

Tourism luminary in North dies

Joan Moody, co-founder of Moody's Namena Island Resort, a founding member of the Savusavu Tourism Association, and a founder of the Namena Marine Reserve, has died in Labasa Hospital after a brief illness. She was 73.

Mrs. Moody and her husband Tom created the resort on remote Namena Island beginning in 1982. Located 19 nautical miles off the coast of Savusavu, the island, then known as Namenalala to denote emptiness, had never been inhabited due in part to the lack of a water supply. The Moody's developed the resort themselves, including an elaborate water catchment system, solar and wind power generation, and with the steadfast aim of keeping the virgin feel of the 110-acre island intact. As such, the couple became one of the first to practice low-impact and environmentally sustainable development. Mrs. Moody was also instrumental in the creation of the marine reserve in order to protect the stunning barrier reef surrounding Namena Island from being over-fished.

Because of its uniqueness, the resort has been the subject of numerous magazine and newspaper articles around the world and will soon be featured by *National Geographic Television*.

The Moody's are legendary in the tourism world for remote resort operations. Prior to coming to Fiji, they operated Pidertupo, a resort in the San Blas islands off the coast of Panama. After many years of successful operations, their resort was burned to the ground and Mr. Moody was seriously wounded in an attack by alleged operatives of the Noriega regime. Before this, they were associated with resorts in British Honduras (now known as Belize) and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Burial will be in America.

For those wishing to show their respect, the family has established the Joan Moody Memorial Fund. In keeping with Mrs. Moody's strong belief in the value of education, the fund will go toward the education of children in remote Kubulau Province on Vanua Levu, where many of the resort employees live. Some of the fund will also be used in repair efforts in Kubulau from damage done by Cyclone Tomas. Deposits can be made directly to Westpac; account name, Namena Limited, account number 1168092700. Please note on the deposit: "For Joan Moody Memorial Fund." Donations may also be made by mailing Moody's Namena Resort, Private Mail Bag, Savusavu.