

# Bear settles into lockdown



The diary of Bear: Book 2

**First published in pdf and electronic form in April 2020**

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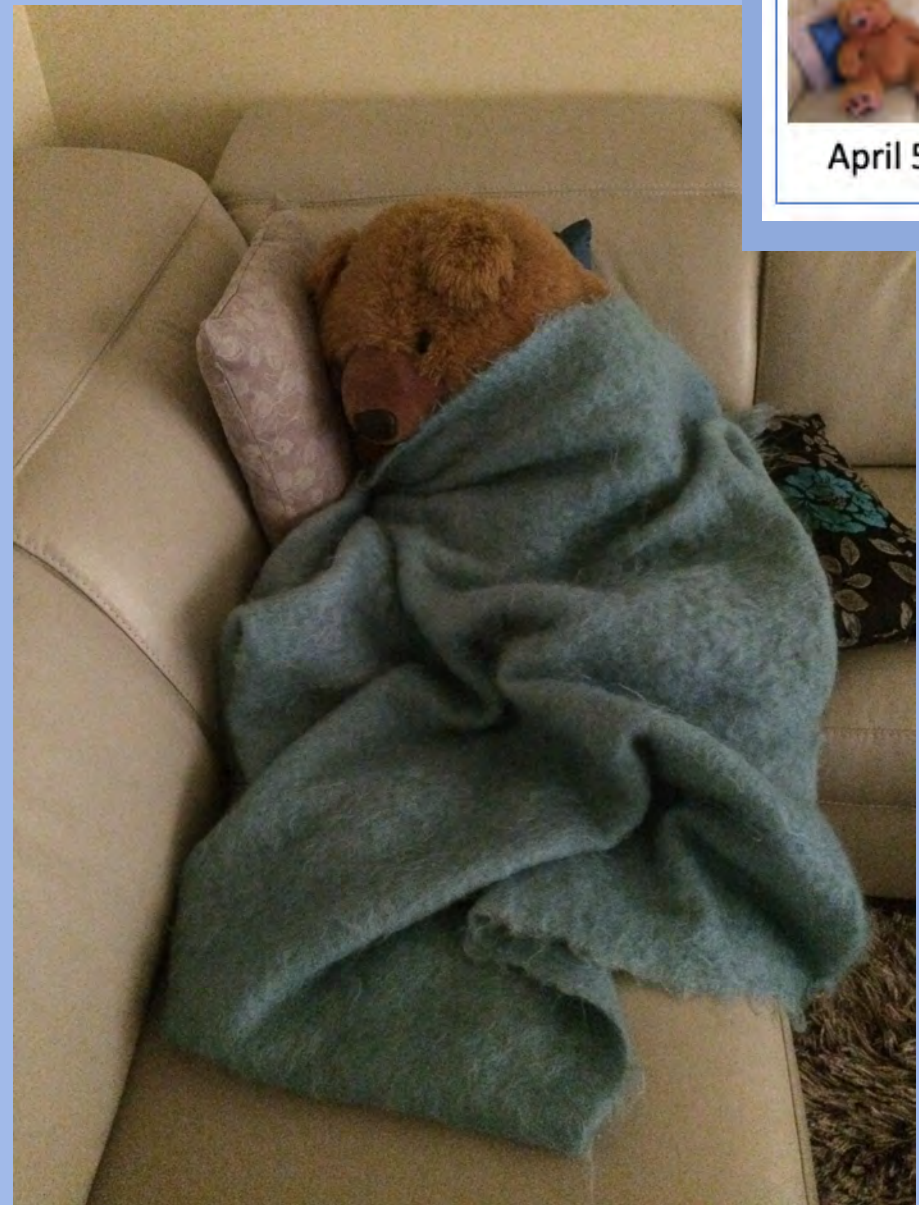
**Author and photographer: Carol Mutch**

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It's well into Week 2 of Level 4 lockdown.

I'm finding that some days are really slow.

Sometimes I sleep in and it takes me a while before I get up and head out to the gate.



April 5



Today's count was one tractor,  
two cars and a man on a bicycle.

The most fun I had all day was  
watching the flag fluttering at the  
war memorial gates across the  
road.

I was so tired I fell asleep in the  
chair.

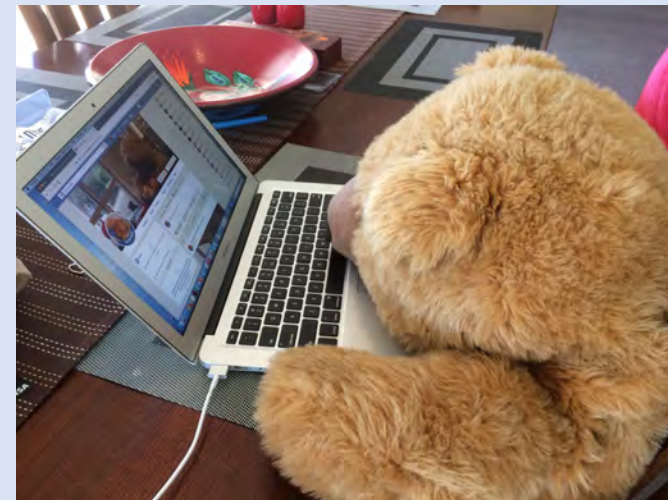


April 6



Today, I have decided to stop moping about. First, I found jobs to do around the house.

Next, I checked my Facebook page to see how my friends were doing.



April 7



And then I baked some Easter treats for my humans.



April 8

It's much more fun when you get out and do stuff. Today, I helped in the garden. I mowed zig-zag shapes on the lawn.



I watered the weeds and dug up  
the roses.

My humans suggested I might  
like to stay inside tomorrow.

Did I do something wrong?



Because I'm staying inside today, I decided it was time to kickstart my fitness regime.

It was very up-lifting.

I did sit-ups...



April 9

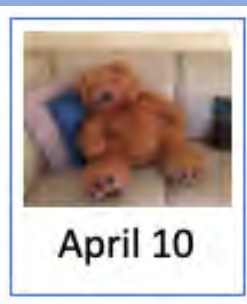


Step-ups...

And push-ups.

Impressed?





April 10

It was Good Friday today. There were treats for humans and bears. The humans had hot cross buns and I had honey.



I took the Prime Minister's advice and coloured in her Easter egg design. I tried very hard to colour inside the lines.



I wrote her a letter to say thank you. Do you think she'll write back?



April 11

Easter weekend is usually a time for humans to go away on holiday or catch up with family.

The Police Bear on the news said to stay home this weekend.

I told my humans that we should have a 'staycation'.



I sunbathed for a bit...



And when it got too hot my humans made me a shady hut.

Today was Easter Sunday.

The Prime Minister said the Easter Bunny was an essential service but I wasn't sure if he might run out of Easter eggs before he found me.

When I woke up there were no Easter eggs but three clues.

I needed to go on an Easter egg hunt.

Clue number 1: I am red and black but I'm not a rugby team...

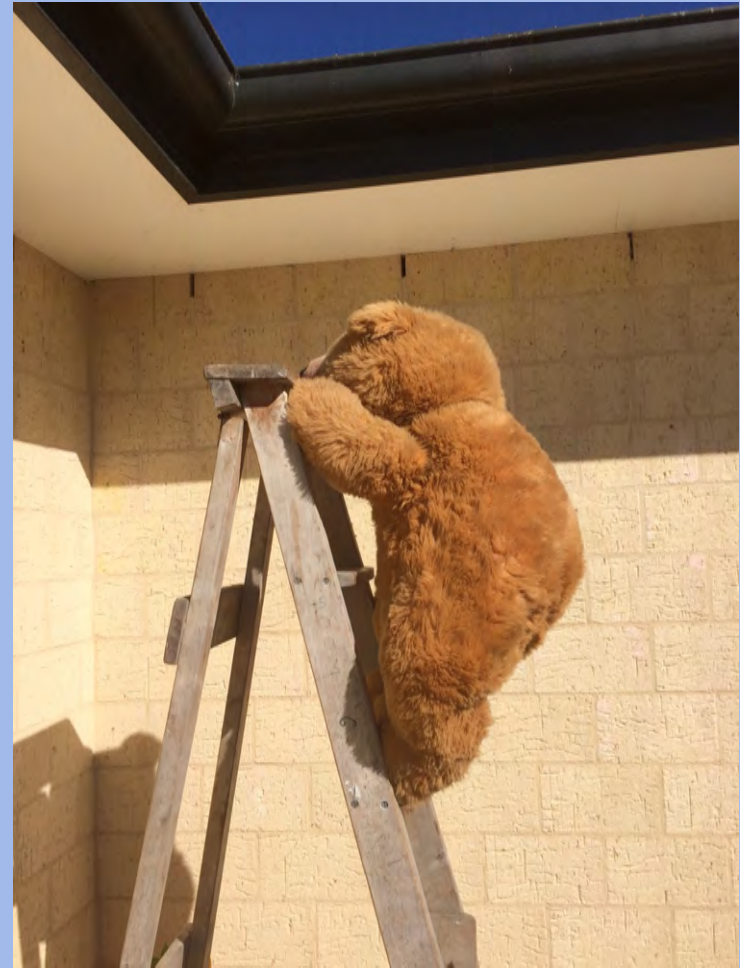


April 12

I know, the letterbox!



Clue number 2: I'm like the toybox  
but I'm not inside...



Clue number 3: I sit up high  
and catch the rain...

But that was not all. I had a treat in store for my humans.

A few days ago, I found the recipe for Bear Paw cookies.

While they were busy working on their computers, I sneaked them into the oven.



April 13



Mmm, they smell delicious! I can't wait for my humans to try them.

Well, what a wonderful weekend. It was all worth it.

Happy Easter holiday humans!

Be safe.

Be kind.

Love, Bear.





On March 25, 2020, New Zealand went into lockdown. This was the final step of a four-stage approach to fighting the COVID-19 virus. Bear's story was originally written to entertain family and friends and each day a new episode appeared on the author's Facebook page.

The story gained wider attention as it is not just a story about a toy bear. It contains many aspects of life under lockdown that readers will resonate with. It can also provide parents and teachers with an opportunity to discuss Bear's adventures with children and relate them to their own experiences.

In Book 2: Bear settles in to lockdown, Bear finds that lockdown isn't always easy but you can change your attitude and try to make the best of it. Having Easter weekend to look forward to provides a bright spot in Bear's lockdown.