

The life and times of Davin Pearson

Davin Pearson

June 25, 2013

Abstract

Under the premise that fact is stranger and funnier than any fictional work, this book presents a stream-of-consciousness slice of life in the true story of Davin Pearson's life. The jokes contained within represent the taking place of true events. To protect the identities of the people in the book all of their names except mine have been changed. Thanks go out to my mother for correcting typographical errors in this document.

Time spent in Ward Y

Ward Y is a Psych. ward and is the logical next step for people who come from the Ward X Psych. ward. This book details my time in Ward Y. As time goes by, I will add more chapters to this book, including my time up to my admission to Ward X and beyond.

2012-10-05 Friday 5th October

After getting in the van to leave Corsair Bay.

Roscoe: Roscoe P. Coltrane¹ speaking.

Davin: (to Roscoe) I've got your seat.

Roscoe: You have.

Davin: The early bird gets the worm!

Back from Corsair bay: Outside the ward.

Davin: (to Shazza) Can I have a smoke Shazza?

Davin: (to Valerie) Can I have a smoke Valerie?

Valerie: You can't ask both of us or you'll get two smokes!

In the kitchen back at the ward.

Mandy: How many pieces of bread do you want?

Davin: 4 slices please.

Mandy: Well you can have Polish sausage from China or Chinese sausage from Poland!?!?

2012-10-06 Saturday 6th October

12:30 U.F.C. (Ultimate Fighting Competition) came on Sky T.V.²

I picked my nose until it bled.

Landor came to sit down.

Gregory: U.F.C. is on is it?

Landor: At least its not Pro Wrestling!

Gregory: Yes that would be one step lower than U.F.C.

Murgatroid came in.

Murgatroid: You've left your coffee over by jug Landor.

Landor: If you need coffee I've got lots.

Davin: Where are you off to Murgatroid?

Murgatroid: Just outside.

In the room with the exer-cycles with Nixon:

Davin: What time did we start?

Nixon: 13:30. You've lost 2.5 kilos mate.

Davin: Cheers mate.

Nixon: How long have we been biking for?

Davin: About 3 weeks.

Nixon: Not bad eh?

¹Roscoe P. Coltrane is the name of a character from the *Dukes of Hazzard*.

²Sky T.V. is a New Zealand subscription Television service, much like cable T.V. in America.

Davin: Yes not bad. I am writing down our conversation. I am going to write a book about my life.

Nixon: Do ya want some whitebait? My sister caught it.

Davin: How much?

Nixon: 1/2 pound. Do ya like whitebait?

Davin: Yeah I do. We've been going for 15 minutes.

Nixon: Yeah.

Girls on film (by Duran Duran) plays on the C.D. player: See them walking hand in hand across the bridge at midnight. Heads turning as the lights flashing out so and bright. Then walk right back to the balling shack. There's a camera rolling on her back. On her back. The sister's near a frenzy on the weight of her spine. Girls on film. Girls on film. Girls on film. Girls on film ...

Davin: 12 minutes to go.

Nixon: Yeah.

Davin: I make it 10 minutes to go.

Nixon: Yeah.

Davin: I make it 5 minutes to go.

Nixon: Yeah.

Davin: Time's up!

I refilled my drink bottle with water and went to Nick's room.

Davin: Fill me up with some juice concentrate.

He pours just a drip.

Davin: Come on man-size me!

He pours another drip.

Davin: Now what are you going to do?

Nixon: Lie down on my bed.

Davin: and have a mastie³?

Nixon: No just a rest.

In the lounge with me knitting a scarf

Davin: How are you Murgatroid?

Murgatroid: I'm O.K.

Davin: Your always O.K. not like me.

Murgatroid: Yeah

Davin: Are you going to your own flat⁴?

Murgatroid: Yeah. How are you knitting? Knit one pearl one knit one?

Davin: Just knit knit knit.

Jacob: Do you still want to use the computer to rip that song Dav⁵?

Davin: No I listened to that song on the stereo and I didn't like it.

James Bond: What are you ordering for fish and chips for tea Jacob?

Jacob: 1 scoop, 1 fish and 1 chocolate doughnut.

James Bond: That costs \$5.90 (We are allowed to spend \$6).

Xena enters the room.

Xena: What's on T.V.?

James Bond: Nothing.

Jacob closes the curtains and the lights in order to watch U.F.C. better.

Davin: (to Jacob) Turn the lights back on Jacob so I can see my knitting. Jacob I've lost 2.5 kilos in the last 3 weeks by using the cycling machine every day.

Jacob: Good.

Landor: Hey arsehole.

James Bond: Hey arsehole.

James Bond: I'm ordering garlic chips ... mmm.

³Mastie is slang for masturbate.

⁴Murgatroid is shortly about to leave Ward Y to find his own flat.

⁵Jacob was the 2000 60kg lightweight champion of N.Z.

Landor kisses sleeping Murgatroid
I give Murgatroid a horse-bite⁶ and he hits me on the arm. Ouch it hurts!
In comes Nick.

Davin: Having a tug⁷ were you?

Nixon: No!

James Bond: What's on next?

Jacob: U.F.C. till 16:00hrs.

James Bond: We missed the boxing last night.

2012-10-08 Monday 8th October

George: Wake up Dav its time to go for a swim.

Davin: (to George) I'm not going for a swim it's too cold

Davin: (to Murgatroid) Good Morning Murgatroid, You all right?

Murgatroid: Yes I'm O.K.

Davin: You've got your Hugh Heffners on⁸!

Murgatroid: Yes I have.

Valerie: How'd your weekend go?

Murgatroid: You've got some new shoes on Jacob.

Valerie: Shall we start?

Valerie: So how was the weekend? Who won the rugby? N.Z.?

Murgatroid: In the second half the All Blacks came back.

Valerie: What else did you buy, Jacob?

Jacob: I've still go \$100 left from my WINZ.⁹ clothing grant.

Jacob: (to Dav) Pull your pants up higher Dav!

I pull my pants up higher so high that they are even higher than my belly button ...

Davin: You can see my noodle¹⁰!

2012-10-16 Tuesday 16th October

Davin: Could I have a cigarette please?

Stevo: How are you Dav?

Davin: Good but I wasn't feeling good earlier.

Stevo: You've done all that exercise and you want to ruin it with a smoke!

Davin returns the lighter.

Shazza: I thought you were giving me money!

Davin: Can I have some meat Shazza?

Mandy: My name is Mandy not Shazza Why do you keep confusing us with each other?!? I'm glad you enjoyed it! Did you like the pepperoni?

Davin: Yes I enjoyed it.

Mandy: Wipe down the table before you go Dav, that would be really helpful! Are you full Dav?

Davin: I'm up to here.

Davin points to the top of his head.

Mandy: Eat some more and you'll grow!

2012-10-17 Wednesday 17th October

James Bond: How long's your scarf?

Davin: About this long ... *Arms motioning to about 700mm long.*

James Bond: You're a machine!

⁶A horse-bite is a grabbing of the front leg just above the knee.

⁷*Tug* is slang for masturbate.

⁸Hugh Heffner always wears his trademark dressing gown on top of his pyjamas.

⁹WINZ stands for Work and Income New Zealand which provides benefits for unemployed people.

¹⁰*Noodle* is slang for penis.

2012-10-18 Thursday 18th October

Henrietta: Jacob is busy with some paperwork.

Henrietta: I'm just going out for 20 minutes then I'll come and take you.

Henrietta: Lovely?

Davin: Lovely Jubly!

Walking to The Warehouse, Barrington.

Henrietta: You don't want to get run over Dav ... that would be too much paperwork!

2012-10-19 Friday 19th October

Nixon: Have you got a sore arse?

Davin: Not yet ...

Nixon: Roscoe is a turd burglar (referring to his defecation into a plastic bucket).

Davin: In my book I'm going to call you Roscoe and you Nixon.

Nixon: You're gonna buy me a coke later are you?

Davin: Nope.

Nixon: Are You?

Davin: Nope.

Nixon: 10 minutes to go.

Davin: Yup.

Nixon: Cottage pie for tea tonight?

Davin: Ye-har!

Baggy trousers song comes on.

Davin: Do you like Baggy Trousers?

Nixon: Yup ...

Sexy Eyes (by Dr. Hook) plays on the C.D. player: I was sitting all alone watching people getting on with each other. They were dancing 'cross the floor. Turning moving back and forth, they were lovers. One more lonely night for me. I looked up what did I see? Sexy eyes moving cross the floor gotta want for more. Sexy eyes. Sexy eyes getting down with you, I wanna move with you. Sexy eyes ...

Nixon: Who sings that? Dr Hook.

James Bond: I like this song ... Who sings it?

Davin: Blondie it's called Rapture

While on hold for Telecom awaiting the purchase of a Cell phone that can be used as a dicta-phone, for recording conversations for the purposes of this book. Music playing over the telephone Sway by Bic Runga: Don't stray, don't ever go away. I should be much too smart for this. You know it gets the better of me. Sometimes when you and I collide. I fall into an ocean of you. Pull me out in time. Don't let me drown, let me down. I say it's all because of you. And here I go, losing my control. I'm practising your name so I can say it to your face. It doesn't seem right to look you into the eye. Let all the things you mean to me, tumbling out my mouth. And need it's time tell you why, say it's infinitely true. Say you'll stay, don't come undone like you do. Sway my way, yeah I need to know all about you ...

2012-10-20 Saturday 20th October

Landor: Burp.

Landor: Pardon me.

Davin: A case of the hiccups?

Davin: How's that scarf coming?

Landor: It's got a lot of holes Dav.

Davin: Holy smoke! What's booked?

James Bond: Kill Bill. It's about a fellow named Bill and a chick that tries to kill him.

Trev: What piece of fruit would you like Dav?

Davin: A banana.
Trev: I have no bananas.
Davin: Then I'll have an orange please ...
Trev: Here you catch ... *He throws an orange at me.*
Trev: Xena what sort of fruit would you like?
Dianne: A Granny Smith apple please.
Trev: I better not throw it at you ... I might hit you!
Trev: There you go.
Davin: Can I have a cigarette?
Nellie: What brought that on Dav?
Davin: I just feel like one!
Nellie: Well they're your cigarettes Dav. You can have one.
Davin: You having a shave eh?
Nixon: I just have some hairs on my face ...
Davin: You got enough wool Dianne?
Dianne: Yup.

2012-10-21 Sunday 21st October

Riding the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: I have brought some chips Nick ...

Nixon: Are you Unca Scrimmage?

Davin: Who is Unca Scrimmage?

Nixon: No I mean Who is Uncle Scrooge?!? Will you give me some of your chips?

Davin: Nope.

Nixon: Then you are an Uncle Scrooge aren't you?

I got off the exer-cycles after 10 minutes, saying "I don't feel so good"

I went straight to Shazza and asked for some P.R.N.¹¹

Shazza: No you always feel that way after exercising ... your heart rate increases and so does your breathing making you feel anxious. Would you like to have a spa?

Davin: Yes, I'll give that a try.

Shazza: What bubble bath would you like?

Davin: The one over there ... that other one is just bath salts.

I got out of the spa after 10 minutes and got back on the cycle.

Shazza: Have you got \$10? I need to break a \$20. I would never ask you for \$10!

I start writing down our conversation

Shazza: What are you doing?

Davin: I'm writing down our conversation.

Jacob: Then you can read that instead of coming to see us!

Nixon: I'm just gonna get'ta cuppa tea.

Davin: Gizza hug, come on gizza man hug¹²!

Nixon: No way man!

James Bond: You got \$1?

Davin: Yes I do ... when will you pay me back?

James Bond: Friday.

Davin: Can I give you 90 cents and you'll pay me back \$1 on Friday?

James Bond: Yeah O.K. it's a deal.

I want to go back into the spa pool. I knock to try to open the door to spa pool but it's locked. I yell out "Who's in there" and get no response.

Davin: (To Shazza) I say Can you open the spa pool?

Shazza: Jacob's still in the spa pool.

¹¹P.R.N. stands for *as required medication*. I am charted some P.R.N. whenever I have feelings of anxiety, although the nurses try only to use P.R.N. as a last resort to stop me from becoming dependent on it.

¹²A *man hug* is a type of hug that men give each other that is not homosexual.

Davin: (to Shazza) O.K. then I won't go in the spa pool.

Davin: (to Nixon) Last week we had plain reduced cream with sour cream and chives chips. This week we had onion reduced cream with plain chips!

2012-10-22 Monday 22nd October

Davin: Shazza I'm feeling strung out ...

Shazza: Try some of the items in your tool box.

Spent some time with the play-doh.

Davin: Look, I've made a little man out of play-doh.

Shazza: That's really good. You should be working with your hands and not in I.T.

Nixon: Is everybody ready for Carolyn's thank you¹³?

Davin: Yes?

Nixon: Thank you people! Thank you people! Thank you people! I don't owe you any money anymore.

Davin: We're all square.

Nixon: Someone's been on my bike ... Someone's been on my bike. Someone bigger than me.

Davin: Who's been on my bike?

Nixon: Won't you ever grow up little toot¹⁴?

Davin: Toot toot!

Nixon: How's your cola flavoured cordial? It made me sick!

Nixon rides his trousers up on this legs.

Nixon: I've got shorts on! Are you ripping some C.D.'s?

Davin: Yup 1 C.D. It's by Enigma.

Nixon: Turn up the sound mate.

I turn up the C.D. player.

Nixon: See I always keep paying you back don't I?

Davin: Jacob is not paying back the \$2.50 that he owes me.

Nixon: Are you hungry?

Davin: Yep.

Nixon: We had a good lunch didn't we?

We had home-made hamburgers for lunch.

Nixon: How are you?

Davin: You always ask that don't you?

Nixon: You've been slacking off Dav. Do you wanna be rich Dav?

Davin: No it just makes you miserable in comfort.

2012-10-23 Tuesday 23rd October

After coming back from the Wai-ora Gym.

Davin: You didn't go to the gym did you James Bond?

James Bond: No. Sore back

Davin: Sore back?

James Bond: Lower down yeah.

James Bond farted.

Davin: Did you just fart?

James Bond farted again.

James Bond: Well at least my bum's working!

James Bond: It's lunch time now.

¹³At the Y.M.C.A. Gym Carolyn bizarrely always says at the start of her workout: "Hello people ... Hello people ... Hello people ..." and the end of her workout: "is everybody ready for Carolyn's thank you ... thank you people ... thank you people ... thank you people!"

¹⁴Little Toot is a story about a tug-boat named Little Toot who tries to be like the big tug boats but fails due to his smaller size.

Gr: Lunch time you guys.

In the dining room sitting beside Murgatroid

Murgatroid: What are you doing?

Davin: I'm writing a book about my life.

Murgatroid: What part of your life?

Davin: The current part.

Out walking in the sun I spot Tanne walking in the distance with an unknown girl. I run to catch them up.

Davin: How's the book going Taane¹⁵?

Taane: We've just finished it and have sent it to two lecturers at U.C. for proof reading.

Davin: How many people did you interview for the book?

Taane: Eight. Four patients and four family members.

Davin: Did you interview my mother?

Taane: Yes, we did.

Davin: Will you give me a copy of the book when you're finished?

Taane: Yes I will give you a copy and your mother a copy. Where are you going?

Davin: For a walk around the grounds. And you Taane?

Taane: We're going out for a bite to eat.

Davin: Are you going to MacDonalds?

Taane: No not MacDonalds although Carolyn here might want some, gesturing to his female companion.

Back in the unit I see Mandy preparing our week's ration of coffee. She salutes me when she sees me and I salute her back.

Mandy: While pouring the coffee's I noticed that you didn't want any.

Mandy: Don't you want any coffee, Dav?

Davin: I prefer the coffee at the Avon Café¹⁶ where I order a Mocachino.

Mandy: Well if you ever want any coffee just let me know and I will provide it!

2012-10-24 Wednesday 24th October

In the exercise room with Nick after doing some tutoring at Addington.net.

Davin: I'm trying to operate the C.D. player.

Nixon: It's not plugged in, you idiot!

Nick pulls his gym pants up to his knees.

Nixon: I've got my shorts on eh!?!

Davin: I'm tired and I'm gonna pack it in.

Nixon: No you won't Dav!

Davin: G'day Shazza.

Mandy: My name's Mandy, why do you always call me Shazza?!?

Davin: You've got your pants down!

Nixon pulls them up.

Nixon: Is everybody ready for Carolyn's thank you?

Nixon and Davin: Thank you people, thank you people, thank you people!

Nixon: I just saw you at addington.net, there must be two of you!

Davin: Yes that's my evil twin brother, Davros Personski!

Davin: Everything you say Nick is going in my book!

Nixon: Fuck you Dav! Up yours Dav! Sticking his middle finger up at me.

Davin: Up yours Jacob! Sticking my middle finger up at Jacob.

Nixon: Sit on this and rotate Jacob (sticking up his middle finger)

I stop on the exer-cycles.

¹⁵Taane is writing a book about my life which is entirely separate from this book about my life.

¹⁶The Avon Café is a local cafe on the Hillmorton Hospital grounds.

Nixon: Your stopping now Dav but only 12 minutes of our 30 minutes have elapsed! Are you not well Dav?

Davin: Yes I'm a bit under the weather.

I retire to my room for 15 minutes.

Jane asked me to come into the kitchen to help James Bond with the cooking.

Davin: How do we make fruit salad?

George: With fruit usually!

Davin: Hey George, where's the can opener?

George: In the top drawer.

Davin: What to I do with all of the water in the cans?

George: Pour it all in the bowl.

George: I like the smell of that.

James Bond: It's capsicum.

Davin: Should I set the table for 9 people?

George: 8 people will be eating here tonight.

Jane: How do you like your coffee George, with milk and sugar?

George: I'm just gonna watch James Bond cooking.

George: I might let you stir something!

2012-10-25 Thursday 25th October

Nixon: Who did you get your smokes off, James Bond?

Nick gives me a horse-bite.

Nixon: does it hurt Dav?

Davin: Yes it does hurt!

Nixon: How do you spell Dav?

Davin: D.A.V.

Nixon: You're a good boss for letting us off early. I'm going to Burger King for lunch Dav.

Davin: Where is it?

Nixon: Addington.

Davin: Lincoln Road?

Nixon: Yes.

Davin: You going right now?

Nixon: No. Every time you misbehave I'm gonna got MEEP! When you're on the bikes and you misbehave I'm gonna go MEEP!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: I'm going to C.P.I.T.

Davin: Are you going at 17:00hrs?

Nixon: No. Roscoe reckons it's you that shit in that bucket ¹⁷.

Davin: Not me!

Nixon: Roscoe's gonna cook for himself tonight since I'm going to C.P.I.T.

Davin: What are you studying?

Nixon: Panel beating and painting. Who was it that shit in the bucket?

Roscoe: (to Dav) I don't see him do it!

Nixon: I caught the bus to Addington and brought a chicken wrap from Burger King for \$5. Look Roscoe's eating his teeth¹⁸.

Roscoe: Yes I am.

Davin: Missing tooth man!

Roscoe: Yup!

Roscoe: (Commenting on the song being played by the C.D. player) Is this Kiss?

Nixon: He just said he wants to kiss.

¹⁷Someone shat in the bucket out in the courtyard.

¹⁸Roscoe has a false tooth that he swirls around his mouth from time to time.

Davin: Half way?
Nixon: Did you just say Kai Pai?!?
Davin: I said how far have we come ... *half way?*
Nixon: 16 minutes to go.
Davin: (Commenting on the fact that the C.D. is not skipping) See the C.D. is not scratched¹⁹.
Toby enters the room.
Toby: It's good to see you boys hard at it.
Davin: Did you get the job Toby²⁰?
Toby: I don't know yet Dav.
Toby leaves the room.
Nixon: Are you gonna have a mastie later Dav?
Davin: No but I like touching my man-boobs²¹.
Nixon: You need a manzier²² to support your breasts!

2012-10-27 Saturday 27th October

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Hey dudey.
Davin: Hey dudey.
Nixon: How are you dudey?
Davin: Not so bad.
Nixon: Have you got a sore bum (Note the exer-cycles gives you a sore bum after about 5 minutes on them)
Davin: Yes I do.
Nixon: Manamana Do-Do-DoDoDo Manamana Do-Do-Do-Do Manamana Do-Doo-DoDoDo DoDoDo DoDoDo Do-Do-Doo-Do-Do-Do-Do-Do-Do-Do-Doo Manamana Manamana Manamana ...²³.
Nixon: Who's cooking tonight?
Davin: Me and Dianne.
Nixon: What are we having?
Davin: Sausages and cole-slaw.
Nixon: One thing about you is that you do the cycling Rain, Hail or Snow.
Nixon: Don'tcha?
Davin: Yup. I'm feeling better now.
Nixon: 1/2 way to go ... (15 minutes to go) How long to go Dav?
Davin: It's hard to say because on my watch the minute hand is covering up the stopwatch.
Shazza enters the room ...
Shazza: I've started your knitting for you Dav,
Davin: It's expensive knitting: 4 balls of wool cost me \$16!
Shazza: But it's made of love!
Davin: I'm all done!
Nixon: You worked up a sweat, Dav.

2012-10-28 Sunday 28th October

On the way to church.

Shazza: You're late to church.

Davin: Yes I am.

Shazza: Better late than never!

After church in the office with Shazza.

¹⁹He earlier accused me of scratching his C.D.'s.

²⁰Toby was forced to reapply for his own job.

²¹Man boobs are often called *moobs*.

²²*Manzier is the term for a man's brassier.*

²³This is a song by The Muppets.

Davin: Can I go to town now?

Shazza: Have you had a shower?

Davin: No

Shazza: Have a shower because you pong like a poll-cat.

At the lunch table.

Shazza: You're on dishes Dav, yet your not on the list I have great expectations for you Dav. Look Dav, we've virtually done it all for you haven't we!

Shazza: How's Murgatroid doing in the community? He must be doing all right.

Davin: No news is good news!

At the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Do you like whitebait?

Davin: Have you got some?

Nixon: I've got some in the freezer.

Davin: Locked away (the freezer door is locked).

Nixon: Yes locked away. Do you know how to cook them?

Davin: No

Nixon: You've got your shirt inside out!

Dav takes off his shirt and turns it inside out and puts it back on again.

Davin: Can I go on your cycle?

Nixon: No way, man!

Davin: I'm allowed to walk down to the shops. Are you?

Nixon: I go down on this bike! (the exer-cycle)

Davin: I don't feel so good. I might call it quits.

Nixon: You're getting slack aren't you?

Davin: Yes I am.

Nixon: Ride it out Dav! I'm like Murgatroid ... I can heal you in the name of the Lord. Does it feel any better now²⁴ Dav?

Davin: Nope no better.

Nixon: I'm getting some juice off you Dav ...

Davin: No you're not. I'm not giving you any chips and dip either!

Nixon: Fuck you Dav ... Stick your chips up your bum ... Stick your chips up there and rotate, he said pointing to his little finger.

Landor walks into the room.

Landor: Dav you've been a very naughty boy. You deserve a good spanking.

Davin: I'm writing this down for my book about my life.

Landor: You haven't even lived a life.

Davin: You robbed a bank.

Landor: I robbed 3 banks and I pleaded insanity to the charges.

Landor exits the room.

Davin: I'm getting off when you get off Nick.

2012-10-29 Monday 29th October

Davin: Can I go for a bike ride around the grounds²⁵.

Jean: You need a helmet for that ... Do you have one?

Davin: I have a helmet at home back at mum's place²⁶. Can I go for a walk to the Avon Café then?

Jean: You won't need a helmet for that then!

Back In the ward.

Davin: Hi Mr. Calrisian²⁷.

²⁴Murgatroid claims to have the ability to heal people by laying his hands on them.

²⁵I have recently purchased a mountain bike from the Pawn shop for \$330.

²⁶Most of my gear is stored away at my mum's place.

²⁷His full name is Landor Calrisian after the character from *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

Landor: Hi Mr Pearsons. Not that Mr Pearsons but this Mr. Pearsons²⁸.

James Bond: Have you got 50 cents?

Davin: No but I've got 20 cents.

James Bond: 20 cents for a smoke?

Davin: Yeah O.K.

Nixon: 20 cents for a smoke, that's pretty cheap!

Davin: Are you buying a coke for \$1²⁹? That's pretty cheap! Are you hanging out for a coke?

James Bond: Yes I am.

Nixon: Are you going on the exer-cycles later Dav?

Davin: How's two o'clock sound?

Nixon: Sounds good to me.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon at 14:00hrs.

Nixon: Turn up the stereo!

Davin: I can't plug it in ... *Dav struggles with the power plug and the outlet on the C.D. player*
There she goes!

Davin: I don't feel so good³⁰!

Nixon: Ride it out mate! You ate your chippies last night without me³¹!

Davin: (To Mandy) Hey Shazza?

Mandy: Home many times do you call me Shazza? My name is Mandy! You're a trick!
The song Baggy Trousers (by Madness) plays on the C.D. player: Naughty boys in nasty schools, headmasters breaking all the rules. Having fun and playing pool, smashing up the wood-work tools. All the teachers in the pub. Passing round that ready rump, Trying not to think of when will that lunch time bell will ring again. Over fun we had but did it really turn our head? All we learnt at school. Was has it really break the rules? Over fun we had but at the time it seems so bad. Trying just for frays to make a difference to the, it. Masters had enough today. All the kids have gone away. Gone the fart and extra school. Every turn and extras rule. Six alone and masons came ...

Nixon: How were the chips?

Davin: Good

Nixon: Did you eat the whole bag yourself?

Davin: Yes I did!

Nixon: I might take my C.D.'s off you because you won't give me any of your chips³²!

Davin: Jaeger told me not to bring any more cordial to the Y.M.C.A. Gym ³³ as it contains too much sugar!

Davin: In my book I'm gonna call you Nixon. *Dav stops his bike to write this down.*

Davin: You think I stop too much don't you?!?

Nixon: You've got to exercise for an extra 10 minutes to make up for all of the times you stop.

Davin: But you started 2 minutes ahead of me.

Nixon: 5 minutes!

2012-10-30 Tuesday 30th October

Outside my room

Lindy: (to Dav) Your rooms a bit pongy³⁴! You need to open your window Dav.

In the van on the way to Wai-ora Gym.

Davin: (to Nixon): You all right dude?

²⁸Referring to a T.V. commercial about two certain Mr Perkins'es, Mr Perkins the medical patient and Mr Perkins the dog. Not that Mr Perkins but this Mr Perkins, Not that Mr Perkins but this Mr Perkins and so on.

²⁹Coca-Cola is on sale in the clinic for \$1 per can.

³⁰Exercise has a negative short term effect on me.

³¹Yesterday I purchased some salt & vinegar potato chips with some reduced cream and onion flavoured dip.

³²I have borrowed one of Nixon's C.D.'s.

³³Every Friday at 13:00hrs we go to use the Y.M.C.A. Gym where a young man named Jaegar is a personal trainer.

³⁴*Pongy* means smelly.

Nixon: Dudey! I prefer to be called Dudey! Am I a good character in your book Dav?

Davin: Yes you are.

In the Wai-ora Gym

Nixon: Do you like my cap Dav?

Davin: What brand does it say on it?

Nixon: Puma. I'm wearing a Puma cap, Puma shoes, Adidas top and Adidas jacket.

Davin: Did you know that A.D.I.D.A.S. stands for All Day I Dream About Sex!?!?

Nixon: You're not going on the exer-cycles on the ward today are you Dav (as you have already been on the exer-cycles at the Wai-ora Gym).

Davin: Correct.

Nixon: You've been cheating haven't you Dav?

Davin: Yes, I have been cheating.

Nixon: You do it when you're over here and you kill two birds with one stone don't you?

Some minutes later ...

Davin: Go for a pee did you?

Nixon: Yes I did in the bushes over there!

In the kitchen back at the ward.

Mandy: Sit down Dav.

Davin: Can I have some noodles please Mandy?

Mandy: Not just at the moment because I'm busy Dav.
I greedily eat a plate of sandwiches with polish sausage, luncheon, tomato and cheese.

Davin: Can I have a muesli bar, Mandy?

Mandy: Not until you've cleaned your plate first.
I clean my plate in the sink and put it on the dish rack.

Mandy: Would you like a mandarin, Dav?

Davin: Yes, Mandy.

Mandy: What are you like at catching Dav?

Davin: O.K.

Mandy: Here catch this!
Mandy throws me a mandarin and I catch it.

Mandy: Well caught Dav, you should be on the cricket team!

Davin: The mandarins have got pips in them!

Mandy: That's good roughage for you Dav.

Davin: Do you eat the pips?

Mandy: Yes I do!

Davin: Thanks for lunch Mandy.

Mandy: You're welcome Dav!

In the hallway.

Davin: Did you open all of the bedroom doors Mandy?

Mandy: Yes I did, it lets some fresh air into them, don't you think?

Lindy: Especially with all you boys, burping and farting!

Davin: (to Toby) Did you get the job Toby?

Toby: Yes I did and thank you for your concern about my welfare.

Later ...

Jean: Dav your just the person I want to see. You need to give your room a good tidy.

Davin: But this is Tuesday and my cleaning day is Wednesday.

Jean: Just because your cleaning day is tomorrow doesn't mean you have to live like a pig!

2012-10-31 Wednesday 31st October

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: You're a liar (because you say you'll go on the exer-cycles and then you don't) and a cheat (because you spend so much time writing down our conversations when you should be working

out) and a thief (because you stole a ball-point pen from the Super Shed³⁵, but you're a good fella. Have you seen the movie Goodfellas Dav?

Davin: No I haven't seen it. Is it good?

Nixon: I've got a big bottle of water (1.5 Litres) while you have a small one 750 millilitres. Just ask the staff for one. What's for tea Dav? Cottage Pie?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Hi Dav, Hi Dav, Hi Dav.

Davin: Hi Nixon.

Nixon: What are you going to call your book Dav?

Davin: The life and times of Davin Pearson.

Mandy enters the room.

Mandy: When are you going to do your room tidy Dav³⁶?

Nixon: We finish at 14:30hrs.

Mandy: Can you do it then?

Davin: Yes O.K.

Nixon: What day is it Wednesday 31st October. The Melbourne Cup is on this week.

Nixon: I've got my shorts on Dav. Nixon has his pants pulled up so that it looks like he is wearing shorts.

Davin: No you don't . . . pull them up higher, they're not even half way!

Nixon pulls his pants up higher.

Roscoe leaves the room.

Davin: Do you think Roscoe's a tigger³⁷?

Nixon: A two handed one! It's a long bike ride today, Dav! It's only 22 minutes past. How are you Dav?

Davin: Not so good. I'll ride it though.

Nixon: Won't you ever grow up little toot?

Davin: I've already written that down on a previous day.

Nixon: You've got 1 megabyte of memory Dav!

After the exer-cycles about to do some vacuum cleaning.

Staff: What are you doing Dav?

Davin: Emptying the vacuum cleaner bag.

Staff: How'd your workout go, Dav?

Davin: Good.

Staff: Good Dav, you're on a roll!

2012-11-01 Thursday 1st November

In the clinic with Lindy.

Davin: Can I have my pills please Lindy?

Lindy: No wakas³⁸.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon. Dav started a 29 past two and Nixon started at half past. Nixon turned on the fan and put it on stationary mode.

Nixon: You've got a good sense of humour don't you? Would you like a haircut later?

Davin: No.

Nixon: How are you Dav?

Davin: Good.

Nixon: Do you drink in the middle of the night? If so, you'll wet your bed.

Davin: You wake up before you pee don'tcha.

Davin: Where did you go today Nixon?

³⁵The Super Shed is a store selling recycled goods.

³⁶Recall that my day for cleaning my room is Wednesdays of each week.

³⁷A tigger is slang for a masturbator.

³⁸The expression *No wakas* comes from the expression *No fucken worries* which transforms into *No wucken forries* which transforms into *No wakas*.

Nixon: I went to the pub for a beer³⁹. It was fucken nice eh?
Davin: What sort of beer did you drink?
Nixon: DB Export Gold. I'm cooking tonight.
Davin: What are we having for Tea tonight?
Nixon: Macaroni Cheese, garlic bread and pudding.
Davin: Have you got the fan blowing up your arse?
Nixon: Get fucked Dav! Do you want me to put it on rotate ... You can sit on that and rotate!
Clint enters the room and leaves.
Nixon: Clint's a tigger eh?! He's got his pyjamas on and it's only a quarter to three. Bananas in pyjamas eh?!?
Davin: I'm puffed.
Nixon: How much do you weigh Dav?
Davin: 90 kilograms.
Nixon: Too many chips eh? You've put on weight haven't you Dav?
Davin: 2.5 kilos.
Elmo the cat walks through the room.
Nixon: I dare you to kick Elmo.
Davin: I did once.
Nixon: I heard about it. You were unwell weren't you? 10 minutes left.
Davin: Yeah. I'm sweating like a pig.
Nixon: You are a pig!
Davin: Why am I a pig?
Nixon: You've got long scruffy hair and you haven't shaved for three days etc. etc.
Davin: How long to go?
Nixon: 8 minutes.
Davin: I make it 6 minutes and I started before you!
Nixon: Do you get weighed once a month?
Davin: No. How much do you weigh?
Nixon: 130 kilos.
Davin: I'm 90 kilos. Have you got a stop-watch?
Nixon: No. You came into my room last night didn't you?
Davin: Yes.
Nixon: Too see if I was having a mastie eh?
Davin: You were weren't you?
Nixon: Yes I was. No I was only kidding!
In the lounge watching T.V. with Clint.
Clint: What's that really bad smell?
Davin: I dropped a bomb⁴⁰ about 5 minutes ago.
Clint: So it was you was it?
Davin: Farts are a sign of good bowel health.
Clint: If dogs have such a great sense of smell then why do they spend so much time sniffing each other's butts?
Davin: Why do dogs lick their balls?
Clint: Because they can!

2012-11-02 Friday 2nd November

In the nurses' station.

Davin: Can I have a smoke? (I am allowed three smokes per day)

Jeanie: Yes you can.

³⁹As mental patients, we are not allowed to drink alcohol.

⁴⁰*Dropping a bomb* is slang for a farting.

Davin: Is there still only one lighter in the drawer? (I normally have two lighters in the drawer but sometimes one goes missing)

Jeanie: You look after it because two sticks takes a long time to start a fire!

In the van to go to the Y.M.C.A. Gym.

Nixon: My watch is at the repairers. How much would you sell me your watch for?

Davin: \$200?

Nixon: Too high.

Davin: \$190?

Nixon: Too high.

Davin: \$180?

Nixon: Too high.

Davin: \$170?

Nixon: Too high.

Davin: \$70?

Nixon: O.K. it's a deal, Dav.

Davin: I was only kidding! It's worth \$200 new and I don't want to sell it.

Nixon: Look at that tagging⁴¹ on that building ... It's my work!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: You're sweating already and you haven't even started yet! You just ate your bogey! Write that down.

Davin: Did you know that Landor likes to cross dress. He wears ladies underwear.

Nixon: I think he's gay!

Davin: He also likes to sniff ladies dirty underwear.

Nixon: He's done it before.

Davin: Did you know that there's a lady on the Internet that sells her dirty panties for the benefit of people like Landor.

Nixon: Landor would buy dirty underwear for \$10 and have a mastie over it.

Davin: I've smelt my own underwear.

Nixon: When?

Davin: About 15 years ago.

Nixon: Dirty or clean?

Davin: Dirty.

Nixon: I'm not going to say anything for the next 30 minutes because you always write down what I say.

Davin: I like your comments. They are quite clever. It's all going down in my book. I've done 14 pages. So your not gonna say anything are you?

Nixon: Hush hush. Mum's the word! I'll borrow \$2 off you and give you back \$3.

Davin: Sorry no sale. I'm going out of the money lending business since Jacob fleeced me for \$2.50.

The song Morning Train (9 to 5) (by Sheena Easton) comes on the C.D. player: I wake up every morning, I stumble out of bed. A stretching and a yawning, another day ahead. Seems to last forever, sometimes are slowly right. 'Cause baby needs together, baby starts to fly. 'cause the moment that he's with me, time can take a flight. The moment that he's with me, everything's alright Night time is the right time, we make love. Fantasy's the right time we take off. My baby takes the morning train. He works from 9 to 5 and then he takes another home again to find he's waiting for 'em ...

Nixon: You've still got that stolen pen⁴².

Davin: And it's busted.

Nixon: How are you Dav?

Davin: Good.

Nixon: You're looking good Dav, but you need a haircut and a shave.

⁴¹ Tagging is slang for the illegal graffiti left by graffiti artists.

⁴² Recall that I stole a pen from the Super Shed.

Davin: I'll buy a pair of dirty knickers, but I will have to wait until I get a debit card⁴³.

Davin: You don't like me having control of the timer do you⁴⁴?

Nixon: Usually it's me that tells you!

Davin: I'm feeling out of energy.

Nixon: Don't stop! Ride it out!

Nixon moves forward.

Davin: What are you doing Nixon?

Nixon: Farting! Are you going to write that down, Dav?

Davin: Yup.

Nixon: How old are you Dav?

Davin: 39.

Nixon: No, I mean how are you Dav?

Davin: Good.

In the hallway.

Nixon: How are you Dav?

Davin: I'm good. I've just finished entering my notes for today to the computer.

Nixon: You believe in a higher power don't you?

Davin: Well you're higher (taller) than me so yes I do!

2012-11-03 Saturday 3rd November

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Start now! (I start my stop-watch). Nixon is not used to not knowing how much time we have to go is. Recall that Nixon's watch is at the repairers. Got the fan on?

Nixon: Fanny?!? How are you?

Davin: Good.

Nixon: It's good for you when you're well isn't it?

Davin: Yes it is.

On the C.D. player: And the beat goes on ... the beat goes on ... the beat goes on ...

Nixon: The fan's blowing up my arse! I've lost one more kilo.

Davin: It must be the biking.

Nixon: Why have you got a hole in your sock, Dav?

Davin: I just do!

Nixon: The Roman look! I've lost 1 kilo. It must have been the biking!

Davin: How's it going Nixon?

Nixon: Dav the dude ... Dav the dude. You're a cool dude Dav!

Davin: Don't you like the cola flavoured cordial⁴⁵?

Nixon: No, it makes me sick! Have you ever been caught having a mastie?

Davin: No.

Nixon: Jill caught me doing it.

Davin: What did she say to you?

Nixon: Sorry Nixon! We're on paid work group⁴⁶ this week Dav. It's fish 'n chip night⁴⁷ tonight Dav. How many minutes to go, Dav?

Davin: 15 minutes to go!

Nixon sits back on his bike

Davin: What are you doing Nixon?

Nixon: My balls are sore! Xavier wants to buy some cheap headphones off me!

⁴³A *debit card* is like a credit card except you use your own money. Debit cards are a good way to buy things off the Internet.

⁴⁴Recall that Nixon's watch is at the repairer.

⁴⁵Nick gave me his bottle of cola cordial concentrate.

⁴⁶We work for an hour a week on chores such as gardening and cleaning the lounge and kitchen every week and every four weeks we swap from being in the paid group to the unpaid group and vice-versa. When on paid group, we get paid \$10 for one hour's work.

⁴⁷We have fish 'n chips for dinner on the first Saturday of every month.

Davin: Stolen ones?
Nixon: Yes. Hush hush!
Davin: Mum's the word!
Nixon: James Bond's buying me a can of coke.
Davin: What for?
Nixon: Because he likes me!
Davin: Do you remember I knocked my head on that shelf?
Nixon: Yeah.
Davin: It hurt a lot! What's wrong with your watch?
Nixon: The strap's broken.
Davin: 30 minutes have elapsed. Time's up!
Nixon: You rode it out didn't you?
Davin: Yes I did.

2012-11-04 Sunday 4th November

At the back door.

Nixon: Give me \$10 to get past, Dav!

Davin: No way dude!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Ready to start ... Get set ... Go!

I press the start button on my stop-watch.

Nixon: Jacob's on Drugs, isn't he Dav? How long have we done Dav?

Davin: 3 minutes. Shall I put the fan on?

Nixon: Yes.

I turn the fan on

Nixon: Ouch ... the fan's blowing right up my arse! How are you Dav?

Davin: Not so good.

Nixon: You're not gonna kill me are you Dav?

Davin: No.

Jacob enters the room.

Nixon: Jacob wants a medal eh?

Davin: What for?

Nixon: For going camping!

Davin: Up yours Jacob! Sticking my middle finger up at Jacob.

Nixon: Up yours Jacob! Sticking my middle finger up at Jacob. He's a dick eh?

Davin: Yeah.

Jacob leaves the room.

Nixon: He's a wanker eh?

Dav. Yeah.

Nixon: The Melbourne Cup's on Tuesday.

Davin: Really?

Nixon: Yeah.

Nixon leans forward on his bike.

Davin: What are you doing?

Nixon: Farting.

Davin: It's all going down in my book!

Nixon: What's for tea? baked beans or spaghetti or cheese on toast. Which one is it?

Davin: You choose.

Nixon: You're not gonna kill me are you?

Davin: No.

Nixon: Well you can kill anyone but me!

Davin: It's a deal!

Nixon: How long to go Dav?

Davin: I can't make it out. The minute hand is in the way of the stop-watch. Ask me in a couple of minutes.

Two minutes elapses.

Nixon: How long to go Dav?

Davin: 26 minutes gone, 4 minutes to go.

Nixon: What's the time, Dav?

Davin: 16:35 ... 25 minutes to four.

Nixon: Time for meds⁴⁸, tea and bed.

Davin: What about T.V.?

James Bond comes in the room and appears to be rolling up the fire hose.

Davin: What are you doing James Bond?

James Bond: Winding up the hose.

Davin: Who unrolled it?

James Bond: Xavier, he was washing the car.

Davin: Times up, now, Nixon!

2012-11-05 Monday 5th November

On the exer-cycles with Nixon and Jacob in the room.

Nixon: The Melbourne Cup's on tomorrow.

Davin: Who's gonna win?

Nixon: No.1, Kennedy.

Davin: Kennedy?

Nixon: No, Bennedy.

Davin: Bennedy?

Nixon: No, Dunadue.

Davin: Dunadue?

Nixon: Yes. I've heard all about you Dav, writing notes and punching our conversations into your computer. You must like the way I ask you questions don't ya? I'm not gonna talk to you for now on, I'm just gonna use sign language! I'm one of the actors in your book eh?

Davin: Yes you are.

Nixon: Will I get paid?

Davin: No. Are you gonna be quiet for now?

Nixon: Hush hush, mum's the word!

Davin: I don't feel so good eh? Shall I ride it out?

Nixon: Yes.

Davin: What time do you make it?

Nixon: 25 minutes to go.

Davin: I make it 23 minutes to go.

Respectable (by Mel & Kim) plays on the C.D. player: Respectable. Respectable. Respectable. Respectable. Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Take or leave us only please believe us we ain't never gonna be respectable. It's an occupation never dance the nation. We keep the pressure on every night. Explanations are complications. We don't need to know the reason why ...

Davin: 15 minutes gone. We're half way there.

Jacob leaves the room.

Nixon: Jacob's on drugs isn't he!?

Davin: Yes.

Later ...

Davin: Time's up dude!

Later in the T.V. room.

Nixon: You've eaten your potato chips twice⁴⁹ now without me, Dav! Why are you so mean to me?

⁴⁸ *Meds* is short for prescription medications.

⁴⁹ I have twice purchased a bag of potato chips without giving them to Nixon.

2012-11-06 Tuesday 6th November

On the way to the Wai-ora Gym.

Nixon: Can I have Dunadue⁵⁰?

Davin: No, he's mine!

Nixon: You've got holes in your socks, Dav! Are you going to cheat on the cycles⁵¹?

At the Wai-ora Gym

Jeanie: I go on the exer-cycles for half an hour every day Monday to Friday. I also go running for an hour every day Monday to Friday, but I haven't lost any weight. I am trying to lose weight for my brother's wedding.

On the way back home.

Davin: What is that really bad smell? It smells like someone's dirty socks.

James Bond opens the window to let the smell out and fresh air in.

Davin: I've finished my cordial.

Nixon: Do you still drink that cola flavoured cordial? It makes me sick! It's pies for lunch today hopefully.

At the lunch table it turned out that there were no pies for lunch, just noodles, bread and meat. Outside.

Landor: Here's me old mate James Bond! I want you to treat him with the utmost respect.

Davin: Who left that really bad smell in the van? At least I didn't drop a bomb!

Landor: It might have been Jacob.

James Bond: Can I borrow \$1 and I'll pay you back on Friday?

Davin: Yeah O.K. Please sign here.

James Bond signs his name.

James Bond: I'll give you a cigarette as interest.

James Bond buys a coke for his \$1.

Outside.

James Bond: Ah, nectar of the Gods! Don't you like cokes?

Davin: Not really.

James Bond: Do you like beer?

Davin: Yes.

James Bond: What sort of beer do you like?

Davin: Tui.

James Bond: I like Heineken, I don't like Steinlager.

2012-11-07 Wednesday 7th November

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Did you know that Landor won the Melbourne Cup sweepstake⁵².

Nixon: What did he win?

Davin: I dunno.

Nixon: Get a haircut, get a shave and get a real job! The C.D.'s scratched ... Give it a wipe with that tea towel over there. You'll have no trouble getting a job, Dav.

Davin: In the field of computers?

Nixon: You're a whizz kid! Can I call you whizz?!? Tweety bird. You're a tweety bird.

Davin: Why?

Nixon: Because you copy down what I say! You reckon I've got a few grey hairs?

Davin: Yes a few.

Nixon: I'm getting on in years eh?

⁵⁰We chose three horses at random to root for in the Melbourne Cup and I came up with Dunadue and Nixon didn't.

⁵¹I often go on the exer-cycles at Wai-ora Gym for half an hour to avoid going on the exer-cycles with Nixon in the afternoon.

⁵²Each of us patients was assigned three horses at random and the owner of the winning horse received a prize.

The C.D. player keeps skipping and I get off the exer-cycles and give the C.D. a wipe with the tea towel.

Nixon: Well done, tweety bird!

I take a drink from my drink bottle.

Nixon: It's good to see you drinking heaps of fluids.

Davin: Why?

Nixon: It's good for your body and your brain!

Davin: 5 minutes to go.

Nixon: Ride it out man!

Davin: I started 2 minutes after you but I'm gonna stop when you stop.

Nixon: Hey tweety bird!

Davin: 4 minutes to go?

Nixon: Yup.

Davin: I don't believe you.

Nixon: Time's up!

We both get off the exer-cycles.

2012-11-08 Thursday 8th November

In the clinic with Nellie.

Nellie: Slack arse Garry didn't clean the cups today!

Davin: I'll write that down.

Nellie: As long as you put it in the right context.

Davin: What context?

Nellie: He forgot to do the cleaning up.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: How are you Dav?

Davin: Not so good. Ride it out?

Nixon: Ride it out man, ride it out! Do you like my pants up? Funny eh?

Davin: Do you wanna know what makes me smile?

Nixon: Yes, what?

Davin: Thinking of five cigarettes at once!

Nixon: One in each nostril, one on each ear and one in the mouth! Ride it out man, Ride it out man!

Davin: Do I permission to write down our conversation?

Nixon: Yes you do. Bananas for supper shortly. Would you like a big banana or a small banana?

Davin: I'll have a big one please!

Nixon: Then I'll give you a small one then!

Dav laughs.

Davin: That made you laugh.

Nixon: Did you like your lamb chop for tea?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Did you like your mashed potato?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Corn?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Broccoli?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Cabbage?

Davin: No, I don't like cabbage.

Nixon: The fan's blowing right up my arse!

Davin: It is?

Nixon: Yeah.

Nixon: Billy Eight.

Davin: What?

Nixon: Billy Eight's on Jacob's back.

On Jacob's back it says: Billy Eight. The hate ball number. Las Vegas Records.

Nixon: We go on every day Dav?

Davin: Rain, hail or snow.

2012-11-09 Friday 9th November

In the van in the way to Brighton.

Davin: Are we having an ice cream?

Nellie: Valerie did say we were getting an ice cream.

Davin: At McD's⁵³?

Nellie: And a McFeast burger?!?

Dianne: Can you put your foot down Dav, it smells!

Nellie: Put baking soda in your shoes, it gets rid of the smell.

Dav sneezes

Nellie: Gesundheit!

Michael turns up the stereo.

Valerie: Turn the stereo down Michael!

James Bond: At least it doesn't have a sub-woofer!

Nixon: Who's cooking tonight, Dav?

Davin: Me and Xavier.

Nixon: What are we having for tea?

Davin: Corn fritters.

Valerie: What are you doing in the weekend, Dav?

Davin: Buying a cell phone at The Warehouse.

Valerie: I thought you already had a cell-phone.

Davin: Yes I did but I returned it because I thought Katie was giving me hers. It turned out that Katie was not allowed to give me her cell-phone so I need to buy one after all.

Valerie: You did good work yesterday with the badminton Dav. Did you enjoy it?

Davin: Yes I did.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Have you got your stop-watch on?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: I saw you at the gym today and I noticed that you were a bit strung out.

Davin: Yes, that's right, I was strung out. The increased heart rate gives me identical symptoms to a panic attack.

Davin: Do I have permission to write our conversation down now?

Nixon: Yes.

Davin: Do I have to ask you every time for permission?

Nixon: Yes because one day I might be having a bad day.

Davin: I went for a bike today.

Nixon: Where'd you go?

Davin: Around the grounds.

Nixon: How's your new bike going?

Davin: Good. It's a very light frame and has front suspension.

Davin: The C.D. player is skipping.

Nixon: Try and wipe it with a tea towel.

I wipe the C.D. with a tea towel.

Davin: James Bond gave it to me . . . probably because it skips.

Nixon: You need a shave mate. Your starting to look like Worzel Gummage⁵⁴! Nixon eh?

⁵³*McD's* is short for McDonalds.

⁵⁴Worzel Gummage was a fictitious character, a living scare-crow on a children's television program.

Davin: You're a real life Richard Nixon! I'm sweating like a pig!

Nixon: You're not a pig are you? You're a tweety bird!

Davin: Why am I a tweety bird?

Nixon: Because you write down the things that I say. You're a parrot! Tweety bird, tweety bird! I'm sweating like a pig ... I'm not a pig though! Tweety bird, tweety bird, you even look like tweety bird!

We close our eyes (by Go West) plays on the C.D. player: Inside, everyone hides one desire. Outside, no-one would know. Danger, close to the edge of the night. Safer, not to let go. And why we miss chances. You can almost hear time slipping away, ehay, ehay ehay! We close out eyes, we never lose a game. Imagination never lets us never lets us take the blame. We close out eyes to see the final frame. We close out eyes but time's slipping away ...

Nixon: I'm gonna bike for one hour per day!

The whole of the moon (by The Waterboys) plays on the C.D. player: I pictured a rainbow. You held it in your hands. I had flashes, but you saw the plan. I wandered out in the world for years, while you just stayed in your room. I saw the crescent, you saw the whole of the moon. The whole of the moon ...

Davin: Time's up!

In the clinic with Trev.

Trev: What's your name?

Davin: Davin Pearson.

Trev: Davin Pearson?

Davin: That's my name don't waste it!

Trev: Would you like your 08:30hrs meds at 09:30hrs?

Davin: Yes I would.

Trev: Roger Wilco. That is the call sign used by bomber pilots in the Second World War. Roger stands for O.K., Wilco stands for Will Comply.

In the quiet lounge.

Davin: What are you doing? Is it Secret Squirrel⁵⁵ stuff!?!

Trev: No, just recording the meds I've given to the patients.

2012-11-10 Saturday 10th November

In the car on the way to The Warehouse.

Nellie: What are you buying at The Warehouse, Dav?

Davin: A cellphone.

Nellie: I thought you had already brought a cell phone.

Davin: I returned it because I thought that Katie was giving me hers.

On the way out of The Warehouse.

Nellie: Cell phones don't have a money back guarantee do they?

Davin: Cell phones at The Warehouse that is.

In the nurses' station.

George: What did you get at The Warehouse, Dav?

Davin: A Nokia C201.

George: What did you get last time?

Davin: A Nokia C202.

George: The Warehouse, where everyone gets a bargain⁵⁶!

Out smoking with James Bond.

James Bond: What qualifications have you got, Dav?

Davin: A Bachelor of Science with Honours majoring in pure mathematics and a Graduate Diploma of Science majoring in computer science.

⁵⁵*Secret Squirrel* is than name of a 1980's cartoon.

⁵⁶This is the advertising slogan for The Warehouse.

James Bond: So you're pretty good a maths then eh? I can only do addition, subtraction and multiplication!

Davin: No calculus then?

James Bond: No way!

Davin: I'll smell you later James Bond!

James Bond: I'll smell you later Dav!

Outside the office.

Davin: What's for tea, Hamburgers?

George: Mmmm Mmmm.

Davin: What does that mean, yes?

George: Mmmm Mmmm!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Do I have permission to write down my notes of our conversation?

Nixon: Yes.

Davin: I don't feel good. Shall I ride it out?

Nixon: Yes, ride it out! Hello tweety bird, hello tweety bird! Go faster, go faster!

Davin: I saw Mr Bean last night.

Nixon: Where'd you see him?

Davin: On T.V.

Nixon: He's funny eh?

Davin: I stole Xavier's banana last night and ate it. When he asked me where it was I said that he ate it!

Nixon: Did he believe you?

Davin: Yes!

Nixon: Time's up!

2012-11-12 Monday 12th November

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: If you keep misbehaving they'll send you to AT&R.

Davin: What's AT&R?

Nixon: Acute Treatment and Rehabilitation. That's where they'll beat you up, where they lock up mongols and retards and throw away the key.

Nixon: You know that next year I'm gonna ride the exer-cycles for one hour every day!

Davin: Good music eh. Nixon?

Nixon: Look at my puku! It's big eh?

Davin: Pukunui⁵⁷.

Davin: 15 minutes to go. I'm not feeling so good so I'll stop right now!

Nixon: You lazy bastard, Dav.

A quote from Richard Dawkins on the old testament of The Bible:

The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.

I agree with him, although I believe that the God of the New Testament is a much better deity to worship. The following quotes are about the new testament of The Bible:

Reading the new testament of The Bible, Corinthians 6.9

"No-one who . . . behaves like a homosexual will share in God's kingdom."

God of the New Testament of The Bible is therefore a homo-phobe.

Reading the new testament of The Bible, Corinthians 14.35

"It is disgraceful for a woman to speak in church."

God of the New Testament of The Bible is therefore a sexist.

⁵⁷ *Pukunui* is Maori for big stomach.

Jesus treated everyone as equals (men, women, slaves and slave-masters) so therefore The Bible is inherently self-contradictory.

2012-11-13 Tuesday 13th November

Out walking with mum and K.K. her dog⁵⁸.

Mum: What are you writing down Dav?

Davin: I'm writing down our conversations. I gonna put it into a book that I am writing about myself.

Mum: Am I going to be in your book?

Davin: Yes you are.

In the van ready to go to Wai-ora gym. Jacob is missing.

Nixon: Jacob's a dick eh?

Davin: He's supposed to come with us.

Jacob gets into the van and we depart for Wai-ora gym.

Davin: What time did you get up for your boxing camp⁵⁹?

Jacob: 07:30hrs.

Davin: Am I allowed to write notes about this?

Jacob: Do anything you like!

At the Wai-ora gym

Davin: Hi James Bond, that's the squeaky bike, (pointing to the exer-cycle next to me).

James Bond: It's not squeaking!

Davin: No it's not. I see that the height counter on my bike goes up to 600m. Is that one mile?

James Bond: No, one mile is about 1600 meters.

Outside the ward smoking before lunch.

Davin: There were some nice girls back at the race course.

James Bond: Cunnilingus! Do you know what that means?

Davin: Licking pussy?

James Bond: Yes!

At the lunch table.

Davin: Can I have some noodles please Shazza?

Mandy: My name is Mandy not Shazza! And you can't have some noodles. You've had four slices of bread, some soft-drink, and a muesli bar. But there's plenty of fruit over there for you to have.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Rickstein: Good on you boys for exercising.

Nixon: Do I have your permission to listen to the radio!?!?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: I'm listening to talk back radio and listening to your C.D. player. I'm a multi-tasking machine!

Davin: Are those false teeth you have?

Nixon: Yes. Two crowns costing \$5000 each.

Davin: And the gold filling?

Nixon: \$5000 for that too. Rain, hail or snow and you've already been on the exer-cycles for half an hour at Wai-ora gym.

Davin: 15 minutes have elapsed. I don't feel so good and I think I'll stop exercising for today.

2012-11-14 Wednesday 14th November

We went to the A&P show where I purchased some candy floss for \$3, a hot dog for \$4 and a pair of polarised sunglasses for \$20.

⁵⁸I am allowed weekly half hour walks with my mother on the hospital grounds.

⁵⁹Last weekend Jacob went to a boxing training camp.

2012-11-15 Thursday 15th November

At the work group.

Nixon: Did you just pee in the bushes?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Free Willy⁶⁰! Free the Willy⁶¹!

Davin: If your an American when you're in the kitchen, what are you when you're on the toilet?

Nixon: What?

Davin: European (pronounced you're-a-peein').

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Do you believe in a higher power?

Davin: Yes I do.

Nixon: I'm a higher power than you Dav.

Davin: Why are you higher than me?

Nixon: Because I use the bike longer than you!

15 minutes have elapsed and I quit the half hour cycle because I'm not feeling so good.

Reading the new testament of The Bible, Ephesians 5.22

"A wife should put her husband first, as she does the Lord"

More evidence that God of the New Testament of The Bible is a sexist.

Reading the new testament of The Bible, Ephesians 6.5

"Slaves, you must obey your earthly masters. Show them great respect and be as loyal to them as you are to Christ."

Evidence that The Bible supports slavery.

2012-11-16 Friday 16th November

Davin: Did I catch you on the toilet having mastie yesterday?

Nixon: No I was just shaking my dick.

Roscoe enters.

Davin: Hey Roscoe, what do you call an epileptic in a tree?

Roscoe: What?

Davin: Roscoe!

Roscoe: Are you knitting a scarf?

Davin: Yes⁶².

Roscoe: Then you're gonna be a scarfie⁶³!

2012-11-17 Saturday 17th November

Outside in the sun.

James Bond: Hi Dav.

Davin: Hi James.

James Bond: Have you looked at the day, it's beautiful isn't it?

Davin: I didn't notice it was.

James Bond: The sun is shining and the birds are singing. It's an ideal day.

Davin: Do you want to know what the ideal way to die is?

James Bond: What?

Davin: Having a heart attack while having sex with a woman while flying a 747 Jumbo Jet into the sea.

James Bond: Join the mile high club, yes.

Davin: Yes.

⁶⁰ *Free Willy* is the name of a motion picture about the saving of a captured killer whale.

⁶¹ *Willy* is slang for penis.

⁶² I am knitting a blue scarf for my nephew Scooby Trent.

⁶³ *Scarfie* is the name for a University of Otago student on account of them wearing scarves.

James Bond: It's got to be on my bucket list: The list of things to do before I die.
Davin: Do you know what the worst way to die is?
James Bond: No, what?
Davin: Having a heart attack while playing charades! Do I have permission to write this down?
James Bond: Permission, eh?
Davin: Yes.
James Bond: Yes, you do.
Outside Nixon's room.
Nixon: How are you, Dav.
Davin: Not so good.
Nixon: What's the matter?
Davin: Murderous thoughts.
Nixon: Your not going to murder me are you?
Davin: No.
In the lounge.
Nixon: You're a higher power, Dav. You think you're the Messiah don't you?
Davin: I had a dream in which I was God. Then I woke up and thought "Bugger it was just a dream!"
In the clinic.
Heather: You can leave the jokes out for everyone else.
Davin: Leave the jokes out?!?
Heather: No I said you can leave the *jug* out for everyone else!

2012-11-18 Sunday 18th November

On the exer-cycles with Nixon. I start my stop watch two minutes before Nixon arrives.
Nixon: Stop the timer and start it again, Dav!
Davin: No way ho-se!
Nixon: You've been scratching my C.D.'s haven't you Dav!
Davin: No I haven't
Nixon: I heard about you ripping apart your mum's computer and not putting it together properly again. I heard that she wasn't impressed! At the family/whanau day⁶⁴. I'm gonna tell your mum you like ripping computers apart. You're getting unwell aren't you Dav? I can tell just by looking at you.
Believe (by Cher) plays on the C.D. player: After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. After love. No matter how hard I try. You keep pushing me aside. And I can't break through. There's no talking to you. It's so sa-a-ad that you're leavin'. It takes time-e-ime to believe it. But after all is said and done, you're gonna be the lonely one. Do you believe in life after love? I can feel something inside myself, I really don't think you're strong enough . . .
Nixon: Me and Stevo saw a car crash today. An old man put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake. We saw it happen: one car in front of us. Talk about close man!
Boom Boom Boom (by The Vengaboys) plays on the C.D. player: Vengaboys are back in town. Vengaboys are back in town. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Vengaboys are back in town. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Vengaboys are back in town. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. If your alone and you need a friend, someone to make you forget your problems. Just come along, baby take my hand, I'll be your lover tonight. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. This is what I wanna do. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Let's have some fun. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. What I want just me and you. Oh Oh-Oh Oh-Oh. Boom boom boom, I want you in my room. Let's spend

⁶⁴On November 31 we have a family/whanau day which is an opportunity for our family members to visit the ward.

the night together from now until forever. Boom boom boom, I wanna double boom, let's spend the night together, together in my room . . .

Nixon: It's family/whanau day on the November 31.

Nixon: It's family/whanau day on the November 31!

Nixon: It's family/whanau day on the November 31!!

Nixon: It's family/whanau day on the November 31!!!

Davin: I'm sweating like a pig!

Nixon: Oink, oink! I'm sweating like a pig. You gotta say oink oink!

Davin: Oink, oink!

2012-11-19 Monday 19th November

In my bedroom Shazza enters the room . . .

Shazza: I'll be away for another week⁶⁵.

Shazza: You haven't done anything to patients or animals while I've been away have you?!?

Davin: No.

Shazza: Your room's a bit pongy!

Nixon is writing the word "Ric" on the board⁶⁶.

Davin: Who's Ric?

Nixon: Ric stands for Riccarton⁶⁷.

On the bus to Riccarton.

Roberta: What are you carrying in your bag?

Davin: The book that I am reading called Henderson the Rain King by Saul Bellow.

Roberta: In case the company gets dull?!?

At the coffee shop.

Roberta: Have you got an asbestos throat?

Davin: Why?

Roberta: Because you drink your coffee so fast! The Dude with the sunglasses⁶⁸.

Davin: What?

Roberta: Haven't you seen the movie *The Big Lebowski*⁶⁹?

Roberta: Smell me.

Davin smells Roberta.

Roberta: I'm wearing Cristian Doir. Do I smell of money? That's what I want to smell like!

On the bus on the way home.

Roberta: The weather was good for our little sojourn wasn't it?

In the office at 15:45hrs.

Davin: Can I have my four o'clock cigarette?

Stevo: Are you aware that . . .

Davin: . . . smoking causes blindness?

Stevo: I thought that was wanking⁷⁰ that causes blindness!

In the lounge.

Nixon: Did I tell you that I drink a whole container of Milo⁷¹!

Davin: What did it taste like?

Nixon: Sweet.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: I think I shat my pants!

Davin: Did you really?

⁶⁵Shazza is away for four weeks.

⁶⁶*The Board* is the place where we enter our destinations and time of return in case there is a fire on the unit.

⁶⁷*Riccarton* is a suburb of Christchurch.

⁶⁸Referring the sunglasses that I purchased from the A&P show for \$20.

⁶⁹*The Big Lebowski* features a character called *The Dude*.

⁷⁰*Wanking* is slang for masturbating.

⁷¹We are allocated weekly containers of Milo and coffee.

Nixon: Yes I did ... No I didn't. Someone told my that you shat your pants at Ward X⁷²!

Davin: I shat in my bed.

Nixon: How so?

Davin: I farted and shat my pants. Shit went all over my bed sheets.

Jacob enters the room. Ya mama (by Fat Boy Slim) is playing on the C.D. player: Push the tempo. Push the tempo. Push the tempo. Push the tempo. Push the tempo. Push the tempo. Push the tempo up. Raise the tempo ... Jacob starts dancing to the music.

Dav and Nixon: Up yours Jacob! Sticking our middle fingers up at Jacob.

Outside Nixon's bedroom.

Nixon: I'll cut your hair for \$1.50⁷³.

Davin: It's a deal!

Nixon gets out his clippers.

Davin: Do you want me to clean up the mess⁷⁴?

Nixon: You can do it. It grows so fast doesn't it? You've got fucken good hair! At \$1.50 this is the cheapest hair cut in town! Does it hurt your head?

Davin: No.

Nixon: Pretty good eh? I told you that I brought a new bike eh?

Davin: From your sister eh?

Nixon: It cost me \$200 and she purchased it for \$300 so it's a good deal for me.

Nixon: Jacob's running, he must have shat his pants! Cheap hair cut ... I do a lot of things for you don't I?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: The top of it's pretty good eh?

Davin: (pauses) yes.

Nixon: You had a good look before you told me!

Davin: Can you do my lamb chops⁷⁵?

Nixon: That'll cost you an extra dollar!

Davin: No way man!

Nixon cuts off my lamb chops.

Nixon: We're all square then! I did a better job than last time⁷⁶.

Outside the clinic.

James Bond: Have you been moulting Dav?

Davin: No I just had a hair cut from Nixon.

2012-11-20 Tuesday 20th November

Outside the office.

Davin: Good morning Toby.

Toby: You've had a haircut Dav.

Davin: Yes I have.

Toby: It looks tidy.

Out walking with mum.

Mum: How's the exer-cycles going?

Davin: I do half an hour every day, but some days I only do half that when I'm feeling strung out.

Mum: Were going to Wellington this week.

At the end of our walk.

Davin: I'll see you next Tuesday.

⁷² Ward X is the name of a forensic ward at Hillmorton Hospital that I was in before I entered Ward Y.

⁷³Nixon had borrowed \$1 off me and promised to pay back \$1.50 so that if I agreed to the hair cut we'd be all square.

⁷⁴Cutting hair leaves cut hair all over the floor of the hallway.

⁷⁵Lamb chops are another word for side burns.

⁷⁶This is the second time that Nixon has cut my hair.

Mum: No you won't. I'll be in Wellington and I don't get back to 12 noon on Tuesday. So I'll see you on Thursday O.K.?

Davin: O.K., see you on Thursday. Bye!

Mum: Bye!

At the Wai-ora gym with me on the treadmill.

Jenny: Move forward a bit on the treadmill Dav. We don't want you to fall off!

Nixon: Good haircut eh Dav? How long have you got to go on your treadmill?

Davin: One minute to go.

In the van on the way back to the ward.

Nixon: Are you going on the exer-cycles later?

Davin: No I already did my half hour at the Wai-ora gym.

Nixon: Kill two birds with one stone eh?!?

Davin: All right, I will go on the exer-cycles tonight. How's 18:30hrs sound?

Nixon: That's good with me!

On the computer.

Nixon: I can't go on the exer-cycles at 6:30 tonight as I have an engagement with the courts at 18:00hrs.

Davin: *Courts?*

Nixon: No *Course*. I have a painting and decorating *course* I want to do.

Davin: I thought you said *courts!*

2012-11-21 Wednesday 21st November

Before the cooking group⁷⁷.

Roscoe: Where having a walk tonight.

Davin: A walk tonight?

Roscoe: Where having *pork* tonight.

After the cooking group.

Roberta: Have you finished your cooking group? I could smell it and it smelled absolutely divine.

James Bond: I would have added more sugar to the pancakes.

Later.

Nixon: I'm gonna spend a couple of days off the bikes.

Davin: Why?

Nixon: Because I've got a cold.

Later.

Roscoe: Dav was havin'

Davin: Dav was havin' what?

Roscoe: havin' a good time!

Out in the car park with Franciska.

Franciska: Cool shades. They go over your glasses. Come on let's find the car. It's number 128. The last one to find it's a rotten egg.

Davin: Here it is, I've found it.

Franciska: It's hot in here, ain't it?

After addington.net⁷⁸.

Roberta: What's for Tea tonight?

Davin: Pork.

Dav reaches down to plug his seat in sitting directly beside Roberta.

Roberta: That's my glasses case not my hip bone. I haven't felt my hip bone since 1974.

⁷⁷Weekly we have a key skills group where we learn skills that we will need in the community.

⁷⁸Weekly we go to addington.net to use their Internet on their computers.

2012-11-22 Thursday 22nd November

After the M.D.T. (Multidisciplinary Discipline Team) meeting.

Trev: The team were really impressed that you have gone without P.R.N. for three weeks and they have granted you an extra leave: Saturdays for half an hour off the grounds in addition to your Sundays for half an hour off the grounds.

Davin: Cool!

In the van on the way to Cowles Stadium⁷⁹ with the van side door open.

James Bond: It might pay to shut the door Dav!

Valerie: Have you got enough wool to finish your scarf?

Davin: Yes I do.

James Bond: Did you just fart Dav?

Davin: No.

James Bond: Are you writing that down Dav??

Davin: Yes I am!

In the van on the way back to the ward from Cowles Stadium.

Valerie: Are your mum and dad coming to the family/whanau day⁸⁰?

Davin: My mum is yes. My father and sister are unconfirmed.

James Bond: Can I borrow \$1 off you?

Davin: I've only got a \$2 coin.

James Bond: Should we make it \$1 for the T.V.⁸¹?

Davin: O.K., sure.

James Bond: Now you just need to buy a U.H.F. aerial and a Freeview box⁸².

Davin: From where? Dick Smith Electronics?

James Bond: Or The Warehouse.

2012-11-23 Friday 23rd November

In the van out to an unknown destination.

Davin: Where are we going?

Roscoe: On a magical mystery tour⁸³!

Out for a walk beside the estuary.

Davin: (to Roscoe) Can I buy a smoke off you for \$1? I'll pay you back when we get ot the ward.

Davin: It smells a bit pongy here isn't it?

George: It smells of the sea doesn't it?

Davin: I smells more like seaweed. The tide is out.

We reach the end of the track and I start walking back.

George: (gesturing towards Dav) Follow that man!

Davin: (to Jacob) Did you just go for a pee?

Jacob: Yes I did.

In the van on the way back to the ward.

Roscoe: What's the time Dav?

Davin: 11:08hrs.

Roscoe: We'll be back in plenty of time⁸⁴.

Back at the ward.

Roscoe: Have you got that \$1 for me?

Davin: Here you go.

Dav hands Roscoe the money.

Roscoe: Money well spent!

⁷⁹We play weekly badminton for an hour a week at Cowles Stadium.

⁸⁰Marie has sent invitations to the family/whanau day to my mother, father and sister.

⁸¹James Bond has given me his big old C.R.T. (Cathode Ray Tube) T.V.

⁸²V.H.F. Television is going to be switched off soon so I will need a Freeview box to pick up channels.

⁸³*Magical Mystery Tour* is the name of a song by The Beatles.

⁸⁴We have to be back by 12 noon in time for lunch.

Outside the ward. Dav sneezes.

Roscoe: Have you got hay fever, Dav?

Davin: Yes. It's either that or a cold's coming on.

Roscoe: It was a little bit windy on the coast wasn't it?

My father arrives on the ward.

Davin: Shall we go to the Avon Café?

Dad: O.K., let's go.

Davin: How's Frankleigh Street⁸⁵ going?

Dad: Very well, thank you.

Dad: The world is changing so fast. As my mother⁸⁶ used to say "It makes you want to keep on living because you'll never know how it's gonna turn out!" What are you writing down?

Davin: I'm writing notes for a book that I'm writing about my life.

Dad: Fortunately I can run Frankleigh Street without too much hassle. What you get on fixed deposit barely covers inflation. I sold Charteris Bay⁸⁷ (now he owns a place at Lyttleton harbour⁸⁸) just at the right time. How's your computer programming book going?

Davin: I'm encountering some technical problems. It should be ready to publish soon (in a few weeks).

Dad: Instead of practising D.I.Y. carpentry⁸⁹. I now just sit and read all day. Out of my window I watch cruise liners come into port. Some of them feature seating in the dining room for 2,500 people!

Davin: My mum sold Tika Street⁹⁰ and she's got \$450,000 invested with Gareth Morgan Investments and the same amount invested in A.N.Z. Securities.

Dad: Do you have any goals for next year?

Davin: I am looking forward to getting part time work as a computer programmer with Trimble Navigation Ltd⁹¹.

Back at the office.

Davin: Can I go on the computers now George?

George: You know you are only allowed to use the computers at 15:00hrs, Dav. Why don't you take a walk for half an hour?

Davin: Smells like a plan!

Lindy: Remember not to take candy from strangers.

Dav laughs and leaves for his walk.

2012-11-24 Saturday 24th November

Outside the ward having a smoke.

Roscoe: Oi, what are you doing?

Davin: Chasing the ducks.

Roscoe: A good pass-time eh?

In the lounge.

James Bond: I'm getting a Freeview box for Christmas

Davin: James Bond are you on the invalids benefit.

James Bond: No, sickness benefit, why?

Davin: Because if you're on the invalids benefit you can get Freeview for free. I'm getting Freeview for free.

⁸⁵My father owns a boarding house on Frankleigh Street.

⁸⁶My father's mother (my grandmother) died in 1998 aged 80.

⁸⁷My father used to own three adjacent properties at Charteris Bay in Banks Peninsula near Christchurch where I live.

⁸⁸also in Banks Peninsula.

⁸⁹Before being prescribed Epilum for epilepsy my father was a carpentry-aholic. Now he claims that the Epilum has calmed down his urge to make noise building things.

⁹⁰My mother used to own three adjacent properties in Tika Street which she sold for \$900,000.

⁹¹Trimble Navigation is located near the ward where I am staying so the travelling time to and from would be short.

Davin: Did you know the Lincoln Road Supervalve is closed due to earthquake damage⁹²?

James Bond: No, is it really closed?

Davin: I went there today this afternoon at 15:00hrs and it was closed.

In the hallway

Landor: Dav, can I borrow your lighter?

Davin: Yes here you go.

Dav gives Landor his lighter.

Landor: Hare Mai

Davin: Hare What?

Landor: Hare Mai. It's Maori for "come with me".

I follow Landor outside.

Davin: Smoking butts are you Landor?

Landor: Yes I am.

Dav and James Bond are in charge of cooking hamburgers for dinner.

Cleaning up after dinner.

James Bond: Jacob stole some chocolate from my room and he admitted it to Xavier and Landor. What a nark eh? He's sent several people back to prison when he was in Ward X.

Davin: Are we all square with the clean up then?

The time is 18:00hrs exactly.

James Bond: You go and watch the news. I'll finish with the clean up.

2012-11-25 Sunday 25th November

In the car leaving the ward with Dav, James Bond and Stevo.

Stevo: Bumps are bastards aren't they?

Davin: Yes. Bumps are designed to destroy cars!

Stevo: I want to listen to some Rock. Let's try Radio Hauraki.

Stevo tunes the radio into Radio Hauraki.

Stevo: The good thing about summer is that the girls come out with skimpy clothing!

We drop James Bond off to his mother's place.

Stevo: Next stop the library.

Davin: Do you have any books to return?

Stevo: Some guitar magazines, yes.

We go to the library and then head towards Riccarton.

Davin: I need to go to A.N.Z. Riccarton to set my P.I.N. on my new Visa debit card.

I go to A.N.Z. Riccarton

Davin: Now I want some potato chips from Pak N Save Riccarton. Shall we park in the mall's car park?

Stevo: O.K., yes.

In Riccarton mall.

Davin: Can I use the Rest room?

Stevo: Do you need to take a piss?

Inside Farmers Riccarton.

Davin: What are you looking for Stevo?

Stevo: A perfume tester and a belt.

Davin: What's a perfume tester?

Stevo: A piece of paper with some perfume on it. Here, smell this.

Dav smells a small piece of perfumed paper. We don't find any belts for less than \$40 at Farmers Riccarton so we head to K. Mart. At K. Mart we see belts for \$19.95 so we decide to go to The Warehouse Riccarton⁹³ to try to find some cheaper belts.

Davin: Do we have to be back by 13:00hrs to pick up James Bond from his mother's place?

⁹²There was a major earthquake in Christchurch at 12:51hrs on the 22nd February 2011.

⁹³The Warehouse Riccarton is located on Blenheim Road, Riccarton.

Stevo: Yes. What are you looking at?

Davin: I'm looking at the exhaust from a jet plane going over head.

Stevo: Are you looking at the chem trail?

Davin: Yes.

At The Warehouse we find belts for \$20 so we each by one.

Davin: Can you poke a hole in this for me? (pointing to a L-sized belt)

Stevo: No, get an M-sized belt. Wait here, I'm gonna check out the car section. Stevo goes to check out some toy cars and he buys one for his grandson.

Dav tries out his new Debit card at the check-out. It fails to work, saying "invalid transaction" so I try out my old EFT-POS card. It works. Our car arrives back at the ward.

Davin: Are you going straight to pick up James Bond?

Stevo: Yes. Get out of the car and go back to the unit.

Dav goes back to the unit.

Davin: (to George) Have you saved any lunch for me⁹⁴?

George: We've got noodles and bread.

Davin: I'll have some noodles and then I'll go to McDonald's for a lamb burger combo.

Dav gets some noodles from the pantry and cooks and eats them.

Davin: Can I have the key to the bike shed? Can I also have my cell-phone? Here is my cell-phone number.

Dav gives George his cell-phone number and George gives Dav the key to the bike sheds and Davin's cell-phone.

Davin: Please call me so I know you have the correct number.

George calls my number and my phone rings so I know that it works. I don't answer the call to save the ward from the cost of having to pay for the call. Dav bikes to McDonalds for a late lunch.

Dav goes into the toilet for a pee and forgets to lock the door.

Nixon: (Opens the toilet door.) Dav are you having a tug?

Davin: No, I'm peeing!

2012-11-26 Monday 26th November

In the morning meeting.

Shazza: I heard the crock⁹⁵ factory burnt down! crocks are hideous shoes aren't they?

Davin: I like them, see? (I show Shazza that I am wearing them.)

Later.

Davin: Can I have a smoke Shazza?

Shazza: If I found out you've lied about not having a smoke, there'd be trouble⁹⁶!

Davin: Trouble's my middle name!

I go out to have a smoke and then come back again to the office.

Shazza: You're looking a bit scruffy, you need a shave.

Davin: O.K., can I have some scissors to trim my beard?

Shazza: Be careful with the scissors.

I shave my sideburns and chin with the razor and trim my goatee with the scissors.

2012-11-27 Tuesday 27th November

At the morning meeting. Shazza sits down between me and James Bond.

Shazza: I'll be a rose between two thorns!

In the van on the way to Wai-ora gym.

Davin: (to Nixon) Are you going on the bikes today?

Nixon: No, I've still got a cold.

Davin: Hey Nixon, smell my finger!

⁹⁴We have lunch at 12 noon every day so any time after that is too late.

⁹⁵Crock shoes are plastic shoes that are somewhat like jandals.

⁹⁶I have three smokes a day that are held in the office to prevent me from smoking any more.

Nixon: Why?

Davin: I got some poo on my finger while I was wiping my bottom.

Nixon: You did clean your hands didn't you?

Davin: Yes but the poo smell remains on my left finger.

Nixon: I'm gonna call you poo-bum!

Nixon takes my notes⁹⁷ away from me and gives them to James Bond who goes to throw it out the window.

Davin: Give it back, James Bond!

James Bond gives me back my notes.

At the Wai-ora gym.

Stevo: Have they moved the cross-trainers?

Dianne: Yes they've moved them so you don't bump your head on the ceiling when you use them!

Stevo: Where's the rowing machine?

Dianne: (Gesturing to the rowing machine.) Over there.

In the van coming back to the ward.

Nixon: I'm gonna rip your notes into pieces! Poo-finger, that's what I'm gonna call you!

Nixon gives me a horse bite. Ouch it hurts. I give Nixon a horse-bite and he doesn't even flinch!

Nixon: Solid, eh?

2012-11-28 Wednesday 28th November

In the office.

Davin: Can I have a smoke George?

George: Are you aware that smoking causes heart attacks?

Davin: Yes I am aware of that but I still want my cigarette!

George gives me a cigarette.

Outside. James Bond comes and sits beside me.

Davin: Giddy Mr. James Bond.

James Bond: Giddy Mr Dav. Dav the Rav!

Davin: I've cut back on my smoking using nicotine patches and nicotine gum⁹⁸. How much have you cut back to?

James Bond: I cut down from 30 a day down to 8 a day.

Davin: That's a big improvement!

James Bond: I need a lighter but I don't want to have to reach into your crotch to get it!

Davin: Here you go (giving my lighter to James Bond).

James Bond: I just farted!

Davin: Poo! What a stink! Smells like nuclear fallout! Do you mind me taking our conversation down in written form?

James Bond: No go ahead.

Two ducks arrive looking to be fed.

Davin: Have we got any bread for the ducks?

James Bond: No, I'll have to ask Mandy for some tomorrow.

Davin: Who are the two ducks called?

James Bond: Nuckle and Fuckle!

2012-11-29 Thursday 29th November

Mum: I was babysitting my grandchildren Scooby and Felicity last night. I babysit them every month on the last Wednesday of every month. Scooby is learning collective nouns: like a *herd* of sheep, a *flock* of geese etc.

Davin: What about a *murder* of crows?

⁹⁷I am taking notes of our conversations for the purposes of this book.

⁹⁸I smoke about 4 cigarettes a day on top of nicotine patches.

Mum: Are you sure that's correct?

Davin: Yes!

Mum: While I was in Wellington this week with my partner Sammy Dawson⁹⁹ I visited Somes Island, an old quarantine station and now a haven for native species like Tuataras and Wetas. While I was there K.K. my dog was staying with Stewie Dawson, my husband's child. They have a dog named Jack who is 16 years old. That's 112 dog years so he's a pretty old dog! Good potato!

Davin: Good *potato*?

Mum: No I said good *K.K.* You must be hard of hearing.

Davin: I do have selective hearing loss! And real-deal hearing loss too!

Mum: My husband Sammy Dawson doesn't wear his hearing aids because with his Parkinson's disease he can't easily put them into his ears.

Davin: Can I have Sammy's hearing aids?

Mum: No, they are custom made for the wearer's ears and therefore cannot be worn by any other person.

2012-11-30 Friday 30th November

At lunchtime we had our family/whanau day where we invited members of our families to come and visit our ward. The meal featured a hangi and some choice desserts.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Are you still writing notes?

Davin: Notes about my life story, yes. How long has elapsed?

No response from Nixon.

Davin: Are you texting someone?

Nixon: Yep. \$150's a good deal for a bike eh¹⁰⁰?

Davin: How much did you pay for it? \$200?

Nixon: I talked her down to \$170. Plus an extra \$10 for a new wheel from Jacob. You had a good day today didn't you? We had a hangi and you saw your mother, your father and your sister.

Davin: What's for tea tonight?

Nixon: Leftovers from lunch's hangi. You've got your new shirt on. Is it a *Calvin Klein*?

Davin: No it's from *Cutler & Co.*

Nixon: I nearly choked on a piece of meat at the hangi so I coughed really hard and it came out! You should take you bike into the courtyard¹⁰¹ for a clean eh?

Davin: Sounds like a plan!

Nixon: How much cordial concentrate do you have left?

Davin: Some cola favoured that you gave me and some lime favoured that I purchased from Super Value¹⁰².

Nixon: How much cola do you have left?

Davin: Not much.

Nixon: We go on the exer-cycles rain hail or snow but if one of us has a cold we abstain from biking¹⁰³!

Davin: Time's up!

In the hallway outside Nixon's room.

Davin: Are you looking at your man boobs?

Nixon: Yes.

Davin: Did you know that on T.V. last night I saw that 300 men every year get breast cancer in England, so you've got to squeeze your man boobs! Do you want me to squeeze them for you?

Nixon: No way, man!

⁹⁹Snott Dudes is my mother's second husband and is also my step-father.

¹⁰⁰The one that Nixon purchased off his sister.

¹⁰¹My bike is locked away in the shed.

¹⁰²*Super Value* is the name of the closest supermarket to the ward.

¹⁰³We have abstained from biking from the 19th November.

2012-12-01 Saturday 1st December

Outside having a smoke.

James Bond: Have you got my \$1?

Davin: No you borrowed \$1 off of me!

James Bond: I was just kidding! How's your T.V. going¹⁰⁴?

Davin: It's got plenty of bass.

James Bond: Are you the Ace of Base¹⁰⁵?!?

Davin: Yes, and there's plenty of bass in my headphones too.

In the car leaving the ward.

Katie: It's like driving a tank, driving this car!

Davin: Why?

Katie: Because it's heavy compared to my own car. It's a Daewoo tank! It costs a lot to fill up. Last time I looked it was \$2.12 per Litre.

Back at the ward. Outside having a smoke.

Davin: Hi James Bond!

James Bond: Hi Dav!

Davin: Are you still on 8 smokes a day?

James Bond: No I've gone over that today.

Davin: Are you still wearing a nicotine patch?

James Bond: No I forgot to put one on today.

Davin: Well that's the reason you are smoking so much isn't it?!?

James Bond: Did you just fart?

Davin: Squeaky floor-boards eh?

2012-12-02 Sunday 2nd December

On the way out from the ward.

James Bond: The brakes are not very good on this car. They're real springy. These lane-marker boxes on the side of the road are filled with water. Water's a good idea eh? It's better than sand or concrete. Water absorbs the impact better than sand or concrete!

At the garage sale.

Davin: What are you looking for James Bond?

James Bond: Just looking through tools for a bargain.

On the way back to the ward.

Davin: Can we stop at McDonalds on the way back?

James Bond: No way, man, we're a health conscious car!

Later we went to McDonalds. On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Where did you go today in the car?

Davin: We went to Sumner beach and then we went to a garage sale. Then we went to McDonalds for an ice-cream and a Chicken McCheese and a small fries.

Nixon: What did you buy at the garage sale?

Davin: A cap for \$1 and a radio for \$5.

Nixon: How's your new bike?

Davin: Good.

Nixon: You don't use it much do you?

Davin: No.

Watching the news.

Davin: Are you going to turf out that cole slaw soon?

Shazza: Tonight that cole-slaw is going to cole-slaw heaven! (i.e. we're going to bin the cole-slaw.)

Shazza: Have you washed a load of your clothes this week Dav?

Davin: Yes, why?

¹⁰⁴Recall that James Bond has sold me his old T.V. for \$1.

¹⁰⁵The *Ace of Base* is the name of a musical group.

Shazza: I get paid for asking you those questions. I should get paid more than I do shouldn't I?

2012-12-03 Monday 3rd December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: What are we having for tea tonight, Nixon?

Nixon: Pork loin steaks.

Davin: Yum!

Nixon: I had a cup of coffee with some cream from the fridge. It was nice and you should have some!

Nixon pulls at my arm.

Davin: Stop it Nixon! I'm sorry.

Nixon: Sorry for what?

Davin: Sorry for whatever reason you are doing that arm pulling!

Nixon: How did you get that bruise on your arm Dav?

Davin: It's from my monthly blood test last Thursday.

Nixon: I'm going to ride this bike for 1 hour today. I am superman!

Davin: Are you really? You already go swimming twice a week¹⁰⁶ don't you Nixon!

Nixon: I'm sweating like a pig.

Davin: So am I. It's good for you isn't it!?

Marie enters the room.

Davin: Hey Marie look at my broken glasses. (The plastic nose clip has broken one of my lenses.) Can you get them fixed?

Marie: I can try. Have you got a spare pair in case it takes more than an hour to fix?

Davin: Yes I do. Is the Barrington optometrist open in the week-end? If so we could get the swing shift¹⁰⁷ to take me to the optometrist.

Marie: No Barrington optometrist is not open in the week-end. We'll have to go during the week.

Outside having a smoke with Roscoe.

Davin: Hi Mr Roscoe!

Roscoe: Hi Mr. Dav. You're a man of leisure!

On the computer writing my book.

Nixon: Dav, did you just pick your nose and eat it!?

Davin: Yes, I did.

2012-12-04 Tuesday 4th December

On my morning walk with my mum and her dog K.K.

Davin: Are we going around the grounds?

Mum: Yes. Are you writing that down?

Davin: Yes I am.

Mum: I'm not gonna talk to you if you keep writing down our conversation!

Davin: As you wish.

Mum: Let's go that way instead (Mum gestures to a different way). It's a woman's prerogative to change her mind!

Davin: Here is where I smoked this morning (pointing to a place outside the hospital grounds). We are no longer allowed to smoke on the grounds.

Mum: I don't want you smoking at all Dav! Did you hear that Prince William is expecting a baby.

Davin: Were they married when his wife fell pregnant?

¹⁰⁶Twice a week Nixon bikes to and from the swimming pool and does 20 lengths while he is there. I used to go swimming but since taking up my daily exer-cycle I have stopped going swimming because the pool is too cold for me!

¹⁰⁷The *Swing Shift* is when an extra staff member beyond the usual two is on the ward for the purposes of taking patients out for shopping and home visits etc.

Mum: Yes she was, and their wedding was watched by millions of people. Listen to that cacophony of dog's barking (some dogs are barking across the road from where we are walking). They think they own the pavement!

Mum: Did you go on your exer-cycle yesterday?

Davin: Yes.

Mum: Do you read *The Press*¹⁰⁸? Jane Bowron writes a column for *The Press* and she lives near your sister Sibone on Montague Street. After lunch last Friday (the family/whanau day) did you have leftovers for dinner?

Davin: Yes we did.

Mum's dog K.K. does a poo. Mum picks up the poo and puts it inside a plastic bag.

Mum: I hate it when the poo is warm! How's your book going?

Davin: I've written 42 pages.

Mum: At the family/whanau I was chatting to Tanne about his book¹⁰⁹. He said that when it's finished we're all getting a copy. His book is about 40 pages. Last night we had a special dinner for all of the rubbish sorters at Rakaia¹¹⁰.

Davin: What do you rubbish sorters do?

Mum: We sort rubbish into categories: plastic, glass, cardboard, paper etc.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: I smoked some marijuana and I thought I was God.

Nixon: I smoked some *P.*¹¹¹ and I thought I was God too! Hey God, can you get me outta here?!? God can do anything, right?!? Pat yourself on the back for riding through the exer-cycles without stopping!

2012-12-05 Wednesday 5th December

Outside Nixon's room.

Nixon: I caught you trying to have two lunches today, Dav.

Davin: I asked Mandy for some yogurt.

Nixon: Going on the bikes later?

Davin: What time?

Nixon: What about 18:30hrs?

Davin: How about 16:30hrs?

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Are you riding it out?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: 20 minutes have elapsed.

Davin: I don't feel so good. I think I'll have a spa bath.

2012-12-06 Thursday 6th December

In the work group.

Davin: What are you doing Nixon?

Nixon: I'm taking a piss!

Davin: (to Nigel) What was wrong with your knee¹¹², Nigel? Was it bone against bone?

Nigel: Something like that. They filled the gap with Polyfilla¹¹³!

Nixon: Can you bring the broom down here?

Davin: Yes O.K.

¹⁰⁸ *The Press* is the major local newspaper for the Canterbury region.

¹⁰⁹ Recall that Taane is writing a book about my life separate from this chapter of this book.

¹¹⁰ My mother and step father own a bach at the Rakaia township, near the Rakaia river where some good Salmon fishing can be found.

¹¹¹ *P.* stands for Pure crystal methamphetamine.

¹¹² Nigel has been away for 1 month due to problems with his knee. He was operated on and the operation was a success, hence he returned to his job on the ward.

¹¹³ *Polyfilla* is a type of carpenter's glue.

In the hallway, Dav farts.

Mandy: Was that you blowing off in the hallway, Dav?

Davin: Yes.

Mandy: What do you say?

Davin: Excuse me!

Outside the nurses' station. It is my day of the week to clean my room.

Davin: (to Mandy) Can I have a couple of clean sheets, Mandy?

Mandy: Have you put your dirty sheets in the wash?

Davin: Yes.

Mandy: Have you emptied your rubbish?

Davin: Yes.

Mandy: Have you vacuumed your room?

Davin: Yes.

Mandy: I hear that Shazza gave you a rev-up to clean your room, Dav!

In the laundry next to the clean sheets.

Mandy: (to Roscoe) Is that you smoking Roscoe?

Davin: (to Roscoe) We're no longer allowed to smoke on the hospital grounds!

Roscoe: I was off the grounds but I started moving back to the ward with the fag¹¹⁴ still in my mouth.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: You do it rain, hail, snow but not mental illness! Are you a churchy-poo¹¹⁵ Dav?

Davin: Yes. I go to the Lincoln Lounge¹¹⁶ at 10:30hrs on Sundays.

Nixon: Landor is one too. Did you like dinner?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: I made it. You're riding it out aren't you?

Heartache tonight (by The Eagles) plays on the C.D. player: Somebody's gonna hurt someone before the night is through. Somebody's gonna come undone, there's nothing we can do. Everybody wants to touch somebody, if it takes all night. Everybody wants to take a little chance, make it come out right. There's gonna be a heartache tonight, a heartache tonight I know . . .

L.A. Woman (by The Doors) plays on the C.D. player: Well I dig a little down about an hour ago. Took a little round t'way which way the wind blow. Wait a little girl in a Hollywood bungalow. Are you were lost a little woman in a city of night. City of night. City of night. City of night. City of night. Woah come on! L.A. Woman L.A. Woman L.A. Woman Sunday afternoon. L.A. Woman Sunday afternoon. L.A. Woman Sunday afternoon. T'cha did you something into your blues. Into your blues. Into your blue-blue-blues. Into your blues. Oh yeah! . . .

Nixon: There's a new rule: Since you stop so much to write notes, you're gonna have to do an extra 2 minutes!

Davin: Time's up.

Nixon: See ya later alligator, don't forget your toilet paper!

2012-12-07 Friday 7th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: How are you Dav?

Davin: Not so good . . . Not so bad!

Nixon: You said not so good?

Davin: But I meant to say "not so bad".

Nixon tries to pull Dav off the bike and Dav reaches for Nixon's crotch.

Nixon: You just tried to grab my dick, didn't ya? Won't you ever grow up little toot?

Davin: Toot-toot!

Nixon: Now I only have three weet-bix in the mornings, Dav.

¹¹⁴Fag is slang for cigarette.

¹¹⁵Churchy Poo is slang for church goer.

¹¹⁶The Lincoln Lounge is a room in the Hillmorton Hospital Admin. building.

Davin: Really? I have six! Look at my puku, it's huge isn't it?
Nixon: You got a pimple just there (gesturing to a pimple on my side).
Davin: I can only just see it.
Nixon: Squeeze it, Dav.
Dav squeezes the pimple but it doesn't pop.
Nixon: You can't pop them, see (gesturing to a pimple on his upper arm).
Davin: I'm not feeling so good. I think I'll try to ride it out for a while.
Nixon: Do you know Genie? She's from Ward X.
Davin: Is she on tonight?
Nixon: I think so.
Davin: Can you hear the bike squeaking?
Nixon: I can hear it now (pulling some cotton wool out of his ears). I put special ear drops in my ears when I go swimming. I might be going deaf like you!
Davin: Selective hearing loss eh?!?
Nixon: Yes!
Davin: I'm sweating like a pig, are you sweating?
Nixon: No sweat for me because I'm a man! Do you like being called buddy, pal or mate?
Davin: Buddy not mate. A mate to me is no friend at all as men call each other mate all the time so it is practically meaningless! My favourite form of address is *dude*.
Nixon: Mate is like mating, isn't it? When a cop asked me "Will you plead guilty mate" I said "I don't bum you!"

2012-12-08 Saturday 8th December

Shazza: Would you mind getting your weight measured Dav?
Davin: O.K.
Dav gets on to the scales in the spa bath room.
Shazza: You don't want to wear your crock shoes, they'll weigh you down a tonne!
Dav takes his crock shoes off and gets back on the scales.
Davin: I'm 90 kilos. I have put on half a kilo since I have stopped going on the exer-cycles every day.
In the office.
Davin: Can I have a smoke please Shazza?
Shazza: No but you can have one a 15:30hrs.
Davin: It's not your job to police my smoking habits!
Shazza: It's 15:15hrs. Come back at 15:30hrs.
In the clinic. Nellie gives me my meds.
Nellie: I live out in the country where I have free range hens giving me five eggs a day. I sell some of the spare eggs to pay for the hen feed. I also have two small chicks.
Davin: Do you have a rooster to fertilise the eggs?
Nellie: No.
Davin: Well how did you get the chicks?
Nellie: I got them out of a tree in a neighbours property.
Davin: How did you get them out of a tree?
Nellie: The hens, roosters and chicks next door sleep in a tree so while they were asleep I literally plucked them from the tree. God knows how the small chicks managed to get themselves up in the tree but they were there!
In the hallway outside Nixon's room.
Davin: Are you going on the exer-cycles tonight Nixon?
Nixon: No. I don't feel like it.
Davin: Well then, I'll take a 1/2 hour walk.

2012-12-09 Sunday 9th December

In the kitchen/dining room.

Shazza: I want you to come up with your short term, medium term and long term goals for your case conference next Monday.

Davin: My short term goal is to get leave to Riccarton Mall. My medium term goal is to get part time work for Trimble Navigation Ltd. and my long term goal is to live in supported accommodation.

Shazza: You'll need to either phone Trimble on Monday to find out if they have any jobs available or go on the Internet on Monday¹¹⁷ to look for job opportunities at Trimble. You see I'm not just a pretty face eh?

In the lounge.

Nixon: I'm not going on the cycles today as I've been on them at 12:30hrs and I don't want to get on twice today.

Davin: O.K. I'll go for a walk instead (I went for a walk at 15:00hrs.)

In the kitchen.

Davin: I don't feel so good.

Nellie: But you've been doing so well, Dav.

Davin: A lie is not sustainable.

Nellie: You can lie about your past, you can't lie about your future. And you can change your future. You can't change your past.

Davin: Sometimes I think about "Hoy Boy". (This is a forbidden word for me.)

Nellie: You are thinking about getting a reaction. So it is a stress release for you. Perhaps you need to talk to Krystof¹¹⁸ about this. Then that would be a good thing for you to write about in your book (this book).

Davin: Other phrases I have are these:

- Just because it ends with "my furry little butt" doesn't make it true.
- Are you still thinking about not being reasonable Dav?

2012-12-10 Monday 10th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: What are you doing, Nixon?

Nixon: I am texting my sister to tell her that I've just finished fixing my bike stand. How are you, Dav?

Davin: Not so good.

Nixon grabs my arm.

Nixon: Funny eh?

Davin: Funny har har!

Nixon: Had a mastie lately, Dav?

Davin: No.

Nixon: Are you celibate then?

Davin: Yes. My prolactin levels are up which prevents me from getting an erection.

Nixon: I've just changed my psychologist from Krystof to Anne-Marie. Krystof wants to know what time you are gonna have a shit!

Davin: Remember you borrowed 50 cents from me today and promised to pay me \$1 tomorrow. Why do you keep borrowing from me? Why don't you dip into your savings¹¹⁹?

Nixon: I'd rather save my money and use it to buy a car!

¹¹⁷The Avon Café is only open from Monday to Friday 8:30hrs - 16:30hrs so these are the only times that I can get on the Internet.

¹¹⁸Kristof is my psychologist.

¹¹⁹On an earlier day Nixon told me that he had \$1000 saved up in his bank account and that he saves \$20 a week of his benefit.

2012-12-11 Tuesday 11th December

Out on a walk with my mother and K.K. the dog.

Davin: You don't like me writing our conversation down do you?

Mum: Can you send me your book?

Davin: Yes I can if you have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your system. Do you have it?

Mum: I think I do. (Pointing to the leaves.) These leaves have been here since Autumn. My feet are getting wet (because the grass is damp).

Davin: K.K. likes pulling you doesn't she?

Mum: If only dogs could talk, they could tell you what they are smelling! Have you made any new friends since you've been on the ward?

Davin: Yes Nixon is my friend. We go on the exer-cycles together most days. I've been writing down our conversations for the purposes of this book.

Mum: So you have to stop exercising and write things down? You need to buy a voice recorder.

Davin: My cell-phone can record voices but only for 1 minute and besides that it is hospital policy that I am not allowed to use it to record my conversations with other people.

Kay-kay finds something interesting

Mum: Look there goes a dead bird that Kay-kay has found!

Davin: The air is pongy eh? It smells like sheep shit!

Davin: (to K.K.) come on K.K..

K.K. stops sniffing the bird.

Davin: Look at how K.K. can understand that phrase!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Landor enters the room.

Davin: Are you an uphill gardener¹²⁰ Landor?

Landor: No.

Davin: Is your brother in prison for murder?

Landor: Yes.

Landor leaves the room. 20 minutes have elapsed.

Davin: I'm not feeling so good. I think I'll quit.

Nixon: Go on hang in there dude!

Davin: See ya later dude.

2012-12-12 Wednesday 12th December

In the hallway.

Davin: Hey Auntie Jennifer! (my father's sister.)

Jennifer: Hi Davin.

Jennifer hugs Davin. At the Café with Jennifer and my father, Aaron.

Davin: How old are you Jennifer?

Jennifer: 71. I'll be 72 in March 2013. I am on National Super and I earn some extra money working as a relief teacher. My pupils at school call me Ms Old MacDonald. Terrible eh!?! My brother Aaron (my father) took me around for a scenic trip around Teddington, Living Springs and Lyttleton. How far back are you going to go back in your book? To your childhood? At least you don't have Alzheimer's!

Davin: No I don't have Alzheimer's.

Jennifer: The thing about Alzheimer's is that you can still remember your childhood but not recent memories. Garth (my cousin) is 40 and he's been in France as a WWOOF (Willing Workers On Organic Farms). He's back in New Zealand now. His area of expertise is Macromedia Flash media presentations.

Davin: Did you know that mum and Sammy¹²¹ own an apartment in Wellington. My mum likes to visit the yearly WOWA (World Of Wearable Art) festival.

¹²⁰An *uphill gardener* is slang for a male homosexual.

¹²¹Sammy Dawson is my mother's new husband after divorcing my father Abraham Pearson.

Jennifer leaves.

Dad: Jennifer has some issues with her son (my cousin) John. They apparently have some co-dependency issues to resolve.

In the hallway outside Nixon's room at 18:30hrs.

Davin: Are you going on the exer-cycles tonight Nixon?

Nixon: No. I'm having a day off. Ask me tomorrow.

In the lounge at 20:00hrs.

Nixon: Do you want to go for an exer-cycle Dav?

Davin: Yes sure!

In the room with the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Rain, hail or snow! eh Dav?

Davin: Yes. Did you go swimming today Nixon?

Nixon: Yes. I was at the V.P.G. (Violence Prevention Group) at Ward X today and I saw that Murgatroid was there. He's gone back from the community to Ward X! That's bad news eh?!? He must have got unwell.

Davin: Yes, that is bad news. Do ya think he's been smoking a bit of pot? It's not good for you eh?

Nixon: No it isn't.

Davin: What's that (pointing to a pimple on Nixon's arm).

Nixon: It's a pimple.

Davin: Sometimes it is best not to squeeze them or you are left with scarring. Only squeeze it if it has a head on it!

Nixon: You've got a few brains eh? Pretty you don't use them all the time! I was at the V.P.G. today and my cell-phone rang. The psychologist Cruince Potato said it was a breach of security. I told him to get fucked. We are allowed cell-phones at Ward Y and nobody told us about different rules for Ward X.

Davin: Look at my shirt Nixon it's got crap on it.

Nixon: They're cum-stains!

Davin: It's not a cum-stain!

Nixon: Yes it is. I know a cum-stain when I see one.

Davin: Well you're just wrong then!

Nixon: I purchased some Puma shoes today for \$70.

Davin: Can I buy them off you for \$40?

Nixon: No deal man! Deal or no Deal¹²²!

Davin: I'm not feeling too good.

Nixon: Just ride it out Dav! I once had an overdose of P. and they took me to hospital and gave me morphine and I thought I was God.

On the radio: Don't touch me I'm a real live wire. Psycho Killer C'est Ca Se — Fa fa fa fa - Fa fa fa fa — Run run run runaway . . .

Nixon: How much do you weigh Dav?

Davin: 90 kilos. I've gained 1/2 a kilo since I was last measured.

Nixon: It's just a matter of having a real good shit eh?

2012-12-13 Thursday 13th December

In the staff office with Mandy and Teres.

Davin: (To Teres) Can I have a smoke please Teres?

Teres: No it's not even 11:00 yet.

Davin: (To Mandy) Can I have a smoke please Mandy?

Mandy: Are you looking for the weakest link?

Teres: You'll get me into trouble if I give you a cigarette and I don't want to feel Shazza's wrath!

In the kitchen/dining room with Mandy, Dav and others.

¹²²Deal or no Deal is the name of a popular T.V. game show.

Mandy: (to Dav) You're not in Guatemala now Dr. Ropata¹²³!

Davin: What's for tea tonight Mandy?

Mandy: Chicken drumsticks, potato wedges and salad. Who wants the last of yesterday's boil up? (We had a boil up yesterday featuring carrots, pumpkin, watercress, potatoes and bacon bones.)

No one answers. On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Have a pat on the back Dav for going on the biking. Are you gonna ride it out?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Are you gonna do a fart later?

Davin: No.

Nixon: I went to the Black Horse¹²⁴ today for a can of beer.

Davin: What time did you go?

Nixon: About 18:00hrs. I'm going swimming tomorrow but there is no Active Links tomorrow at the Y.M.C.A. Gym. Do you like my new Puma shoes that I brought?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: They're good aren't they?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: How come your nose is brown? Have you been brown nosing¹²⁵ people?

Davin: No.

Nixon: Your room stunk today! It smelt of toe-jam¹²⁶!

2012-12-14 Friday 14th December

In the van on the way to Lyttleton.

Nixon: I went swimming today. I don't like swimming. I'm gonna pike out like you¹²⁷!

Nigel: You could have gone for a swim in Lyttleton. Jumped in the polluted water!

At the Lyttleton mariner.

Shazza: (pointing to the jetty) Walking the plank is it?

Michael: Only one on the jetty at a time please.

Dav gets on the jetty and jumps onto a lower jetty, falling approximately 1 metre.

Davin: Ouch it hurts. I think I've put out my right knee. Look at how I'm limping along!

Shazza: Don't look for anything else to jump off, Dav!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: You've tightened the hardness setting on my bike. Was it you Dav?

Davin: It wasn't me! It must have been Nigel. Maybe you could knock some sense into me?

Nixon hits Dav on the head and then Dav hits Nixon on the head.

Davin: Ouch!

Nixon: Ouch! Hey Frankie Valentino mafia man! Do you like to be called Frankie or tweety bird or dude?

Davin: Dude.

Nixon: I heard that you shat your bed while you were in Ward X.

Davin: It's true. I had diarrhoea and I couldn't make it to the toilet in time! I got shit all over my bed sheets! I'm sweating like a pig.

Nixon: Take your shirt off, Dav. What are you wearing underneath? A singlet?

Davin: Under my shirt are my man boobs!

Nixon: You like squeezing them don't you?

Davin: Yes.

Nixon: Are you gonna do a big fart later???

Davin: Yes!

¹²³This is a well-known phrase from the first episode of the New Zealand soap opera *Shortland Street*.

¹²⁴The *Black Horse* is the name of a local pub.

¹²⁵*Brown nosing* means homosexual behaviour, sticking your nose up someone's butt.

¹²⁶*Toe-jam* means smelly feet.

¹²⁷I used to go swimming twice a week with Nixon.

Nixon: You're a pretty clumsy fellow aren't you? At Lyttleton today you fell off a wharf, in Hamner you walked into a bench, and in Sumner you walked into a lamp-post! I know someone from Pipiri who died when he broke his back when he was pushed down a flight of stairs.

2012-12-15 Saturday 15th December

In Nixon's room at 18:00hrs.

Davin: Do you want to go on the exer-cycles now, Nixon?

Nixon: No. Let's go on tomorrow instead.

In Nixon's room at 19:15hrs.

Davin: Do you want to go on the exer-cycles now, Nixon?

Nixon: O.K. let's go!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: How are you dude?

Davin: Good thank you.

Nixon: You have to do a workout after eating all those chippies¹²⁸! I'll have to buy you a coke to pay you back for giving me those chippies. I'm going to the market tomorrow to buy a new bike helmet¹²⁹. Jacob went swimming today at New Brighton and on the way back home he puked up the noodles he had for lunch! The water must have been polluted!

2012-12-16 Sunday 16th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Do you like my new helmet? It's a German military-style helmet. Landor broke mine so he gave me \$40 to buy a new one but I got it on special from K-Mart for \$35 leaving me \$5 up on the deal. Do you think I'd look funny biking down the street with that helmet on?!?

Davin: Yes you would look strange! You look like a German soldier!

Tubthumping plays on the C.D. player: Truth is I thought it mattered. I thought that music mattered. But does it bollocks, not compared to our people matter. I get knocked out I get up again, you ain't never gonna keep me down. I get knocked out I get up again, you ain't never gonna keep me down. I get knocked out I get up again, you ain't never gonna keep me down. I get knocked out I get up again, you ain't never gonna keep me down. Pissing the night away. Pissing the night away He drinks a whiskey drink, he drinks a vodka drink, he drinks a lager drink, he drinks a cider drink. He sings the songs that remind him of the good times, he sings the songs that remind him of the better times. Oh Danny boy, Danny boy . . .

Nixon: How are you Dav?

Davin: Not so good. I think I'll stop biking now.

Nixon grabs my arm to prevent me from leaving.

Nixon: I'll stop you if you try to leave!

Davin: I started five minutes later than you so if I stop when you stop I'll only have done 25 minutes rather than our usual 30 minutes. Do you mind if I stop when you stop?

Nixon: No I don't mind if you stop when I stop.

Flamenco Sketches comes on the C.D. player.

Davin: That's Miles Davis on trumpet.

Nixon: Is he good?

Davin: He's pretty cool but he's now dead.

Nixon: Well if he's dead he'll be cold not cool!

Davin: That's John Coltrane on saxophone.

Nixon: John Cold-fart?!?

Davin: No John Coltrane.

Nixon: I'm glad we got our exercising done by 14:20hrs. It gets it out of the way for another day.

¹²⁸I purchased a packet of potato chips and shared them with Nixon.

¹²⁹Nixon recently broke his bike helmet.

2012-12-17 Monday 17th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: What is your worst nightmare, Dav?

Davin: To be sent to prison.

Nixon: You know that in prison you get three square meals a day and all demin clothing. You'd love it Dav! We should get a remote control for that stereo so that we can change the tracks. I'm brainy eh? That's why you take notes of me.

Davin: You're not just a pretty face, Nixon!

Nixon: I've lost 12 kilos since I started going swimming three times a week.

Davin: I've gained 1.5 kilos since I stopped going swimming twice a week! Do you go in the spa pools?

Nixon: Yes and I have a mastie!

Davin: Really?

Nixon: No! On my bike trip to Pioneer Pool people stare at my new German-style helmet. They point to it as they drive past me! I'm going to study painting and decorating at C.P.I.T.

Davin: How many hours a day will you spend at C.P.I.T.?

Nixon: 8 hours a day. 08:00hrs - 16:00hrs. James Bond's doing the course too.

In the lounge.

Nixon: You did well today, Dav. You managed to do 25 minutes out of 30 minutes before you had a panic attack.

2012-12-18 Tuesday 18th December

Out walking with mum. I gave her presents for Scooby and Felicity one pink scarf for Felicity and one blue scarf for Scooby.

Mum: I'll ask Sibone if she wants the presents hidden. How long do you knit each day?

Davin: About 1 hour per day.

Mum: Do you just do it when your feeling strung out?

Davin: Yes.

Mum: Can you email me a copy of your book?

Davin: Yes I will this week on Wednesday.

Mum: Look at the patches of the knees of my jeans. I cut them from another pair.

Davin: Can you see me limping. I've got a gammy leg.

Mum: I can't see the difference in your legs walking.

Davin: I fell for about one metre and landed on my right leg, straining my knee, but I survived!

Mum: Sibone took the kids to Templeton pool yesterday and then she took them to the Cookie Time factory.

Davin: What's K.K. eating?

Mum: It appears to be a piece of paper. Did you just fart?

Davin: Yes!

Mum: Did you hear that Wongi¹³⁰'s just done another mural in our city of Christchurch.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: I'm gonna be working soon in the field of Painting and Decorating. I've been told I'm guaranteed a job.

Davin: Is that with C.P.I.T.?

Nixon: Yes. First I need to get a qualification. That will take eight hours a day for 13 weeks. You need a shave Dav. I'll do it for \$5.

Davin: No way, man!

Nixon: How about \$6?

Davin: You're supposed to bid down not up!

Nixon: How about \$7?

I poke Nixon in the ribs.

¹³⁰Wongi is the name of a professional New Zealand graffiti artist. See www.wongi.co.nz

Nixon: Don't poke me or I'll poke you back.

Nixon pokes me.

Davin: Ouch! it hurts! I promise I won't do it to you again.

Nixon: You come into my room and poke me while I'm asleep. One of these days I'll get you back good!

Davin: My knees healing up pretty well. Pretty good eh?

Nixon: Did you have a nice lunch¹³¹, Dav? The bananas¹³² were pretty big last night ... the size of your turds!

Davin: I'm not feeling so well. Should I ride it out?

Nixon: We've only got ten minutes to go. Did you fix the problems you were having today with your hard drive, Dav?

Davin: Yes I did. It turned out that in ripping the power plug from the wall, I broke the power cable, so I'm now using my other hard drive's power cable. It works just fine now.

Nixon: You're a tugger, Dav!

2012-12-19 Wednesday 19th December

At the morning meeting.

Davin: (reading out loud an extract from the book *Ripley's Believe It Or Not*) When Oprah Winfrey was born the midwife was meant to spell her name as after Biblical character Orpah but misspelled her name on her birth certificate as Oprah, hence her name.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: (after 5 minutes on the bike) I don't feel so good.

Nixon: I think you should ride it out.

Davin: I think I will.

Nixon: I had 20 cups of coffee today.

Davin: Did it make you feel sick?

Nixon: No, it made me anxious.

Davin: Did someone adjust your bike today?

Nixon: Yep. Nigel did. He put it on the "too hard" setting.

2012-12-20 Thursday 20th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Who's been playing with my bike?

Nixon: Not me!

Davin: The squeaky sound is less loud. Do you remember that book about "what men know about women"?

Nixon: No.

Davin: It's an empty book ... all the pages are blank!

Nixon laughs.

Nixon: You see that pimple on my arm? It's from injecting myself with heroin.

Davin: Really?!?

Nixon: Nope, I was just kidding!

2012-12-21 Friday 21th December

In the office.

Stevo: You've done everything?

Davin: Shitted, showered and shaved!

Stevo: Then you can have a cigarette then!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

¹³¹We had lunch at Riccarton House provided by Active Links of the Y.M.C.A.

¹³²At 19:00hrs on most days we are given bananas to eat

Davin: Di you have a good time today at Little River¹³³?

Nixon: James Bond spun out a couple of times going too fast on the shingle. He's a fucken crazy driver! We're gonna have a nice dinner tonight.

Davin: What are we having?

Nixon: Casserole.

Davin: What kind of casserole?

Nixon: Beef casserole. Michael reckons he found a big bed of paua at Little River. He's going back sometime at low tide with a weight belt to keep him held down¹³⁴.

2012-12-22 Saturday 22th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: How come you are always so clumsy. You walked into a bench at Sumner beach, you walked into a table at Hamner Springs and you broke your external hard drive's cable! How are you?

Davin: Not so good.

Nixon: You just say that because you want to get out of exercising don't you?!?

Nixon punches me.

Davin: You just punched me!

Nixon: It was an accident.

Davin: Are you just picking your nose?!?

Nixon: Yes do you want some?

Davin: No way, man!

Horny (by Mousse T.V.'s) plays on the C.D. player: You've got me horny in the morning and you know-ow-ow. I tried to call you but I can't find the telephone. I sent a message through the Internet but it reject it. I wrote a letter and I sent it through the po-oh-ohst. The postie takes so long, so I got to sing this song. To let you know how I feel, what's the deal baby? And I can't wait for you, an' the things you make me do. My heart is ringing so I'm still in the chase of you. I'm horny, horny horny horny. So horny, I'm horny horny horny. I'm horny, horny horny horny. So horny, I'm horny horny tonight . . .

Nixon: Should we go for one hour, Dav?

Davin: No way man! Time's up!

Nixon: Well I've got to hand it to you, Dav, you do it rain, hail or snow!

Later in the lounge.

Davin: Hey Nixon, smell my finger!

Nixon: No way man. You poo-finger.

2012-12-24 Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

Out walking with mum and K.K. the dog.

Davin: Here's your present mum (handing her some a package of home-made biscuits).

Mum: On Christmas day we're (Mum and my step-father Sammy) are going to see Stewie (my step-father's son) and Julie (my step-father's son's wife) and their children Habby and Albie. On boxing day we're going to see Sibone and Joey (my sister's partner) and their children Scooby and Felicity. Therefore I'll be giving Scooby and Felicity your scarves on boxing day. You're going bald at the top of your head, Davin! This is to be expected because your grandfather on my side was bald at 35 and your cousin Andrew was bald at 30. (Note that my grandfather on my father's side never went bald for his whole life.) It's not baldness per-se but it's different from the rest of your hair.

Davin: Are you letting K.K. run free?

¹³³Today we visited Little River from 10:00hrs to 15:00hrs.

¹³⁴He went today at high tide with a wet-suit for Michael but without a weight belt for him to keep him down at the bottom of the sea.

Mum: Yes. She is quite tame and never runs away. I saw on T.V. last night some doctors removed a 35 kilo cyst from a large woman. We took K.K. to The Groynes yesterday. K.K. was playing with Alsatians. Do you go to church, Davin?

Davin: Yes, I enjoy the singing.

Mum: Singing is good for people with Parkinsons disease like my partner Sammy. Did you take copious notes when your auntie Jennifer came to visit you?

Davin: Yes!

Mum: Who does the shopping for you, Davin?

Davin: A lady named Mandy.

Mum: Can you go with her?

Davin: I'll need special permission to go shopping with her.

2012-12-25 Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

On the exer-cycles with Nixon at 14:30hrs.

Nixon: I just picked up a blue and white striped top for a five finger discount¹³⁵ and the retail price was \$300.

Davin was wearing his party hat but Nixon wasn't.

Davin: You're not wearing your crown Nixon! Where's your crown?

Nixon: On my bed.

Davin's crown falls off because of the sweat on my head wet the paper hat and it became brittle.

Nixon: You're not wearing your crown either, Davin!

Davin: No, it fell off! You won't be here after dinner tonight eh?

Nixon: No I won't.

Davin: Is that why we have gone on our bikes now?

Nixon: Yes.

2012-12-26 Wednesday 26th December Boxing Day

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Did you like the lunch?

Davin: Chicken, potatoes and corn, it was delicious.

Davin pokes Nixon.

Nixon: Stop poking me, I don't like it. You're a poo-finger, that's you! Are you a special patient or a committed patient?

Davin: I'm a committed patient.

Nixon: I'm a special patient. That means it is harder for me to get leave off the grounds. Merry syphilis and a happy gonorrhoea!

In the quiet room with my father who is visiting me.

Dad: I am in two minds about whether or not to sell Frankleigh Street. I get some trouble with vandalism at Frankleigh Street but it's manageable.

Davin: What would you do with the money that you'd get from selling Frankleigh Street?

Dad: I could cruise the world on a cruise liner but that wouldn't grab me. More probably I could buy another house in Lyttleton and rent it out as a boarding house, much like how I rent out Frankleigh Street.

Davin: How's your rental at Lyttleton going?

Dad: Sabrina (my father's tenant at Lyttleton at Lyttleton has lost one of her borders. My old three sections in Charteris Bay have got a driveway cutting across the three sections. Compared to Charteris Bay it's easy to find tenants for Lyttleton as Lyttleton is popular with young people owing to the music scene over there.

Davin: How's John and Garth (my father's sister's sons)?

¹³⁵ Five finger discount means stolen items.

Dad: John is back in a mental hospital for not taking his medications. The police were involved and there appear to be some co-dependency issues between Jennifer and John. Garth's looking for work as a graphic designer in Wellington. I told him he could find work in Christchurch since the demand for skilled workers has increased since the Christchurch earthquake in 2011.

Davin: How are Sibone and Joey (my sister and her partner)?

Dad: Joey Trent's contract expires in March. Joey and Sibone are thinking of running a pub in Christchurch.

Davin: How's Daisy (my father's partner)?

Dad: Daisy's on anti anxiety medication and she's scheduled for a heart operation next year. She had open heart surgery 20 years ago and the fact that she's still with us is a modern medical miracle.

Davin: I gave Scooby and Felicity a scarf each that I knitted myself, a blue one for Scooby (a boy) and a pink one for Felicity (a girl).

Dad: I gave Scooby and Felicity a couple of pot plants. They are swimming in cheap toys from The Warehouse and I don't want to add to it.

Davin: Have you heard about the website called wikipedia.org? It has over 4 million articles. That's equal to 17,000 volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica.

Dad: I like to stay away from computers. The New Scientist, The Listener and Time magazine are enough stimulation for me. Have you been following the saga of Kim Dot Com? He purchased N.Z. citizenship and is living in a 30 million dollar house, paid for by an illegal downloading site megauploads.com.

Davin: Do you pay tax on all of your rentals?

Dad: Of course I fucken pay tax on all of my rentals!

2012-12-29 Saturday 29th December

In the car on the way to Barrington with George.

Davin: What's Z (pointing to the petrol station)?

George: Z is the replacement for Shell Oil. Z stands for Zealand, as new New Zealand.

At Subway sandwiches.

George: Subway always smells good.

On the car on the way back to Hillmorton Hospital, Whitney Houston is playing on the car stereo.

Davin: Did you know that Whitney Houston is dead?

George: Yes, I did.

In Nixon's room.

Nixon: Do you like my new cocktail. It contains raspberry & pineapple & orange.

In the staff office.

Shazza: Look at your shorts, they're all dirty!

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Shake hands with me.

Davin shakes hands with Nixon.

Nixon: You've got eggs all over your hands. How'd you get that?

Davin: From eating hamburgers.

Nixon: Did you wipe your bum when you went to the toilet???

Davin: Yes!

Nixon: Nelly two-farta's playing on the stereo!

Davin: Don't you mean Nelly *Furtado*???

Love Shack (by the B-52's) plays on the C.D. player: You see a faded sign at the side of the road that says 15 miles to the love shack. Love shack yeah yeh. I'm heading down the Atlanta highway, looking for the love, getaway. Heading for the love getaway. I got me a car, it's as big as a whale. And we're heading on down to the love shack. I got my a Chrysler it sits about 20 so hurry up and bring your juke-box money. The love shack is a little old place where we can get together. Love shack baby please. love shack baby. Love shack, baby love shack. Love shack, baby love shack . . .

2012-12-30 Sunday 30th December

On the exer-cycles with Nixon. Hung Up (by Madonna) plays on the C.D. player: Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. Every little thing that you say or do, I'm hung up. I'm hanging up on you. Waiting for your call baby night and day, I'm fed up. I'm tired on waiting on you. Time goes by so slowly for it doesn't wait, no time to hesitate. Those who run seem to have all the fun, I'm caught up, I don't know what to do. Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. Time goes by, so slowly. I dunno what to do. Every little thing that you say or do, I'm hung up. I'm hanging up on you. Waiting for your call baby night and day, I'm fed up. I'm tired on waiting on you. Every little thing that you say or do, I'm hung up. I'm hanging up on you. Waiting for your call baby night and day, I'm fed up. I'm tired on waiting on you. Ring ring ring goes the telephone, the lights are on but there's no one home. Tick tick tock, it's a quarter to two. And I'm done, I'm hanging up on you. I can't keep on waiting for you. I know that your still hesitating. Don't cry for me because I'm blind the way. You'll wake up one day, but will be too late. Every little thing that you say or do, I'm hung up. I'm hanging up on you. Waiting for your call baby night and day, I'm fed up. I'm tired on waiting on you. Every little thing that you say or do, I'm hung up. I'm hanging up on you. Waiting for your call baby night and day, I'm fed up. I'm tired on waiting on you. Every little thing. Every little thing. I'm hung up. I'm hanging up on you. Waiting for you call. Waiting for you call. I'm tired of waiting for you ...

Nixon: Won't you ever grow up little toot!?!?

Davin: Toot toot!

Nixon: Did I tell you to fuck off today?!?

Davin: You said are we still friends?

Nixon: I said yes.

Davin: Fuck off, cunt! Are you gonna have a spa bath with me?

Nixon: You'll bum me!

2012-12-31 Monday 31st December New Year's Eve

At New Brighton Pier

Roberta: Ice cream or coffee, people?

All: Ice creams please.

Davin: (to Nixon) What's your flavour Nixon?

Nixon: Rum and Raisin.

Davin: Does it contain real rum?

Nixon: Yes.

Davin: Does it get you high?!?

Nixon: No.

Davin: Gizza man hug Nixon!

Nixon: No way, man!

At the Avon Café with Dad.

Davin: How's John and Garth?

Dad: It's a pity about John (he's in a mental hospital over Christmas). It could be argued that Jennifer spoiled John. Garth's back in New Plymouth¹³⁶ (where his mother Jennifer MacDonald lives). He's thinking of moving to Melbourne to find work as a graphic designer. I think he oughta consider coming down to Christchurch to find work. Australia's in the middle of a recession, especially Queensland. They say that 700 Irish carpenters are on their way to Christchurch to find work since the Christchurch earthquake. Technology is stealing jobs. In The Northern Territories there's a three-storey high soil mover that is run by robots in the mining industry.

Davin: What is your view on family inheritance?

Dad: Regarding family wealth there's a saying "from clogs to clogs in three generations. The first generation makes it, the second generation consolidates on it, and the third generation loses it."

¹³⁶New Plymouth is a small town in the east of the North Island.

Davin: What are you currently reading about?

Dad: I enjoy reading the *New Scientist* magazine about the work that people are doing on the human brain, on the theme of machine intelligence. Buddhists believe that what we see is an illusion and this is a direct reference to quantum mechanics.

Davin: I don't believe in life after death. I believe that we are given one life and we have to make the most of it.

Dad: I believe that to be an arrogant position to take. I believe that an agnostic is the most realistic position you can take.

Davin: I believe that religion is used to control the poor people of the world and keep them from revolting against rich people since they believe in a better afterlife. If there was no afterlife, poor people would not be satisfied with their lot in life.

Dad: I don't agree with that.

Davin: But you do agree with Karl Marx who said that "religion is the opiate of the masses."

Dad: Yes I agree with that.

Davin: Well how can you disagree that religion keeps poor people in their place.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon. Africa (by Toto) plays on the C.D. player: I hear the drums echoing tonight. Cheers only wispers of some quiet conversation. She's coming in 12:30 flight, the moonlight rings reflect the stars that guide me toward salvation. I stopped an old man along the way, hoping to find some old forgotten words or ancient melodies. He turned to me as if to say: "Hurry boy, it's waiting there for you" It's gonna take a lot to take me away from you. There's nothing that a hundred men or more could ever do. I bless the rains down in Africa. Gonna take some time to do the things we never had. Oh-Oh. The wild dogs cry out in the night as they grow restless longing for some solitary company. I know that I must do what's right, sure as Kilimanjaro rises like an empress above the Serengeti. I seek to cure what's deep inside, frightened of this thing that I've become. Gonna take a lot to take me away from you. There's nothing that a hundred men or more could ever do. I bless the rains down in Africa. Gonna take some times to do the things we never had. Oh-Oh ...

2013-01-03 Thursday 3rd January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: I got my bike serviced for \$40 for the works, including oil and grease, and gears fixed. You've got good taste in music man! How many weet-bix do you eat every day?

Davin: Six.

Nixon: That's where your puku came from. To many weet-bix! Carolyn's your girl friend isn't she? You had a mastie over her didn't you!?

Davin: No way man!

In Nixon's room. The T.A.B.¹³⁷ channel is playing.

Nixon: I pretend that I've betted on dog number six.

Dog number six wins the race.

Nixon: Fuck that! I would have won \$4.60 for a \$1 bet, if only I had bet on the dog!

2013-01-04 Friday 4th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: I was trying to give you a man hug at the Eco Shop¹³⁸ today.

Nixon: People saw us and thought we were gay!

Davin: Cheers big ears!

Nixon: Same goes big nose!

Jump for my Love plays on the C.D. player: No I. Tell me how you want me. I can feel it in your heart beat. I know you like what to see. Want me. I'll give you all that you need. Wrap your love around me. You're so exited I can feel you getting hotter. I'll take you down. I'll take you down.

¹³⁷The T.A.B. channel covers horse racing and dog racing.

¹³⁸The *Eco Shop* is a shop that sells recycled goods.

Where now one's ever gone before. And if you want more. If you want more. More. More. More. Say. Jump for my love. Jump in, and feel my touch. Jump, if you want to take my kisses in the night. Jump for my love . . .

Davin: We're nearly half way through.

Nixon: You're doing well, you're riding it out. Give yourself a pat on the back, dude! Did you ever get the strap at school, Dav?

Davin: No.

Nixon: I did, I walked away and ran with the strap. The headmaster chased me with his car all night trying to get his strap back!

Nigel enters the room.

Nigel: Are you there yet?

Davin: We're half way up the hill!

In my room with Nixon.

Nixon: You think you're the Messiah don't you? I see that you have Freeview installed. You're a Freeview boy aren't you?

Davin: Yes. The High Definition T.V. cost me \$250.

2013-01-05 Saturday 5th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Go faster Davin!

Davin: It's already on the hardest setting.

Nixon: I had two breakfasts today, Dav. Five weet-bix at 07:30hrs at Kornies at 09:00hrs.

Davin: I purchased some cordial concentrate at the supermarket today and dropped a bottle on the floor, breaking it all over the floor. Luckily they didn't charge me for the broken bottle.

Nixon: You're a clumsy clod Davin. You break the cable to your external hard drive, you break your headphones, you walk into lamp posts, you fall off a wall onto a jetty and you break things at the supermarket!

In my room with Shazza at 14:00hrs.

Shazza: Your clogs are broken, Davin. It's time for your clogs to go to clog heaven. What's in your blue container? Dirty washing or clean washing?

Davin: Clean washing.

Shazza: I'll give you 'till 14:30hrs to put your clean washing away and to put new sheets on your bed.

2013-01-06 Sunday 6th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon and Dianne and Tigger the cat.

Dianne: We've got the Tigger the cat¹³⁹ to look after for two weeks while the Ward Z has its floors replaced. Lindy has volunteered me for cat sitting.

Davin: For how long?

Dianne: For about an hour.

2013-01-07 Monday 7th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Look at that mark on my leg. It's from when you whacked me on the leg with that stick. I won't tell the staff as long as you agree to buy me a coke tomorrow!

Nixon: It's a deal. You can hit me if you like!

Davin hits Nixon on the funny bone.

Nixon: Don't hit me there, it hurts!

Davin: What? What?

¹³⁹Tigger the cat lives in Ward Z which is adjacent to the Ward Y ward.

Nixon: You've got selective hearing haven't you!

Davin: Did Trev watch you have a piss today¹⁴⁰?

Nixon: Yes, he did.

Simply Irresistible (by Robert Palmer) plays on the C.D. player: How can it be permissible? She compromised my principles. Yeh Yeah. That kind of love is mythical. She's anything but typical. She's a crazed you to know it she's a powerful force. Your obliged to perform when there's no other course. She used to look good to me but now I find her. Simply irresistible. Simply irresistible.

2013-01-10 Thursday 10th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Me and James Bond had a swimming race today.

Davin: Who won?

Nixon: He did.

Davin: He's fucken fast isn't he?

Nixon: Yeah. He offered to make it interesting with a \$10 bet but I cancelled at the last moment. Luckily I did as I wouldn't have won the bet!

Davin: What are you doing?

Nixon: I'm sending a text message.

Davin: Two minutes to go.

Nixon: Ten minutes to go?

Davin: No TWO minutes to go, you dumbass!

Walking on sunshine (by Katrina and the Waves) plays on the C.D. player: Argh! Mmmm yeah! I used to think maybe you loved me, now baby I'm sur-ure. And I just can't wait till the day when you knock on my door. Now every time I go for the mail-box, gotta got to hold myself down. 'Cause I just can't wait till you write me your coming around. Now I'm walking on sunshine, well-ll. I'm walking on sunshine, well-ll. I'm walking on sunshine, well-ll. And does it feel good! Hey, all right now. And does it feel good!

2013-01-11 Friday 11th January

At New Brighton beach.

Landor: Speaking of a T.V. commerical for Speights beer featuring two guys in the south of New Zealand:

Landor says of Guy A: I met this girl, she had a house on the Auckland waterfront, a box seat at Eden park, a Mercedes-Benz 500 but the only problem is that she doesn't drink Speights.

Landor says of Guy B: Oh well, it's a hard job finding the perfect woman eh?

Landor says of Guy A: No hurry is there mate?

Landor says of Guy B: No mate!

Nixon: There goes a flying fox, Dav.

Davin: I'd like to try it.

Nixon: You might fall off!

Roscoe: What book are you reading, Dav?

Davin: Childhood's End by Arthur C. Clarke.

Roscoe: Is it a bit like Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World?

Davin: No, it's about some aliens called Overlords who turn the Earth into a Utopia, eliminating countries, war and inequality.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: You've got grey hairs in your beard Dav!

Nixon pulls out one of them and shows it to me.

Davin: Ouch it hurts! So it is grey. I am growing into an old man! I have got a \$20 credit on my cell-phone. Do I have to refill it each month?

¹⁴⁰Once a month all the patients are subject to compulsory urine tests to detect cannabis use.

Nixon: No, your credit lasts indefinitely into the future. You know about Roscoe do you?

Davin: What about Roscoe?

Nixon: He's a turd burglar. You see that stereo over there?

Davin: What about it?

Nixon: I should put it into my bedroom!

2013-01-12 Saturday 12th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Macaroni cheese and pudding for dinner tonight.

Davin: What do you think of my goatee, with all of its grey hairs?

Nixon: You look like Worzel Gummage.

2013-01-13 Sunday 13th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: I overslept and missed church.

Nixon: You're a churchy-poo, aren't you Dav?

Davin: Yes.

2013-01-15 Tuesday 15th January

Out walking with Mum.

Mum: I see you've got cooking tomorrow. I was just looking at your noticeboard and seeing the things that you do. How's your scarf coming along?

Davin: I'm one quarter of the way through it. Do you want me to knit you a scarf?

Mum: Yes please, I'll have a red and black scarf please. Our garden is looking dry from the lack of rain.

Davin: Don't you water your garden like we do?

Mum: Yes Sammy waters the garden but only the vegetable garden. On Sunday Sammy and I went to Rickster and Nena's (Sammy's grand-child and his partner) house to work on their vegetable garden. Rickster works as a roofing contractor. He's become an assistant manager of the company that he works for. Susan (Rickster's mother) lives in a four bedroom house in the old Wigram air base. Susan invited us to have dinner with them that evening. Rickster's got the worst house in the best street.

Davin: That's the ideal situation isn't it?

Mum: Rickster's place has got aluminium windows but no concrete foundation. They have painted the walls and ceilings to make a terrible house into a reasonable house. The G.V. (Government Valuation) is \$220,000. Rickster and Tina are my step-grandchildren, and Tina's new baby is my step-great-grandchild. And there is another child to Tina on the way. Rickster went to the A&P show and purchased two new chickens for eating and two new chickens for producing eggs. Rickster certainly appreciates us now, what with the helping with their garden.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Slap my hand.

I try to slap Nixon's hand but miss.

Nixon: You missed. Na na nana Na! Slap my hand again!

I slap Nixon's hand.

Nixon: Down low.

I try to slap Nixon's hand but miss.

Nixon: Too slow!

2013-01-21 Monday 21st January

At the Avon Café with Dad.

Dad: Garth is back in New Plymouth with his mother Jennifer.

Davin: Where is John now?

Dad: He's still in a psych ward.

Davin: How's Frankleigh Street going?

Dad: Frankleigh Street is half full of workers from the North Island who have come down to Christchurch to find work in the area of rebuilding the earthquake damage to the city. It is no longer full of pot-smoking dole bludgers, which means that the place is empty during working hours.

2013-01-26 Saturday 26th January

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: Have you got E.S.P.?

Nixon: Yes I do have Extra Smelly Pants!

Davin: You'll be at Polytech every week day won't you Nixon?

Nixon: 08:00hrs - 16:00hrs every day so we'll have to go on the bikes at 18:30hrs during weekdays.

2013-01-27 Sunday 27th January

In the exer-cycles room with Nixon on the bike.

Nixon: I'm gonna tell on you because you keep asking me for a hug, keep poking me, you keep calling me Nicky-poo and you keep threatening to kill me.

Davin: I didn't do the last one . . . You threatened to kill me.

Nixon: I won't tell if you give me some of your potato chips.

2013-01-29 Tuesday 29th January

Out walking with Mum.

Mum: Me and Scooby spent last week in Wellington. On Wednesday we went to explore Somes Island, which is an island in the middle of Wellington harbour. It's a D.O.C. (Department of Conservation) reserve. We saw wetas, skinks, red crested parakeets and we were bombarded by seagulls protecting their young. On Wednesday we also went to Te Papa¹⁴¹. Joey's contract is expiring in March so he'll have to find another job.

Davin: Why do Rickster and Tina have their mum's surname Wexley?

Mum: Because their father is a terrible father. He never spends any time with them.

Davin: What happened to Sammy and K.K. while you were away?

Mum: Sammy stayed at Mapel Howard and K.K. stayed with Stewie and Julie Dawson¹⁴². I'm taking K.K. to the vet today as she has a cut near her anus. We had venison last night, I had to chop it into small pieces for Sammy to eat, as he has trouble cutting his food, what with his Parkinsons disease.

2013-02-01 Friday 1st February

In the office.

Davin: Can I have a smoke Stevo? Yes I'm aware . . .

Stevo: Aware of what?

Davin: That smoking causes cancer.

Stevo: Do you still want one then?

Davin: Yes, I do still want one!

¹⁴¹Te Papa is Wellington's most famous museum.

¹⁴²Stewie Dawson is Sammy Dawson's (my mother's partner's) son. Julie Dawson is Stewie Dawson's wife.

Stevo gives me a cigarette.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Davin: I'm only going on for 10 minutes, Nixon.

Nixon: I won't stand for it . . . you must go for the complete 30 minutes!

Nixon pushes me partly off of the bike.

Nixon: You've lost your balance haven't you! I didn't go to the Y.M.C.A. today. Instead I went for a swim. That's five swims a week! You like it when I cook for you Dav, 'cause I always make plenty. Enough for seconds and for lunch the next day!

Davin: It's yummy for my tummy!

2013-02-04 Monday 4th February

At the Avon Café with Dad.

Davin: I'm sorry you missed me when I went out for MacDonalds on Saturday.

Dad: It's okay, it's only a small drive to Hillmorton Hospital. At this moment in time I'm glad I have kept my Frankleigh Street boarding house as it is full up with workers from the North Island.

Davin: How many from Wellington and how many from Auckland?

Dad: Two from Wellington and one from Auckland.

Davin: How many from Ireland?

Dad: None from Ireland! Do you get The Press? Today's Press has an article about small drone flying craft that are 20mm long and can fly inside buildings to locate people, hostile or mere civilians. This technology is vastly safer than sending in troops to enemy territory. If I didn't have Franleigh Street I would probably be in the Third World bulding huts for the natives! Joey's contract expires in March and they'll probably do for him what they do with all executives: fire them and re-hire them as consultants. There is a certain amount of secrecy involved but he is currently earning \$1000 a day. I notice there are a lot of people smoking around here. How's your smoking going, Davin?

Davin: I'm back down to three a day.

Dad: How's your reading going?

Davin: I'm still reading the classics. I'm currently reading *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner. I have just finished reading *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne. What's interesting about Jules Verne is how in his books *From the Earth to the Moon* (1865) and *Around the Moon* (1870) predated travelling around the moon by less than 100 years.

Dad: Is there anything happening in your life at the moment?

Davin: Valerie the O.T. (Occupational Therapist) is arranging for me to get part time work working for Molten Media which is a non-profit organisation that fixes and upgrades computers for the general public. It is an opportunity for me to learn another skill: troubleshooting broken computers.

Dad: Blair's coming to Christchurch next Saturday. He put himself through Berkeley University, shifting furniture in San Francisco and attending university part time. Now he's working as a Geologist for U.C. Berkeley. His partner runs a zoo in San Francisco. They don't want any children, which gives them more money to spend on travelling the world.

Davin: How's Daisy going? When did she last have open-heart surgery?

Dad: About 10 years ago. Nowadays they put plastic stents inside people to widen their blood vessels feeding the heart. The stents dissolve in time after they have finished their job of widening people's blood vessels.

2013-02-05 Tuesday 5th February

At the Avon Café with Mum.

Davin: Do you think I'm going bald.

Mum: There's a fairer lump of hair on the top of your head. You've inherited the baldness genes from my father. Andrew, your cousin has gone almost totally bald. Your grandfather on your father's side had a full head of hair when he died at 85 years old.

Davin: Scooby and Felicity (my sister's son and daughter) were born out of wedlock, weren't they?

Mum: Yes they were.

Davin: Then that makes them bastards eh?

Mum: Technically yes.

2013-02-07 Thursday 7th February

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: I'm gonna have a mastie tonight, so don't look through my window. Check out these steel capped boots.

Davin: Did you get them for your course?

Nixon: Yes. When you go on the bikes with me you spaz out ... Good to see you still on the bikes. It keeps your heart healthy eh? I'll do ya! I was only joking.

Davin: Look at the back of your head ... You've missed a bit with your shaver ...

Nixon: Guess where I'm going tomorrow?

Davin: Polytech?

Nixon: Yes. You're a churchy-poo aren't you?!? (Because I go to church.)

Davin: You're a nicky-poo aren't you?!?

2013-02-11 Monday 11th February

Out on a bus trip with Valerie, Genie and James Bond.

Valerie: I'm meeting with Ron too long.

Davin: Who's Ron?

Valerie: I said my meeting *ran* on too long!

Davin: (to Genie, who is pregnant) Does your baby kick very much?

Genie: When I sit down it kicks. Also when a loud male voice sounds it kicks too.

Valerie: Watch out for the cars Davin. I don't want to bring a squashed Davin home with me!

Davin: (to James Bond) What's that bag for? (Pointing to the bag in my back-sack.)

James Bond: It's for picking up books, but we didn't go to the library so it was not needed.

Davin: Do you reserve books at the library like I do?

James Bond: No I just visit the library and choose my books.

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: You eat too much junk food eh? You eat about six large bags of potato chips every week.

Davin: Do you think I'm cool on the bikes? or do you think I look like a dick?

Nixon: I think you look like a dick.

Davin: What are you doing? Up yours Davin?

Nixon: You said it!

Davin: Your light was off and your windows were closed. Where were you? With your mum's?

Nixon: Yes I was with my mum's.

Davin: Why didn't you lock your room?

Nixon: Because I trust people. Do you know who sings this?

Davin: Talking Heads?

Nixon: Yeah. I've always wanted to meet God.

Davin: You can be Jeebers (Jesus).

Nixon: Can you change my name to Nickodemus?

Davin: No way man ... I went looking for you tonight to give you some chips.

Nixon: No you didn't ... I was around the Ward tonight. I'm not giving you my \$2 since you wouldn't share your chippies with me.

2013-02-17 Sunday 17th February

In the car with Shazza.

Shazza: This car's low down like a Fred Flintstone car.

Davin: Not like your car eh?

Shazza: The car's chugging along like an old train!

Davin: Needs more grunt doesn't it?

Shazza: Yes. I'm driving like an old rally car driver. It's a bit of an adventure! How many bags of potato chips did you have yesterday Dav?

Davin: One bag.

Shazza: That man looks like a doggy old coot! I'm not sure that that word exists in the English dictionary (coot). Have you been to see Annie¹⁴³ recently?

Davin: No.

Shazza: Now look at this train coming through. Look at that! Have you ever been to the races, Dav?

Davin: No. Did you just turn on the window wipers when you meant to turn on the indicator?

Shazza: Yes. On my car the controls are the opposite way around.

In Nixon's room with Nixon asleep.

Davin: Wake up Nixon, it's time for you to give me a haircut¹⁴⁴!

Nixon: I'll do your haircut later, Dav.

Davin: Wake up man, you're sleeping your life away.

Davin pulls the hair on Nixon's arm.

Nixon: Piss off Davin ...

Davin: O.K. I'll see you later.

Nixon: See you later man.

Nixon giving Davin a haircut ...

Davin: Did you like the rashuns¹⁴⁵ I gave you?

Nixon: I shared half with Jacob.

Davin: What's he ever done for you?

Nixon: Nothing. He's a wanker eh?

Davin: Do you want me to vacuum up the mess?

Nixon: That's what you have to do, eh?

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: Do you know Kevin Dudey from Ward X?

Davin: Sounds like dude eh?

Nixon: Yes. He stabbed a cop dog and broke into someone's house! Do you know who the turd burglar was?

Davin: No, who was it?

Nixon: It was Murgatroid. (He shat into a bucket).

Davin: What else did he do?

Nixon: I'll tell you later.

Later ...

Nixon: He put shit into a bag and put in on the heater.

Davin: Who told you?

Nixon: James Bond told me.

Outside the Nurses' Station.

Stevo: Were you a sexual pervert at K-mart today? I hear that you were perverting at the womens' bras and panties.

Davin: Yes I was, but I was no pervert!

¹⁴³Annie is my new psychologist to replace Krystof.

¹⁴⁴Nixon agreed to cut my hair in exchange for a bag of potato chips which I gave him yesterday.

¹⁴⁵Rashuns are a brand of corn chips.

2013-02-18 Monday 18th February

John: You've got a woman's body eh?

Davin: What?

John: You're pregnant and you've got man-boobs. Next thing you'll need is a man-zier (a man's brazier).

2013-02-19 Tuesday 19th February

Out walking with Mum.

Davin: I went to addition.net yesterday on the bus.

Mum: You've had a haircut Davin. What clipper-cut number?

Davin: Number 6.

Mum: Who by?

Davin: Nixon.

Mum: Your jeans look good.

Mum: I've just finished doing my accounts. Julie Dawson (my step-fathers daughter in-law.) helped me with them. Is that motorcyclist going under the bridge? Is that legal?

Davin: Yes it is legal. It's too far to cycle around the bridge. What are those four men looking at?

Mum: Looking down at the hole in the ground. I think they're looking at a storm drain. K.K. loves the long grass. That's what they were bred for, chasing rabbits and things!

Davin: Have I told you that I've got a job with Molten Media?

Mum: No I haven't. I'm going up to Takaka¹⁴⁶ next month.

Davin: Are you taking your flat bed Ford?

Mum: Yes I am. We'll be staying in Murchison half way between Christchurch and Takaka. Frances won a scooter in a competition to draw a scooter. She drew a scooter with a cat chasing it!

2013-02-22 Friday 22nd February

On the exer-cycles with Nixon.

Nixon: My girlfriend wanted me to take her somewhere expensive. So guess where I took her?

Davin: Where?

Nixon: To a petrol station! How are you Dav?

Davin: Good.

Nixon: You think you're God don't you!?!

Davin: Yes. My God-name is Jeebes (Jesus). What's your God-name?

Nixon: Nicodemus, because I'm a Greek God!

Davin: Where are you off to, Nicodemus?

Nixon: Having a shave.

Davin: Shit, shaved and showered?!?

Nixon: No just shaved. Look at your cordial. Do you know what it becomes?

Davin: Urine?

Nixon: Yes. Even the best cordial ends up down the toilet.

2013-02-23 Saturday 23rd February

In the kitchen with my father.

Dad: Has your computer repair job started?

Davin: Yes it started last Wednesday. It goes for one hour per week at the moment, but I hope to build it up to four hours per week.

¹⁴⁶ *Takaka* is a town in the South Island near Nelson.

Dad: Brent (Davin's Dad's partner's son) is over in N.Z. with his partner, an American girl. She wears Beatles¹⁴⁷ T-Shirts and she comes from a farming family in the U.S.A. Her father belongs to the N.R.A.¹⁴⁸ and they regularly have shooting meetings at their farm! Her brother is an ex-marine and there's a gold mine on their farm, though neither the brother or sister want to carry on their family's tradition of farming. Have you been watching the documentaries about drones? They've got a helium-filled drone that can stay in the air for three weeks. They've got ground-based robots too. They control them from their base in Nevada although they use them in the middle east. That's half a world away!

Davin: That's amazing!

Dad: Frankleigh Street is going particularly profitable. I've got two from Auckland and one from Wellington. Sabrina (Davin's Dad's tenant at Lyttleton) is a bit in arrears with her rental payments but overall she's going just fine. They have no parties and they don't steal from me. My houses at Hereford Street and Charteris Bay didn't do anywhere near as well as Frankleigh Street. Are you still going swimming regularly Davin?

Davin: No I've stopped the swimming but instead I go on the exer-cycles once a day at 19:30hrs.

Dad: A lot of men die when they retire because they lose their social role.

Davin: What Sky channels do you like to watch?

Dad: I am an avid fan of the History channel but not so much now on the Travel channel like I used to be. Sky is better than going to university. Joey Trent (Davin's sister's partner) is earning \$1000 per day for three days per week. Sibone Pearson is worried about how they will manage when Joey's contract expires in March.

Davin: How's Jennifer and John going?

Dad: Jennifer turned 70 yesterday. I tried to call her but she likes to spend time in Tauranga¹⁴⁹ visiting her Auntie Alsa. John is staying in a young people's boarding house owing to his not taking his medication. I had a minor stroke a while ago and am not as articulate as I used to be!

2013-02-26 Tuesday 26th February

Out walking with mum and K.K.

Mum: I had this crazy dream last night when I was on a circus ride and I nearly fell off. How's your work with Molten Media going?

Davin: Good, I've been disassembling routers, picking out RAM, batteries, fans, power supplies and motherboards. Shall we go around the grounds?

Mum: Round the grounds, close to Wongi¹⁵⁰ but not Wongi. Yesterday I looked after Scooby and Felicity. They were too rambunctious together so I took them on a walk.

Davin: Can we go for a mocachino at the Avon Café?

Mum: All right let's go there. What's in a mocachino?

Davin: Chocolate and coffee.

Mum: How much do they cost? I haven't brought any money with me.

Davin: They're free. You can't beat that for a nice mocachino!

Mum: You've got a black mark on your head.

Davin rubs his head.

Davin: Is it gone now?

Mum: Yes. I played arm-wrestling with them. Scooby nearly beat me but Felicity was an easy beat.

Davin: See you later alligator!

Mum: In a while crocodile!

¹⁴⁷ *The Beatles* is the name of a famous sixties and early seventies British pop-band.

¹⁴⁸ The *N.R.A.* stands for the National Rifle Association which is a powerful lobby group for keeping U.S. gun laws relaxed.

¹⁴⁹ Tauranga is a city in the North Island.

¹⁵⁰ Recall that Wongi is the name of a professional graffiti artist.

2013-03-10 Sunday 10th March

At church on Sunday morning.

Man A was rolling a cigarette. Woman B shouted across the room:

Woman B: Put that tobacco away. That's incredibly rude smoking in church!

Man A: I'm not smoking, I'm just rolling a cigarette.

Woman C: Can't you at least wait until church is over?

Man A: Excuse me lad. I don't know you so why don't you just mind your own business, you fat bitch!

Pink Lady was getting coffee for the elder members of the church.

Woman C was walking down the aisle giving out bread for communion, the symbol of the blood of Christ.

Woman C: (to Pink Lady) You should be doing that after the service (getting coffee for the old people.

Pink Lady: (to Woman C) I can do what I like, thank you very much!

2013-03-12 Tuesday 12th March

Out walking with Mum.

Mum: I like your red Adidas top. Where'd you get it?

Davin: From another patient. I got it for \$20. Have we got 10 minutes to go?

Mum: I'll do the timing thank you. Little Alfie (Stewie Dawson's son) fell off a fort at kindy and fell backwards and broke his arm. The doctor put his arm in a plaster and the next day he was playing in a fort at his place and fell again, breaking the same arm in a different place. Then they put his arm in a sling, which they should have done at the start!

Davin: That's a bit rough eh?!?

Mum: Alfie's a rebel like Prince Charles' son Harry. Harry (Stewie Dawson's other son) is noble like Prince Charles' son Edward. Are you still writing your book, Davin?

Davin: Yes. This conversation is all going down in my book. Here we are at the Stuyvesant bridge. This bridge is named after Stuyvesant cigarettes because it is where the smokers come to smoke!

Mum: How peculiar!

In the kitchen with Dad.

Dad: How's your book coming Davin?

Davin: 64 pages done.

Dad: Today's Press newspaper has an article about 3000 year old mummies with hardening of the arteries, but they didn't smoke!

Davin: How's Daisy?

Dad: She had an operation yesterday. They put a probe with a camera on it into her groin and pushed it up into her heart to watch her heart beating! One valve is not operating properly.

Davin: Have they fixed her broken valve?

Dad: Yes. Sabrina's on crack cocaine. That's why she is having trouble paying her rent. Sabrina is Keven's mate's ex-wife. Kerry's mate is a long distance truck driver. They're all on amphetamines to keep them awake during their long distance truck rides. Sabrina is also on amphetamines. Sabrina is studying painting and decorating.

Davin: Nixon and James Bond on the ward here are also studying painting and decorating.

Dad: Frankleigh Street was untouched by the 2011 earthquake yet it was built in 1910. Most of the buildings in the central city were built after this time and yet have to be pulled down.

Davin: Is Frankleigh Street a wooden house?

Dad: Yes it is. That's why it survived the 'quake.

Davin: My Psych. doctor has put me back onto P.R.N. medication. They're trying beta blockers on me to see if it reduces my strung out episodes.

Dad: You like a pet rat to them aren't you?

Davin: Yes I am.

2013-03-13 Wednesday 13th March

On the way back in the car from Molten Media, after spending 1 hour disassembling computers.

Davin: What's that bus doing?

Stevo: I don't Ken.

Davin: Who's Ken.

Stevo: I said I don't *care*. As long as the arsehole keeps out of my way. How's your hearing Davin? Don't you need hearing aids to hear everything that you've been missing?

Davin: I can't afford hearing aids. Look at that car with no muffler. It must be a boy racer. Stevo, you're driving like a mad man!

Stevo: Cars like to be driven this way!

Davin: Like a rally car?

Stevo: Yes.

Davin: So you've got a fire training exercise to do, Stevo?

Stevo: Moving people away, clearing the area and organising assembly points. Look there was a speed camera back there in that car. Oh shit! I'm in the wrong lane!

Davin: I'm not feeling very well.

Stevo: How so?

Davin: A bit strung out.

Stevo: Murderous thoughts?

Davin: Yes.

Stevo: What are you gonna do about it?

Davin: Help James Bond cook tea.

Stevo: You're not going to do anything stupid are you, like grab the steering wheel off of me?

Davin: No, scouts honour I won't.

2013-03-18 Monday 18th March

On the exer-cycles with Nigel.

Nigel: How long do you go on the bikes for?

Davin: 36 minutes with a 1 minute break every 5 minutes. Why are you wearing your jeans for this workout?

Nigel: I'll be wearing my shorts in winter and jeans in summer!

2013-03-19 Tuesday 19th March

Out walking with mum and K.K. her dog.

Mum: What distractions do you use when you become mentally unwell?

Davin: knitting, reading, listening to the radio and having a spa bath.

Mum: Sammy's going to the dental hygienist to have his teeth de-scaled.

K.K. stops and smells something.

Davin: (to K.K.) Come on K.K.

K.K. comes to me.

Mum: K.K. followed Sammy into the garage and Sammy closed the door. Then we wondered where K.K. had gone! She didn't bark or anything! I won't be able to come and visit you next Tuesday as me and Sammy are going to Takaka to visit Fanny Rosie (Sammy Dawson's sister). We're leaving on Friday and won't be coming back 'till next Thursday.

2013-03-22 Friday 22nd March

In the kitchen with dad.

Dad: I've had a phone call from Reiner (Dad's ex-girlfriend) when she offered to sell me a shed. Pat (Reiner's son) is working as a chef in New York. She's crippled with arthritis.

Davin: How's Frankleigh Street going?

Dad: Kerry's managing it well. There's a waiting list. I've learnt from experience not to become too chummy with the tenants. I tell them to go and talk to the manager and that the bank owns the place not me.

Davin: What are you reading at the moment?

Dad: Bill Bryson's tale of the English people. They're all quite mad, much like the song goes: Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out into the mid-day sun! I used to be a mad Englishman but I've learnt to conform. What are you reading at the moment?

Davin: A book trilogy about a punk named Studs Lonigan. What about your Lyttleton tenant Sabrina?

Dad: Sabrina's drug use seems to have come right. There's a lot of meth (methamphetamines) out there at the moment. I'm thinking of buying a computer. Everything is going online these days, even *The Press* newspaper is available online for free. How's your computer job going?

Davin: I am disassembling computers and routers for two hours per week. See you later, Dad!

Dad: See you later, Davin!

2013-03-25 Monday 25th March

In the kitchen with Mandy.

Davin: Can I have a smoke, please Mandy?

Mandy: You have got a cold. Do you really want to have a cigarette?

Davin: Not really.

Mandy: Are you sure?

Davin: Yes I'm sure.

Time pauses.

Davin: Can I have a cigarette, Mandy?

Mandy: Too late, you already said "no". But it's a woman's prerogative to change her mind!

2013-03-28 Thursday 28th March

At the Avon Café with Dad.

Dad: You know that the human brain has more neurons than any other animal. Researchers are attaching electrodes directly on the brain to measure brain functioning. They are starting to tap what factors go into your development of Schizophrenia, Davin. How's your smoking going Davin?

Davin: I'm down to one a day owing to my bronchitis in my left lung. Ideally I should be smoking zero a day! Dr. Foot has prescribed me antibiotics for five days to clear up my bronchitis. How's Frankleigh Street going?

Dad: I wouldn't continue with it if I didn't have Kerry covering my arse. There's now a place where you can recycle your old C.R.T. T.V.'s. Before that, they just went into landfill. Did you hear that Princess Margaret Hospital is going to be torn down? I really enjoyed working for the Youth Hostel at Alexander forty-plus years ago. They have a lot of homestays at Lyttleton and I could probably get one up and running and my house in Lyttleton if I wanted too.

Davin: Bye, Dad!

Dad: Bye Davin!

2013-04-09 Tuesday 9th April

Out walking with mum.

Mum: How is your work with Molten Media going?

Davin: I'm now working for two hours a day two hours per week disassembling computers for recycling.

Mum: How much can be recycled?

Davin: batteries, RAM, C.P.U.'s, power supplies and screws can all be recycled.

Mum: You'll have to find out where they all go to.

Davin: Did you just fart mum?

Mum: Yes I did. Older people tend to fart more often than younger people.

2013-04-16 Tuesday 16th April

Out walking with mum and Kay-kay.

Mum: Did you know that a bomb went off in Boston today.

Davin: Yes I heard about it on the radio news.

Mum: You've got your slippers on Davin! You shouldn't be wearing them outside of the ward.

Davin: That's correct!

Kay-kay does a poo and mum bends down to pick it up inside a plastic bag.

Davin: You don't like the fact that the poo is warm do you?

Mum: No I don't! How's your work with Molten Media comming along? Are they paying you yet?

Davin: No it's still voluntary work. I work twice a week for three hours a day.

Mum: My weight's going up. I should really be doing more exercise but I'd rather do my tax!

2013-04-30 Tuesday 30th April

Out walking with mum and Kay-kay.

Mum: How's your knitting going Davin?

Davin: I'm knitting a green scarf now.

Mum: I'm taking Scooby to see *The Pied Piper of Hamlyn* tomorrow.

Davin: Did Kay-kay just do a poo?

Mum: Yes she did.

Davin: You don't like picking up the poo while it's warm don't you?

Mum: No I don't! Dogs are good therapy for people in hospitals and rest homes because they bring out the emotion of empathy. People like stroking a dog or a cat.

2013-05-01 Wednesday 1st May

Having a coffee with Dad.

Dad: Jennifer is learning French because she is going there to visit her son Garth. New Plymouth is a small town with not as many job opportunities as Christchurch. Kids are bying synthetic cannabis from corner diaries. It will soon be illegal! What we need is another war to stimulate job growth. In World War II the Russians lost 50 million people! The tobacco companies are putting in additives like cyanide and arsenic to make them more addictive!