

Claire takes time for her own solo career

By ROB LAYTON

GOLD Coast songwriter Claire Trentain is stepping into the limelight with her own album release following years in the background penning hits for other artists.

The confident 20-something musician this month independently released her debut album, *Loving the Blue and the Green*, after three years of travelling the globe for international company Murlyn Music, who have provided hit songs for the likes of Britney Spears, Celine Dion and Jennifer Lopez.

It is something Claire says she has always wanted to do.

"It's a good feeling, especially as I've been working on it for a number of years," she says. "I always thought if I was going to do an album I wanted it to be good, no fillers, and that takes time."

Claire was raised in north Queensland. She started writing songs at high school, where she joined her first band.

Later at university, where she studied graphic art, Claire concentrated more on her songwriting and her ability was quickly recognised by music industry people.

An opportunity came up to work with other writers from Murlyn, Multiplay and Sony Music and that started a three-year stint of writing for their stable of artists that ranged from Ricky Martin to Ronan Keating.

"I ended up doing three trips around the world in a year working on other people's projects," she says. "During that time I developed a style and came up with a number of great songs that didn't suit Britney or any one else they had on their books so I put them aside and one day I realised I had enough for an album."

Being a songwriter Claire says it sometimes could be difficult parting with one of her songs.

"It was hard initially but when you're a musician you just like to hear your music get out there," she says.

With the release of *Loving the Blue and Green*, Claire will concentrate her efforts on promoting her own career for a while.

She wants to remain an independent artist to prove to the industry and to struggling artists that success is possible without major label backing.

"I'm concentrating obviously on my own stuff at the moment and I'd like to have follow up albums," she says. "But longevity is definitely in songwriting."

"I can definitely still be doing that when I'm 40."

"You just never know when the dream's going to be over so I'll keep it going as long as I can."



☐ Claire Trentain ... the Gold Coast songwriter has independently released her debut album after spending years writing for other artists.

Rude departure

CRUDE funnyman Rodney Rude is retiring from live performance and it looks like his show at Seagulls tomorrow night will be the last time he ever appears on stage.

He has toured Australia for much of the past year with his risqué and rude stage show, having been to the Tweed three times in the past few months, and had always aimed to wrap it up by Christmas.

Rodney Rude has released 11 albums of his comedy since he first emerged on Sydney's burgeoning comedy circuit in 1983.

He quickly became a popular act on the stand-up comedy circuit and he gained a strong audience around the country.

His first album was *Rodney Rude Live* and this year he released his latest offering, *Twice As Rude*.

Although he will no longer touring the country that doesn't spell an end to his recording career.

Fortunately, he has recorded literally thousands of shows, which will enable him to continue to release live recordings up until he gets his 'wooden overcoat'.

His management says that even then his family will probably continue to release more albums.

He has been working throughout Queensland for the past two weeks with Seagulls the final date on his tour schedule.

Tickets to show are \$38.50. This is an adults only show.

Country legends

BULLAMAKANKA return to Club Banora tomorrow night for a show in the Pandanus Lounge. There is no cover charge.

Bullamakanka has not only survived the test of time, but has evolved to become an Australian institution.

The band started as a trio on the Gold Coast in 1978, playing locally for two years before venturing further afield.

Year by year the touring itinerary broadened as did their appeal and audience acceptance.

By 1983 they had become the most popular country music group in the land and were awarded the coveted Golden Guitar for Best Group at the Australasian Country Music Awards.

They were also invited to the United States to perform at Fort Worth, Texas where they were presented with an award for Australian Group Entertainer of the Year.

In late 1998 Bullamakanka celebrated 20 years of making music.

During this time the band has managed to cross-over the previously insurmountable barriers between the pop and country markets, giving them the ability to perform successfully at folk and pop festivals, clubs and pure country music venues all around Australia.

The best known of their recorded music is the hit *Home Among The Gum Trees*, now considered an Australian classic.

In January 2002 Bullamakanka were inducted into the Tamworth Country Music Hands of Fame, cementing their place in Australian music history.

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