

KILKIVAN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CARE ASSN INC.

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MEDIA RELEASE

21.1.21

When Gordon Met Holly!

The Memory Lounge event near Kilkivan on Wednesday provided a wonderful opportunity for two people from different backgrounds and age groups to connect face-to-face after getting to know each other via phone over the last three months.

Long-time Kilkivan resident **Gordon McGill** had agreed last year to participate in a Biography Project being conducted by Assoc. Professor Catherine Dhavernas of Griffith University. She set up a phone connection between her student **Holly Wu** and Gordon to enable Holly to record Gordon's life story in book form. A copy of the resultant book will be provided to Gordon within weeks.

During their weekly chats, Holly told Gordon that she was coming someday to Kilkivan to visit him. So when Holly, a student in the Bachelor of Medical Science course at Griffith, became aware only weeks later that four friends from her course were coming to Kilkivan to help stage the Memory Lounge event last Wednesday, and that Gordon would be participating, she embraced the opportunity to travel with them so she could meet Gordon in person.

It was clear that the two had developed an impressive rapport during their phone conversations, some of which had involved Holly phoning Gordon from her parents' home in New Zealand after Covid-19 forced students to conduct their studies remotely.

Another Kilkivan resident **Athol Bevan** who attended the Memory Lounge event also participated in the Biography Project – his student interviewer Irene Huang phoned him regularly from her home in the US to conduct her research. Understandably they have not (yet) met face-to-face.

Rosie Fitzgerald

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