The sky was falling, the Earth was crumbling. That morning everything had come to a halt, and that same afternoon everything was destroyed.
Why or how, nobody knows.
News programs had been talking about it for decades, but of course nobody believed them.

It was 3060, and the people had lost faith in politicians and the media years ago. And of course, in their last breaths, they wished so, so much that they'd listened to all those news broadcasters, those news anchors. All of them. But obviously it was too late.

Or was it?

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Liam and Poppy, two students at the University of Sydney, had communicated through the university messaging system and figured out a way to travel through time. It wasn't solid. They both agreed that it needed a lot of tweaking over time, but it was a way to travel, nonetheless.
They decided to meet up in Liam's dorm to discuss the time machine.
Both had been paying extremely close attention to the news, like any sane person would, and quickly noticed that there were a lot of conversation of the atmosphere imploding in on the Earth and the Earth crumbling to pieces because of global warming.

So, armed with previous scientific papers about traveling in time and time in general, they decided to make a time machine to go back in time and fix climate change.

"So, how do you propose we start?" Poppy asked Liam.
"Sketching." Liam told her. "If we sketch everything then we'll have a better view of what we're dealing with. Also, we need to analyse those papers more closely."
"Sounds like a plan!" Poppy agreed.
From then on, every week, Poppy and Liam met up in Liam's dorm and planned and researched. This process went on for one and a half years, until they were doubly certain they had a firm grasp on spacetime and the impacts of traveling through time.

Then they approached Poppy's computer science professor for permission to continue their project.

He reviewed their research, and their plans, and eventually told them this: "This project of yours...Very dangerous, very dangerous. But I suppose I shouldn't tell you things you already know. I'm giving you the go ahead, but I strongly suggest you make this a university-wide project."

"Thank you, sir." Poppy and Liam gratefully replied.

A few more months of refining, and they posted about the project on the university forum.

Like them, all the other uni students had been paying close attention to the news and noticed the same thing. Most of them thought it was a good idea and met up with Poppy and Liam that Monday in the university study room to have a meeting about it.

The meeting covered things like when they would schedule time to working on the project, how they would all help, how long it would take, things like that.

"Well, we all have conflicting timetables and plans, so what do you think of us just leaving the project in the study room for people to work on whenever they can? We can make a changelog, so people know what others have done and to work with those changes." Liam suggested.

So, they held a vote. And people seemed to like the idea of simply leaving the project in the study room for people to work on in their free time.

And with the help of all the uni students' free time and hard work, they finally had an alpha version of the time machine.

They needed to test it though, so Poppy hacked together a small robot which they could send to the end of time or something and then make it quickly come back.

So, they sent the robot, and it came back, miraculously, in one piece.

There were still some things that needed to be fixed, though.

Like the time machine sometimes burnt a bit of its outside because of the travel speed.

And it kept on falling over because it didn't have proper stands and couldn't stand up by itself.

Eventually, somehow, word got out that the University of Sydney was making a time machine.

At first, they thought people would call them crazy, or say that what they were doing was impossible.

But the opposite showed.

People began to wander into the university to work on the project.

And so, they decided to make a specific place for it. A place where people could go and work on it without disturbing or distracting any of the university students.

And that turned out to be a very good idea.

Because as time went on, more people began to work on the project.

And eventually, they had a fully functional time machine.

They decided to test it once more though. Just to make quite sure that it worked exactly as it was meant to.

So, they sent Poppy's robot to the end of time again, and watched it come back all in one piece.

And so Poppy and Liam, and a few other students, travelled to 2021 Australia.

The group appeared on a construction site. The building that they had put the time machine in hadn't been built yet. By the looks of things, it was nearly done though.

They didn't want anyone to see them here because they'd get arrested, so quickly and quietly they exited the building site.

By this time in its development process, the time machine could shrink into the palm of someone's hand. It also turned invisible once they had successfully teleported.

So, Poppy had the time machine in her pocket.

Nobody really knew what they should do. Poppy suggested traveling to 2011 and creating a party to try to get elected as government, but the rest all agreed that it wasn't certain, and it would take too long.

So, they decided to visit a few coal mines.

The group explained that what they were doing was destroying the Earth, and that if they needed jobs couldn't they just work for a different type of mine?

Most of the workers understood and agreed, yes, they could just work for a different mining company that doesn't mine coal.

But a few didn't. They said that they didn't have anywhere else to go. Nowhere else to work.

Then, the group decided to travel to 2019 Australia to talk to Scott Morrison.

They opened the time machine, set the destination to 2019, and off they went. From there, they travelled to Canberra and requested to speak to the Prime Minister.
The Prime Minister wasn't available, but the people at the Parliament said that they could talk to someone working on behalf of Scott Morrison.

So, the group dictated the destruction of Earth to the person working on behalf of the Prime Minister, Matt.
He listened carefully and considered their detailed recounts.

Eventually after they'd finished, Matt spoke up and said, "So are you saying that in 3060 everything will crumble, the sky will fall, and everyone will be filled with regret? And that climate change will be the direct cause of this?"
They told him, "Yes that's exactly what we meant."
"And how do you know all of this?"
"We can't tell you. That would bend spacetime."
"Hmm."
"This is the last warning you'll get."
"I'll talk to Scott about it."

And so, with their mission complete, they went back to their original time period.

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By now, half the Earth had been destroyed. Everyone was going to die.
But then when everything was nearly done for, it all stopped.

There was a shift.
And the Earth returned to its natural state. Everyone who'd died was back. The Earth was safe.
For now.

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Everyone once and a-while, the university students still check in on Scott to see if he's still doing the right thing.

He is, but most likely only because he doesn't want to be blamed for deaths a couple decades in the future.

Their story had been out for a while. Everyone was shocked.

They stopped trusting the news, stopped trusting politicians.

People only voted because they had to. As far as they could see, all of them were lying scumbags with coal for a heart.

Which, maybe, they were.