

THE ROXY, BINGARA

1936-2011



9TH + 10TH APRIL 2011
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROXY, BINGARA

The Roxy was built by three Greek partners from the island of Kythera. Opening in 1936, the complex boasted an architecturally striking art deco cinema, café, and guest house. The Gwydir Shire Council celebrates the 75th Anniversary of The Roxy with a weekend of festivities that pay homage to the legacy of this significant icon.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF PETER'S & CO CAFÉ & THE MUSEUM

6pm Saturday 9th April

The official launch of the fully restored art deco café and preview of the site of the new Museum. The Museum will be dedicated to the history of Greek settlement in country Australia (with a focus on NSW and Queensland). The Museum will become a place of national and international significance that collects, conserves and protects the important cultural associations between people and place.

FILM SCREENINGS

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April

Hollywood's Golden Age will come to life in Bingara with a weekend of screenings that celebrate the history of The Roxy while setting it firmly in the context of the town of Bingara.

A highlight of the screenings will be *The Roxy and Other Souvenirs* featuring John Wood, one of Australia's most recognised and well-loved actors, best known for his role in *Blue Heelers*. Approached by Foxtel Television to appear in a series entitled *As Australian As*, the actor chose to feature the story of The Roxy. John will introduce *The Roxy and Other Souvenirs* and discuss the unique relationship he shares with the venue.

75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA BALL

7:30pm Saturday 9th April

Bringing the glamour of the 1930's back to Bingara, the Black Tie Gala Ball will be an unforgettable evening of Greek feasting and festivity under the stars. Guests will be invited to dance the night away to the live band Ha Va Le, one of the best Greek party bands performing in Australia today. No Greek celebration would be complete without the smashing of plates, and the Gala Ball will be no exception.

HISTORIC TOURS OF ROXY

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April


A fascinating behind-the-scenes look at The Roxy as a symbol that epitomizes the Greek migration experience.

The tour encompasses a visual presentation that explores the way Greek cafés changed the course of Australia's cultural history and left a significant legacy on our culinary and cultural landscape.

The important role played by the cinemas and cafés established by Greek immigrants, and the outstanding contribution they made to the development of Australia, will be examined.



Program of Events - Saturday 9th April

Film Screenings	11:00am	Cartoons and footage from 1936
	11:30am	<i>The Christmas Spirit</i> (14mins) Bill Koovousis owned and operated both the Roxy and Regent Cinemas in Bingara in the 1950s. In 1958, he documented the community of Bingara banding together to rebuild the home of a family lost by fire. This remarkable film offers an extraordinary insight into life in a rural town and uniquely captures the spirit of Australians "old and new."
Historic Tour of Roxy	12:00pm	A fascinating behind-the-scenes look at The Roxy
Film Screenings	1:30pm	<i>The Roxy and Other Souvenirs</i> from the Foxtel Television series <i>As Australian As</i> with an introduction by John Wood, followed by a Q&A session with the actor.
	2:30pm	Cartoons and footage from 1936
	3:00pm	<i>Roberta</i> (1hr 46mins) The first film ever screened at The Roxy at the official opening in March 1936, starring Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Irene Dunn and Randolph Scott. Described on its release as "a heart-load of maddening beauties...in gasping gowns...a fortune in furs...a ransom in jewels...in a song-studded romance of Paris in lovetime." <i>Time</i> reported, "The most pleasant moments in <i>Roberta</i> arrive when Astaire and Rogers turn the story upside down and dance on it." This film is a true classic.
Launch of Peter's & Co Café & Museum	6:00pm	The official launch of the fully restored Café and preview of the site of the new museum dedicated to the history of Greek settlement in country Australia.
Gala Ball	7:30pm	Dance the night away with an unforgettable outdoor evening of Greek feasting & festivity as Bingara's main street is transformed for this Gala celebration.

Program of Events - Sunday 10th April

Breakfast at Peter's Café	8:30am -	Breakfast served at the café between 8.30am - 10.30am. Bookings essential.
Historic Tour of Roxy	9:30am	A fascinating behind-the-scenes look at The Roxy
Film Screenings	10:30am	<i>The Roxy and Other Souvenirs</i> from the Foxtel Television series <i>As Australian As</i> with an introduction by John Wood, followed by a Q&A session with the actor.
	11:30am	<i>Roberta</i> starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers (1hr 46mins)
Presentation	3:00pm	Presentation by historian Peter McCarthy: The origins of the name style of Peters Cafes with the establishment of Oyster Saloons and Cafes in the New England and North West of NSW. The establishment of The Sydney Oyster Saloon and S. Peter & Co at Inverell in 1899, as well as Peters Cafe at the Roxy, Bingara will be explored. Also included is the association of Peters Ice Cream with Greek Cafes.
	4.00pm	<i>The Christmas Spirit</i> , Bill Koovousis 1958 (14 mins)

TICKETS & EVENT BOOKINGS

Bookings for all events are available through:
The Bingara Tourist Information Centre
Jenny Mead - Tourist Officer - Bingara
Gwydir Shire Council, Locked Bag 5 Bingara NSW 2404
P. 02 67240066 • E. bingaraturism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au
www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

TICKETS

75th Anniversary Gala Ball - \$55 per person
(includes meal only, alcohol is available to purchase)
Historic Tour of the Roxy - \$10
Breakfast at Peter's & Co Café - \$15 per person
(includes set menu - bookings essential)

INFORMATION

Contact: Sandy McNaughton
Manager- The Roxy
Gwydir Shire Council
Locked Bag 5 BINGARA NSW 2404
T: (02) 67 242 066 or M: 0427 241 582
E: roxy@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available in the town of Bingara, as well as the neighbouring towns of Warialda, Barraba and Inverell. For enquiries regarding accommodation, please contact Jenny Mead at the Bingara Tourist Information Centre: 02 6724 0066

HOW TO GET THERE

Bingara is approximately 600kms north of Sydney and 500kms south of Brisbane in the New England Tablelands. It is Central in the New England North West region, between the major towns of Tamworth, Armidale, Inverell, Moree and Narrabri.



The 75th Anniversary Celebration has been organised by an inspired group of friends and volunteers of The Roxy working in conjunction with the Gwydir Shire Council.

B & W photos © Peter Prineas

