

# **Noqu Vosa Me'u Bula Taka**

## **FIJIAN LANGUAGE WEEK**

**Education Resource 2016**





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# Noqu vosa me'u bula taka. My language – Learn it, Speak it, Live it!

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Our theme in 2016 is about valuing and living our culture and language. Since the inaugural Fiji Language Week in 2013, the focus was on the 'treasures' of the Fijian culture which resonates in our children, youth, our artefacts and community. This year we will promote initiatives supported by NGO, community and Government in learning, speaking and living the Fijian language in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

## History of Fijian Language Week

The inaugural Fijian language week was launched in Aotearoa, New Zealand in 2013. This initiative is part of the Fiji Community

In 2008/09, the Ministry engaged with a number of smaller ethnic Pacific communities by focussing on enhancing community development and identifying their priority needs for action. This engagement was formerly known as 'community compacts'. The purpose of this project was to mobilise and support pacific communities, develop partnerships for action, and enhance the Ministry's capacity to interact with smaller pacific groups. Fijian Language Week developed from the Community Action plan in partnership with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, and the Fiji Community Association of Auckland, Wellington Fiji Community, and later Canterbury community.



# I cavucavu ni vosa vakaviti | Pronunciation<sup>1</sup>

## Vosa Vakaviti (Fijian language) has five vauei (vowels):

a, e, i, o, u

Vowels are mostly pronounced as they would be if there were spoken in Spanish, Italian and German:

A as in "ah" as in father

E as in error

I as in me or sit

O as in for or toll

U as in "oo" in food or too.

## Pronouncing Consonants:

Most of the consonants are pronounced the same as they are in English, except for the letters b,c,d,g and q.

B – "mb" as in lumbar. Bula is pronounced "Mbu-la"

C - "th" as in father. "Yacata" is pronounced "Ya-tha-ta"

D – "nd" as in Sunday. Nadi is pronounced "Na-ndi"

G – "ng" as in finger. Gauna (time) is pronounced "Nga-una"

Q – "nq" as in finger. Qaravi (to serve) is pronounced "Nqa-ra-vi"

Note letters like k, p and t, are generally pronounced the same as they are in English, except there is not the sound of a slight breath that usually follows, so "t" would sound like "ch" when it is behind the letter "i." Also, "j" is pronounced like the "ch" as in touch and "v" is pronounced with a short "ve" sound, like in vein.

## Stress:

In most cases, unless with long vowels, the stress tends to be on the NEXT to last syllable.

Examples: Ka u ta – bring, vi naka – thank you, good.

For long vowels, stress is applied wherever it appears.

Examples: Ki-la, know, macawa – sky, week

## Word Order

Unlike an English sentence, which goes from noun to verb to object, for Fijian, a verb phrase followed by a noun phrase is normal. In simple terms and for basic learners, it is useful to keep this difference in mind with the examples below.

Fijian: Sa lako (verb) ki Suva (object) ko Jone (noun).

English: John (noun) is going (verb) to Suva (object).

**1 This section is taken from the Fijian Customs and Culture – A Brief Guide & Handbook – by Sai Lealea. [www.fijiancustomsculture.com](http://www.fijiancustomsculture.com)**



# Learn it!

## Vosa Vakaviti | Phrases and Words

Ni sa bula vinaka	Greetings to you
Bula	Hello
Drau bula	Greetings to you two - dual
Dou bula	Greetings to three or more people - plural Greetings to the meeting
Ni sa bula vinaka	Greetings to visitors/guests
Sa vakacava tiko?	How are you?
Au bulabula vinaka tiko	I am well
Vinaka vakalevu	Thank you very much/very good
Moce	Goodbye (to someone who is going)
Moce	Goodnight
Au lako mada yani	Excuse me (to get past)
O lako ivei?	Where are you going?
Curu mai	Come in
Au lako tiko i...	I am going to the...
Io/Sa donu	Yes/OK
Sega	No

Vinaka	Good
De dua beka	Perhaps/Maybe
Rogoca/vakarorogo	Listen
Rogoci au	Listen to me
<b>Encouraging words</b>	
Totoka, wananavu	Awesome
Vinaka saraga	That's great Well done You are great
O rawa ni cakava	You can do it/cease the day!
Tovolea mada	Give it a go
Au na veivuke	I will help
Tovolea tale	Try again
Keitou rawa ni cakava	We can do it!
Au rawa ni cakava	I can do it
Vosa mai vei au	Speak to me
Totoka	Great



# Live it!

## Matavuvale | Family

Na, Nana, Nene, Nau, Qei	Mum/Mother
Ta, Tata, Vava, Momo	Dad/Father
Bu, Bubu, Buqu, Pu, Tai, Nau	Grandmother
Tukai, Tutu, Tua, Tai	Grandfather
Taciqu	Younger brother or sister
Tuakaqu	Older brother or sister
Marama	Woman (singular)
Yalewa	Girl
Turaga	Man
Tagane	Boy
Luvequ tagane	Son
Ganequ	Brother/sister
Vugoqu	Nephew
Makubuqu	Grandchild



## Workplace

Dabedabe	Chair
Teveli	Table
Vanua ni cakacaka	Workplace
Cakacaka	Work
Bose	Meeting
Liuliu, Boso	Boss
Manidla	Manager
Vunivola	Secretary
Vale ni volavola	Office
Wai katakata	Hot

## Introductions - question and response

O cei na yacamu?	What is your name?
Na yacaku ko	My name is...
Na tinaqu ko...	My mother is...
Na tamaqu ko...	My father is...
E lako mai vei na nomu matavuvale?	Where is your family from?
Keitou lako mai...	We come from...

Na cava na yacamudou vaka matavuvale? What is your family name?

Na yacai keitou vaka matavuvale na... Our family name is...



# Speak it!

## Na Domo | Viti e Aotearoa (Fijian Language Radio Programme)

For all news, views and music from and for the Fijian community – tune in to Na Domo i Viti e Aotearoa every Saturday from 6:00pm–12:00am.



## Wellington Access Radio 783am — Na Gauna Ni Tiko Bulabula

A health focused Programme for the Fijian community in Wellington.

Tune in every Sunday 8-10pm.

Na Gauna Ni Tiko Bulabula means health and wellbeing on air!

The Programme also includes general community announcements for the local Fijian community.

Presented by Save Daugunu and sponsored by the Capital and Coast District Health Board.

## Wiliwili | Numbers

Dua	1
Rua	2
Tolu	3
Va	4
Lima	5
Ono	6
Vitu	7
Walu	8
Ciwa	9
Tini	10



## Roka | Colours

Damudamu	Red
Karakarawa	Blue
Drokadroka	Green
Dromodromo	Yellow
Loaloa	Black
Vulavula	White
Lokaloka	Purple
Piqi	Pink
Senikavika	Maroon
Seninawanawa	Orange
Qele/Masikuvui	Brown
Dravu	Grey

## Tikini Siga | Days of the week

Moniti	Monday
Tusiti	Tuesday
Vukelulu	Wednesday
Lotulevu	Thursday
Vakaraubuka	Friday
Vakarauwai	Saturday
Siga Tabu	Sunday



## Months of the Year

Janueri – Vula I nuqa levu	January
Veverueri – Vula I sevu	February
Maji – Vula i kelikeli	March
Epereli – Vula i gasau	April
Me – Vula i doi	May
Jiune – Vula i werewere	June
Jiulai – Vula i cukicuki	July
Okosita – Vula i cukicuki	August
Seviteba – Vula i vavakada	September
Okotova – Vula i balolo lailai	October
Noveba – Vula i balolo levu	November
Tiseba – Vula i nuqa lailai	December

## Opposites

Katakata (hot)	Batabata (cold)
Siga (day)	Bogi (night)
Mamaca (dry)	Suasua (wet)
Savasava (clean)	Duka (dirty)
Levu (big)	Lailai (small)
Balavu (long, tall)	Lekaleka (short)
Makawa (old)	Vou (new)
Dredre (hard)	Rawarawa (easy)
Totolo (fast)	Berabera (slow)
Voleka (near)	Yawa (far)
Liu (front, ahead)	Muri (back, behind)
Marau (happy)	Rarawa (sad)
Sinai (full)	Lala (empty)
Kaukauwa (hard)	Malumu (soft)
Kamica (sweet)	Wiwi, tutuwina (sour, bitter)





## Verbs – Action words

Kaila	Shout
Dredre	Laugh
Qito	Play
Vuli	Learn
Raica	See
Rogoca	Hear
Tovolea	Taste, try
Tara	Touch/Build
Domona	Love
Solia	Give
Kauta	Take, bring
Dre	Pull
Biliga	Push
Toboka	Catch
Caqe	Kick
Taubale	Walk
Danisi	Dance
Yaloyalo	Wave

Regu	Kiss
Vosa	Speak, talk
Tagi	Cry
Vuni	Hide
Wasea	Share
Laga sere	Sing
Masu	Pray
Veisiko	Visit
Meimei	Babysit
Keve, roqo	Carry
Vakasaqa	Cook
Sili	Shower, bath
Savasava	Wash
Sasamaki	Tidy up
Masimasi	Wash dishes
Lobilobi	Fold
Boroboro	Paint
Teitei	Plant

Siwa, qoli	Fish
Lade	Jump
Vuka	Fly
Qasi	Crawl



## At School

Qasenivuli	Teacher
Koronivuli	School
Vuli	Learn
Varorogo	Listen
Wili vola	Read
Droini	Draw
Soqoni	Add
Lave liga	Raise hand
Galu	Quiet
Kalu	Whistle
Taro	Ask
Tovolea, sasaga	Try
Veitauriliga	Hold hands
Vakarokoroko	Show respect
Vakamuria	Follow
Donu	Right
Cala	Wrong
Sau	Clap

Gonevuli	Student
Kalasi	Class
Kila	Know
Vaka i tavi	Take part
Volavola	Write
Vakasama	Think
Vakanananu	Idea
Nanuma	Remember
Laga sere	Sing
Dredre	Laugh
Saumi taro	Answer, reply to question
Dabe	Sit
Tucake	Stand
Veivuke	Help, helpful
Vei liutaki	Lead
Liuliu	Leader
Sota	Meet





# Activity ideas for Fijian Language Week 2016

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There are lots of ways to celebrate and participate in Fijian language week in 2016! Check out some activity ideas below:

## **Speak Vosa Vakaviti everyday**

Embrace Vosa Vakaviti by finding ways to use it everyday.

## **Explore Fijian Myths and Legends**

## **Fijian Bole & Cibi**

## **Talanoa (discuss) Fijian Leaders and Chiefs**

## **Being Fijian in Aotearoa New Zealand**

Discuss how you feel being Fijian in Aotearoa New Zealand. Is this the same or different to that of being Fijian in Fiji. Has being Fijian in Aotearoa New Zealand changed for you over time? What helps you to maintain or grow your Fijian identity in this country?

## **Many ways to be Fijian**

Talk about Fijians who have made Aotearoa New Zealand home and are thriving in their respective fields.

## **Cultural exchange**

Have a cultural exchange day, where you can share about your Fijian culture (e.g. food, dance, dress, music) with people from different cultural backgrounds.

## **Maintaining your own Vosa Vakaviti**

In order for your home language to thrive, you need to be using it regularly and with purpose. In what ways do you think you can personally sustain your Fijian language in Aotearoa New Zealand?

You might listen to/sing Fijian songs or listen to Fijian language radio, read the Fijian bible, or speak with other Fijian Language speakers.

Draw pictures and make a wall display containing all your ideas.



## Stories and songs

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There are lots of great Vosa Vakaviti and bilingual language resources out there to support your Fijian Language Week activities. Here is just a small selection that we feel have strong ties to our theme for 2016.

### Isa Lei Song

Isa Isa vulagi lasa dina  
Nomu lako au na rarawa kina  
Cava beka ko a mai cakava,  
Nomu lako au na sega ni lasa.

Chorus:

Isa Lei, na noqu rarawa,  
Ni ko sa na vodo ena mataka  
Bau nanuma, na nodatou lasa,  
Mai Suva nanuma tiko ga.

Vanua rogo na nomuni vanua,  
Kena ca ni levu tu na ua,  
Lomaqu voli me'u bau butuka  
Tovolea ke balavu na bula.

(Chorus)

Domoni dina na nomu yanuyanau,  
Kena kau wale na salusalu,  
Mocelolo, bua, na kukuwalu,  
Lagakali, maba na rosi damu.

(Chorus)

### Sai Levuka Ga

Sai Levuka ga  
Au nanuma tu  
Na kena vei lasa kece  
Dau vovotu mai  
Ena vei veigauna  
Vei siga kei Levuka

Chorus:

Vei vatuloa na koro makawa  
Seva na vei biau kei Viti e loma  
Dau vadugu tu na kena cakau  
Lali ni neirau vakamau

E makare tu vei au oqo  
Na noqu gauna e Levuka  
Ena noqu tu  
Au raica lesu  
E rui kamica dina vei au

Chorus:

Vei vatuloa na koro makawa  
Seva na vei biau kei Viti e loma  
Dau vadugu tu na kena cakau  
Lali ni neirau vakamau





# Vosa Vakaviti champions - Our nation-wide initiative

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Everyday efforts and environments nurture, and invest in, the development of Vosa Vakaviti language. That means there are many people, across our communities, who are our champions of Vosa Vakaviti- whether children, young people, adults and elders, our role models or celebrities.

This Fijian Language Week, the Ministry of Pacific People (MPP) want you to acknowledge these important people, and share the messages they have regarding Fijian Language Week/Vosa Vakaviti.

## How do I get involved?

**Step 1:** Put forward a person from your community who you think should be recognised in 2016. Discuss why you believe this person is a Vosa Vakaviti champion.

**Step 2:** Utilise the certificate templates on pages 27 and 28 (or create your own version that better reflects you, or your centre, school or organisation). Make sure to write or draw the reasons why you have selected your champion on the certificate.

**Step 3:** Present your certificate to your champion, telling them why they are your Vosa Vakaviti champion in 2016.

If your champion can't receive their certificate in person, you could post it (via mail or email) along with a letter or drawing outlining your reasons.

**Step 4:** With your champion's permission, post the picture of them on social media (Facebook, Instagram or Twitter), along with a short explanation. Make sure to include the hashtag #VosaVakavitchampions.

## For example:

Jone Viti is our Vosa Vakaviti champion. He is a grandfather of 8 and teaches Vosa Vakaviti to the children in his family. He encourages parents and grandparents to find time to teach their children Vosa Vakaviti, and have fun doing it.

#VosaVakavitiChampions

**Step 5:** Use the hashtag to search out other Vosa Vakaviti champions, recognised by people all around Aotearoa New Zealand!

Make sure to check out champions featured on the MPP Facebook page throughout Language Week too.

# Acknowledgements

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This resource has been developed by the contributions from:

**Wellington Fijian Language Week Komiti 2016**

**Fiji Community Association of Auckland**

**National Fijian Language Week Komiti**

**Te Papa Museum**

**Kaute Pasifika Hamilton**

**Tarisi Vunidilo – Fijian Language Tutor, Pasifika Education Centre**

**Canterbury Fiji Community**



# Certificate of Recognition

**This certificate is awarded with pride to**

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**for their work to support Vosa Vakaviti (Fijian language) in 2016.**

**I/we recognise this person because:**

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_