

# BOOKRAPT™

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## ***Great Mates: 30 New Zealand Stories for Children*** **- edited by Barbara Else**

**Published by Random House, RRP \$29.99**

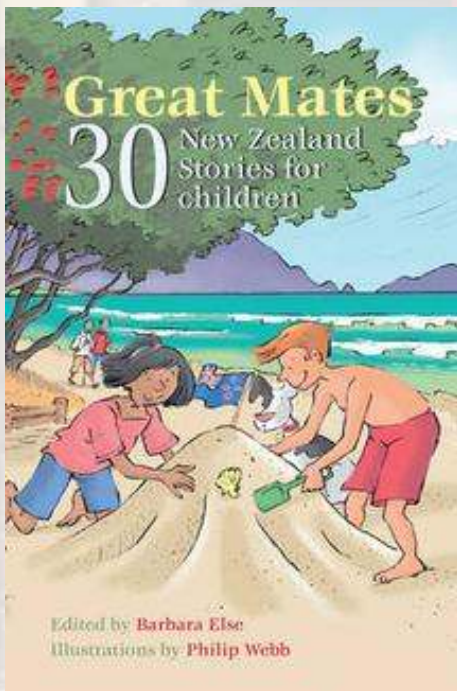
Friends are the focus of this entertaining collection of Kiwi short stories. All sorts of companions from animals to aliens pepper the pages. There's friends you hope you'll find, best buddies who help each other, the ever-loyal true friends, and ones who are full of mischief. Like all relationships, disappointments and misunderstandings happen, then bridging the gap can be tricky.

The authors bring a mix of humour, wisdom, intrigue and imagination to the thirty stories. There's also a few handy hints on how to make friends to be found along the way. Impossible to choose a favourite story – they're all mini gems.

Appealing illustrations by Philip Webb complement each story and add to the pleasure. Characters come to life through his active, realistic sketches of Kiwi kids and animals.

The anthology would make enjoyable bedtime reading, provide discussion in the classroom, or be an excellent gift for a young reader. Editor Barbara Else says, "Friends. However young you are, or however old, friends are important."

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.**



**Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.**