



MEDIA RELEASE

GOLD COAST CENTENARY SHOW **Aug 31 – Sep 2 2006**

2006 marks the Gold Coast Show Society's 100th show.

The Gold Coast Show was originally the Southport Horticultural Show. It was held in the School of Arts building in Woodroffe Park, which was then known as Recreation Reserve.

Southport turned from a sleepy fishing village into an elite holiday destination and the Show reflected the type of flowers and produce that were grown to cater for the new visitors. Fiona Staun, who is writing the history of the Show quotes a Brisbane newspaper's report of the first official Show in 1900:

'An exhilarating sea breeze tempered the early summer heat so that the numerous visitors from Brisbane were able to enjoy themselves among the pleasant surroundings. The building was crowded throughout the afternoon and during the three hours when it was open to the public the sum of over £21 was taken at the door. A concert and dance were held in the evening and it is expected that considerably over £30 will thus be added to the funds.' (Brisbane Courier Friday, Sept 28, 1900.)

"I wonder if our forebears would have thought their show would have reached such a milestone...I doubt it." Says Gold Coast Show Manager Doug Reiser. "The Gold Coast Show is now the longest running community event in the region"

Apart from missing a few years due to war time and other unavoidable circumstances the Gold Coast Show has been an annual fixture for families, amusement suppliers and exhibitors alike. Today there are descendents of those original show patrons still contributing to what is today a vibrant multi cultural showcase of the Gold Coast Community. From those humble beginnings in Southport it didn't take long for other exhibitors, events and competitions to be added to the show. Arts, Crafts and Agricultural achievements were displayed while amusements for the children in Side Show Alley were a godsend to keep the children happy while the adults took quality time for themselves checking out a champion chook or just having a chat to a total stranger.

Entertainment has increased over the years not only in Side Show Alley but all around the grounds. In 2006 there will be 2 Entertainment Stages all day every day of the Show plus roving characters and spontaneous acts of amusement and comedy springing up all over the place.

In 2002 Mark Eady of Ozworks Entertainment Pty Ltd approached the Show Society to create a night time feature attraction with concert sound under theatre lights. The ARENA SPECTACULAR has proven to be very popular with local performers and the general public with capacity crowds in attendance each night. Following the success of 'SALUTE TO THE OUTBACK' in 2002, "THE WALTZING MATILDA STORY" in 2003, "NED KELLY THE SIEGE AT GLENROWAN" in 2004 and "LOCAL HEROES – ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS" in 2005 the feature attraction at this year's Show will be the largest celebration for the community of the Gold Coast ever staged.

"THE GOLD COAST CENTENARY SHOW ARENA SPECTACULAR" will pay tribute to 100 years of Gold Coast growth and development and pay tribute to the people past and present who make the Gold Coast the best place in Australia to live, work and play.

The Arena Spectacular will acknowledge many events and changes that have made the Gold Coast what it is today and pay tribute the men and woman who live here.

The night time feature presentation will be performed each night of the Show followed by the Fireworks.

Other free attractions operating through the day include; Robinson's Family Circus, Rodeo including Bronc and Bull riding, Ring Events, Australia and Heritage Displays, Show Bags, Carnival Themed Roving Entertainment and more.

"We'd like to invite the people of the Coast to be part of our Centenary Event. If you have a business, service or product then there are plenty of stalls and sites here available both indoors and outdoors or if you have always wanted to enter any one of the Show exhibits then this year's the time to do it. In excess of 500 entertainers are needed for the Arena Spectacular and around the Showgrounds. It's your Centenary Gold Coast Show....BE PART OF IT!" says Doug Reiser

General information on the Gold Coast Centenary Show look on-line at www.goldcoastshow.com.au or call Noelene Nugent 55913422

Stall sites – Leonie Mills

Entertainment – call Mark Eady on 55092842 or e-mail creative@ozworks.net

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