Quarantine Comix

Miles Davitt
On the 21st of March, I flew from New Zealand to Australia, where I had to self-isolate for 14 days.

On the 1st of July, I flew back to New Zealand, where I was placed in managed isolation for 14 days.

To pass the time during both these periods, I drew daily comics. This zine is a hastily-assembled collection of these comics. I plan to spruce it up in time for Wellington Zinefest proper.

Love,
Your friend Miles
July 2020

@milesdavitt

Part 1:
Self-Isolation Comix

Besides some cutting and pasting, and fiddling around with the formatting in a couple places, I actually didn’t end up changing that much.

Anyway, here’s the revised version.

-Miles, October 2020

Drawn and printed in Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Tāmaki Makaurau, and on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara people, whose sovereignty was never ceded.
Self-isolation #0 21/03/20

Hey Dad, we're flying over Pigeon House and the Budawangs right now.

Man, this plane is practically deserted...

I love this part of the country.

Miles Davitt

Self-isolation #1 22/03/20

Reading on the back verandah

Hug from a safe distance (Mum's not in self-isolation)

Watching Twin Peaks, Season 3

Yay, Ed & Narma!

Later in the episode:

Come on, I just want normal Cooper!

Miles Davitt
Dad and I are playing a backgammon tournament for the next two weeks.

Come on, double ones!

Ugh. That's a backgammon isn't it?

It's off to a good start!

Miles Davitt

Doing the quiz at Smoko is a daily tradition in most, if not all, DOC offices.

In what sport would you hear reference to an in-off?

Hockey?

They've been really tough this week...

Message from India:
"You got 5!!"
(out of 10)

...but I still love joining in, even if we do badly.

Miles Davitt
Self-isolation #4  25/03/20

Things I saw on the beach today:
- Cuttlebone
- Some shell

Apparently this is called a Holdfast
- Tattered old feather

Miles Davitt

Self-isolation #5  26/03/20

The bananas are really good

Yeah! I had one this morning.

I like my bananas quite ripe
- Nah
- Exquisite
- Actually too ripe

But that means there's usually only a span of a few days between ripe enough and over-ripe.

- Buy bananas
- Not ripe enough
- Sweet spot
- Too ripe
- Make banana bread!

I guess I was thinking about bananas today.

Miles Davitt
Self-isolation #6 27/03/20

I'm not sure what I want these daily comics to be.
Should they just be little snippets of things I get up to each day?

Self-isolation #7 28/03/20

Or should they be more introspective, trying to get across what's on my mind?

Miles, what band epitomises high school for you?

Journey's "Separate Ways" plays

Hmm...

[Here we stand...

worlds apart, I wasn't really that
touch broken, Music?

You're not doing anything new here.
That's not a good reason not to do something.
Are these for me or an audience?

Either way, they're a way for me to get better at something that interests me.

Sleepless nights - losing ground I'm reading for.

No. I guess I just wasn't into bands. I didn't really actively seek out music in high school.

I was more passive. Whatever came on the radio, really. Can't change you Ella.

Miles Davitt

Miles Davitt

My actively seeking out music ended in 1984!
Self-isolation #8  29/03/20
I work on yesterday's comic.

I catch up with Brandi over video chat.

MADIRONDACK

I go for a run on the beach.
(It's very windy.)

Self-isolation #9  30/03/20
I dreamed last night that I apologised to a man I'd been rude to.

We made up. I said good-bye and went to shake his hand.

I listened to Isolation Days on Instagram.  
Josh Pyke 5:20pm
Hatchie 5:40pm
Marlon Williams 8:00pm
Courtney Barnett 8:20pm

Miles Davitt

I stopped myself at the last moment, and realised how close we were standing.

I wonder how else the pandemic is affecting my subconscious.

Miles Davitt
Self-isolation #10  31/03/20

Four things I did today:

Went for a run past Pea Soup to the Passage  Made apricot jam with Mum
Finished the sketchbook  I've been working in since November  Sketched some walruses

Four things I saw:

An old guy with a big beard walking his dog  Three ibises on the rocks (they were very clean)
A lot of sea foam in the lagoon  Venus and the waxing crescent moon

Four songs I listened to:

"52nd Street" - Toshiki Kadomatsu (absolute bongo)
"Something to Believe" - Weyes Blood
"Will the Circle Be Unbroken" - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
"Empress" - Magic Sword

Four things I heard:

A magpie warbling  A brown-headed honeyeater
Nerves crashing on the rocks  Distant sirens

Miles Davitt

Self-isolation #11  01/04/20

Brandi invites me to her friends' weekly travel video-conference.

What do you think?  Hmm... it's got the right colours.
I'm asked to identify a dingo.

I learn about Costa Rica.

DID YOU KNOW? Resplendent quetzals eat avocados and vomit up the pits.

Dad becomes an April Fool.

I'm the only one not in Alaska.

Also:

Can you believe this thing about Parkrun introducing handicaps?!
Self-isolation #12  02/04/20

I saw a headline on the news this morning.
NSW police reveal lockdown laws will last 90 days.

Self-isolation #13  03/04/20

I woke up this morning with conjunctivitis.
I think the same is true of droopy eyes and sleepiness.

I also heard that the physical act of smiling makes you happier.

Am I going to be able to get back to New Zealand in three or four months’ time?

I’m really excited it for it!

It made me a bit nervous. I’m supposed to be starting a new job in Wellington in August.

It’s hard to deal with the uncertainty... with how fast things are changing.

I did a video chat with Max and Ann.
It was great to catch up and reminisce about trail work in the Adirondacks.

I hope my funky eye wasn’t too noticeable.

Miles Davitt
Part 2:
Managed Isolation Comix
Managed Isolation Comix #0 01/07/20

we need to go. Right now.

what?!

My flight got moved forward 5 hours. Thankfully Dad and I made it on time.

We'd just like to thank you for flying Air New Zealand during these difficult times.

It's a long wait in the airport.

By the time I get to the hotel, I'm physically and mentally exhausted.

But I'm here. MD

Dear Guest

Welcome to Crowne Plaza Auckland.

Managed Isolation Comix #1 02/07/20

Last night

I slept like shit.

I finished season 3 of Dark.

Also:

Kia ora, welcome to New Zealand.
What happens if I agree to be tested for COVID-19?

MANAGED ISOLATION COMIX #2

ROOM SERVICE!

2118

2119

Knock knock!

MANAGED ISOLATION COMIX #3

NEXT PLEASE!

HAVE YOU HAD THIS DONE BEFORE?

YES!

SO YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, THEN.

KEEP TAKING DEEP BREATHS...

YOU'RE DOING GREAT.

MAYBE NEW ZEALAND IS MORE HARDCORE AS FAR AS TESTS GO!

MILES DAVITT 04/07/20

MILES DAVITT 03/07/20
Allow yourself time to notice and express what you're feeling.

Managed Isolation #4
I write down a bunch of stuff about feelings of insecurity I get when it comes to my art. But it feels like too much of a whinge to include in this comic.

I find a place to live in Wellington.

That's the problem with these things, Daddy would've gotten us U2s.

I see a helium balloon floating over the city.

I watch "Night of the Comet." Miles Davitt 05/07/20

Managed Isolation #5
Someone on a floor above me threw burger buns from their window today.

Some Indian mynahs came to claim this bounty.

Beautiful, truly beautiful. Isn't nature amazing?

I actually liked how I sounded. Normally, I can't stand the sound of my recorded voice.

I recorded them on my Instagram story, and added a bit of narration. Miles Davitt 05/07/20
2. Acknowledge your feelings

It's completely normal to feel overwhelmed, stressed, anxious, worried or scared in the current situation.
Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing

**Managed Isolation #8**

A dude from Aviation Security took ten of us to the empty parking area on level 14 for about 40 mins.

I got out for a run this morning.

Gore, it felt so good to be out in the cold, fresh air.

**Managed Isolation #9**

I shaved my shoulders today.

Normally, I'm not too fussy about my shoulder + back hair.

But eventually it gets to the point where I've got to do something about it.

**Managed Isolation #10**

How do I represent this when I'm drawing myself as a furry cartoon dog?

Like this?

Aviation Security will be facilitating managed walking groups.

Please visit them at the hotel entry on level 4 to organise a time.
Managed Isolation #10

University of Auckland Clock Tower

The Hunua Ranges

Managed Isolation #11

They're Black-Backed Gulls / Karoro.

(Larus dominicanus)

I've been seeing a lot of seagulls.

They sound very different to the Silver Gulls I grew up with.

*Kyaaa-Kia-kia-kakakakaka*

*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

They make me think of seaside scenes in movies.

Miles Davitt 11/07/20

Miles Davitt 12/07/20
I've been consistently tired since I've been here.

I'm just a big toasty cinnamon bun.

I tried for an afternoon nap.

I gave up after half an hour, and watched Avatar: The Last Airbender instead.

Safe use of face masks
AND I'M THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

MANAGED ISOLATION # 1.

THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN HARRIER THAN I EXPECTED.

BUT I'M SO GRATEFUL I HAD THIS OPTATION, AND HOW I'M FEELING.

Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you're feeling.

MILES DAVITT 15/07/20

COVID-19

Exit Managed Isolation Form

But I'm so grateful I had this option, and how you're feeling.

Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you're feeling.

MILES DAVITT 15/07/20

COVID-19

Exit Managed Isolation Form

If you are getting picked up please ask your person to arrive as close to this time as possible.

Your confirmed departure time as

8:00 AM 16/07

Section ready for your health check and sign if once the nurse completes it.

Each individual in your party needs an Exit Managed Isolation Form. We ask you to please fill in the first

Please note these final health checks will be completed in the Lobby on Level 4.

NURSES CLINIC ON LEVEL 4.

Each person in your room will be required to have a completed form and health check.

Please ensure to fill out the personal details prior to your health check.

Your final health check is booked for

16/07 @ 00:00 AM
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$5

/60