

OFFICIAL OPENING OF FRASER COAST SHOW Friday 24th May 2002, 3.15pm

I am delighted to have been asked to carry out this pleasant duty today.

This, as you know, is the 127th Annual Show, and of that record, the people of Maryborough and the Fraser Coast should be very proud indeed.

The diverse exhibits and events to which we're treated here showcase the achievements of the community and of many talented individual people, and for their richness, I warmly congratulate you all.

I particularly commend the Maryborough and Hervey Bay Show Society for its excellent organizational effort, and upon these splendid grounds: as many as 14 substantial buildings for community use, the most recent being the large undercover equestrian arena. Improvements like these are never easily achieved, and I congratulate the Show Society for its persistence and its outstanding success.

Now ladies and gentlemen, you don't need to be told how fortunate you are to live here. Maryborough and the region exemplify the very best qualities of Queensland life, especially life outside the metropolis: the friendly interaction of the people, the intense community spirit, the security of the community, and the presence of a lot of people imbued with a good dose of common sense.

I have vivid memories of the four years I spent here as a child in the 1950's: the bands performing in the Queen's Park rotunda; floods, with residents from the 'Pocket' moving their furniture into the Albert School in the early hours of the morning; swimming in the old pool by the courthouse; family picnics at the Bay; the visit of the Queen in 1954 when we were all taken to Bargara for the official welcome...

Over the last five decades of my life and some of yours, Maryborough has had its share of problems of course, especially economic problems. On my regular returns I have been well aware of that – visiting as a barrister, then as a Judge, and now as your Chief Justice. But I have always been struck by the vibrancy, the resilience of the community, and the just pride of you people.

"Special" Maryborough – the beauty of the city and the river, the grandeur of its historical past – which you are so effectively presenting, the proximity of the Bay, and above all: the spirit of the people!

Thank you all for welcoming me here today. I applaud the work of the Show Society, and with admiration, ladies and gentlemen, your enthusiasm for the cause. Enjoy this grand and exciting event; it is certain to inspire great interest and stimulation.

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It is now my very great pleasure to declare the 127th annual Fraser Coast Show officially open!