



AFTER 5

■ **HEAD** down to the Cairns Botanic Gardens tonight for Tropical Arts Association Inc's new production *When The Wheels Fall Off The World*. Tickets are from www.ticketlink.com.au or by calling 1300 855 835.

■ **CAIRNS** Tango Club presents a free night of dancing Argentine Tango to electronic, pop and Jazz tonight at **Salthouse**. Free lesson at 7.30pm. Or if Salsa is more your thing, head to **Vibe Bar**, where Furyus Feet Dance Company offer lessons from 6pm. Singles or couples welcome to both events.

■ The one and only **Take Five** are doing their thing over dinner tonight at **The Lipstick Bar** at Hotel Cairns.

IN REVIEW ...

IT'S rare and wonderful when you go to see a theatre performance and witness the birth of a star. So it was at the opening of *Blackbird* starring Mt Isa singer Megan Samardin at JUTE Theatre on Friday night.

As the theatre filled up, Megan and guitar accompanist Jamie Clark, sat onstage chatting quietly, giving no indication of the impending performance.

The stage was decorated with guitars with a small white screen as a backdrop on which appeared various members of Megan's family to relay their tales.

Megan began by launching into a rock 'n' roll number about her time singing in bars in Mt Isa. Moving backwards in time, she sang - in various styles from blues to gospel and country - the stories of six generations of women: the hardships they endured, how they survived, about their love lives, and their hopes and dreams.

Megan is an incredibly honest and emotional performer. Her singing and acting abilities are very strong and obvious from the ease with which she slides from character to character and from song style to style.

She has a natural charm and stage presence and she totally absorbed the audience, who followed her through emotional highs and lows.

Parts of the stories are amusing

and endearing and there is plenty of familial sentiment that will resonate with all audiences.

What was striking was hearing Megan mention songs my own grandmother sang, like *After the Ball*, even though she lived on the other side of the world. Other elements of the lives of Megan's foremothers are heartbreaking, and are encapsulated in impressive original songs written by both Megan and John Rodgers.

The saddest is *Blackbird*, about Emily, who, in her 90s, was living on the Tablelands when she was taken away - ostensibly for a holiday on Palm Island - by police. She lived her remaining years imprisoned and far from her family. The tone of the piece, however, is one of triumph over adversity - Megan's own life, with its myriad opportunities, is a tribute to the women who came before her.

Creative producer Leah Cotterill was correct when she said that people will come for the story of Megan Samardin's family and leave with her performance.

Blackbird is a unique musical piece of theatre about a local indigenous family, represented by a great talent. It should not be missed.

— DENISE CARTER

■ **Blackbird** is at JUTE Theatre until August 28. Tickets are from www.ticketlink.com.au or by calling 1300 855 835.

THE BUZZ today!

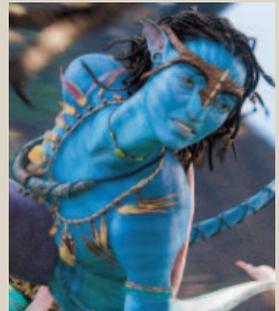
WILD RIDE

Jamiroquai (pictured below) is back. The first single from their long awaited new album *Rock Dust Light Star* hit radio yesterday. Titled *White Knuckle Ride*, the track is a high-octane retrospective on frontman Jay Kay's career experiences, a cautionary tale equally applicable to anyone's life in these pressured times. Remixes of the track are provided by Seamus Haji, Monarchy and Penguin Prison. The full length album will be available on October 29.



TRAGIC DEATH

The singer of Ou Est Le Swimming Pool, Charlie Haddon, tragically passed away on Friday. It is believed the death is suicide. An official statement from the band read as follows: "We are all so deeply saddened to confirm that our friend Charlie Haddon passed away yesterday, Friday 20th August. The singer had just performed with his band, Ou Est Le Swimming Pool, at the Pukkelpop festival in Belgium. He was 22 years old." The London three piece were in Europe playing a number of festivals before embarking on a tour of Australia as part of the Parklife festival next month. If you or anyone you know is suffering from depression, contact Lifeline on 13 14 11 or the Salvation Army on 1300 467 354.



FREE FILMS ON THE 'NARD

Cairns Festival has some great film happenings this week and they are all totally free. Tonight down at the Esplanade, there is a free screening of sci-fi spectacular *Avatar* (pictured above) from 7pm. The screening is timely, as *Avatar: Special Edition* hits Birch Carroll and Coyle Cairns Cinemas on Thursday, with nine minutes of extra footage. On Wednesday, the film is family favourite *Ice Age 3*, from 7pm.

BIRCH CARROLL & COYLE
\$9.50 TUESDAY! EVERY MOVIE! EVERY SESSION!*
*Offer available every Tuesday excluding Public Holidays. \$1 booking fee per ticket applies for tickets purchased online. Offer excludes 3D films.

CENTRAL	3D ALL FILMS NO FREE TICKETS
SALT (M) tue 9.45, 10.30, 12.40, 2.50, 4.00, 5.00, 7.15, 8.45, 9.30pm	STEP UP 3D (PG) tue 9.45, 12.00, 2.20, 4.40, 6.20, 7.05, 9.30pm
THE EXPENDABLES (MA15+) tue 10.00, 12.20, 2.40, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm	3D TOY STORY 3 (G) tue 1.40, 4.00pm
INCEPTION (M) tue 12.30, 3.00, 6.00, 8.40, 9.15pm	ALL TICKETS \$7 NO FREE TICKETS
KILLERS (M) tue 11.00, 1.30, 6.30pm	TINKERBELL AND THE GREAT FAIRY RESCUE (G) tue 10.00, 11.50am
EARLVILLE	INCEPTION (M) tue 12.20, 3.20, 9.20pm
SALT (M) tue 10.00, 12.20, 2.40, 5.00, 7.15, 9.20pm	MATCHING JACK (M) tue 9.45, 12.00, 2.20, 6.45, 9.10pm
STEP UP 3 (PG) tue 9.45, 12.00, 2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.20pm	BARBES IN ARMS - CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE wed over 10.00am
THE EXPENDABLES (MA15+) tue 9.30, 11.45, 2.00, 4.15, 6.45, 9.00pm	SCOTT PILGRIM VS THE WORLD (M) tue 12.30, 3.00, 6.30, 9.00pm
KILLERS (M) tue 10.15, 4.30, 9.20pm	KARATE KID (PG) tue 9.30am
CITY	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE (M) tue 1.00, 3.20, 9.20pm
SCOTT PILGRIM VS THE WORLD (M) NO FREE TICKETS tue 10.20, 12.45, 3.20, 6.45, 9.15pm	KNIGHT AND DAY (M) tue 1.10, 6.30pm
THE GHOST WRITER (MA15+) tue 10.30, 1.20, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30pm	MATCHING JACK (M) tue 10.00, 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.20, 9.35pm
THE RUNAWAYS (MA15+) tue 10.40, 3.35, 6.30, 8.45pm	BARBES IN ARMS - CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE wed over 10.00am
	KARATE KID (PG) tue 10.15

© This week's 'P' For Families films are: KARATE KID and TOY STORY 3. Look for the balloon. *Only valid for movies during the 'P' For Families program. For sessions starting prior to 10pm \$1 for regular movie in a standard auditorium and \$12 for a 3D session in a standard auditorium. \$1 surcharge for 3D glasses if needed. \$1 fee per transaction for online bookings. Adult must be accompanied by a child for the session purchased. *3D TOY STORY 3 and KARATE KID are special event screenings. Screenings and 3D tickets can be used with payment of applicable surcharges. Complimentary and other discounts cannot be redeemed. This applies for 3D screenings in traditional, Vmax and Gold Class auditoriums. Session Times Copyright © 2010 - Birch Carroll & Coyle Cinemas.

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PROCEEDS GO TO camp quality



PURITY OF ESSENCE TOUR

HOODOO GURUS GET READY TO ROCK NORTH

The mighty Hoodoo Gurus (pictured above) exist in their own time and space. Like all your favourite bands, they matter because their songs have soundtracked your party, BBQ, celebration and commiseration. Think about it. You have rocked out, waved lighters, swayed arm-in-arm and danced around in a scrum of mates like no-one was watching, to the Hoodoo Gurus. Take the test. Grab your iPod, fire up the stereo or just close your eyes and think about all those songs and what emotions they bring up. If any one of their 100+ songs touches you, make sure you don't miss them at Brothers tonight from 8pm. Tickets are \$37 presale, available from brotherscairns.com.au, or \$42 on the door.

For a full listing of all live music & arts events go to

CAIRNS
 .COM.AU/EVENTS