

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

From: **Denise Gavin** <gavsters@xtra.co.nz>

Date: Tue, Mar 15, 2022 at 3:14 AM

Subject: Re: March 2022 in Baslow

To: Julia Warne <rjw.warne@gmail.com>



Image-WellingtonNZ.com

Hello dear Julia and the Baslow Darlings.

Do I read from this newsletter that you got flooded out with the recent storms? Or maybe some leaks? I did wonder if the Derwent was in flood again when hearing of the deluges over there. They used to be 1 in 200 year floods, now they are every year!

New South Wales and Queensland have been hit hard again. The rains inland there go into the river system – the Darling and Murrumbidgee (main ones) and they in turn go into the Murray which is a huge river. I have friends an hour out of Adelaide who border the river – with a levee bank or two in between and Eileen said the river is very high, they are expecting it to breach the levees, so usually open chutes and flood paddocks. In 1975 John and I were over there and we went up to the farm. Eileen's Dad took us out in a rowboat and we rowed over fence posts. Such a mess. There are no dairy farms (used to be 10 I think) in the valley now. Drought forced them off. Goes from one extreme to another. In the 1956 flood, the family had tiger snakes swimming around the house which was sandbagged. Tiger snakes are very good swimmers and deadly.

So far, all the H-H darlings have avoided the virus. I think we are all triple vaxxed (definitely doubled anyway). There are a lot of cases around though. Ayla's kindy has closed because one of the teachers has it (well we presume that, the text said they are down on staff numbers). One of Ollie's daycare teachers has it too, so they are keeping him home as well. The towns are quiet with people ordering online when possible. Restrictions are gradually easing which is good I think. My little church in Eketahuna has closed for a month or two. A few elderly parishioners aren't venturing out of the house and others are just keeping out of things. Think a lot of churches will be like this. Hoping to be back in action on Easter Sunday.

Autumn has arrived and it is cooler in the mornings now. Last 3 days I have worn sleeves – hasn't happened for a while!! The gardens are starting to change. Am waiting excitedly for figs to start to ripen en masse. Have had a couple so far. Crocuses are showing their heads now too and the leaves are starting to fall. Have battled a lot with white butterflies this year. Have given in and bought netting to put over vegetable plants until the weather changes and the moths move on! A few of our girls have been busy making jams and preserves with good crops from plums, quinces, crab apples and apples. Also relishes as well.

I had to wait for our river to go down before I could get back into kayaking. Now it is quite windy and that puts me off! I know the extra work will be good for my 'guns'!

We have just arranged our calendar for the year. Mainly at member's homes, with a few garden visits as well and our usual visit to the Hospice in Palmerston North with roll call items.

Elaine and I were at the Tararua Federation AGM last Friday. Elaine did very well in the competitions as usual! I managed to get two seconds for floral and Hokey Pokey Biscuits. First tray cooked a little longer and Huddy likes them as a teething rusk! Second tray was much better!!
We have the NZ Federation AGM at the end of May in Wellington. I am going down this year too. Haven't been for many years.

All for now dear Darlings.

Keep safe and well and enjoy Spring and all that that brings.

Love to you all,

Denise and the Hukanui-Hamua Darlings x x x

From: Julia Warne
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:21 AM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: March 2022 in Baslow

Dear Denise and all the Hukanui-Hamua WI Darlings

Hope you are all well and managing to avoid the dreaded virus. We have had a number of cases locally in the past couple of weeks and nationally numbers have increased due to the fact that those infected are no longer legally obliged to self-isolate, although, hopefully, most people will continue to do so. It usually seems to be like a bad cold or mild flu lasting for 7-10 days.

Sorry to hear your numbers are now depleted by two. You do still seem to manage to cover a wide range of activities.

You will see from Jane's report attached what we have been up to during the past month and our plans for the next few weeks. I didn't go to last week's meeting as I had workmen doing repair work following the storms and driving rain last month. The decorating will have to wait until ceilings and walls are well dried out.

We are now enjoying some beautiful sunny weather, showing off the spring flowers and blossoms at their best. Long may it last.

That's all for now.

Love to you all from Julia and the Baslow WI Darlings xx