

## **Lane Cove in the time of COVID 19**

Little things can be important in these days of restrictions and uncertainty. Two moments out of the last few days will remain with me for the promise of hope and happiness ahead that they gave me.

Wearing my mask, I stood in the Gavin Starr pharmacy, waiting for the young pharmacist to speak to me, when my attention was attracted by a small girl, about four years old, who was vigorously bouncing and jumping up and down. She wore a pink tutu over her warm navy pants and a warm jumper, her little arms raised as she bounced around the crowded shop floor, narrowly missing shop fittings and shelves laden with various pharmaceuticals. "You really shouldn't do that", her mother said, "Please stop. You will knock something over". The child desisted for a few seconds before she again launched herself into exuberant leaps and bounds. "Now I know you have been inside for a long time and you want to be active. But please wait till we get outside". Momentarily stilled, the child paused for a few seconds more before leaping away and out onto the Plaza. She had, I assumed, been kept indoors because of the coronavirus, but her vigour and vitality had not been suppressed. I enjoyed the moment, for it was a reminder of the joy in living that will not be suppressed and will carry us through times of trial.

The other occasion occurred when a little neighbour of mine, called Jana, and her friend Jocelyn called at my door on Easter Monday, bringing me an Easter bunny Jana had baked with her mum's help. It was such a surprise to open the door to these young girls, and Jana in particular was full of pride in her achievement, as well as happy to share it both with her friend Jocelyn and with me.

These are not the moments that future historians of the COVID 19 virus in Lane Cove will recall but they are worthy of note for what they say of the continuity of life and the optimism we can all feel even in times of constraint.

**By Dr Frances Christie - April 2020**

