



Tuvalu Language Week Education Resource 2016

Vaiaso ote 'Gana Tuvalu

This resource has been developed by members from the Tuvaluan Auckland Community Trust, Taumatuas, and Reverends with contributions from Te Papa Museum and supported by Ministry for Pacific Peoples.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Fakatomuaga | Contents

Muna Tuku ote vaiaso te ‘gana Tuvalu Tuvaluan Language Week Theme	2
Maatua mo kaiga Parents and Family	3
Fakateagaaga Spirituality	3
Te gana, tu mo faifaiga mo iloga Language, Culture and Identity.....	4
Fakamatala e uiga mo Tuvalu Facts on Tuvalu.....	6
Iloga Identity	6
Saogalemu Safety.....	8
Fakatumauga Sustainability.....	8
Fakateagaga Spirituality.....	8
Tuvalu mo te Atua Tuvalu National Anthem	9
Fakaleoga o pati Basic pronunciation tips.....	10
Mataimanu ite gana Tuvalu The Tuvalu Alphabet.....	10
Pati Fesoasoani Fakamalosi Helpful Words.....	11
Manatu fakaasi Expressions.....	12
Lauga numela Faka-Tuvalu Tuvaluan counting numbers	12
Fakamunaga Phrases	13
Tu mo Iloga o Tuvalu Tuvalu Traditions	14
Fakalagiga o kupu mo Pese Tuvalu Story and Song.....	17
Kanamata ote ‘Gana Tuvalu Our nation-wide initiative.....	19
Iloiloga Evaluation.....	20
Niisi fakaakoakooga Further resources.....	21
Fakamaaloga Acknowledgements.....	22

Muna Tuku ote vaiaso te ‘gana Tuvalu | Tuvaluan Language Week Theme

“Ulu kite fatu e malu ei koe” Shelter in the rock for your safety

The theme for 2016 Tuvalu language week, is influence by discussions from Tuvalu Elders (Taumatua), Reverend Elder Suamalie Iosefa Naisali Reverend Tomasi Iopu, Sagaa Malua and Afaese Manoa who offer these interpretations of the munatuku (sayings or proverbs). It explores the idea of protection, the need to nurture, develop and progress the Tuvalu language, culture and identity.

This year’s theme is ‘Ulu kite fatu e malu ei koe’ which translates into ‘shelter in the rock for your safety’. This encouraging Tuvaluans that Jesus is the Rock and the main source of their Language, culture and their identity.

Te Olaga ALOFA ko te fakavae taua o ola i lalo i te Fatu. LOVE is the foundation of being sheltered under the Rock.



Photograph True Mirage Photography, © True Mirage Photography

Maatua mo kaiga | Parents and Family

Parents and the wider family play an influential role in the Tuvaluan culture. It is through the family the Tuvalu knowledge, language, culture and practices are taught and nurtured and encouraged. Tuvalu Auckland Community Trust, Taumatuas, parents and families are knowledge holders and play important roles in keeping the Tuvaluan language and culture traditions alive.

These are guided by principles such as:

- Olaga kau fakatasi ko te maopoopo ko te malosi (Unity is togetherness and strength)
- Olaga fiafia o sala te poto sala se lumanai manuia (Wisdom is the path to happiness and a bright future)
- Olaga Fealofani (Live in peace with others)
- E see ko pati ako faiga (Actions speak louder than words).



Photograph True Mirage Photography, © True Mirage Photography

Te gana, tu mo faifaiga mo iloga | Language, Culture and Identity

Being confident and proud in the Tuvaluan culture, histories and stories allows Tuvaluans to understand who they are and their rich heritage. Language, culture and identity allow Tuvaluans to express themselves and their uniqueness in the Pacific and in Aotearoa New Zealand.

These are guided by principles such as:

- Ulu kite fatu e malu ei koe (Shelter in the Rock for your safety)
- Te olaga āva, mataku ki te Atua ko te kamataga o te Poto – Moe ki te Puka Lasi (Fear God is the beginning of wisdom)
- Olaga fiafia o sala te poto sala se lumanai manuia (Wisdom is the path to happiness and a bright future).



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Fakateagaaga | Spirituality

Spiritual beliefs (talitonuga fakateagaga) and values (fuataga) are an integral part in the lives of the Tuvalu people. For many it is the centre in which everyday practice of culture and language allows people to stay grounded and enriched by the Tuvalu way (Faka Tuvalu).

These are guided by principles such as:

- Te olaga alofa ko te fakavae taua o ola i lalo i te fatu (love is the foundation of being sheltered under the rock) is the idea that alofa (love) and spirituality (fakateagaga) influence everyday actions and participation in (Faka Tuvalu)
- Tuvalu mo te Atua (Tuvalu for God).

The scripture reference and inspiration has been taken from biblical scripture:

Tuvaluan translation:

Mataio 6:33

e mua koutou o ‘sala tena Malo mo tena amiotonu; kae ka fakaopoopogina atu a mea katoa kona ki a koutou.

English translation:

Mathew 6:33

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Fakamatala e uiga mo Tuvalu | Facts on Tuvalu

Tuvalu is a Polynesian group of nine coral islands situated in the Pacific Ocean between Australia and Hawaii. Tuvalu means eight islands standing together. The total land area is around 26 square kilometres. The islands are:

- Funafuti (the capital of the Tuvalu group)
- Nanumaga
- Nanumea
- Niutao
- Nui
- *Niulakita (grouped up with Niutao to be one island).*
- Nukufetau
- Nukulaelae
- Vaitupu



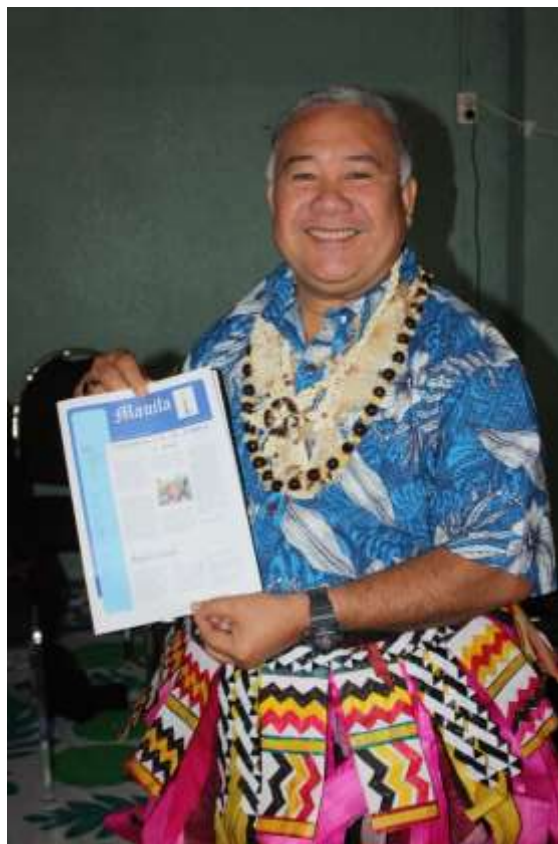
Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Iloga | Identity

A child's upbringing in the Tuvalu culture and traditions is a religious upbringing guided foremost by God, the Rock. Children grow up very involved in religious activities such as Sunday school, White Sunday activities and Mafaufauga (Children's evening devotion).

This helps strengthen the language and their sense of identity. They grow up knowing the importance of obeying and respecting God, their parents and taumatuas, as well as the rules and conducts of the land.

This leads to a life of peace, living in harmony with ones surrounding and contributing to an environment built on obedience, peace within the family and the community, unity, love and happiness amongst all.



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Saogalemu | Safety

There is safety in an environment founded on love, peace, unity, no family violence and especially in God.

Language as a rock points to the importance of teaching the language to others especially the young ones so it is not forgotten.

The rock is the Tuvalu culture and traditions that brings a sense of safety in belonging. The rock is island rules and conducts. The rock is family and its origin that brings safety. The rock is parents living a harmonious life, free of violence. This brings safety to all especially children in the family.

Fakatumauga | Sustainability

It is important to sustain the faith and beliefs as Tuvaluans were brought up in despite the different environments they reside in.

Tuvaluans may have left the beautiful shores of their homeland, but their strengths come from the various rocks in their lives such as their values and their faith.

Sustainable development evolves with the changes and Tuvaluans are encouraged not forget who they are as Tuvaluan people and to be immersed in their identity and language.

Fakateagaga | Spirituality

God is our strength, our Protector. Tuvalu mo te Atua (National Anthem – Tuvalu with God). See next page.

Tuvalu mo te Atua | Tuvalu National Anthem

Tuvalu for the Almighty (Tuvaluan: Tuvalu mo te Atua) is the national anthem of Tuvalu. Below are the lyrics in Tuvaluan and English translation. Attached is a link to YouTube. The anthem was adopted when Tuvalu gained independence in 1978.

Tuvaluan	English
1. "Tuvalu mo te Atua"	"Tuvalu for the Almighty"
Ko te Fakavae sili,	Are the words we hold most dear;
Ko te ala foki tena,	For as people or as leaders
O te manuia katoa;	Of Tuvalu we all share
Loto lasi o fai,	In the knowledge that God
Tou malo saoloto;	Ever rules in heav'n above,
Fusi ake katoa	And that we in this land
Ki te loto alofa;	Are united in His love.
Kae amo fakatasi	We build on a sure foundation
Ate atu fenua.	When we trust in God's great law;
"Tuvalu mo te Atua"	"Tuvalu for the Almighty"
Ki te se gata mai!	Be our song for evermore!
2. Tuku atu tau pulega	Let us trust our lives henceforward
Ki te pule mai luga,	To the King to whom we pray,
Kilo tonu ki ou mua	With our eyes fixed firmly on Him
Me ko ia e tautai.	He is showing us the way.
"Pule tasi mo ia"	"May we reign with Him in glory"
Ki te se gata mai,	Be our song for evermore,
Ko tena mana	for His almighty power
Ko tou malosi tena.	Is our strength from shore to shore.
Pati lima kae kalaga	Shout aloud in jubilation
Ulufonu ki te tupu.	To the King whom we adore.
"Tuvalu ko tu saoloto"	"Tuvalu free and united"
Ki te se gata mai.	Be our song for evermore!

Fakaleoga o pati | Basic pronunciation tips

Mataimanu ite gana Tuvalu | The Tuvalu Alphabet

The alphabet consists of sixteen letters:¹

- Five vowels a, e, i, o, u.

Aa	Ee	Ii	Oo	Uu
ā	ē	ī	ō	ū
ato	epa	ipu	Olesi	utanu

- Eleven consonants (including the diagraph ng) f, h, k, l, m, n, ng, p, s, t, v.

Ff	Gg	Hh	Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Pp	Ss	Tt	Vv
fā	gā	hā	kā	Lā	mō	nū	pī	sā	tī	vī
fale	gatu	hau	kitala	Lami	moe	nonu	papa	sopu	tusi	vakal ele

Each vowel has a long and a short duration and each consonant may be held or dwelt on in such a way as to give the succeeding vowel a slight explosive sound. Every word ends in a vowel.

- short a sound: mata, eye, face. Both vowels sounded as “u” in “butter”
- long a sound: fanau, offspring. a sounded as “a” in “father.”
- Short e sound: pepe, butterfly, moth. Both vowels sounded as “e” in “bet”
- Long e sound: pefea, how. e sounded as “c” in “send”
- Short i sound: titi, woman’s kilt. Both vowels sounded as “i” in “tin.”
- Long i sound: sili, to ask. i sounded as “i” in “litre”
- Short o sound: popo, copra. Both vowels sounded as “o” in “pot”
- Long o sound: po, night. o sounded as “o” in “north”
- Short u sound: tuku, put, give. Both vowels sounded as “u” in “pull”
- Long u sound: pula, shine. u sounded as “u” in “rule”

¹ Omniglot, the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages (n.d). Tuvaluan (Te ‘gana Tuvalu). Retrieved from <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/tuvaluan.htm>

Te ngangana a te Tuvalu (n.d). Retrieved from <http://www.tuvaluislands.com/lang-tv.htm>

Pati Fesoasoani Fakamalosi | Helpful Words

Tuvaluan	English	Tuvaluan	English
Talofa	Hello	Fale	House
Tofa	Good-Bye	Lotu	Church
Fakafetai	Thank you	Faitau	Read
Vau	Come	Akoga	School
Fano	Go	Auala	Road
Nofo	Sit	Situa	Shop
Tu	Stand	Alofa	Love
Moe	Sleep	Fiafia	Happy
Ala	Awake	Fanoanoa	Sad
Kai	Eat	Galue	Work
Inu	Drink	Masaki	Sick/Ill
Seai	Nothing	Tamaliki	Child/Children
Ao	Yes	Matua	Mother/Parents
Ikaai	No	Tamana	Father
Ifea	Where	Tupuna	Grandparents/Grandfather/ Grandmother
Konei	Here	Taina	Sister
There	Tela	Tuagane	Brother
Makona	Full	Ava	Respect
Fia kai	Hungry	Lasi	Big/Great
Fia inu	Thirsty	Onoono	Look
Au	I	'Pono	Close

Manatu fakaasi | Expressions

Tuvaluan	English
Sipi kana!	'Slang' used when you want to say 'awesome' 'choice' 'great' etc
Oi tou fai!	You are awesome/the man/bomb
Kalofa la!	To express your heartfelt/empathy e.g. oh my dear, you poor thing etc.
Se fuagina!	Beautiful and beyond
Koe ko 'pisi/gali	You are beautiful/pretty
Manuia te aso	Have a good day

Lauga numela Faka-Tuvalu | Tuvaluan counting numbers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tasi	Lua	Tolu	Fā	Lima	Ono	Fitu	Valu	Iva	Sefulu

Fakamunaga | Phrases

Tuvaluan	English
Au se igoa fua kae gali au ia koe	I'm just a name and you beautifies it in your actions.
Se ko pati ako faiga	Action speaks louder than words
Puhi taku muna kau moeakiga	Doing things according to what you say
Fanau kote au pele a matua	Children are dearly loved by their parents
Tou malosi ko tou maumea	You reap what you sow
Fetaui	See you later (popular way of saying good-bye)
Tofa	Good-bye
Manuia te aso fanau	Happy Birthday
Manuia te aso o tamana	Happy Father's day
Manuia te aso o matua	Happy mother's day

Tu mo Iloga o Tuvalu | Tuvalu Traditions

Tuvalu Fatele (Pronounced far-tell-eh)



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

The Fatele is the traditional Tuvaluan song and dance.

It is usually performed during special occasions such as welcoming of special guests, weddings, opening of significant buildings and you will always see it at the Tuvalu Independence celebrations.

The fatele differs amongst the eight Tuvaluan islands, but its characteristics are very similar. There are also different types of fatele.

The men's role in the fatele is to beat the pokisi (wooden box) and the kaapa (empty tin).

The men sit closely together on the floor and right in the middle of them you will have the main instrument, the pokisi. The men closest to it will pound on the box with their bare hands to form the beat of the fatele. There is a special way to beat the pokisi.

Another instrument is the kaapa, which is similar to a drum and beaten with sticks. There is also a special way to beat the kaapa. One island in Tuvalu does not use either instrument, instead they use the mat to beat on. That island is Niutao. According to the elders from this island, this is a method that has been carried on from their ancestors. It makes a quieter beat and allows for the words and the voices of the fatele to be heard clearly. The leader of the fatele is the pulotu (lead singer). He is male and is one of the men beating on the pokisi. The men also sing the fatele.

The women's role in the fatele is to dance and to support the men's singing. The women stand while dancing the fatele. They either stand behind the people on the floor or stand in front of them. The front row of dancers is reserved for young women who are single. This is because they are treasures of their island and you want to showcase them for everyone to admire. The second row is for the women who are married and have children.



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Fatele costume

- Fou/fau/mae – head garland made from flowers and leaves that give off a beautiful fragrance
- Malele – neck garland made from shells, leaves and the Tuvaluan Puka tree seeds.
- Lakei – Upper arm band made from leaves, paper, shells
- Togiga fatele – dancing top for the women made from leaves
- Titi tao - decorative skirt that goes over the titi lama made from dyed pandanus leaves
- Titi lama – dancing skirt made from pandanus leaves

Fatele song

Fatele songs are written as a form of telling a story, a message and remembering historic events.

Fatele music

Fatele music starts off very slowly, you can think of it as a warm up round. Eventually it gets faster and faster.

Fatele actions

Fatele actions originate from the words of the fatele song.

They show the emotion and the feelings behind the words. On the first round of the fatele song while the fatele is slow, the women stand tall and as the fatele progresses the women start bending their knees to go lower.

Women do not sway much in fatele, except for the island of Nukulaelae, whose women sway a lot.

- You can watch some titi in action in a fatele dance from the island community of Nukulaelae performed on Funafuti, Tuvalu in 2008 [here](#).



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Fakalagiga o kupu mo Pese | Tuvalu Story and Song

Te Pusi mote Ali (The Eel and the Flounder)

Pusi: Talofa koe e te Ali!

Ali: Talofa koe e te Pusi.

Pusi: Ea mai koe ite aso nei?

Ali: Au e malosi fakafetai. Kaea mai koe?

Pusi: Au e malosi foki koe Fakafetai.

Pusi: E te Ali, e iloa ne koe ia au e mafi atu ia koe?

Ali: Ikaai, ese iloa ne au. Ko au loa e mafi atu ia koe.

Pusi: Kafai e fai mai koe ia koe e mafi atu ia au, vau la ke sau taua ite fatu tenei.

Ali: Oi au la ko 'tao ne te fatu. Fakatali mai loa koe e te Pusi ia koe ka tā ne au.

Pusi: Oi sa tulituli la au ne koe e te Ali o tā, ia au foki la ka mate ite luaga ite taoga toku tinae ne te fatu. Oi au foki ko gasolo loa o kauvikiviki ko faigofie au o 'muni mai ia koe.

Ali: Koe ka futi ne au ki tua ite koga tena e 'muni ei koe.

Pese | Songs

E te pusi mote ali (te ali)

E fakatau fufuti (fufuti)

E te pusi, e te pusi

Kinikini tou felo

E ding, e dong, e fire

Kanamata ote 'Gana Tuvalu | Our nationwide initiative

Everyday efforts are encouraged in the development of the Tuvaluan language. That means there are many people, across our communities, who are our champions of Te 'Gana Tuvalu - whether children, young people, adults and elders, our role models or celebrities.

This Tuvaluan Language Week, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP) wants you to acknowledge these important people, and share the messages they have regarding Te 'Gana Tuvalu (Tuvalu Language Week).

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 Tuvalu Language Champion.

Step 2:

Make sure to write or draw the reasons why you have selected your champion.

Step 3:

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: #TuvaluLanguageWeekChampion.

For example:

Suli Tuvalu is our Gana Tuvalu champion. She is a Sunday school teacher at church and she teaches 'Gana Tuvalu to the children. She encourages all Sunday school teachers to teach Gana Tuvalu and to enjoy it. The children learn their memory verses both in 'Gana Tuvalu and in English.

Step 5:

Use the hashtag to search out other 'Gana Tuvalu champions, recognised by people all around Aotearoa New Zealand! Make sure to check out the champions featured for 2016 on the MPP Facebook page throughout Language Week too.

Iloiloga | Evaluation

We are very keen to get some feedback on the resource. We have put together some questions that could help us:

- Was this resource helpful in connecting Tuvaluans to their language, culture and identity?
- What did you use the resource for?
- What did you like about the resource?
- Any other comments?

Send your feedback to:

contact@mpp.govt.nz - in the subject line: Tuvalu Language Educational Resource Feedback.



Photograph by Ministry for Pacific Peoples, © Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Niisi fakaakooga | Further resources

Te Papa have kindly supported the development of this resource by contributing content on Tuvaluan items in the collections:

Treasures (contemporary and traditional)

[Go to Te Papa's Collections Online to see a range of Tuvaluan treasures.](#)

Examples:

- [Mat](#)
- [Ili \(fan\)](#)
- [Ili \(fan\)](#)
- [Ili \(fan\)](#)
- [Basket](#)
- [Titi](#) (dance skirt)
- [Tui](#) (necklace)
- [Ano](#) (gaming ball)
- [Weaving](#)
- [Teke/Kafaga](#) (coconut harvesting stick)
- [Taka](#) (reef sandals)
- [Flying fish net](#)
- Pandanus clothing - [here](#) and [here](#).

Blogs

- [A cross between volleyball and murderball - Te Ano: national game of Tuvalu](#)
- [Ou taka kofea? | Where are your sandals?](#) (Looks at reef sandals and fishing equipment).
- [Wearable art: Tuvalu style](#) (Looks at dance costumes).
- [Man vs atoll: What if Bear Grylls was marooned on Tuvalu?](#)
- ["I have roots here..." Climate change and Tuvaluan futures](#)

Tales from Te Papa series

- [Tuvalu Clothes](#)

Fakamaaloga | Acknowledgements

We want to acknowledge members from the Tuvalu Auckland Community Trust who were the designers of this resource. The knowledge, insight and passion to see the Tuvaluan language and culture continue to be alive and thriving is important not only to them but also for the next generation.

Fakafetai (thank you):

- Afaese Manoa
- Apiseka Eka
- Losa Sogivalu
- Reverend Elder Suamalie Iosefa Naisali
- Reverend Thomas Iopu
- Sagaa Malua
- Taumatua Tuvalu
- Uelese Malaga
- Valahi Tewa
- Te Papa

Without your support and help we wouldn't be able to put this resource together.



TUVALU LANGUAGE WEEK 2016



25th Sept | **ULU KITE FATU E MALU EI KOE** | 1st Oct

www.mpp.gov.tv

#TuvaluLanguageWeek

“shelter in the rock for your safety”

