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FIRST TERRY FOX RUN "DOWNUNDER" BIG SUCCESS

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA -- 15 SEPTEMBER 1988 --
The spirit of Terry Fox continues, as Australia joined in Terry's "Marathon of Hope" to find a cure for cancer. Nearly 3,000 people ran, walked, pushed and wheeled in the first Terry Fox Run "downunder", September 11, at World EXPO 88 in Brisbane.

The Terry Fox Run is an event sponsored by the Government of British Columbia as part of the B.C. Week celebrations at the Canada Pavilion, at World EXPO 88. The Canada Pavilion is one of the top two attractions and is billed as a "must see", receiving capacity crowds of over 12,000 a day, amounting to over 1.5 million visitors since EXPO 88 opened on April 30.

British Columbia's Premier, Bill Vander Zalm, Canada's Commissioner-General at EXPO 88, Rick Hansen, and B.C.'s Commissioner at EXPO 88, Bill Lewarne were on hand to launch the Run.

Joe Jones who has lost one leg to cancer, ran the 5km course with the help of crutches. Iris Keene, 80, finished the 10km course to a standing ovation. The teenage cancer association, CANTEEN enrolled some twenty people. Families with strollers, fun-runners from across Queensland, wheelchair athletes and hundreds of walkers took part.

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The Terry Fox Run was selected by the Government of British Columbia as its main EXPO 88 event to leave a permanent legacy of Canada's participation in World EXPO 88.

The Chairman of the Queensland Cancer Fund, Mr. David Lambert, said British Columbia's commitment to the Terry Fox Run was an enormous contribution to the on-going battle against cancer in Queensland and Australia.

"The Run provided an opportunity for people across Queensland to participate along with all EXPO 88 visitors. Terry Fox's "Marathon of Hope" was an inspiration to everyone, and we welcome British Columbia's generous commitment to launching the Terry Fox Run in Australia", he said.

As a result of Canadian support, this year, the Queensland Cancer Fund is committed to staging the Terry Fox Run annually. The State of Victoria has also expressed interest in organizing future Terry Fox Runs.

Australia's first "Marathon of Hope" serves as a launching pad for Canada's 8th Annual Terry Fox Run scheduled across the country next Sunday, 18 September.

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