



BINGARA



Glowing reports of area led to big rush of arrivals

DURING the 1880s Bingara was the largest producer of diamonds in Australia.

It all started when explorer and botanist Allan Cunningham's journey crossed the Gwydir River where Bingara now stands in 1827.

He camped on the junction of Halls Creek and the Gwydir River, which he named after his benefactor, Lord Gwydir of Wales.

Cunningham's glowing reports of the area he visited en route to the Darling Downs instigated an immediate flow of graziers and their herds.

Although by 1850 more than a dozen pastoral properties had been settled in

the Bingara district, it was not until the discovery of gold in 1853 that settlements developed in Bingara and Upper Bingara.

Prospectors flocked to the area when copper and diamonds were discovered in the 1880s.

The town grew and Maitland St boasted five general stores, five or six hotels, butchers, bakers, saddlers, clothing and furniture stores, and all the shops and services necessary to make the town and surrounding district largely self-sufficient.

Bingara became a municipality in 1890, at which time the spelling of Upper Bingera and Bingera changed to Bingara.

Picnic races kick off full day of festivities in town



BIG SHOW: Signor Pedigrosso's incredible Flea Circus will be performing during the Orange Festival.

BINGARA Orange Festival festivities kick off with the Orange Picnic Races from 10am on Friday at Junction Park on the beautiful Gwydir River, and will be followed by a full day of activities next Saturday.

Market stalls, vintage cars, a street parade, orange Fashions on the Field and live entertainment are just a few of the activities planned for the day. Live performances will include *Australia's Got Talent* semi-finalist Dangerboy, who promises to wow the crowd.

Part magician, part circus freak and all attitude, Dangerboy explores the limits of the human condition through mind-blowing performances inspired by dustbowl-era circus sideshows.

Drawing inspiration from late-1800s Bohemian cabaret and Depression-era circus sideshows, Dangerboy teams up with his lovely assistant, Ivy, to bring you performances that will touch your heart and blow your mind.

In keeping with the sideshow theme, visitors to Bingara will be able to witness the wonder of the circus in miniature with Signor Pedigrosso's incredible flea circus.

Fifi the Wonderflea, Brutor the Strong Flea and Melville the Flea Cannonball are some of the smallest creatures in the insect kingdom that will perform dangerous and death-defying acts.

The first annual Long Lunch will be held, banquet-style, on Cunningham St and will showcase some of the talented chefs from local pubs and clubs.

Bookings are essential for the lunch and tickets are available online at www.roxybingara.com or through the Bingara Visitor Information Centre 6724 0066.

The ticket price includes a three-course meal and a choice of beer, wine or soft drink.

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Trees living memorial to fallen soldiers

THE orange trees that line Finch St and circle the Gwydir Oval are a unique feature of Bingara.

The trees offer a different dimension to the attractiveness of the town, with the air heavy with the perfume of the flowers in the spring, and the beauty of ripening fruit throughout the autumn.

However, it is the fact they have become a symbol of community pride that has attracted international interest.

Planted as a living memorial to Bingara's fallen soldiers in World War I and II, the trees and the annual harvesting of their fruit by local school children (the "orange police") happens on

only one day of the year. During the year all Bingara residents leave the oranges untouched, even the children, who are taught the significance of the trees.

This respect, self-discipline and pride in this unique memorial has been carried on since the 1960s, from one generation to

the next. In some cases, those picking the fruit are the third or fourth generation to do so.

In 1998 it was decided an annual festival would be held to emphasise the importance of Bingara's orange trees while celebrating the town's cultural heritage. Thus the Bingara Orange Festival was born.

ROXY

Tour Groups
The Roxy team can tailor a package to suit your group with guided tours, private movie screenings, cooking classes and superb meal options available to make your visit memorable.

Functions at the Roxy
The Roxy is centrally located within the New England North West Region making it the perfect choice for your wedding, function or conference.

The Roxy Theatre & Café
The Roxy Complex functions as a cinema, regional centre for the performing arts and a café.

Weddings

Conference facilities

Roxy

Roxy Trade Training Kitchen
Available for use for private functions, community cooking classes, team building workshops and hospitality training.

For further details
Phone 0409 901 540 or the Bingara Visitor Information Centre on 02 6724 0066

www.roxybingara.com.au | email: roxy@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Saturday July 13, 2013 Bingara

A great day out

- DANGERBOY, Australia's Got Talent semi finalist
- The Long Lunch
- Hot Pot! will perform Live
- Market Stalls
- Vintage Cars
- Signor Pedigrosso's Flea Circus
- Fun for all the family

Imagine the 3 x 10 ad AW1183085 for Gwydir Shire Council named "AW1183085.pdf" is missing

BINGARA festival

For further information contact Tracey Carr 6724 2000
e: tcarr@gwydir.nsw.gov.au | www.gwydirshire.com



BINGARA



CLASSIC CHARM: The Roxy Theatre was faithfully restored in 2004.

Roxy's beauty fully restored

THE magnificent Roxy Theatre, in the main street of Bingara, is a striking building with a history as colourful as its painted exterior.

Built in 1936 by three Greek entrepreneurs, it operated as a cinema until 1958 after which it was closed and lay dormant for 40 years.

In May 2004 it was faithfully restored to its original splendour and reopened to the public.

The theatre embraces some of the most striking original art deco architecture in NSW and still contains the original fixtures and fittings from 1936.

Today The Roxy functions as both a multipurpose cinema and regional centre for the performing arts, with The North West Theatre Company taking residence there.

Dazzling theatrical performances coupled with the building's grand atmosphere makes the Roxy a must-see destination.

As a function centre it can cater for a

wide variety of activities and events, from birthdays, weddings and regional awards to Christmas functions.

Catering is a breeze as it has an in-house caterer, or self-catering can be done in the state-of-the-art, fully equipped kitchen adjoining the theatre.

Tours of the Roxy theatre are available daily at 10.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday, 11am on Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment.

Tours cost \$5 and are a fabulous opportunity to view some of the most spectacular art deco architecture in NSW and one of the last remaining theatres of its era.

To take part in a tour, visit the Bingara Visitor Information Centre adjacent to the Roxy Theatre.

For further information about The Roxy, or to make a booking, please call the Bingara Visitor Information Centre on 6724 0066.

The friendly staff will be more than happy to discuss your requirements.

Opportunity delivers much

THE Bingara Licensed Post Office has operated from 17 Maitland St for 134 years.

Carlton and Linda Orr have managed and looked after the Bingara community mail for the past six years however they have decided it's time to move on.

"I've been here for six years and it's time for something new," Linda said.

The business and freehold aren't expected to be on the market for long as it offers a secure and reliable income as well as the opportunity to be part of the historic township.

It offers a full postal service to the Bingara community, including 216 post office boxes, to accommodate the local demand for secure mail collection.

The busy post office also has two EFTPOS terminals to ensure fast, convenient service to its customers.

The freehold includes a three-bedroom residence for the new owners complete with a swimming pool and double lock-up garage.

Although a little sad to be selling the business, Linda would like to hear from genuine potential buyers who are interested in finding out more information.

Contact Carlton and Linda Orr of the Bingara Licensed Post Office on 6724 1100 or 0438 071 691.

Ladies with vintage style

VINTAGE Rose is the new kid on the Bingara business block, having opened in May this year, but it is earning a good reputation for making everything old new again.

It is a new addition to Dare to Dream Crafts, which opened in August last year. Dare to Dream manager Judy Adams offers a monogramming service, dressmaking and alterations and range of haberdashery as well as craft items. It is also fast becoming the place to go for affordable vintage and recycled clothing.

"Our aim is to keep it affordable for everyone and none of our recycled clothing is over \$50," Judy said.

"For vintage items, we can do alterations to make sure they fit their new owner perfectly."

The shop is the driving force behind the Orange Fashions in the Field competition during next week-

end's Bingara Orange Festival.

Anyone can enter. You just have to be wearing orange clothing and register at Dare To Dream on the day of the festival to be in the running for a \$50 cash prize.

Just for the festival, Judy and business partner Rose Anderson have a range of orange clothing, hats, shoes and other accessories to help locals and visitors alike be part of the competition. Judging and the announcement of the winner will be made at 1pm next Saturday, in Fays Park.

Dare to Dream and Vintage Rose is open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturday between 9am and noon, but on the day of the festival you can discover new treasures from the past all day.

Find them at 49 Maitland St, Bingara or give the friendly ladies a call on 6724 1993 for more information.

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H Roy Miller



For all your livestock & real estate requirements see Robert & Judy Northcott

40 Maitland Street (at pedestrian crossing)

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• A/H: 6724 1416

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