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CULTURAL CENTRE CELEBRATES A MILESTONE

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre will celebrate ten years of operation on April 16, with festivities set to include live music, traditional dance and the opening of the 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu said the celebrations will mark an important milestone for the Centre, the TSRA and communities of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

“For more than twenty years, Torres Strait Islanders advocated for a facility in the Torres Strait where our unique cultural heritage and identities could be maintained and shared with generations of our people,” Mr Elu said.

“Gab Titui was opened in 2004, and has since worked tirelessly with communities to promote cultural, social and economic revitalisation and the development of contemporary artistic practice across the region.”

Celebrations will feature live performances by local talent, Northern Xposure, Jack Bani and Erub Island’s Saamkarem Era Kodo Mer Dance Troupe who have previously performed in Brisbane as part of a major Torres Strait Islander extravaganza.

Mr Elu said the night would also include the opening of the seventh annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award, featuring new works by artists throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

“The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award is a key showcase of works by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists, both emerging and established,” Mr Elu said.

“This year’s Award is based on the theme *Ailan Legends* so audiences can expect to see an exciting array of works commemorating traditional Torres Strait Islander myths, legends and icons – both past and present.

“I encourage everyone to come along to celebrate and support our local artists and craftspeople.”

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre 10th Anniversary Celebrations and 2014 Indigenous Art Award Opening will commence at 6.00 pm on 16 April 2014.

Residents of Horn and Hammond Islands can take advantage of complimentary ferry services departing at 5:40 pm and returning at the close of celebrations; 9.30 pm.

A detailed program of events is available on the Gab Titui Cultural Centre website – www.gabtitui.com.au.

For further information contact the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 07 4069 0888 or at info@gabtitui.com.au.



Images (clockwise from left): Saamkarem Era Kodo Mer Dance Troupe (courtesy Natasha Harth, Queensland Art Gallery), Tharna Fire Dancers at Gab Titui's 2004 opening, Gab Titui Cultural Centre (courtesy George Serras, National Museum of Australia)

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