

Gau Secondary School FEST Programme
Alfred Ralifo
WWF South Pacific Programme Office

Fifty eight Students (16 – 20 year olds) of Gau Secondary School (GSS) and three Science Teachers participated in the first Ocean FEST programme that was held at the school on the 8th of, 2011.

The objectives of this school visit were to:

- present the FEST (Friends Enjoying Science Together) Programme Toolkit to Gau Secondary School Principal as part of WWF's Gau Secondary Ecosystem Based Management School Awareness Programme
- facilitate a workshop with the Science Teachers in GSS on how to use the FEST toolkit to use innovative teaching methods and aids to enhance the teaching of marine and environmental education in GSS
- pilot the FEST programme in a selected class in GSS to
- encourage teachers to use the FEST toolkit to teach the importance of the ocean to life on earth and how the ocean influences the global climate and weather patterns

The programme was facilitated by me and assisted by the three science teachers. Due to the lack of working benches in the school's one and only science laboratory, the students had to sit on the floor. The 58 students were divided into smaller groups of four in order for everyone to be able to participate actively. The students were really interested and enjoyed the programme as it involved a lot of fun filled activities and can relate the concepts learnt during the programme to their science lessons.

Sikeli Kotoibalavu, a Form 6 science student said, at the end of the programme, that he enjoyed the activities very much. He further mentioned that the activities helped him to gain more understanding of how Climate Change can affect his coastal village of Sawaieke on the island of Gau.

The school plans to hold more Ocean Fest programmes with other grades whenever time permits them. The teachers are more than happy to incorporate the FEST activities to their lessons and curriculum.

The teachers and students of Gau Secondary School wished to convey they heartfelt appreciation to C-MORE for providing the materials and toolkits for Ocean FEST programme. The children of Gau will benefit immensely form your kind donation.

Vinaka.