

Bear stays in lockdown



The diary of Bear: Book 3

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We're in the third week of lockdown. The Prime Minister says we have turned a corner but we need to keep committed to our plan. Stay home, save lives.

Life continues in our bubble. Tuesday is grocery shopping day for our designated human.

I don't usually go along but we are also going on an essential trip to get our flu shots.



I was very brave when they came out to the carpark to give me my flu injection. I squeezed my eyes shut and it was soon over. I helped unpack the groceries when we got home just in case there was a little treat for brave bears.



There was a chill in the air last night and a light frost.

My humans said I should harvest the garden vegetables and make soup.

I picked some tomatoes but couldn't resist checking to see if there were any late strawberries.





I was a bit muddy when I came inside, so made sure I looked unbearably cute – it worked!

I heard that small humans are starting on-line school this week. It made me feel a little nostalgic.

I miss my friends.

Still, I kept busy. I cooked a tasty minestrone soup and talked to my bear cousins on Zoom.





Later, I looked through some old scrapbooks. Can you see me with my small human before he grew up?



Wake up, Bear, said my human. There's a crocodile in the bath!

That's not a crocodile, that's Alligator, I told her.

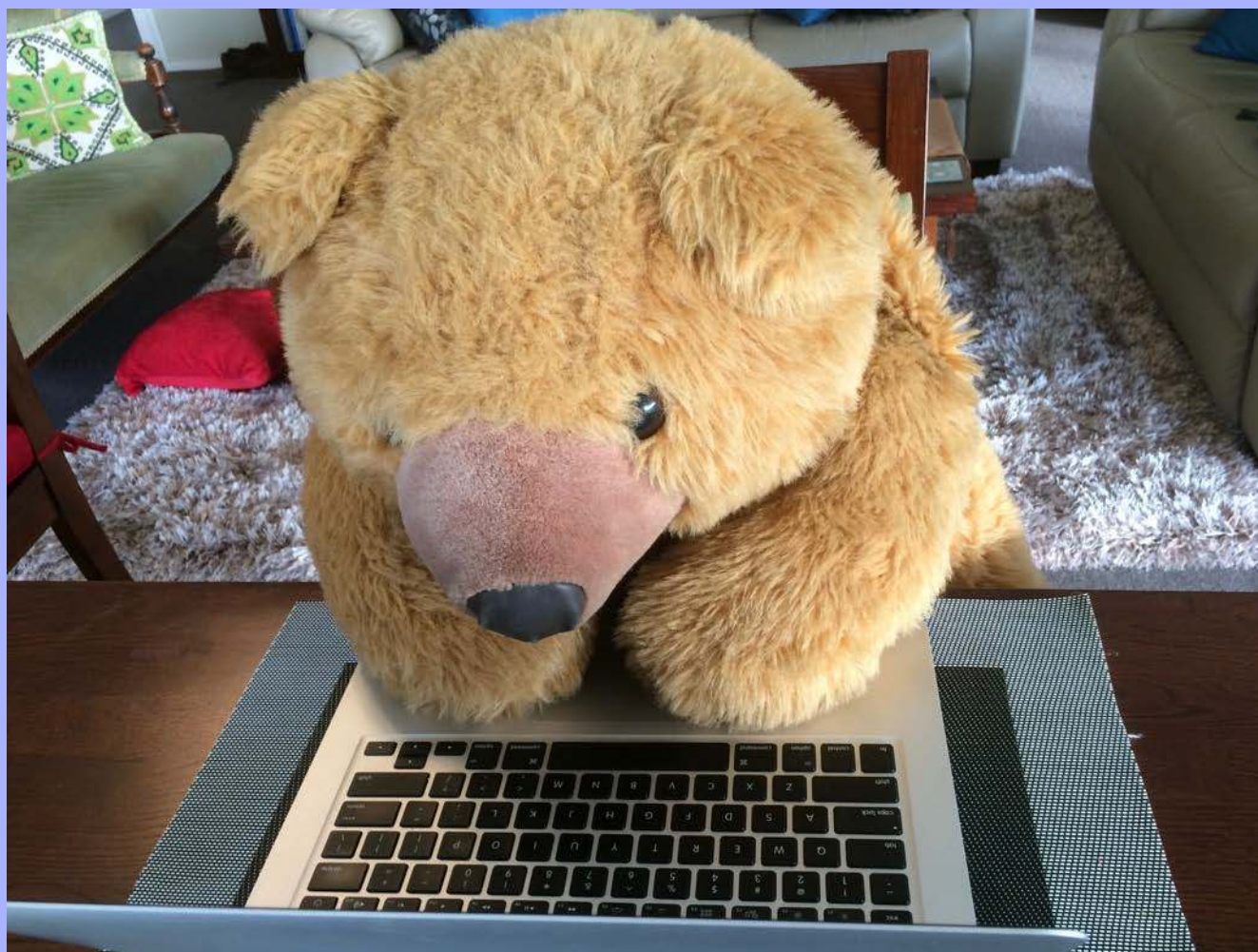
I was so pleased to see him but I told him that he would have to keep his distance because he wasn't part of our bubble.

But I'm safe now, said Alligator, I've been in self-quarantine in the bathtub for two whole weeks.

I rewarded him with a big bear hug.

We've got so much to talk about. What fun!





Today I got up before anyone else to read my mail. It comes from all over the world. Even from as far away as Scotland, Canada, Mexico and Japan. Would you like to meet some of my friends? I'm starting a photo album.



Chuck the Flying Ace



Menzies Cuthbertson of Scotland



Winny of Paroa



Missy at No.136



I'm so happy to have a friend to spend time with. I love my humans but they are a bit stressed trying to manage working from home. Can you spot my clever Ruy Lopez move?



I showed Alligator where all my new friends come from. He was really surprised. I told him I even had a book contract. You need a manager, he said, and here I am.



Now that Alligator is my manager, he thinks I need a new image. He has organised a photo shoot. What do you think about this look?



Or Hip-hop Bear?



Or Gentleman Bear?

I can't wait to see what my friends think of my new looks.



My human friends liked the cool dude look best but my bear friends thought differently.





When I looked at the pictures the bears liked, I was puzzled.

My humans smiled. Bear, they said, we know why they chose those pictures. Bears don't love you because you have lots of friends or fancy clothes but because you are cute, clever, kind and funny.

Don't change, said my humans. Don't try to be someone else. You have made many bears and humans smile throughout this lockdown.

We are proud of you.

We love you, Bear, as you are.



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 3: Bear remains in lockdown, Bear faces more highs and lows. He joins in as many household activities as he can but he misses his friends. To his delight, his best friend Alligator comes out of quarantine and makes a surprise visit. After some fun with Alligator, Bear learns that it is important to stay true to who you are.