

Media Release

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EDWIN TURNER WINS GAB TITUI PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Edwin Turner, from Hammond Island, has been named the winner of the *People's Choice Award* for his entry in the 2013 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award.

Over 150 community members and visitors to the Centre voted to decide the award, which recognises works most favoured by the public in the annual exhibition.

Edwin's work, *Home Reef* – a wooden carving set on mirror – depicts traditional island lifestyle and was selected by the public for its 'intricacy', 'detail' and 'amazing craftsmanship'.

An anonymous community member who voted for Edwin's work described it as "a true indication of life in years gone by" and another said it "reminds us of the care and respect shown by people (towards the environment)".

The 2013 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award opened on 23 July during Gab Titui's reopening celebrations and displays a record 77 entries from artists throughout 18 communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA).

All entries in the Award were inspired by this year's theme, *Ailan Style*, developed to celebrate the unique ways and traditions of each community in the Torres Strait and NPA.

Winners in nine categories were announced on the opening night. As the recipient of the tenth category – the *People's Choice Award* – Edwin will receive \$1,500 in prize money.

Community members were given six weeks to cast their votes for the *People's Choice Award*, in-store from 23 July until 31 August 2013.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Board Deputy Chairman and Culture, Art and Heritage Portfolio Member, Mr Aven Noah, congratulated Edwin Turner and described the July re-opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre as a milestone in the TSRA's efforts to maintain, promote and develop the unique culture and art of the region.

"The 2013 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards has been the best yet and set the stage for a fantastic future for already established and young emerging regional artists", said Mr Noah.

"A big eso for the general community who continue to go through and visit the Cultural Centre and for their nomination to support the work of a talented artist Edwin Turner."

The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award is on display in the Centre's *Wabunaw Geth Gallery* until 31 October 2013. A catalogue containing photographs of all artworks in the exhibition is also available for purchase from the Gab Titui Cultural Centre Gallery Shop.



Caption: Edwin Turner with his People’s Choice winning work, Home Reef.

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