



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
PO BOX 232 MOOROOKA BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA 4105
<http://www.foundationexpo88.org/friendsofthepagoda/>

INFORMATION SHEET ONE

THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

General Background

Over 50 Governments were represented at Brisbane's World Expo '88 – 1788-1988 Bicentennial of Australia's largest event – where a derelict mixed usage of light and heavy industrial, housing commission and boarding house residential and pockets of parkland at the Brisbane River's CBD southern bank, were transformed into a 40-hectare world-class Exposition site – and later, at the Exposition's conclusion, into South Bank Parklands, a master-plan designer-made riverfront parkland, cosmopolitan café, restaurant and commercial and tourism precinct, gently accented by low-rise 5-star apartment space and medium-rise world-class hotel and office space at the parkland's rear.

One of the Exposition's most popular pavilions, the Nepal Peace Pagoda, commissioned by the Kingdom of Nepal, was created and operated for World Expo '88 by The Association to Preserve Asian Culture, whose task it also was to find a new home for the Pagoda at the Expo's conclusion.

Construction of the Pagoda commenced with the felling of some 80 tons of timber from the southern Terai jungle forests of Nepal (where most of Nepal's timber is sourced), then carting the timber hundreds of kilometres across to the capital Kathmandu, where 160 Nepalese families were trained and engaged in the art of making the Pagoda – a long lost skill that had once been passed down from generation to generation.

Commencing work in 1986, the United Nations International Year of Peace, some one million work hours – two years - of love, sweat, and toil went into the creation of the Pagoda and its side Pavilions, Peace Bell, Buddhist memorial stone, guardian lions and elephants – where it was shipped to Australia for World Expo '88 via Colombo, in two 20-foot containers, and one 40-foot container.

The final assembly for World Expo '88 took only a few days, where, a handful of Australian workers, under supervision from The Association to Preserve Asian Culture, lifted and hoisted the diverse Pagoda elements into place, with the use of a truck and crane.

During the Expo, the Pagoda was a much cherished place of respite and quiet, where at the Pagoda's forecourts one could view traditional Nepalese craftsmen at work, order traditional Nepalese teas and sweets, as well as visit the First and Second Levels of the

Pagoda, where, at the Pagoda's cool Second Level, a traditional Nepalese Tea House featured, one of the most popular places at the Expo for a cool drink away from the thronging crowds.

Over 70,000 persons visited the Pagoda, as well as Heads of State and VIPs to the Expo, including champion of Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, who was one of the many guests to the Pagoda who noted his enjoyable visit at the Pagoda's Guest Book.