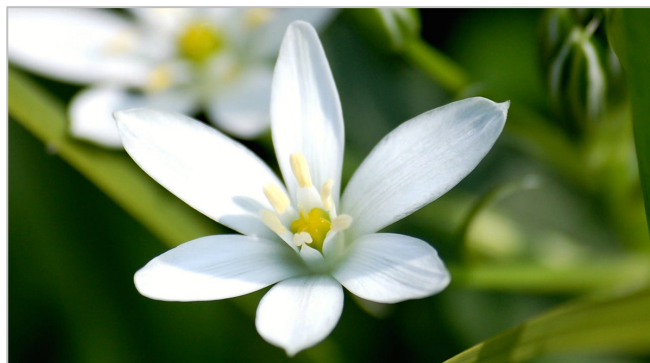


**LATEST EMAILS BETWEEN DENISE  
IN HUKANUI/HAMUA WI –  
Our New Zealand Link WI  
AND JULIA IN BASLOW WI**



**On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 10:28 PM  
Denise Gavin wrote:**

Hello Julia and the Baslow Darlings.

Well, we farewelled our Margaret yesterday. She had been a member for 55 years since 1966 in fact! There were 240 people at her funeral which is a great testament to her and the love she shared. There were 10 of us H-H girls there and we formed a guard of honour at the end for Margaret and her family. I was asked to talk about her institute years and will attach what I wrote. It already feels surreal that Margaret isn't with us and won't be at meetings anymore. We all feel so sad.

I have been going through photos on my phone and iPad and found others that I had printed off of Margaret at institute days. There is a lovely one of her when Deb was with us at Pat's home. Sorry it is upside down. Margaret is standing next to Deb.

Margaret was a keen harrier walker/runner up until 5 years ago. We didn't realise how much she did. Weekly runs with the local Harriers Club and then 10km walks/ 1/2 marathons/ full marathons and also doing relay legs in the Round Lake Taupo race. She was a legend. She used to tell me a bit about it, but not the full extent as we found out yesterday.

The sun is shining today as Margaret joins her husband Rex and family.

Love to you all,  
Denise and the Hukanui-Hamua Darlings x x

**From: Julia Warne  
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 4:39 PM  
Subject: Re: sad news  
To: Denise Gavin**

Dear Denise

Thank you so much for sharing this with us. Particularly after reading your beautiful account of her association with WI, we can really understand the gap she has left in your lives and everyone else who knew her. What a remarkable lady. She does rather remind us of Angela, a longstanding member and past President, we sadly lost last Autumn. I don't think Angela was actually into running but, boy, she did lead some challenging walks!

Lots of love to you all,  
from Julia and all the Baslow WI Darlings

This is what Denise wrote for Margaret's funeral:

**Margaret** was a member of Women's Institute for a total of 55 years, joining in 1966. First with Hamua until we merged with Hukanui in 1996 becoming Hukanui-Hamua and it continued from there. She received her Women's Institute Good Service badge in 1994 for all that she did for our institute.

Margaret shared her memories of being a member in the Mangamaire Centennial book. In Margaret's younger days, her Mum was a member of Mangamaire Institute and after school on institute days, Margaret would walk down to the Mangamaire Hall to get a ride home with her. The back seat of the car would be full of flowers, baking and craft-work that her Mum had entered into competitions. When Margaret married Rex in 1966, she joined Hamua Institute and enjoyed entering into the competitions like her Mum did.

Margaret's gardens were amazing. A huge vegetable patch, with potatoes, carrots, parsnips, cabbages, lettuces, beetroot and many others, which she grew and supplied to her family. When the list of vegetables for the Bush Federation Autumn Show came out, Margaret would have most growing in her garden and if not, she planted them! She always had flowers in her garden which was kept so neat and tidy and she won floral competitions with these. She would say that it was amazing what she could find to enter when she looked around! This was on top of all the preserving that she used to do. Margaret would ring and ask if I wanted any tomatoes or fruit from Hawkes Bay as she was going up there to get a trailer load. Then the bottling process would begin. Her preserves which were always perfectly layered in the jars, always won prizes at the local institute shows.

As institute members moved out of the district, they still kept their membership and came back to meetings and our institute now has members from Woodville down to Masterton. Margaret enjoyed travelling to their homes for meetings. We would often combine a walk somewhere including Carter Bush walk at Carterton, Manawatu Gorge loop walk, Percy Reserve opposite Pukaha and the Millenium Bush at Masterton. Margaret really enjoyed this, usually leading the way!

Our institute has given to the Arohanui Hospice wishlist over the last few years and Margaret gladly donated to this and also the Help N Hand Christmas tree in Pahiatua which we also give to. Her community spirit was very much there and not just for Hamua, but Pahiatua and Eketahuna too.

Margaret kept up her friendships with Institute friends and others who had moved from the district. She made weekly phone calls to some to make sure they were OK and when they asked of her, Margaret was always well and busy! She treasured these friendships and in turn she was loved by them.

If she knew someone in the district wasn't well, she would ring and make sure and then offer to drop off some baking or eggs. Always thinking of others before herself.

Margaret was a treasured member of Hukanui-Hamua WI and there will be a huge hole in our institute lives without her.

AM-15.7.2021