



# FOUNDATION EXPO '88

## *Progressing the World Expo '88 Vision*

– A non-government not-for-profit entity celebrating Brisbane's World Expo '88 –

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## *minutes*

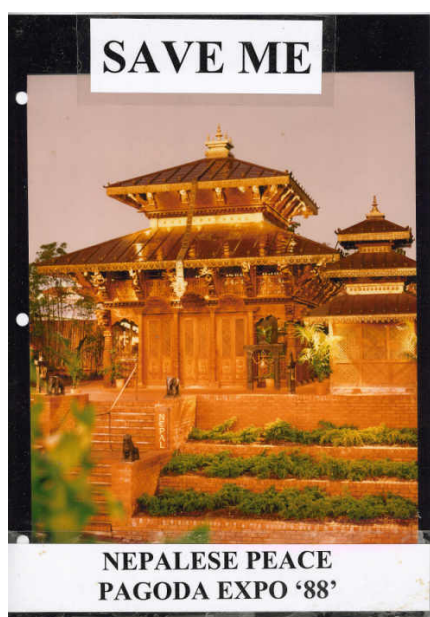


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Sunday 30 April 2006

3.00 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.

Café San Marco, Southbank Parklands, Brisbane

### **FOUNDATION EXPO '88 2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY GENERAL MEETING**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MR FRANK PITT, FRIENDS OF THE PAGODA ASSOCIATION

REPORT: MR JOHN MCGREGOR, FOUNDATION EXPO '88

18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Official Opening Ceremony of World Expo '88

In attendance: Mr Frank Pitt (Keynote Speaker), Mrs Myra Pitt, Mrs Violet McGregor, Mr John McGregor (Executive Director) [4 persons]

Apologies: Mr Malcolm Snow, CEO, Southbank Corporation, Councillor David Hinchliffe, Deputy Lord Mayor, Brisbane City Council, Ms Carol Lloyd, Co-Composer World Expo '88 Official Theme Song, Ms Ruth Gabriel, of the Foundation Expo '88 Ruth Gabriel Collection, Mr & Mrs Joe & Barbara Taggart, Foundation Supporters, Mr & Mrs Dal & Wendy Anderson, Royal Geographic Society, Mr Jeff Topping, Foundation Supporter. [9 persons]

Meeting Commenced at 3.37 p.m.

**A. Welcome – Introduction**

- I. Welcome to today's meeting of Foundation Expo '88 - the fifth meeting of the Foundation since its inception on 30 April 2004. Today is also the 18th Anniversary of the Official Opening of World Expo '88 - where 18 years ago - not very far from this very site - Her Majesty the Queen opened the Expo, with the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr John Howard MP, sitting at the very front left flank of the 7,000 invited V.I.P.s.
- II. Today is also significant as we have as Keynote Speaker, an important person who, in conjunction with Australian Commonwealth, State and City Governments, helped retain for the City of Brisbane, one of the Expo's most important relics - the Nepalese Peace Pagoda - which, with the 88-metre sky tower Night Companion, has become to be known as the City's pre-eminent souvenir from Expo days. A fact we wish to commemorate and build upon in the dream and desire for a World Expo '88 Museum.
- III. This person is of course, Mr Frank Pitt, and his wife Mrs Myra Pitt, whose last minute donation to the Save the Pagoda Fund, gave the City of Brisbane the balance in keeping the Pagoda in Australia - one of only two Pagodas outside of Nepal - the other being in Munich, Germany. So, it is my pleasure to be able to welcome Mr Pitt to today's meeting as the Keynote Speaker.

**B. Presentation by Mr Frank Pitt, Save the Pagoda Fund, and Friends of the Pagoda Association [Summary]**

- I. Mr Pitt, known as a perennial volunteer and friendly contributor to a wide variety of causes, still notes his volunteer work experience at World Expo '88 as the highlight of his life. During this time, with his signature Expo '88 volunteer uniform, he guided guests to the Exposition from one Pavilion to another, meeting and greeting, and just being nice to people in general.
- II. At the conclusion of the Exposition, Mr & Mrs Pitt were planning a holiday to South America, however, noted on Channel 10 news one evening [the official Expo broadcaster] that the Nepalese Peace Pagoda, one of the Expo's most cherished icons, would be packed up and sent to Japan the very next day to take part in Osaka's International Garden Exposition of 1990.
- III. The story apparently noted that of all the funds raised from Australian Governments and private donations, there was still a short-fall of \$30,000 which could not be raised. The Pitts contacted Expo House the very next morning and quickly offered their funds for their South America holiday to be put towards keeping the Pagoda in Brisbane.
- IV. A late meeting was held by the various stake-holders in the Save the Pagoda fund, and the offer was accepted - to much fanfare - where Mr & Mrs Pitt were lauded by the Press and the final story that it was their donation which helped the Pagoda to stay in Brisbane became world news with the press the next day in the Expo official newspaper The Courier Mail.
- V. Mr Pitt, then banded together with several other Expo volunteers, and in principle Ms Cynthia Oates, who was a full-time volunteer at the Pagoda itself, in forming a Friends of the Pagoda Association, to carry on the Expo's heritage through the Pagoda after the Expo's conclusion.
- VI. Various committees were formed, and ideas discussed as to how best utilize the Pagoda after Expo, where it should be sited, and who should be responsible for it's day-to-day management, including creating a village-atmosphere replete with cultural festivals, food stalls, and so on.
- VII. Very soon after in 1992 when the Expo re-development was opened, as Southbank Parklands, the Pagoda found a new home on the site affronting the Brisbane River foreshore, and the Friends of the Pagoda Committee worked towards its upkeep, ensuring it was painted adequately, and on a regular basis, and that icons within the Pagoda were protected from the elements, as well as collecting coins that were donated to the Pagoda itself.
- VIII. In fact, during this time, Mr Pitt, as Treasurer of the Association, came to look upon looking after the Pagoda as a personal duty, and still to this day, he is - with the addition of Sir Edmund Hillary - the Association's Patron-in-Chief - the most well known associate of the Pagoda through the famous Courier Mail news article that celebrated Mr & Mrs Pitt's donation - which has graced one of the display cabinets in the front left of the Pagoda for several years now. Sir Edmund Hillary's Guest Book entry from his visit to the Pagoda during Expo, is also noted here.
- IX. Overall, one cannot but help but be impressed by the work of the Pagoda itself, with it's meticulous wood carvings, and harmonious design - where over 160 Nepalese families worked over 2 years in it's construction - on an average wage of \$1.00 per day. Not a single nail was used.
- X. It is Mr Pitt's hope that with the 2008 20th Anniversary celebrations of World Expo '88 coming soon, that the First Floor of the Pagoda become a World Expo '88 Museum - which would breathe new life into the Pagoda, and open it up in the same manner as it was during Expo '88.

### **C. General Discussion & Coffee Break**

- I. [It was at this time that the overcast weather turned into rain....]
- II. Subjects Discussed -
  - a. Ideas for the 20th Anniversary of World Expo '88
    - i. 'Memorabilia Marquis'
      - Foundation Expo '88 and the Friends of the Pagoda Association run a 'World Expo '88 Memorabilia Marquis' at Southbank Parklands - a large circus tent-like venue where members of the general public are encouraged to bring their favourite World Expo '88 souvenir for recording via digital photograph, and later (optional) donation to the World Expo '88 Museum.
      - The digital record is uploaded to the web-site straight away, with donors contacted again before the Museum opens to the public for the first time.
      - Part of the tent is made into a mini-theatrette, where documentary footage from Expo is shown.
      - An optional venue could be the Suncorp Piazza, with its large Sony television screen.
    - ii. 'Human Factor' Street Theatre
      - Combining the popular plaster-cast 'Human Factor' sculptures with a street theatre element, actors dressed as the popular plaster-cast sculptures act as the sculptures, then suddenly move when unexpected.
    - iii. A World Expo '88 Photographic Exhibition at the Nepalese Peace Pagoda
      - Given the lead-time required to curate and open a professional Museum space at the Pagoda, using the Pagoda's ground floor internal walls for a World Expo '88 Photographic Exhibition could be the next best bet - an option which would be easy to mount - be low impact in terms of not infringing upon the horizontal space of the Pagoda, or interfering with visitor entrance/exit points.
      - The excellent Brisbane City Council panorama photo collection could be used to its best capacity with exhibition of the photographs in the large-scale panorama style that they were designed for. And, it hasn't been done so far.
      - Spin-offs from the exhibition could include special panorama post-cards, mugs, t-shirts, and other memorabilia.

### **D. Foundation Expo '88 2nd Anniversary Report**

- I. Due to the inclement weather, presentation of the Report was shortened considerably to one sentence per page. Full report to be available at the News-Press page.
- a. Key Notes
  - i. Main work of migration of site, and new uniform web-site branding to the new domain is complete. Some AOL service features remain in place, namely the World Expo '88 Discussion Forum, at <http://groups.aol.com/fexpo88>, and new feature, at AOL Journals, the World Expo '88 Ideas Centre! Blog, at <http://journals.aol.com/foundationexpo88/WorldExpo88IdeasCentre/>, which focusses on, in a diary-like fashion, ideas for the 20th Anniversary, and for a heightened visual presence for World Expo '88 throughout Southbank Parklands and the Brisbane CBD.
  - ii. Greater engagement with Southbank Corporation and working towards incorporation status for Friends of the Pagoda Association. The chief aim is that the Friends of the Pagoda Association Incorporation works primarily to establish the World Expo '88 Museum at the Pagoda - with Foundation Expo '88 as an umbrella-organisation over both.
  - iii. Friends of the Pagoda Association Incorporation Proposal to meet on Sunday 28 May 2006 2.00-4.00p.m. at Café San Marco, Southbank Parklands, to discuss draft Association Rules, and elect office bearers. Draft Association Rules and Meeting time to be circulated prior to meeting via the Foundation Expo '88 web-site. Advertisement in The Courier Mail one week prior to meeting.
  - iv. Overview of Foundation work 30 October 2005 to 30 April 2006 noted in full in Report.
  - v. Projects - 30 April 2006 to 30 April 2007.
    - Research for Australia at World Expositions
    - Develop and launch commercial arm to web-site for not-for-profit and cost-covering objectives
    - Greater networking with local Arts, Media, Government and Non-Government stakeholders
    - Found Friends of the Pagoda Association Incorporation
    - 20th Anniversary Celebrations - development, liaison and planning
    - Book Prize - outstanding original work concerning World Expo '88 - digital art, essay, watercolour work. Award of annual prize.

### **E. Meeting Conclusion and Thanks**

- I. Special thanks to the tireless work and co-operation with the Friends of the Pagoda Association
- II. Agreement to meet to establish a Friends of the Pagoda Association Incorporation on 28 May 2006.

III. All relevant stake-holders to be informed and invited.

**Meeting Concluded 5.10p.m.**

**Attachments**

1. Draft Association Rules 'Friends of the Pagoda Association Incorporation'
2. Web-site statistics May 2005-April 2006



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