

Badu Nawul:

Traditional and Contemporary Music and Dance from *Badu* Island, Torres Strait

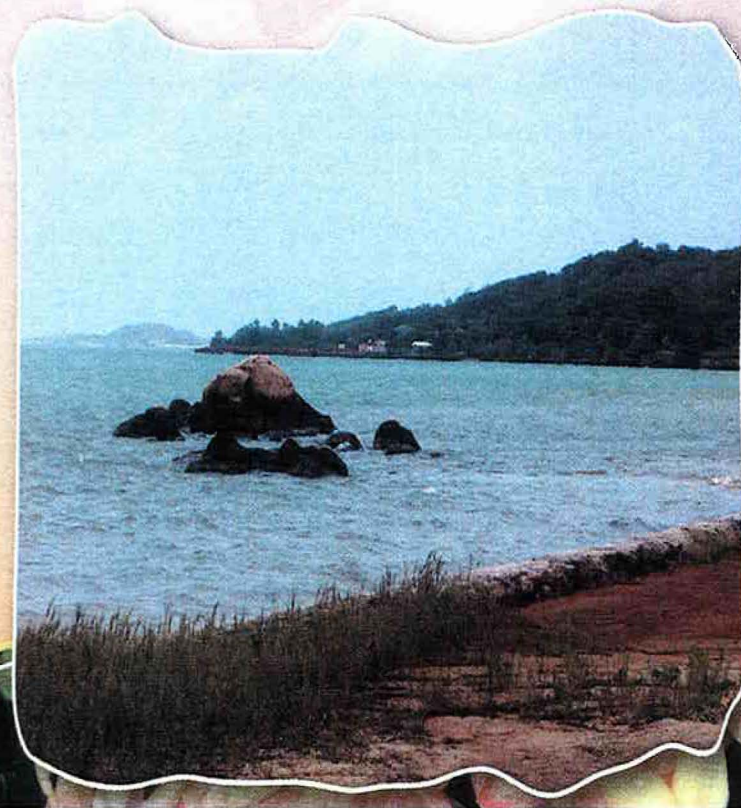
Badu Island is one of the three islands in the Near Western 'cluster' of Torres Strait. It is the largest Outer Island community with approximately 1500 residents in 2008. Historically *Badu* had a reputation as an island with fierce warriors who were also skilled hunters of dugong and turtle. Pearl shellers established bases in the 1870s and maritime industries including boat building became the mainstay of the economy. Christian missionaries and migrants from Asia and Oceania also arrived at that time. In the late 1950s when the pearling industry was at its peak a fleet of 13 boats worked out from *Badu* harvesting the rich maritime resources of the Torres Strait. However, with the later decline of maritime industries many people migrated to the Australian mainland. Today *Badu* is an active, progressive community with successful local enterprises and a regional reputation not only as a strong cultural island but also the home of skilled sportsmen and sportswomen. The songs and dances documented here are examples of the importance of *Ailan Kastom* (Island Custom) on *Badu* Island.

This recording and filming project is an initiative of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), an Australian Government Statutory Authority established in 1994. Its mandate is to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples living in the Torres Strait region. It strives

to achieve this by: "gaining recognition of our rights, customs and identity as indigenous peoples; achieving a better quality of life for all people living in the Torres Strait region; developing a sustainable economic base; achieving better health and community services; ensuring protection of our environment; and asserting our native title over the lands and waters of the Torres Strait region."

Cultural activities such as music and dance play a pivotal role in ensuring traditional cultural practices are maintained and celebrated with pride and the TSRA actively supports arts activities and artists. For more information see its website at www.tsra.gov.au. Partners with the TSRA on this project are local communities, Arts Queensland, the National Library of Australia and CQUniversity Australia.

NOTE: Information in these liner notes was provided by and vetted by the community.



Badu Nawul