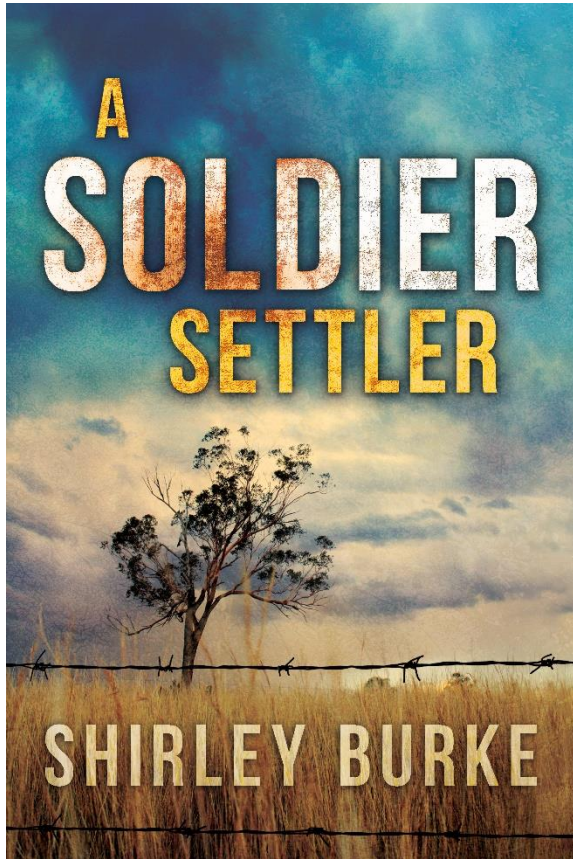


A SOLDIER SETTLER

SHIRLEY BURKE



ISBN	9781922850751
Publication Date	25 MAR 2023
Genre	Historical, Drama, Suspense
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Author Location	Hobart, TAS

Price available on our website

UPON RETURNING FROM WW1, WILL SHEPHERD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REALISE HIS DREAM OF OWNING LAND...

With his wife Alice and their children to support, many things conspire to turn the dream into a nightmare.

With determination, Will and Alice thrive on their land but it is not the unpredictable environment alone which threatens them.

An unexpected arrival may unearth a dark, long hidden secret, while the looming shadow of WW2 sweeps the nation. The Shepherd family confront the past so they can overcome it and save their future...

Can Will keep his family safe with all that must be faced?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Shirley Burke spent her youth on a soldier settlement block at Yarto. Her education began in the one-teacher school there. Those early years were very 'hands on' experience with farm work. She trained as a primary school teacher and spent several years at Mallee schools before moving to Melbourne with her husband and two daughters. Later, working as a teacher-librarian, and immersed in children's literature, she wrote stories for children.

Shirley has published a picture book *Birthday Yoyo*, as well as three short stories published in anthologies. After retirement to Tasmania, she wrote this fiction book set against the factual development of the Mallee area where she had lived. Her next project is small collection of poetry.

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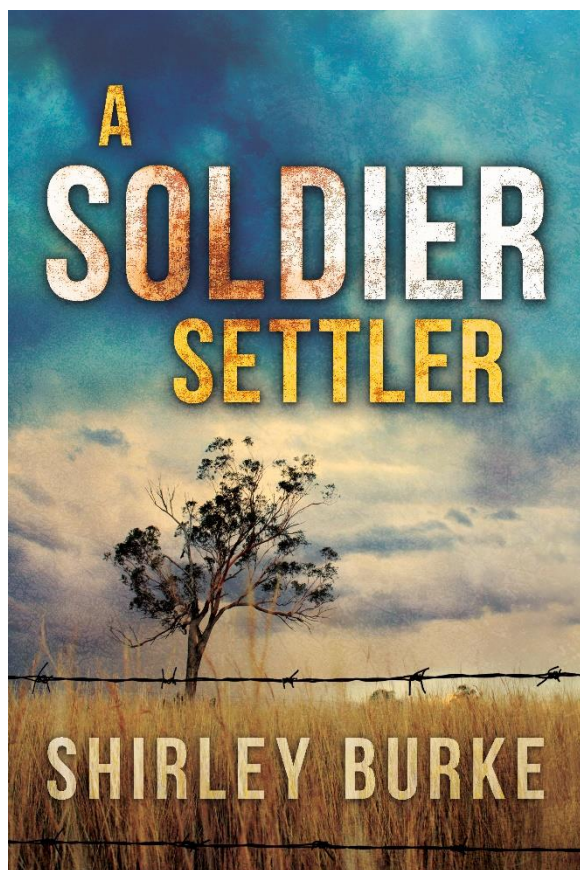
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

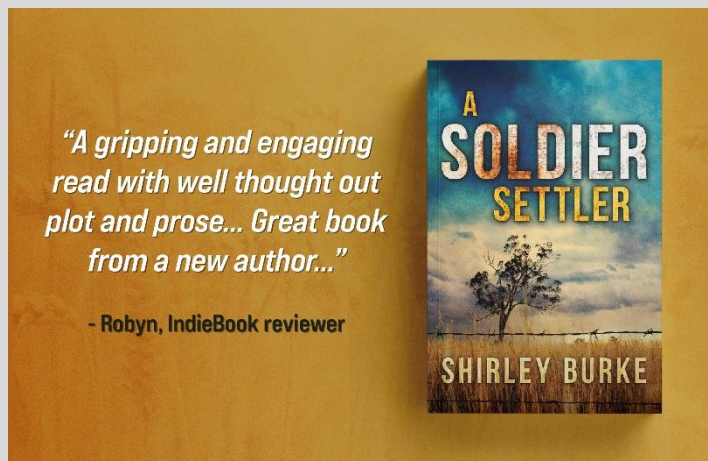
WHAT DID YOU WRITE 'A SOLDIER SETTLER'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

I felt it was a story that should be told, as I had grown up in this area and was a beneficiary of the labour of those who had gone before me. I felt the memory of those early settlers should be handed down to the next generation. Also, it would help them to see what the results of the governments short-sightedness was, in that some of these areas should never have been cleared which has left them severely eroded. For example, sandy areas which were devastated during the 1944 drought and have not recovered to this day.

Wandering the Wyperfield National Park, even as a child, I was aware of the stark difference between some of the sandhills on our farm and those on the other side of our boundary fence that been left covered with their native mallee and shrubs, so beautiful in the springtime with native blooms.

FOR THE NON-FICTION ELEMENTS OF THIS BOOK, WHAT RESEARCH DID YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE FACTS WITHIN 'A SOLDIER SETTLER'?

Although this story is fiction, the development of the district behind it is factual. I researched those facts that were beyond my memory carefully through a local historical group, shire records, state rivers and water supply records.



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