

### **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

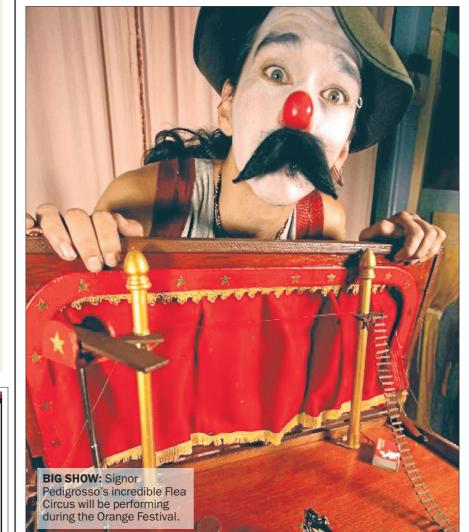
the Bingara district, it was not until the discovery of gold in 1853 that settlements

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



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.roxybingra.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

Shenanigans On Gwydir Formerly Boutique Capri We know what women want You will be amazed when you eans to mother of the bride.

see the huge range of fashion for the real woman; from sportswear, special occasion,

Especially catering for Mothers, Grandmothers and Great Grandmothers from size 8 to 26.



NEW STOCK JULY/AUGUST SPECIAL ORDERS AVAILABLE DON'T MISS OUT 23 Maitland St, Bingara (02) 67 241 745 shengnigansongwydir@biapond.com www.shenanigansongwydir.wordpress.com **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.



**Tour Groups** The Roxy team can tailor a package to suit your group with guided tours, private movie screenings, cooking classes and superb meal







**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.

options available to make your visit memorable.

**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





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

#### **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 lockup 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.

#### PRICE REDUCED

**Bingara Licenced Post Office** Business and residence (freehold) Owners must sell and are willing to negotiate Call Linda now on (02) 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 weekend's Bingara Orange Festival. Anyone can enter. You just have to be wearing orange clothing and reg-

Built in 1936 by three Greek entre-

In May 2004 it was faithfully

The theatre embraces some of the

Today The Roxy functions as both a

Dazzling theatrical performances

As a function centre it can cater for a

ister 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 busi-

ness 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.

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

Catering is a breeze as it has an inhouse 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.

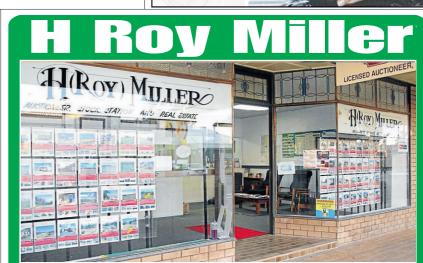
To take part in a tour, visit the Bingara Visitor Information Centre adjacent to the Roxy Theatre.

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.









## AUSTRALIA



Ph: (02) 6724 1882 Fax: (02) 6724 1883 27 Maitland Street, Bingara, NSW 2404

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

40 Maitland Street (at pedestrian crossing) Phone: 6724 1666 • Fax: 6724 1101 • Mob: 0427 688 359 • A/H: 6724 1416 Adam Bird 6721 0255 • 0428 669 094