

Media Release 637

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Mer music and dance recording released

The Meriam community celebrated the launch of a new CD and DVD package, in a community event held on Mer Island on Thursday 7 May.

Titled *Keriba Ged: Traditional and Contemporary Music and Dance from the Murray Islands, Torres Strait*, the recording features music and dance performances by community members of the Murray Islands Mer, Dauar and Waier; including Joseph Tapau, Dayne Noah and the Mer Community Singers.

It is the eleventh CD and DVD package to be produced with the support of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Music and Dance Audit.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the project is an important cultural maintenance initiative, which has been made possible through community participation and guidance in selecting and performing the music and dance featured.

“The recordings are a celebration of our unique music, dance and culture and will become a valuable archival resource for future generations,” Mr Elu said.

“They are also a powerful resource for supporting the wider promotion of Torres Strait Islander culture.”

Mr Elu said the TSRA works with communities, media agencies and cultural institutions in Australia and overseas to negotiate permission for the use of the recordings in exhibitions, media productions and projects supporting the promotion of Indigenous affairs.

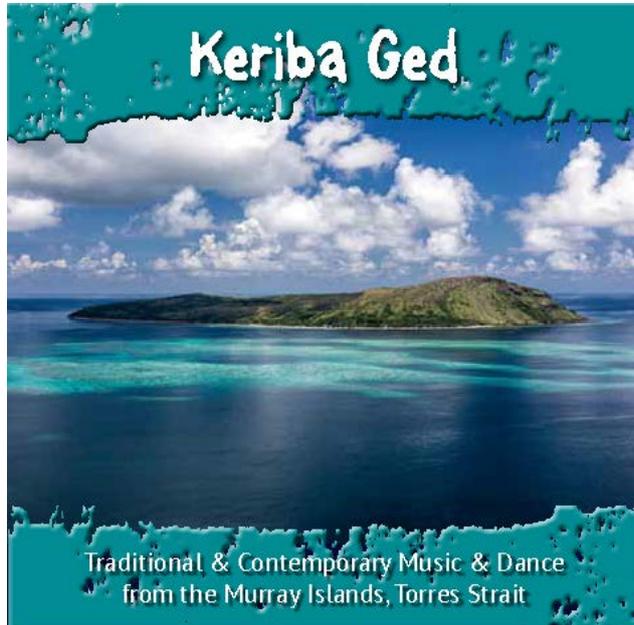
“The recordings have featured in major exhibitions such as *The Torres Strait Islands: A Celebration* in the Brisbane Cultural Precinct in 2011, and television series including the SBS documentary *Time and Tide* and the ABC drama *The Straits*,” Mr Elu said.

“Eventually we would like to see music and dance packages recorded in all twenty communities of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.”

The TSRA Music and Dance Audit initiative has produced recordings of music and dance from fourteen communities throughout the region since 2007, including Iama, Mabuig, Warraber, Badu, Erub, Boigu, Poruma, Saibai, St Paul’s, the Murray Islands, and the Inner Western Islands of Thursday Island, Horn, Hammond and Prince of Wales.

Keriba Ged: Traditional and Contemporary Music and Dance from the Murray Islands, Torres Strait and other Music and Dance Audit CD/DVD packages are available to purchase from the Gab Titui Cultural Centre Gallery Shop.

For more information or to order a copy call 07 4069 0888.



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TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson telephone on 0423 403 449