

Iguana Program – Update 2 – 8 July 2016

By Adam Clause.

Week 3 has come and gone in the blink of an eye, with plenty of new developments. In the wee hours of Tuesday morning, we captured our newest Malolo Island crested iguana (christened Monu, after the nearby island). This iguana is a survivor. Nearly two-thirds of his tail is missing, and the rest is heavily scarred. Although impossible to say for sure, this injury was likely caused by a non-native feral cat. Through our ongoing cat control efforts at Likuliku Lagoon and Malolo Island resorts, we are determined to ensure that such attacks become a thing of the past.

The marine ecosystems of Fiji are exceptionally diverse, and sea snakes are an important part of that diversity. We were fortunate enough to (carefully!) sample two Yellow-Lipped Sea Kraits on the Malolo shoreline. These gorgeous serpents, although potentially venomous, are not aggressive and are harmless if left alone.

Following up on Ahura Resorts' commitment to environmental education, on Tuesday we held a pilot program with live animals at the Malolo Island Resort Kids Club. Every youngster (and even some adults!) got up close and personal with native Fijian lizards and snakes, while learning about these animals' role in the environment. Fun times for all!



Jim Maiwai, Likuliku Operations Manager and iguana aficionado, with Monu the iguana



*Young adult yellow-lipped sea krait, **Laticauda colubrina***