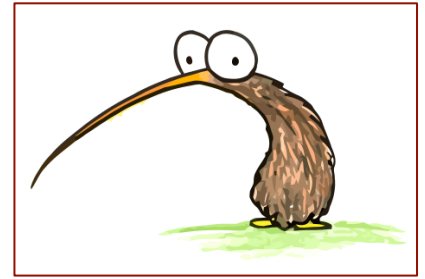


LATEST EMAILS BETWEEN DENISE IN HUKANUI/HAMUA WI - Our New Zealand Link WI AND JULIA IN BASLOW WI



From: Julia Warne
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: February in Baslow

Hello Denise and Hukunai-Hamua girls

Thank you so much for the photos. When I turn my laptop upside down they look great, and good quality. You all look happy. Colleen's home and garden (seems more like a park) sounds amazing. Pleased you all had a good time. And, congratulations on your nomination as President. Of course, you are doing so much right – your enthusiasm reaches all the way across the world to Baslow.

The days are getting slightly longer here. Last week we had snow and have also had icy mornings. We have lots of snowdrops; the daffodils and other bulbs are also pushing through. Spring is a beautiful time but it has not quite arrived here yet. In a few weeks' time, things will all look and feel very different.

Attached is Jane's February report on the things we have been getting up to. The speaker at our meeting this week spoke about the tribulations of writing her first book. It was particularly interesting as she endured the hardship of growing up on a small dairy farm with a father who had mental challenges. This meant that all/most of the dairy work fell to her mother. In my experience mental health issues in farming families are not uncommon but they are usually unacknowledged. However, our speaker had and still has a great love of cows. As a child, she 'adopted' one of their cows as her 'mother' to whom she would confide her secrets and worries.

Lots of love to you all from Julia and all the Baslow WI Girls xx

From: Julia Warne
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 8:12 AM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: Re: kayaking

Lovely, so enjoyed that. Pleased you found your glasses. So much timber stacked up on the weir here. Nobody comes to clear it these days. Good to hear you are enjoying the kayak. Still very cold here, although only minimal snow. Lots of love Julia xx

On 7 Feb 2018 18:55, Denise Gavin

Went out for a paddle yesterday arvo. Told Grandad I was going and text Liv saying I was going upstream. Didn't tell them that I was taking the loppers to do a bit of willow trimming!

Cut some branches lower down and got out of the kayak to do that. River is very low at present, then I went upstream. A willow comes over from the neighbour's bank and there is a big rock sticking out from our riverbank. Cut some branches off and headed upstream again to the next rapids. Turned around and came down and thought I would get more branches. Next thing is my hat is in the water, so leant over and got that OK. Then thought, that I couldn't see very well, oh oh, my glasses had gone! I put my paddle in the water and it wasn't very deep, so got out and then put my head down close to the water and started feeling around and looking, but couldn't see them at all. There were willow roots that were the same colour as my frame, so that tricked me a few times. So I had a few words to my Lord and asked for help,

but nothing was forthcoming. Thought I had my old pair at home so would just use them for a while! Got back into the boat and then thought, that they couldn't have gone far and lo and behold they were between the life jacket and my top! I laughed and laughed and paddled back. Got back to my starting point and Liv was standing there with the canoe. 40mins had passed and she said to Jymahl that she was going looking! Got in the canoe and she could see my oar coming down the river, so she got out again. Got home and Grandad was pacing around. He was worried too! Oops. Won't be doing that again! The water wasn't cold anyway, but I got quite wet. Think we need to contact our river authority and get them to do some trimming. Next big flood will see those trees blocking other flotsam and jetsam and it will be a mess.

Temperatures have cooled down here. 14 deg in the mornings lately and just reaching low 20s during the day, much better for sleeping anyway.

OK. All for now, just thought you'd like to hear my story!!

Love to you all, Denise x x x

From: Denise Gavin
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:24 PM
To: Julia Warne
Subject: Re: kayaking

Have tried to email you twice now with photos, but they won't send unless upside down.....so here they are!! Just can't work out this iPad and Dropbox system at times!

Had our meeting in late January (for February) at Colleen's new home set on 10 acres on the outskirts of Masterton (40mins south of us) with lots of lovely trees. 9 of us sat around the picnic table under trees for our meeting and lunch and then a photo by the pool. It was over 30 deg that day. Colleen jumped in after that – fully clothed – she was too hot! Prior to that we had a walk around. They have two streams which are spring fed, so always running. The sound of water is so calming I think. The garden is a work in progress and they will enjoy doing that over time. Their home is a Lockwood Home which is a system originating in NZ. Made of wood which is dovetailed together with special pins. Very easy to build (our church hall is a Lockwood – no insulation though!). They creak and groan as the joints expand with the sun and then contracts in winter.



Back Row: Lesley, Val, Gwen, Margaret, Pat & Christine - Front Row: Elaine, Denise & Colleen.



Back Row: Denise, Val, Colleen, Christine
Front Row: Lesley, Pat, Gwen, Elaine & Margaret

AM-21.2.2018