



## Submitted by Rosemary Venner

### ISOLATION DIARY - Rosemary Venner

**DAY 1: Thursday March 26 2020** Weather fine.

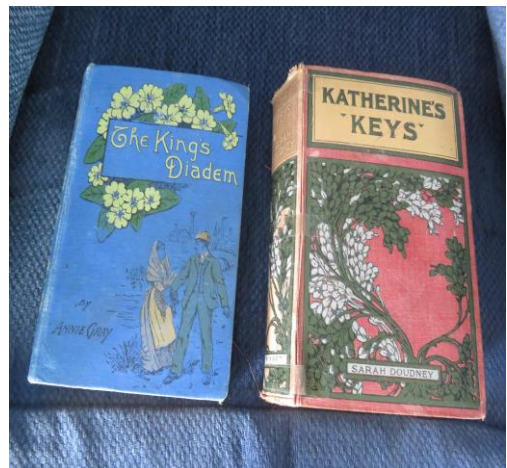
Well here we are at the start of Alert Level 4 putting in place measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus Covid-19. Keep in touch with developments through radio and television news.

My diary quote for the day is from Abraham Lincoln "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing". So it's up to each one of us to obey the rules: Stay home and keep at least 2 metres between yourself and any other person.

My activities today: Did a small wash, some gardening and a 20 minute walk around the block. Rang my sister and niece Charlene, said hi to my neighbour John over the fence, and rang Marie and Dorothy-Rose.

Hear from Margaret, through Pam, that Russell is not well. My niece Anne sent a text.

Finished a book my mother had when she was 11 - *Katherine's Keys* -and enjoyed both the story and illustrations. This was in 1911 and concerned in part the changing role of women in society. Not every woman wanted to get married despite family's expectations.



Tackle my large pile of magazines called *Memories* containing great pictures and stories written by New Zealanders. Three articles read today.

Watch *The Chase* and have one of my frozen roast lamb dinners. No *Millionaire* tonight. Bed by 8.30.

Part of today's daily meditation from *God Calling by Two Listeners*: I am with you to guide you and help you....My message to you is, trust and wait. (This little book belonged to my mother in 1950 and was first published in 1935, a year before I was born.)



## **DAY 2: March 27**

Quite a few showers and cooler. Now 368 cases. One man in his seventies in intensive care at Nelson Hospital.

Diary quote from Anne Frank: "In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit."

We are hearing in the news of many acts of kindness throughout the country.

Housework today!

Talk to Margaret. Jon had rung. Now home as the Hospice where he works has closed.

Neighbour Bill rings to check on me.

Ring Helen to check on Kevin's progress. Still in Wellington Hospital but improving.

Emails to Linda & John in Canada and Min & Cliff in England. To Jon and to Anne re photos she sent me of Maverick and Kailani.

Reading a mystery set in Paris. It's by Emilia Bernhard and it is very good.

Phone Betty. Russell a bit better.

Bacon & egg for dinner. Tv programme *Escape to the Chateau* a repeat so I watched *The Midwife* instead.

From *The Listeners*: Rest in Me, quiet in My love, strong in My power.

## **DAY 3: March 28 Saturday**

Fine, sunny and warm. No neighbourhood afternoon tea as planned and no memorial service for Kerry M.

Listen to last part of Rural NZ and first part of Kim Hill so don't rise till after nine. Have breakfast in my dressing gown in the sun and do a crossword.

Christine rings. Very worried about her cat Freddie.

Janice rings re shopping at Countdown. Later take up her offer to share a delivery for her, Rosemary S and me. Will go to Janice who will sort and deliver. Considered getting my own but their delivery services are stretched. I'll see how this goes. Won't be needing much.

Jon rings for a talk. Tom B. sends a new email address.

Have 3 talks with Margaret. Read her a few gems from *Memories*. Pass on info of how she can order groceries through Rymans. Try to ring Pixie but couldn't get through.

Read and rest on bed in the afternoon sun. Pick a few figs. Think about giving some to John who was painting his new beams. Glad I didn't as told on news later that handing fruit or goodies over the fence is a no-no. Watch *Restoration House* and *Antiques Roadshow*. Bed by 10.20.

*The Listeners*: Faith and obedience will remove mountains, mountains of evil and mountains of difficulty. But they must go hand in hand.



### Day 4 Sunday March 29

Overcast and cooler. First death – a 73-year-old woman in Greymouth. Memorial service for Alison R. Cancelled. Pat's party for her 90<sup>th</sup> postponed.

Margaret rings about 11am. Had had a long talk with one of the Blacks.

Email Alison R, Janice & Pixie.

Read about the village of Venner and read about the lost tribe in the Matakaitaki in *Memories*.

Walk around the block about 4.00 and see some teddy bears in windows. Cheering.



Light the fire, for comfort as well as warmth, and have fish fillets for tea.

### DAY 5 MONDAY MARCH 30

Sunny and warm Earthquake centred near Seddon soon after 1am- - the last thing we need. 76 new cases Total 589

Rise about 7.30 and deal with 2 cockroaches! Do washing and ironing and walk around the block taking photos of teddy bears in windows, including my bear and koala bear in the small conservatory.



Calls from Margaret, Gay B, Gwenda P, Lily L and Charlene. Phone Elizabeth C and Marie M.

Reply from Cliff and Min. Well stocked. He is making money on the share market!

Watch a half-hour concert compiled by *Operatunity*. They are wonderfully caring people. Saw Trish at Norfolk Island and an aria sung at the Waitomo Caves when Helen and I were there.

Janice rang. Had spent hours trying to arrange grocery delivery from Countdown with no success. So changing to Fresh Choice who will take order and pack and J, neighbour, will pick up. Will still be some days away.



Put netting over silver beet. My hands are sore with so much washing.

Continue reading about the village of Venner as it was in 1885 and then in 1935. Fascinating.

Roast lamb for tea. Ring M again. She is very tired, but OK.

From *The Listeners*: Be calm, be true, be quiet. I watch over you. Rest in My Love.

### **DAY 6 Tuesday March 31**

Last day of March. Sunny. But feel a bit depressed as there are too many people not doing as they are told and I think there is a new case in Nelson.

Put out rubbish and recycling.

Look through one of my albums with photos of walking tour in Provence.

Check emails. Reply from Linda and John. OK. No replies from Alison or Pixie.

Pick more figs and gather 2 small feijoas. Have to ration my intake of fruit.

Janice rings to say groceries can't be picked up till April 14<sup>th</sup>!

Margaret rings. About to go for a walk.

Have a coffee and then walk round the block, including a little uphill opposite Founders, before lunch, but won't repeat this as the track is so narrow it would be difficult if I met someone on it. Photos of a few more bears.

Had a sleep on the couch in the back porch and then did some weeding and watering.

Rang John to bemoan not being able to share a gin. Poured mine thinking it was Sunday! (Trying to limit myself to weekends) Oh well it was good to sip it while watching *The Chase*!

Ring Margaret. The milk she had been given by Rymans was in a 2 litre bottle – too big to store in any way.



From *God Calling*: I am your Lord, gracious and loving. Rest in My love, walk in My ways. Each week is a week of progress...



### **DAY 7 Wednesday April 1 61 new cases**

Don't think anyone will be trying an April Fool this morning!

Courier delivered pills and soap from Nature Bee.

Emails to Malcolm M and Janice. Finish Day 6 and start this.

Malcolm replied. OK except for sore shoulder. Emails from Linda and John and Darren.

Bill from Knapps. Write a cheque and post it later in the day. Note our dairy is closed.

Janice phones re groceries to be bought by neighbour tomorrow and also needs another pickup order for later in April.

Get Isolation diary up-to -date.

Ring Robyn B. Working from home. Her Mum and Dad OK, She has set up ZOOM for them.

Talk to Margaret. Anne had delivered mandarins, apples feijoas and cupcakes.

Walked to Miyazu during lunch hour. Police cars looking for someone.

Pumpkin soup with whipped cream, ginger and parsley for lunch.

Sit in sun looking at pungas and read more about the village of Venner.

Clear garage and get car back in !

Watch *Chase*. Team of 3 win £4000 each.

Fay phones. Thinks Isoa had the virus as was unwell after being in New York. Slept a lot and has recovered. Told sleep was a very good thing. Mitchell had a terrible infection, possibly from a rhus tree.

Watch programmes on Channel 6 so late to bed.

### **WEEK TWO: ALERT 4**

#### **DAY 8 THURSDAY APRIL 2**

Beautiful weather continues. 89 new cases.

Woken by Janice on phone at 8.20 to say groceries her neighbour had bought for us about to be delivered to front porch. Good news. (but no milk. I foolishly had asked for lite and not given an alternative.)

Breakfast and do a small wash. Ring Helen. OK. Will ring Rata Medical for me re flu jab. She rang back to say they are out of supplies at the moment.

Rang Christine. Her cat Freddie OK (but falls a lot).



Decide to cook up some tomatoes with onion. Had the oil heating when Margaret rang. I leave the kitchen. Alarm started screaming. Took ages to go off. Pan OK. Rang M back but her lunch had just arrived.

Had tomatoes on toast for lunch – beautiful tomatoes. Cook some with onion to go with sausage tonight and freeze some.

Margaret rings again and we have a long talk. Had a nice lunch. Anne had sent some goodies and she had had a visit from one of the staff.

Kimberley (from Summit) rang and offered to do any shopping! Told her about Green Gables.

Tired. Read more about the village of Venner and have a snooze in the chair. Then weed path near west doorstep. Transplant some violas into garden nearby and put cinerarias in the tub as I can't go out to buy anything else! Photo of the first white camellia. Then go for a walk round the block. Neck not too good when walking. Open computer about 4.40.

Watch *Chase* and news. Do ironing. Rang M about 7.30 but line engaged. Very tired. Bed before 9.

From *God Calling*: I am here...to help and bless you. Here to keep company with you.

### **Day 9 Friday April 3**

Sunny and very warm. 71 new cases Total 868

Rise about 8.30. Texted Robyn B who will do some shopping for me and others. Very good of her. Order bread, milk and carrots.

Haemophilia ring. Post them a cheque. Ring Margaret and leave a message. Make some sugar water for the tui singing nearby.

Finish *And After All That* (the book about Venner) and google the author Horace Annesley Vachell. He wrote about 100 books. Mine rare but in a battered condition.

Look up Venner village and pictures of Venner. To my amazement the fourth photo was Henry beaming at me. (Must have been from the obituary I wrote about him, hence the Venner)

Check emails. Reply from Alison R. She is OK. Lots of news. Forward Paul T's jokes to John and Linda.

Talk to Margaret. She had been doing some washing. Is enjoying listening to the story of Mabel Howard.

Walk at lunchtime. Meet Elizabeth C and we stop for a chat. She use Skype and Zoom to keep in touch with family. Walk past Green Gables. Work has stopped. Opening in the Spring. Walk round river to Halifax Street and home for lunch – peanut butter on toast.

Ring Jean M and Maggie U.

Lazy afternoon. Crosswords. Watering – especially feijoas and figs.



Janice rings re groceries. Is going to try Countdown again. Christine rings. Confused about time as someone has put her clock back an hour already.

Watch *Chase*, *Repair Shop* and *Escape to the Chateau*. Bed before 10.

#### **Day 10 Saturday April 4**

Sunny, warm, calm. 82 new cases. Some hope that lockdown is working.

Small wash.

Put slides digitised by Wilhelm on to computer. Viewed them and copied to Pictures. Some good ones. (Mouse doesn't work when I have the flashdrive in)

Margaret rings. About to have a walk. I walk round the block.

At lunchtime Robin rings from the beach with news of Pixie who is also being taken out for walks.

Charlene rings. Tells me I can get *Stuff* through *Google*.

After lunch I sort out more slides to be digitised. Joan N rings with offers to help with bread and milk. Ring Amy again and leave a message. Ring Bev and Brian - OK. They have just eaten the last of their sweetcorn.

Begin a new mystery *The Murder Road* by John Booth.

Watch *Chase*. Apricot chicken for tea and a chardonnay. Ring Margaret.

#### **Put clock back one hour.**

Janice rings. Order bread and milk through *Countdown*.

Anne had a hot water crisis today and Jon rang M to say hospice may re-open.

Early to bed. Zonked!

*God Calling*: I am all powerful and all knowing and I have all your affairs in my hands.

#### **Day 11 Sunday April 5** Sunny and warm

Breakfast in bed! Feed birds. Need more bread. Small wash. Tired, despite the extra hour.

Ring Ross M. - OK but forgot to put his watch back and turned up an hour early for his lunch at Abbeyfield. Learn that Amy and William have gone to a motel for the lockdown.

Margaret rings just before lunch. Had had a good walk. Robyn B texts me – groceries on doorstep. Paid her online. She is willing to shop again and is enjoying her weekend as during the week she is doing her Council work from home. Bling gets two walks a day.

Say hi to John over the fence then do more slide sorting.

Walk down to Collingwood Street, turn into Sovereign St, cross Neale Park and home. Talk to two boys on skating rink and explain why they shouldn't have gone through the tape. Photograph one little bear on fence in Weka St.



Linda rings. She and Don are in Alexandra. Rang M about 6.30.

Watch *Chase*. Dorothy-Rose left a message. Had had a call from Fay.

Emails from Elizabeth M, Judy W, and Patricia L (through Helen).



**Day 12 Monday April 6** A bit more cloud around today. 67 new cases. Some hope.

Up at 7 to listen to the Queen's message broadcast to the Commonwealth. Great. Then have a shower and wash hair.

Do my main wash and put new sheets on bed. Helen rings re flu jab. Going on Wednesday. So I ring and have an appointment for tomorrow afternoon. Do some watering, especially under lemon tree.

Go for a walk round the block. Back about 10 and Margaret rings. All well and just going for her walk.

Make a batch of scones and have one for morning tea. May make a feijoa and date cake tomorrow as have found some frozen feijoas.

Have a snooze.

Try to find Kathy H and learn she is now in hospital. Janice rings for a chat. Is trying to manage without her rice milk and is finding the book I once gave her with gluten free recipes useful.

Catch up with this diary. Had forgotten to save some of it! Reply to Elizabeth M.

Janice rings for a chat.

Chops for tea. Margaret rings. Betty B. rang her to say Russell not very well and is sleeping a lot.

Watch some tv, especially a doc on finding ancient shipwrecks in the Black Sea.

**Day 13 Tuesday 7** Some sun; some rain.

Crosswords over breakfast. Make a feijoa and date cake – a really good one. Freeze some for Margaret.

Gillian rang. Kathy in Medical Ward and G able to talk to her. I will try tomorrow.

Take car to Rata Medical and have the flu jab in the car. Come home the long way round to give car a run.

Continue reading *The Murder Road* and some articles in *Memories*.

Rang Margaret. All good. Decide not to open computer but have a quiet day. Worried about spot on my nose reappearing.





Ring Dorothy-Rose

Hoki, coleslaw and homemade chips for tea. Watch some tv. Bed by 9.

Minister of Health, David Clark, also drove 20km with his family to walk on a beach. Offered his resignation. Has been demoted but has to stay in current times. What an irresponsible idiot!

**Day 14 Wednesday April 8** Back to beautiful weather.

Do a small wash, have a read over coffee and then walk around the block.

Home in time to take a call from Kathy H from hospital. Had got my card. Her birthday today. Sang to her. She is there because she had a fall. Doctor has said she can have her clothes today. I was so pleased to be able to talk.

Watch Covid-19 report on tv at 1pm. About 55 new cases today. Must keep staying in lockdown even though Easter is coming. No going to beaches but some trying to go or have already gone.

Margaret rings. Had a walk this morning. Looking for her folder of stories as she wants to enter one in a competition. I may have it here.

Watch *Chase*. Two win £43,000. Lots of damage in Vanuatu and Fiji from Cyclone Harold.

Had a call from Alissa at NCC re my welfare. A good service.

Christine rang. Freddie still eating but back legs not good. Warn her Easter is upon us.

Bed by 10, having watched a good programme on Oak Island. Looking for treasure buried by Knights Templar. Clues to its whereabouts in a Shakespeare folio.

**End of week two!**

**WEEK THREE: ALERT LEVEL 4**

**Day 15 Thursday April 9** Another lovely day. Only 29 new cases.

From midnight all returning Nzers will be quarantined for 14 days in hotels paid for by the government.

Do a small wash. Gradually putting summer clothes away. Wave to John.

Find Margaret's speeches and get the instructions from her.

Janice rang – bread and milk coming from Countdown this evening.

Have a coffee and walk round the block. Note caravans in Neale Park for the homeless.

Short snooze in chair after lunch and finish the book.

Do a few more slides then catch up with this. Do some emails to Martin O. and David M. Reply from Tom and Joan. David's came back.



Put some of M's story on the computer.

Watch *Chase*. Bread & milk arrive. Ring M about 6.40. Read Tom's email to her. Watch *Yukon Gold*.  
Bed 9.15

### **Day 16 Good Friday**

Another death and 44 new cases. Good weather continues.

Listen to a programme about Greenland then get up for breakfast in the sun.

Continue M's story. Check with M and send it away.

Try email to David again but still a problem.

Coffee and start a new book. Walk to Collingwood St and back round the river. Say hi to Leslie R. who was sitting on her verandah with her two dogs Arty and Ella.

Play a couple of games on computer.

Pull a few weeds under kitchen window. 3 feijoas have fallen from the larger tree. Make a fresh fruit salad from these + figs + an apple and one large strawberry.

Bed by 9.45 having watched some television.

### **Day 17 Saturday April 11**

Sunny after a cloudy start. Another 2 deaths 29 new cases

Ring Margaret as it is the anniversary of their wedding and she will be missing Henry.

Spray some weeds in path, driveway and rock garden.

Continue reading *Sea Change* by Robert Parker.

Call from Val and Des. Des gave me some hints about Picasa and Word Processing. Catch up with this diary.

Stephanie rings. Long talk. Oberamagau postponed till 2022. Her bookings will hold but her flights have to be used by September next year. She is going to phone Margaret.

Send email to Connie.

Walk round block.

Ring Christine W. She and Freddie OK.

Talk to Margaret. Bed by 8.30.

### **Day 18 Easter Sunday**

Overcast and showery. Only 18 new cases today.



Listen to a 2017 service from Holy Trinity in Auckland. Too high brow. *Praise Be* much better. Watch doc. *Mountain of Hope* and *Q & A*.

Margaret rings. Can't see much today.

Finish my book. Have a lazy day.

Sad news. Grant H rang to say Rayne has died. Her blood count kept dropping. Family were there towards the end. Ashes may be strewn in Nelson. Ring Bev R.

Janice rang. She too had listened to the church service and agreed with me. Margaret rang. Had been sorting clothes. Emails from Anne and Charlene. A lazy day. Helen rang re Muriel's email.

Ate the last roast lamb dinner - with red wine. Enjoy film *Goodbye Christopher Robin*. Bed before 11. Wild and windy outside. Must tackle some jobs tomorrow!?

### **Day 19 Easter Monday**

Fine till about 4 then showers 19 new cases 1 more death

A few leaves down after overnight rain and northerlies. Had early breakfast in bed. Lazy day. No walk. Don't open computer today. Margaret had gone out about 11 but found wind too cold. Renew firewood.

Reading Sara Newman's book about the Thurlow family *Living between the Lines*. Very interesting. Lots of photos and lots to discuss with Margaret.

Pick the white delphinium which had blown over in the wind. Quite a few feijoas down. Froze enough for 2 pottles. Need more dates and eggs so that I can bake more cakes. Charlene rings for a chat. Rest on bed for a while after lunch. Watch film *Daffodils*. Not what I expected. Bed by 10.45.

### **Day 20 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

Sunny but cool wind snow on western ranges. 17 new cases 3 more deaths

Phone Bob B, Dorothy A, Pam and John P. Tried Marie M and Lorraine S. Short walk wearing scarf and woolly hat.

John was told he had to text for a prescription but he doesn't text! Margaret rang. Had taken part in an exercise programme in the corridor and enjoyed it.

Continue reading *Living Between the Lines* by Sara Newman (Thurlow).

Janice delivers groceries we have been waiting for for over 2 weeks. How disappointing: no eggs, no bread, raspberry jam instead of marmalade, wrong margarine, wrong milk. So I had to ask Robyn to shop for me. Then couldn't send the email! Eventually got in touch and she got all I asked for and delivered about 6pm. Great!



Reply from Glennis and emails from Mattie and Linda U, Paul T etc

Light fire. Watch some tv. Bed by 10pm.

### **Day 21 Wednesday April 15**

Sunny 20 new cases Over half cases so far have recovered.

Sleep in. Wake at 9! M rings about 9.30. Had had a call from Malcolm and Viv. Enjoying their new home and walking on the adjacent golf course and hill.

Elizabeth C rings for a catch-up. Walk around the block. Wind had just come up so cold on North Rd, despite hat, scarf and polo jacket. Not much snow left.

Home for coffee and a scone. Freda Y rings – news of Margaret and ER. Watch Covid-19 at 1pm. About to ring Trustpower re emails not sending when noticed my test one from yesterday coming through.

Pay Robyn online. Watch a video sent from Mattie. Jon sent a photo of his pastel drawing of Kapiti Island – captured the beautiful light. Read an email from Sue and John from *Operatunity*. Such a caring couple. Freeze surplus carrots and tomatoes.

Day goes very quickly. Light fire. Watch tv. Margaret rings about 6.30. All OK. Bed by 11.

### **END OF WEEK THREE**

### **WEEK FOUR: ALERT LEVEL 4**

### **Day 22 Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mum was born on this date in 1900. Put a rose and photos in a group to remember her.



15 new cases. Pleasant weather. Walk round block to take photo of hippo substituting for a bear and one of an actual bear. Do a small wash.



Phone Marie M and have a good chat. Her daughter and granddaughter were tested and have to be in isolation for 5 days till results are known so can't do Marie's shopping for a while.

Coffee and a read.

Rang Margaret. Had exercises in the corridor today. One of her books is about a serpent cave in France so I got out my guff on Lascaux Caves. Must read the book I bought when I was there. Also did some googling.

There were 172 entries in the ER short story. Sadly M's not a winner.

Cucumber sandwich for lunch. Watch Covid-19 report. Jacinda gives more detail of what to expect when and if we go back to Level 3. Seems over 70s will still stay home.

Make a feijoa cake. Used up all the dates. Ring M again about 3.30 then do a massive dish wash. Use the hot tap as there were too many for jug boiling. Will be glad when I can get the washer replaced.

Emailed Amanda at Knapps re Green Gables cheque. They haven't been able to clear their post box. Email Mattie (and got a reply) and Lorraine S.

### **Day 23 April 17**

Fine till about 4pm then welcome rain. 8 new cases 2 more deaths

Spend most of the day tidying the garden. Say hi to John who was in the cul-de-sac talking to Bill and June who had just returned from a walk.

Watch 1pm report. Grant Robertson talking about the economy and what Level 3 could mean for business folk.

Afternoon walk round block. Look at where "my" apartment would have been and talk to a lady who came out of one of the villas. Home just as rain starting. John talking to Joan who had just given him a beanie!

Lots more feijoas. Pity I can't give some away. Send revised grocery order to Janice. Watch YouTube sent by Linda U. Catch up with a bit more of this diary.

Bed after 10. Computer didn't seem to close properly and now won't start! Unplugged everything. At least I won't have lights disturbing my sleep. But I couldn't sleep so finished Robyn Carr's book *Down by the River*.

### **Day 24 Saturday April 18**

13 new cases Had been a lot of rain overnight. Sun came out about 10.



Had breakfast in bed and listened to rural NZ and Kim Hill. Janice rang re order. Had a shower and washed my hair. Rang Margaret. Very quiet there and no morning tea delivered.

Christine W. rang.

Walk as far as Miyazu. Quite warm. Photo of a splendid tree with red leaves.

Scrambled eggs for lunch. No live Covid report today. Read more from *Memories*.

Computer started OK so catch up with this. Tui singing just over the fence. Open emails. Some good jokes. Forward to Anne, Jon and Linda. Turned off properly this time.

Later: Found my copy of *Now We Are Six*. Pie for tea. *Chase* and news. Margaret rang. Had had a lazy day.

When Anne goes back to work boys will set things up so that she is away from customers.

Watch *Watership Down* and enjoy it Then last part of *Best Home Cook*. Bed by 9.30. Should sleep well tonight.



### **Day 25 Sunday April 19**

9 new cases. Sunny and warm after a slow start

Up in dressing gown to watch *Praise Be* then the sisters from Maketu in India and the Topp twins and a doc. about building the Champlain Bridge in Montreal.

Ring Margaret – about to have a coffee and a walk, Wash a few items. A lazy day. Reading EM Forster's short stories. Fascinating. Pre World War 1 yet about life on earth as we know it gone and people living in underground rooms ruled by a machine and communicating through a device like Skype!

Walk pm up round Domett St. Meet Steve and Gillian for a chat.

Cup of tea. Pick up feijoas. Ring M but engaged. Ring Bev W and have a good talk. Eric R's mother in America is in her 90s and has the virus..

Watch lots of programmes. Bed by 10.35

### **Day 26 Monday April 20**

9 new cases **Alert 4 extended till April 28** to be sure.

Do the wash, deal with the feijoas, putting 2 lots ready for cake when my dates arrive. Take some to the corner, against my better judgement, and meet June and Bill coming home from a walk. June took one of the 3 bags but we got too close.



Then HOUSEWORK!  
Have last frozen meal. Bed by 9.45

### **Day 27 Tuesday April 21**

Sunny and very warm. 5 new cases 2 deaths – one in Peru.  
Do a small wash. Summer clothes to go away. Catch up on this and read more EM Forster. Charlene rings and we have a good talk. She makes feijoa muffins. Vicky's cat is sick.  
Ring Margaret but about to walk.  
Watch 1pm report. Walk round slightly longer block.  
Janice delivers the groceries. All good.  
Make feijoa cake and mince stew. Read a bit. Day goes quickly.  
M rings. Not much to report.  
Watch *Chase*. Team of 4 win £55,000. Bed by 10.45. Must ring Nicky and Maggie D tomorrow and work on slides.

### **Day 28 Wednesday April 22**

Sunny and warm  
This could have been the last day of Alert 4 but it is extended to midnight Monday.  
Do dishes from last night. Margaret phones with news that Joan and Tom will try to leave for England next Thursday on a chartered flight from Christchurch. Won't come back again.  
Make feijoa cake and a batch of scones. Put out more feijoas.  
Do some crosswords. Anne rings from Isel. Goes back to work on Tuesday. Call from Christine W.

Walk round block after lunch and meet up with Andy and Maggie. Andy will go back to work Monday week.  
Home to catch up with emails and this log. Now have a list of those NGC journals I can give to the Attic. Do a few slides. Get washing in. Ring Nicky B. All well with her. Has been taking things to Barbara H.

Cook mince and onion, add pasta sauce and cook pasta. Too spicy for me. Watch tv. Bed by 10.

## **WEEK 5**

### **Day 29 April 23**

Still in Alert 4 mostly overcast rain by 4pm

Do dishes and tidy kitchen. Walk around the block. Coffee and scone. Begin reading *Braeburn Settlers* by Nicola Blakemore. Try to ring Elizabeth D but engaged.

Check emails. One from Linda U about the future of cruise ships. Send a grocery order to Robyn and pay Janice for groceries to date - \$180.40.

Pasta better today and had with coleslaw.

Look at slides I took in Fiji in 1963. Will get them digitised.

Pick up lots more feijoas.



Ring Margaret. She had awful nightmares last night. Anne had sent her a lovely parcel of goodies.

Watch tv. Bed by 9.45. Water short in Auckland because of the drought.

### **Day 30 April 24**

A beautiful day. 5 new cases and 1 more death

Wash 1 summer skirt. Walk round block. See a monarch butterfly. Meet Rosemary S. She has been making quince jelly.

Call from Heart Foundation. Not sending out mail.

Meet Helen, Jo F's daughter. I may have taught her, She did a degree and is now a postie.

Omelette for lunch. Read more about the Braeburn settlers.

Get Fiji slides (84) ready for Wilhem.

Find a photo of Dad in uniform to display for Anzac Day. And a photo of Uncle William and Uncle Trace who were at Gallipoli. Will copy a poppy from the computer.

Can hear tui as I write so will renew sugar water. Feel very lazy and very sad. Find old NGC journals for the Attic. Read some of 1917 and 1918 when Mum was there.

John B had to be tested as he woke with a sore throat and runny nose. Couldn't go for his knee x ray.

Rang Marie. Test for virus clear for daughter and granddaughter.

Rang M to tell her I'd had an email from Tom and he and Joan are off to Christchurch tomorrow and to England on Sunday. Sad we can't see them before they go.

Put batteries in transistor and set alarm for the Anzac service tomorrow.

### **Day 31 Anzac Day Saturday April 25**

5 new cases and 1 more death Good weather continues.

Put my poppy on the letterbox and stand by it to listen on my transistor radio to the 6am dawn Anzac service. No actual services during this alert level. Two neighbours silhouetted at end of cul-de-sac. Southern Cross shining brightly. Lights on in most houses. Minister of Defence Ron Mark gave an address in which he referred to the 1918 flu epidemic in which 9000 New Zealanders died, and the present pandemic. Went inside after the national anthems and paid special remembrance and thanks to Dad and my uncles. All very moving.





Back to bed for a while. God's message today is to love each other. Breakfast in outside sun trap. Margaret rings. They had had a good Anzac service at ER, led by Pauline. Wash some tops and jeans to put away. Do some work on Dad's album and on Mum's. A lot still to do.

Ring M. She had had a little bird fly in and stun itself on the tiles. She sat on her balcony and nursed it till it flew off. Said it was very beautiful. We think it was a red poll. Try to ring John but line was faulty. Robyn delivers the groceries – meat, bread and butter. By the time I walked round the block it had clouded over. Steak and wine for tea. Feel very depressed. Need a whodunnit! Bed by 9.30. Will maybe read some short stories by Owen Marshall.

**Day 32 Sunday April 26**

Sunny and warm. 9 new cases 1,470 in total but 78 per cent have recovered.

This should have been the NHS bus tour to visit war monuments in the district.

Wash a few more summer clothes. Ring M with more info about the red poll. Ring John – OK. Test negative.



Walk down to Miyazu Garden, on to cycle track and back through Founders. Several photos, including a koala in a tree! Haven beautiful. Good to see families out.



Cucumber sandwich for lunch. Work on Mum's album. So many memories.

Trish phones for a chat. She and her little dog are OK but she too had one day feeling depressed. Tells me about Helen's teddy and hand-made poppy. Will go to see it tomorrow. Charlene rings. She is OK but not Lisa.

I ring Lyn N to say hi. Margaret rings- had a good walk round the grounds. Watch *Chase*.

Pasta, cabbage and peas for tea. News, American Restoration, then back to TV 1 for the detective one. Bed by 10.30.



#### Day 32 **Final day for Level 4.**

Monday April 27. Overcast. Some sun about 11. Rain about 5 as I was putting out the rubbish. 1 new case, 4 probable.

Listen to programmes on Radio NZ until about 8.30. One a war diary extract from WW1.

Walk to photo Helen's teddy and able to have a talk with Helen. Take other photos on the way – one of 3 poppies, others of autumn colours along the Maitai. Say hi to Kath W who was out walking.



Home for a late coffee and scone. M rang. Had been able to see and talk to Anne at the Security Gate.

Freeze more whole feijoas. Watch the Covid news at 1pm.

Put in some twigs to support my new sweet pea plants and do a little weeding. Pick up more beautiful feijoas and 2 figs.

Continue Mum's album. Nearly finished.

Ring Lily and have a long talk. She was sitting out the back of her house in the sun and is very content. Her sister May rings her every day. Lily now 86, the same age as Muriel..

Hope Joan and Tom have got home safely.

Freeze more pottles of raw feijoas. Watch *Chase* and news. Watching Australians racing in Mongolia when Sue G phones. Has a friend in Auckland looking for a home in the Wood. Talked of her campervan trip down south.

Watch rest of the race and then the second part of *One Lane Bridge*.



**Level 4 finishes at midnight. Level 3 will allow many back to work and more businesses to open, with restrictions. Won't make much difference to me but I will give the car a run one day and have a walk on the beach,  
LET'S HOPE PEOPLE DON'T GO MAD AND BREAK THE RULES!**

I'll finish this diary here but will continue with my usual one.

A SUMMARY: I got to quite enjoy the lockdown. Treated the first two and a half weeks as a holiday and enjoyed catching up with crosswords and reading books. The days were beautiful and encouraged me to walk. Checked up on two or three friends and family each day. Managed to avoid tackling the many projects I had said I would do if I had time! (I did start on these as the weeks passed but still a lot to do.) It was good having long talks with my sister every day. And it was a time to reflect on my life, enjoy my home and garden, listen to the birds and enjoy the quiet. The downside was not being able to do my own shopping, not being able to go to planned events, not actually being with friends and family and not having anyone to play board games with.

Rosemary Venner