

Horse-mad adventures

Kathy is write stuff to work with kids

KATHY Helidoniotis' latest book *Horse Mad Summer* was written at night or during short gaps in the day when her baby was asleep and the older children at school.

But writing presents no hardship to this Bexley writer – it is what she loves to do.

"I was 27 and had just had my second child when I decided I wanted to be a writer," she said.

"I had always been interested in writing but I did not think it was something I could do so I rang the Children's Book Council to ask for advice."

The council recommended the writing course at the University of Sydney and Kathy, a high school teacher, was on her way.

Her first book was a pop-up about the Wiggles, done for a publishing house that produces novelty books.

That was five years ago and she has been rather busy since, publishing eight novelty books and two novels for older children.

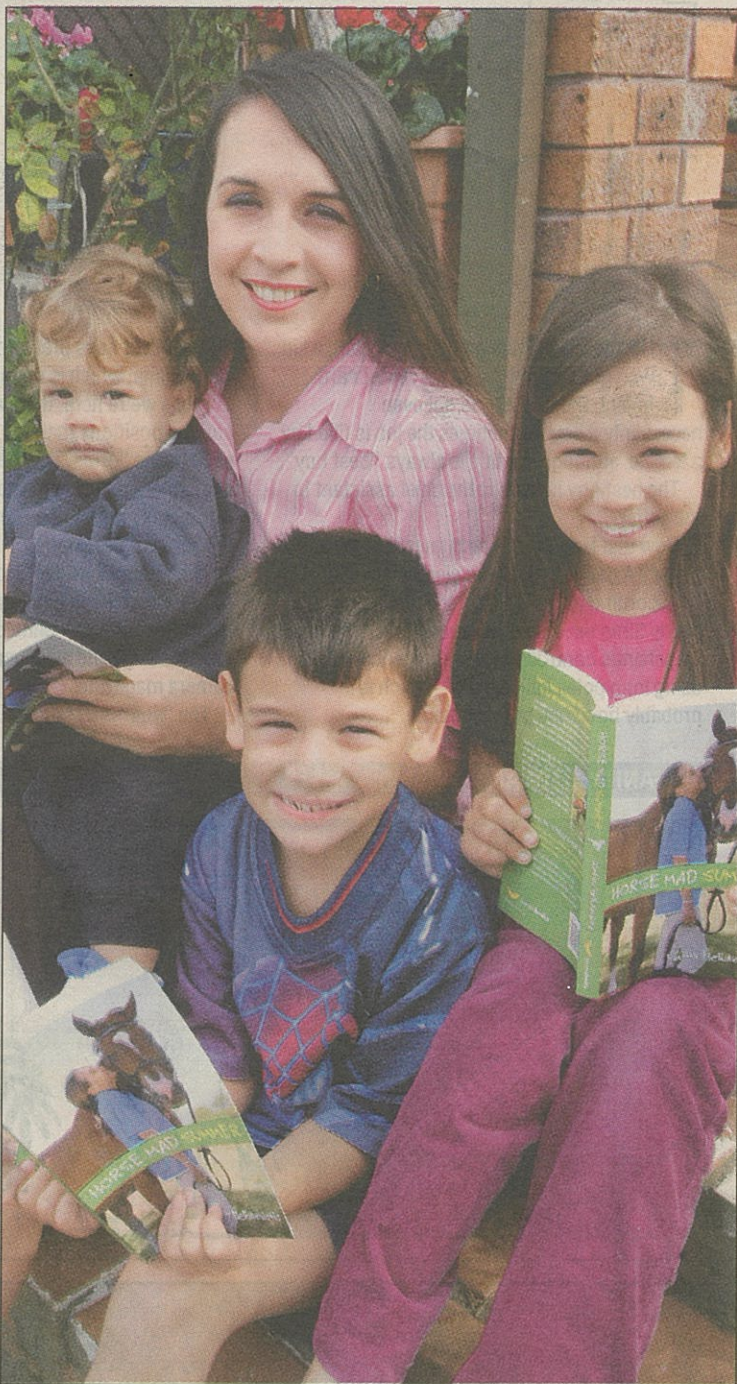
Horse Mad Summer, the 10th book, is the sequel to the popular *Totally Horse Mad*, published in 2003.

Both were inspired by Kathy's horse-mad days on the south coast where her family had a holiday home.

Between ages nine and 19 she was the proud owner of Clarie, a horse with a big personality.

The story, about the adventures of Ashleigh Miller, her friends Becky and Jenna, has been well-received by literature critics.

Suitable for children eight years and over.



Hands very full: author Kathy Helidoniotis with Simon, 14 months, John, 5, and Mariana, 7.