

Media Release

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Community gathers in memory of Adhi Ephraim Bani

Renowned cultural advisor, linguist and advocate for the Torres Strait region, the late Adhi Ephraim Bani, was remembered at a special event held at Gab Titui Cultural Centre last Wednesday evening.

The event was officially opened by Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Portfolio Member for Culture Art and Heritage, Mr Phillemon Mosby, who commended Mr Bani for his immense contribution to the promotion and maintenance of Torres Strait culture throughout his lifetime.

“He was a true visionary” Mr Mosby said.

“His passion and sense of responsibility for the maintenance and revitalisation of Torres Strait culture was, and continues to be, an inspiration in the lives of those who knew him”.

Mr Bani was also a leader in the establishment of Gab Titui Cultural Centre. Sadly, he passed away only months before its official opening, in April 2004.

In line with Mr Bani’s vision for the Centre, Gab Titui has gone on to become the Torres Strait’s first keeping place for historical artefacts and contemporary Indigenous art.

“The TSRA, continues to realise the full extent of Mr Bani’s vision for the Centre with plans for Gab Titui to undergo extensive renovations over the next 12 months.

Wednesday evening’s event marked one item, in a week long commemorative program to Mr Bani, which included moving performances by the Zuguwthiyam Dance Team and the Baiwa Dance Company.

Developed in partnership with the Bani family, the week long program commenced with special screenings of documentaries featuring Mr Bani, including ‘Cracks in the Mask’, ‘Talking Broken’ and personal film footage of Torres Strait Cultural Festivals.

A commemorative display in the Ephraim Bani Gallery was then officially opened by Mr Mosby at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre during the celebration of Mr Bani’s life.

Mr Mosby said the name of the commemorative display, titled *Muruygawmal Muykupal Pathamukmik*, was inspired by one of Mr Bani’s most powerful quotes; “from the time of our ancestors to the present day, let us continue to breathe on the embers to keep the fire burning.”

“The display included Adhi Ephraim’s photographic images, video footage, cultural objects, awards and memorabilia which were generously loaned by the Bani family from their personal collection”.

The week long program also included a moving public performance by the Baiwa Dance Company titled *Warupaw Uu – Echo of the Drums* at Thursday Island’s Anzac Park on Thursday night, 29 September.

Muruygawmal Muykupal Pathamukmik will be on display in the Gab Titui Ephraim Bani Gallery until 30 November 2011.

Copies of the Ephraim Bani Commemorative Booklet, capturing the highlights of the *Muruygawmal Muykupal Pathamukmik* display, are available for purchase through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre's Gallery Shop.

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TSRA Media Contact – Susan Bryce telephone (07) 4069 0700