**Braided Nature: The enduring power of welcoming**

Annonymous

Land generator 2025 Marou Village, Naviti Island

**Concept Narrative**

# Anonymous Upscaled AI generated prototype Nightcafe - retrieved 19th of April 2025

Text Prompt (Nightcafe) A kinetic wall made of black stone and between the tile gaps a warm orange red glow combined with a circular kava bowl semi-circle. This must be embedded in the side of an incline and an elongated void that emanates a sound of the ocean. Acoustics model will serve as a land generator. The wall must be a modern grid and evoke a sense of weightlessness. Turn the semicircle on its side and merge into a tropical setting. The setting should be free of objects. Add an element of ventilation to the piece. Exquisite. The surface must evoke the plane and not have irregularities. Fijian fan and weightlessness. And must be solar powered. Add pivotal elements to the installation.

 The design idea is developed from a site-responsive and AI assisted methodology (Adobe Express, Firefly and Nightcafe). The site-responsive illustrations are supported by a visual art vocabulary that draws on the vernacular of place. The AI genrated ideas explore evironmental cues such as ocean, sound, and solar integration, expressed as an intermediary between the the experience of place, kinetic aesthetics and renewable technology. As for the technical data below that is sourced by chat GPT. All other material is personal and original.

 This installation is conceived to mirror Naviti Island's ecological rhythms such as night, day and the tides, ensuring that its presence supports rather than disrupts the natural environment. Use of the space as a source of water will ensure its ongoing value and longevity for future generations to come. This project will ensure that Marou's knowledge systems, their ways of tending, building, and honouring place.

 Original drawings, visualizations, personal memory and experience, object inspiration, and a deep appreciation for the symbolic power of welcoming form the conceptual development of the work. Inspiration from traditional Fijian cultural items, including a ceremonial basket predating 1927 found with red and black feathers, a shell-adorned fan symbolizing beauty and status, and a gifted mask from the women of Tanna Island in 1988.

 Yasawa Islands, is defined by its vibrant cultural traditions, oceanic cosmologies and climate vuraralbities. This work aims to weave the traditions of craft and deep connection to ancestral knowlege, into a micro structure. Central to the proposal is a commitment to a deep reading of place composed of memory, infrastructure, and cultural symbolism. I anticipate that the outcome will serve as an extention of place that is imbued with histories and layered ecologies.

 The project integrates conceptual poetics with spatial and material innovation, asking how beauty, function, and ecological intelligence might coalesce in a single form. As a visual artist the design will be treated as a symbiotic force of material, scaffold and form. Working together to create a site-responsive installation that generates renewable energy I anticipate that the final selection will be a platform for sustenance and welcoming.

 Site-specificity is a guiding principle. Through grounded research, ecological mapping, and engagement with local narratives and materials, the project emerges with the rhythms, textures, and needs of place. The resulting work listens to evoking the unseen and story that sustain the island’s life. This proposal aims reimagine sustainability as an opportunity to nurture a shared language of care between the people of Marou their land and an eduring atmosphere of exhange, through a beautiful structure that celebrates both energy efficiency of the future as a means to preserve local customs and traditions.

 The project seeks to create a landmark that will be a gesture of reciprocity within the broader Fijian landscape that honors its past and gestures toward a resilient future toward peace and place making. In this way the site will serve as a space for visitors and community and future generations to come.

 The final piece will be founded on lived-experienc and and the intergration of workshops that reflect on making and historicity. Drawing on formative experiences in Fiji and Vanuatu, as well as a lifetime of observing the impacts of climate and cultural change, I understand firsthand the value of local knowledge and its role in shaping resilient, meaningful outcomes.

 The Marou community will be active collaborators from material sensibilities to the installation and ongoing operations. This will nurture a sense of ownership and ensure the project remains grounded in lived experience. Through a series of workshops that explore traditional myths, ecological wisdom, and artistic practices of the island, with a particular focus on the elemental forces of earth, air, fire, and water. Together, we will investigate how these natural energies are expressed through local design, music, dance, and commemorative forms.

 Drawing inspiration from traditional crafts, such as basketry, textiles, musical instruments, and ceremonial dress, connecting pattern, movement, and pigment in a series of creative explorations. Finally the installion will reflect a local vernacular and bring a sense of welcoming to place. This methodology works to embed the community into the work. Residents of Marou will participate by ensuring a lasting sense of ownership and resonance.

 As a visual artist, this is a deeply personal opportunity to give back to reciprocate a gift once received as a protective talisman from the women of Vanuatu. This project offers a chance to honour traditional custodianship through respectful collaboration and to celebrate a shared relationship with landscape, memory, and place. Were the enduring sence of welcoming takes shape.

**Technical Narrative**

 The system will serve as a functional microgrid, supporting sustainable, community-led energy access. I recognise the distinct logistical, environmental contexts of island communities. My intention is to adopt principles self-sufficiency, community governance, and integrated systems through a deeply place-based and collaborative process. Considerations that the final design is sensitive too include maintaining healthy soil and vegetation, water flow patterns, light sheilding, and material life cycle longevity.

 A decentralised solar generation, battery storage, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable community infrastructure within a tropical climate is the key focus. Its integration of shared resources and long-term vision will set a benchmark for in the region. Off-grid autonomy for the island of Naviti, will require collaboration with the LAGI partners together with the support of a fabrication team and site surveyance.

 Such initiatives will help to pave the way forward. My approach will be to engage within the frameworks we have in place, ensuring the technical and financial scaffolding is robust.

## **Estimated Annual Energy Output**

 A 22 kW solar PV system in a tropical region (like Fiji or Cook Islands) is expected to produce approximately 31,000–33,000 kWh per year, assuming 5.2 peak sun hours per day and a performance ratio of 0.75. This is enough to power 8–10 average .Pacific homes or a small microgrid supporting shared loads such as water pumps, lighting, and air conditioning.

## Power Balance & Load Estimation

Daily use estimates for the site include:

- Water filtration: 1.6 kWh
- Artistic lighting: 1.8 kWh
- Fans/AC: 6.0 kWh
- Irrigation: 1.2 kWh
- ICT displays and signage: 0.9 kWh
- Battery charging losses: 2.5 kWh
Total estimated daily use: ~14 kWh
Daily solar generation: ~85 kWh

There is significant headroom for additional uses or future expansion.

## Micro-Hydro amd Kinetic low lying wall

 If stream flow and elevation data are available, a micro-hydro system may yield 1.5–2 kWh/day with moderate flow. However, this is not a major contributor to the energy system unless confirmed by site data. The kinetic wall would serve as a creative and educational feature, illustrating tidal motion.

## Summary Table

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| Component | Assessment |
| Annual energy (22 kW system) | 31,000–33,000 kWh |
| Estimated daily load | ~14–20 kWh |
| Headroom for expansion | Yes |
| Micro-hydro contribution | Minimal unless flow/head confirmed |
| Tidal kinetic sculpture | Artistic/educational only |
| Battery storage size | 30–60 kWh (LFP chemistry) |
| Control system | OpenEMS or similar |
| Maintenance & tech literacy | Addressed with community planning. |

Maximum overall site Solar PV system of at least 22 kW within a defined site:

Proposal:

 With a modular system that incorporates solar PV and Photoelectric bricks combined with hybrid rooftop or wall installation panels totalling a maximum of 14 kW to meet installation generative needs. The system should support a hydro system for water features and filtrated systems.The main structure will be developed using Category 5 cyclone standards high marine grade materials. Modular mounting systems will be framed within steel and anti-corrosive material. And based on solid stone. A blend of existing and new materials will form the foundation of the final prototype. Elevated electrical systems and drainage around batteries.

 A reed bed or wetland garden for greywater polishing and to capture runoff from permeable gravel paths and integrate permaculture design that uses harvested rainwater.The site will evolve around solar, water, agriculture and art for gathering, storytelling, and shade. Ideally incorporate native bush or medicinal plants alongside the tech.

How to address:

Use high-efficiency monocrystalline panels. Integrated into a brick system especially made.

Group arrays in modular clusters.

Co-locate inverter units in shaded, ventilated battery enclosures.

Incorporate creative/artistic framing structures for aesthetic purposes.

Integrated rainwater harvesting and storage system.

Host co-design workshops with the community artisans.

Use local materials and fabrication techniques where possible.

Document design stories as part of an educational plan.

Constructible, maintainable, modular, and resilient (cyclone-resistant)

Engage regional partners with Pacific experience. All materials and systems are chosen for low embedded carbon and safe disposal pathways.

Rainwater harvesting and stormwater-sensitive design prevent runoff and pollution.

Avoid batteries with high leakage/toxicity (Source batteries suitable for tropical climates)

Utilize Australian solar hardware procurement with favourable Pacific logistics.

Tidal and hydropower

Micro-hydro feasibility study of the site.

Kinetic structure that responds to tides.

**Prototyping and Pilot Implementation**

 I bring to this project a strong history of site-specific, community-engaged work, and a clear understanding of the responsibilities that come with working in culturally significant and environmentally sensitive areas. The creative and infrastructural aspects of this proposal are inseparable. The workshops will will be foundational, generating practical, aesthetic, and cultural inputs that shape every phase of design, installation, and operation and lasting memory. This ensures the resulting infrastructure is both functional and resonant.

 I am committed to being on the island for the full six-month workshop period, followed by a design and fabrication phase in collaboration with technical partners. By embedding creativity and cultural knowledge into the energy and water systems themselves, we aim to produce infrastructure that does more than sustain life, it celebrates it.

 This project it is about co-creating something that has never existed before, grounded in shared knowledge and exchange. The integrity of this work lies in its humility and ambition, drawing from proven models, yet never losing sight of the people and place it is meant to serve. This is an opportunity for continuing a conversation with lifelong learning and preparing young people for the future.

**Timeline**

**July – December 2025**

* On-site presence in Marou Village.
* Community consultation and creative workshops.
* Co-design and participatory concept development.
* Documentation and iterative refinement of design based on community input.

**January – June 2026**

* Preliminary materials research and sourcing.
* Development of fabrication partnerships and engineering assessments.
* Collaborative dialogue with local partner and environmental surveyists.
* Preparation for fabrication and installation phase.

**Budget Overview**

**Total Budget: AUD $200,000**

**Land Generator Award: 100, 000 US - AUD 156,000**

**Key Allocations:**

* Community engagement and workshops: $35,000
* Travel, accommodation, and local transport (6 months): $25,000
* Artist fee and project management: $40,000
* Materials research and prototyping: $30,000
* Cultural consultation and documentation: $15,000
* Local collaborator and theorist partnership: $20,000
* Preliminary fabrication and logistics: $25,000
* Contingency and insurance: $10,000

 The creative workshops will explore how traditional practices, especially those tied to fishing and marine ecologies, can inform the design and function of the land art generator. Whether through weaving forms, traditional dyes, song, or rhythm, the project seeks to embed ancestral knowledge into the physical and symbolic structure of the installation.

 Finally, the connection between the land and ocean and fishing industry is not only a livelihood in Marou—it is ceremony, identity, and sustenance. This project aims to support its continuity by exploring how renewable energy, water access, and cultural resilience can coalesce through artistic collaboration. My role is to listen deeply, work respectfully, and ensure that both the traditions and aspirations of the community are preserved, reflected, and amplified in the final work.

**Operations and Maintenance**

 The installation is on a gently sloped site with soil and natural flora surrounding it and integrated garden park dedicated to identifying the botanicals of the site. Access to the site and surrounding gardens will require ongoing maintenance. In consultation with FREF a site manager will oversee all gardens' operations, microgrid, and electricity storage sites and installations. Hence, the site will generate jobs within the community. The site will also serve as an information point that supplies natural water for refill as a part of the hydro electric system that will also be integrated into the site.

 The installation will intentionally incorporate locally sourced material. The kinetic elements powered by renewable energy and hydro systems such as photoelectric bricks and panels, will require a specialist to ensure everything is working according to plan. Maintenance will require a gardener and tradespeople to ensure fixtures are maintainted. In partnership with FREF technicians, we will co-develop a maintenance schedule and plan to safeguard and ensure the installations longevity.

 The community's ongoing role will not be passive. Instead, this is a living space for artistic programming. This approach draws inspiration from models like the Tulla Bugera Eco Village (Queensland) and the Bawa homesteads (Sri Lanka). The Low-Impact Foundations and Modular Assembly will use non-invasive footings and a modular design, enabling it to be assembled on-site with minimal earthworks. Where possible, reclaimed or locally sourced materials will reduce embodied energy. Channels and basins will be carefully graded to avoid erosion, and planted buffers may be included to enhance biodiversity and filter runoff. The minimising element will use low-intensity, warm-spectrum LEDs with directional shielding to minimise light spill. A solar-powered timer system will limit illumination to key hours, preserving dark sky conditions and nocturnal cycles.

 In order to uphold this once in a lifetime opportunity, close work with partners will ensure the viability of the project. In consultation with specialists appointed by the Fijian Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) and LAGI partners it is anciplated the minigrid be integrated and connected to the installation that will power the wifi and produce a filtering system for clean drinking water. A complete ecological survey will precede installation and how it will be integrated into the site will include identifying zones of existing drainage flows. The structure will be located to avoid disruption to key flora and fauna and intergrated into areas already designated. The intallation will be placed in close proximity to the village so that unused energy from the 67 homes can be recycled and integrated into the microgrid.

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