



The aloaga/vaka paddling journey of Vaka Tiale (VT = vaka of frangapani) began in 2002 as a collaboration of a committed few. It continues to be a vaka that provides opportunity, challenge and self awareness for Niue women. The team competes in local, national and international regatta. Representation of Niue in this code at an international level has been consistently supported by those with heart, strong faith, perseverance and endurance.



“Watch our backs”

Following VT’s second representation of Niue at the 2007 South Pacific Games a goal for 2008 was to compete at the 13th International Va’a World Sprints, Sacramento, USA. Preparation for the Worlds focused on a demand for higher performance as individuals and as a team unit. By February the Worlds team was in place and a coach secured. Our sister paddler in Wellington travelled to attend monthly training camps which were compulsory live ins. We all continued to train as a core through the winter period coping with hail on lake Pupuke gail force winds on the Tamaki estuary and at time sub sub zero temperatures.

Life’s constant trials kept us grounded as we juggled our family, relationships and work commitments. The adage “what doesn’t kill ya, makes you stronger” was ringing in the ears and hey that theory was tested a few times!! Highlights of the trip included the race venue, the media attention, the competition, the food, the shopping, the glorious weather and the friendly people. We’ve returned with a strong sense of achievement and a benchmark for our women to sustain for future competition.



Manukau ladies squad training at Panama Road, Otahuhu

L-R: Nancy Young, Sue Moses, Debbie Kingi (Coach), Candy Rangi, Tina Hau, Deborah Misiuepa, Anita Strickland, Lisa Fuemana-Foa’i, Karyn Misipeka, Daisy Halo (Wellington).



"Woohooo Vaka Tiale touch down"



Family in Oakland, San Francisco support VT at Lake Nimbus, Sacramento

It is Vaka Tiale's hope that our achievement encourages our prospective fuata/youth specifically women paddlers. We've shown that although we are few in numbers we were confident in our abilities. We were tested on the world stage and we were able to uphold the name of Niue and Vaka Tiale. May this message be a humble offering to new paddlers and supportive Niue paddlers to hold fast, hold steady and continue to lift the name of Niue. Check out our race results [www.ivfworldsprints.com/results](http://www.ivfworldsprints.com/results) then select "Results for USA 2008 - IVF World Sprint Champs" then in search title bar, enter "Vaka Tiale".



Niue Hard



Friendly rivalry with NZ competitors



Vaka Tiale dressed to do the business

L-R: Pefi Kingi (Manager/Alofi), Anita Strickland (Steerer/Alofi), Lisa Fuemana-Foa'i (Seat 4, Mutalau), Nancy Young (Seat 2, Tuapa), Karyn Misipeka (Seat 1, Makefu), Daisy Halo, (Seat 5, Avatele), Deborah Misiuepa (Seat 3, Makefu).

Vaka Tiale remains a core team of proud and committed Pasifika women. We are nurturing mothers, amazing partners, loving aunts, doting grandmothers, the best sisters, tall community leaders and close friends to many. We represent Niue with dignity, humility and honour. We take great pride in being Niue's ambassadors and positive role models in the sport of alo vaka and the many opportunities to represent in Aotearoa and abroad. **"Oue tulou atu "humble thanks to all our supporters" – ki mua Niue!**