



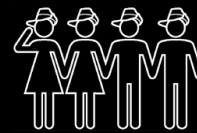
**eyes**

a collective founded on the philosophy  
of the permanence of disposable art

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prepared for the 2001 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade  
by Sue-Ellen Cox/artistic director and Anne Zack/military strategist for  
**ethel yarwood enterprises**  
proudly sponsored by Barracks Bar

"An Anzac is just an Aussie in uniform, the same Aussie."

- 2001 Australian of the Year, Lieutenant-General Peter Cosgrove

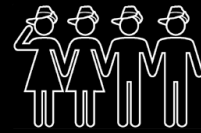
## 1. The Concept

### 1.1 Objective

- To refute the assertions of the RSL and the military hierarchy that gays and Lesbians did not participate in wartime activities. When on manoeuvres, they live in camps for god's sake!
- To re-enforce that gays and lesbians are very much part of the Australian Defence Force, both now and in the past serving in war.

### 1.2 Theme

- Bridge on the River Kweer



## 1.3 Message

- There have, are and will always be Gays and Lesbians that serve in the armed forces to ensure the security of this country. Lust we forget.
- We are Out There, Everywhere – even in the trenches.

## 1.4 Vehicle/Media

- The ANZAC Bridge

## 1.5 Participants

- Drag Performers - Dawn Service/breakfast catering
  - Anne Zack/military strategist
  - Coco d'Traile/package tours
  - Millie Terry/intelligence
  - Julie Fourth/allied liason
  - Charmaine Tank/weaponry and tactics
  - Gayle Ipoli/recruitment
  - Dee Fennse/defence
- 40 odd ground forces

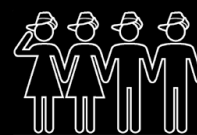
## 2. Description of Entry

A group of 40-50 parade participants escorting the ANZAC Bridge up Oxford Street with the Drag Performers listed above riding on the bridge.



proudly presents

# "Bridge on the River Kweer"



### 3. Organization ethel yarwood enterprises

ethel yarwood enterprises "a collective founded on the philosophy of the permanence of disposable art", is a fluid group of like-minded individuals who have fun working together employing humour and parody to highlight issues relevant to the gay and lesbian community. ethel yarwood enterprises has staged a number of events in the gay and lesbian community to date such as :

- *WIGworlds I, II, III and IV*
- *"Hop Yourself Stupid", Queen Bunny's AIDS Easter benefit from 1989 to 1998*

as well as the parade entries :

- *The Little Misses* **1996**
- *Keith Haring - Party of Life* **1997** (Best Small Group Parade Entrant)
- *Dick van Dykes on Bikes* **1998** (Best Community Parade Entrant)
- *Cussons Imperial Leather Pride* **1999**
- *The Happy Little Sodomites* **2000** (Best Small Group Parade Entrant)

### 4. Inspiration for the parade entry

In August 2000, it came out that members of the Australian Defence Force stationed in Bougainville staged a mock Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras to celebrate the end of their deployment. In true Australian larrikin spirit, they continued the great Australian male tradition of cross-dressing as women. However, some members of the gay and lesbian communities were offended by peacekeepers lampooning Mardi Gras. This raised the charge of hypocrisy because one of the principles of the Mardi Gras parade itself is to lampoon religious, political and social institutions.

The inspiration of "Bridge on the River Kweer" is twofold. To the peacekeepers in Bougainville we say that when it comes to parody and camp, the ADF boys can learn a thing or two from the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. To the offended gays and lesbians, we say that imitation is the highest form of flattery and the staging a mock Mardi Gras parade by the peacekeepers is actually a compliment. If the parade is successful at satirising people and institutions, then we should expect to be satirised ourselves.

### 5. Selection of Music

"Colonel Bogey's March" the whistling tune from the movie Bridge on the River Kwai.

### 6. Costume

- Australian military uniforms
- Australian military drag



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