



The ANZAC VIOLIN

Jennifer Beck
and Robyn Belton

The violin that went to war.

Publication	February 2018
ISBN	978-1-77543-391-0
NZ RRP	\$27.99
Printing	Full colour
Binding	Hardback
Format	265 x 215 mm (L)
Extent	40 pp
Age	5-8 years
Lexile	Read aloud

Jennifer Beck (ONZM) is a former teacher and psychologist, and an award-winning writer and author of more than forty-five children's books, including the Scholastic NZ classics *The Bantam & the Soldier* and *The Christmas Caravan*. Many of her books have been recognised in the NZ Children's Book Awards and the Storylines Notable Books lists. In 2015 she was the Children's Writer-in-Residence (with illustrator Robyn Belton) at the University of Otago, where they collaborated on *The Anzac Violin*. Jennifer lives in Auckland, New Zealand with her husband.

Robyn Belton grew up on a farm near Whanganui, then went on to study painting at the Canterbury University School of Fine Arts. Robyn lives in Dunedin, New Zealand. Robyn's first storybook was *The Duck in the Gun*, written by Joy Cowley. She has won the Russell Clark Medal for Illustration twice (for *Duck in the Gun*, and *Herbert the Brave Sea Dog*). With many major awards to her name, in 2006 Robyn was awarded the prestigious Margaret Mahy Medal.

More than 20 years after publication of the classic NZ story, *The Bantam and the Soldier*, Jennifer Beck and Robyn Belton have joined forces again to produce another heartwarming story from the First World War. This time it's the true story of Otago's Alexander Aitken and the violin that travelled with him on his wartime journey, bringing music and solace to his fellow ANZACs.

- By the award-winning creators of *The Bantam and the Soldier*
- Sensitively written by Jennifer Beck and illustrated in atmospheric watercolour tones by Robyn Belton
- Includes an information page about Aitken's life after the war, and a link to a violin rendition of Dvorak's *Humoresque*, a favourite of the troops
- Endpapers contain a collection of fascinating ephemera

Praise for *The Bantam and the Soldier*

"Jennifer Beck and Robyn Belton have created a picture book which is coincidentally a history book, bringing vividly to life a charming story of the trenches ... [Beck's] take of the friendship between a farm lad in the trenches and a red hen is perfectly partnered by Belton's meticulously detailed illustrations in a gem of a book for all young New Zealanders." — Ann Packer, *Evening Post*

"A distinguished work, in every way a triumph. A wonderful picture story book, it is the result of thoughtful, accurate research ... [where] every picture enriches and expands the text and each double-page spread yields more on every reading" — *The Listener*



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