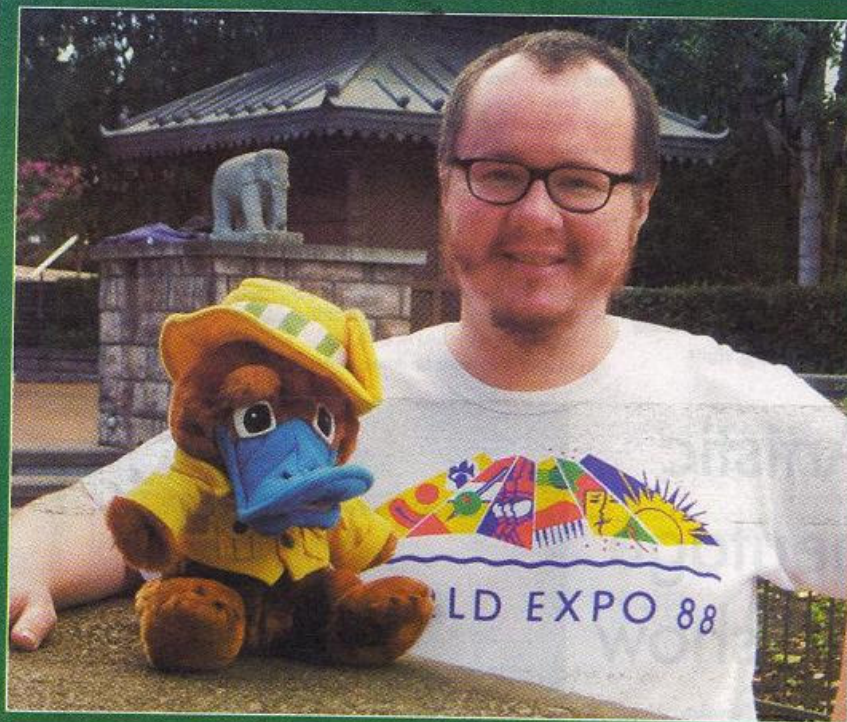


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Expo '88 lives on

What some people still regard as Brisbane's biggest party – World Expo '88 – lives on in cyberspace thanks to local fan John McGregor, pictured above with mascot Expo Oz.

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Fond memories exposed

By Lindsay Marshall

Whether you attended or missed Brisbane's World Expo '88, or were not even born then, you can relive memories or find out what all the fuss was about, thanks to a new website.

John McGregor – who's worked at three world expositions including Brisbane's – recently launched the Foundation Expo '88 site to help keep memories alive and tell the world about the city's six months of non-stop fun.

The website, containing detailed information, photos and memorabilia, took 18 months to construct and was launched on April 30, the 16th anniversary of the opening of Expo '88.

"Now that it's online I am getting a lot of feedback from people with suggestions for changes or additions," Mr McGregor said. "So it's a work in progress."

"What I have tried to do is make it a comprehensive website dedicated just to Expo '88."

Mr McGregor's long-term plan for Foundation Expo '88 is to establish a small museum about the Brisbane exposition in or near South Bank.



John McGregor ... keeping memories alive

He said South Bank needed some recognition of its former use and a modest showcase of Expo '88 information and memorabilia should also be on site, perhaps in the Nepalese Peace Pagoda – itself a former expo attraction.

Mr McGregor said he became involved in world expos shortly before Brisbane hosted the 1988 event.

"I had just finished high school where I had studied Japanese and I'd also spent a year in Japan," he said.

"I got a job as a pavilion attendant in the Japanese pavilion."

After that, armed with a Bachelor in Asian Studies, his Japanese language skills, as well as his proficiency in Spanish and Korean, Mr McGregor worked at both Spain's Expo '92 in Seville and at the 1993 expo hosted by the South Korean city of Taejon.

"I got a job at Seville in the VIP visitors department and got to meet people from all over the world," he said.

"In Korea I worked in the media cen-

tre writing English-language press releases for the organising committee – one of only two Caucasians out of about 6000 Korean staffers."

The inspiration for the Expo '88 website came in 2002 when Mr McGregor was performing voluntary work at a meeting in Spain of the Association of Expo Cities and Regions.

"I saw all the information provided by cities that had hosted world expos in the past – things like CDs and websites. But Brisbane had nothing similar and certainly no internet presence.

"I thought, I'm going to change this. So it was almost a sense of duty to do a website on Expo '88."

Mr McGregor said people with photos, stories or memorabilia to share could contact him through the new site. The site received about 100 hits on its first day and had been averaging 20 to 30 a day since.

"About 60% are from Australia with the remainder largely from Canada, the USA and Europe," Mr McGregor said.

John McGregor and Foundation Expo '88 can be contacted by visiting <http://hometown.aol.com/foundationexpo88> or via email at FoundationExpo88@aol.com