



New Year's honours names Trustee



Trustee Joe Singh OF, JP

A Trustee of the JP Bayly Trust **Joseph (Joe) Singh** was bestowed an Officer of the Order of Fiji (OF) by the President of the Republic of the Fiji Islands in the 2005 New Year's Honours. The award, in accordance with the criteria for that category, is in recognition of Mr. Singh's *distinguished services of a high degree to Fiji*.

Mr. Singh, who retired as Executive Director of the Carpenter Group of Companies, is a registered valuer and land economist by profession. He was the first Chairman of the Valuers Registration Board and President of the Institute of Valuation and Estate Management of Fiji.

He served as a member of the 1999 Constitution Review Commission, is a past President of the Suva and Fiji Chambers of Commerce and Industry and was elected a Life member of the Fiji Chamber in 2004.

He has the distinction of being the charter President of the Rotary Club of Suva Peninsula, was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1999 and has served as the Rotary District Governor's Representative and is Assistant District Governor of Rotary International, an appointment he has held since 2000.

Currently Mr. Singh serves as Chairman of the Boards of the Fiji Islands Trade & Investment Bureau and the Maritime & Ports Authority of Fiji, a council member of the Fiji Institute of Directors, Chairman of

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Centre rewards young achievers

by Sarojni Michael, Lautoka Almoner

December 4, 2004 was a much eagerly awaited day for the staff of the Bayly Education Centre in Lautoka but more so for some 160 children.

It was the annual prize-giving for the children who received funding for their education from the Centre during the year, some of whom achieved distinguished results in the final exams. And as in the past, kind-hearted donors, including committee members, volunteers and staff, with the assistance of local business houses, friends and the "Fine Ladies of Lismore", (see story on the Lismore Ladies on page 4) put on a grand event and also provided the prizes.

Chief Guest for the afternoon was the Senior Almoner from the Suva Welfare Centre **Michael Chandra** who presented the prizes which was followed by traditional cultural items performed by the students. Volunteers, assisted by the staff worked tirelessly serving afternoon tea to everyone.

An extremely successful and exciting afternoon of activity; the smiles on the children's faces and gleam in their eyes will remain with me for a lifetime. Actually, I got goose bumps watching the

mothers arriving with their containers of goodies for all of us to share. The year commenced with a resounding bang as we soared into 2004 and towards the end were dumb-founded at how we were able to pull out plums from every pie that we stuck our thumbs into. Despite some difficulties we

managed to come up on top and not only had a successful but indeed a very satisfying year as well.

Our reward for the difficult 2004 year came on December 21 as the staff joined the volunteers and committee members for a most wonderful Christmas Dinner.

What a beautiful evening it was with the flicker of candle lights heralding that Christmas was close at hand.

A big thank you to all my hardworking staff, volunteers, committee members and friends.

Another great year had passed and an even greater one to look forward to.

I feel both excited and confident at what we can achieve as a team if we put our minds and hands together – the prospects are so promising.

"...the smiles on the children's faces and gleam in their eyes will remain with me for a lifetime."



Senior Almoner Michael Chandra presents the prizes at the Lautoka Centre. On the right is Lautoka Almoner Sarojni Michael

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Pacific/British Chamber of Commerce, Association of Pacific Islands Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Other Economic Operations, Trades Standards Advisory Council, Vice President of ACP/EU Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Other Economic Operations, Deputy Chairman of Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited, Board member of Fiji Institute of Technology Council, a Director of Vodafone Fiji Limited, Fiji Investment Corporation Limited and the Fiji Ports Corporation Limited.

He is a Trustee of Bula Foundation, a charitable trust based in the USA and a member of the PASC (Pacific Area Standards Congress) Standing Committee.

Mr. Singh also served as a Director of the Housing Authority and Telecom Fiji Limited as well as on several government, religious, educational, service and sporting committees and organisations. He joined the Board of JP Bayly Trust in August 1994 and was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Fiji in 2001.

The Trustees, Management and staff of the JP Bayly Trust and its other divisions offer their congratulations to Mr. Singh on being awarded this high honour and wish him continued success.

Workshop on Social Justice

Senior Almoner at the Bayly Welfare Centre in Suva **Michael Chandra** was invited to attend a workshop on Social Justice in Auckland, New Zealand in late October 2004.

This has resulted in the establishment of a Social Justice Commission which will operate under the auspices of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of New Zealand and Polynesia.

The principal role of the Commission will be to identify and promote areas and models of good social justice practices. To achieve this it will address matters relating to poverty, social disintegration, racism and all forms of social exclusion and identify appropriate responses for these.

The Commission will also develop and maintain links with relevant government departments and secular agencies and make submissions on various government policies and special initiatives.

Whilst in New Zealand Michael took the opportunity of meeting with those who have provided support to the Bayly Welfare. One of these was the Rotary Club of Warkworth and he also attended their luncheon meeting. The Club has been assisting with clothes over the past four years and present at the meeting was Rotarian **David Scott**, who was previously Chairman of the Suva Welfare committee while working in Suva some years ago.

Michael told *Bayly News* that apart from David Scott he had not met any of the others before

A medic's experience at the Bayly Clinic

by Dr Wahid Khan

I joined the Suva JP Bayly Clinic in 1992 as a locum for Dr Vinay Jogia who was going abroad for further studies. Having served Fiji's Ministry of Health in various rural settings and a short stint abroad, I was a virtual unknown in the General Practice cadre.

In the Government sector where you are paid a salary, have time off work, are transferred all over the country and all the perks that go with the job, a General Practitioner (GP) at the JP Bayly Clinic was an eye opener. Here social medicine was being practiced, as it should be. Patients were charged minimal fees, oftentimes nothing at all and the less fortunate on the Welfare register were seen free and the trend continues to this day.

I remember those early days as one of frustration – I only saw 3 to 4 patients per day whilst my colleagues had built huge practices. The Medical Superintendent of the Clinic then was Dr Jai Marolia who was a tremendous support to me.

The JP Bayly Clinic has been a stepping-stone towards higher ground for many a GP and I thought initially, that it would be one for me as well. As time went on *I liked what I saw and did* and have remained here since. There are four doctors and a dentist at the Suva Clinic and we all develop our own clientele, collect

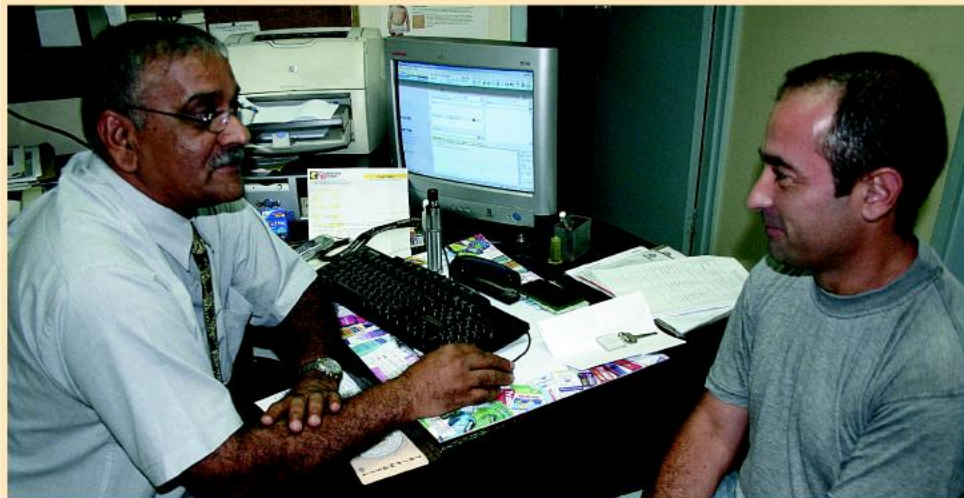
fees individually and share the operational costs.

Although designed to cater for the medico-dental needs of the less fortunate, the clientele base now transcends people from all walks of life although the bulk of our patients are still from the low-income group.

I have often been asked to move onto other premises but have resolutely resisted this. The social aspect of the practice attracts me. Having myself come from a poor background, I sold peanuts on the streets of Labasa as a young lad to earn money for my schooling and other needs. I am well aware of the sufferings of the poor and able to empathize with these patients which to me, is what the practice of Medicine is all about.

Our shared expenditure at the Clinic allows for our overheads to remain low and this provides us the ability to practice Social Medicine.

Editor's note: Dr Wahid Khan is a graduate of the Fiji School of Medicine and later undertook studies towards a Diploma in Tropical Public Health at the University of Sydney which he successfully completed in 1986. He is the Medical Superintendent of the Suva Clinic and Vice Chairman of the Suva Bayly Welfare & Education Committee.



Dr Wahid Khan (left) consults with a patient at the Suva Bayly Clinic

Freehold agricultural lots for sale at Tova, Ra

The JP Bayly Trust owns a 2,560 acre estate in Tova, Ra (close to Vitilevu Bay) where some 30 lots are available for sale. Lots range from 7 acres to 16 acres, each costing between \$1,500 to \$2,000 per acre VEP. A 1/3 deposit is required and the balance paid in monthly instalments over 7 years at 9% interest per annum. Those interested may contact the Trust's office on telephone 3313 139 for further details.

and the only contact with them was through correspondence and faxes. "They were very pleased to meet me and the ties between the Rotarians and Bayly Welfare have been strengthened. Annually the Club has been sending around fifteen bales of clothes which is about

1,200 kilos."

The Senior Almoner also spoke to Mrs. **Shirley Hemming**, widow of the founder of the Bayly Clinic and Welfare Centre, Dr. George Hemming who is probably the only surviving member of the founding Trustees.

The man behind the Trust

a closer look at the late JP Bayly

Whilst the JP Bayly Trust, the Bayly Clinic and Bayly Welfare are household names amongst many in Suva and Lautoka, these being the districts where the clinic and welfare centres are based, little is known about the man who founded these institutions and whose name they bear.

In this issue, we bring you a brief account of this remarkable man who bequeathed all that he owned including vast hectares of land, for the health and welfare of thousands of the less fortunate citizens of this country.

John Percy Bayly was born to a family of modest means in Levuka in 1882. Eighty one years later he died a millionaire, leaving an estate valued at £650,000 (approximately \$1.3 million in 1963) which included vast hectares of freehold land in the Sigatoka Valley, Viti Levu Bay in Tova, Ra and other areas in Fiji.

Perhaps the most well known, the Bayly Clinic is only one of the three institutions that benefit annually from the Trust established to assist the needy of Fiji. The third is the Bayly Education which assists children of needy families with almost all of their schooling requirements - from fees to books, to uniforms to shoes and food, from year one to the seventh form and in some cases, courses at tertiary institutions.

John Bayly's father, an Englishman, was a saddler and there were two sons and two daughters in the Bayly family. To ensure a good start in life, his father endowed young John at birth, with an insurance policy of £1,000, payable at the age of 18.

Upon leaving school, which included some time at the Kings College in Auckland, John Bayly commenced work for HM Customs in Levuka. This he did for a few years and on the day that the £1,000 policy matured, he went to the Collector of Customs and tendered his resignation, stating with great finality that he intended to be his own boss in future. True to his words, John Bayly never ever again worked as an 'employee'.

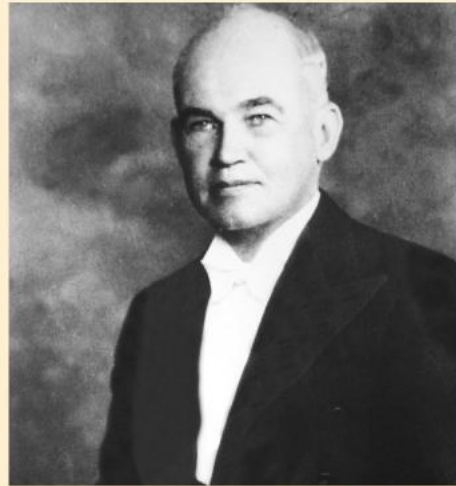
He started his own business as a general land agent and began buying land. John Bayly could not bear to see a vacant piece of land and a great deal of his traveling was done in the Sigatoka area including the Valley, often on horseback, as he bought up hectares of farming land mainly for cattle ventures.

Eventually settling in his own home in Deuba, a simple frame house at the mouth of the river, John Bayly never married, and lived in the most basic style with a wooden box for his table and smaller boxes for chairs. His great love for books and the English language led him to read late into the nights by candlelight.

He craved no luxuries nor did he participate in the 'social life' around him. Above all, John

Bayly was consumed with a love for the land and he was forever trying new projects such as the cultivation of rubber trees, many of which can still be seen on the Suva/Navua highway particularly in Wainadoi.

Government and politics were his other abiding concern and he eventually became a Member of the Legislative Council and was awarded the OBE for services to the country.



John Percy Bayly – gave all he had to the less fortunate

In some respects, reminiscent of the legendary Howard Hughes in his later years, John Bayly was an unlikely candidate for a grand scale philanthropist. As a member of the Rationalist Society, he eschewed religion.

A strong individualist, he was not wont to demonstrate overt affection for his fellowman. Nevertheless, he was a compassionate man and particularly known for the way he provided for the well-being of his employees, their comfort in retirement and the education of their children.

In 1954, nine years before his death, John Bayly agreed in principle to the establishment of a medical centre to benefit the poor of Fiji, and in preparation for this, purchased a plot of land and gave £6,000 for the building and equipment.

Thus began the founding of the JP Bayly Trust which was registered as a Charitable Trust on July 30, 1954 and until his death, John Bayly served as Chairman of the first Board of Trustees together with four other colleagues; Theodore Hansen, Dr George Hemming, William Johnson and Leslie Martin.

The Bayly Clinic opened its doors on November 1 the same year and at 10 O'clock every Tuesday morning, John Bayly would drop in for a cup of tea whilst the work went on around him.

The Clinic broke new ground in Fiji, filling a great void in the area of caring for the less fortunate and continues to do so. The Lautoka Clinic and Welfare Centre commenced serving the people of the area in January 1987 while the Labasa Welfare Centre opened in 1997.

The idea of a clinic and welfare centre came from the Rev. Dr George Hemming who was born in Queensland in 1908 and came to Fiji in 1939. A medical practitioner, trained teacher as well as an ordained Anglican Priest, Dr Hemming was sometimes abrasive, but totally dedicated and a man of deep social conscience. Like JP Bayly himself, he did not willingly tolerate fools.

Dr Hemming believed there was little advantage in curing conditions such as anaemia, venereal disease and malnutrition ... three of the most common complaints among his patients, without tackling the social and economic problems that caused them, a philosophy which shaped the early work of the Bayly Clinic and prompting the establishment of a social welfare section to complement the medical division.

As partners, Hemming and Bayly were strange bed fellows, given Bayly's strong rationalist commitments but they shared a common concern for the poor of Fiji regardless of race, colour or creed.

With the Clinic operational, work in the Welfare section was carried out entirely by volunteers from the Anglican Fellowship of St. Francis and St. Clare. John Bayly had come to terms with this "Church" connection although he later specified in his Will that no Trust monies were to benefit any sect or religious body.

Throughout his life he lent money to all manner of people who were in need. A great many of these debts were waived, either before his death or through his Will.

John Bayly died on January 12, 1963 and after several specific bequests, left assets totaling more than £650,000 which over the years has, and continues to be administered by the Board of Trustees to this day.

With few personal ties and no family of his own, John Percy Bayly stands as one of the greatest philanthropists in Fiji's history.

Editor's note: Both John Bayly and Dr George Hemming have been cited, amongst 70 individuals, in the publication *20th. Century Fiji – People who shaped this Nation* which was released to commemorate the Millennium.



Founder of the Bayly Clinic Dr George Hemming

The “Fine Ladies of Lismore”

by Sarojni Michael

Annually, the Lautoka Bayly Education Centre provides schooling requirements for 150 children who are in the Centre’s register and playing a big role in this activity is a group of women who I affectionately refer to as the “Fine Ladies of Lismore”, simply because they truly are.

I got to know them through Dr. Louise, an eye specialist at the Lautoka Hospital who, knowing about my involvement with the Bayly Education, gave my name and telephone contact to her friend and work colleague Malcolm Tester (a retired eye specialist) from Lismore in New South Wales, Australia. He and his wife Yvonne communicated with me soon after and on their next visit to Fiji in August 2003, we met.

This was the beginning of an acquaintance which I have been fortunate to have made for they have assisted us on countless occasions. When they returned home they told their Rotary Club members about the Bayly Education programme and in October 2003, we were visited by a group of fourteen, accompanied by the Testers who brought with them stationery, clothes and gifts for distribution to the families



Lautoka Almoner Sarojni Michael sorts clothes brought by Yvonne Tester (right)

in our register.

The Lismore ladies sponsor twenty children towards their schooling and another group of ten, led by Fay Hopf visited us in July last year bringing with them gift packs (toiletries) and special parcels for their sponsored children.

I often take the visitors to see the conditions in which these families live which probably inspired them to sponsor the twenty children. This indeed is a great help and we will always be grateful to the “Fine Ladies of Lismore”.

High academic achievers recognised

The Suva Bayly Education Centre held its annual prize giving in December 2004, to recognize the achievements of students it had put through school during the year.

Seven students were presented prizes with two *best progressed students* receiving a bicycle each. The bicycles were donated earlier in the year specifically for this category.

Senior Almoner **Michael Chandra** said that Bayly Education strongly believed that besides the financial support for their complete

schooling needs, incentives such as these prizes would go a long way towards enhancing individual performances and spur them on to greater achievements.

Currently, there are 341 families in their register out of which 171 students will be assisted during 2005. The Centre believes that education will ultimately make it easier for these students to find employment and this will then pave the way for the Centre to provide for others in need of assistance.



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Vilisoni Vokiciau a fourth former at Ratu Sukuna Memorial School during 2004, receives his bicycle from Senior Almoner Michael Chandra



Vocational student at Bhawani Dayal College Avinesh Lal receives his prize from Senior Almoner Michael Chandra