

2020 Vision

6th November 2020

The year 2020, the year COVID-19 smashed our world.
It started as a trickle in Wuhan
But rapidly became a torrent of infection in Italy and Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa.
In hindsight
We see with 2020 vision that some things needed to change.
Nature recovered, reviving and regenerating our cities.
Birds, insects and flowers returned to our suburbs.
Global noise was smashed in two, noise pollution literally cut by 50%.
Smog and air pollution dramatically decreased.
For the first time in 17 years, you could see the majestic Himalayas from Kathmandu.

Work from home became the new normal.
Zoom became an everyday word.
Screen exhaustion, becoming Zoomed out, was recognised as a reality.
People learnt the advantages and drawbacks of WFH.
Some even moved home away from their offices to enjoy a rural pace of life.
Home schooling challenged teachers, parents and students alike. Many thrived, some just survived.
Some struggled ...
Online learning opportunities sprang up overnight for children and adults alike.

Many people discovered the beauty of slowing down and smelling the roses.
Toilet paper and chickens were in hot demand, along with seeds and gardening supplies.
Hand sanitiser and personal fitness equipment leapt off the shelves in shops.
Snail mail and parcels took a hike in quantity and saved Australia Post.
Home delivery skyrocketed, as did home repairs and renovations.
Bunnings had a bonanza, as well as some maskless Karens.
Crafts were remembered or new ones learnt.
Creativity and home cooking were elevated to new heights.

Loneliness, fear and isolation created new challenges for many.
Older and more vulnerable people still in lockdown, eight months later.
Mental health took the spotlight.
Major events were cancelled, no Olympics, no Expo 2020, no Eurovision Song Contest 2020.
Concerts, award ceremonies and conferences were postponed or shifted online.
Masks became fashion accessories as people sewed their own or marketed them with art-work designs.
People threw disposable masks away, sometimes in the gutter to risk wildlife and pollute our environment.
Some people never learn.

Ruth Hellyer, 1st year Bachelor of Dementia Care student,
University of Tasmania

Governments bolstered economies with assistance packages,
All the while wondering what had hit them.
Our chief medical officers became celebrities.
People hung on their every word, tuning in to hear the daily updates.
Politicians and world leaders made decisions to protect health and livelihoods.
Time will tell which policies were successful.
Although, some would say, the statistics speak for themselves.

People were born, lived and died throughout this pandemic.
Weddings and funerals were restricted in numbers.
People infected died in isolation, on ventilators in hospitals, alone.
Or in huts and villages, without diagnosis or care, buried in rows in fields, uncounted.
Tent hospitals were set up and pulled down.
World leaders rose and fell. One government trumped by another.

The year 2020, the year COVID-19 smashed our world.
In hindsight
We see with 2020 vision that some things needed to change.
We cannot go back to normal. We must understand our new normal.
We have learnt lessons, but will we remember them?