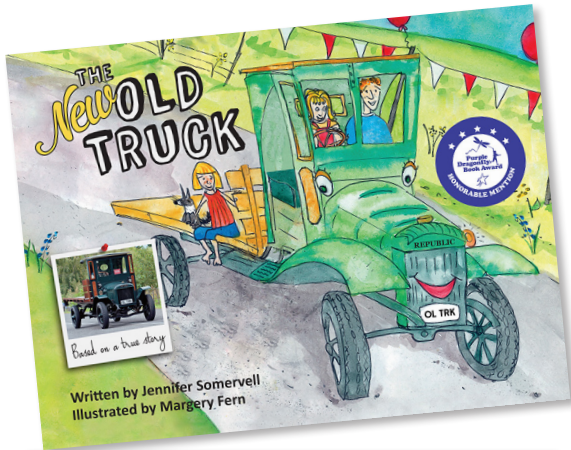


# The New Old Truck



Sisters Margery and Jennifer's Tales From The Farm picture books are based on their childhood adventures growing up in the 1960s and 70s on a 50 hectare dairy farm near Takapau, Hawkes Bay.

## About the Author



Jennifer Somervell attended Lincoln University graduating B.Hort Sci and then gained a Diploma in Teaching (Sec) Christchurch Teachers College. She taught horticulture for 8 years, then transitioned to teaching learning skills and academic writing at Christchurch Teachers College, then Lincoln University. In 1989 she and husband Ken established Somerfields, a specialist mail order nursery which they ran for 17 years. Since 2003 she has written the herb column for New Zealand Lifestyle Block magazine.

"I have always had stories in my head!" Jennifer has one son at university and lives in Oxford with her husband on a half acre section with an extensive herb garden.

## About the Illustrator



Margery graduated B Soc. Sc. in Geography and History (Hons), Waikato University. She trained as a counsellor and then as a teacher in 2000 and is now Deputy Principal at Waitetuna Primary School. She has four adult children, two cats and a busy family life.

Margery has always painted but took it up more seriously to help balance her busy teaching life. "Painting renews my energy and at the same time I get to do something I love"

### Selected Bibliography

#### Tales From The Farm titles

- The New Old Truck* revised edition of Old Truck, Tales From The Farm Publications, March , 2014.
- Old Truck* Tales From The Farm Publications, March, 2013.
- The Day Dad Blew Up The Cowshed* Tales From The Farm Publications, May, 2012, revised 2013

#### Published work by Jennifer Somervell:

- Blowing Up A Storm* New Zealand Lifestyle Block, Fairfax Media, April 2014.
- At The Heart Of It* New Zealand Lifestyle Block, Fairfax Media, January, 2013.
- A Blooming Business* New Zealand Lifestyle Block, Fairfax Media, November, 2013.
- Herb Columns* Columnist for New Zealand Lifestyle Block/formerly Growing Today, Fairfax Media, monthly column 'Plants with a purpose', 2003 – present. Somerfields Mail Order Plants Biannual Catalogue, Somerfields Nursery, 1989-2006



## What the author says:

The inspiration came from hearing the real story and childhood memories.

In January 2012 I visited my brother John after the death of his wife. "Tell me about Old Truck!" I said.

John told me how, after a vintage rally, he told his dad that one day he and his brother Michael would restore the family's 1921 Republic truck, 'Old Truck', and show him in a national vintage rally. John was just 12 years old. Later in the early 70s Old Truck, his engine dying, was finally retired to a shed. John was overseas, so Michael started work on the chassis. When Mike died in a topdressing accident in 1974, John returned home and found Old Truck 'covered in rust and birdshit' waiting for him.

Thirty-five years later, in January 2012, (this time frame is not apparent in the story) John realised his 54 year old dream when he proudly showed Old Truck at the vintage machinery rally in Whanganui.

John said, "It became a passion, almost a crusade. It had so much sentimental value. I'm a bit of a sentimentalist. It gave a connection to the past - Grandpa, Dad, Michael, the farm. And it's a beautiful old thing!"

In his research, John discovered Old Truck was a very rare truck. He couldn't find any other restored 1921 Model 10 Republics anywhere in the world. As in the story, Old Truck appears to be 'one of his kind.' The pages at the back of the book outline this factual background with photos

## Classroom Activities

Published by: Tales from the Farm Publications  
<http://www.talesfromthefarm.co.nz>

### Health

Is there anyone you know that is old and feels useless?

What did they use to be able to do?

What can they do now?

Activity: Compare and Contrast

Old Truck

Old Person

What useful thing could they do when they were young?

What useful thing can they do now they are old?

### Language

Retell

Can you re-tell what happens on each page?

Activity: Each student chooses a page to retell and draw your own sketch of that page (or paint the illustrators sketch provided).

### Specific vocabulary

What are some specific words used to describe parts of Old Truck?

Activity: Use the glossary to draw a labelled diagram of Old Truck. Add

any other truck parts you know (e.g. wheels, steering wheel).

### Visual Arts

Look at each illustration and describe the feelings of the characters.

What colours does the illustrator use to convey these feelings?

Why does she use these colours?

### Activity:

Draw or paint warm colours.

Draw or paint cool colours.

Warm Colours (happy feelings) Cool colours (sad feelings)

This could lead into further art activities (e.g. a portrait of a grandparent using warm or cool colours).

### History

What are some of the adventures that Old Truck has had in his life?

Activity: (older children)

Timeline: Use the information given in the back section of the book to create a timeline of Old Truck's life (simple or complicated depending on the student's ability).