

HISTORIC IMAGES: *Queensland Dragon: Chinese in the North* pays tribute to the important role the Chinese community played in the development of Far North Queensland.



Two exhibitions celebrate FNQ

TWO exhibitions that celebrate Far North Queensland will be launched at the Cairns Regional Gallery this Friday night.

The gallery will officially open a retrospective exhibition celebrating the career of local painter Beverley Budgen entitled *Paintings of Home and Abroad*, along with *Queensland Dragon: Chinese in the North*, an exhibition of photographs and documents paying tribute to the important role the Chinese community played in the development of Far North Queensland.

Budgen's career stretches over 50 years and has encompassed a myriad of painting genres, including landscape, architecture, portraiture, still life, abstraction and expressionism. A long-established

Australian painter, Budgen has been exhibiting artwork since 1954 when, at the age of 16, she was awarded her first art prize, the *Sunday Mail* Art Prize for a small painting titled *Weigh in, Hamilton*, a work which has been included in this exhibition.

Like many women artists before her, Budgen has engaged in themes that present the richness of her surroundings, the love of family and her travels to distant ports and palaces around the world.

Paintings of Home and Abroad continues her love of buildings, boats and water.

After 50 years and numerous accolades as a painter, *Paintings of Home and Abroad* is an important step in Budgen's ongoing artistic career and for her many loyal patrons, the rare opportunity

of sharing her personal journey in paint.

Paintings of Home and Abroad, a Cairns Regional Gallery curated exhibition, will be officially opened by Stephanie Tonkin, coordinating Magistrate of Townsville Court at 6pm.

The exhibition will remain on display until June 18.

Queensland Dragon brings back the memories of the Chinese pioneers of North Queensland, as well as the history of some of their descendants who continue to live in the region today.

Cairns Mayor Val Schier will officially open *Queensland Dragon*, a touring exhibition organised by the Museum Resource Centre for Far North Queensland, from 6pm on Friday. The exhibition will remain on display until July 4.

OUT & ABOUT



DINNER AND A SHOW

SUPERMODEL Cindy Crawford has been murdered. Private Investigators Magnum Steele and his trusty, yet coy, sidekick, Nancy Pants, are on the case. They must unravel the mysterious final moments of Cindy's sad, starved life as the world's most popular supermodel. Who killed Cindy and who had the motive to take an innocent girl's life? This sets the scene for *Death of a Supermodel*, an original murder mystery experience by Come Alive Performing Arts Company. The show is very much a parody of all things 80s – the people, the greed, the music and the shoulder pads. Come Alive Performing Arts Company, along with local fashion designers and retailers, present this sumptuous feast for the senses at Blue Sky Brewery on Thursday and Friday. Guests are asked to arrive at 7pm, for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are \$47 per person and includes a drink on arrival, three course meal, dinner theatre show and dancing. Bookings can be made by contacting Blue Sky Brewery on 4057 0500.



A FEAST OF FINE FOOD, MUSIC

CAIRNS Concert Orchestra has planned a feast of classical music and fine food at the Pacific International Hotel on Sunday, June 6. Conductors Sue Stitt, Matthew Coxon and Margery Duffy will all take turns with the baton as performers share a mix of popular, light classical music, including ballet and operetta, as well as music inspired by popular folk songs. *A Feast of Music* was originally planned for June 5, but was rescheduled to avoid a clash with the Jimmy Barnes concert in Fogarty Park on the same night. The concert starts at 7pm and bookings are essential. There is limited seating and no door sales. Tickets are \$60. Phone TicketLink on 1300 855 835 by Wednesday, June 2.

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Workshops will be held weekly from Thursdays June 10th till Thursday 29th July 2010. from 7:30 - 9:30pm. Followed by a showcasing performance on Saturday 31st July 2010

Cost: \$20 per Workshop

Get in early and Secure your spot by contacting Lyndell 4056 6606 or 0411 345 622

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SUN READ

THE SPEED OF DARKE DIANE ANDREWS

The Speed of Darke is a collection of local author Diane Andrews' previously published work, mostly fiction with a few observational opinion pieces thrown in. The collection's strongest pieces are Diane's short, observational works; she has a deft hand for offbeat, yet very vivid illustration and a cynical wit. *Woden the Wolf Spider* and *Powerlines* stand out, and *Playing Around* serves up more dry comedy than should legally fit on a single page. Her longer-form works weren't as effective but, for those wanting to support the local author, there are a few stand-out pieces.

VERDICT: A collection with some gems.

Rob Farquhar

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