

New Australian Author Book Release

The GENERAL'S LOG

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY

WRITTEN BY FERN SCHREUDER

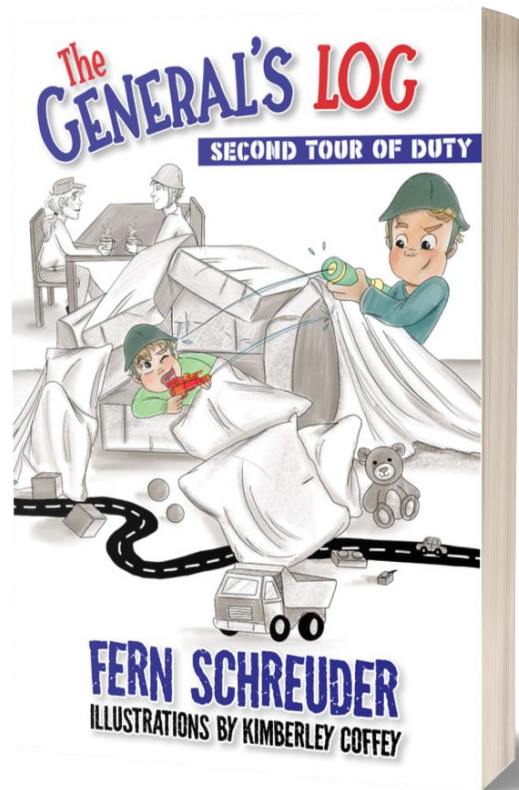
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KIMBERLEY COFFEY

'We are free! We are free!' came the joyful call from all the military survivors of the first pandemic lockdown.

The General was at her happiest and embraced the sunshine with all her relief...but then, it vanished again, and the brief illusion of hope and freedom was whisked from them...the general feared they would not survive the new lockdown...it was the end of sanity as she knew it...

The Troops are back after the mad cap hilarity of "The General's Log: tales from the lockdown." and they must now up the ante to keep amused during yet another lockdown. They engage in more artillery training, this time using lemons and face masks; they try their hand at making their own snack rations while unsupervised and continue their war on wearing pants. The battle-weary General tries to again navigate the list of house-hold items that could potentially become weapons, and which grows larger by the day.

The Second Tour of Duty is full of highs and lows and hilarious in-betweens of parenting small children while maintaining sanity during a global pandemic. (And we thought the Virus was the worst part...!?)



Visit shawlinepublishing.com.au for more details on the author, Fern Schreuder.

Price available on our site

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Also in **THE GENERAL'S LOG** Series

What do you do to survive a Pandemic Lockdown?!

The General's Log is a light-hearted, comical account of life in unexpected isolation with young children. The General is confined to the house with her husband, the Lieutenant General. Along with their two young children; Private First-Class A and Corporal R.

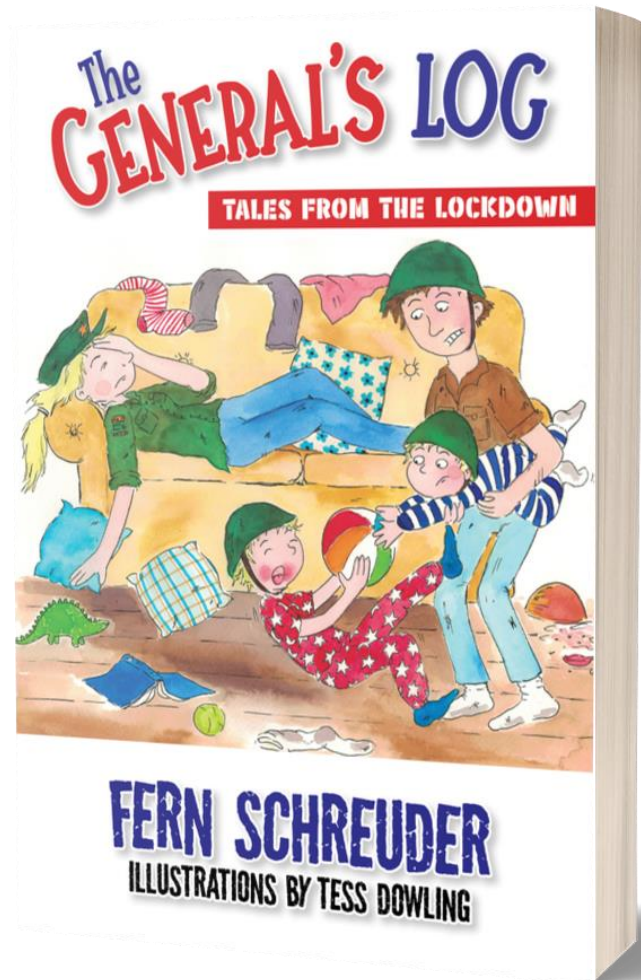
To keep themselves amused during the lockdown, the Troops engage a variety of exercises designed to enhance skills and pass time the quickest way possible.

They set tasks and exercises to keep themselves at the top of their game and to assure themselves of becoming the best military family in the country during lockdown.

The General's Log outlines Lockdown training in:

- fort building with couch cushions.
- sentry duty in the garage
- artillery training in the form of farts
- stealing contraband from the pantry
- misfiring in the latrine leaving surprise puddles
- and many trips to the infirmary due to excess accidents in the field.

Entries get more ridiculous and hilarious as isolation time increases.



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A Conversation with Fern

Why did you write ‘The General’s Log’ books? What were your inspirations?

My first book started as funny daily Facebook posts that I was putting up during the COVID-19 “lockdown” period. My children were entertaining themselves in ridiculous and funny ways and I was posting a daily update to friends and family with an accompanying photo. Family members were telling me that they loved the daily posts and that it was keeping them thoroughly entertained while they were locked inside with their families. That’s when I got to thinking, maybe this could become something bigger? My children were my inspiration as they kept everyone entertained with new shenanigans on a daily basis.

Everything written about in this book actually happened! The second book came about in the same way, when Victoria went into their second lockdown. I was still writing the daily posts but just didn’t post them. I instead collected them into a second book.

What was the biggest challenge when writing ‘The General’s Log: Second Tour of Duty’?

Some days I really didn’t feel like writing the daily log, it was hard to find the words, especially if that day hadn’t been particularly exciting! The second lockdown was much harder as well, physically and mentally, and some days I didn’t feel particularly funny.

For whom did you write ‘The General’s Log: Second Tour of Duty’ and why?

I wrote this book for parents, especially mums of young boys, or people that were also in isolation with small children. I want people to laugh at the craziness but all think “I did that too!” or “I’m glad it wasn’t just us!” and I want parents to know that they aren’t alone, and that they can laugh at some of the ridiculous things that happen and then move on, knowing that we are all in this together!

What are your plans for your future books?

I am thinking a series with The troops... perhaps “holiday adventures” or something similar... It’s still a work in progress...

What is your work schedule like when you're writing?

Really busy! I am still working as a teacher and have a really busy family life with a husband who also works and two small children who both have amazing social lives!

What are the ethics of writing?

Honesty and integrity are really important to me in writing, to make sure that people are comfortable reading it, but that I am comfortable to have it out in publication for others to read.

What period of your life do you find you write about most often?

I am writing about my life now as a mother with two small children. I think this is the “sweet spot” as a parent. The things they do are so innocent and hilarious.

Do you want each book to stand on its own, or are you trying to build a body of work with connections between each book?

I am building a little collection of stories about my children and the adventures they have in various different settings.

What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I believe impatience is a big trap for beginning writers. All things take time, and we need to trust the process.

How long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

My books have been written about my family and are more “observations”, there isn’t really a lot of research completed.



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