

Home financier helps students

THE staff of Home Finance Company Limited brightened the lives of 30 families affected by the floods by donating books and clothes to them in the weekend. The staff raised cash to buy books and did a clothes drive to collect bed sheets, blankets, shoes, towels and clothes for children.

The company's Labasa branch manager Alipate Suguturaga said more than \$300 was spent on buying the stationary that were given to families that had children. He said staff in Labasa and the western division initiated the drive to help families that were affected by the floods.

Hiesa Celua of Namara Tiri, a squatter settlement that is built on reclaimed land, said all families in Namara were affected by the floods.

He said a few families who had built their house on piles managed to save their household items but the rest of them suffered huge losses.

Mr Celua said the donation would help the children who had lost their books in the flood.

He said this was the first help people living in his area had received and they were thankful. Form one student Peni Waqamaira said although he had started classes he was running short of exercise books and was thankful to the staff for their help.

He said he and his neighbours were lucky because a few of his friends in school were still awaiting

Mr Suguturaga said help was given to families in Urata, Vunivalvai, Navakasigani, Lajonia, Cawaira, Vatunibali, Boca, Bulileka, Siberia, Naqai Village, Tabucola, Tabia and Namara Tiri.

He said the staff were glad to give something back to society and were looking forward to other social projects during the year to help the underprivileged.



Peni Waqamaira, right, Titilia Divuna, middle, and Timoci Taria of Namara Tiri settlement in Labasa with their books yesterday.

q Picture: SEEMA SHARMA

Briefly

Labourer warned

A CASUAL labourer was told to keep the peace for 12 months after stealing from a supermarket.

Kitione Vesikula, 38, a casual labourer at the Suva wharf however was undecided of his plea when the charge was read to him by magistrates

inside. Vesikula asked the court for leniency saying he was just a casual labourer and trying hard to make a living and that his last offence was in 1997. He has nine previous convictions. He was bound over for \$200 and not to re-offend in 12 months.

shop. Inspector Raisuni said Vakarauvanua dropped six dozens of the spoons in an empty bucket while making his way inside the shop which was picked up by the security. He was searched by the security guard who found another one dozen of the items