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ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATES LAUNCH OF NEW CD/DVD PACKAGE

The St Paul's Community has launched a CD/DVD package based on the community's traditional and contemporary music and dance during a recent Church Day celebration.

Titled *Lagau Kompas: Music and Dance from St Paul's Community, Moa Island Torres Strait*, the recording features local talents Reggae Bliss, Norah Bagiri and the Arpaka Dance Company and is the tenth CD/DVD package to be produced with the support of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Music and Dance Audit.

The initiative has produced recordings of music and dance from thirteen communities throughout the region since 2007, including Iama, Mabuig, Warraber, Badu, Erub, Boigu, Poruma, Saibai, St Paul's and the Inner Western Islands of Thursday Island, Horn, Hammond and Prince of Wales.

The production of an eleventh CD/DVD package is underway on Mer Island, which will be released later this year.

TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said the project is an important cultural maintenance initiative, which has been made possible through community participation and guidance in selecting and performing the music and dance featured.

"The recordings are a celebration of our unique music, dance and culture and will become a valuable archival resource for future generations of Islanders," Mr Elu said.

"They are also a powerful resource for supporting the wider promotion of Torres Strait Islander culture."

The TSRA works with communities, media agencies and cultural institutions in Australia and overseas to negotiate permission for the use of the recordings in exhibitions, media productions and projects supporting the promotion of Indigenous affairs.

"The recordings have featured in major exhibitions, such as *The Torres Strait Islands: A Celebration* in the Brisbane Cultural Precinct in 2011, and television series' including the SBS documentary, *Time and Tide*, and the ABC drama, *The Straits*," Mr Elu said.

An evaluation of the Music and Dance Audit is currently underway and will guide all future work carried out through the project.

“Eventually we would like to see music and dance packages recorded in all twenty communities of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area,” Mr Elu said.

Lagau Kompass: Music and Dance from St Paul’s Community, Moa Island Torres Strait and other Music and Dance Audit CD/DVD packages are available to purchase from the Gab Titui Cultural Centre Gallery Shop.

For more information or to order a copy call 4069 0888.

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