

# Thank you, bridge walkers!

## Australian Library Week in Sydney

The Australian Library Week walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge on Sunday was a great success! More than 120 people participated, with big contingents from Fairfield, Hornsby and Wollongong Public Libraries. The parade was lead by a banner proclaiming Australian Library Week and twelve members of the Blacktown City Brass Band. There was no ignoring us — horns tooted, people waved, tourists video-taped us!

Groups representing the Hunter Region; the University of Technology, Sydney; Zenith; EBSCO; SCAN & SCIS; OPALs and TAFE also paraded, plus many libraries represented by just one or two people. Lots of people brought along relatives and friends, which added greatly to the party atmosphere.

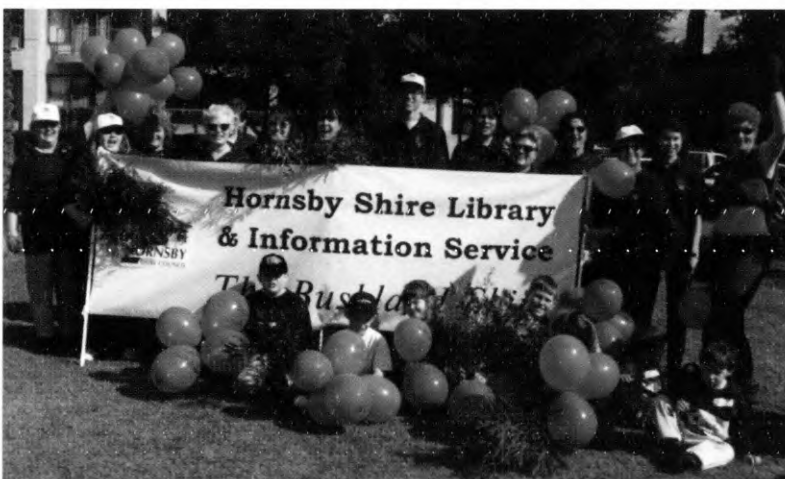
The prize for the biggest team was won by Hornsby Library, who had assembled a team of library staff, family and colleagues from within the Council. Dressed in forest green (and carrying a fine array of grevillea and banksia as well as a brand new banner) they narrowly beat Wollongong Public Library who walked in bright yellow t-shirts — that you could probably see from the moon! Hornsby's prize was a one year subscription to the internet version of *World Magazine Bank*, compliments of EBSCO Information Services.

The prize for the most creative team went to Fairfield Public Library. They were our style merchants, elegantly decked out in navy t-shirts with green and white trim, matching hats and colour co-ordinated balloons. Even the kids were dressed to match! Fairfield wins a two volume set of *Mystery and suspense writers* in the Scribner Writers series, compliments of James Bennett Pty Ltd.

The prize for the best banner went to Gilgandra High School — they get a brand new Robert gas-lift chair, compliments of NSW



[top] Cynthia Methven, from Hornsby Library, aka the 'Incredible cybrarian...' and 'Winged Victory' Antionette Buchanan [above] from the Marrickville Public Library. Winged Victory is a statue which resides outside the Marrickville library. [Below] the biggest team on the day, Hornsby Public Library



Jillian Beswick, New South Wales branch president; Jenny Munro, chairperson of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Lands Council; and Mairead Browne, ALIA president at the picnic after the walk

Library Supplies, a division of Queensland Library Supplies Pty Ltd, and we all got an invitation to visit them!

ALIA sample bags were also awarded to people who caught the judge's eye — the brightest stars being our very own 'Incredible Cybrarian' from Hornsby Library, Cynthia Methven, and 'Winged Victory' from Marrickville Public Library, Antionette Buchanan.

After the parade we were welcomed to the picnic at Dawes Point Reserve by Jenny Munro, chairperson of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council. Jenny spoke of the deep significance of the land to the Gadigal people. She spoke about the importance of libraries and library staff in our cultural development and reminded everyone that library staff — like journalists — have a responsibility to make the truth accessible.

Our storytellers, lead by the very talented Pauline McLeod, provided entertainment, while the Second Turramurra Scout Group ran the sausage sizzle with military precision.

ABC broadcaster, Simon Marnie, raced over at the conclusion of his Sunday program (on which he had been promoting the event) to present the prizes. A great fan of libraries, Simon has already said he would be delighted to do it again next year — and so did we. Will you? ■