



Australian Government

Torres Strait Regional Authority



PR368

Solomon Booth Wins 2010 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award

For Immediate Release 25/06/2010

The winner of the coveted Gab Titui Cultural Centre's "Indigenous Art Award" was announced last night by Torres Strait Regional Authority Portfolio Member for Culture, Arts and Heritage Mr Philemon Mosby.

Solomon Booth, was named the "Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award Winner", receiving \$5,000 in prize money for his lino print on paper titled *Coconut Palm Tree*.

"It was awe-inspiring to see the depth of artistic talent that exists in the region. Not only do I congratulate our winner, Solomon Booth of Kubin Village on Moa Island, but I also commend everyone who entered the Art Awards," Mr Mosby said.

"Mr Booth is also the Chairperson of the recently established Ngalmun Lagau Minaral Art Centre on Moa Island, which provides services to artists from both Kubin and St Pauls Communities. Winning this year's award acknowledges the talent within this new art centre," said Mr Mosby.

"Runner Up" was Yessie Mosby of Masig Island, for his piece titled *Umai Kraal Dog Mask*, taking home a prize of \$2,000.

Subcategory winners were – "Best Craft Work \$500": Nigel Waia (Saibai); "Best Cultural Artefact \$500": William Akee (Mer); "Best Work on Paper/Canvas \$500": Tony Harry (Warraber); and "Best Secondary Work \$500": Taicee Pearson (Iama).

"Highly Commended" awards went to - Joseph Au (Badu); Ella Savage (Erub); Franklin Mye (Erub); Sedey Stephen (Erub); Cynthia Enosa (Saibai); and James Ahmat (Badu).

"Commended" awards went to - Jimmy Morrison (Thursday Island); Ephraim Whap (Kubin Village, Moa); Aiona Morseu (Badu); Sandra Pilot (Thursday Island); Constance Saveka (St Pauls, Moa); and Conwell Tabuai (Saibai).

The Award aims to showcase the quality of Torres Strait Island art, whilst giving local artists professional experience in exhibition protocol.

The entries were judged by Mr Stephen Gilchrist, Curator of Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Victoria, who based his selections on the artists' demonstrated expertise within the chosen medium, their strong personal style and their commitment to making art and cultural objects that project both power and beauty.

Mr Gilchrist told guests the exhibition was an amazing demonstration of the technical skill, cultural pride and incredible imaginations of contemporary Torres Strait Islander Artists.

An impressive variety of artwork was submitted by 54 local artists from 12 island communities in the Torres Strait with entries including headdresses, paintings, drawings, woven objects and lino prints.

"It is very exciting to see Torres Strait artists beginning to experiment with different mediums such as digital and ceramic works," said Mr Mosby.

"Through the TSRA's Culture, Arts and Heritage program we provide support to artists and cultural groups to ensure the revitalisation and maintenance of traditional cultural practices including visual art, dance, language and storytelling.

"The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award supports, develops and celebrates the unique cultural production of art and the strong diversity of artistic practice in the Torres Strait. It is the only exhibition that provides a current representation of art and craft produced by Torres Strait Islander artists residing in the region," said Mr Mosby.

Community members still have the opportunity of voting in the "People's Choice Award", with the winner set to receive a prize of \$1,000. The winner will be announced in the Torres News towards the end of July.

A catalogue containing photographs of all work featured in the exhibition will be available for purchase at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre's Gallery Shop from September 2010.

END

*TSRA Media Contact: Emma Loban, Communications Officer
Telephone: (07) 4090 2130*