

## **LATEST EMAILS BETWEEN JULIA IN BASLOW WI AND DENISE IN HUKUNUI/HAMUA WI OUR New Zealand LINK WI**

**From:** Denise Gavin  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 11:10 PM  
**To:** Julia Warne  
**Subject:** September



Hello there Julia and girls.

Hope this finds you all well and enjoying those autumn colours over there. Spring is trying to 'spring' over here, but it surely is hard for some plants and shrubs with all the rain we have had so far.

We went to the Taniwha (Tanifar) Daffodils two weeks ago. Just five of us went in the end. Elaine, Pat, Lesley, Margaret S and myself. We left in rain and drove to warmth and sunshine up in Central Hawkes Bay. Daffodils were a picture, although some had been battered by the strong winds up there. We arrived just after 11am, went out into the paddocks and picked and then returned to pay and have then wrapped in cellophane. Such a good service. Saw a few males out there picking for their wives too! Then we found a sheltered sunny spot and had our lunch and meeting. We were back home around 2.30pm, so that was good. Photo has Pat, Margaret and Lesley in the back row and Elaine and myself in the front. You can see the munched tulips too!

We had terrible last week with heavy rain and hail and cold. Ewes and lambs struggled. Our new 30 acres is so exposed that we opened the gates for them to come through to our front paddock which has trees and hedges etc for shelter for them. Didn't bother about closing the gates our our house/garden..... I heard a clip clop and a ewe calling its lamb during the night. Thought that if the roses were "pruned" that would be OK as they don't flower for a while yet and the ewe did prune them. Forgot about my 40 tulips though.....she managed to severely trim 6 of them ( thought I got off lightly really) plus an alstromeria and freesias.....grrr. Know now to keep the gates closed! Was very pleased that she hadn't spotted my peonies that are shooting now (won't flower for a while though).

I am still feeding four lambs and two calves. I am knackered by 5pm after feeding lambs, calves, 6 farm dogs and then it is turn for our tea!!!

Modern art is sometimes very confusing. All in the eye of the beholder. Beats me how they pay so much for these things too!

Thought there had to be a catch with the Virgin Spa treatments. Richard Branson will be counting the costs after the storms in the Bahamas and more to come.

I had my interview for the pension and was pleasantly surprised at the amount I will receive! Hope the tax man doesn't hit me later! Waiting for the gold card to arrive too. I also renewed my drivers licence. They said to take off my glasses and look through the vision finder to read the eye test. " read across line 6, there are 3 columns'. Well I could see four columns ( my right eye is generous with what it sees!!) and the first two were faint, but I had a go. OK, they said try it with your glasses! mmmmm still four columns there, but much stronger this time! Then the peripheral vision test with flashing lights at the side. I could hear her pushing the buttons, but I couldn't see anything! Oh I had my head too far forward, phew after that I could see them perfectly, that was a relief!!! Licence was issued!

Liv is going well. She is using the moxibustion sticks and it is amazing to watch the baby move when they are applied by her little toes. Has to do it for 10 days, so hope that baby turns in that time. She is more comfortable at night, so it may have moved a little.

Had our son up from Christchurch last week. Dan works for an engineering firm that had slowed down a bit ( waiting for outcomes of our election this Saturday perhaps), so he took four days leave and came up to help his Dad which was marvellous. Such a great help and things get done twice as quickly when there are two to share the load.

Will have a look at your website again this week.

Lovely to hear all your goings on. What are 'blood bikes'?

Keep well, warm and dry  
love to you all

Denise x x



**From:** Julia Warne  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 6:00 PM  
**To:** Denise Gavin  
**Subject:** September

Dear Denise and Hukunui/Hamua girls (just have to keep practising that!)

Attached is Jane's report of our last meeting. It seems the luxury Virgin Spa treatments Harvey was telling us about are not for mere mortals like us, more aimed at celebrities and highflyers not paying for themselves.

This morning 8 of us met to walk round the gardens at Chatsworth where they have recently opened their annual Autumn sculpture display, 'Beyond Limits', this year featuring American sculptures. These are placed at different locations around the garden. Of the 22 sculptures there was only one we liked and another two or three that we could possibly understand, although we may have missed the point! They are probably intended to challenge, don't think we rose to it. The trees are changing colour and looked very beautiful on this sunny morning. Later we had lunch and more chat in the restaurant, then as we were driving home it started to pour with rain. We are obviously blessed. Have a look on our website and Facebook. There will be photos there soon, if not already.

We very much enjoy hearing all your farming news. We are a rural WI but I don't think any of our members are 'hands on' like you are.

I hope your daughter is doing well. It is a worrying time, particularly when there is a potential problem. She is very lucky to have you so close by, she knows she is going to have great support on tap. Lovely to have a baby born in the Spring with the good weather to look forward to.

Our Derbyshire Gold Card system is widely used in Baslow as we have a good bus service to Bakewell, Chesterfield, Sheffield and Buxton. I don't use it very often at the moment but it is useful at times, particularly if going to Sheffield, where parking is expensive and the road system seems to change frequently. At one time we could use it on the train, not sure whether that is still the case. It can also be used to borrow books from the library. I was fortunate to receive my Gold Card when I was 60 but as pension age has been pushed back, so has the Gold Card. The Council can't afford to keep providing so many pensioners with so many perks.

Hope you enjoyed the visit to the Daffodils. It sounds amazing. We look forward to the photos.

On Wednesday we are having a Quiche and Sweet lunch at the Village Hall to raise funds for the WI College, Denman in Oxfordshire. It is a beautiful college and a great experience to attend a course there, but it is struggling for finance. So let's hope we manage to raise a decent amount to help.

Love and best wishes to you all

Julia and Baslow WI girls