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Photo: 3 x B&W JPG attached

- (1) Official guests at 1935 Show opening day
- (2) Elaine and Marilyn Bird swing at the Show. 1950s
- (3) Book cover '100 Shows – History of the Gold Coast Show' Fiona Staun

Headline:

New book traces 100 Shows

The history of the Show is entwined with the story of the Gold Coast. Starting in the late 1890s in Southport as a series of flower shows, it grew in size as the region expanded. In 1900, the Agricultural and Horticultural Society welcomed the new Southport branch. Led by Mr. Thomas Plunkett, MLA, the committee was made up of the pioneer leaders of trade, industry and agricultural of the flourishing seaside town. In honour of its Centenary Show, a book tracing its story has been released called '100 Shows – History of the Gold Coast Show' by local author Fiona Staun. Produced with the help of the Regional Arts Development Fund, it is the newest book for quite some time detailing historical events on the Coast.

'The Show was always a major event,' said Fiona. 'Everybody dressed up and the big political names came down from Brisbane. I was amazed to discover how important the coastal region was considered by members of Parliament. A special train was organised for the official parties which often included the Governor of Queensland.'

The book features rare photos showing early Southport and a very sandy Cavill Avenue. An aerial shot of the Parklands site taken the day before the first Show opened there details some of the impressive surrounding development that went on during 1989.

The first shows were held in Woodroffe Park, where the Southport RSL now stands. Thanks to the Local Studies Library in Southport a photo of the site was found dating back 1900.

'Many people unearthed wonderful prize certificates and personal photos which helped make the book a fascinating reflection of our Show,' said Fiona.

'100 Show – History of the Gold Coast Show' will be on sale at the Show Society's stand in the Goldsteins pavilion for \$10 during the Show. It is also available from their Parklands office on 5591 3422.

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