



FOUNDATION EXPO '88

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press release

'FOUNDATION EXPO '88 – DAY ONE REPORT'

World-wide e-mail greetings and telephone calls punctuated this evening's successful launch of Foundation Expo '88 and website on the former expo site, Brisbane's Southbank Parklands, sixteen years to the day after the official opening of World Expo '88.

Led by Expo veteran and VIP, Ms Carol Lloyd, co-author of the World Expo '88 theme song 'Together We'll Show the World', and an instrumental player in securing the Exposition for Brisbane, 11 former exposition staff members, visitors, and the curious gathered at the launch, which featured a live viewing of the newly launched Foundation Expo '88 web-site, and also inaugural meeting of the Foundation. Greetings from some 15 exposition-related organisations and individuals, from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, to the Bureau of International Expositions in Paris, also featured in the meeting, as well as a surprise international telephone call from John Greatrex of the Crystal Palace Museum & Foundation, London – home of the first international exposition in 1851.

“The amount of interest shown from those attending in person, those visiting via the internet, and from those unable to attend has been most heartening”, cited Foundation Executive Director, John McGregor. 18 months of preparatory work culminated in today's launch, which, as McGregor stated, is only the beginning of the Foundation's projects. “Whilst the internet web-site launch is an important celebration, it is not to say it is a finite celebration – Expo '88 lives on now day by day as newer visitors discover the site for the first time. It is a permanent commemoration progressing the aims and vision of Brisbane's landmark World Exposition,” added McGregor.

McGregor was also buoyed by the visitor statistics of the first day of operation of the web-site, with some 100 visitors to the site since it was formally 'switched on' at 10.00 a.m. earlier in the day to commemorate the 10.00 a.m. official opening of the Exposition sixteen years earlier.

As part of the official business of the inaugural meeting of the Foundation, a group 'think tank' session was established to discuss possible options for growth for the Museum, Association and Web-site goals of the Foundation, and to ceremoniously launch the birth of the Foundation, a 'Foundation Expo '88' cake was cut and special raffle was drawn, with the prize being a commemorative stuffed toy mascot of the Exposition, platypus, 'Expo Oz', and a souvenir teaspoon of Brisbane's City Hall, won by former Expo '88 & '92 staff member, Joanne McMurtry.

The signing of official certificates of participation closed the meeting, with a resolution to meet every six months on the days of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Exposition, April 30 and October 30, at Cafe San Marco, Southbank, with an extraordinary meeting in between.

Further information concerning Foundation Expo '88 can be found at the following web-address:
<http://hometown.aol.com/foundationexpo88>

Your visit and support is most welcome!



Ms Joanne McMurtry, former staff member of Expo '88 & '92, cuts the 'Foundation Expo '88' cake, looked on by Ms Kitai Saeko, of the Japan Foundation.

Photograph courtesy of Foundation Expo '88