

THE VOICE OF YOUTH

WRITTEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE • PUBLISHED BY PORT KEMBLA YOUTH PROJECT • 2020 - 2022 MAGAZINE



SPECIAL ISSUE

LET'S
CELEBRATE
TOGETHER

PKYP
40
YEARS

Congratulations to PKYP for 40 years of service to young people and the community in Port Kembla. So much has changed in 40 years but what has remained constant is PKYP's dedication, passion, professionalism and commitment to supporting the needs of young people.

FRIENDSHIP • UBUCUTI • PAGKAKAIBIGAN • AMITIÉ • صداقة

SPECIAL ISSUE

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

PKYP 40 YEARS

CASUAL EDGE • CONNEXION • CONNECT UP • GIRL'S REACHING OUT • WORLDWIDE - GROW HARMONY DAY • HOMEWORK HUB • ILLAWARRA MULTICULTURAL YOUTH CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY • IN THE MIX • MAGAZINE PROJECT • OWN IT PK LEAP • PORTWORX YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP • SPLASH SWIM SCHOOL • YOUTH WEEK XPRESS THEATRE • YOUNG WOMEN'S FORUM • GIRL TALK • FRIENDS PROGRAM ART IN THE GARDEN • PK MURAL PROJECT • 313 FILM PROJECT



You are welcome to leave feedback by contacting us:

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THE PORT KEMBLA YOUTH PROJECT is excited to launch our 2020-2022 Youth Magazine with the help of local young people. This project is supported by the NSW Government through Department of Communities and Justice. We like to thank our collaborative partners in this project including the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra and the University of Wollongong.

We have been working with professional Graphic Designers to edit and design this colourful and informative magazine produced by and for young people. This has been an opportunity for young people to develop articles and communication skills in a fun and creative way.

Our appreciation also goes to all those who participated in interviews, workshops and contributed to the magazine by offering young people their time and information. We hope that you enjoy the 2020-2022 Youth Magazine.

Thanks Everyone!

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands that we are meeting on today. The young people who are part of this project live on Dharawal Country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW. We also acknowledge and pay our respects to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/colleagues joining us today.

Port Kembla Youth Project during COVID RESTRICTIONS

Port Kembla Youth Project was greatly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. Here is what happened with our programs!

Swimming Program – For ages 6 months to adults.

We had to cancel our swimming program! The venue that we hire for swimming became unavailable in March 2020 with the restrictions and it was no longer safe to run lessons. Our swim instructor Katherine missed all the swimming kids. It took until March 2021 until lessons could begin again!

Homework Hub – Free tutoring and homework support

With students moving to online learning for school, we thought it would be good to do our homework online too! Every week our students would log onto Zoom and join our tutor for their session. We used the annotations, share screen and zoom chat to complete school tasks and catch up with our friends.

PK Foyer Studios – GROW Project

It became difficult to run some of our programs like Casual Edge and Young Women's Forum. But the GROW Program – Girls Reaching Out Worldwide became the star of 2020. The Intensive English Centre at Warrawong zoomed into the PK Foyer Studio at the Port Kembla Youth Project Office and participated in Drumming from the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, chats with NSW Health and Headspace. We were very grateful to see the young women each week!

Wollongong City Council Wollongong Youth Services

Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference

WCC WYS, MCCI, Headspace, PKYP, Department of Education, IMS, Headspace, STARTTS, Warrawong IEC, Keira High, Warrawong High, Figtree High participated in the first online delivery of Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference. This was a Cultural immersion conference with information and skill based interactive sessions for young people who are newly arrived to our region

Portworx Youth Reference Group

Where did our young people go? Everyone was at home in their backyards but were accessing the world through their phones on Social Media. Instagram live, Facebook messenger filters and Snapchat connected family across the globe and friends across the suburbs at a time when no one could leave their home. Our members of Portworx Youth Reference Group shared their lives with us and we were able to help out many young people in the local area when they needed it.

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PKYP 40 YEARS

LET'S
CELEBRATE
TOGETHER

HANY BARSOUM

Bowdens Discount Chemist Port Kembla

Congratulations on 40 years of service in our community.

SHARON BIRD

Member for Cunningham

I am happy to congratulate Port Kembla Youth Project on celebrating their 40th Anniversary of service.

The Port Kembla Youth Project is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides information and support to young people aged 12-24. Your programs focus on providing opportunities for skills development, engagement, mentorship and resilience building, recognising the cultural diversity of our local area. PKYP works with young people in Port Kembla and surrounding suburbs including Kemblawarra, Primbee, Warrawong and Windang developing their resilience and emotional confidence to address issues of social and economic disadvantage and help them find positive pathways for the next stage of their lives.

Congratulations on being such an integral part of the Illawarra community for 40 years and I wish you continued success with all the services you provide.

GORDON BRADBERRY AM.

Lord Mayor, Councillor, Wollongong City Council

Congratulations to the Port Kembla Youth Project for providing 40 years of support to young people of Port Kembla and the surrounding suburbs. The service you have provided has made a real difference to the lives of many. The City of Wollongong acknowledge that in the past 40 years there have been many issues that have impacted the lives of our young people and the PK Youth Project has been there. Well done to all those who have been part of the story of success and perseverance BlueScopeWIN community Partners has been a long term sponsor of the Port Kembla Youth Project and we are delighted to be involved in supporting our near neighbour, in Port Kembla.

AMANDA COOPER

Strategic Coordinator - Youth Mental Health.

HeadSpace Wollongong are so excited to wish Port Kembla Youth Services a HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY! PKYP is such an important support for the community and has spent 4 amazing decades having a massive impact on young people, working with them to create awesome futures. In the 12 years headspace have worked with local young people its been our privilege to support and partner with PKYP to deliver innovative programs like Young Woman's Forum, GROW, the Multicultural Youth Conference, Zine workshops and PK Leap in Port Kembla Primary School. We look forward to the next 40 years and are excited to see what impacts PKYP can have on the community and how we can be there to assist along the way.

TIM FAGAN

Parent

Ann & I would also like to express our appreciation of the great work that the Port Kembla Youth Project (with assistance from Bluescope Steel etc..) has done in establishing and maintaining the Homework Hub over the last few years. As a young child, my son was diagnosed with 'mild asperger's features'. He has benefited greatly from the youth theatre projects organised by PKYP that he has participated in from time to time. They have helped him to learn express himself and brought him out of his shell.

The tuition has been of great assistance in keeping him on track with his homework in various subjects. The experience and expertise in modern teaching methods has helped to turn his attitude towards mathematics around so that he enjoys his ability to solve mathematical problems rather than getting upset when he is confronted by new tasks and he understands the mathematical concepts that he will need in order to participate in modern life and function in our society. The fact that he can get advice about how to approach a range of academic tasks from professional and patient teachers that he likes and respects has helped him a great deal in his career as a student and in adjusting to the transition from primary to high school. Please keep up the good work. Many thanks for providing such an excellent service.

SHANNON FAITH

TheatreMax/EduMax

Congratulations to PKYP on 40 years of service to the community! I first started with PKYP way back in 1997 as a theatre facilitator. I feel privileged to have been part of the successful collaboration with ParaMeadows School for 20 years, creating wonderful performances and providing a nurturing and creative space for young people. Over my twenty years at PKYP I worked with young people from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and was always proud of the work that PKYP did in supporting these young people. I wish PKYP the best of luck going forward into the future.

RICARDO GONCLAVES

Former young person - SBS World News Presenter/ SBS Finance Editor

Wow! What a flashback! Congratulations to Port Kembla Youth Project. I contributed to the Port Kembla Community Newspaper 'ConneXtion'. It is important to talk about stories that affect and impact people in the local community. Good work!

DENISE HOLLAND

Department of Communities and Justice

NSW Department of Communities and Justice provides funding to the Port Kembla Youth Project to deliver Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Services, formerly known as the Community Builders Program in the Illawarra. DCJ has worked with and supported this service for over

30 years. The service primarily engages with young people from culturally diverse backgrounds. Their contribution and programs are well received and create community connections and support individuals inclusion and wellbeing. PKYP have delivered services in partnership with local organisations, schools and NGO services and through community collaboration have initiated local projects important to the local young people. We congratulate PKYP on their 40th Anniversary and look forward to supporting their work in the future.

BRAD HUGHES

Principal, Warrawong High School

Congratulations! to a wonderful 40 years of the Port Kembla Youth Project Magazine. We proudly partner with the PKYP at Warrawong High School in supporting young people, their connection and sense of belonging to the community in which they live. Thank you for the work you do for our students, we look forward to the next 40years!

SMRITI JAISWAL

Multicultural Health Officer, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

I extend my sincere congratulation to Port Kembla Youth Project for completing 40 glorious years of success. You have always been on the top of the list for serving the community with your relentless services. Youth organisations like yours with a brilliant team of dedicated workers and with a friendly environment have achieved great results for our young people. Working with you has been a real honour and I value each and every project that we have collaborated on. With your commitment and sincerity for the betterment of our young people, you have proved gained their trust and recognition.

With the magazine project, the YP and the broader community has gained meaningful engagement, information and skills. It has been a privilege working in the project. The project has not only provided a learning platform but also offered a growing career curve for many of our young people. I wish you all the success for many more years to come and hope to continue our partnership in serving our local communities.

KATIE KAPP

Coordinator Youth Services Organisation/Department, Wollongong City Council

Congratulations to Port Kembla Youth Project on 40 years of service. The services provided to young people over the years has made a difference to their lives and provided new skills to many. Thank you for your ongoing contribution to the delivery of quality programs and continuing to advocate for young people. We look forward to continually working together to provide the best outcomes for local young people of Port Kembla.

PKYP 40 YEARS

CHRIS LACEY
CEO, Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra.

Congratulations to PKYP for 40 years of service to young people and the community in Port Kembla. So much has changed in 40 years but what has remained constant is PKYP's dedication, passion, professionalism and commitment to supporting the needs of young people. MCCI looks forward to many more years working together in partnership.

CHANTEL LE DROL
Talent & Culture Executive Novotel Wollongong Northbeach

Novotel Wollongong Northbeach would like to congratulate Port Kembla Youth Project on an amazing 40 years! What an achievement and how lucky our region is to have dedicated and motivated support networks like yours helping our young people. We wish the team all the very best for the next 40 years and look forward to our continued working relationship with this fantastic team who change lives, motivate and inspire on a daily basis!

ANN MARTIN
Councillor, Wollongong City Council

The Port Kembla Youth Service has been the coordinating and managing organisation for youth program in Port Kembla for all the time I have lived and worked here. I arrived over 30 years ago, and was able to use the service for my son when he was young. The PKYP was the first theatre opportunity for my son and his friends to participate in, and our family continues an involvement through the Homework Hub. As a Ward 3 Councillor for Wollongong City Council, I appreciate the work and commitment to our local young people provided by the Youth Service. The staff there have always advocated strongly for the health, well being and education of our young people and the broader community of Port Kembla. I thank them on behalf of Ward 3 for everything they have done over the years and look forward to another successful 4 decades! Congratulations on this significant milestone.

BRIANNA MUIR
Former young person

As a young person, Port Kembla Youth Project gave me a sense of independence and accomplishment. Marie has achieved so much in this community. I love that my daughter attends programs at PKYP and I hope that she collects as many good memories as I did. Congratulations for the 40 years of service.

JOE NAVARRIA
Port Kembla Post Office

Congratulations on your 40 years service to the Port Kembla & surrounds community. Thank you for your custom of 25 years to the Port Kembla Post Office. Hoping our relationship will continue for many more years.

TONIA REYNOLDS
Principal Port Kembla Primary School

Port Kembla Public School wishes to congratulate Port Kembla Youth Project for providing 40 years service to young people in Port Kembla and surrounds. Your programs have helped empower many young people throughout their development and increased connection to their local community. Thank you for all your hard work and effort!

ALISON SEYMOUR
Relieving Head Teacher, Warrawong IEC

Warrawong Intensive English Centre offers warmest congratulations to PKYP on your 40th anniversary. Your wonderful programs have supported our newly arrived students, including students from a refugee background, almost as long as we have been around! Thank you for all your time and care.

MAHNESA SHAHRIARI
Parent

Congradulation to PKYP team anniversary Thanks so much for your excellent effort to help and support youth education. Thanks so much of Khathrine who is a specific teacher, responsible, high education, excellent communication and nice and warm with students also with my daughter Shylie. Thanks so much again I would like to keep to have your support. Have a great time our beautiful team

NICKY SLOAN
CEO, Community Industry Group

Congratulations Port Kembla Youth Project! Community Industry Group is pleased to congratulate Port Kembla Youth Project on its 40th Anniversary of service to local young people. Community Industry Group is the peak body for community services in southern NSW and have been proud to have Port Kembla Youth Project as a long term member. Marie and the team at PKYP are great advocates for their service, their sector, and the young people they work with, Congratulations!!

CLEMENTINA VELASCO
Former employee

Congratulations to PKYP on supporting generations of local young people, and offering so many opportunities for them to develop and grow.

W.WILKINS
Chair BlueScopeWIN Community Partners Program

The PKYP resonates with key themes of the BlueScopeWIN Program including Youth, Health, Safety and Diversity. We are so impressed with the great outcomes achieved by the young students in the PKYP year after year. Our best wishes for the future and congratulations on the PKYP 40th year of operation. A testament to all those involved.

YOUNG PERSON

Congratulations on the 40 years of supporting young people. I like attending PKYP programs because I get to meet new and exciting people, as well as talk about my community, my health and well being. We also get to talk about the different programs that we can possibly do for our communities and the people in it.

YOUNG PERSON

Congratulations to Port Kembla Youth Project for turning 40 years old. This was an amazing experience and I am glad I was asked to participate. Thanks to these programs, I have learnt new skills and abilities.



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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/portkemblayouthproject/>

ABOUT PKYP.

Port Kembla Youth Project is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides information and support to young people aged 12-24. Our programs focus on providing opportunities for skills development, engagement, mentorship and resilience building, recognising the cultural diversity of our local area. We work with young people in Port Kembla and surrounding suburbs, including Kemblawarra, Primbee, Warrawong and Windang.

If you're looking for information on our programs, support, or advice on how to get involved in your community.

Phone 42761229
Mondays and Thursdays 11am-4pm.



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Supporting Young People Through Their Development.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PORT KEMBLA YOUTH PROJECT?

Tutoring and Homework Hub.

Homework help and tutoring support for primary school and high school students in a friendly and relaxed environment. Free of charge. Bookings are essential, as this is a popular program and fills up quickly. Port Kembla Youth Project and Macedonian Welfare Association provide Tutoring and Homework Help program, kindly supported by Bluescope and Win.

Splash Swim School.

Our swim program provides the following classes: Parent and baby, water confidence, learn to swim, stroke correction and adult classes (female only). Classes are held at an indoor heated pool in North Wollongong on a Monday afternoon during school terms. All instructors are Austswim qualified. Classes are \$14 a lesson. Port Kembla Youth Project is an Active Kids Provider.

Portworx.

Our Youth Reference Group provides a safe environment for people aged 12 - 24 to meet and chat about topics important to young people. Do you have any ideas or opinions about your local community? Need to meet people your age with similar interests? Join our peer led youth reference group and connect to your local community.

Youth Magazine.

Each year we develop a youth magazine, written by young people for young people. Have a say, meet new people and get experience! Phone for more info.

Young Women's Forum.

Empowering young women from diverse cultural backgrounds by providing a safe and confidential environment for them to share their ideas and access information.

Grow Project.

Strengthening young women's sense of belonging and participation in the broader Australian community while promoting intercultural community engagement, social cohesion and celebrating our region's cultural diversity.

Casual Edge.

Educating young jobseekers on pre-employment skills needed to find a casual or part-time job. Joint programs with local schools and other organisations, giving young people new opportunities and an awareness of the services that are available through the Port Kembla Youth Project and the wider community.

Other Activities.

Connect Up: Drama and Visual Art workshops for young people with special needs.
Own It: A mural project transforming our community public spaces through visual arts.
Xpress Theatre: Expressions of interest taken for young people wanting to develop theatre skills and create a performance piece. In addition to the Youth Project's general activities, we also run a number of community education programs for targeted groups. Suggestions for future programs are welcomed and encouraged. For information on any upcoming workshops or programs, contact our staff at Port Kembla Youth Project.

An Interview With Ricardo Goncalves

BY RAPHAEL NITTEL AND PETER HOLLOWAY

My name is Raphael and my name is Peter. We are 12 and we would like to ask you some questions.

First of all, can you please introduce yourself?

My name is Ricardo Goncalves. I am a journalist at SBS in Sydney and I cover business news and World News.

Thank you, now how did you start of your career?

Well I started my career in Wollongong. My first job ever doing news was with the Port Kembla community newspaper, I was 12 years old. Then I did community radio at 2 Vox FM in Wollongong when I was 16 and got my first job at Win News Wollongong when I was 17. So I was always pretty confident as a journalist and as a public speaker and while I get nervous sometimes, I always forget about it when I'm working or on air.

Thank you. What did you do at Port Kembla Youth Project?

So we put together a community newspaper that touched on all different things from international matters to local matters. I covered a few international and national pieces but as a new journalist learning skills, they more like opinion pieces or a rehash of news as opposed to finding news stories about local issues.

Would you recommend Port Kembla Youth Project for young people and if so, why?

Absolutely, because it gives you an opportunity to cut your teeth which means to be able to work and make mistakes but to learn and grow from them and because it's a smaller operation it means you have the ability to try different

ideas without the bureaucracy. Or in other words the interference from people of different positions to get your ideas and work up. As a journalist or a content creator, the best way to get skills is to get more work published and getting your work published in our community newspaper which craves content and ideas from people with enthusiasm, is a great way to start!

What is your cultural identity?

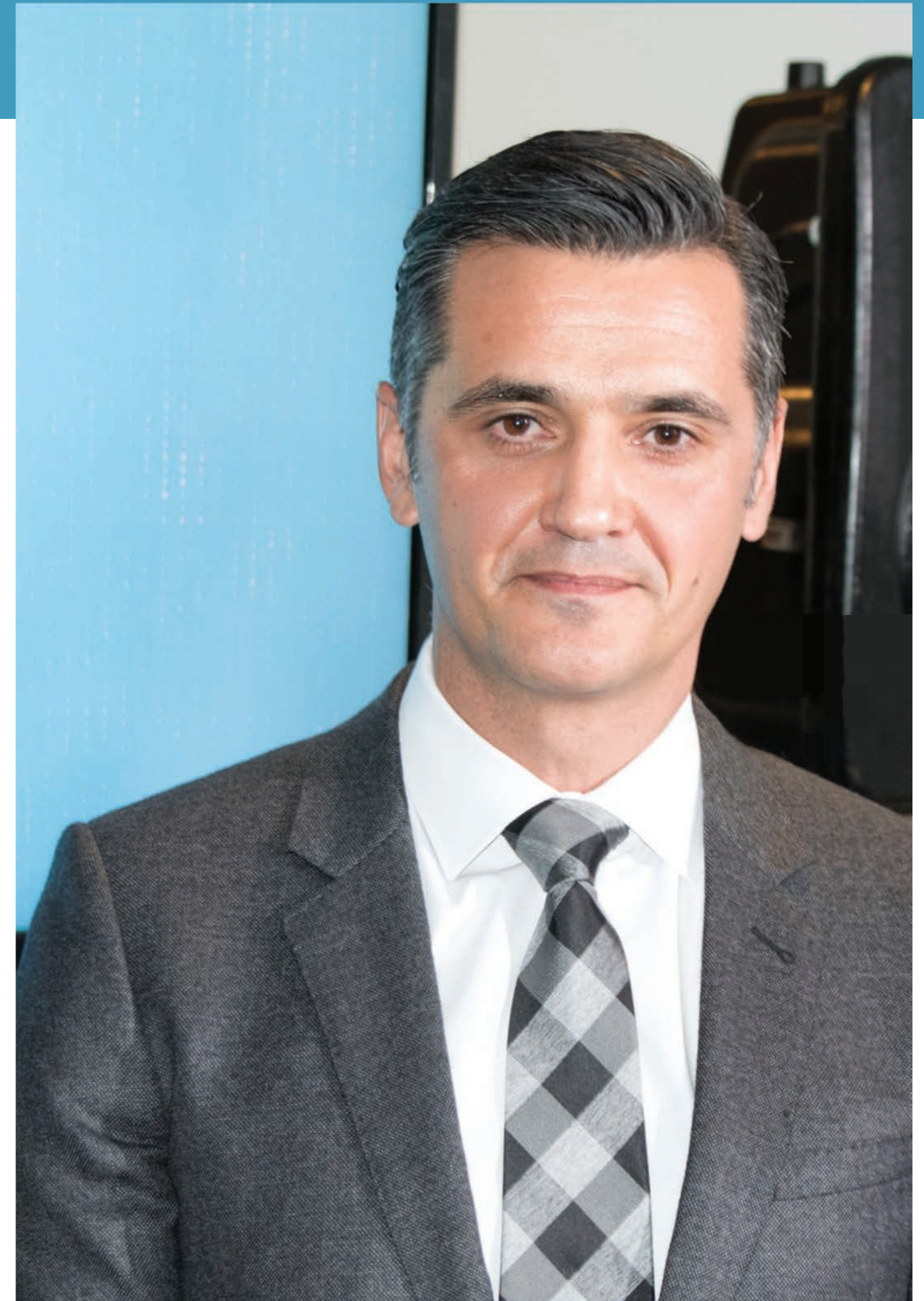
So I'm Australian with a Portuguese background, which means I was born in Australia, identify as Australian but I'm very proud of my heritage with my parents coming from the island of Madeira from Portugal.

Is there anything you would like to add?

I think the most important thing working at a community radio newspaper is to find stories that reflect the community.

Finally, thank you for letting us interview you.

Of course it was my pleasure. I hope you guys do very very well. Let me know how you go and I'd love to see the finished product.



INTERVIEW: BRIANNA

BY ELEANOR MUIR

OK so my name is Eleanor Muir, can you please introduce yourself?
My name is Brianna Muir and I have been a resident in Port Kembla and have been on and off for 29 years.

Eleanor: So what did you do at the Port Kembla Youth Project?

Brianna: I think it was the early 2000s when I had just started. I had just became a teenager and just started high school. My bus stop was near the community centre in Port Kembla, and I sort of popped in there one day and met a lovely lady named Marie and another lovely lady named Clementine. They told me about the Port Kembla Youth Project. I don't remember much now but they did mention the Magazine Project, which I decided I would give a go.

Eleanor: So do you have a favourite or funny memory at Port Kembla Youth Project?

Brianna: I know we laughed alot and I know I got cranky at the computer alot and everybody laughed at me getting cranky at the computer. Which was admittedly quite funny.

Eleanor: Would you recommend PKYP for young people? Why?

Brianna: I definitely would because when I was a young person it gave me a sense of independence and accomplishment. It was cool to see my stuff printed and I not only will recommend it for other kids but I'm also recommending it for you my daughter. I'm very proud that you're part of the Magazine Project for 2021.

Eleanor: Is there anything you would like to add dear mother of mine?

Brianna: I'm really curious to see what you're going to come up with to put into the magazine and I'm quite excited to receive the 2021 issue.

Brianna: Thank you for doing the interview with me Eleanor.

Eleanor: No problem Brianna. Mum! My name is mum. No Brianna, I have to say it for the interview!

INTERVIEW: ELEANOR

BY KATHERINE WEST

Hi, my name is Katherine West and I am the Youth Development Worker at PKYP. Can you please introduce yourself?

My name is Eleanor Muir and I am the daughter of Brianna Muir.

Katherine: What do you do at Port Kembla Youth Project?

Eleanor: I participate in Homework Hub and Swimming and I'm now doing Magazine Project.

Katherine: Do you have a favourite or funny memory of your time at Port Kembla Youth Project?

Eleanor: I actually don't have one just yet though I'm still pretty young. Oh! Ha! One time at a meeting I ate most of the watermelon and I left one watermelon piece for one girl because she wanted some watermelon. I just ate over 20 pieces of watermelon, which was a very funny memory.

Katherine: Would you recommend Port Kembla Youth Project for young people and why?

Eleanor: Definitely because Homework Hub for example, with that I was able to get my Scotland project done and I was able to get my homework done. Definitely swimming 'cause it helps me a lot with swimming. Yeah definitely, and the Magazine Project is really fun. And I don't fight as much with my mum over homework.

Katherine: The next question Eleanor is anything else you would like to add?

Eleanor: Well actually I just that I know so many kids who participate and the co workers are amazing for example you and your boss Marie. They are just really nice. That's about it. Legend.

INTERVIEW: CLEM

BY ELEANOR & KATHERINE

Eleanor: Hi my name's Eleanor. You worked with my mum when she was in Port Kembla Youth Project."

Clem: "Oh cool! Who is your mum?"

Eleanor: I'm Bri's daughter."

Clem: Ah, Awesome! That is crazy that you are old enough to be part of the Youth Magazine. That feels like yesterday but it was a long time ago. I remember you coming with your mum to drumming when you must have been like a baby or a toddler."

Eleanor: "I was probably a baby."

Clem: "Yeah, we used to head down to North Beach to do some drumming and some fire twirling. I'm sure that you came along with her a few times."

Eleanor: Can you please introduce yourself?

Clem: My name is Clem. Clementina Velasco. I first got involved with the Youth Project when I was 16 or so. I was living in Primbee. I was going to high school in Wollongong and I really wanted to be a journalist. So I saw this magazine advertised and I thought that would be a really cool thing to get involved with so I called up.

Eleanor: My next question, do you have a favourite or funny memory of your time at Port Kembla Youth Project?

Clem: That is a hard one! I think work wise, working with Marie was really fun and really funny. She knows so much about the sector. Almost 20 years later. Learning a lot from her, and walking up to Benitos to have a birthday treat. Port Kembla has changed a lot in 20 years. Other than that, it was really fun getting to know the students over the years and getting work with them in high schools. I really have fond memories of working at the centre, a lot of those young people are finding themselves. Casual Edge for example working with New Arrivals and Refugees, it took awhile to build a rapport but then you find out they have been doing babysitting for a bunch of relatives for years or running a bike shop in the refugee camp, and other really cool skills that they didn't see the value in while they

Hi Clem, it's Katherine. I have a young person here and she is a little bit nervous. I said don't worry because I'm here so she can always just look at me she wants any help. Can they start by introducing themselves?

were looking for jobs and working within Australia.

Eleanor: Would you recommend Port Kembla Youth Project for young people and why?

Clem: Absolutely, I think the Port Kembla Youth Project has been .. it is a really good place to start learning new things. Look at you, you are doing your first interview and that is probably hard to picture it now but you never know when you can use these skills, maybe in one year or in 5 years or 10 years time, you will look back and realise that you learnt something from this interview and doing further interviews in the future and the process of putting together the magazine, or being part of the Homework Hub. You learn little bits along the way and it is only in hindsight that you look back and realise that all these little pieces of the jigsaw puzzle have helped you develop and grow.

Eleanor: So for my final question, is there anything you would like to add?

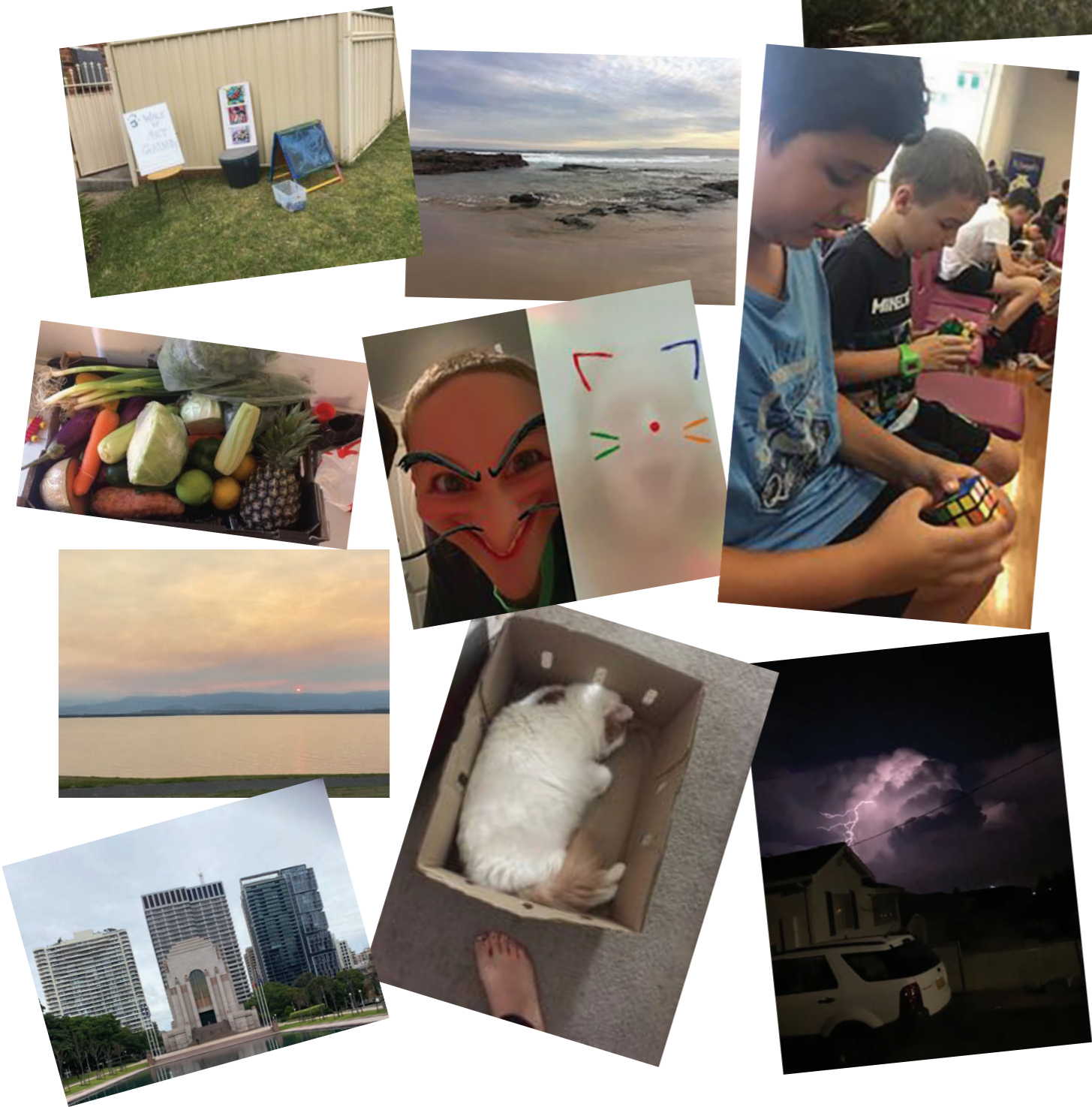
Clem: Only that I have very fond memories of working with the Port Kembla Youth Project, both as a young persona and as a worker. It is a really unique project and supports young people in many different ways. I know my experience is one thing but every person is going to have a slightly different experience. But even bringing different people together and encouraging people to learn from each other. I think that is the part that is a bit less concrete. It is a little harder to put your finger on that part of the program at community programs. You may have a lot of outcomes that you want to meet, like help with your homework or learning to swim, but I think it is meeting new people, learning from each other and multiple ways of learning and caring from each others experience. We make little communities of young people I believe. Yes, and as a young person, and even as an adult, it is scary and even nerve wracking. But going in, you may
Thanks for letting me be your first interviewee Eleanor.

I became involved in the Youth Project as a young person growing up in Primbee in the late 1990s and volunteering on the magazine. I soon went on to work as a Youth Worker, followed by a stint on the board, and some casual roles over the years as the web designer and a fill-in worker when needed. Being involved in the youth magazine was an excellent stepping stone to my first degree, a Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies at UOW. But its impact also reached far beyond, giving me a taste of ways I could combine my creative skill set with advocacy, social change and community sector work. This continues to inform my career and volunteer pursuits to this day. I've drawn on many aspects of my PKYP experiences over the years, in roles ranging from community development, education and health promotion in youth mental health and road safety, communications, marketing and fundraising for many local and international organisations, mobilising volunteers, cultural events, and working with former street kids and their families as an Australian Volunteer in Cambodia. And of course, a special mention must go to Marie! Not only is she an integral part of the fabric of the Youth Project... But she's also been an amazing mentor and support to me personally over the years. She's actually the one who encouraged me into the sector! 100 The summer after I finished high school, I called up to see when the magazine project would be returning after the holidays. Marie quizzed me on what I was doing now, and before I knew it, had told me that they were actually in the process of recruiting a new youth worker and I should consider applying. Little did I know, as an 18 year old in one of my first "real" jobs, that those years spent working with her were the perfect training ground for my career to come. Nowadays, I've come full circle, working to upskill the next generation of workers as an Education Support Officer in the Community Services - Mental Health, Youth Work and Counselling team at TAFE NSW. And I smile every time I see the PKYP sign while taking my young daughter to playgroup in the hall next door!" - CLEMENTINA VELASCO

#NSWAT HOME

NSW LIBRARY SUPPORTED BY ABC RADIO SYDNEY RAN A CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT IMAGES OF LIFE IN NSW DURING COVID.

People could take photos of their life – how they work, learn, eat, stay fit, keep informed and stay entertained. To enter, people posted photos on Instagram or Twitter with #NSWatHome Here are some of the entries from our young people...



LIFE DURING COVID

2020 WAS A WEIRD YEAR.

There were rumours in December and January that there was something happening in the world that was killing people. There was a new virus that was very contagious and out of control.

It came to Australia in January 2020. On Wednesday 11th March, the WHO declared Covid-19 to be a global pandemic. This means that there is a sickness that current medical science cannot cure, and it is spreading around the world. The Australian Government declared that there was a human biosecurity emergency on the 18th March 2020. This means that the Minister for Health is given powers to issue directives and set requirements to combat the outbreak. It is the first time that the powers had been used under the Biosecurity Act.

From here, everything spiralled out of what is normal.

There was a rush to the shops with many people panic buying. So many things began being unavailable at the shops and there were limits of how many specific items you could buy. For example, you could only buy 2 packets of toilet paper (if you were lucky to get any!). There was also restrictions on buying rice, pasta, flour and canned goods.

Suddenly social media was filled with people making their own bread and doing exercise from home. Students and teachers everywhere had to stay at home and work or learn online.

Restrictions came into place and you needed to wear a mask and sanitize your hands everywhere you went. People were locked down and were no longer able to go to work, visit family and friends or even go to the shops or local parks in big groups.

It became very isolating.

On May 25 2020, news came from America. A police officer had murdered an African American man named George Floyd. The officer had knelt on George's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds as George tried to tell him that he couldn't breathe.

Protests for Black Lives Matter were taking place all over the world. In Australia, protests in support for Black Lives Matter and against Indigenous Deaths in Custody took place all over the nation. David Dungay, Ms Dhu and Tanya Day are only a couple of the hundreds of deaths in custody. #sayhername #sayhisname



BEFORE COVID

Go to the shops whenever you want.
Had toilet paper.
You could go to school and go on excursions.
You could use the bubbler at school.
You stay home from school if you were sick.
Every weekend and school holiday, you could go to the skating rink, or the movies or the shops.

AFTER COVID RESTRICTIONS

Hand sanitize, wear a mask.
Stay at home for 2 weeks.
Not be able to explore, not touch anything.
It was just a living hell.
Fights over toilet paper

THERE WAS ZOOM.

You got into trouble for not signing in 3 days in a row. The school would send out the police to conduct a welfare check on you.
Had to do school while you were sick
You could do school in bed in your pyjamas.
All the businesses shut down during lockdown. Except for 'essential businesses'.
When the lockdown lifted and shops could reopen, you had to book online and you couldn't just rock up.
Everywhere you go, you have to use a QR code to sign in so that the business can keep a record of you being there in case they need to contact you about Covid.

Graphic: Pandemic Art Project 2020, City of Los Angeles, USA. "Protect and Respect" poster series by Studio Number One - Los Angeles Creative Studio founded by street artist Shepard Fairey.



When should I get help?

If you ever feel unable to cope because of overwhelming or intense emotions, or if you have any thoughts of harming yourself, then ask for help immediately.

National 24/7 crisis services

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au
- Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 or suicidecallbackservice.org.au
- beyondblue: 1300 224 636 or beyondblue.org.au

Additional youth support services

- headspace: visit headspace.org.au for eheadspace or more information
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au
- ReachOut: reachout.com
- SANE Australia: 1800 187 263 or sane.org

Talk with a trusted adult, such as a parent, teacher, school counsellor or find out if there is a headspace centre near you.

Speak to your local doctor or General Practitioner (GP) and help make a plan for your recovery. Or you can search for a health service and GP on healthdirect.



Illawarra Womens Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service



A SUPPORT SERVICE FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC, FAMILY, OR SEXUAL ABUSE

FREE SUPPORT, ADVICE, PROGRAMS, AND REFERRALS

Call us on 4229 4604, or email us illawarra.wdvcas@wwis.org.au or sms our Youth Worker on 0493137831



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SPECIAL ISSUE
2020 - 2022



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