

# The Bingara Advocate

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## Happy 75th Birthday Roxy



The guests of the Greek Gala Ball enjoyed the traditional Greek dancing

In what will go down in history as one of the Roxy's finest moments, the 75th anniversary of Roxy Cafe came alive with a grand Greek celebration on Bingara's very own main street.

The proceedings of April 9 and 10 included tours of the Roxy complex, documentaries and a presentation from Greek Historian Peter McCarthy but it is the Greek Gala Ball that has been dubbed a success with the Nationals Senator for New South Wales John Williams officially re-opening the refurbished Roxy Cafe. "Bingara is an example of how small Australian towns can develop a niche marketing plan and attract visitors from around the world," said Senator Williams.

"The original owners from Kythera, Greece, would be delighted to see their legacy living on and the Greek community's strong link with Bingara which has been nurtured over the years," he said.

The original Roxy Theatre opened in 1936 and in celebrating its 75th birthday drew a crowd of 380 guests from around the country including former Premier Bob Carr who provided the original funding for the refurbishment of the Roxy Theatre.

Other special guests included Richard Torbay, George Poulos and the many Greek guests who made the trip to Bingara to join in on the celebration of the Roxy Greek Cafe.

The official launch of the cafe came with presentations from Mayor John Coulton, President of North West Theatre Company, John

Wearne, and finished with the official launching speech from Senator John Williams. Former television star John Wood chaired the presentations which including a small presentation to the architect and builders who refurbished the cafe.

"When it was first decided to restore the Roxy, no doubt there were plenty of critics of the then Bingara Shire Council for what they believed was a waste of money. But the Council's belief in the project, and that shown by Gwydir Shire Council, has resulted in a superb complex which is the envy of many larger towns and cities," said Senator Williams.

"The Howard coalition government started the ball rolling with funding of \$340,000 for the restoration and air-conditioning of the theatre. The theatre has been the venue for everything from cinema, conferences and weddings to live stage shows.

"The Roxy café dream started in 2008 when the former café premises were purchased and then restored at an overall cost of \$1.213 million. The next venture is a Roxy Museum. "I congratulate the community for now embracing this concept and positioning Bingara as a 'must visit town', Senator Williams said.

Senator Williams along with Mayor John Coulton opened the doors of the Cafe and invited guests inside to enjoy a milkshake. Bob Kirk and his wife Elva were the first to be served and enjoyed a milkshake on the original booth seats of the Cafe.

The Greek Gala ball which fea-

tured after the official launch included a three course meal, entertainment by Ha Va La and a performance of Greek dancers in traditional costume performing a range of Kytherian dances.

Guests enjoyed themselves by hitting the dancefloor early in the night to join the troupe of dancers in some traditional Greek dancing.

In traditional Greek style the smashing of plates was a enjoyed by the many guest with a blanket of smashed plaster plates covering the intersection of Maitland and Cunningham.

The 75th anniversary of the Roxy and the re-opening of the Roxy Cafe was celebrated in true Greek style and is only the beginning of many celebrations to come for this grand complex.



Bob Kirk and his wife Elva enjoyed the first milkshake of the evening

### Bingara's Economic Plan received with reservations

The Bingara and District Community Economic Plan was tabled at the March 31 meeting of Gwydir Shire Council.

The report, prepared by Rick Hutton, incorporated information gained from the "Our Place" – Country Town Living 2025 Forum held in February 2010, as well as ideas proposed at the drop in and public workshop held in August 2010 and interviews conducted with community members.

The report "provides a blueprint for further debate and research and some clear pathways towards a sustainable, thriving future." It makes a number of recommendations across a wide range

of issues including tourism, the Living Classroom project, fuel stations, young farmers and John Mongard's plans for Bingara.

The General Manager, Max Eastcott commented that the report needed to be evaluated. Councillors Rose and Tremain were concerned that the recommendations made in the document were not to be acted upon without Council's specific approval.

Mr Eastcott said that the report would be referred to the staff for evaluation, a report then being presented to the next meeting. Cr Rose said that he was not happy that the report's recommendations should be referred

to council staff for evaluation.

"I want to see the report received and before any action is taken, it should come back to the council meeting. If we want the staff to follow up on the recommendations, they need to be directed by Council. I don't want the staff working on plans that have not been supported by Council."

Cr Tremain concurred with Cr Rose, eventually voting against the motion that the report be received. "Once the report is received, then it starts to go through the system, regardless," Cr Tremain said.