



CHALLENGES are opportunities turned inside out

By **Clare Erasmus**

Over the past few months Covid-19 has given the world a major shake-up. Without doubt, it has caused chaos and we know that it has provoked disruption in almost everything around us. Hospitals have sought new systems on how to manage a huge influx of seriously unwell people; businesses have closed temporarily and some permanently; schools have closed and home learning has transpired; supermarkets have had to consider how to safely serve their communities

with their essential needs; the government has had to seek medical and scientific advice to make decisions; international travel has come to a halt and people have mostly stayed home. We are all conscious that there has been some form of disruption and some of this has been profound. Metaphorically, Covid-19 has been one bullet that no one could dodge the impact of.

Simon Sinek talks about falling and failure and while they appear similar, they offer sound differences

in mindset, attitude and approach. Failure, Sinek suggests, is catastrophic and this is something we want to avoid. On the hand, falling is considered more natural - we fall and then we get up. He encourages us to embrace moments of falling rather than failing. The language is significant and how we view issues, as in the lenses we use, changes the approaches to challenges that people face. Embracing a 'fall and get up' lens enables us to consider how issues can be resolved and opens up options to problem solve, change and grow. It requires accepting



About the Author

Clare is an author and educator, living locally in Christchurch. She has written books for both educators and children. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Legal Studies), Bachelor of Arts Honours (Sociology), Masters of Social Science, Bachelor of Education, Certificates in both TEFL and TESOL and is currently undertaking her PhD in Education.

constructive feedback and utilising information to inform new decisions and directions. Choosing to adopt a 'failing' approach suggests that there is no room to grow and indicates the end of trying to troubleshoot.

The first part of this year has been a challenge, admittedly. For many others and myself this has temporarily changed how we work. In the teaching profession, how I taught had to change. What I have witnessed as an educator, is my profession taking on rapid professional development in

the online delivery of lessons. Embracing challenge through the process of upskilling has been empowering for many educators. In a very short period of time, new systems have been employed to facilitate learning at home, which will no doubt impact on future educational systems.

For families, there have been more opportunities for strengthening relationships with more time at home. The evenings have seen more people strolling, running and exercising, in turn delivering wonderful health benefits.

Tired and fatigued bodies have been able to rest more. New businesses have emerged out of new demand and now new supply interests.

Acknowledging that everyone's experience of Covid-19 is different, this article has aimed to highlight that we have the ability to choose the lens with which we view challenges. Challenges can be viewed as opportunities turned inside out. Let's be kind and supportive to one another, as we never know which lens they see the world through.