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***Armistice Day The New Zealand Story: What it is and why it matters* by Philippa Werry**

Publisher: New Holland Publishers

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Comprehensive research is a hallmark of Philippa Werry’s publications. The Acknowledgements page, and the depth of information within her latest book, show she has distilled a substantial amount of detail into a comprehensive overview of Armistice Day, and New Zealand’s participation in the First World War.

Although the author explains the word ‘armistice’ in simple terms, she outlines the powerful impact an armistice can have on people’s lives:

*An **Armistice** is a truce, or a temporary stop to fighting. Two opposing sides might agree on an Armistice while they work out peace terms.*

The First World War Armistice at 11am on 11 November 1918, is well-known, and is the primary focus of this title. However, Werry also expands on other times and places an armistice has been agreed to, and warfare has ceased for a time. She also examines the long-lasting effects of war on the countries involved, the armed forces, their families, and society.

Each chapter is well-illustrated with photos, maps, diagrams, extracts from letters and diaries, and fact boxes. A contents page, glossary, timeline, websites, list of further reading, and an index are valuable additions. The final chapter, *Peace and Peace Makers*, includes suggestions for ways to commemorate Armistice Day and consider peaceful actions.

This thought-provoking book offers many opportunities for discussion in classrooms and homes.

Author’s website:
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Reviewed by children’s book author, Jean Bennett

