

PROPOSAL FOR A BICENTENNIAL QUEENSLAND HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE HUB

Three important bicentennial and centennial related events for Queensland, and for the Moreton Bay region and Brisbane City, will be occurring in five years' time. The year 2023 will mark 200 years since the explorer John Oxley and crew of HMS *Mermaid* surveyed Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River. The following year, 2024, will mark 200 years since Commandant Henry Miller's arrived in Moreton Bay with what became start of the Moreton Bay Penal Colony. The event has four significant parts –

- the arrival on 12 September, to establish the colony at the original location of Humpybong, Redcliffe;
- the relocation of the colony's initial encampment on 4 November from Redcliffe to Edenglassie - the first name given to Brisbane;
- the arrival of Governor Brisbane in Moreton Bay on 23 November for a brief inspection of the colony's beginnings;
- the construction of the first permanent colonial building in what became Queensland, the Commissariat Store, believed to have started in December of 1824.

These two bicentennial events of 1823 and 1824 are also important because of the first contact between the colonialists and the original peoples of the land and culture that extended back at least 10,000 years ago. The centennial of the formation of the Brisbane City Council in 1925, from the amalgamation of shires under the Greater Brisbane plan, links and closes off well the three year period of significant anniversaries for Queensland. A colonial nineteenth century is connected to that of the modern twentieth century. The creation of Greater Brisbane came during the centennial remembrance of the city's earliest formation. Another centennial further on, and there is now an opportunity to create something great again.

This is a proposal for a Bicentennial Queensland and Centennial Brisbane Humanities and Social Science Hub. The hub would be a permanent home which would bring together the three major institutions for Queensland in the humanities and social science outside the universities. It would reflected the same kind of coming together as occurred for the visual and performing arts in the South Bank complexes, but at a fraction of the scale and cost.

The Royal Society of Queensland (1884), the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (1885), and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland (1913), have served Queenslanders well in the informing, education, and research of humanities and social science. Although these organisations have been large cultural and social institutions they have not been able to secure permanent homes for a considerable portion of the state's intellectual assets. These organisations have been responsible for many of the publications that have told the stories about and visually illustrated the beginnings of the history, environs, and landscape of Queensland and Brisbane.

The proposal is a construction of permanent space, a hub of buildings or office floors where the administration and collections of three societies can be located.