

Vessel details: Uto Ni Yalo:

Uto Ni Yalo (literally Heart of Spirit ~ more poetically Original state of Being) is owned and run by the Fiji Voyaging Society. As part of the Pacific Renaissance the Fiji Voyaging Society seeks to recapture the traditions, knowledge and culture of their rich maritime history. They advocate for and advance knowledge of sustainable development and preservation of marine and land environment through engagement and education.



The Uto Ni Yalo is a fusion of traditional central Pacific canoe design and modern boat-building materials and technologies. As one of a fleet of seven canoes based throughout the Pacific region, the Uto ni Yalo was built in Auckland at Salthouse Boatbuilders. The newly-constructed sailing canoe (vaka moana [Pacific]/waka hourua [Maori]) are built with e-glass and foam using advanced infusion processes - yet traditional ingenuity and knowledge remain clearly visible with the twin hulls connected by wooden beams, lashed only with rope. Each vaka is finished with intricate traditional designs, carved and painted using colours and insignia representative of the nation where each is based.

Much effort and detail has gone into creating a truly eco-friendly vaka that harnesses just wind and current to travel. To aid manoeuvring in tight modern berthing stations or making harbour entries, a solar powered system serves as an auxiliary propulsion option. This merging of past and the present technologies serves as a useful metaphor for how we might approach solutions to our planet's energy and climate change issues.

Galley and Communications station:



Crew quarters – inside the hulls

