



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MEDIA ALERT

Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present

Wednesday, 19 May 2004

CELEBRATION OF TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LIFE

While the Torres Strait came to international attention after the historic *Mabo* judgment, the people of this remote region also set early precedents for Indigenous self-management, better wages and labour conditions for Indigenous people, and the integration of traditional Indigenous beliefs with Christianity.

Woven Histories Dancing Lives: Torres Strait Islander Identity, Culture and History, to be launched as part of Sydney Writers' Festival this Saturday 22 May, is a collection of essays which explores life in the Torres Strait, and celebrates the significant contribution of the Torres Strait people to Australian life.

Jointly launching the book will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyer Terri Janke and renowned Torres Strait Islander artist Alick Tipoti.

Other speakers will include AIATSIS Chairman, Professor Mick Dodson, and AIATSIS Acting Principal Steve Larkin in 'conversation' with the editor Dr Richard Davis and contributing authors McRose Elu, Jeremy Beckett and Gabriel Bani, son of prominent elder and contributor, the late Ephraim Bani. The launch will conclude with a performance by 2002 Deadly Awards Female Artist of the Year, Ms Toni Janke.

Woven Histories Dancing Lives has been published by the Aboriginal Studies Press of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra.

What:	Launch of the book <i>Woven Histories Dancing Lives: Torres Strait Islander Identity, Culture and History</i> (edited by Richard Davis)
When:	5.30–7pm, Saturday 22 May 2004
Where:	Bangarra Mezzanine Wharf (Pier) 4, Hickson Road Walsh Bay, Sydney

For information, call Kirstie Parker at AIATSIS on 0412-646 926 or (02) 6261 4225.