

From colonies to Commonwealth

The State Library of Queensland's first major exhibition for 2001, *From Colonies to Commonwealth*, makes the events of 100 years ago come alive. The exhibition traces Queensland's role during the long road to Federation and the festivities that followed around the state.

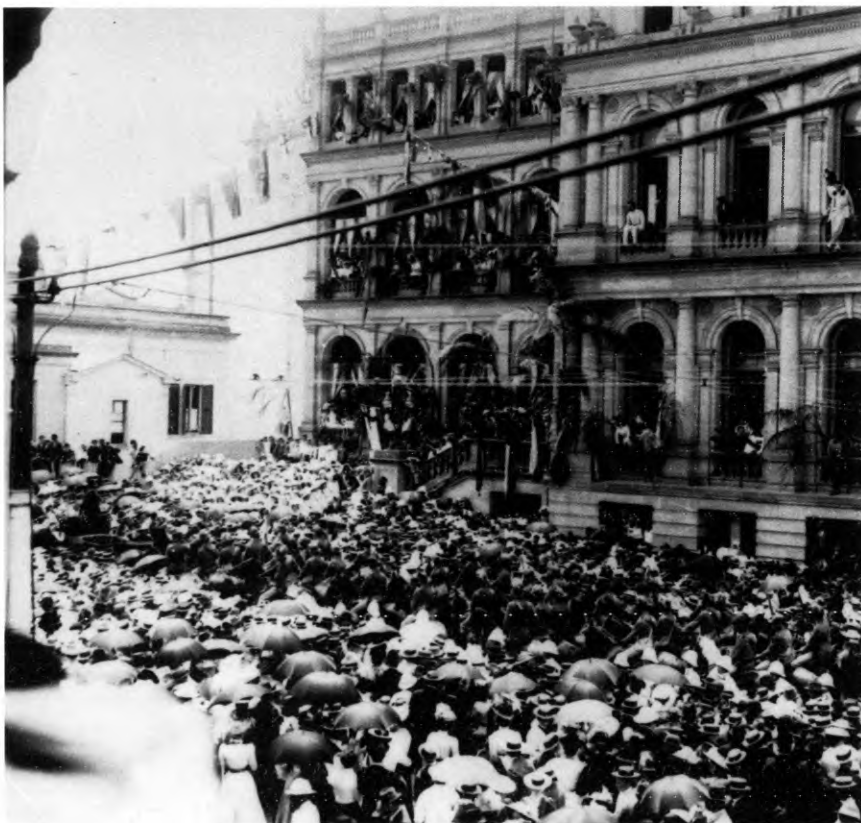
It contains photographs, documents, costumes, flags, newspaper clippings, original documents and memorabilia, mostly held in the John Oxley Library.

A previously unidentified photograph album in the John Oxley Library collection was the catalyst for the exhibition. Research now indicates the album could be the work of Henry William Mobsby, appointed as official government photographer in 1897.

His magnificent photographs show the celebrations outside the Treasury Building in Queen Street, the parade along William Street, the visit by Imperial troops, and the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, fresh from visiting Melbourne to proclaim Australia's first parliament in May 1901.

From Colonies to Commonwealth runs until 24 March in the Exhibition Space, State Library of Queensland. ■ *Federation arrives: a snapshot of life in Queen Street, Brisbane, featuring a decorative arch in the distance*

The Agricultural Arch opposite the Town Hall was built to celebrate the visit of Imperial troops to Brisbane — the arch was decorated with greenery, as well as Queensland produce like bananas, pineapples, apples, sugar cane and miniature sheaves of wheat



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