

► **Christmas**

Celebrate the season muso-style

MACKAY musos and music lovers are invited to get into the festive spirit at Molloys on Monday, December 19.

The annual Muso's Christmas Party is on from 8pm.

It's the events 27th year, and organiser Dale Kennedy said performers were encouraged to come along and play.

People can play two or three songs, and at the end pair up for a jam session.

It's also a fantastic chance to meet fellow musicians and share the joy of music, Dale said.

All are welcome. Musos should bring their own instruments.

For more details phone Dale Kennedy on 4952 2799.

**Check out the Claire Trentain CD review – Page 22**

► **re-opening**

# New nightspot for Mackay

By **STEPHANIE ROSE**  
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THE doors will open to Mackay's newest nightspot tomorrow night.

Three months after they began, renovations are complete at what was formerly known as Wilkies and The Balcony.

New operations manager Phil Cruikshank and functions manager Joel Contor said Tommy De's would be an upstairs/downstairs bar and restaurant, which would be a nightclub on weekends.

"We want to create something

new for Mackay's 18 to 50-year-olds that want to go out in style," Phil said.

Renovations left no stone unturned, he said.

"The whole building has been done, everything is new, from the roof, kitchen and bars, right down to the glassware."

Tomorrow's opening night will feature Brisbane DJ Sparkles, who plays at The Family club's ice bar, and also the GPO.

City Heart boutique ID Dezine will also showcase the latest fashions in a fashion parade upstairs.

The models' and staff make-up will be done by City Heart store Bella Rouge Studio using Napoleon Perdis cosmetics.

Their hairstyles will be courtesy of Juliet Street salon Hair Envy.

Joel said Tommy De's restaurant would offer lunch and dinner every day, except for Sundays.

"Our head chef, Owen Gray, is formerly the Clarion's executive chef," Joel said.

"We'll offer great food, cooked fresh, at low prices."

The venue will continue opening celebrations on Saturday night.

► **debut album**

# Always a ♀ girl

**Former Moranbah singer/songwriter Claire Trentain releases her first pop album**

By **STEPHANIE ROSE**  
srose@dailymercury.com.au

CLAIRE TRENTAIN



FROM singing on the country stage in Moranbah at age six, to touring with a teen covers band, Claire Trentain has always had stars in her eyes.

The talented professional songwriter just last week independently released her debut LP – Loving the Blue and Green – but she doesn't deny her Central Queensland roots.

"I'll never forget where I'm from," Claire told themix.

"I haven't changed since I left.

"I really want to make it up to the regions for a tour of schools so I can tell them – I'm just like you and you can do this too."

Claire now calls Brisbane home and lives close to the airport, but said she's spent more time up in the air.

"I've had about two-to-three trips overseas every year.

"My last trip was only a few weeks ago and already I want to go back!"

Not only is Claire the first Australian to have her debut album produced by international hitmakers Murlyn Music (responsible for hits

from the likes of Britney Spears, Celine Dion and Jennifer Lopez) but she has secured a showcase of her music in Japan next year.

Claire's "damn proud" of her debut release and describes it as a "self-portrait".

"Some songs I wrote at school and I think people will recognise them," she said.

The title of the album's first single, Perfect, is a bit misleading, Claire says.

"I wrote it when I was at uni.

"It's about when you go out, how guys put it on and how I think they just need to be themselves – not so perfect. I love people's imperfections and quiriness."

Looking ahead, Claire is determined about her future as an independent artist.

"People like Ben Lee have proved it can be done," she said.

"I've really enjoyed having complete creative control – the album is just the way I want it to be.

"There's so much independent talent out there, just not enough outlets for it."

Claire is always writing and has penned songs for Faith Hill and Danni Minogue.

"I have enough songs for about six more albums!" she laughed.

Loving The Blue and Green is available by request at all record stores and is distributed by MGM.

**what's on at**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Management and Staff would like to wish all theatre lovers, valued sponsors and volunteers a Safe and Merry Christmas

**Looking for a Christmas Gift? Why not purchase a "Morning Melodies Booklet or Gift Voucher"**

The Centre will be closed from Saturday, 17 December and will re-open Monday, 9 January, 2006

**BOOKING DETAILS**

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**WINNER OF THE MIX-ZEBAR COMPETITION FOR FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER IS**

**Jodi Gobson of Mackay**

**themix**

The above listed person & 10 of their friends need to claim their \$200 Party Voucher tomorrow between 5-7 p.m. at Zebar. WINNER MUST BE PRESENT.  
Inquiries: Phone Tenille 4957 0433