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ERASITO CONSULTANTS PTE LIMITED (*ERASITO*)

Erasito Newsletter

2025 Pacific Infrastructure Conference, Brisbane

Hosted by the Australia Pacific Business Council, the Australia PNG Business Council and the Australia Fiji Business Council, the Pacific Infrastructure Conference (PIC) was held between August 18th to 20th August, 2025 at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The PIC attracted a wide range of professionals, suppliers and civil servants from 20 countries. The PIC was intended to discuss views and opportunities on infrastructure in the region.

I was fortunate and grateful to have been given the opportunity by *Erasito* to attend the PIC this year. Following confirmation of my attendance, I was considered and invited to join the industry panel discussions pertaining to perspectives around regional partnerships on the first day of the conference. My participation involved a brief discussion on the long-lasting partnership between *Erasito* and Beca (including its challenges) for the benefit of new firms who wish to enter into and work within the pacific regional area. There is no amount of preparedness (even on a 4-hour flight from Fiji), Toastmasters attendance and formal speeches that will dissolve ones nerves once you are placed front and centre of a hard to please crowd. The whole experience (from the meeting with the facilitators and other panel presenters to the Question-and-Answer segment at the session) was nerve wrecking and overwhelming experience. Full credit goes to Chloe Collins of Beca for her guidance, tips and assistance throughout the process.

With project and proposal deadlines to meet whilst trying to pay attention to various speakers and networking when time permits, the remainder of the PIC was an overwhelming blur. The evenings however, were a tad less stressful and filled with loads of banter and stories, particularly with the Beca team. All in all, I am glad to have been given the space, time and opportunity to present and attend the PIC.



PHOTOGRAPH 01: *Karina Kaufusi [Beca], Sebastian Mariner [OSM Consultants, Samoa], Cushla Loomb [Beca], Chloe Collins [Beca], Edmond Bate'e [Tropic Group Builders Ltd (TGB)] and Lorin Tuilakepa [Erasito]*



PHOTOGRAPH 02: *Lorin with Stuart Mockett [Beca's General Manager International Markets]*



PHOTOGRAPH 03: *Lorin with Sebastian Mariner and his wife, Shorley Mariner of OSM, Samoa*

Inside this issue:

2025 Pacific Infrastructure Conference, Brisbane	1
Taveuni Hydro Trip	2
Experience in Tonga—Vaiola Hospital Project	2
My First trip to Savusavu	3
My Geotechnical Adventure to the Lau Islands — Through the Eyes of an Environmental Officer (Not an Engineer!)	3
Quiz Maniac	4
Reaching the Diamond Era	5
Directors Corner	5

Author: Lorin Tuilakepa

Special points of interest:

- *2025 Pacific Infrastructure Conference, Brisbane*
- *Taveuni Hydro Trip*
- *My Geotechnical Adventure to the Lau Islands — Through the Eyes of an Environmental Officer (Not an Engineer!).*
- *Reaching the Diamond Era.*
- *Director's Corner*

Taveuni Hydro Trip



PHOTOGRAPH 04: *Christine Lawakele [Erasito] utilising the flow gauge with the assistance from Maciu Koroidelaibatiki [Taveuni Hydro].*

In the month of September, I was given the opportunity to go to Taveuni and undertake a hydrological survey in the form of flow gauging and measuring the flow rate of a waterway.

It was a great learning opportunity for myself as I got to learn about the processes involved in undertaking a flow gauging survey from a representative of Williamson Water and Land Advisory (WWLA). WWLA is is a professional New Zealand based consultancy specialising in water resource and contaminated land science, planning and engineering. The data obtained from the flow gauging will be used for hydraulic modelling for the purposes of compiling the ESIA / CRVA for the proposed Hydropower Project by *Hydro Taveuni*.

Flow gauging was undertaken at the Lower Stream Site and Weir Site at the Lavena Stream in Lavena, Taveuni. The challenging part of the survey was the hiking, as both sites were not accessible by road. The hike to the weir site alone was 4 hours (one way) along a continuous uphill trail that was difficult to trek in, given the slippery wet conditions from the recent inclement weather in Taveuni.

We also got to undertake flow gauging at two waterfalls, Wainibau and Wainivaca waterfalls. Although it was quite a challenge to climb up the rocks to the upper pools, it was a refreshing experience to be fully immersed in all of Mother Nature's wonderful greatness upon reaching the upper pool (Taveuni is definitely a great destination for anyone looking to escape the busy city life).

A truly wonderful learning experience and getaway from the urban settings!

Author: Christine Lawakele

Experience in Tonga—Vaiola Hospital Project

From my perspective, the trip to Tonga with the Geotechnical team — Altaf (our team lead), Rahul, and I —alongside the Topographical survey team, Tulia and Fereti (team lead), was an exciting and memorable experience, especially since it was my first time traveling to Tonga. I genuinely enjoyed the local food, which made the whole trip even better, and I was able to gain hands-on experience using percolation equipment in real field conditions. Working closely with both teams helped me understand how geotechnical and topographical surveys come together on-site. I also very much appreciated how well everyone worked together, which made the job smoother and more enjoyable. Being in a new environment certainly helped me become more confident and adaptable in my work.

During the fieldwork, I got the chance to be more involved in different testing activities. This helped me better understand soil conditions and how site investigations are carried out. Altaf guided us well throughout, and Rahul and I worked side by side to get things done efficiently. Tulia and Fereti made sure the topographical work was accurate, which was important for the overall results. After each days work, Fereti would request everyone to gather together and provide the progress of our work. Seeing how everything connected on-site made the work more interesting for me, and it showed me how important it is to pay attention to detail in every task.

Outside of work, I enjoyed being in Tonga. The island and its people were welcoming, and it was a bonus getting to experience a different culture while spending time with the Team. Sharing meals and having time to relax together made the trip more enjoyable and helped us bond as a group. Those moments outside of work made the whole experience feel more balanced and less stressful, and it gave me time to take in all that I was learning during the trip. Overall, it was a great first international experience for me — both professionally and personally.



PHOTOGRAPH 05: *Tonga Dream Team outside home.*

Author: Dwayne Singh

My First Trip to Savusavu

They say there's a first time for everything — this saying became a reality for me when I stepped off my home island, boarded an aeroplane for the very first time, and discovered a new part of my own country which felt like a world away. And no, it wasn't a holiday—I was travelling for work. But let's just say the experience felt more like the former.

It was around late June, I was fortunate enough to tick off a few 'To-dos' on my bucket list: my first time out of Viti Levu, my first time on an aeroplane, and my first ever trip to Savusavu, Vanua Levu.

Boarding the plane brought on a mix of nerves and excitement. The plane? Let's just say it was *small*. Small enough to make every bump in the air feel like a full-body experience. When the turbulence hit mid-flight, I genuinely thought: *'This is it — we're going down'.* It didn't help that it was my very first time flying, so my nerves were already working overtime.

Touching down in Savusavu felt like landing in a dream. Known as Fiji's '*Hidden Paradise*', it lived up to its name instantly. The lush greenery, calm waters, and warm smiles greeted me the moment I stepped off the plane. It felt both familiar and entirely new. Savusavu has a peaceful charm that you can't quite explain until you're there. Life moves at a slower pace, the air feels lighter, and the natural beauty is simply breathtaking—from the hot springs bubbling beside my hotel room to the quiet marinas dotted with yachts from across the world. Everything felt slower, softer like time was on pause. My visit to Savusavu was an extraordinary experience!

One of my favorite moments was walking along the shoreline at sunset, the sky painted in soft oranges and purples, and thinking to myself, *'Wow, what a journey'.* It was more than just a work trip — it was a personal milestone. A reminder of how big the world is, even within the islands of Fiji, and how important it is to step outside our familiar boundaries every now and again.

My journey to Savusavu will always hold a special place in my memory. It reminded me that there's so much more to see, and that sometimes, the best adventures start with a single step — or in this case, a single flight.

I'm already looking forward to my next trip — though maybe on a slightly bigger plan with a little less turbulence!

My Geotechnical Adventure to the Lau Islands — Through the Eyes of an Environmental Officer (Not an Engineer!)

The trip to the Lau Islands was an adventure in every sense. The breathtaking scenery and the warm hospitality of the Lauans made the journey even more memorable. Although it wasn't my first experience with conducting a geotechnical investigation, the level of exhaustion at the end of each day was truly incomparable!

Of course, it wasn't all work. Our evenings were spent sharing stories over a tanoa, and thankfully, UNDP had a Starlink connection — which meant I could still sneak in an episode or two of my favourite Netflix series!

Accompanying my colleague, Simione Nalawanivonu, who is the Geotechnical Investigation lead for the work trip, gave me a new perspective on the technical side of project work. By the end of the trip, I felt much more confident in understanding the process and significance of geotechnical investigations.

While the engineers were busy analysing their test results, I quietly celebrated a personal milestone — my first expedition to the beautiful Lau Islands. It was not just a professional learning experience, but also a reminder of the incredible landscape and communities we serve through our work.



PHOTOGRAPH 06: *STN and I meeting TK and FF at Cicia Airport on 15 September 2025 (left), and conducting DCP testing at Lomati Village, Cicia Island, on 10 April 2025 (right).*

Author: Lorenzo Savea

Quiz Maniac

It has been just one month and three weeks since I joined *Erasito*. I can already say it has been quite an eventful start! In this short time, I have had the chance to attend not one, not two, but three amazing quiz nights, all thanks to the Company for sponsoring our teams. Each quiz was different in its own way, but they all had one thing in common: great fun, great people, and plenty of laughs (and beer)!

The first quiz I attended was on 26th September. It was a Fundraiser Quiz organized to support the Rotary Club of Suva East's community projects. It was my first experience representing the company at an external event, and it turned out to be such a great way to give back to the community whilst also bonding with colleagues. The liveliness in the room was infectious, a perfect mix of competition and bond.



PHOTOGRAPH 07: *Fundraiser for Rotary club quiz night on 26th September, 2025.*



PHOTOGRAPH 08: *Overall Event of the Erasito Beca 30th Year Celebration (photo taken 20/05/2025).*

Next up was the quiz hosted by Graduate Women Fiji on 2nd October. This event was full of excitement and friendly rivalry, with plenty of challenging questions that really made us think. It was also the night I realised how much fun it is to work with teammates outside the office. Everyone was relaxed, joking around and enjoying the evening.

The third quiz was later on around mid-October at the Famous Grand Pacific Hotel(GPH), hosted by Friends of the Fiji Museum. This event was definitely a highlight. Great venue, great crowd, and even better food! It didn't even feel like a competition at times; it felt more like a night out with friends!



PHOTOGRAPH 09: *Tokani quiz at GPH on 18th October, 2025.*

What made all these experiences even better was the chance to connect with other Staff members. I found it really easy to blend in and get to know everyone in a casual, fun setting manner. It's amazing how a few quiz questions (and maybe a few drinks!) can bring people together so quickly.

Looking back, these quiz nights weren't just about winning they were about learning, connecting, and enjoying the company of interesting people. Quiz Manic truly sums it up: a whirlwind of trivia, laughter and new friendships.

A big thanks to *Erasito* for encouraging Staff participation and supporting these wonderful events. It truly made my first few weeks unforgettable!

Directors Corner



In the last year, we have engaged a number of new graduates from both the Fiji National University (FNU) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) which has bolstered our Suva and Nadi Teams. Our new Staff have been a godsend. In this short period of time, they have demonstrated all the attributes that are needed to develop oneself into a fine engineer. They have proven themselves in many facets and fields of civil engineering and in doing so, have illustrated integrity, perseverance, tenacity and ability to work hard.

With the development of the skillsets of our new Staff, our '*new-look'* Company is well placed to bid exciting work not only in Fiji, but in the region. We are now able to proactively seek consulting engineering opportunities in Fiji and the Pacific for the European Union, Asian Development Bank, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). We certainly have a good looking future ahead of us.

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