**March 24**

Life today is very different from only a week ago. Some states have closed their borders with only the essential travellers and goods being allowed through.

The Ballarat Mechanics Institute/library published an online story about ‘Ghost lights’, whereby a single light is left burning, even if no one is home. So even though they might be closed for weeks or months, the burning light is a reminder of their return.

An American librarian wrote: This is a war. The Enemy is invisible this time, being neither bullets nor bombs. Our best weapon at this time is isolation. The virus’ major weapon is its invisibility and unlike Harry Potter, we can’t say a magic spell for it to disappear.

A person wrote on a labyrinth page that I follow: When you go out and see the empty streets, stadiums, railway stations – don’t say that it looks like the end of the world.

You are seeing love in action. Care for each other, our older and unwell relatives, friends, and for those we will never meet.

In these times, unlike that of the Spanish flu a century ago, or Samuel Pepys in the 1660’s – I have borrowed his three volume set from a library where I volunteer – we have constant online contact with others from around the world.

Italians in lock down have done singing from their balconies.

Members of a Dutch professional orchestra have met ‘online’ to play Beethoven’s Ode to joy – from their separate homes. My own amateur orchestra is looking to explore this option too.

This evening I did a short word puzzle – starting with the letter T, find the nine letter word that means short term.

Answer – temporary. I believe this is a sign and we will get through it.

**March 28**

Today after stepping outside my door and taking yet another sky photo, I have decided to create a new album on Facebook and call it Sky Diary. At least one photo a day, sometimes two, depending on the clouds and colours.

We are not in the stricter Stage 4 lockdown – YET – unlike other countries, but this time also reminds me of the 2017 publication ‘They cannot take the sky’ – a book by refugees in detention centres.

**March 29**

In an online post with a book quote, I saw the following note:

*We are living the slowest days on Earth. Everything is in lockdown until curfew.*

**March 31**

Quote from a politician:

*We don’t set the timeline – the virus does.*

**April 1**

ABC newsreader:

*Life changes fast.*

**April 3**

A quote from my friend while in the supermarket:

*It’s amazing that what is gold now, that was never before.*

Of course the ‘gold’ refers to the panic-bought items like toilet paper, sugar and flour.

Today I saw a Facebook post that stated:

*Let’s remember – we don’t have to figure it all out today.*

PM Scott Morrison said:

*The virus writes its own rules*

**April 6**

An Australian man who now lives in New York, after that city recorded a high number of deaths:

*The new normal isn’t normal at all.*

**April 25 – Anzac Day**

Instead of gathering together, people were separated. It was suggested we gather at 6am on our driveways to pay our respects, with a candle or torch.

Musicians were encouraged to learn The Last Post and perform it. I had considered doing this myself, and wasn’t sure if I would go out at 6am, but hearing a live trumpeter made me go out where I saw another neighbour on our driveway, with a man from next door playing the music. He said later that he had spent the last week practicing for this moment.

NSW Governor General Margaret Beazley said in her speech:

*War or no war, the pandemic is an enemy.*

I heard on a media report:

*Private acts with profound public purpose.*

Parallels were drawn with the wartime nurses looking after the wounded, to the current time of Covid 19 and the medical staff.

Channel 10 news staff said these quotes:

*This was an Anzac Day like no other.*

*This was the day something changed.*

**April 26**

The Age reporter Nicholas Reece wrote an article stating:

*The good news from history is that cities do bounce back after pandemics. There was Athens and the plague of 430 BC, Europe and the Black Plague of the 14th Century and even Australia with the Spanish flu a century ago.*

The question is also posed: what do we want life in Melbourne to look like on the other side?

ABC reporter Brianna Shepherd stated:

*The shut down was swift and painful.*

**April 27**

Channel 10’s Project show host Waleed Aly stated:

*History tells us that after a pandemic, life will not be the same.*

**April 29**

Channel 10’s American correspondent:

*You don’t need a mask to look someone in the eye.*

Someone from a university:

*People are impacted by their own lens. Those things that were thought impossible are now possible.*

**April 30**

Person on tv ad for company Airtasker:

*We may be isolated but we don’t have to be alone.*

**May 2**

Channel 7 news reporter Sarah Greenhaulgh:

*Covid 19 has emptied city streets globally.*

**May 6**

I started reading a short book for kids/teens of a fictionalised account of a girl living in London through the Great Plague of 1665. Some similarities to our current times:

*It will be sad if our pew in church is empty.*

*Cemeteries are filling up.*

*Locked up and alone but still in the land of the living.*

*It’s a shame to see so few boats on the river.*

*I found it strange to be among folk who have not lived through the plague and have no real understanding of it.*

**May 7**

Australian radio personality Kate Langbroek, who moved to Italy last year with her husband and four kids for a year overseas, and has been under tough restrictions for a few weeks.

*Coffee is a drug. So is the outside world.*

**May 8**

An email I received from Parliament:

*We are still in the same boat, until we reach our safety shores*

**May 9**

Quote from a person on a Facebook post about the high number of deaths in a Sydney nursing home:

*How many more Newmarches will there have to be?*

**May 10**

Indigenous musician Bart Willoughby:

*After we are locked down, we will then know it is like to be locked up.*

**May 11**

Victorian Premier Dan Andrews announced some lifting of the restrictions.

*Slow and steady, cautious and safe. It’s not a popularity contest, it’s a pandemic.*

Channel 10 show the Project host Carrie Bickmore:

*Just because you can (go out more), doesn’t mean you should.*

**May 12**

A Facebook meme, shared by Merete Entwistle, a former colleague.

*We will not go back to normal. Our pre-Covid 19 existence was not normal. We normalised greed, inequality, exhaustion, hoarding and rage.*

Peter Dutton:

*Australia finds itself at war against a faceless enemy.*

SBS late news reporter Abbie O’Brien:

*There are two words keeping leaders up at night – Second Wave.*

**May 14**

ABC show ‘The Business’:

*The virus has stolen her job.*

‘Business’ reporter Philip Lasker:

*Unemployment will replace lockdown as the economy’s destroyer.*

**May 15**

Walhalla local Russell Wright on one of the live video walks, re the playgrounds closure:

*We’ll be untaped one day.*

**May 16**

New Normal – an ABC 24 program featuring people from around Australia who have lost jobs and/or whose situations have changed as a result of the Covid 19 situation. Checking in with them in six months time.

**May 18**

FB post from the Old Treasury Building, Melbourne, sharing photos of the empty streets:

*Their life blood is the city’s history. What’s your significant object from 2020?*

**May 21**

Jenny Normand Groome, from Facebook library group:

*What is time at this point?*

Kate Langbroek:

*The restaurant is an amazing concept. All you have to do is go in and sit down.*

ABC reporter Philip Lasker:

*Endless dole queues, deserted streets, shuttered shops.*

**May 23**

ABC reporter:

Day by day, life is slowly heading towards normalcy.

**May 25**

I started reading a book from my own shelf, ‘The Great Plague of London’, an account of this event that killed thousands. Quotes:

-        The panic and plague came into the city together

-        In decaying wooden houses among the filthy alleys, plague found all the material it required to thrive.

**May 27**

Channel 10 Project show host Pete Helliar re wearing masks in public:

*We’ve done things we’re not comfortable with, because we’re in a pandemic.*

Waleed Aly on the same show:

*Pandemics have a way of putting things in perspective.*

Plague book:

-        The theory for the shutting up of houses with the sick and healthy together, was that the plague contagion was so universal, that anyone who came near an infected person almost took infection himself. And if allowed to go free among his fellows, he was a public danger.

-        As plague settled upon London, the reaction was apparent. The plague altered the whole course of the city’s life.

-        It was quick to extinguish much of the daily activities. It made everyone suspicious of intimate friends as strangers, suspicion of the very air they breathed, lest it bore infection.

-        No one should follow the grave diggers cart to the grave, it was forbidden.

-        The dread was universal.

-        (for country areas) Letters from London were held in universal suspicion, as a possible vehicle for carrying infection.

-        Isolation was practically impossible when a public thoroughfare ran through school grounds.

-        Newgate was a gate in the city walls. The plague got in.

**May 28**

ABC late news, re local newspapers only publishing online versions:

*Printing presses are falling silent.*

**June 1**

Journalist Andrew Bolt wrote in his Herald Sun column:

*The Government’s claim of ‘we’re all in this together’ is a fraud, due to no one in the public service losing a job or taking a pay cut, when those who came to be called the front line workers – nurses, doctors, supermarket staff – face the higher health risks.*

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp:

*We’ve been in survival mode, we’re now in revival mode.*

***June 2***

*Channel 10 reporter Phoebe Bowden:*

*People go out and explore the new normal.*

*ABC program:*

*The deadly infection intruded into (Russian President) Putin’s plan to be president for life.*

***June 3***

*Channel 7 reporter Amelia Brace:*

*Once the Corona virus epicentre, the Big Apple (New York) is now a battleground –(re the riots following George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis)*

*Catherine Wilson-Nash on Facebook:*

*We all went through this differently and our mental health was tested in different ways.*

*Charlie Pickering, ABC tv:*

*Who would have thought Corona would be knocked off the news cycle?*

***June 4:***

*ABC program The Business, Stephen Long:*

*The Government wants to snap back, but there’s no economy to snap back to.*

***June 6***

*Kate Torney, CEO of the State Library of Victoria:*

*The world won’t go back to the way it was before.*

*ABC news headline:*

*No new cases, the first day since the pandemic was declared.*

*ABC Classic FM presenter Alice Keath re composer Beethoven’s somewhat isolated life due to his deafness:*

*We’ve all got to know what isolation feels like.*

***June 10***

*Images of neighbours looking over fences, etc:*

*When we look back on these days, remember what we found.*

***June 13***

*SBS world news:*

*The streets are silent, the shops are closed.*

***June 20:***

*World Health Organisation Director at the figure of the highest number of cases worldwide:*

*The world is now in a new and dangerous phase.*

*Today was the day Victorian premier Daniel Andrews had to cut back the number of people allowed at events and in places, after a spike in numbers. The state of emergency has now been extended to July 19.*

*ABC newsreader Mary Gearin:*

*25 new cases overnight tipped the balance.*

*ABC reporter Zoe Daniel:*

*The Corona virus has closed many doors, but could open new ones.*

***June 21 – winter solistice***

*Either the Victorian premier Daniel Andrews or the chief health officer:*

*If you break the chief health directions, you’ll be held accountable.*

**From the Great plague book:**

-        The plague’s cruelty was performed in stealth and silence.

-        The madness of people seems beyond belief. They followed bodies to the grave,  
 despite the prohibitions.

-        Liberty is not given to the historian on what to choose and reject.

-        Samuel Pepys has left on record what seems incredible, that in spite, those sick   
 with the plague would breathe out their windows to take contagion to the   
 uninfected.

-        The plague was universal. It had attained its supreme height, no one can tell when it   
 began.

- The Great Plague passed, to become but a memory.

**June 22**

ABC late news:

*We have to learn to run the economy alongside the virus.*

Reporter Andrew Probin:

*Complacency is as much the enemy as the virus.*

Reserve bank governor Philip Lowe:

*We’ll be living for years under the shadow of the virus.*

**June 23**

ABC tv:

*In the last few months, the world has changed in an unprecedented state.*

There are more positive cases and fears of a second wave. Shopping centre drive through centres were swamped, with people having to wait two, three hours.

The global death toll approaches half a million.

Every day Brazil needs 1000 new graves – so many that they are stacked on top of each other.

ABC ‘The Business’ program:

*The Federal Reserve has opened the chequebook like never before.*

**June 24**

Eight days of double digit case numbers are recorded.

Chief health officer Brett Sutton:

*Human behaviour is a strange thing*

Regarding the extra people getting tested.

**June 26**

The locally based Alice Springs, NT, newspaper, the Centralian Advocate, is closing down.

*We didn’t see this coming, but it’s here today.*

Purchase limits have had to be re-introduced at the supermarkets on items like flour, toilet paper after people in the hot spot suburbs panic bought in fear of being locked down again.

**June 27**

Emergency alerts are being sent out by SMS to residents in the hot spot areas.

There was a delay with holiday parks getting a temperature gauge to check people’s fever status etc, when the school holidays have already started.

ABC program, Alan Kohler:

*As the pandemic began in March, debt wasn’t on people’s minds – their pantries were. Then they turned to home improvements (Bunnings) and office supplies (Officeworks)*

7.30 report:

*The pandemic has been an economic disaster regarding unemployment.*

An American man interviewed:

*You have to act now, to what the virus will be in three weeks.*

ABC late news:

*Australian online habits have changed dramatically. Purchases increases by 55 % during the pandemic.*

**June 28**

Premier Dan Andrews puts the hot spot suburbs on official notice.

Medical officer Michael Kidd:

*This is not a second wave, this is an outbreak.*

It took 45 days for the worldwide cases to increase from 2 million to 6 million.

**June 29**

Channel 7 morning news:

*The virus ‘explodes’ – how did the state get it so wrong?*

75 positive results in the last 24 hours.

Victorian government:

*The label is less important than the action we take.*

Johns Hopkins university, USA, states that the total infections worldwide is 10 million.

**June 30**

Channel 7 morning show Sunrise host David Koch: Regarding the woman throwing her shopping out of the trolley when told to wear a mask in public.

*I can’t believe this – America under stress…..they don’t like being told what to do.*

Today, 3 suburbs have been placed back to Level 3 restrictions for four weeks, until July 29 – mostly in the council areas of Brimbank and Casey. Postcodes and suburbs were listed.

Premier Dan Andrews stated that an infection control breach in the hotel quarantine program was responsible, and issued an official notice.

The security guards at the hotel breached hygiene protocol and let people move around rooms and go outside to buy food.

The World Health Organisation warns that the pandemic is not close to being over.

**July 1– new financial year**

Dan Andrews on ABC program ‘The Business’:

*In the hotspots of Melbourne, there’s not a business that hasn’t felt the impact of Covid 19.*

**July 2**

The Melbourne Anglican paper article:

*A priest asked their congregation what is God’s call to all of us as we emerge from Covid?*

Further reports in the Herald Sun newspaper about the hotel security guards suggest that illegal cash payments were made and that some guards slept with guests.

Confirmed cases around the world passes 10.5 million. 8000 have been in Australia, along with 2.5 million tests.

The police stated that the pandemic doesn’t close down overnight so we don’t  either.

**July 3**

There are now 2300 cases in Victoria, with 66 more in the last 24 hours. Returned travellers are still bringing the virus back.

Channel 10 show The Project had a feature on the latest clusters, and discussed the Blame Game – how people want someone to blame.

Waleed Aly:

*If we do the right things, we’ll get out of this. We’re playing a postcode lottery. Naming and shaming groups (suburbs, people) doesn’t help. It further stigmatises.*

**July 4**

2400 cases. As of today 3000 people in nine public housing tower blocks in inner suburbs are locked down for five days. 500 police officers have been appointed to stand guard on the ground outside.

The USA records 55,000 cases ahead of their Independence Day.

Premier Dan Andrews:

*We can’t go back to normal, we have to find a Covid normal.*

**SBS world news:**

Could a more dangerous mutated form of the virus have reached the USA? Scientists identified a strain named D614G.

**July 5**

Channel 10 news:

*Community transmissions are taking off, from travellers in hotel quarantine.*

Reporter Natasha Exelby:

*The pandemic is paralysing Victoria indefinitely.*

**July 6**

2660 cases, with 127 new ones.

**July 7**

For the first time in more than a century, the NSW/Victorian border is to be closed from midnight. Residents in border towns like Albury/Wodonga, Echuca/Moama to be given permits.

191 new cases in the last 24 hours.

At 3pm premier Dan Andrews announced that Melbourne will be placed back into Stage 3 lockdown for six weeks, till the end of August.

35 people are in hospital and nine in intensive care with Covid 19.

A professor on ABC 7.30 report:

*Each time we try to open up, the virus cases take off.*

ABC news 24 The World program:

Eight staff from the Northern hospital in Melbourne have Covid 19. There are 770 active cases, council area Hume has 145, Wyndham 105.

The USA death toll is now 130,000 and infections continue to spike. They are now in summer and if the virus is still active then, what hope do we have here in the midst of winter?

United Nations sustainable program director Inger Anderson:

*The pandemic is a result of human failing.*

Reporter Stephen Long:

*Australia’s history is punctuated by recessions.*

Dan Andrews:

*A six week lockdown will give Victoria a chance to reset.*

**July 8**

Prime Minister Scott Morrison:

*We don’t have control over the virus, but we do in how we respond.*

Channel 10 news, reporter Candice Wyatt:

*Today there has been another increase in infections, higher than the totals from March. Community transmissions remain a concern.*

Dan Andrews:

*To do otherwise is to pretend this isn’t real.*

860 active cases today. It was mentioned re the panic buying from shops, that history has a way of repeating itself.

The hotel quarantine inquiry is to cost $3 million.

ABC program 7.30 report:

*One of the big issues for Governments is communication.*

Dr Norman Swan:

*We all feel that this pandemic has been going on forever, but without a vaccine, it could take two years.*

Dan Andrews:

*I’m the leader of the Government and the state and it is up to us to fix it.*

American president Donald Trump removes the USA from the World Health Organisation. (WHO)

ABC late news:

*Covid 19 is not like other viruses.*

The WHO acknowledges that Covid 19 can spread through the air.

**July 9**

The new police security checkpoints surrounding Melbourne have been described as a ring of steel.

3098 cases in Victoria today. The USA passed three million cases.

Immunologists are making a family tree of the virus.

Channel 10 show ‘The Project’ hosts criticised and questioned the way of the hotel quarantine system, saying there was inconsistency between the states.

**July 10**

288 new cases, the biggest spike in Australia since the start of the pandemic in March. It is now suggested people wear a mask when out.

Victorian health officer Brett Sutton described the situation as ‘plain ugly’.

The National Australia Bank chief economist:

*This will be the worst recession since the Great Depression*

**July 11**

1249 total cases, 49 Victorians in hospital and six of those in intensive care.

Health minister Jenny Mikakos:

*Our hospitals have responded well to this pandemic since January.*

Deputy chief medical officer Dr Nick Coatesworth:

*We need to prepare ourselves for a world without a vaccine for 12-18 months. We have to be able to live with Covid 19.*

Dan Andrews:

*This is not an ordinary weekend.*

ABC late news reporter George Roberts:

*The border bottlenecks are a symptom of Covid recovery.*

**July 12**

273 new cases.

Dan Andrews:

*This is a dangerous, challenging time.*

Brett Sutton:

*This is the public health challenge of our lifetime.*

**July 13**

177 new cases.

Dan Andrews:

*This is a virus that spreads rapidly and will defeat us if we are not careful. It is silent in many respects, with so many symptoms. A silent and clever enemy.*

Email from the annual Open House weekend that would have been held on July 25-26:

*If 2020 has made one thing clear, it is that we are in unchartered territory.*

Florida is now the epicentre of the USA with 15,000 cases today.

**July 14 – Bastille Day**

From Nathan Longfollow, American Library group on Facebook, re libraries reopening only for book pick ups:

*‘No reading in the library’ seems so anti-thetical, so silly, meaningless, tragic. The library has always been a place to go and read, learn, research with materials and sources at your disposal. Who would have thought we would be saying something so paradoxical as ‘no reading in the library?’*

Brett Sutton re the discussion of stricter lockdowns:

*Nothing is off the table.*

Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk:

*The enemy is complacency.*

Channel 7 news reporter Ally Donaldson re the South Australia border closure:

*Our world is getting smaller again.*

Michael Leaney, owner of Walhalla’s Star Hotel who does video walks of the local area, re the second lockdown and social distancing:

*Places are able to reopen but they’ve lost their custom. Things are never going to get back to normal.*

A politician giving a press conference outside a nursing home:

*Covid 19 has a mortality rate, a death rate.*

Journalist Stan Grant:

*Despite living with this virus for just over six months, we’re only just understanding the long term effects (on the body, organs etc)*

*We just don’t know what happens after.*

Former Prime Minister Julia Gillard:

*If this virus doesn’t get you, the economic fall out will.*

**July 15**

Channel 7 morning show host Larry Emdur:

*13 million people worldwide have contracted Covid.*

Also this is the tenth consecutive triple digit daily increase.

Dr David Darley, from a Sydney clinic which will be observing post-Covid patients for 12 months.

*There is a wide range of clinical severity. Day seven after infection seems to be critical.Covid has distinct clinical stages.*

Channel 10 show The Project host Carrie Bickmore on younger people’s casual attitudes:

*I’m strong, I’m healthy, I’ll come through the other side.*

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian:

*Every time we have an outbreak, we can’t afford to lockdown, reopen, lockdown, reopen. That’s no way to live or instil confidence to businesses to keep employing people.*

Julia Leask from the University of Sydney talked about ‘changing behaviours’.

Dan Andrews:

*If people don’t follow the rules, additional restrictions become more likely.*

An ABC news 24 report discussed genomic testing and how the virus seems to be mutating after each chain of infections.

ABC reporter Felicity James:

*One person is all it takes.*

Reporter Andrew Probin:

*The Covid safe app was labelled a dud.*

Northern Territory Government:

*Very few places remain Covid free.*

**July 16**

The number of people in hospital has passed 100 for the first time.

American patient Elle Kehres describes Covid as a spectrum of severity.

371 cases in Victoria – the worst day. The life cycle of this virus means the actions are not well known for another week or so.

Brett Sutton:

*The main issue is to not have infection introduced in the first place.*

One in eleven London Covid patients have a rash and there are calls for that to be added to the list of symptoms.

Channel 10 Project show:

*Right now in Victoria, it’s about so much more than the economy.*

**July 17**

NSW premier:

*We ask people to think about what they are doing, where they are going.*

Dan Andrews:

*Anticipated infections are expected to be over 400. This is not a normal winter or weekend. If you’re in two minds about whether you should do something, chances are you shouldn’t.*

Today there are a total of 5165 cases, 428 new, 31 people in intensive care.

Jenny Mikakos:

*We are facing a one in 100 year pandemic, we are in the fight of our lives.*

Brett Sutton:

*We are not far enough into this pandemic to know what the long term effects will be.*

Ten news reporter Nicole Strahan:

*With increasing figures, a Stage 4 lockdown looms.*

ABC news:

*Compared with the USA – that recorded 75,000 cases in one day that ‘shattered records’ and it’s their summer now.*

**July 18**

Dan Andrews:

*The likelihood of a longer lockdown rests with individuals and families doing the right thing.*

2608 active cases, 217 new for Victoria.

The Australian Medical Association thinks a stricter lockdown needs to occur now.

**July 19**

363 new cases. Dan Andrews announces that from next Thursday July 23, face masks will be mandatory when going out or people will get a $200 fine.

Herald Sun newspaper editorial:

*Corona virus has cut Victoria to the core and how we respond will decide the future of this state.*