be declining.



Back design features a *Tanoa* (kava bowl) introduced in the 1700s, and which came into widespread use in the mid nineteenth century.