



Te Mana o te Vaka

Kia ora uatu rai te peu tupuna

**Kia ora uatu rai te peu tupuna.
Perpetuating the life skills of the ancestors.**

In a time where issues such as climate change and health and well-being are at the forefront of global concerns, Te Mana o te Vaka is a project that embodies heritage, self-sustainable practices that are built on the virtues of belonging, collaboration, stewardship and purpose.

We will unite across generations and cultures, to navigate the present using the teachings of our past in a project that honours the power of the vaka.



Gallery Tavioni and Vananga and the Cook Islands Voyaging society have partnered to create this project.

The purpose of Te Mana o te Vaka (the power of the vaka) is to revitalise the traditional life skills and heritage practices of our tupuna (ancestors) through the platform of vaka (canoe) culture.

We shall demonstrate the making of the vaka including all the components (sennit rope and pandanus sails) and then showcase the value of the vaka through a fishing competition and then sailing program for kids.

We shall share and transfer the knowledge in the hopes that this ancient artform of vaka construction and traditional life skills continues to live on.



Ta'unga Tutara Michael Tavioni BEM.

Michael (Mike) Tavioni is at the helm of this project. Mike is renowned across the Pacific from New Zealand to Hawai'i as a Cook Islands cultural icon, master carver, artist and knowledge holder. He is also a painter, sculptor, screen and block printer, designer, poet, writer, teacher, indigenous historian of the Pacific, a traditional vaka maker, as well as an exponent and practitioner of many other cultural and artistic endeavours. He has a degree in Agriculture, a Master in Indigenous Studies and in 2022 decided to pursue his PhD. Mike is now 75 years old.

PROGRESS SO FAR...

July to November 2022 - Sourcing materials and preparation

MAKING SENNIT



August to November 2022 - Sourcing materials and preparation

WEAVING SAILS



September to December 2022 - Vaka Construction



Traditional Fishing Competition

To demonstrate the importance of the vaka to our culture, we will also have a fishing competition using traditional fishing methods and implements. We will engage experienced traditional fisherman to demonstrate how the vaka is a tool to ensure survival by feeding the family.

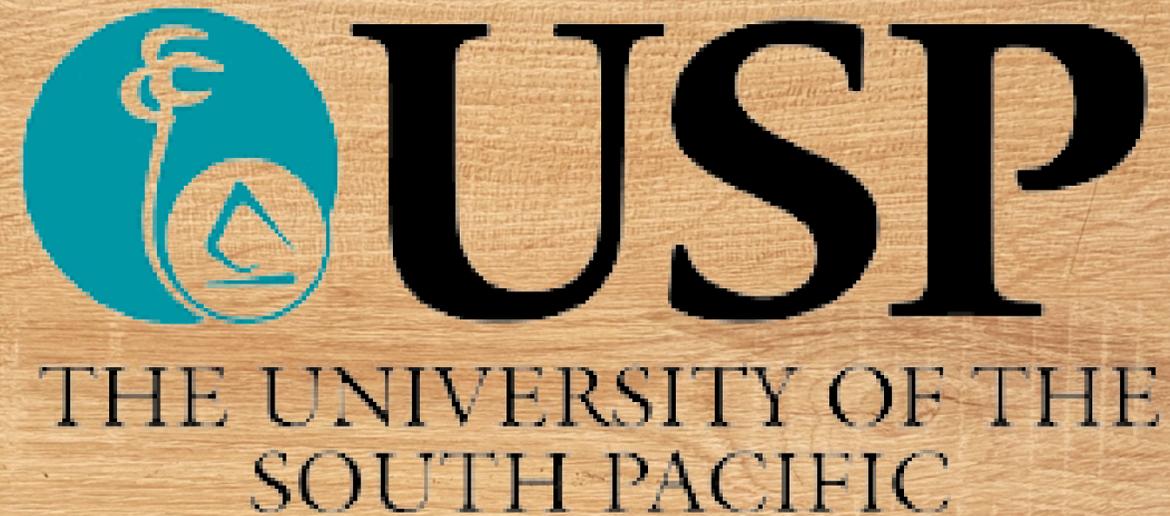
The fishing competition is tentatively planned for January 2023.

Kids learn to sail

Cook Islands Voyaging Society will teach kids about the traditional vaka, it's maintenance and how to sail the vaka - in Muri Lagoon.

The learn to sail program will start in January 2023.

**We acknowledge our major event partner
Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific**



Meitaki to our major sponsor the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade





Contacts - Project Leads

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THE PROJECT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

**We are looking for sponsors for
our fishing competition**

**Contact gallerytavioni@gmail.com or
info@cookislandsvoyaging.org
subject 'TMTOV Fish' to ensure
your donation goes to Te Mana o te Vaka project**

YOU CAN ALSO SUPPORT THE DOCUMENTING OF TE MANA O TE VAKA..

VAKA MANA

TOUCHING THE PAST - MAKING THE FUTURE

Documenting the journey
THIS PROJECT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

Our future rests in preserving our traditions



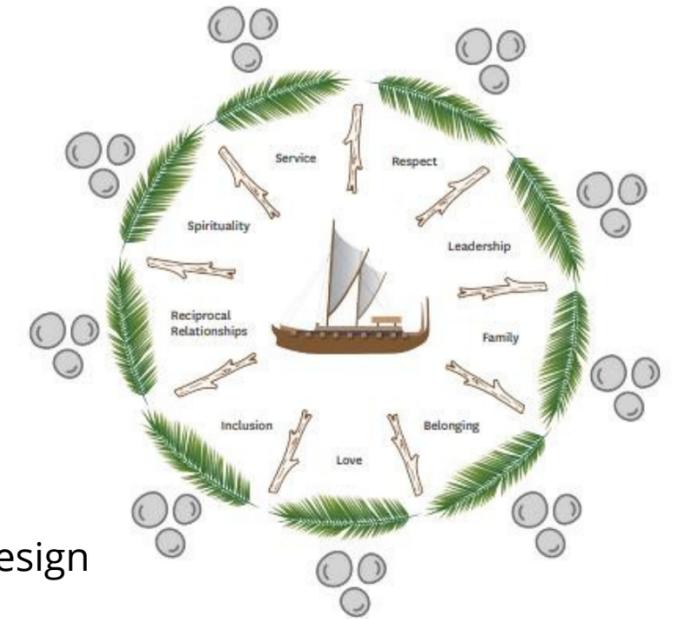
Vaka building in all its elements tells a story of strength, of sustainability. In an over complicated world, the skill gives insights into Pacific engineering, architecture and design capabilities before European impact.

It gives insight to the power of Mana, to ancient knowledge and beliefs that kept communities connected to land, ocean, and all the elements. From the stability of a tree on land, that gives its life to then connect to the Ocean. The fluidity of our seafaring Vaka is a symbol of survival, of strength, of sustainability and of ancient Polynesian practice that shaped our people to be navigators in the past and now in the present

In 2022, a project called 'Te Mana o te Vaka' began. A project that looks to emanate the practices of our tupuna through vaka culture, celebrating our heritage and revitalising awareness of the importance of our history and traditional life skills in a modern-day setting. The project has brought the community together to learn from practitioners who are imparting their knowledge in different fields of expertise connected to the Vaka.

We started on this project capturing those skills and quickly realized the project is much much more. We are making a film on Ancient Knowledge - What is that? Can we truly say we understand our Ancient Knowledge? Or are we experiencing influenced culture?

This is a film about our realities and understanding the legacy of VAKA and MANA.



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PLEASE DONATE

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Glenda Tuaine

Director / Producer



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THANK YOU!