



FOUNDATION EXPO '88

'Progressing the World Expo 88 Vision'

John R McGregor – Foundation Executive Director
Tel (+614397) [04397] 34018 Fax (+617) [07] 3277 8283
Postal PO BOX 232 MOOROOKA BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA 4105
Web-site <http://hometown.aol.com/foundationexpo88>
E-mail FoundationExpo88@aol.com

press release

<STARTS>

LAUNCH OF 'SHOWING OFF - QUEENSLAND AT WORLD EXPOSITIONS 1862-1988'

31 August 2004

The Red Chamber, Parliament House - Queensland, Australia

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Queensland Premier and Minister for Trade, presided over the much-awaited launch of 'Showing Off - Queensland At World Expositions 1862-1988', by Museum of Queensland staff member and 2001 Queensland-Smithsonian Institute Fellow Dr Judith McKay, earlier today.

The research is the result of four years work by Dr McKay, a Senior Curator at the Queensland Museum, and catalogs Queensland's first representation at an Exposition in 1862, just three years after being made independent of the fledgling state of New South Wales, to the landmark World Expo 88, held in Brisbane in 1988 - the largest event of Australia's bi-centennial celebrations.

Over 100 invited guests including a potpourri of Queensland Government and Exposition related VIPS - Chair & CEO of World Expo 88, Sir Llew Edwards AC; the Minister for Education and the Arts, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, and the Chancellor of Central Queensland University Mr Rennie Fritschy lauded Dr McKay's work. The 2004 Chair of the Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship Selection Panel Ms Catherine O'Sullivan, and members of the Queensland-Smithsonian Alumni, including past Fellows, were also present.

Sub-titled "Queensland's bold and varied contributions to twenty-three world expositions", the work is a joint publication of Central Queensland University Press and the Queensland Museum, and is the result of tireless endeavour of Dr McKay in libraries as diverse and far away as the Smithsonian Institute Archives, Washington D.C.; the Californian Historical Society, San Francisco; The Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley; The Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia; The British Library and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and the Mitchell Library and Glasgow University, Glasgow. Closer to home, the Queensland State Archives, the State Library of Queensland, the University of Queensland, the National Archives of Australia, the National Library of Australia and the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet also played a helping hand in the research for the book.

The richly illustrated tome includes photographs and references to Queensland's representation at 23 world expositions, including that of the London International Exhibition of 1862; the Paris Universelle Exposition of 1867; as well as the Glasgow International Exposition of 1901. The Gold Medal Certificate awarded to the Queensland Government for the Cotton Exhibit at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, also beautifully frames the inside covers of the publication.

This unique work of World Exposition history contains 128 pages and is available for purchase through directly contacting the publisher, c/Professor David Myers, Central Queensland University Press, d.myers@cqu.edu.au. It shall also be available for purchase through <http://www.outbackbooks.com>. Cost of the publication is \$AUS 29.95. Australian direct mail order buyers can purchase the book with packaging and delivery within Australia for a special \$AUS 30.00.

For further information, please contact Professor David Myers, Central Queensland University Press, Rockhampton, Australia, d.myers@cqu.edu.au.

<ENDS>

Att. Dr Judith McKay and Professor David Myers with Expo 88 paraphenalia at the launch
Covers of 'Showing Off – Queensland at World Expositions 1862 – 1988'
Images Courtesy of Professor David Myers, Central Queensland University



The author Dr Judith McKay and MC, Professor David Myers, Central Queensland University, at the launch of "Showing Off". Parliament House, Queensland.



THE AUTHOR

Dr Judith McKay is a curator at the Queensland Museum South Bank, which she joined in 1988. That year she had the exciting experience of observing a world exposition at close hand. A keen historian, her other publications include *Ellis Rowan: a flower-hunter in Queensland* and *Queensland architects of the 19th century: a biographical dictionary* (with Donald Watson). In 2001 Judith was awarded a Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship, which led to the present publication.



Queensland's bold and varied contributions to twenty-three world expositions

FRONT COVER

Queensland's show of mineral wealth at the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1901. (*British Australian*, 3 August 1901)

A figure from the lunchtime parade at World Expo 88, Brisbane. (Courtesy of Queensland Newspapers)

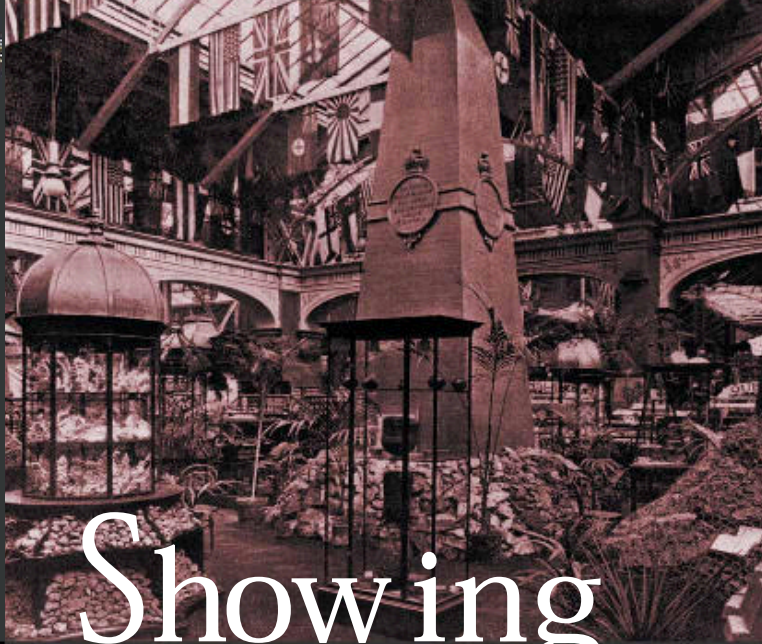
BACK COVER

The lunchtime parade at World Expo 88. P. Ford (Courtesy of Queensland Newspapers)



Showing off: Queensland at World Expositions 1862 to 1988

Judith McKay



Showing off

Queensland at World Expositions
1862 to 1988



Judith McKay

Showing off

Queensland at World Expositions 1862 to 1988

Many of us have happy memories of Brisbane's World Expo 88, but how many know of its nineteenth-century predecessor, the Queensland International Exhibition of 1897; or that, between 1862 and 1988, Queensland took part in twenty-three world expositions?

Showing off takes us on a tour of these celebratory events, which show the best that Queensland could offer the world over more than a century. It traces the evolution of the state from a British colony fiercely competing for the mother country's attention and support, to an Australian state increasingly focused on the Asia-Pacific region, and still competitive.

Through spectacular exhibits we explore the changing self-image of Queensland, from a resource-rich frontier touting for settlers and capital to develop its vast potential, to a land of tropical abundance, mineral wealth, sun-blessed fields and, more recently, tourist attractions and an enviable lifestyle.

The exhibits are never dull and include such intriguing images as an axe head floating in a mercury fountain, Queen Victoria clapping her hands to her ears and fleeing from a Queensland exhibit, the mysterious disappearance of fifty-seven bottles of Queensland wine en route to London, a cheese that weighed 1½ tons, and the world's biggest coral garden.

Showing off is the first ever account of Queensland as a global exhibitor. It is based on original research undertaken at home and abroad, and is richly illustrated.