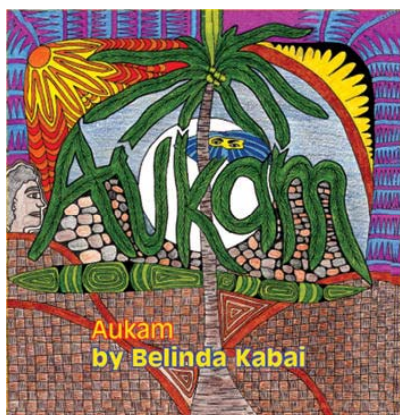


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Press Release

Aukam gift to welcome babies

Newly published young
illustrator Belinda Kabai will be
in Townsville this weekend to
launch her first book, *Aukam*.



Townsville City Council will bring her from Cairns to the Welcoming Babies Ceremony and Family Summit on Sunday. She will sign her books as they are given to all the new babies in their gift bags.

The event is at 3 pm on Sunday October 22nd in a marquee at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre.

Belinda will also be a guest story-teller in the Story Tent at the Family Summit on Sunday afternoon at 2.15 pm.

Townsville-Thuringowa publisher Black Ink Press will take this opportunity to launch Belinda's new book. This is their first venture into publishing a book in two languages at once. The story is told in both English and Kalaw Kawaw Ya, the language of the Top Western section of the Torres Strait Islands.

Co-ordinator Jeanie Adams says "This beautiful book emerged from a single painting. Belinda was helped in the planning process by artist Jenny Tyler, who at the time was working with the artists at Saibai Island, as a teacher and mentor.

"We hope people will come along to meet Belinda and acknowledge her for what she has created. Others might be inspired to begin books of their own."

The words and pictures in *Aukam* recreate a traditional story from the Torres Strait, about the woman who wove by the light of the moon. The translation is by Father Ezra Waigana who is keen to write more stories in Kalaw Kawaw Ya.

Father Ezra Waigana said on the phone from Saibai Island "I like to see skilful young people using their talents to help keep our languages alive for the benefit of the whole community."

Belinda Kabai is studying Art at Cairns Tropical NQ TAFE. She is already planning her next picture-story book, as are some of the other Saibai artists.

For more information or sales (ISBN: 1-86334-021-1 RRP: \$15) contact Black Ink Press at the address below.

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