



PRIDE OF TOWN –
The Roxy
in its
heyday in
the 1930s.

Roxy turns 75

BINGARA'S Greek heritage will be a focus when the town celebrates the 75th anniversary of one of its iconic buildings, The Roxy, from April 9-10.

Built in 1936 by three Greek partners from the island of Kythera, the complex boasted an architecturally striking art deco cinema, cafe and guesthouse.

The birthday will be marked with the official launch of the fully-restored cafe from 6pm on April 9.

There will also be a preview of the site of a new museum dedicated to the history of Greek settlement in country Australia.

Saturday and Sunday will see a weekend of film screenings from Hollywood's Golden Age as well as locally made feature films to mark the milestone.

A highlight of the screenings will be *The Roxy and Other Souvenirs* at 1.30pm Saturday, featuring much-loved Australian actor John Wood discussing his unique relationship with the venue.

It will follow the short film *The Christmas Spirit*, in which Roxy operator Bill Koovousis documented how the community of Bingara banded together to rebuild a family home lost by fire in

1958. *Roberta*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, was the first film to screen at the cinema, and will be screened again at 3pm Saturday and 11.30am Sunday.

The gala ball from 7.30pm Saturday will feature Greek party band *Ha Va Le* and the obligatory plate smashing.

Historic tours of The Roxy, including a visual presentation exploring the way Greek cafes changed the course of Australia's cultural history, will be held over the weekend.

■ Bookings on 6724-0066,
www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au