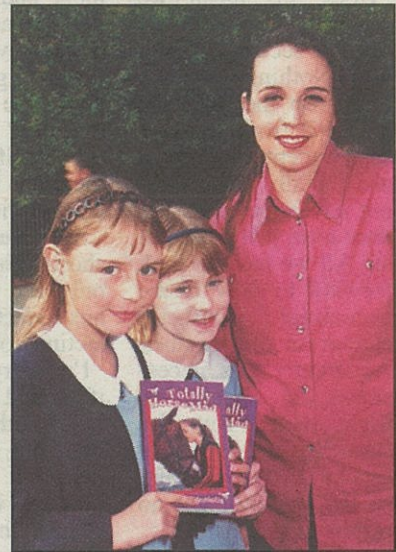


Resident turned author

Kathy Helidoniotis signs copies of her novel *Totally Horse Mad* for St Paul's Choir School students Caitlin Young (left) and Laura Sampson.



By VALENTINA JOVANOVIC

TOTALLY Horse Mad is a book written by former East Hills/Yagoona resident Kathy Helidoniotis.

Inspired to write the book through her own experiences, Ms Helidoniotis launched her first novel a few weeks ago at a book shop in Miranda.

"Author Libby Gleeson officially launched the book at Prodigy Book Shop," Ms Helidoniotis said.

"Children's author Susanne Gervay also attended the launch. It was a big turn out, the shop was packed."

She then took the novel to St Paul's Choir School, Georges Hall, where she signed copies of her new book.

Ms Helidoniotis is no novice when it comes to writing. She has had eight picture books published, contributed in secondary school text book writing, and written a number of articles for children's/parenting magazines.

"I have always been a reader and I admired children's authors. I also loved writing, so you could say it was

like a flash of inspiration when I started out," she said.

"I then enrolled in a writing course conducted by Libby Gleeson.

"I also met with children's author, Stephen Measday, who guided me through *Totally Horse Mad*, which took 12 months to complete."

Totally Horse Mad is a book about a young girl, Ashleigh Miller, who is crazy about horses and pursues everything to have one.

Then one day, her parents announce that she can have a horse of her own.

She thinks all her dreams have finally come true, until she finds out that the family is moving to the country.

Once moving to the country, Ashleigh will have to overcome a few hurdles before she can really enjoy having a horse of her own.

The book is on sale now at all major book stores for \$14.95.

Ms Helidoniotis informs her readers that a sequel for *Totally Horse Mad* has been written and will be released next year.