



Vaka ni Lomani

In the heart of Naviti Island, where the mountains meet the sea and the sky cradles the land, the people of Marou wake each day to the rhythm of tide and song. Here, life has always flowed with nature — the rain that nourishes the crops, the sun that warms the earth, the streams that whisper their stories down the slopes. Vaka ni Lomani — the Vessel of Compassion — is born from this sacred connection.

At the heart of the design is an open, multifunctional space — a solar array shaded gathering place inspired by the Fijian concept of solesolevaki (working together). This space serves as a hub for communal life: recreation, dance, ceremonies, and collective resilience-building.

The energy system is multi-layered:

- A small pumped hydro system is fed by the refurbished dam, which captures and stores storm-water runoff, providing not only electricity generation but also vital services such as flood protection and drinking water storage.
- A combined solar-water nexus pavilion that generates energy, and provides multi-stage water collection and purification, including three species of native biofilters embedded in the open channel.
- Rooftop solar PV systems installed on residential buildings and the community centre contribute decentralised generation while enhancing self-sufficiency.
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) ensure stable energy availability, particularly in the evenings and early mornings, which matches the anticipated daily demand curve.

Co-benefits of the system include:

- Reliable access to clean electricity and drinking water year-round.
- Reduced vulnerability to climate impacts such as droughts and floods.
- New opportunities for economic activities like cold storage for fish, small-scale food production, and tourism.
- Enhanced education and health outcomes through reliable power for schools, clinics, and communication systems.
- Technical upskilling for local high schoolers to participate in care & maintenance for renewable energy system.
- Revitalisation of cultural practices through the creation of shared spaces that foster community cohesion.

Ultimately, Vaka ni Lomani is a living, breathing infrastructure — a vessel carrying Marou Village and future generations towards a dignified, self-sufficient, and resilient future, in harmony with the land, the ocean, and the sky.

