

TIME OUT

Pacific Storms brew in Australia



Joycelin Leahy (left) and Tema, a Tongan community leader



Joycelin Leahy with artists Micah Furseta, Lingikoni Vakauta and Lambert Ho

By MALUM NALU

PACIFIC Storms, a contemporary art exhibition of significant Pacific Island issues curated by Papua New Guinea's Joycelin Leahy, opened to a record crowd of 425 people at Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery last Wednesday night.

It was opened by the Australian parliamentary secretary for Pacific Affairs Duncan Kerr.

The turn-out included audiences from around Australia, Pacific islanders, residents of Bundaberg region and 27 of 33 artists – Papua New Guineans included – who exhibited in the show.

In his speech, Mr Kerr said the artworks challenged the traditional perceptions of Pacific cultures and their arts.

He called Pacific Storms a "superb example of contemporary Pacific Island culture".

"I am sure that those who visit the exhibition will be surprised and perhaps startled by what they see," Mr Kerr said.

"The works on display present a contemporary perspective of Pacific societies and cultures.

"It is a perspective that many Australians, including those in the art world, may not be prepared for."

He said the exhibition brought an important understanding of Aus-

tralia to its closest neighbours and the fact that Pacific Islands' concerns and their world were not so different to Australia's.

Australia has committed A\$150 million over

three years under the climate change adaptation initiative to help meet high priority adaptation needs of vulnerable countries in the region, which focuses on Pacific Islands and Timor Leste.

Club Junction - Live Music Venue in Moresby

WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE – MOALE NIGHT
FREELANCERS BAND

THURSDAY 11TH JUNE – MEMBERS NIGHT
TONICS BAND

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
POM HOCKEY – WOMENS MASTER
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SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
– MBBS YEAR 5 UPNG