



Australian Government

Torres Strait Regional Authority



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NEW WEBSITE AND EXHIBITION PUBLICATION LAUNCHED AT GAB TITUI'S 6TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS *For Immediate Release 20 May 2010*

Gab Titui Cultural Centre featured a special screening of the 'The New Black' - 7 short films compile as well as launching its new website and the Zamiyakal Exhibition publication as part of the 6th Birthday celebrations last week on Thursday Island.

"The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is very proud of its Gab Titui Cultural Centre, which is the flagship for the TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage Program and demonstrates our commitment to protecting, promoting, revitalising and maintaining Torres Strait and Aboriginal tradition and cultural heritage," said TSRA Chairperson, Mr John T Kris.

The evening commenced with the official launch of the Gab Titui Website and Zamiyakal publication.

The crowd then enjoyed the screening of 'The New Black' which comprised of seven new short films made by Indigenous writers, directors and producers featuring the directorial debuts of Deborah Mailman (Ralph) and Leah Purcell (Aunty Maggie & The Womba Wakgun).

"Hopefully this compilation of short films and talent of the actors, writers, directors and producers will inspire local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to continue developing their own creative skills and pursue a career in the arts," Mr Kris said.

In April 2009 Gab Titui opened the Zamiyakal Exhibition in the Ephraim Bani Gallery which showcased these unique dance machines used in Torres Strait dance. The Exhibition also highlighted the journey from past to present and how dance machines have changed and evolved over time. The Zamiyakal: *Torres Strait Dance Machines* publication is a beautifully presented pictorial documentation of this exhibition.

"This publication is drawn from the exhibition of the same name that was showcased here at the centre and launched at the 5th Birthday celebrations last year. It then travelled to the East West Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii where it was received extremely well. Through the TSRA's support, Ariw Poenipan Cultural Group travelled to Hawaii with the exhibition where their performances brought life and context to the display," said Mr Kris.

The Gab Titui website has been a long term goal for the Centre and it provides detailed information to the public about Gab Titui, exhibitions, news, events, artists, art centres and general information about the Torres Strait region. The website also provides an opportunity for Gab Titui, local Torres Strait artists and art centres to gain national and international exposure.

Visit the new Gab Titui Website at www.gabtitui.com.au and send your feedback to info@gabtitui.com.au.

The Zamiyakal: *Torres Strait Dance Machines* publication can be purchased at the Gab Titui Gallery Shop.

For more information on 'The New Black' (7 shorts compile) visit www.flickerfest.com.au.

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