

BOOKRAPT™

THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INC
www.bookrapt.org.nz info@bookrapt.org.nz



1914: Riding into War – Susan Brocker

Publisher: Scholastic New Zealand

RRP \$18.99

Riding Into War is an excellent 'first' in the “Kiwis at War” series to be published by Scholastic New Zealand.

Susan Brocker knows her horses and knows her history. With her clear writing skills, good use of dialogue and occasional use of Kiwi and Aussie slang and idiom, she has woven a tale that will be well-liked.

Billy Bowman is a quiet young man, not much more than a boy, who knows and wants little more than the quiet farming life he is leading. But with the enthusiasm of friend Jake who hankers after the adventure and travel that war seems likely to provide, and the support of his employer, Billy finds himself volunteering for duty in the early days of World War One.

Letters from home, in particular from Alice, support him and are the link with home and his future, if he is to have one, that he so much needs as he copes with the endless boredom of training and the horrors of Gallipoli.

Susan Brocker does not dwell on the huge loss of life, but neither does she gloss over the many ways Billy is confronted by the realities of war. Trench warfare is not for the fainthearted. While his skills as a horseman cannot be used here, his ability as a marksman and his courage in battle are unquestioned.

Maps, a timeline and glossary, photos and a bibliography are all there for the reader wishing to pursue this subject. Meanwhile we await the next book in this series of five.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

Author's website:

www.susanbrocker.com

New Zealand Mounted Rifle's website:

www.nzmr.org

RSA website:

www.rsa.org.nz

