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The Anzac Puppy - Peter Millett and Trish Bowles

Publisher: Scholastic NZ

RRP \$19.50

For the young reader and for reading aloud, this is a tale of the courage and companionship a puppy can offer people. From the courage of Lucy who has to give up the young Pup, to the courage of soldiers in the trenches, in part sustained by the growing dog in their midst, to the 'happy-ever-after' ending, this is a tale for all to enjoy.

The full colour illustrations by Trish Bowles add much to the story, sympathetically portraying the emotions of Lucy, Sam and his war-time comrades, and Freda herself.

Based on the true story of Freda, a Harlequin Great Dane who became the mascot of the NZ Rifle Brigade during World War 1, this ANZAC story has been well-researched by the author and for any reader wanting to follow up, Freda's studded collar, which bore the inscription 'Freda of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade', is now in the Army Museum at Waiouru, New Zealand, and her headstone will also be there in 2014, the centenary of the start of WW1.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

