I was deeply saddened this week by the news that Unaisi “Una” Murray, public relations manager at Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji, had passed away at a hospital near her home at the age of 70.

Una was an amazing lady who started working at that resort 32 years ago. After it was converted to an Outrigger and reopened in 2000, Una was the person who took photos and wrote weekly articles for Saturday Briefing so everyone could keep up with the many activities and personalities that make that resort such a special place. I always looked forward to seeing her when I traveled to Fiji.

Reflecting on Una’s life, property general manager Peter Hopgood commented, “She knew every person of note in Fiji. Presidents, prime ministers, foreign dignitaries and sports stars all took the time to drop by the resort and catch up with our beautiful Una.”

Our partner Geoffrey Shaw wrote, “Una was larger than life and the life of the party. In fact, Una was the party most times! As we mourn the loss of our dearly loved Unaisi, known to many as ‘Auntie Una,’ it is wonderful to reflect on her contribution to our vuvale, or Fiji family, over so many years.

“Una joined what was then Reef Hotel on Fiji’s Coral Coast as public relations manager in 1981. She transitioned to Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji when it was built on the old Reef Hotel site. During its construction in 1999, she helped keep our industry partners, employees and past guests abreast of project developments through her contributions to our newsletter, Vuvale News.

“As part of our opening team, she excelled in positioning our property through her extended media contacts and her eager interaction with our guests. She maintained her passion for the properties and people she loved for over three decades.

“Una possessed a richness and depth of character and gave freely of her time, enthusiastically engaging with dignitaries, guests and staff alike. Known throughout Fiji, she represented our hotel with passion and pride and was an invaluable member of our vuvale. She was a mentor to many and an inspiration to many more, displaying the true meaning of genuine Fijian hospitality and embracing its values.

“Una had a reputation as the ‘go-to person,’ and no task was beyond her reach. If you needed something fixed or needed an introduction, then you’d go see Una!

“Una always found great joy in associating with our wholesale and retail partners whenever they met. Her warmth, energy and joy of life are legendary. Whilst representing our hotel she introduced countless people to the pleasures of simply having a good time, laughing and dancing to the early hours. She understood what it means to be happy and carried many with her on that journey.

“We are much the poorer for having lost an industry icon, a passionate professional and a person of real worth. “Sa moce mada, Auntie Una, and loloma levu from your extended Fiji family.”

Thank you, Peter and Geoffrey, for sharing your kind, loving and meaningful tributes. They beautifully describe a very special friend who had a wonderful impact on us all. &nb
Una Murray, “larger than life and the life of the party”

Una Murray with Dr. Chuck Kelley

Una Murray with Dr. Kelley and Geoffrey Shaw

Una Murray with Anne Marie Kelley