



Australian
Childhood
Foundation

Edna-May

A true story about a
little girl and a big
virus.

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This is a true story about a little girl who lived through a time when a terrible virus took over Australia. This happened more than one hundred years ago.



Nurses who helped people in the time of the Spanish Flu.



Edna-May was born in the olden days, in 1914. She grew up with her family on a farm in country Victoria. Everyone knew each other around where Edna lived. Children played together and made their own fun. They didn't have things like electricity, or cars, or phones, or the internet. People helped each other and relied on one another to get by, just like they do now.



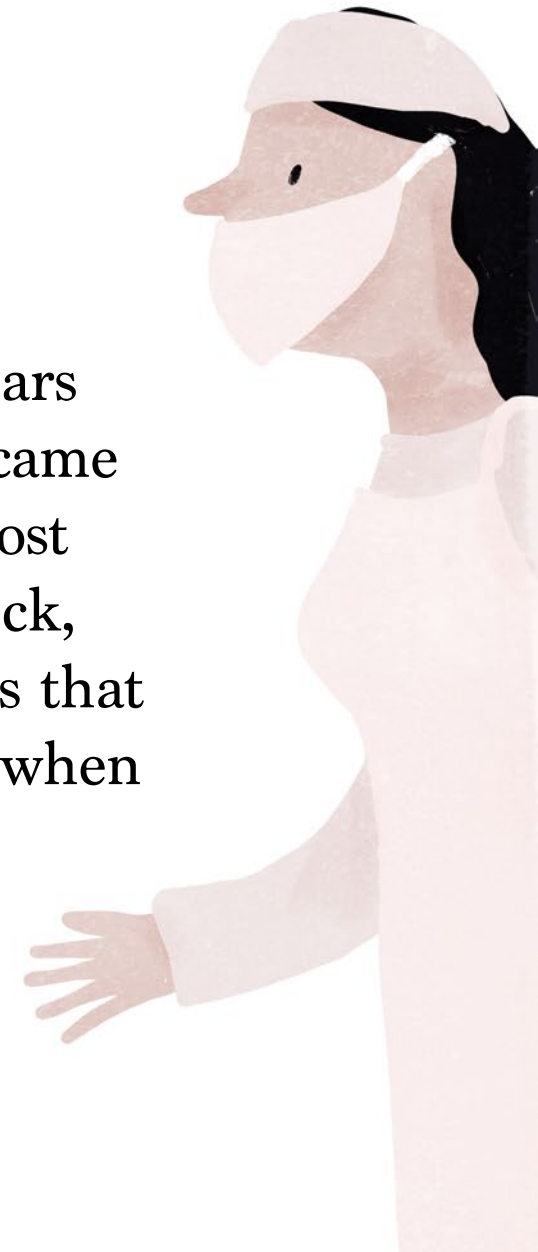


In 1918, one hundred and three years ago, a great sickness came to Australia - it was called the Spanish Flu. It was a virus, like COVID is a virus. It made lots of people sick and meant everyone had to stay separate from each other and wear cloth masks over their mouths and noses, just like we do now to keep COVID away.





Edna-May was four years old when this sickness came to her town. While most children did not get sick, Edna was one of the ones that did. She felt very scared when this happened.



Her family took her to the hospital. They didn't have very good medicine back then. We have much better medicine now. Even so, the nurses and the doctors helped Edna-May to get better and she went home.



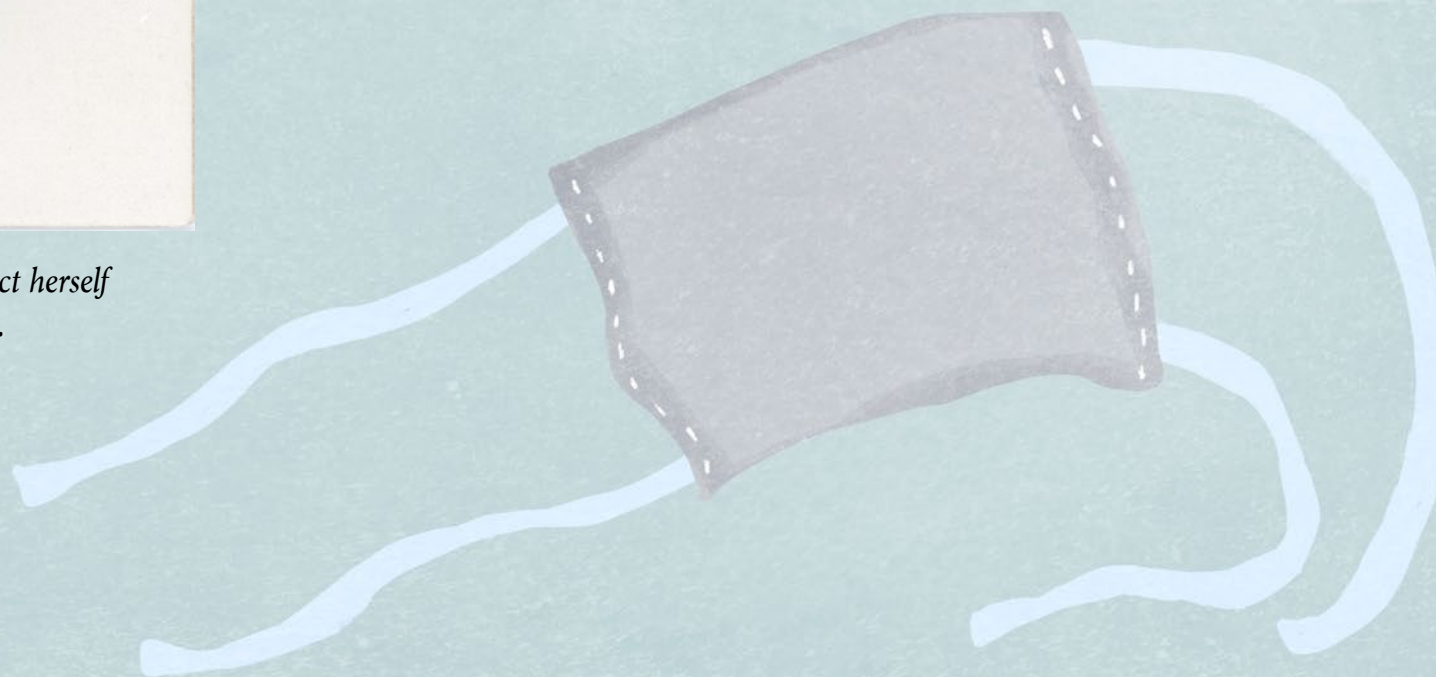


A nurse wearing a face covering to protect herself and others from the Spanish Flu.

At the time, Edna-May felt like the Spanish flu would never go away. She was worried about it and remembers it as a really hard time.

But the virus did go away.

We learned lots of lessons about how to deal with COVID from the people who were there when the Spanish flu came to Australia all those years ago.





Edna-May still lives in country Victoria. She is one hundred and six years old. She loves lawn bowls, playing cards, and is a keen Collingwood supporter.





Edna-May today

Edna-May has experienced many things in her lifetime, and she wants you to know that we will get through COVID just like we got through the Spanish Flu. It will be one of the chapters of our lives.



Edna-May in the olden days

You are living through an important time in history right now. I wonder what you will tell people about COVID in one hundred years-time?

Credits

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