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 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!”

The pages at the back of the book outline this factual background with photos...