

## **'WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND...': CHIAKI IWAMOTO**

Once upon a time, four young adults from different parts of the world were living under the same roof in the North side of Sydney.

A couple who love to make jokes were from Ireland. Some of the jokes they make contain highly racial contents that wouldn't be appropriate at any settings, however, their housemates didn't care much. Why? The housemates often didn't understand the jokes because of their Irish accent. A few seconds of pause then making a short dry laugh always worked to satisfy them.

There was a proud Kiwi guy who was originally from New Zealand but moved to Perth, Australia at a very young age then grew up there. He was quiet, a huge all-black fan, a devoted Christian who never missed a Sunday service or Saturday service, even Wednesday service that was supposed to be for people working on weekends.

Lastly, a newly joined Japanese girl. She was an international student studying at uni but always busy juggling some part-time jobs to support herself. She had quite a good command of English to communicate with her housemates but when she didn't understand, she put her index finger lightly on her lips then carefully said 'yes?' to any questions.

One weekday night, in the kitchen, all four adults were chatting. The Japanese girl was passionately talking about how important being independent is, especially as a young Asian female. The other housemates were listening and nodding while preparing for their meals. She felt good about their response and finished by saying '...you know because I am a good working girl' with a big smile on her face. The Kiwi guy stopped chopping vegetables. The couple cracked up laughing.