

EXHIBITIONS

**CONNECTING COUNTRY...  
CONNECTING WITH  
COMMUNITY:**

The Lockhart River Art Gang.  
Exhibition open until 15 March



Rosella Namok, My relations many generations 1998. Screenprint. Acrylic on canvas 61 x 76 cm

A Cairns Regional Gallery Curated Exhibition

**RICKY MAYNARD:  
PORTRAIT OF A  
DISTANT LAND**

Exhibition Opens 20 March



Ricky Maynard, Jason Thomas, the last evering, boat from The Woodshed People series, 1985 - 1988

Exhibition organised & toured by Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia.



**IMAGES OF THE NORTH**

Exhibition open until 5 April



Ray Crooke, Laura landscape, c1989 oil, acrylic on linen

A Cairns Regional Gallery Curated Exhibition

**A MOVE TO OZ  
Tracy Ann Rees Mortimer**  
Exhibition open until 5 April



Tracy Ann Rees Mortimer, Painted water, Cottage Flower, 2008

A Cairns Regional Gallery  
Community Exhibition Program

CNR ABBOTT &  
SHIELDS STS, CAIRNS

PHONE 4046 4800



# Be Our Guest:



Matt Smith

The global financial crisis continues clearly unabated, the Federal Government under the leadership of prime minister Kevin Rudd, has elected to send the Australian economy into deficit. The economic rationale behind the decision is quite simple as the economy works best when people are spending money. If there is no money to spend the economy becomes stagnant, employment suffers and things go south very quickly.

Rudd proposes to lessen the impact of the crisis by handing out cash to citizens, who they assume will then spend it. The money flows into goods and services, people stay employed, the economy continues on and in theory disaster has been averted. The stimulus plan does not stop there though, with a huge amount of infrastructure and government works on housing and the like earmarked. These are plans which will mean continued and steady employment for tens of thousands of Australians with the government footing the bill.

The Opposition, not surprisingly, does not think much of the plan. They argue that taking the economy into deficit is irresponsible and that future generations of Australians will have to pay for the decisions that are currently being made. Unfortunately for the Opposition a wait and see approach could have far more dire consequences. The Great Depression which technically began in 1929 was not really felt by the general population until 1931 and it's this gap between economy and real world economy that makes all of the decisions made now so critical.

The Rudd government's package may or may not work but hopefully it will do enough to soften the blow. Bringing the budget into deficit in ordinary terms is probably not ideal, but to stave off an economic disaster on the scale of the Great Depression, it would be more irresponsible not to take a chance.

Matt Smith :: Professional Athlete and Political Commentator

## Words Of Wisdom

As brides to be finalise their wedding plans, authorised marriage celebrant Cheryl Turnball offers these words of advice on marriage.

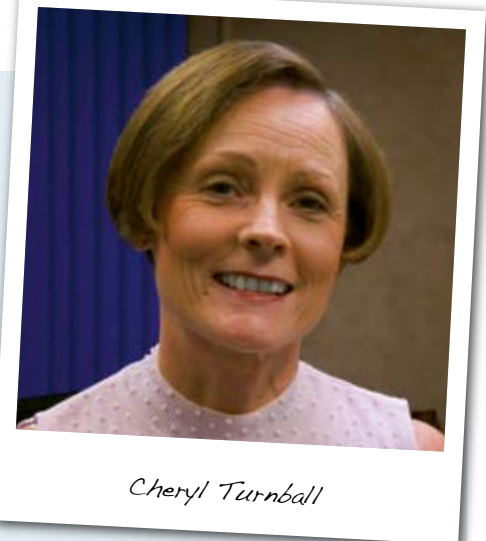
In these tough economic times it seems a trend towards less expensive weddings is emerging. However, a smaller or simpler wedding does not mean you cannot have a wonderful wedding. It just means you and your celebrant may need to be a little more creative.

An obvious way to cut costs is to have fewer guests. If you do not wish to do this you could maybe opt for a more casual wedding. I have had several large parties who chose to camp on the shores of a lake. They asked guests to dress appropriately for a candlelight dinner and the bride made a wonderful entrance by boat at sunset.

As a celebrant I have been involved in a wide variety of weddings from large formal occasions on an island to a quiet intimate ceremony in the tropical rainforest, but some of the most moving and heartfelt ceremonies have been the simplest. Many couples choose to come to the Cairns/Port Douglas region to avoid the pressure of a large wedding that involves inviting unknown relatives and family friends. Sometimes the pressure of organising it all outweighs the excitement and enjoyment of the event.

In saying that you can give a wedding that special touch without greatly increasing the cost, for example writing your own vows, involving family, making an entrance on rose petals, children blowing bubbles, a handfastening, drawing a heart in the sand together for your photos, a sand ceremony, or even a rose ceremony. You are only limited by your imagination.

And remember more is not always better.



Cheryl Turnball