

Voice of the Future

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School is my Friend

It's been three years to date that TNYC have implemented the programs for youth in school around Tongatapu making sure they have every opportunity to complete their education in the secondary level and not opt out of school.

School is my friend title has given a new positive twist to the projects said Silia Tu'ivai the coordinator of the project. It has given us new approach for the students that learning does not stop in the formal area like the classroom but it also happen by physically engage in activities

such as agriculture in preparing seedling and planting trees, picking rubbish. The students is starting to enjoy school and I think this is a very important development to students and it will help them be more successful in their education said Silia.

"I love this program" said 'Isile Soakai "It has given me the courage to pursue my dream. I dream to be a police man one day and School is my Friend (SIMF) is giving me the courage to make my dream possible"

There are 13 students who are on the SIMF program and on July 5-6 Silia Tu'ivai program manager took all 13 students site visiting to small business , TNYC youth employment projects, environmental energy project as well as TNYC organic farming project.

The first stop of the tour was at the Virgin Coconut Oil factory Sopa.....Cont. Page 4

Best Oil in Tonga

Products	Price (s)
Virgin Coconut Oil 500ml	\$12.00
Coconut Cosmetic Oil 500ml	\$15.00

Tonga National Youth Congress

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VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

Virgin Coconut oil is the best oil for cooking and the best skin care oil. This



has been proven world wide by Health Nutritionist and cosmetologist alike.



Virgin coconut based cosmetic products training.

“You are lucky here at TNYC that you have a rich supply of coconut oil” said Sherly “Coconut is the key ingredients of what we are doing here”. Sherly is a private business owner in Australia and have been a friend of the Tonga National Youth Congress for three years her company is known as Skin Indulgence. Sherly has conduct soap making training with TNYC in 2015 and now has come back again to do training on face scrup, lip balm, shampoo and conditioner all based on virgin coconut oil.

The work shop was conducted at TNYC VCO unit at Sopu

“This is a great opportunity for me to learn how to

make such stuff” said one of the participants “as a girl I value good shampoo and lotion but being here at this work shop give me the opportunity to make my own cream. I’m loving it and would like to mix my own one day”.

The workshop ended with the participants wanting to get right on in making their own beauty cream.

Both participants from Vava’u Youth Congress and ‘Eua Youth Congress wanted to just get back to their own youth congress and start making cream or shampoo. For the have master making coconut shop now coconut cream and shampoo are the next step

Ha'apai Youth Congress

Ha’apai youth has been involve in the Ha’apai festivity weeks. First the Ha’apai Masani then the Free Wesleyan Church annual conference and follow by the king birthday celebration.

“Throughout all these event the youth have been fully participate in these” said Teisa Ha’apai Youth Congress (HYC), Office manager “from cooking/preparing food to joining the beauty contest HYC youth members where committed to making these festival memorable”

Before the festival's begun the Ministry of Internal Affair had a training on handy craft it was HYC youth that were participated in the training.

“The training was all about how to make handy craft like faka-Ha’apai and traditional tapa wears” said HYC office manager “yes at this training our youth skill was upgraded and many other learn from the training”

Back on Track

HACCP certification to the Sopu virgin coconut oil production facilities. The work toward getting the VCO export to the international market is still a continuous process with the help from the PHAMA project in getting the vco facility and training of staff in HACCP.

In June 14 TNYC warehouse was inspected by HACCP inspector David.

“Lots of improvement” said David “but we still need to work on our files and documentation and all the stuff that I have recommended”.

Tonga National Youth Congress already have their organic certification, adding on the HACCP certification they will have the confident to take their product internationally.

The VCO facility in Sopu and the Vava’u facility was inspected for HACCP and timeline to address non compliance will be September. Staff in the facilities is working non stop to address these so TNYC can export the VCO as well as their vanilla beans with the HACCP label on it.

We now have a small market on the vanilla to the U.S. and there is also discussion on our virgin coconut oil going there too.

Livelihood Recovery Progress.

In June 8th Tonga National Youth Congress chairmen of the board, Drew Havea and director, Vanesa Lolohea meet up with the New Zealand High Commission, Tiffany Babington.

The meeting was held at TNYC virgin coconut oil warehouse at Sopusu. The talk focus on the roles TNYC play on the recovery phase that Tongatapu is taking after cyclone Gita.

“Right now we have help to communities” said Drew Havea “the first one is Nakolo where the livelihood team have built up 10 vegetables gardens for people living with disabilities, widow and elderly peoples. The next

village is here at Kolomotua the village of ‘Isileli, but the way the teams plant the vegetables at ‘Isileli used empty plastic bottle this is a way that the people can recycle plastic bottle as well as planting vegetables in an area where there is no soil and most of the time is water logged. ‘

The meeting continue with updates on other project funded by MFAT New Zealand.

The meeting ended with the New Zealand High commission touring the warehouse as well as going to both Nakolo and ‘Isileli and taking a look at the work that TNYC have done to these two communities.

School is my Friend

“This is hard work” said one of the students from Queen Salote College “but I love it. Cause I think this is the first time that we work as a team to product something and what better way to bring our team together but by making coconut oil”.

The next stop of the tour was with TNYC green house where Technical Organic Advisor, Navuso Tuamei’api took these kid on an adventure of how to make your own backyard vegetables

gardening.

“I am learning a lot” said Mele Falepapalangi “the way you can plan our own garden in your back yard is making me want to do it. I love growing things and the methods of doing it is so easy”

On the second day of the trip Mausea Halahala took over the crew and the first thing that they learn about is keeping the environment clean.

In the morning the team headed to Fuaa wharf and started clean out the wharf. Afterward the team headed back to the office and took the rest of the day side viewing .

“This is one of the greats experiences that I had ever been on” said ‘Aleksio Fakava “I have one and learn a lot. From how jobs operates to good time side viewing this encourage me to pursue my dreams to its fullest”





Vava'i Youth Congress

While the rest of Tonga focus in the Ha'apai festival. Vava'u youth office and Ministry of Internal Affair (MIA) have taken the opportunity to highlight the hard work that has been done by the youth in small business area.

A trade fair for the youth was co-joined organize to show case agribusiness farm as tapa designing and products and other handicraft by youth.

Father Pauli Ta'ai was the guest of honor in the program and it

was held at Maliefihi Siu'ilikuta- pu College compound.

"Yes while all eyes are on the celebration that is happening at Ha'apai we took our time to honor our youth here at Vava'u" said 'Akosita Tua, Office Manager of VYC "today is a joyful day because our youth are showing just how skillful and talented they are"

With the agricultural show moving toward Vava'u the island is already motivate to show case just how fruitful the island of

Vava'u is.

"Not only our youth have displayed a lot of handicraft and vegetables crops and other product they also have a market day to sell and market their work.

The day ended with dances from everyone that came to the trade fair as well as the youth earning income in the trade fair day. This will become a monthly events for the Vava'u Youth and the Youth Office and MIA.

