

Covid-19 Lockdown Vignettes in NZ

The Virus

From Wuhan so suddenly it appeared
Flew across our shores and made us scared

The Daily Diary

Thursday 26 March-Level Four Lockdown

Midnight has locked me in for now
My karakas wilt, wait for rain

Friday 27 March- Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Parted hair and earnest speech
Fears subside, a good night's sleep

Saturday 28 March-Swimming Guilt

8 o'clock at the Toilet Block
The ocean soothed my soul

Sunday 29 March-Social Media

The connected laughs are loud inside
But outside walkers space their speech

Monday 30 March-Queuing

I stand on plastic tape for an hour
And with you wait for bags of flour

Tuesday 31 March-Bears

Still lives stare out through window frames
(Though the bears don't look away...)

Wednesday 1 April-Fools Day

“Flatten the Curve” she said

But for the jobless or the dead?

Thursday 2 April-One week on

No more now inside to clean

And no more flights or magazines

Friday 3 April-Bubbles

When my bubble starts to wobble

My neighbour gets irascible

Saturday 4 April-Rules from Welly

No swimming at the beach

Yet cyclists speed on by

Sunday 5 April-Daylight Saving

Time no longer matters now

The days are all the same

Monday 6 April-Homeless

He foraged in an empty bin

She was missing from the ATM

Tuesday 7 April-1pm update

The DG outlines the toll

The PM intones our role

Wednesday 8 April-Nighttime worries

A ruru quorks concerns

I pillow toss my own

Thursday 9 April-Two weeks on

Cases, clusters, contacts, trace

New words for this virus chase

Friday 10 April-Easter Friday

Church was unmassed today

Bus ghosts glide on by

Saturday 11 April-Dogs

They sniff each others' tails

But no pats for them

Sunday 12 April-Hair

Their heads are growing silver locks

Home cuts are not the same

Monday 13 April-Zoomies

Peering into your room

You peer back at mine

Tuesday 14 April-Economic Scenarios Released

The rain arrived and pelted me

Cold clouds and a pea green sea

Wednesday 15 April-Old Joggers

Stiff quads recall an earlier time

When legs would further roam

Thursday 16 April-Level 3 Outlined

No dentists, butchers or barbers still

Still inside confined against our will

Friday 17 April-Counterfactual

Did we overreact by locking down?

Not according to the graphics shown.

Saturday 18 April-Street

An empty street, no sign of any car

No monoxide gas - the hills are not so far

Sunday 19 April-Our Harbour

Three kahawai jumped from the sea

So close to shore-so new to me

Monday 20 April-Extension

Another week of Level Four!

Surprising that? – why not more?

Tuesday 21 April-Pavements

Cheer me up with calcium carbonates

Your words of hope with silhouettes

Wednesday 22 April-Staycation

Stoic lambs are we, fed by others' pay

Some penned inside, no room to play

Thursday 23 April-Four weeks on

Bloody hell where did they go?

Those things to do- I do not know!

Friday 24 April- Deadly

A fever, dry cough, so very tired

Short of breath, then a life expired

Saturday 25 April-Anzac Day 2020

We stand at six outside our gates
Lines of lonely pines, solemn states

Sunday 26 April- Bookseller

In his shop why did you need to yell at him?
Three kids in tow, at home, it must be grim

Monday 27 April-Leaving Level Four

Nineteen dead, so time to celebrate?
Freedom lost has meant no worse a fate?

Tuesday 28 April-Level Three

Hello Level Three Point Eight
Not much for me to differentiate!

Takeaways

300,000 burgers sold today, a record sum
Pent up needs, from a month with none

Wednesday 29 April-Small freedoms

Wetsuit on, walk down the road
Plunge in, stroke, and shed the load

Thursday 30 April-Government miscommunication

People! its "elimination" not eradication
David Clark! Meant no wrong. Short drive for a surf vacation

Friday 1 May- Consequences

The hoarded rice looks up at me
Yet again another curry!

Saturday 2 May-Be Kind

You said hello to me across the street

I know you not but that is neat

Sunday 3 May-Not so funny now

The whatsapp laughs, the novel life inside

Has now worn off, the jokes have died

Monday 4 May-Lonely Linen

Side by side, racked and forlorn

Business shirts. Long time unworn.

Tuesday 5 May-Austerity

Don't want to find those shops to browse and buy

Found my old t shirts! Simply wash and dry!

Wednesday 6 May- Kiwi tribes

Not ever bourgeois nor proletariat

Divided now by use of masks and the net

Thursday 7 May-Life as Art

So very true but through a different screen

We are all hobbits now-at least the men

Friday 8 May-The Seagull by ATC

What would Chekov have to say?

They youtubed his famous play!

Saturday 9 May-Group Laughter

I hear them playing in our suburban bay

Two fingers to the rules, their sand, or so they say

Sunday 10 May-Mothers Day

Shane you shuffled slowly past my coffee shop

It could be me- I bought you hot chocolate

Monday 11 May-Move to Level Two

Thursday is the day! We can dine! (not drink)

But ten at a funeral stinks I think

Tuesday 12 May-Recriminations

Blame Xi Jinping, or the speed of WHO

Does Team NZ know what to do?

Wednesday 13 May-Farwell to Level three

Not sure now I want to go to work

Here or there-where does that virus lurk?

Craig Stobo

13 May 2020

