

CELEBRATION TIME

Opening day for plaza

Thousands of citizens crowded Martin Place yesterday when the Lord Mayor (Ald. McDermott) officially opened the traffic-free, pedestrians-only precinct.

Thousands more crowded windows in the tall buildings lining the plaza.

Mini-skirted girls wearing sashes and carnations, hundreds of balloons, an RAAF band and the Lord Mayor and Town Clerk in full robes, wigs and chains of office gave the plaza a colorful opening.

The crowd applauded vigorously when Martin Place sub-committee chairman (Ald. Leo Port) declared:

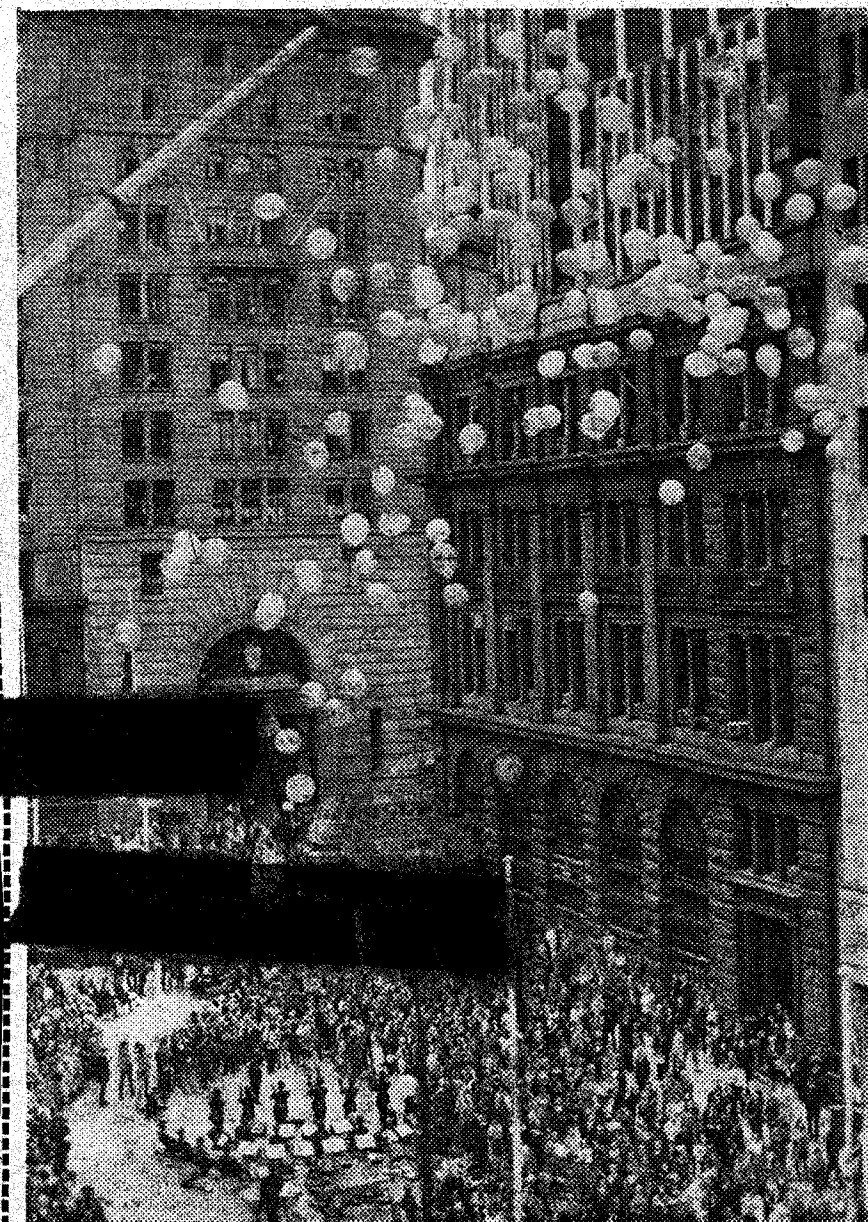
- "This is the first of many to come, and . . .
- "Why shouldn't Garden Island be transformed into a public recreation area?"

Ald. McDermott said creation of the plaza "Has been an example of how strategy and good sense can bring about co-operation and co-ordination in city administration."

The Minister for Environment Control (Mr. J. G. Beale) represented the Premier (Mr. Askin) at the opening.

He described the plaza as "a practical measure reversing the ugliness in living."

The Nimrod Street Theatre Players staged a playette at the opening, entitled: "Carbon Monoxide Thwarted or



THE balloons go up as