

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Original Creative Work

Citation: Seaman Dan *Follow the Sun* 1999 CD (Karl Neuenfeldt: Co-Producer and Performer)

1. Research Background

- Field – Indigenous Music
- Context – Torres Strait Islander Music
- Research Question – What different styles of music have been imported into the Torres Strait region?

2. Research Contribution

- Innovation – The CD is the first recording by the ex-pearl diver, boat skipper and community musician Henry ‘Seaman’ Dan. The songs focus on his life in the maritime and pastoral industries.
- New Knowledge – Seaman Dan’s music reflects the life and work experiences of many Torres Strait Islander men of his generation (born 1929) in that they were itinerant maritime workers who worked across tropical Australia. His main musical styles of hula, blues, slow jazz and folk reflect both the multicultural population of the Torres Strait region and the strong links to the popular culture of mainland Australia.

3. Research Significance

- Evidence of Excellence – The CD has been critically well received and was nominated for a Best Indigenous Album Award by the Queensland Recording Association (2000). *T.I. Blues* was included in an ABC Local Radio compilation CD. *Follow the Sun* was used in the ABC documentary *Media Nomads* (Donna Ives), the SBS documentary *Seaman Dan and Friends* (Fiona Cochrane), and the ABC documentary *Hula Time* (Nancia Guivarra) and other documentaries. Karl Neuenfeldt published an article primarily based on the project (“Examples of Torres Strait Songs of Longing and Belonging” *Journal of Australian Studies* (75) 2002 111-116).

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