

LATEST EMAILS BETWEEN DENISE IN HUKANUI/HAMUA WI - Our New Zealand Link WI AND JULIA IN BASLOW WI



From: Denise Gavin
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 6:47 AM
To: Julia Warne
Subject: Re: April

Hello dear Julia,

Happy birthday to you, another milestone in life.

Gee 79 members – Bags not doing the dishes – or does the village hall have a dishwasher (automatic and not manual!!)?

Oh not more snow – haven't heard of the latest weather woes on the news this time around. They are too focussed on Auckland! Think Keith had a photo of your backgarden with the Derwent. That is a bit close for comfort for you I think. We have had more rain today – 33mls, my kayak is high and dry, so I won't panic this time around!

That is amazing that you too know of twins with different birthdays – even different towns for you. So, your sister or sister-in-law must have been keeping her knees together too!!!

We often see the Grand National on the news, but it may have been relegated to the bin with the Commonwealth Games holding fort here.

The Kings Speech was on TV last night. Too late for me to see the ending, but I have seen it a couple of times and really enjoyed it. Got me thinking about King George V's siblings, so got out one of my 'royal' books and looked it up. Have to thank Edward for abdicating I think. Couldn't have imagined him on the throne (well maybe I could!) after our wonderful Queen Elizabeth.

OK. Keep dry, warm and well
Love
Denise x x

From: Julia Warne
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 8:37 PM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: Re: April

Hello Denise and Hukanui-Hamua WI girls.

We had a busy monthly meeting on Wednesday. Now that we have 79 members there are lots of teas to serve, as well as cake.

The poor weather has continued with snow on Easter Monday, bitterly cold wind and rain most other days. Last week the river outside my window was in full spate. It was my birthday on Monday. Last year we had lunch in the garden – certainly not this year. Hopefully from next week it is going to start to improve, just as the children return to school. My son and family have spent the full two weeks in Italy

where they have enjoyed much warmer weather. The summer term runs from next Monday to mid/late July, with a one-week break end of May.

Pleased to hear you now have a new member. I know you will make her very welcome. Does Coral have any links to UK?

Personally I haven't watched much of the Commonwealth Games but I agree it is particularly exciting watching sport when you have a personal connection. The disabled athletes are amazing. They have had so much to overcome just to be chosen to represent their country. We should be very proud of all of them.

I hope Elaine and family are having a happy time in Adelaide. My twin nieces have birthdays on different days and were even born in different towns. It made the national press 53 years ago and apparently some American newspapers as well.

Tomorrow is the Grand National. The going is definitely going to be 'soft'. So, I shall be glued to the TV waiting to see whether there is a return on my annual wager or whether I have donated it to the bookmaker!

Thank you for sharing the photos of Ayla with me. She is growing up so fast and is obviously a happy little girl.

Make sure your kayak is secure, wouldn't want it to float away.

Lots of love to you all
from Julia and Baslow WI girls

From: Denise Gavin
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 2:43 AM
To: Julia Warne
Subject: April

Hello Julia and girls. Hope this finds you all well and that the rough weather has made an exit at long last!

We have had a rough spell with heavy rain and freezing cold – well down to 7 deg during the day in April is not on the agenda!! Fires are going to keep things cosy. We had a sub tropical tornado from the north that took out power in New Plymouth, National Park (mountains in the central North Island) and Auckland. Still without power in a lot of places in Auckland. They now know what it is like for the rest of NZ at times! They live in their own little world up there! Our rivers rose and my kayak wasn't quite as high as I would have liked it to be, so when our river warning rang at midnight, my mind was racing a few kilometres downstream where I envisaged my kayak ending up! However, the river didn't rise much above 3 metres (usually below 2 metres) so all was OK. Needless to say, we pulled the kayak up higher just in case. Supposed to be another front next week, so with rivers full, it might rise even more with nowhere to go.

We had our April meeting at Lesley's home last week. Lesley and Alan live in a dear little early settler's cottage in Eketahuna and with 10 members there, plus two guests it was very cosy! One of the guests is a new member to be, Coral so our numbers are rising to 14 now.

Last two days have had cold weather, but sunny skies. We have commercial beehives not far from the house which are tended by a bee-keeping firm. They give us 10kgs of honey plus another 12 jars of 250gr for our 'hospitality'. Win-win as far as we are concerned. The beekeepers were here on Tuesday, feeding the bees, so today they are out in full force, enjoying the dahlias, roses etc. We haven't had a frost as yet, so the dahlias are still going strong.

Have been watching the Commonwealth Games when possible and have a personal connection with my friend Mary-Allen's brother-in-law Bruce competing in the disabled triple bowls. I turned on the TV late yesterday arvo, just in time to see Bruce bowling and they won the silver medal. Mary-Allen, husband Grant and daughter Megan went across to the Gold Coast to support Bruce and as you can imagine, they are all very delighted. I still barrack for Australia, but my NZ bonds are getting slightly stronger after 44 years!!!!

Elaine turns 65 today and along with most of her 7 siblings have travelled to Adelaide (my home city) to celebrate with Elaine's twin Shirley who turned 65 on Wednesday – yes you read it correctly, the girls are 2 days apart. Oh don't you just want to cross your legs, thinking of their poor Mum in labour all that time? Anyway, they will be having a fantastic time over there with great weather and lots of happy family times to share.

OK. Have Ayla here at present as Liv is working for her Dad, so time to check on her (sleeping on her tummy).

Have a good weekend. Our school holidays start today – not sure if yours have had a brief break with holidays starting in June?

Love to you all

Denise and the H-H girls x x x

DG/JW/AM-17.4.2018