



THE ROXY, BINGARA

THE ROXY MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT 2012

Following the successful restoration of the Roxy Café, and the wonderful 75th Anniversary celebrations in April 2011, The Roxy is pleased to announce the development of the Roxy Museum as the next exciting project to take place at the complex in Bingara.

The mission statement for The Roxy Museum is as follows:

**“A museum of Greek settlement in country Australia,
with a focus on New South Wales and Queensland.”**

The Roxy Museum will become a place of national significance that conserves and protects the important cultural associations between people and place. The Museum will conduct research and develop collections that document the history of the New England North West of NSW in a national and international context, with the objective of facilitating the community's understanding of the past, and engagement with issues affecting its future.

The development of the Museum is another chapter in the extraordinary history of this remarkable venue. The Roxy was built in 1936 by three Greek partners from the island of Kythera in Greece, as a magnificent art deco cinema with an adjoining café in the town of Bingara in northern NSW. It operated as a cinema until 1958 when it shut down and lay dormant for over forty years.

Fully functioning and fully restored today, The Roxy is a symbol that epitomizes the Greek migration experience: one that made an outstanding contribution to the development of Australia.

The Roxy Museum will provide opportunities for the celebration of Greek traditions that became embedded in Australia. The Roxy complex, including the Cafe and Museum, are highly significant in the history of the local community as well as in the history of Greek settlement in Australia. This is the first such site to be acquired by a local government authority for the purposes of restoration in order to preserve this remarkable legacy.

The Roxy Museum will:

- highlight the story of Greek immigration into NSW and Queensland
- collect, preserve and interpret this important chapter of multi-cultural heritage in regional Australia
- share the stories of local communities and their relationships with Greek-operated cafés and cinemas for generations to come
- become a cultural icon of international significance

The Roxy is calling on all Greeks to participate in this exciting development.

This is your opportunity to ensure that the achievements of the Greeks in Australia will not be forgotten. There are many ways that your family's legacy can be included in the Roxy Museum. Financial contributions to ensure the project's success are currently being sought. Donations and loans of memorabilia, photographs and artefacts relevant to cafes and cinemas are particularly welcome.

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THE GREEK TRIBUTE WALL

An important aspect of the Roxy Museum will be the Greek Tribute Wall. The Roxy Tribute Wall will be a living monument to a shared Greek-Australian history, one that has a particularly strong foundation across numerous rural and regional communities of NSW and QLD.

A number of institutions across Australia have successfully developed Welcome or Tribute Walls that record and display names of immigrants to honour their passage to Australia and contribution to our country. Many people in Australia are familiar with the Welcome Wall at the Australian National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour, Sydney.

The Roxy Welcome Wall will invite families and friends of Greek immigrants to honour their arrival in Australia, who were involved in the café, cinema, retail and hospitality trades throughout Australia.



The Tribute Wall will display not just the names of Greek immigrants, but also the period and the location where they lived and worked. In this way, it provides them with a sense of identity at a particular time in a specific place. It connects them to their communities and tells their stories for generations to come.

People registering a name will be encouraged to provide a story about the person, including the names of the associated profession, as well as other personal details. Family trees and information of historical relevance will be sought. This optional information will be held on The Roxy's database and will appear on the Tribute Wall website. It can be submitted, updated, or added to, at any time.

The Tribute Wall will provide an important record of a collective history. The Roxy is destined to become a place of great historical significance that exhibits local distinctiveness and a sense of place. Its civic pride and confidence in its heritage, in its cultural facilities and collections is destined to attract people from all walks of life, all wanting to share this unique experience.

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