



Audiopharmacy band members from left; Keepyajoy, Ras K'Dee, Teao and Kwame at the New Nadi Farmers Club. Photo: LITIA MATHEWSELL

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

**Western
musicians
learn a few
tricks,
says Fare**

By LITIA MATHEWSELL

American hip-hop fusion band Audipharmacy arrived in the country last Wednesday with positive messages of inspiration to encourage the production of original music.

Based in San Francisco, the four-member band of Teao, Kwame, Keepyajoy and Ras K'Dee had their first masters' workshop at the New Nadi Farmers Club last Thursday.

The workshop was attended by 70 members of the Western Musicians and Entertainers Association

(WMEA) as they exchanged ideas, which was followed by a jamming session.

Sound engineer and renowned musician Rusiate Ralulu said they always welcomed such opportunity to talk and mingle with American musicians.

"We are so grateful to the US Embassy for making it happen," he said.

The band is still fresh from their Indonesian tour and their visit here was part of an American Music Abroad programme facilitated by the US Embassy in Suva, and American

Voices, along with the assistance of Fijian American artist Jack Eastgate, who creates live art murals during band performances in San Francisco.

The group profess to showcase their own interpretation of empowerment, consciousness and a deep respect for life through their art, and reach out to all segments of society.

Labelling themselves as cultural diplomats, Teao said they were here to reach out through what he said was 'the universal language of music.'

"We also want to share what we

know as musicians, as artists and as sons of Mother Earth,".

Western Musicians and Entertainers Association secretary Homer Fare said they were fortunate to be given the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn a few tricks from Audipharmacy, as American music was largely influential in the local industry.

Following the workshop, Audipharmacy held a lively evening concert, which was opened by the US Ambassador to Fiji, Frankie Reed.