

Untold stories of Australian soldiers

Rod Bennett

AS the son of a Vietnam veteran and an army reservist for 20 years, Avalon's Danny Neaves knows too well the tales of death and destruction that go hand-in-hand with the job of soldier.

But a desire to unveil the more human side of those who serve their country was one of the key reasons for writing the book *Aussie Soldier – Up Close and Personal*.

The local writer said the

book records the feelings of soldiers in action and the situations and times when they think of their loved ones waiting back home.

“It’s hard for a soldier who misses the birth of a child or the celebration of a birthday,” he said. “Often when they see their first death on the field they first reflect on their own lives.”

The book unfolds the stories of war told through letters, diaries and anecdotes that have never been published,

from the World War I and II battlegrounds of Europe, the “jungles of New Guinea and Vietnam, the desert sands of Iraq as well as the peace-keeping missions in Rwanda, Timor and Somalia”.

The local author’s family links to the military go back to the Crimean War, the Boer War and World War I.

Aussie Soldier – Up Close and Personal is published by Big Sky Publishing.



Avalon author Danny Neaves with daughter Ziggie, 2.

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