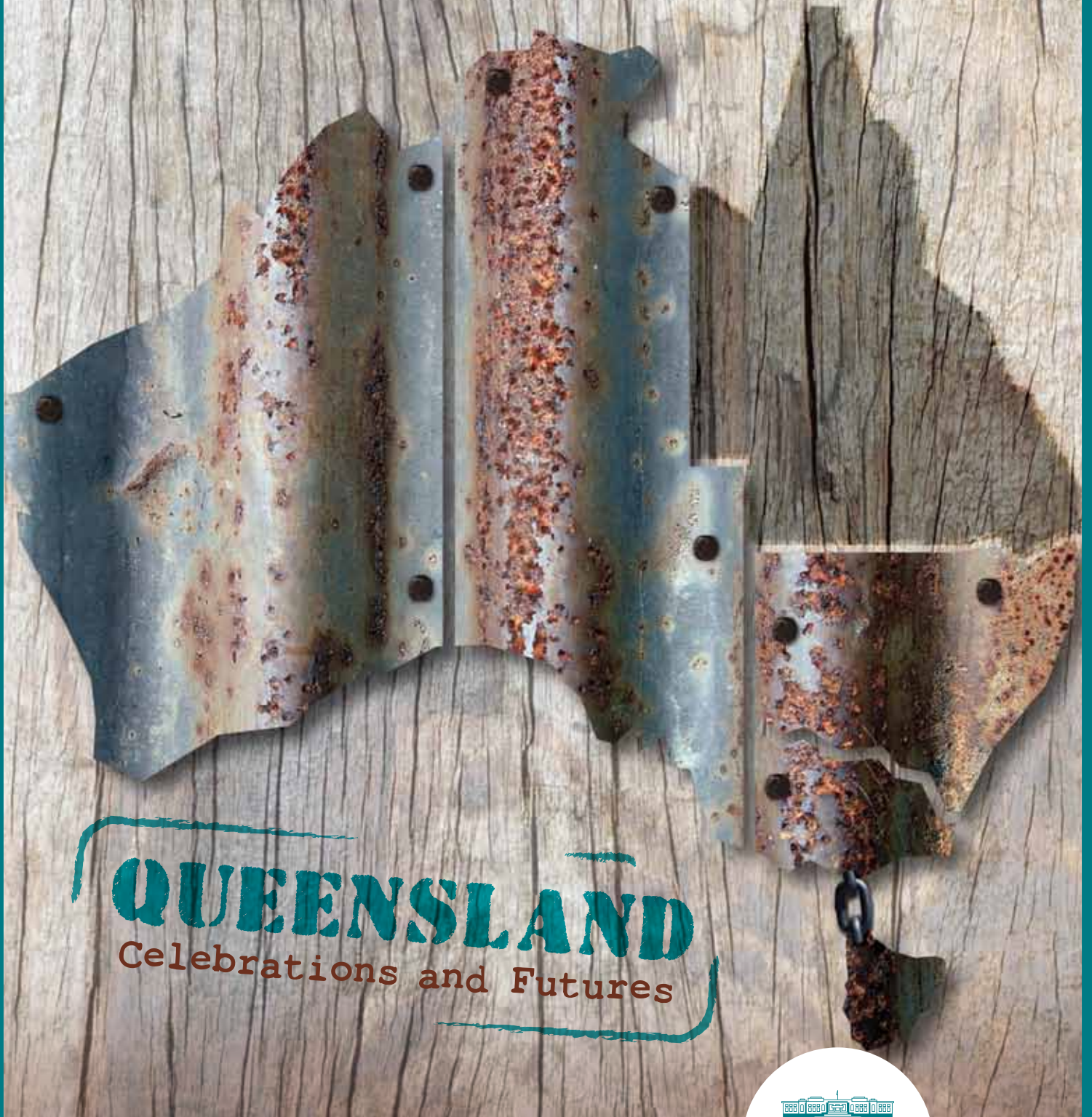


GETTING IT TOGETHER

From Colonies to Federation



QUEENSLAND
Celebrations and Futures



MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRACY
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

INVESTIGATIONS OF
AUSTRALIA'S JOURNEY
TO NATIONHOOD
FOR THE MIDDLE
YEARS CLASSROOM

MOAD
LEARNING

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Designed by Deanna Vener



Celebrations and Futures



Queenslanders approved the draft of the Australian Constitution with a majority 'yes' vote in the referendum held on Saturday 2 September 1899. The margin between the 'no' and 'yes' votes was the narrowest of any of the Federation referendums held in the other colonies, with little more than 54 per cent voting 'yes'.

Nevertheless, even before the last votes were counted, it was clear that Queenslanders had voted for Federation. At the celebratory dinner held in Brisbane on the evening of 2 September, Edmund Barton, leader of the Federation movement from New South Wales, hailed its success. He saw Federation as welcoming a great era of democracy for all Australians. The Commonwealth Parliament, he foresaw, would be filled with 'federalists in the true sense', that is, those who would make decisions for Australia as a whole. Mr Barton had been working hard to ensure the success of the referendum in Queensland, giving speeches right up until the night before the referendum.

The *Brisbane Courier* carried telegrams from the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria, congratulating Queensland for voting to join their colonies in the new Commonwealth. The newspaper's editorial was joyful and excited about 'The Coming Commonwealth', but also aware that the hand of friendship had to be extended to those who had been against the colony federating:

Australia is born: The Australian nation is a fact. Now is accomplished the dream of a continent for a people and a people for a continent. No longer shall there exist those artificial barriers which have divided brother from brother. We are one people – with one destiny.

In the stress and strain of battle some bitterness has been shown.

May we now hope that with the end of the fight all soreness will disappear.

The day has broken. Australia will take her rightful place ... among the nations.

The Brisbane Courier, 4 September, 1899.

Along with the other Australian States, Queensland hosted its celebrations on Commonwealth Day, 1 January 1901. The biggest and most elaborate celebrations took place in Sydney, where the new Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Lord Hopetoun took the oath of office. However, parades, processions and sporting events celebrating Federation were held in all of Queensland's major cities, such as Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Charters Towers, Cairns, Mackay and Townsville.

Investigations

1. How was Federation celebrated in Brisbane?
2. How did Queenslanders outside Brisbane celebrate Federation?
3. How did Queenslanders feel about being part of the new Commonwealth?
4. How should Queenslanders commemorate Federation now and into the future?

INVESTIGATION 1

How was Federation celebrated in Brisbane?

As in other cities around Australia, the residents of Brisbane welcomed in the new year, the new century and the new nation on Commonwealth Day, 1 January 1901. The festivities planned for Brisbane were both formal and fun. Churches held services where official prayers were said for the new Commonwealth and for Queen Victoria. Governor Lamington had responsibility for reading the proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia and the message from Queen Victoria to the Australian people.

The people of Brisbane were joined by those from surrounding districts and further afield, who had made the trip by train to see the processions and parades. Women and men were dressed in their finest clothes, and important businesses and public buildings of Brisbane were equally well decorated for the occasion.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 1

- photographs: Federation celebrations
- map: Brisbane's central business district
- extracts: newspaper

Your task

Explore the Federation celebrations in Brisbane.

Activities

1. As a class, examine the photographs of Federation celebrations in Brisbane. Describe what you see, including what people are wearing, the decorations and so on.
2. Choose one of the newspaper extracts describing a particular aspect of the Federation celebrations in Brisbane. Find others in your class who have chosen the same article and read it together carefully, underlining key words.
3. Form new groups, this time ensuring that there is at least one person to represent each newspaper extract in the group. Describe to each other what was in the newspaper extract you have studied. Together, you should all arrive at an understanding of what happened throughout Brisbane on Commonwealth Day.
4. Using the map of Brisbane's central business district, mark with a number or symbol the different events, decorations and processions a visitor to the city would have seen on Commonwealth Day. Ensure that your map has a key, describing the significance of each number or symbol. How many different types of events were there?
5. Share your group's map with the rest of the class, describing the significance of the events that you have identified. As a class, discuss why the people of Brisbane decided to celebrate the new Commonwealth in the ways that they did.

INVESTIGATION 2

How did Queenslanders outside Brisbane celebrate Federation?

Cities all around Queensland had more than a year to plan the celebrations for Commonwealth Day, 1 January 1901. In cities and regions where people supported Federation, the celebrations were much anticipated and well planned. In places where people voted 'no', they were more cautious about what Federation might mean for their communities, industries and employment. They still celebrated, but on a smaller scale. For example, in Toowoomba, a region that was against Federation, planning the celebrations only began two weeks beforehand.

In the major cities of north Queensland, the celebrations took on a carnival atmosphere. Many community groups were represented in the processions, demonstrations and sporting events. In Townsville, bishops from the Anglican and Catholic churches gave speeches welcoming the new nation, representatives from the town's Irish and Scottish communities danced 'jigs' in the procession, and the town's Japanese community gave an exhibition of wrestling and dancing.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 2

- extracts: newspaper
- photograph: federal flag
- table: referendum results

video camera (optional)

data projector or television (optional)

Your task

Investigate how various communities around Queensland celebrated Federation.

Activities

1. Divide into two groups and investigate the Federation celebrations in Toowoomba and Mackay. Read the newspaper extracts aloud and examine the photograph of the federal flag. Identify and list the national and Empire symbols and emblems used in the celebrations.
2. Form pairs in your groups, and sketch one of the national or Empire symbols or emblems described in one of the newspaper extracts. Write a caption for your sketch, stating where it featured and why you think it was in the celebrations. Display your sketches around the classroom.
3. With your partner, compare the celebrations in Toowoomba and Mackay. In what ways were the celebrations in Toowoomba and Mackay similar and different? You might use a Venn diagram to help with the comparison. Discuss why there might have been differences in the ways towns and regions celebrated, and list your responses.
4. In your groups, decide on either Toowoomba or Mackay as a focus. Imagine that you are filing a report for radio or television news today. Write a one-minute script describing Commonwealth Day in your selected town, and its significance, using:
 - the referendum results for the town as background to the story;
 - a 'mock-up' photograph as a backdrop; and
 - a statement of the town's feelings about the future.

A flow chart might be useful for planning your script. If possible, record your story using a video camera. Present your group's news report to the class.

INVESTIGATION 3

How did Queenslanders feel about being part of the new Commonwealth?

On 1 January 1901, the *Brisbane Courier* welcomed the new Commonwealth with the headline 'Queensland: The Sunny State'. Queensland, once a colony of the British Empire, had taken its place in the new nation, and was willing to be a little less independent – to be part of something much bigger than it could have aspired to on its own. The coming together of the colonies had created a 'nation for a continent'. Queenslanders were now citizens of Australia, and they would share the benefits of the new nation but they would also now have obligations to other Australians.

Poets of the time captured what coming together as a new nation meant for the people of the Australian colonies. The poets expressed the joy of uniting and becoming one nation. A poet from Toowoomba, George Essex Evans won the 50 guinea prize in a competition that was held for the best verse commemorating Federation for his *Ode to Australia*. Another poem of his, *A Federal Song*, was also important in inspiring the people of the colonies to see themselves as part of one nation.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 3

- extract: newspaper
- lyrics: 'A Federal Song' by George Essex Evans
- video camera (optional)

Your task

Explore how the people of the colonies understood their new identity as Australians – citizens of a new country.

Activities

1. In pairs, examine either the text on 'The New Citizenship' or the song. Discuss when it was written, why it was written and what it might mean. Think of ways to communicate your understanding of it to others visually, without using words or talking.
2. Combine with other pairs who considered the same text, and share your understanding of the piece. Decide the best way to demonstrate your understanding of the text to the rest of the class. You might consider acting out the lines of the piece, creating a storyboard, or creating a short film/video.
3. As a class, think about what the two texts have in common. Why do you think the authors of these texts thought it was important for Queenslanders in 1901 to think about Federation in these ways?
4. Discuss which of the feelings in each text you think Queenslanders would agree with today. Which would they not agree with? Why?
5. Poems can take many forms. Write a short poem (perhaps a haiku) summing up how the people in the colony of Queensland celebrated and felt about Federation in 1901.

INVESTIGATION 4

How should Queenslanders commemorate Federation now and into the future?

Federation was an important milestone in Australia's and Queensland's history. Its significance has been commemorated in various ways over the years. In 2001, to mark the Commonwealth's one hundredth anniversary, the Australian Government issued special Centenary of Federation coins and stamps. However, we do not have a national Federation monument, nor do we celebrate Federation as a special day.

Use your knowledge and imagination to think of ways in which Queenslanders could commemorate Federation – now and into the future. You might feel that celebrations should have some things in common with the celebrations that took place in 1901. Or, when you consider how Queensland has changed and developed over more than a century, you might decide that celebrations should reflect new and different elements of the State's identity, and its place in the Australian nation.

Your task

Imagine how Federation could be commemorated every year in Queensland.

YOU WILL NEED

internet access
library access

Activity

1. Imagine your classroom has been put in charge of organising Federation Day, an event to be celebrated in every State and Territory of Australia on 1 January. You will be celebrating the creation of the nation and also what is special about each place in the nation.

As a class, brainstorm and write down your ideas about:


- how Australia has changed in the last hundred years – think about transportation, immigration, communication, music, food, the environment, population and achievements;
- how Queensland has changed in the last hundred years;
- what is special about Australia;
- what is special about Queensland; and
- how you would like Australia to be in the future.

2. In groups of four, pick a place in Queensland (ensure each group picks a different place). Make plans for a Federation Day celebration. Give each team member a job according to their skills. You will need researchers, writers, illustrators and a spokesperson. Think about the following things.

- What will your community celebrate about Australia's Federation?
- What symbols will you be using?
- Will there be a Federation monument?
- What dignitaries will be invited?
- Where will the celebration be held?
- What events will take place?
- What equipment will be needed?
- What decorations will be used for the occasion?
- What music and other performances will there be?

3. Present your plan to the rest of the class. You can do this in a number of ways, including:

- an illustrated program/brochure inviting the public to the celebrations;
- a report on how the celebrations will be organised and carried out; or
- a digital presentation of your plan for the celebration.



What are you thinking now?

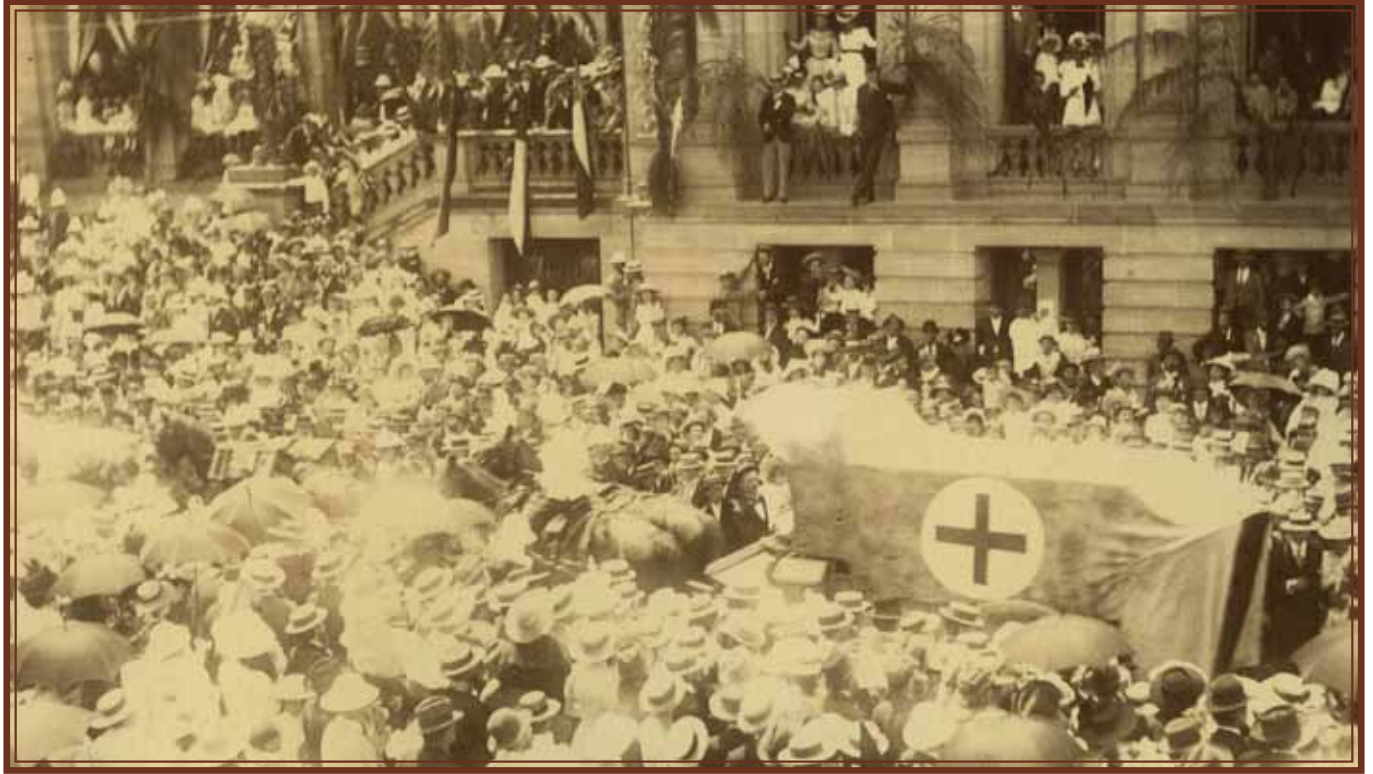
Now that you have completed the investigations in Celebrations and Futures, use your knowledge to explore connections to your life today. Do one or more of the following activities.

1. Queensland voted to join the other Australian colonies in forming a federated Australia. Just as for all the other colonies, joining in Federation meant compromising for Queensland, and giving up some independence to be part of a bigger group working for a common purpose. Create a presentation in which you reflect on your own involvement with others to achieve a common goal. Highlight the rules or conditions of your group, team or organisation. Discuss what might make you leave the group.

2. In Brisbane and in all the other towns in Queensland where Federation was celebrated, community groups were important to the festivities. Which groups in your community would be important to a national celebration today? Create a class presentation in which you identify your major community groups and the work that they do, as well as what they represent about your community.

RESOURCE SHEET 1

Commonwealth procession outside Treasury Building, Queen Street, Brisbane, 1901



State Library of Queensland, API-045-01-0004.

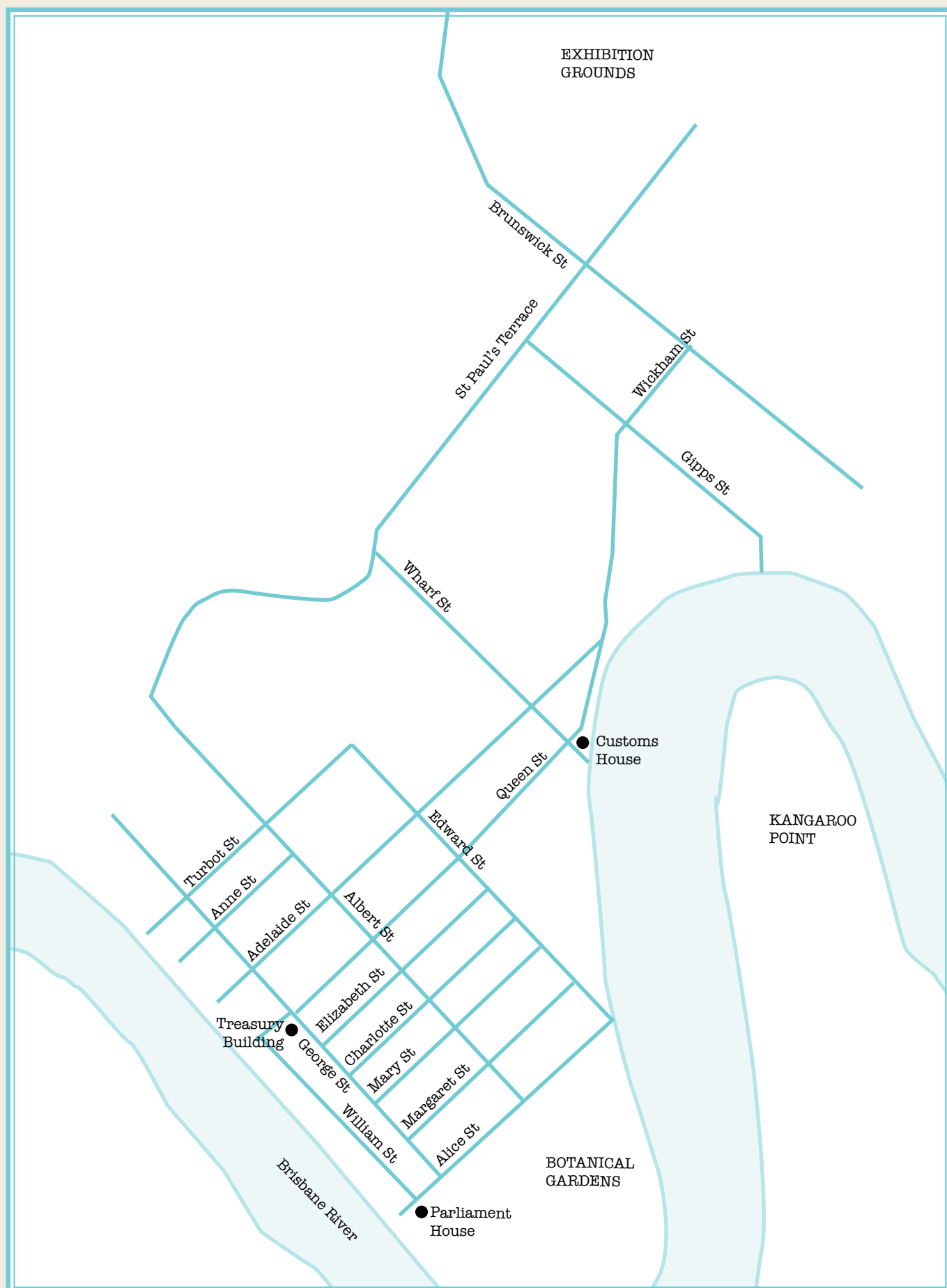
The carriage of Lord and Lady Lamington in front of choir singing 'Rouse Australia'



School children singing at Federation Celebrations Brisbane, Queensland, 1901, State Library of Queensland, 109742.

RESOURCE SHEET 1 continued

Map of Brisbane showing streets and locations during the Federation celebrations, 1901



The scene in Brisbane

The time appointed for the general muster at the Treasury Buildings and along Williams-street, back towards Parliament Buildings and Alice-street, was from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. Shortly after 8 o'clock spectators began to group themselves at various points of vantage, and gradually the gathering swelled till dense crowds almost blocked the way at the inter-section of William and Queen-streets, and at the four corners of George and Queen-streets.

The fine architectural features of the Treasury Buildings had been most artistically set off with dressings of palms, ferns, &c., while flags, tricolors, and other appropriate bunting hung here and there, and served to gaily decorate the porticos and windows facing Queen and William-streets ...

When the reading of the proclamation and the offering of prayer had been completed the children's choir, numbering about 300 ... sang the National Anthem ... The procession proceeded along Queen-street, halting at Wharf-street, where, on arrival of his Excellency's carriage [Lord and Lady Lamington], a larger choir ... sang "Rouse Australia"... the procession, a mile long, proceeded along Queen, Wickham, and Brunswick-streets, to the Exhibition ground.

Toowoomba-Darling Downs Gazette, 3 January 1901.

Night display

The night display in the Botanical Gardens [in Brisbane] was on a grand scale. The programme as drawn up was:—Commencing 7.30 p.m.: Botanic Gardens illuminated with coloured lights and Chinese lanterns: band performances, new bandstand, by Naval Brigade and Sandgate Town Bands, amalgamated (34 performers), and Queensland Rifles Band, 8.30 till 10 p.m.; H.M.Q.G.SS. Gayundah and Paluma gave a rocket and coloured light display; Pain's fireworks—set pieces, &c., under the supervision of Mr R. Motherell, on Kangaroo Point, opposite Gardens.

Toowoomba-Darling Downs Gazette, 3 January 1901.

City decorations

In the decorations which marked the joy of yesterday the shipping in port lent considerably to the general effect, every craft, from large liners like the Jumna down to the usually dingy-looking municipal ferry boats being bright with bunting. Main buildings along the waterside, offices of shipping companies, &c., also were well decorated with flags and greenery. The public buildings in the city were centres of attraction, because of the efforts which had been successfully made to render them picturesque, and the General Post Office was particularly noticeable in that respect. Here the pillars were festooned and garlanded with wreaths of colour, with strings of Chinese lamps, flags, &c. The Custom-house was everywhere strung with red, white and blue draperies, set off with strings of lamps, flags, greenery, and shields. The Treasury Buildings were, of course, the main feature, as it was here that the principal ceremony of the day was performed, and there could be no more handsome or effective ornamentation than that lent by the bright costumes of the ladies who filled every available window and doorway of the building.

Brisbane Courier, 2 January 1901.

Reading the Proclamation

The actual proceeding of the day may be said to have commenced at the Treasury Building, where his Excellency the Governor read the proclamation of the Queen establishing the Commonwealth.

‘We, therefore by and with the advice of our Privy Council, have thought fit to issue this our Royal proclamation, and we do hereby declare that on and after the 1st day of January, One Thousand nine hundred and one, the people of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and Western Australia shall be united in a Federal Commonwealth, under the name of the Commonwealth of Australia.’

The procession

Even before the appointed hour the general muster, preparatory to the procession commenced in William-street. The marshalling of the various units was undertaken by the police officers ...

Some 300 children, who had been drawn up on the steps leading to the Treasury Buildings, sang the National Anthem ... and immediately after a floral presentation to Lady Lamington was made. A body of neatly-uniformed mounted police, headed by Inspector White, took up the van of the procession, and immediately behind them came the Vice-Regal carriage.

The Foresters ... had a strikingly-arranged group showing Robin Hood among his merry men of the Sherwood Forest. The display which excited most admiration, however, was that of the Australian Natives’ Association. In it a figure of Britannia occupied the central position, having on either side female figures representing Australia and Canada, while the British lion crouched at her feet. Other emblems of the Empire on which the sun never sets also formed part of the display. The Hibernian Society’s banner was drawn by a fine team of horses, ridden by postillions in green silk tunics, the whole making a most effective display.

Not the least attractive feature of the procession was that formed by the Fire and Ambulance brigades, two bodies of men whose services are of inestimable value to the community. The two-horse reel of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was there, with Superintendent Hinton and a full crew “on board.” There was also a one-horse reel from the South Brisbane Fire Station.

Australian Natives Association

An Australian demonstration would not be characteristic unless there were sports and so it came about that arrangements were made for the gathering which took place yesterday at the Exhibition Grounds, Bowen Park. Towards this rendezvous the procession travelled, and on arrival the military and members of the A.N.A. were marched into the grounds ...

In the Exhibition Grounds everywhere was life and bustle, the refreshment stalls, side shows, and other features of an ordinary sports meeting being present, while in the ring itself a full and most interesting programme of sports was seen under way.

The Brisbane Courier, 2 January 1901.

RESOURCE SHEET 2

Celebrations in Toowoomba

An enormous attendance

Apart from the ordinary amusement provided for the public on New Year's Day, the citizens' quota to the celebration of the inauguration of the Commonwealth may be said to consist of a demonstration of the school children in the morning, the torchlight procession in the evening, followed by a grand concert, and individual efforts in the way of decoration, illuminations, and fireworks carried out by private citizens and business people ... never was there a happier day in the annals of Toowoomba.



The children's demonstration

As a spectacular effect the children's demonstration was one of the features ... The total number of children in the procession was in round numbers 2,400 ...

The route of the procession, which was lined with thousands of interested spectators, was by way of Ruthven-street and Campbell-street to the Royal Agricultural Society's Ground, where the schools were formed up in massed battalion facing the Agricultural Hall, from which addresses were to be delivered ... The National Anthem was then sung, to the accompaniment of the Gordon Band.

Mr. J. Fogarty, M.L.A, said he was pleased to see the children of Toowoomba had attended in such large numbers to do honor to the great occasion they were celebrating that day. Australia had now entered upon a new era and was now a united whole. In future, instead of describing ourselves as either Queenslanders, Victorians, or New South Welshmen, we would now one and all be Australians pure and simple ... and he hoped the children would cherish the medals they had received and would always respect the good old Union Jack, the emblem of liberty.

The Darling Downs Gazette, 3 January 1901.

The citizens' demonstration – decorations, illuminations and torchlight procession (part one)

The citizens' demonstration at night was a pronounced success ... A crown at the Queen's Hotel showed up prettily, and the decorations at the new Town Hall, prepared by the Gas Company, burned up very brilliantly all through the evening ...

Mr R. Renwick had a large canvass in front of his place, on which was a map of Australia, across which was written "One People, One Destiny," and it also bore the sentiment all could re-echo, "May federation prove prosperous."

... But when the procession arrived at the short section of Margaret-street between the Neil and Ruthven street intersections, the best illuminations on the whole route were found. From each tree on either side of the street Chinese lanterns were suspended, and gave a very picturesque appearance to the street.



The citizens' demonstration – decorations, illuminations and torchlight procession (part two)

[T]he general opinion of all who saw the illuminations on Tuesday evening was that the "Gazette" had eclipsed everything that had been previously seen in Toowoomba in this connection. The illuminations which were erected by Mr. R. Filshie consisted of the word "United" with the date 1901 running along the front of the balcony. This was surmounted by a representation of the Emu and the Kangaroo on either side of a plain shield, looking at each other instead of being turned away from each other as in the ordinary illustrations of the Australian shield ...

Rockets and crackers were discharged from scores of points of vantage, and Quong Sang let off such a fusilade of crackers and other fireworks just as the head of the procession was passing his premises that the Mounted Infantry had some difficulty in managing their horses ...

On arrival at the Town Hall the procession was disbanded in an incredibly short time, and hundreds of those taking part quietly found their way into the theatre, where a concert was to be held to terminate the festivities of the day.

The Darling Downs Gazette, 3 January 1901.

Commonwealth Day in Mackay

Commonwealth Day has come and gone and the inauguration of the federation of Australia has been accomplished. Here in Mackay, as elsewhere in Australia, the august event was celebrated with the heartiest enthusiasm. The weather was all that could be desired ...

Flags and banners floated on all sides; the various places of business in the principal streets were draped in holiday garb, while private citizens responded heartily to the request to decorate their houses.

As Alfred-street was reached from River and Carlyle streets the decorations became more imposing. Two triumphal arches, the first near the railway gates and the second at the entrance to the park, were notable and appropriate ...

Inscriptions proper to the day, expressing good wishes and voicing the unity of the destiny of the Australian people henceforth formed part of the triumphal arches ...

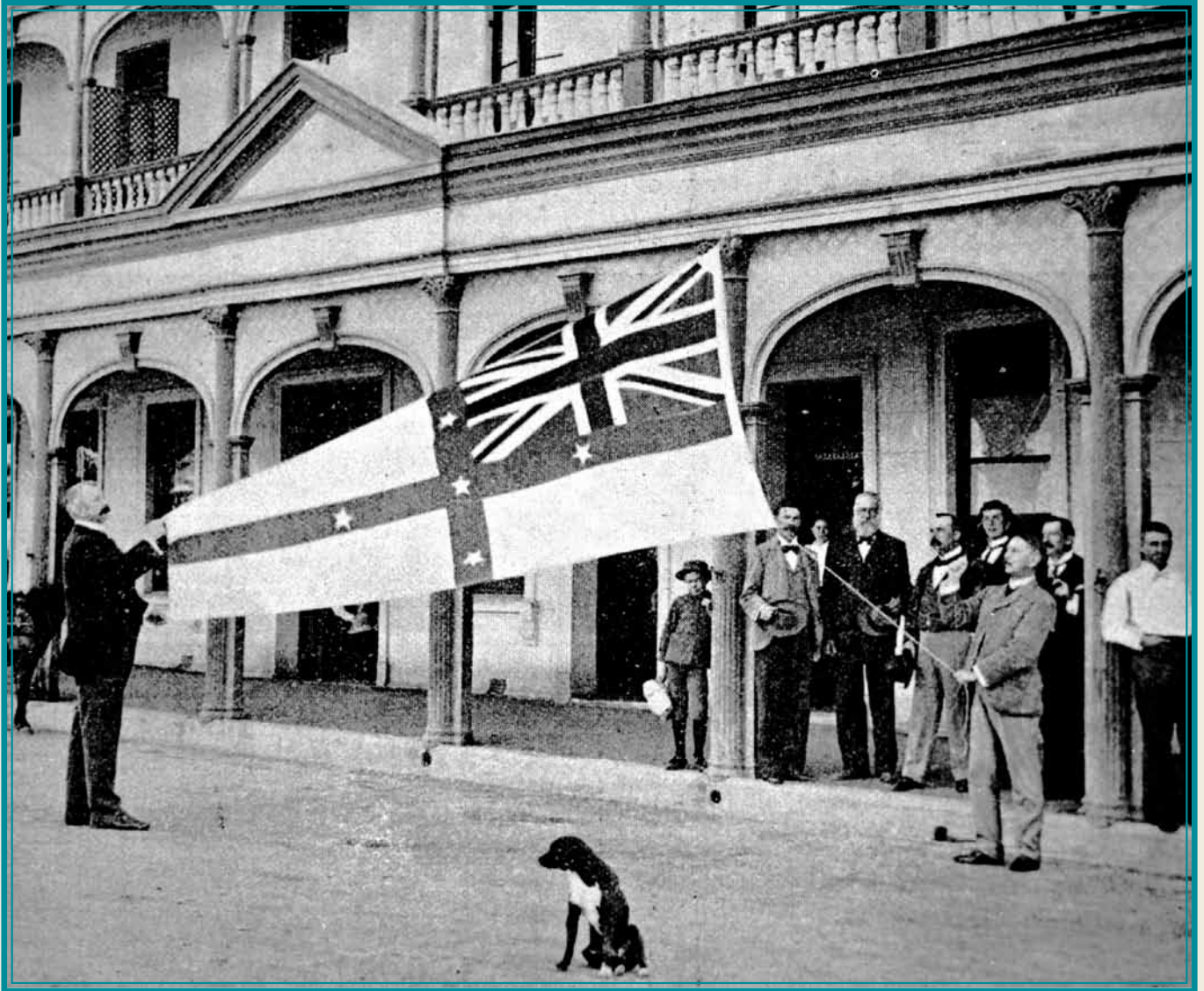
Here were also banners and flags. Here too was the flagstaff destined to bear the Commonwealth flag and near which the inaugural ceremonials took place.

[T]here being probably not less than 4,000 persons present. Promptly and deftly the children were marshalled into place, and the naval brigade, the mounted infantry, the infantry, the naval cadets, and the boys' brigade took up their position. Then came an imposing feature of the ceremonials, when the Mayoress hoisted the banner of federated Australia ...

[L]ater on in the afternoon the young people were made happy by contests and races in which monetary prize rewarded the successful ones. The merry-go-round was an unceasing source of pleasure, and a stream of children flowed on and off during the afternoon ... In the evening a large number of persons betook themselves to the park ... the numbers rendered by the Mackay brass band and the naval cadets' fife and drum band and a more or less successful corrobaree by certain ... aboriginal citizens of the commonwealth were appreciated and the evening passed pleasantly.

Mackay Chronicle, 4 January 1901.

Hoisting the federal flag, Townsville, 1899



State Library of Queensland, 111683.

Referendum results for Toowoomba and Mackay

Electorate	Voted 'yes'	Voted 'no'
Drayton and Toowoomba	869	1,084
Mackay	1,280	295

The Charters Towers Mining Standard, 4 September 1899.

RESOURCE SHEET 3

The new citizenship

The Hon. Sir S.W. Griffith

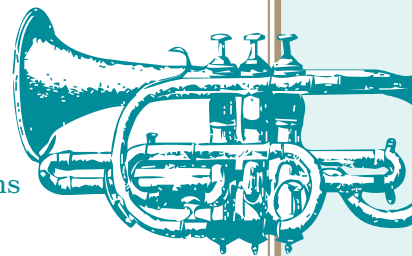
To-day Queensland ceases to bear the name of "Colony," and becomes "The State of Queensland in the Commonwealth of Australia." ... But not only the name is changed ... No Australian can henceforth say that anything Australian is no concern of his ...

[T]he people of the States of Australia no longer regard their neighbours in the other States as strangers and foreigners, but as members of the same household, affected by the same joys and sorrows ... Whatever mutual jealousies may have existed in the past between the lately existing Colonies ... I am confident that the general sentiment of Australian Unity will prevail ... Henceforth we are Australians first, then Queenslanders, but always Britons.

Extract from *The Brisbane Courier*, 1 January 1901.

'A Federal Song' (Extracts)

by George Essex Evans



*We have flung the challenge forward:
'Brothers, stand or fall as One!'*

*She is coming out to meet us
in the splendour of the Sun ...*

We can face the roughest weather

If we only hold together,

*Marching forward to the Future,
marching shoulder-firm together,*

For the Nation yet to be.

*All the greyness of the dawning,
all the mists are over-past.*

*In the glory of the morning
we shall see Her face at last ...*

He who sang, 'She yet will be',

He shall hail her, crowned and free!

*Could we break the land asunder
God has girdled with the Sea?*

For the Flag is floating o'er us,

And the star of Hope before us,

*From the desert to the ocean,
brothers, lift the mighty chorus*

For Australian Unity.

George Essex Evans, *The Secret Key and Other Verses*,
Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1906.

