

GALLERIES/EXHIBITIONS

UMBRELLA STUDIO

1. Umbrella Fundraiser Members have donated unique and exquisitely decorated umbrellas for sale to help purchase a gallery dishwasher and REAL glasses! Commencing December 16 at 8pm, 482 Flinders St. Ph: 4772 7817.

2. Hooray for Brollywood! annual Members exhibition featuring sculpture, installation and paintings to the theme of glitz, glamour and over the top colour. Opening December 16 with entertainment, food, drink and fun — all welcome, (and dress up!) These exhibitions continue until January 22 at 1pm. 482 Flinders St, ph 4772 7817.

Umbrella Studio will be closed from 1pm Dec. 21 and will reopen at 9am January 9.

PERC TUCKER REGIONAL GALLERY:

1. Towards Beauty's End The many manifestations of beauty in art are explored through works by artists in Australia and Singapore. Until February 5.

2. Great Walks of Qld Art & Environment: An exhibition celebrating Qld's walking trails through artists' responses to sites. On exhibition until February 12.

FLINDERS GALLERY:

Gallery artists exhibition: Mixed exhibition of works by gallery artists. Featuring new work by Anneke Silver, Ruth Niemann and Leon Pericles as well as recent work by Sylvia Ditchburn and James Brown. On exhibition until December 25. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 9.30am-2pm, 693 Flinders St 4771 2222.

PINNACLES GALLERY:

Borroloola and Beyond Kelso artist Lyn Mott celebrates the diversity and age of the remote Borroloola region on the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory with mixed media paintings depicting images from this spectacular area. A Purple Wall exhibition. Until January 7.

Thuringowa Drive, Thuringowa, 10am-5pm Monday, 10am-6pm Tuesday-Saturday 4773 8566.

FIRE UP NORTH Handmade local crafts inc. pottery, silk, sculpture, jewellery and paintings. Shop 2 Cowboys building, Flinders Mall (opp. Police Beat). Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat/Sun 9am-1pm. Ph 4721 3656.

GAVIN RYAN STUDIO and ART GALLERY, 127 Horseshoe Bay Rd Magnetic Island. Open 10am-5pm daily, except Tues and Sun. 4778 5025.

VONNIE VAN BEMMEL ART STUDIO/GALLERY cnr Appian and Hayes Ave, Arcadia, Magnetic Island. Specialising in oils, workshops, classes. 4758 1299.

TOWNSVILLE ART SOCIETY Inc.

'Traditionally Yours': landscapes, seascapes and photo art by award-winning artists Marion O'Shea and Eddie Omelaniuk. (C). TAS Art Galleries, Cat and Fiddle Centre, Flinders Mall 4772 4733.

MUSIC/MUSICALS

New Years Eve Variety Evening at the Townsville Choral Society's Hall at 485 Sturt St. Nibbles and light supper served during the evening, bar service available. December 31, cost \$25, doors open 7.30pm, show starts 8.30pm. Bookings essential, call Brian on 4779 2495 or 0418 781 766.

NQOMT New Year's Eve: 'Let's celebrate!' Family fun, fantastic variety show. Townsville Civic Theatre, December 31 at 8pm. Tickets: Ticketshop — Civic Theatre, KMart or phone 4727 9797. Inquiries: 4728 5681.

THEATRE

Props Youth Theatre present: **The Fantastic Wizard of Oz** December 16 at 10.30am at the Townsville Choral Society Hall, 485 Sturt St. Tickets \$7 at door.

MUSEUMS

TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM and HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. 231 Hugh St, Currajong, near the QATB. Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10am-3pm, Sun 1pm-4pm. Groups at other times by appointment. 4775 7838

RAAF TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM RAAF Base Townsville. Tues and Thurs 9am-noon, Sun 10am-4pm.

MUSEUM OF TROPICAL QUEENSLAND 2004 NQ Tourism Award-winning museum of nature, science and history, Flinders St East, 9.30am-5pm daily. Free entry for participating local councils. Ph 4726 0600.

MILITARY MUSEUM at Jezzine Barracks, Kissing Point will be temporarily closed for maintenance work from end of business December 16, reopening January 23 at 9.00am.

THE NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE CENTRE, 5 Castling St, West End will be closed from December 1 and will reopen on January 25.

THE ROLLINGSTONE RAILWAY MUSEUM In the Vincent 'Bushy' Parker Park, Rollingstone, open Tuesday 10am-noon and Sunday 10am-3pm or by appointment, call 4770 7466.

MARITIME MUSEUM OF TOWNSVILLE 42-68 Palmer St, South Townsville. Mon-Fri 10am to 4pm. Sat-Sun 1pm to 4pm. Ph 4721 5251

•(P): Professional, (C): Community, (CP): Community with professional input.

Send details of events (limit 25 words) to Shari Tagliabue, Townsville Bulletin, PO Box 587, Townsville 4810 or fax 4722 4559 or email edsec@nqn.news1td.com.au



Easy being green

Singer/songwriter Claire Trentain got inspiration for some of the songs on her debut album while studying visual arts in Townsville. ISIS STUCKENSCHMIDT reports

As the saying goes, never judge a book by its cover.

This goes without saying for singer/songwriter Claire Trentain and her wacky hairdo.

The former JCU visual arts student turned singer released her debut pop album this week titled *Loving the Blue and Green* — saying the title had nothing to do with her hair colour.

"The title came from my first trip to work with my recording company Murlyn — I was sitting on the plane and looked down and all I could see was the blue and green," she said.

Trentain said the green hair came from her love of art.

"Being an artist I love colour and being a natural black doesn't give me the freedom to vary my hair colour. "The only option was to go blonde and then add colour, so I picked my favourite — green," she said.

Trentain is the first Australian to have her debut album produced by international hit makers Murlyn Music, who are responsible for hits from artists such as Britney Spears, Celine Dion and Jennifer Lopez.

In April 2004, after catching the attention of several local labels Trentain had the opportunity to travel to America and Scandinavia on a solo songwriting sojourn working with writers from Murlyn Music, Multiplay Music and Sony.

She described her debut album as a work in progress with each song portraying experiences and feelings at different points in her life.

"When I sat down and decided to write a debut album, I wanted to keep it real and make sure it was really me," she said.

"This album is my self-portrait — it's mixed up, diverse, playful and personal."

The independent singer/songwriter said she was thrilled about the long-awaited release.

Now based in Brisbane, Trentain said living and studying in Townsville influenced much of her music.

"I always continued writing music when I was studying visual arts — I like doing anything creative," she said.

Trentain said she wrote the song *What would I say* from her album when she was living in Townsville.

"I have grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins all sorts of people there and the town had a real influence on me," she said.

Born in Moranbah, Trentain said she always had a passion for music and art.

"My first performance was when I was six years old on a country music stage in Moranbah, I was also in the Battle of the Bands in high school and it just went from there," she said.

Trentain said performing live was the ultimate high.

"It's like opening the doors to my creative world and saying, 'Party at my place, come on in'," she said.

"The band and I love to get out there and perform — we're a bunch of show ponies."

Trentain said she was looking at returning home and doing a Queensland tour early in the new year.

"Hopefully my music will take off here and then North Queensland is the first place I wanna go — it's always nice to get home to the warmth," she said.

Trentain now hopes to get out to schools around the country to tell kids about how to make it into the world of music.

"I want to get out there to schools and be an inspiration to the kids.

"I want them to know that you can still get into the international spotlight even if you come from a place like Townsville," she said.