



Uncle Trev and his whistling bull – Jack Lasenby

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These tall tales from a master storyteller have the nostalgic air of yarns from the 1930s. A child confined to bed by illness listens as Uncle Trev spins tales to pass the time for the invalid. They become conspirators as Uncle Trev tells the youngster incredible stories of his past pursuits.

Larger than life characters, man and animal, perform amazing feats of strength, courage and wonder. Hubert, the whistling bull is joined by Old Tip, a talking dog; Old Toot a talking horse; and Old Satan, a grumpy bull. Somehow, Lasenby makes these oddities seem plausible.

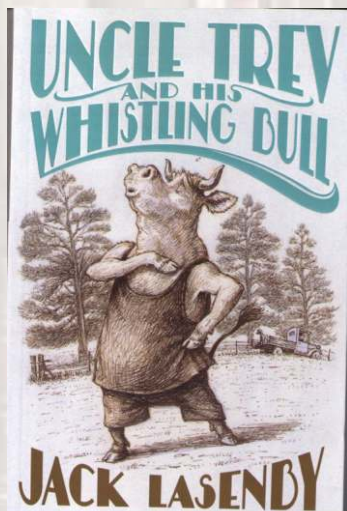
Gotta Henry is a perfect comrade as Trev's cunning neighbour who always visits when he needs something. "Gotta bit of this, Trev? Gotta bit of that?"

The disreputable pair served in the First World War and were allocated adjoining scrub land on their return to New Zealand. Their madcap exploits become legendry in their Waikato community.

The child's mother disapproves of Uncle Trev stretching the truth beyond recognition. Yet, when she leaves the house, she shows a kindly side by making sure tins of baking are ready for his visits. Terminology from a past era may mystify today's young readers. However, a glossary at the back of the book helps to explain the unfamiliar terms.

This is the fifth book in a series about Uncle Trev's entertaining adventures. The first title about the notorious character was published in 1991 and has recently been awarded the 2012 Storylines award for a much-loved book.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.