

## Media Release **No. 507**

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### **GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE REOPENING DATE AND PROGRAM CONFIRMED**

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre on Thursday Island reopens this month, following a refurbishment that has transformed the site into a modern, functional space for cultural and artistic expression.

Extended, climate-controlled exhibition areas, improved access and new performance spaces are just some of the features of the new look Gab Titui to be unveiled at the reopening on 23 July 2013.

First opened in 2004, Gab Titui is the Torres Strait's first keeping place for historical artefacts and contemporary Indigenous art, dedicated to preserving, revitalising, developing and promoting the unique culture and art of the region.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said with a three day program showcasing the latest Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal music, dance, film and exhibitions, Gab Titui will launch a new chapter offering a broader and more diverse range of programs and services for the community.

"The new Gab Titui will open with the 6<sup>th</sup> Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award, an annual exhibition presenting 77 new works of art by locally residing Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists.

"A newly developed cultural maintenance exhibition *Keriba Ad/Ngoelmun Gidhal: Our Stories* will feature in the extended Ephraim Bani Gallery, making use of new museum quality display facilities to share culturally significant artefacts chosen by the 20 communities of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

"In a new outdoor program area visitors can expect to see performances by the Wabunaw Geth Dancers, Thaiwa Dance Team from Iama and Muiyngu Koekaper Dance Team from Saibai, as well as local musicians Bob Kaige, Joey Tapau and Patrick Mau, who is also set to preview three new songs from his upcoming album during the celebrations.

"Other launches include the biography of Henry 'Seaman' Dan and Torres Strait documentary, *Ailan Kastom*, which will feature alongside several short films in a Torres Strait film night.

"Local community and visitors will also be able to learn more about the art and culture of the Torres Strait and NPA through art demonstrations and workshops, showcasing traditional and contemporary art techniques, including carving, weaving and jewellery making."

Mr Elu said the reopening would be a milestone event for the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

"Gab Titui's reopening is about celebrating our successes and moving forward with the growing profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture and art," Mr Elu said.

“We’re looking forward to the community getting involved in the reopening celebrations and in the future as well”.

For more information on Gab Titui’s reopening program or to find out how you can get involved contact Gab Titui Manager, Mary Bani on 07 4069 0888.



*Gab Titui’s new building offers ocean views, expanded air conditioned gallery spaces and new performance areas.*



*Henry ‘Seaman’ Dan will launch his new book at the reopening of the Centre.  
Image: Daniel Walding, AIATSIS.*



*Pat Mau, Bob Kaige and Joey Tapau are all set to perform at Gab Titui’s reopening celebrations*

**ENDS**