

Bridge walk again a great success

Hornsby Shire Library and Information Service again won the prize for the biggest team at the Library and Information Week bridge walk and picnic day. After a very wet and windy end to the week, the weather cleared beautifully and we were able to enjoy fabulous views as we walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and down into Bradfield Park at Milson's Point to the tunes of Sutherland Shire Brass band. Hundreds of cars slowed to look at us and the coziness of the pedestrian walkway meant we got to talk to lots of people on the way over the bridge and explain why we were there.

The prize for the biggest team was proudly sponsored by the both the 9th Special, Law and Health Libraries conference and the ALIA 2002 conference. Hornsby Library won a special professional development pack that includes one free registration to each conference.

The highlight of the day was definitely the twenty-strong Sutherland Shire Brass band — they were sensational ... and only half of them were there! Our storytellers — Pauline Mac-

Leod, John Kelly and Christine Greenough — entertained us as we sat and ate lunch. Groups came from far and away including Blue Mountains City Library, Pittwater Library Service and Western Districts Institute of TAFE. Lots of individuals and family groups joined us as well — people bought their mums, their partners and their kids, which was lovely to see.

The afternoon also saw the launch of the ALIA NSW's campaign to the 'Support the Smith Family's 'student2student' program' — a literacy program for kids who are behind on their reading. Kids are matched up with reading mentors (slightly older children) who phone them three times a week and listen to them read. The Smith Family provides training for reading mentors and their supervisors and reading materials to students and mentors. Thanks to EBSCO Information Services, ALIA NSW will contribute \$500



Just some of the marchers who took part in the 2001 bridge walk

to the program for the purchase of new materials. Penguin has also come to the party, and has agreed to let us have books at wholesale or better, so our \$500 will go a long way. Throughout the remainder of 2001, ALIA NSW will be working with other NSW groups to support this important program.

If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact us — we know that there are a lot of skills out there in our membership that we can tap into that will provide vital support to the program. We are not asking for a giant commitment or a long one, but imagine the impact on literacy levels if we all just do a bit...

If you believe that information literacy is a fundamental information right in the 21st century, then you will know why we have decided to help. As ALIA president Alan Bundy said in his Frontline article in the May issue of *inCite*, '...information rights will have limited outcomes ... without a literate population able to recognise its need for information' and understand and use it well.

Literacy is *the* key to opportunity and this is your chance to get the key into more hands! ■

Brisbane National Library Technicians Day

Brisbane Library Technicians celebrated the second National Library Technician's Day by coming together for an early breakfast, and later that day, for drinks and nibbles after work.

Twenty early risers enjoyed a yummy warm breakfast at Stones Corner Coffee Club from 6:30am. An assortment of coffees, cappuccinos, exotic teas and juices woke everyone up, ready for a busy day ahead.

Networking was the order of the day, with two new people asking to be added to our mailing list for all future events. Everyone was catching up on each other's movements and achievements since last meeting, and a wonderful buzz of conversation hung over our very large table. Lots of money changed hands as we sold tickets for the upcoming annual dinner, and a few National Library Technician's Day badges. A few ALIA balloons added to our festive atmosphere. All too soon, we each had to leave for a busy day ahead.

After work, another ten library technicians joined together for drinks and nibbles at San Marco Café at Southbank Parklands. We all appreciated the chance to unwind and chat about our day with like-minded colleagues. The cool breezes eventually drove us home to relax after a very full day.

We had a wonderful day and look forward to continuing the tradition of getting together to celebrate once again next year.

Marian Moyle