



Shane Jacobson and Paul Hogan admire Bingara's Roxy Theatre.

Greek heritage preserved at Bingara's famous Roxy Theatre

After years of planning and fundraising the vision of the Roxy Greek Museum is finally coming to fruition as the installation of the museum commenced last week in the downstairs wing of the Roxy Theatre, heralding the final chapter in the building's magnificent return to glory.

Made possible by a \$94,000 grant from the New South Wales ministry for Arts and several substantial donations from the Greek Australian Community, the Museum will be officially opened on Saturday, of April 5, by Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales with an opening as grand as the Roxy itself.

As part of the two-day event there will be guided tours of the museum, movie screenings in the beauti-

ful Roxy theatre, talks by special guests and antique car displays.

The highlight of the weekend will be the Gala dinner held on the Saturday evening.

Bringing the glamour of the 1930s back to Bingara, the dinner 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 the country.

No Greek celebration would be complete without the smashing of plates, and the Gala Ball will be no exception.

The festivities continue on the Sunday with stalls and the launch of the Greek Immigration Olive Grove which will be marked by a tree planting ceremony held on Cunningham Street near the Roxy Café.

The olive trees will be planted in recognition of Greek Immigration to Australia.

Local community members and visitors will have the opportunity to pay tribute to a Greek family or friend who has made the journey to Australia by purchasing an olive tree for \$100.

Participants are then required to provide a name and a brief description about them, which will appear on the Greek Museum website, and a tree will then be planted in tribute.

The first tree planted as part of the launch will be dedicated to the three Greek men who built the Roxy Theatre in 1936 – Emanuel Aroney, Peter Feros and George Psaltis.

Peter Prineas, the grandson of Peter Feros and the Greek museum curator, will plant the tree in their honour.

Six of the trees will be planted on Cunningham Street with the remainder of the trees to be planted at The Living Classroom.

The Roxy Museum is dedicated to the history of Greek settlement in country Australia.

It is envisioned the museum will become a place of national significance that conserves and protects the important cultural associations between people and place.

It will pay tribute to the remarkable legacy of the Greek café and cinema operators to ensure the impact they made on the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of people is not forgotten.

"The Greek Australian community is passionate about the Roxy because it is a living and working memorial to every Greek Australian who has migrated to Australia since 1817," George Poulos, Roxy Greek Museum Committee and Secretary of the Kytherian Association of Australia, said.

"Eventually it will become a place of pilgrimage for every Greek in Australia and inevitably the world," he added.

For more information or tickets to the event please call the Bingara Visitor Information Centre on (02) 6724 0066 or visit the Roxy website <http://www.roxy-bingara.com.au/museum-opening/> or for interview opportunities and photos please contact Georgia Standerwick on 0409 901 540.

What's on at the Roxy

Calendar

by Tim Firth

Girls

Thursday 3rd April, 7:30pm

You've seen the movie now check out the hilarious LIVE Performance. This marvellous play is guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and come out singing.

Adult tickets \$40. Dinner & show package available.

GRAND OPENING ROXY GREEK MUSEUM

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th April

The two days of festivities will include guest speakers, provedore markets, films in the spectacular theatre and classic car displays. The highlight of the weekend will be the Gala Dinner opened by The Governor of NSW Marie Bashir and will be a night of Greek feasting, dancing and festivities under the stars.

For further Information & Bookings on all events
Visit: www.roxybingara.com.au or call
Bingara Visitor Information Centre: 02 6724 0066