



HISTORY

In October 1999 we started to clean, clear and prepare a piece of land on Beqa Island, called Lawaki. It is situated on the south west corner of the Island, direct on the beach side. It is part of Sam's homeland and we could lease it from his clan.

We erected a wooden house for temporary living. The water from the well, on 100mt above sea level, has been directed into two 5000lt fibre glass water tanks and then further down to the beach.

New Years Eve 1999/2000 we spent at Lawaki Beach, hoping and wishing that our dreams will come true and all will work out well.

We still lived in Pacific Harbour and used our home as a base for all the organisations necessary like: communication, depot for material, accommodating helpers and many more. Sam worked on the Island during the week. He organised countless staff, transportation, trips, material, food, paperwork and any thing necessary for the project.

The Mainbure has been completed except for the interior in January 2001, and we moved from Pacific Harbour to Beqa, with all our stuff including 6 dogs and 3 cows. The Mainbure got completed and plans for the future guest accommodation had to be done.

In 2002 we built the two Private Beach Bures and the Dorm/Family Bure. Also our Website went online. It was maintained in Suva, since we only had a small spot in front of the Mainbure with a fairly reasonable reception.

After 3,5 years of shifting, building, x trips from and to the mainland, a lot of bureaucracy: we officially opened Lawaki Beach House Ltd. for business in April 2003. We also bought the Lawaki Delight, our covered aluminium boat.

2005 was our good business year with an increase of the occupancy rate of 22%, compare to 18% in 2003.

In the 2006 Edition of Lonely Planet, we received a write up as "Authors Choice", which was an honour and very helpful for the young business.

2007 in March, we have got Internet reception in Lawaki. The mobile Phones could be used well at any corner of the compound. What an improvement! Also a Sky TV disk was installed on the roof. Due to a bad storm in July, our Fibre Glass boat has tipped over and was severely damaged on hull and the new engine. By the end of the year, we could realise a dream by adding a solar system and using the generator as back up only. We suddenly had the luxury of



a fridge and small freezer. The Lawaki Delight was extended for 1,5mts under Sam's supervision. It allows us to carry up to 12 people now.

The two cyclones in 2008 have damaged our seawall badly and a few of Sam's farm patches. During that season we have received the "Fiji Excellence in Tourism Award as Budget Accommodation on Islands". We enjoyed the recognition in the local industry and feel honoured.

The hurricane in January 2009 has made it impossible for the passenger vessel to visit Lawaki for the Fire Walking and Meke performance. The Vessel then came in February, the 3rd year in a row.

2009 December Hurricane Mike had a severe impact on the close by villages Naceva and Naiseuseu. Many of the homes, including the school have been damaged or even blown away. We could not hold tears looking at all the damages in our gardens, but we were blessed: buildings and boats were safe and without any damage.

In 2011 the Charity www.Loloma.ch was founded. It is still working until now in 2018: the children at Uluinakorovatu Primary School in Naceva receive 3 lunches per week from donors in Switzerland. Since a few days we are present in Facebook. Our Website is under construction and will be launched soon.

In 2012 our prayer was not only heard but fulfilled: we were blessed by winning a Toyota Hilux Van from a telephone promotion by Digicel. We appreciate the Van every time we use it.

2013 our Bures underwent a renovation. The Bamboo walls have been exchanged by weather board and Bure 1 and 2 got one more window towards the forest. The breeze now is perfect.

2014 the Lawaki family grew: our walk-in dog Kivi had 3 poppies. Together with Wolfie, the house dog, we have now 5 4legged security guards. USP (University of the South Pacific) conducted a class with local artists and students from USP and Australia to create arts from nature and rubbish with the topic "Global Warming". The workshop in Lawaki was intensive and the exhibition at the Oceania Centre breath-taking.

In November we were paid a visit by Lindblad Expedition Cruises from Seattle with their ship "Orion". After a while, and with a new company, we were happy to offer Firewalking, Meke, Lovo and all what Fijian Hospitality means: to make and keep guests happy.

That year, 2014, Fiji had its first democratic election. We were happy with the result. The new government needs funds and a lot of certificates, rules and regulations came up with the attached fees and costs!

Our chicken story was an intensive one. We learnt a lot, spent a lot and keep the last 5 chicken since 4 years, more to give them a good life than them giving us many eggs.

2015 we were busy constructing our Bure 3 & 4. They give us the long wished for options as family accommodation. We now can sell 3 different styles of Bures and are very happy with that situation. The huge verandah is the most admired part of the building.



Sea Fiji Reef with their Glass Bottom Boat from Pacific Harbour visited and started to do day trips for guests who want to spend a few hours on the beach and enjoy the Lawaki Reserve. It is a perfect way to expose Lawaki and the trip is a success.

In September 2015 I started my gap year: I spent 1 year in Switzerland. It was a very good time.

2016 February, while I was in Switzerland and Sam in Lautoka, Hurricane Winston hit Fiji. Thank God Lawaki was not hit badly like other places. The little damages in school could be repaired by Loloma funds. The same company turned 5 years old. The school received Laptops and printers for teachers and the founder of Loloma visited the school. I returned to Fiji in September.

2017 on Easter we bought our new Boat Lawaki Delight2. It is pink and travels economically. It is a leisure boat and won't accept all weathers as the good old Lawaki Delight.

We are happy to be more flexible and that we can offer cheaper travel options.

The week of fasting, praying and reconciling with the environment, family, staff and landowners was relieving.

Finally, after many years the hand points in the right direction: we could record more sales and guests. Thank the Lord!

2019 we are hoping and praying for Health and a good business year and wish everyone the same!

© Lawaki Beach House 2019