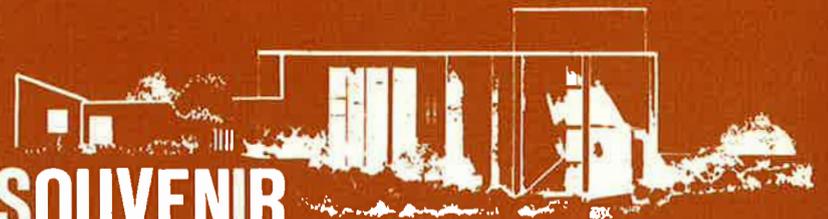


GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE OFFICIAL SOUVENIR





Gympie, Queensland.



GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE

OFFICIALLY OPENED

THURSDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 1977

BY

THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

THE HON. JOH. BJELKE-PETERSEN, M.L.A.

GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE OFFICIAL SOUVENIR

CREDITS:

DEvised BY: N.E. & D.A. LOMAS, GOLDEN CITY PUBLICATIONS

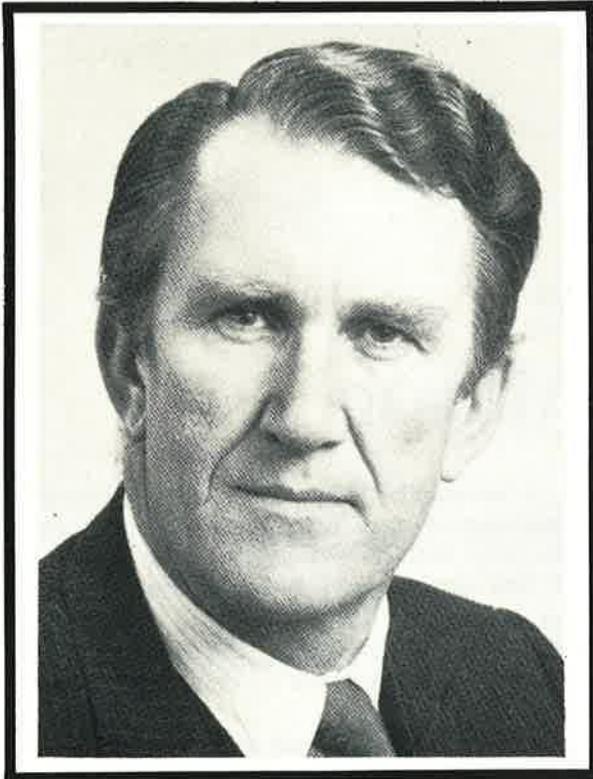
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Executive, Gympie City Council, The Mayoress' Charity Committee, Mr W.E. Mulholland, Gympie Historical Society, Mr Keith Brown, and Mr Bernie Crawford of Murray Studios for photographs, and the many citizens of Gympie who made information available for this publication.



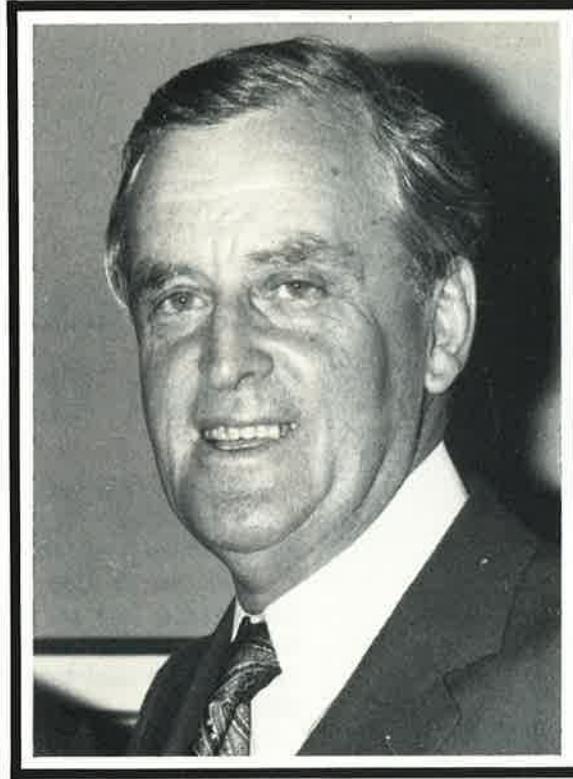
A Message from the Prime Minister

I am delighted to extend my warmest personal greetings to the Gympie Civic Centre — and to the people of Gympie on this memorable day. Gympie can be justifiably proud of its new Civic Centre. It will stand as a permanent reminder of the faith that the people of Gympie have in the future of their city.

I have no doubt that the city's Civic Centre will provide its citizens with the finest services and that it will become a centre of true community involvement.

I look forward to talking with Mayor Venardos in a live telephone hook-up on the opening day. With best wishes,

RT. HON. MALCOLM FRASER



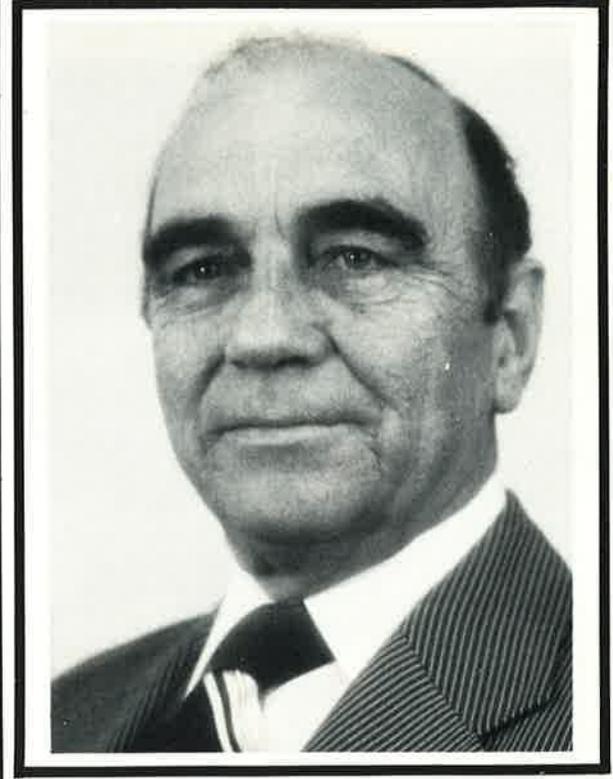
A Message from the Premier

Residents of Gympie and its surrounding district can indeed be proud of their new civic centre. It is significant that the opening of this magnificent community complex coincides with Gympie's gala Gold Rush Week and 110th anniversary celebrations.

The splendid amenities and services provided will substantially enrich Gympie's cultural life.

Gympie, in keeping with other progressive cities, has amply demonstrated its determination to provide civic services that are second-to-none.

HON. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN



A Message from the Member for Gympie

Nobody builds Colosseums anymore. They're not needed. Instead, they try to build places that 'work', that fit into the environment, and respond to the changing needs of the owners.

The Gympie Civic Centre 'works' well: it is a comfortable, useable, functional centre that will meet the changing needs of the city's individuals and organisations. It is a building of which we can all be proud, and for which the Gympie City Council must be commended.

HON. A.M. HODGES



A Message from the Mayor

Gympie is a proud city - a progressive city - and most positively a friendly city. The commissioning of our Civic Centre demonstrates the solidarity of this golden city and its residents. Our standing is enhanced in the ranks of fine and beautiful cities - not only in Queensland but in this great nation of Australia - as a city which has, in addition to a splendid social environment, the full spectrum of amenities and facilities creating an atmosphere of deep community spirit.

Our tourist attractions, parks and gardens are fast becoming the envy of many communities. There is no doubt that Australia is going through a period of radical change. I believe that those communities which are not prepared to face the challenge of change in attitudes, in traditional manner of employment and marketing will be the ones disadvantaged in the future.

Gympie's preparedness to accept change is amply demonstrated by the fine and worthwhile projects currently underway in the city. While the nation faces grave economic problems, Gympie continues to demonstrate her stability.

1977 is an historic year - the year in which we open the doors of Gympie Civic Centre to the City of Gympie.

Venardos.

Ald. M.J. VENARDOS
MAYOR OF GYMPIE

Gympie City Council

(1976-1979)

**GYMPIE CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:**

**P.J. LANDY, A.I.M.A.,
Town Clerk**

**P.B. DINNEEN, Dip. C.E.,
A.M.I.E. (Aust),
City Engineer**

**R.W. IRVINE, A.I.M.A.,
Deputy Town Clerk**

**City Inspector and
Building Surveyor:
V.K. BRADY, Dip R.S.H.,
A.A.I.H.S., A.A.I.B.**

**Clerk of Works, Gympie
Civic Centre:
J.I. LOCCISANO**



Ald. M. J. Venardos — Mayor



Ald. D. A. Brown



Ald. V. E. Fitzpatrick



Ald. E. J. S. Grice



Ald. J. M. Kerr



Ald. J. Lawrence — Deputy Mayor



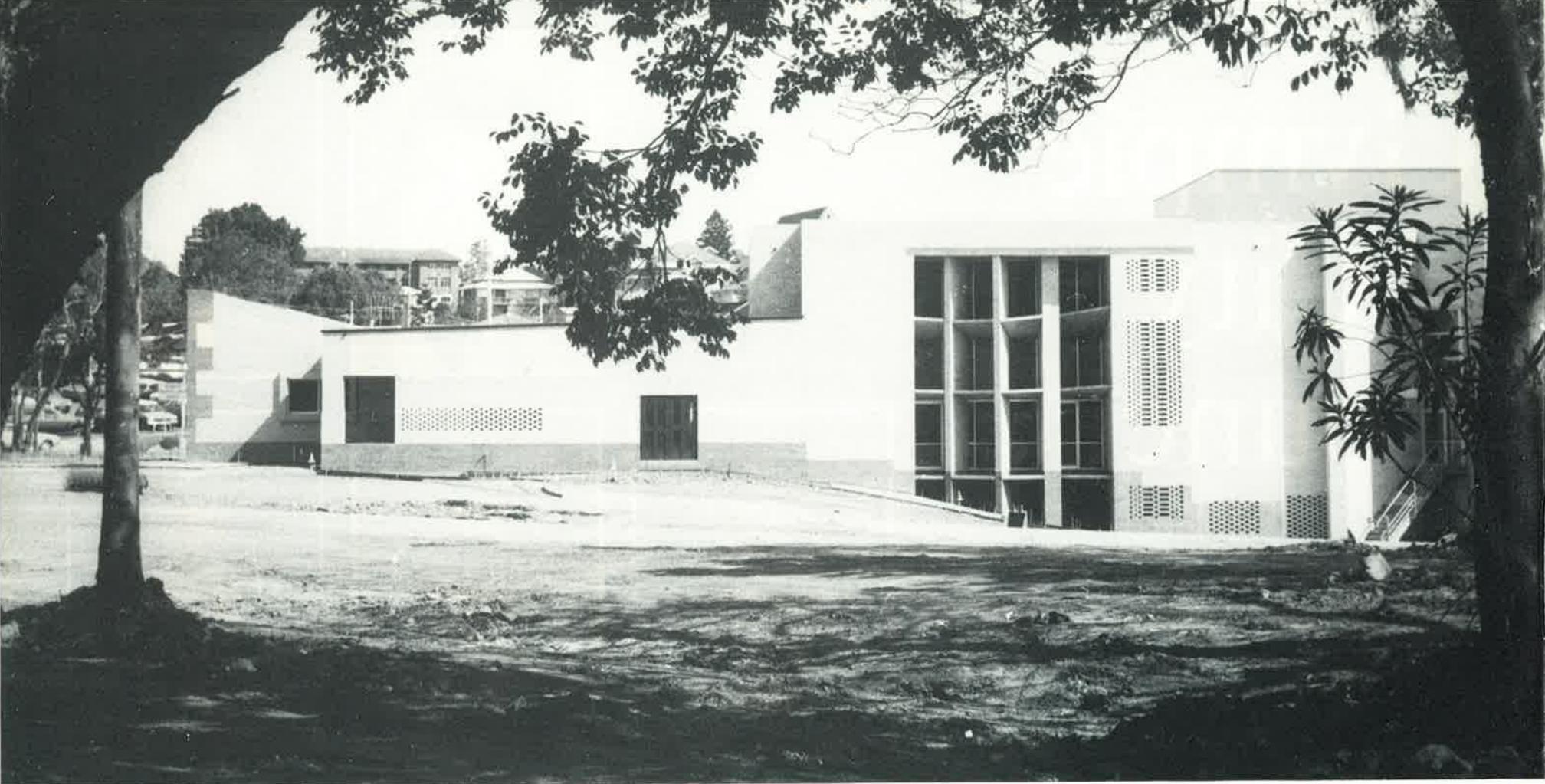
Ald. J. McLellan



Ald. L. J. Rees



Ald. W. H. Runge



GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE

GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE

A civic centre for Gympie ceased to be just a talking point when, about 10 years ago, the Gympie City Council decided to construct a complex on Caledonian Hill, next to the Town Hall.

The architects, Goodsir, Baker & Wilde were appointed. Several plans were submitted, and uncertainty developed as to the suitability of the Caledonian Hill site.

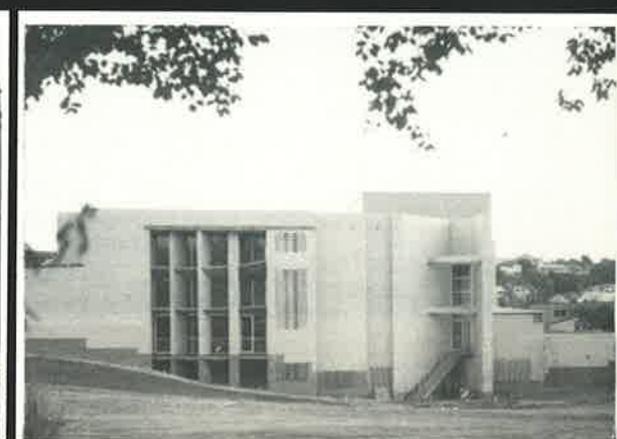
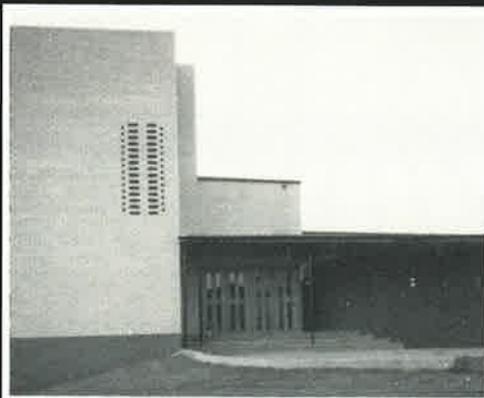
A council committee considered several potential sites, reducing the prospects to Caledonian Hill, the corner of Calton and Caledonian Hills, opposite the town hall, and the old gas company site in Mellor Street.

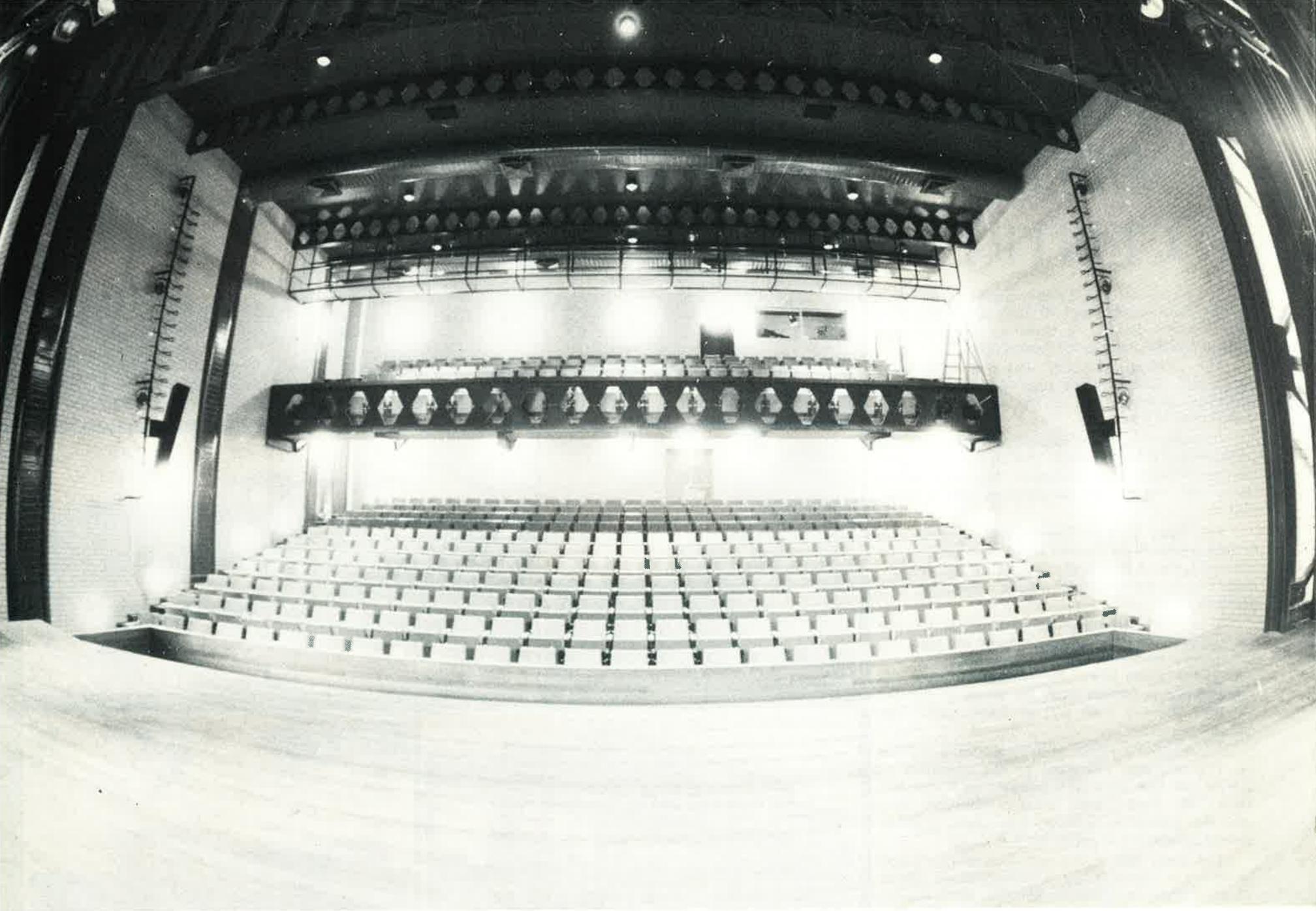
The Apex Club of Gympie had, in 1968, submitted a scheme to Council based on a plan for the gasworks site. A deputation led by Dr David Nimmo pointed out the desperate need for adequate civic facilities.

After careful consideration of the three sites, the council purchased the old gas company and adjoining properties. This area offered tremendous scope for expansion, ample space for car parking, and the opportunity to remove from the centre of the city the high chimney stack and gas works, which had become obsolete.

A preliminary report and design for a building on that site was submitted by the architects on 2.8.74 and final plans were accepted by the council on 1.5.75. Tenders were called in November 1975, and the successful tenderer, Robertson Brothers, started excavations in April, 1976.

The major part of this ambitious scheme is now complete. Provision for a self-contained Senior Citizens/Meals on Wheels building has State Government approval. This final stage of the civic centre complex will be constructed as soon as the Federal Government makes their share of the subsidy available.





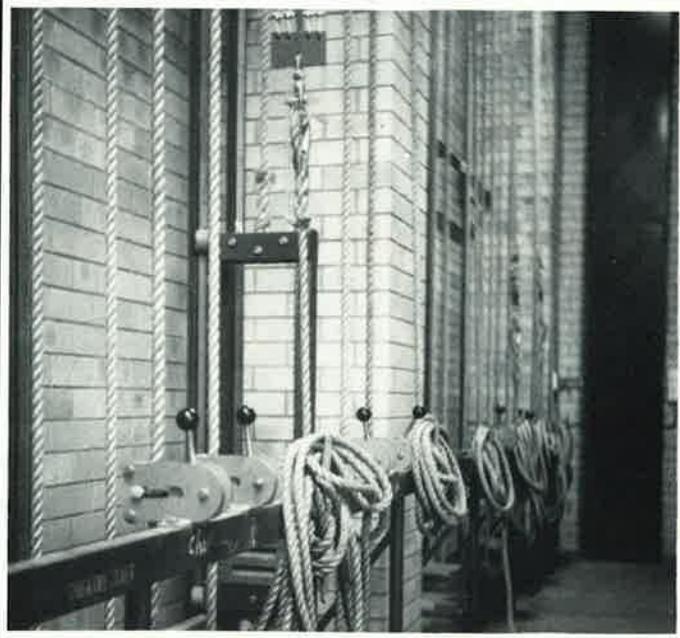
Civic Theatre

The Civic Theatre provides for all performing arts - drama, ballet, choral, symphony concerts, opera and musicals. Stage facilities, lighting, and sound equipment is of a standard equal to the larger metropolitan theatres. The theatre decor is stark, with large areas of exposed brick, bright red upholstery, and brilliant colour on all exposed equipment.

The theatre seats 400 on the main floor and gallery. A counterweight system allowing for up to twenty drops equips the stage area, and there is an orchestra pit for large musical productions.

Dressing rooms are planned so that the theatre and auditorium have independent use of both male and female dressing rooms without noise disturbance. For larger performances, all dressing rooms can be used either by the theatre or auditorium.

Front of house facilities include entrance, foyer, box office, court yard and bar.

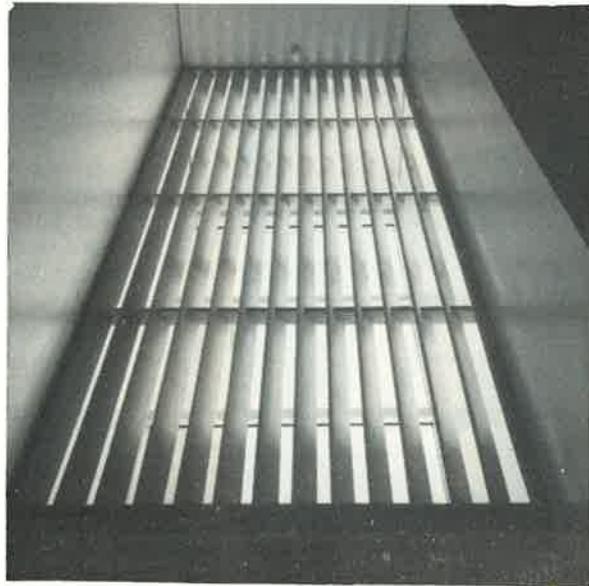
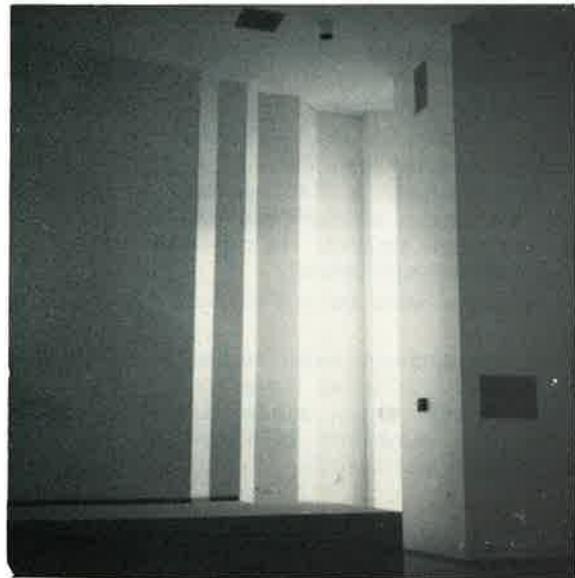
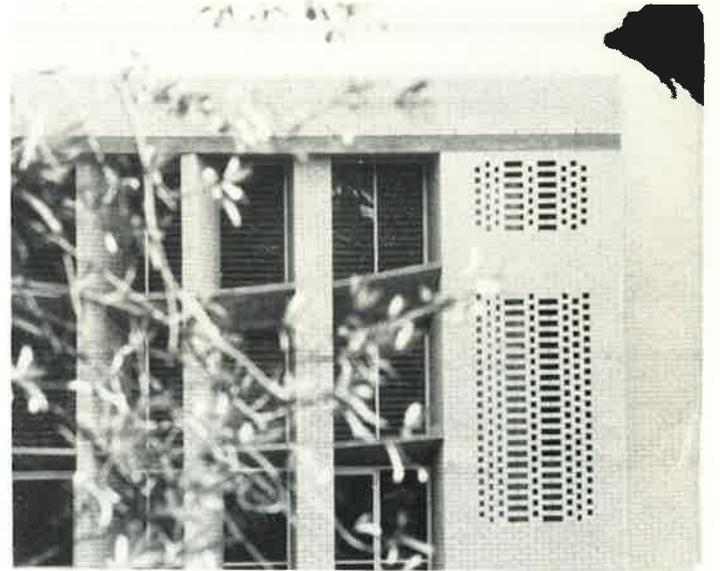
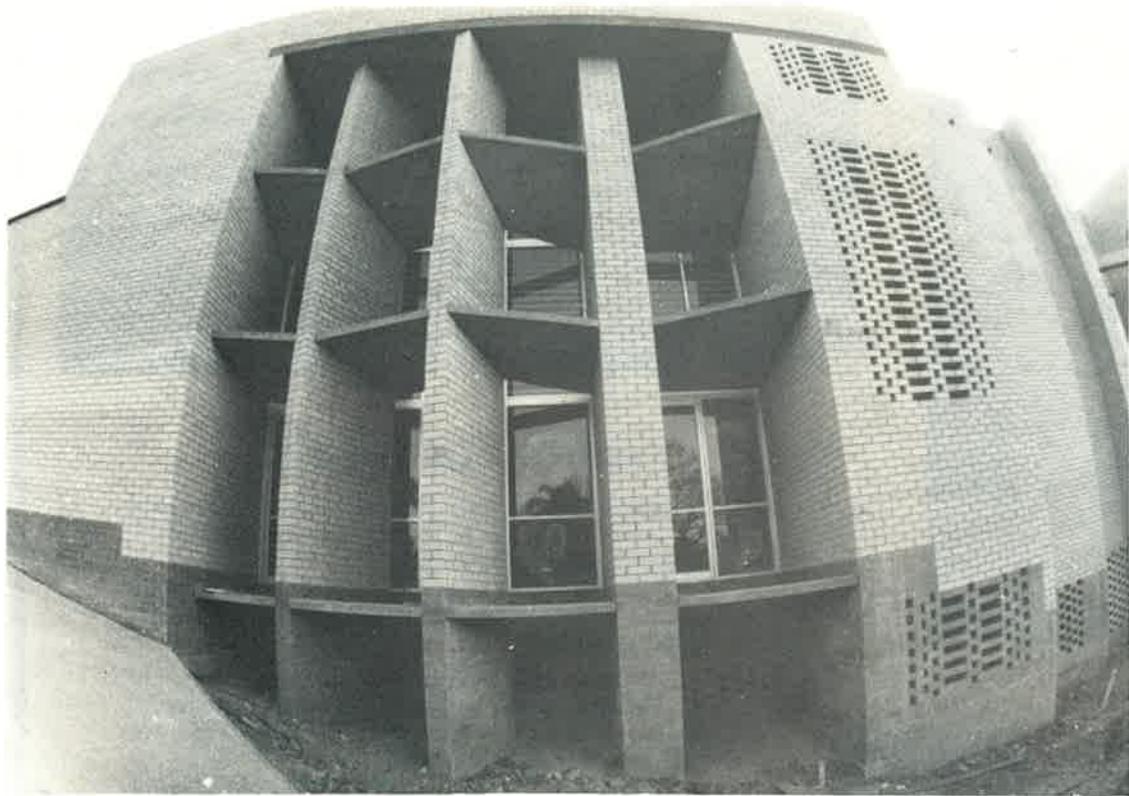




Civic Auditorium

The Civic Centre Auditorium, providing for many diverse activities, is a non-directional white space achieving definition and dignity through the organisation of light. It will provide for conventions, meetings annual balls, indoor recreation, exhibitions, social functions, symphony concerts and large audience performances.

The auditorium has a small stage and main floor with gallery seating above. It opens into the foyer and supper room for large gatherings. It also provides adequate space and height for indoor recreation.





HISTORY OF THE SITE

Some say the first sizeable find of gold made by James Nash in 1867 was at Nash's gully, adjacent to the new Civic Centre.

It seems fitting that the complex, the communal heart of Gympie, should stand on the very birthplace of the City.

The civic centre is situated on an aggregation of 13 separate parcels of land - 12 miner's homestead lease, and one freehold property. The earliest lease, No. 690, was taken up in 1883 by Mr Jacob Olsen.

Gympie City Council began purchasing the land as early as 1973. Lease No. 5275 had been acquired from the City Electric Light Co. in 1943.

Three of the 13 blocks were the site of the old gasworks which began production in 1884 and supplied gas to Gympie for 91 years.

The end of an era came in June 1975 when the gas was turned off. As the then Major (Ald. J.E. Kidd) turned off the supply, a siren sounded. It was built in to the line as an alarm and operated only when the gas supply stopped. No one present could remember ever hearing it before.

The Gympie works were the last in Australia to use coal gas.

Other properties purchased were the Daly residence, acquired 1977, Cullinanes property, purchased 1973, J. Jackson & Co. purchased 1973, the Douglas property purchased 1974, and the Murdoch property purchased in 1975.





MAYORESS' CHARITY COMMITTEE:
 From top: Mesdames M. Grice, M. Kerr,
 D. Landy, M. Hammond,
 M. Skeldon, M. Carr, U. Madill, K. Kerr,
 M. Rickards,
 A. Dinneen, D. Turner, E. Molloy, G. Lohse,
 F. Beattie, E. Smerdon, D. Crane, N. Irvine.



C. Smith-Goodwin, M. Rice,
 B. Keogh, M. Brown.



The Mayoress, Mrs. Tina Venardos

Mayoress' Command Performance

GYMPIE CIVIC THEATRE

8 pm

THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER, 1977

LET US ENTERTAIN

MAYORESS' COMMAND

13TH OCT

OPENING "LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU" – PAIGE HILDITCH

SHARON HOWES SCHOOL OF DANCE

MELANIE RICKETTS

RELIGIOUS SEGMENT –

ZODIAC PLAYERS

CATHERINE CARR

ONE WAY CRUSADERS

ROBERT RICKETTS

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
COLLEGE CHOIR

COMEDY

MOLLOY SCHOOL OF DANCE

GAY LOHSE

GYMPIE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

COMEDY

IMBIL STATE SCHOOL DRAMA GROUP

LES DAVIES

DIANNE WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF DANCE

ARION SINGERS

GYMPIE LITTLE THEATRE

GYMPIE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

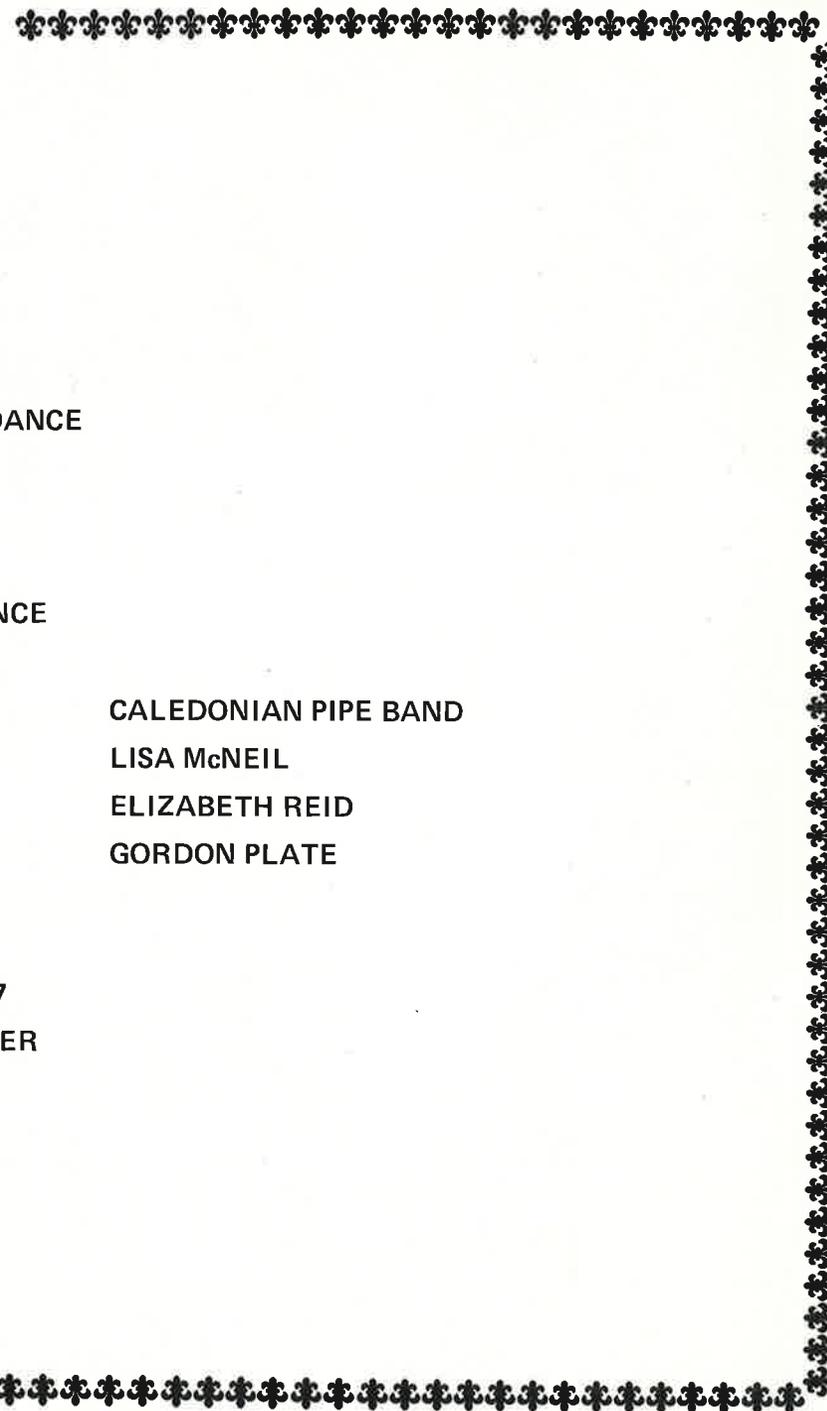
Comperes –

Stage Managers –

Lighting –

Make-Up –

ERTAIN YOU



PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

NOVEMBER, 1977

Rick Patterson
Peter Darch
Anita Ricketts
Ian Wenzel
Jim Adams
Nev Ashford
Mal Tincker
Brian Greaney
Trevor Charteris
Donna Lyden

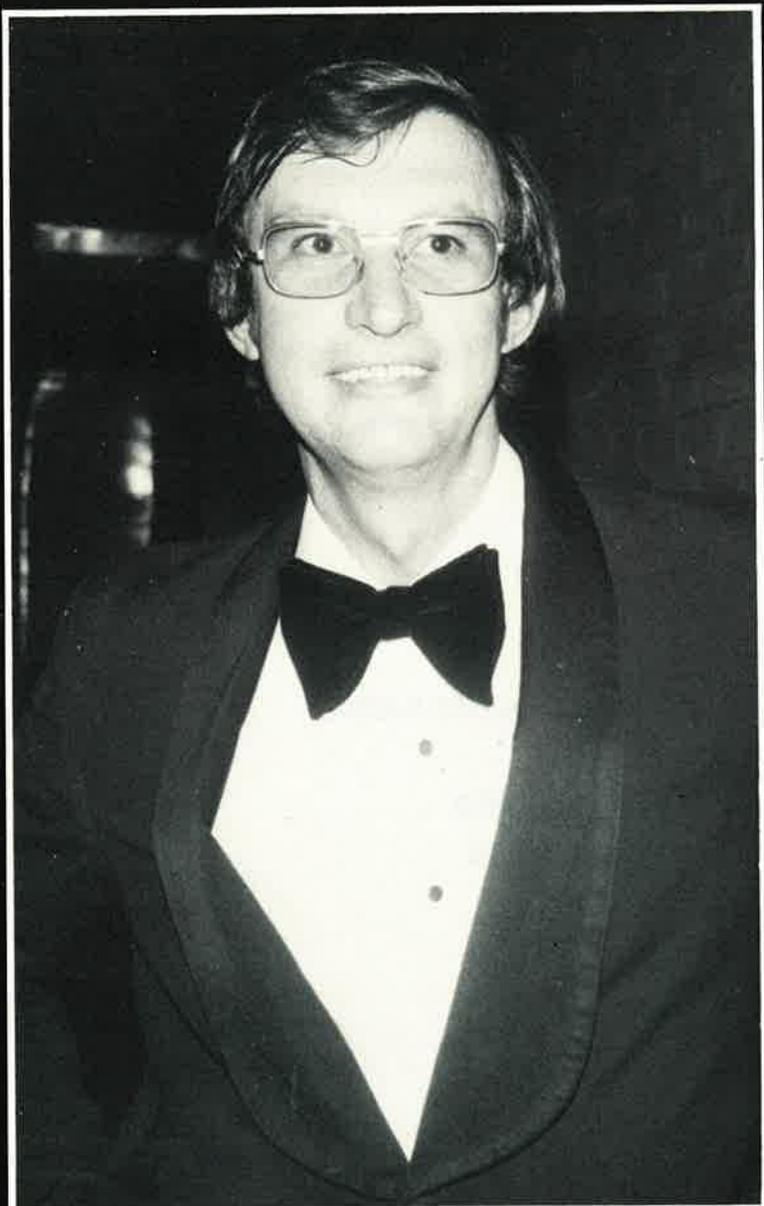
GYMPIE MUNICIPAL BAND
RUDI ZYLSTRA, DAPHNE HORNE
DIANNE WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF DANCE
SUE ALLEN
GYMPIE MUSICAL UNION
COMEDY
SHARON HOWES SCHOOL OF DANCE
BARBARA REED
SCOTTISH SEGMENT —

CALEDONIAN PIPE BAND
LISA McNEIL
ELIZABETH REID
GORDON PLATE

COMEDY
MOLLOY DANCERS
CROWNING OF MISS GYMPIE 1977
BARRY LORENSEN, BAMBI BAXTER
COMEDY
WEBB BROTHERS



*Let Us
Entertain You*



Peter Blyth, Director



Greg Brennan, percussionist



Enid Carroll, pianist



Donna Lomas, pianist



Harry Vandebroek, bassist



Les Davies



Melanie Ricketts



Elizabeth Reid



Webb Bros.



Barbara Reed



Dianne Williams School of Dance



Robert Ricketts



One Way Crusaders



Charlie's Aunt — Theatre Restaurant



The Gondoliers — Gympie Musical Union



Tom Sawyer — Gympie Musical Union



Oliver — Gympie Musical Union



Maid of the Mountains — Gympie Musical Union

GYMPIE MUSICAL UNION

The Gympie Musical & Dramatic Union was formed in 1947 - originally to participate in eisteddfodau. Among its early achievements was the Madrigal Competition at the Qld. Eisteddfod in 1953. The Musical Union formed the Gympie Musical and Dramatic Union Eisteddfod which was handed over to the present Gympie Eisteddfod Committee.

The general aim of the Gympie Musical Union is to nourish the artist present to some degree in every person. This is achieved through development of awareness of music, response to music, and capacity to express oneself in music.

The present conductor is Brian Goldberg, with deputy conductors Peta Goldberg and Garnet Alcorn. Brian has produced and conducted a number of musicals that must be a record for a provincial city.

Gympie Musical Union's first conductor was Allan Johnston, followed by Allan Jones, Earl Andersen, Doris Sanday, David Laver, Wendy Skopp and others.

The first musical produced was "Trial by Jury" in 1947. The Union boasts having presented over sixty stage shows including "Salad Days" (1966) "Toad of Toad Hall" (1955) and "White Horse Inn" (1961) - all to be presented again in Gympie this year.

The Union has its own Theatrette, its own orchestra, dramatic section, ballet and junior choir. The last live stage show in the Olympia Theatre, G.M.U.'s "The Maid of the Mountains" was a tribute to a great Australian - Gladys Moncrieff.

Among past members are listed Michael Azar, State Opera Company 1951 - male lead in "Rose Marie" and "The Desert Song" in 1974; Bruce Barry, lead in several dramas of the 1950's, male lead in "Funny Girl" for J.C. Williamson's now working in T.V; Noel Cislawski - Speech, Sydney; Margaret Wellings, "Free as Air" and "Annie Get your Gun" 1967; George Roberts, "White Horse Inn"; Barry Robbins, "Half a Sixpence", "King and I" etc. and Lynette Williams "No No Nanette".

The Gympie Musical Union is currently in rehearsal for the staging of "White Horse Inn" at the Gympie Civic Theatre in November.

ZODIAC PLAYERS

A nucleus of 8 young people formed the Zodiac Players in September 1971 to encourage an awareness of theatre among young people.

Zodiacs is basically a young group, although members ages range from 16 to 70. Zodiacs encourage development of experience by giving equal opportunity in leading roles.

The major Broadway and London musicals of the last decade have been brought to Gympie by the group: "My Fair Lady" 1975, and "Fiddler on the Roof" 1976 were major productions.

With 100 active members, Zodiac Players are one of the largest provincial amateur theatrical groups in Queensland.

Director Peter Blyth keeps abreast of latest trends in theatre by making regular visits to Sydney and Melbourne to take in the shows.

Zodiacs are the only group outside the Melbourne metropolitan area using costumes from J.C. Williamson's original productions.

Their latest production, "Salad Days" was the first stage production in the new Civic Theatre.

The group has been offered first Australian amateur rights to produce "Irene" in the new year.

Backdrops in the Mayoress' Command Performance have been loaned to Zodiac Players by J.W. Williamson's Theatres Ltd.



No No Nanette — Zodiac Players



Move Over Mrs. Markham — Zodiac Players



My Fair Lady — Zodiac Players



No No Nanette — Zodiac Players

GYMPIE LITTLE THEATRE



Egad - What a Cad
Gympie Little Theatre



The Removalists - Gympie Little Theatre

Gympie Little Theatre came into being during the early stages of 1971. Since the 1960's virtually no straight drama had been performed locally and the feeling grew that a group was needed in the town to consolidate the position of drama.

1972 brought another first for Gympie Little Theatre - a melodrama theatre restaurant.

The second half of the year saw a return to high drama with Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

The next theatre restaurant at the Jockey Club Hotel was Charlene Gould's brilliant "Dirty Work at the Crossroads". The group moved on to a festival of one act plays.

Then N.I.D.A. (National Institute of Dramatic Art) agreed to send one of their graduate directors, Mark Gould to Gympie to direct Lawler's "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll".

In 1975, Little Theatre combined with Zodiac Players for a melodrama/music hall production, and N.I.D.A. director Allison Richards directed "Jesters" Gympie's first theatre in the round at the saleyards.

Highlight of 1976 for the group was the Australian tragedy "The Removalists" produced by Barbara Duncan.

The most successful theatre restaurant to date, "Dimboola", was a combined effort with Zodiac Players. Directed by Charlene Gould and supported by cast and crew of more than 50, it played to a record 8 full houses.

ARION SINGERS



The Gallenanny Girls Go Gallivanting

In 1963 a performance of Handel's Messiah was given by Nathan Qol Male Choir with female choristers of the district. Soprano soloist for the performance was Elizabeth Reid who had recently come to Gympie. An approach was made to Mrs Reid to form a ladies' choir, and the first practice was held in February 1964. The choir gives two performances each year, from minstrel shows to opera. They have been responsible for bringing first-class guest artists to Gympie and give a platform to Gympie's own talented young people.

Arion Singers perform regularly for charity

At present the choir is rehearsing for a November production of Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado".



The Gay Nineties - Arion Singers

GYMPIE CALEDONIAN PIPE BAND

Originally formed in the 1930's, the Gympie & District Caledonian Pipe Band underwent a revival in 1955, which produced a playing band and a number of learners.

In 1962 the Pipe Band won the C Grade Queensland Championship contest at Mackay, and this year was successful at Kingaroy and Maryborough.

Tutors are Don Loch, piper, Hugh Johnston, piper, and Geo. Skennerton, side drummer. There are now twelve players and 15 learners who meet for social practice each week.



GYMPIE MUNICIPAL BAND

The Gympie City Band formed in the late eighteen hundreds, and enjoyed success in band competition with conductors Moulder, Percival, Geary and Jefferson in the 'thirties. Under conductors W. Ryder Snr and F. Affoo, and later N. Henstridge, they won the Coronation Contest in Brisbane in 1937.

After the war, the band became the Gympie Municipal Band, and in the fifties went into recess.

The Gympie Municipal Band reformed in 1975 under conductor M. Deeley, and the present conductor T. Laycock. The band is increasing in size and is training a number of learners.



GYMPIE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Earlier this year, a group of interested musicians formed Gympie Youth Orchestra to give young instrumentalists experience in orchestral playing.

Up to twenty young people attend a weekly workshop and orchestral session at James Nash High School.

The youth orchestra is making its first public appearance at the Mayoress' Command Performance.

CULTURAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

A committee set up at the time of planning for the new civic centre complex, the Gympie Cultural Co-Ordinating Committee operates as a representative body for the cultural groups in Gympie.

Through the Committee, groups are able to liaise and plan for local and touring productions, and to keep abreast of all cultural activities in the City.



Jim and Bronwyn Molloy — Molloy School of Dance & Department — Gympie.



Dianne Williams School of Dance Gympie.



Christian Brothers College Choir — Gympie.

Gympie Camera Club
CYRIL WEBSTER photograph



Sharon Howes School of Dance — Gympie

WEBB BROTHERS

Gympie and the Webb Brothers are two names that have become synonymous in the world of country music.

The brothers, Berard, Fabian and Marius have been singing as a group since 1957. They have recorded ten albums and ten singles.

Their most popular and biggest hit, "The Call of the Bell Bird" was written by themselves. Their ABC "Big Country" television special featured the family property "Thornside" at Widgee, near Gympie.

The Webb Brothers have made TV appearances in most capital cities of Australia and New Zealand, and also appeared on Canadian TV on a show recorded in New Zealand.

Their greatest achievement to date was the best Australasian Country Group Award for 1976, with "The Palmer River Song" from their "Live in New Zealand" album. The Webb Brothers will present their own composition "Hail the Man Nash" at the official opening of Gympie's Civic Centre.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN CIVIC CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ald. E.J.S. Grice

To say that I am delighted that the first and major part of our civic centre complex has been completed would be a master piece of understatement and I feel sure my feelings are shared by the vast majority of Gympie citizens and our kinfolk in the surrounding district, of which Gympie is the cultural and commercial heart.

I have been associated with the move for a civic centre in Gympie since its inception, and it is a wonderful feeling after all these years to stand now and survey this outstanding and historical monument in brick and steel.

It is a rewarding experience far transcending any other form of recompense for the many years of pressures - tensions - argument and resolute purpose from which this building emanated and was achieved. It remains now only for us to complete the complex with our senior citizens/meals on wheels section for which building plans have been approved to have succeeded in our total objective.

As individuals and as a community we are only as good and as successful as our belief in our ability to succeed and our willingness to back this belief positively with initiative and effort.

To this point we have succeeded as a community, and our civic centre reflects in no small measure not only achievement but, perhaps with a touch of romanticism, a rebirth on approximately the site where Gympie was born in 1867 with the discovery of gold.

This is our Civic Centre - the place where we will get together to share our talents and enjoy communication with one another. We must make the most of every opportunity to use the facilities to the full, and take this community spirit wholly into our lives; to pull together as a team and to realise our full and exciting potential in the cultural social, rural and commercial development of Gympie.

Ald. Eric J.S. Grice
Chairman, Civic Centre Planning
& Management Committee,
GYMPIE CITY COUNCIL

THE ARCHITECTS Goodsir, Baker & Wilde



The foundation practice of Goodsir Baker & Wilde Pty. Ltd. was established by Mr David B. Goodsir F.R.A.I.A. in 1945.

David Goodsir has made several visits to Britain, Europe and the United States of America where he carried out building design and construction studies.

Mr Bruce D. Goodsir B. Arch. (Hons.) joined the firm in 1974 following four years overseas studying the development of the theory of modern architecture in Europe and U.S. and the development of modern architecture in the U.S.A. He was appointed a director in 1976.

Mr Ian R. White B. Arch. who has also been involved in the Gympie Civic Centre project, joined Goodsir Baker Wilde Pty. Ltd. in 1975.

THE BUILDERS Robertson Bros.

The Gympie Civic Centre is the biggest contract undertaken to date by Gympie building firm, Robertson Brothers. Keith and Lindsay Robertson were extremely pleased to win the contract as they were assured in themselves that they could give the Gympie City Council a building to be proud of.

Robertson Bros. formed a partnership in 1952 when they came to Gympie from Victoria. They started cottage building, and over the past 15 years concentrated primarily on commercial and industrial contracts. Gympie buildings built by the firm include the new Post Office, Winston House Home for the Aged, Commonwealth Offices in Mellor Street, Nolan's shop and office complex, New outpatients building at Gympie Hospital, the P. & C. Great Hall and new library at Gympie High School, and major extensions to the old Gympie Post Office.

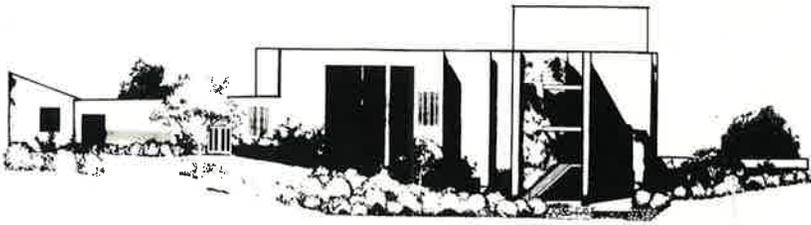
They are proud of the fact that 90% of work on Gympie Civic Centre was carried out by local tradesmen and sub-contractors.

Robertson Bros. Foreman of Works, John Reed, who was in charge of the entire construction programme, has been with the firm for 18 years, and was, at that time, their first apprentice.

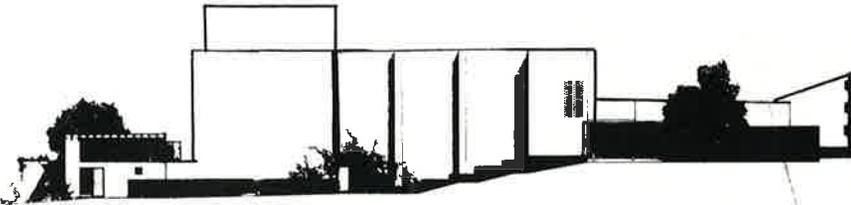
Keith and Lindsay Robertson are pleased to have worked on this project under the direction of architects Goodsir, Baker & Wilde, with whom they have been associated on four previous constructions. They compliment foreman, John Reed and all employees on this building.



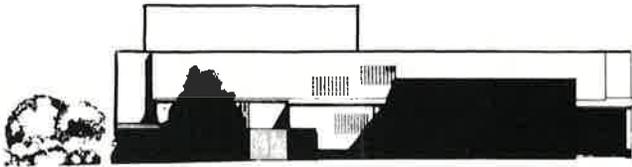
GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE



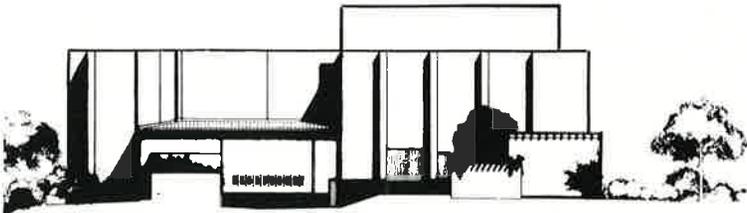
NORTH ELEVATION



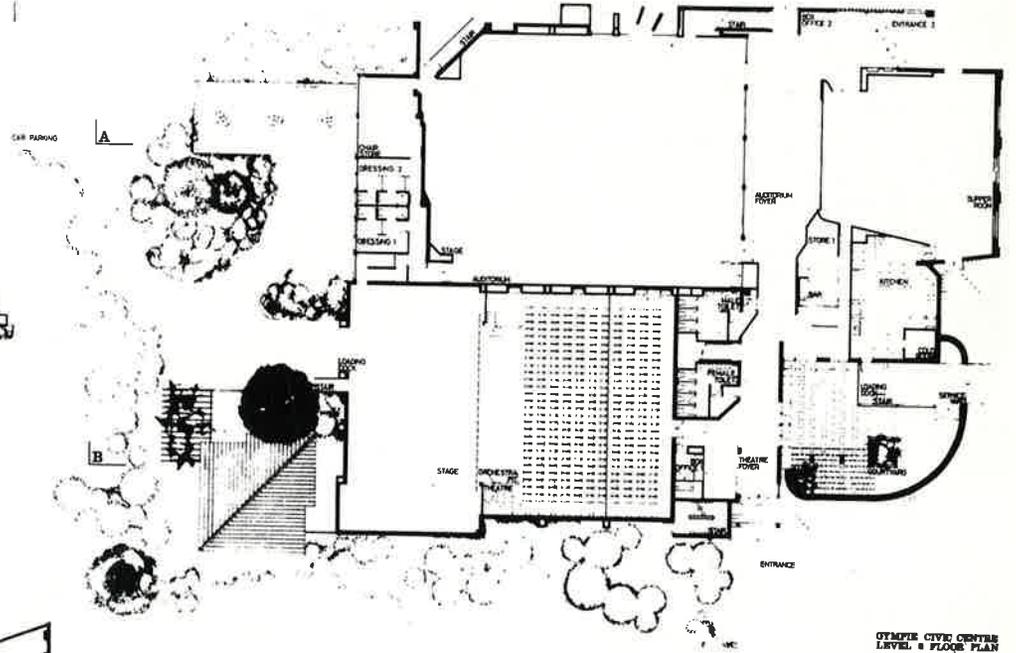
SOUTH ELEVATION



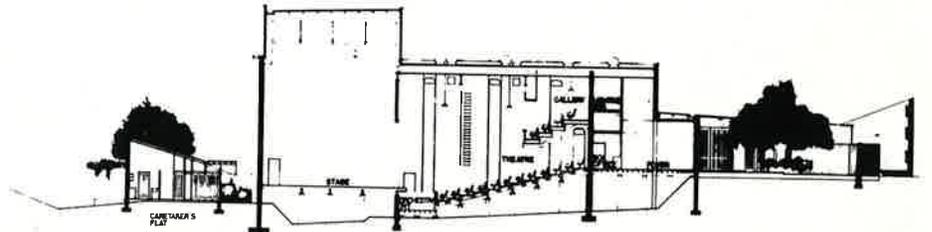
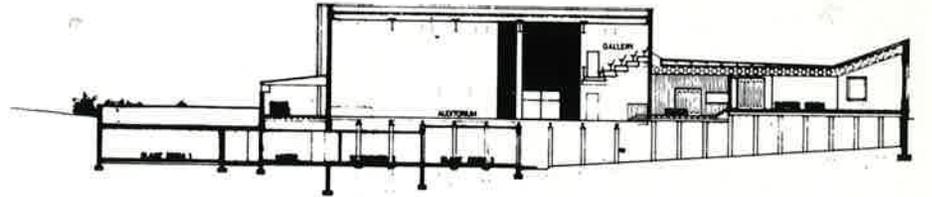
EAST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



GYMPIE CIVIC CENTRE
LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN





the carpet

The Civic Centre carpet design is a composite of a standard contemporary pattern and a mining theme. In rich gold tones for the foyer and supper room, and contrasting deep red for the theatre, the pattern depicts a golden nugget, a miner, a miner's lantern, Miner's pick and pan, and a poppet head.

The carpet is commercial weight axminster, supplied by Brisbane Floorcovering Agencies, and laid by the Gympie firm, Big Bargain Furnishers.



the crest

Colin Blumson, an artist and a craftsman, is responsible for the City's crest which adorns the new Civic Centre. The work is based on the official crest and is cast in bronze tone fibreglass.

Before modelling the crest in clay, Colin consulted with Gympie City Council and Mr W.E. Mulholland of the Gympie Historical Society, and he visited the Gympie Historical Museum to inspect mining implements and photographs of the era.

(Above) Colin Blumson is pictured presenting his mould for the Queen's Coat of Arms to the former Governor of Qld., Sir Colin Hannah.



Autographs



Mining Industry, Gympie, Queensland.

