

# The Bingara Advocate

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## The story behind The Roxy theatre

Last week Bingara welcomed Peter Prineas, grandson of Roxy founder Peter Feros, and his distinguished companions Dr. Archie Kalokerinos, Prof. Manuel Aroney and George Poulos to The Roxy.

The four were returning to Sydney from Brisbane having attended a Kytherian Symposium and book launch of Peter Prineas's biography "Katsehamos and the Great Idea" which details the fascinating story behind the Roxy.

Nancy MacInnes and Roxy Manager Sandy McNaughton also attended the Brisbane event which attracted over 500 Greeks from across Queensland and Australia. A presentation on the Roxy was given by Sandy McNaughton that generated great interest amongst those attending.

The book was initially launched at The Roxy at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in April 2006, before being launched in Sydney and more recently Brisbane. An additional launch is expected in Melbourne, ensuring that the story of The Roxy continues to spread throughout the Greek community as well as across the country.

Archie Kalokerinos is well remembered in Bingara. A physician who worked in Bingara as a general practitioner in the 1980's, Archie was born in Glen Innes. After graduating in medicine from Sydney University he spent six years in England. On his return to Australia he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the hospital at Collarenebri.

It was during this time that Archie became very concerned about the high death rate of Aboriginal children in that part of New South Wales. He came to the conclusion that the infants had symptoms of scurvy, a deficiency of vitamin C, and he treated them accordingly. Archie's view was further endorsed in the foreword to his book *Every Second Child* by Nobel prize winner Linus Pauling.

Archie has been hailed as a medical pioneer of the twentieth century. He is a Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, a Fellow of the International Academy of Preventive Medicine, Fellow of the Australasian College of Biomedical Scientists, Fellow of the Hong Kong Medical Technology Association, and a Member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

He is an author of 28 papers listed in PubMed, including 22 published in *The Australasian Nurses Journal*.

In 2000 he was awarded the title *Greek Australian of the Century* by the Melbourne-based Greek newspaper *Neos Kosmos*.

Professor Manuel Aroney is an academic and human rights advocate. Born in Mackay, Manuel studied at the University of Sydney where he gained a B.Sc. with 1st Class Honours (in Physical Organic Chemistry). He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (London), as well as being a Member of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Professor Aroney was founda-



Peter Prineas, Dr Archie Kalokerinos, Prof Manuel Aroney and George Poulos.

tion member of the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW. He served as one of four members of the first Board of the Federal Governments Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), which made ethnic radio permanent across Australia and, with Bruce Gyngell, established the SBS television service.

Professor Aroney has served as a member of the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs as well as a Commissioner of the Commonwealth Human Rights Commission. His contributions to society have been recognised by a number of awards.

In 1980 he was granted the honour O.B.E. (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to the University and

to the community (awarded by the Queen), and in 1989 he was awarded the A.M. (Member of the Order of Australia) given for services to multiculturalism and the Greek community.

Throughout the 1990s this remarkable man continued to add to his list of achievements. In 1991 he was awarded the degree D.Sc., Doctor of Science, by the University of Sydney for outstanding contributions to international scientific research.

This is the highest degree given by the University for research over a long period of time.

During their stay in Bingara, the Greek visitors expressed their admiration for the wonderful restoration of The Roxy, as well as the suc-

cess of its on-going activities. Archie Kalokerinos was impressed by the remarkable transformation of the town since its restoration. When Archie left the town in the early nineties he was concerned that Bingara was in danger of dying. Today, he found great satisfaction in discovering a thriving community and is keen to return with his wife Catherine at a later date.

The recent visit proved successful in continuing to strengthen the significant relationship that Bingara has formed with the Greek community. It is rewarding to see the relationship further develop through the restoration of The Roxy, as well as the continued interest shown by our Greek friends.