

Coral Coast



Picture: ATU RASEA

Hotels damaged

By FELIX CHAUDHARY

RESORTS along the Coral Coast reported water damage from tidal surges on Thursday night and yesterday morning.

Shangri-La's Fijian Resort and Spa said that water entered 30 ground floor rooms, of which, 10 were occupied. Seawalls at the resort were also damaged.

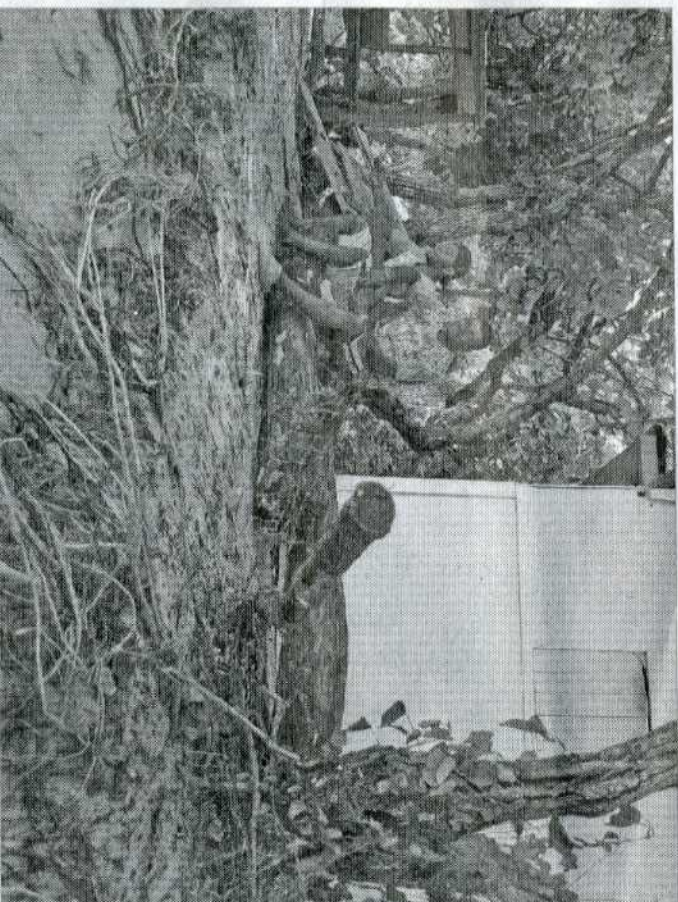
Naviti Resort and Spa activities gym window-glass sustained damage by surging water and three beachside villas were flooded by waves. Water also entered Nukunuku Restaurant.

Warwick Fiji Resort and Spa in Korolevu reported that the Wicked Walk Bridge was under water.

The Fiji Hideaway Resort in Tagage said seawalls were damaged and water entered some rooms. Tambua Sands in Namada reported that water entered four beach bure resulting in eight guests being moved to bure on higher ground.

Mango Bay Resort in Namatakula said water reached railings at the beachside resort but no major damage was reported.

The Queens Road at Vatukarasa was littered with debris and washed up logs. Police urged motorists to take extreme caution while driving through the area.



Naidiri Bay Khalsa School manager Dinesh Singh and Etika Bilolevu show the fence damaged by huge waves in Sigatoka.
Picture: BALJEET SINGH

Ruggers relocate

By SAMANTHA RINA

THE Fiji under-20 rugby team returned from a training session yesterday to find their rooms inundated with seawater and their belongings carried out by waves.

Team coach Inoke Male said they spent the morning training at the Nakalevu grounds from 6-7.30am when they saw waves washing onto the bridge leading from the Queens Road to the Shangri La's Fijian Resort.

"We were training when we noticed the waves wash onto the bridge leading to the Fijian. The waves completely covered the bridge and staff and guests were stranded on one end and couldn't get across," he said.

Mr Male said when they returned to Esos Accommodation where they were staying, they saw that seawater had

flooded the rooms and washed out the team's belongings that were left on the floor.

"We managed to save some items and others were lost. The floors of the rooms were covered in dirt and debris," he said.

The team contacted the Fiji Rugby Union office in Suva and was advised to relocate to the Crow's Nest.

Team manager Paula Bui said they had to miss a training session scheduled for 10am yesterday because they had to relocate to the Crow's Nest at Sunset Strip.

"Luckily we were quick enough to save some things. We saw the waves from the grounds but we didn't expect it to affect our rooms. This is the first time most of the boys in the team have experienced this," he said.

Mr Bui said the incident had no bearing on the teams training and preparations for their game in Vatukoula today.



Gurpreet Singh, left, and Harjeet Singh, Class Eight students of Naidiri Bay Khalsa School clear debris in their school compound.
Picture: BALJEET SINGH

Businessman calls for early warning system

SAMANTHA RINA

A BUSINESSMAN expressed disappointment at the lack of an alarm system to alert people to tsunamis or tidal waves. Mostafa Khattab, owner of Casablanca Hotel at the Sunset Strip in Sigatoka, said local authorities were supposed to install an alarm system to alert members of the public of natural disasters including tsunamis.

"They promised that sirens would be installed but nothing has been done. An alarm system is important otherwise how can people be alerted if they are sleeping?" he said.

Mr Khattab said on Thursday night huge waves rushed up to the front of their hotel.

"It was scary. We were fortunate that the waves were moderate," he said.

He said they suffered a similar incident in 2003 where waves washed into their pizza eatery which is about 60 metres from the beach.

TOMORROW

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Harrisons

Harrisons 30 Cumming street Suva

SALE ENDS

Drop to the last second!!!

