

The Last Light Horse

by **DIANNE WOLFER**
illustrated by **BRIAN SIMMONDS**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Australia sent 136,000 horses to WWI – just one came home. From the high country of Victoria to the desert sand of Egypt and from the waters off Gallipoli to the battlefields of France, this is the extraordinary story of Sandy, the only returning warhorse.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dianne Wolfer is an award-winning author. Her book *Lighthouse Girl* served as inspiration for PIAF's *The Giants* and was adapted into a stage production by Black Swan State Theatre Company. One of Dianne's picture books, *Photographs in the Mud* (set along the Kokoda Track), was inspired by a wartime anecdote, has been used as an international peace reference and was also published in Japanese.



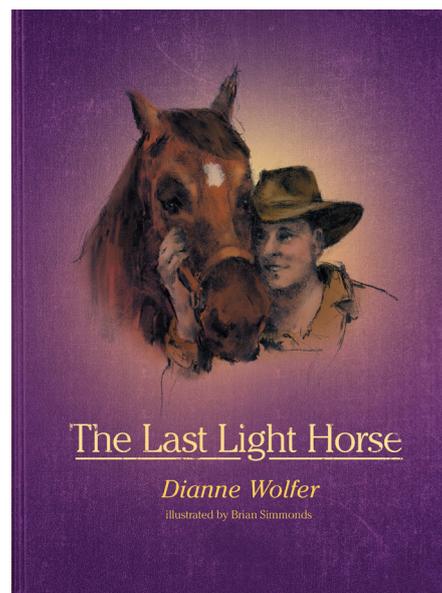
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Brian Simmonds has a BA in Fine Art from Curtin University. He has exhibited his work many times and won numerous prizes for drawing, oil painting and mixed media works. His work can be found in private and public collections around Australia.



NOTES

- *The Last Light Horse* is the fourth and final book in the Light series, which began with *Lighthouse Girl* and includes the CBCA shortlisted *Light Horse Boy*.
- *In the Lamplight*, *Lighthouse Girl* and *Light Horse Boy* have been recognised in numerous awards, including the West Australian Young Readers' Book Awards, the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards, the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards and the New South Wales Premier's History Awards.
- A statue of Sandy, the only Australian horse to return from WWI, and Bess from New Zealand, graces Albany's Mount Clarence, the hill near the author's home. The great granddaughter of Sandy's rider, Major General Bridges, now lives in Albany. Dianne went to school in Albury, not far from where Sandy worked at Tallangatta Brickworks before being donated to the war effort. Her first teaching post was a few kilometres from where Sandy died. All of these factors inspired Dianne to write the story.
- Parts and artefacts associated with poor Sandy are scattered around Australia. His head is in the Australian War Memorial, the National Anzac Centre has one hoof, while Duntroon, where Major General Brigdes is buried, has another.
- The book includes charcoal sketches by Brian Simmonds, real archival artefacts and photos all encased in a gorgeous cloth cover.
- Teaching notes and activities are available from fremantlepress.com.au.



Pub. Date	1 April 2022
ISBN	9781760991302
RRP	\$24.99 AU \$30.00 NZD \$17.95 USD
Genre	Picture book for older readers
Format	HB, 220 x 170 mm
Extent	80 pp



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