

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

From: **Denise Gavin**

Date: Sun, May 24, 2020 at 10:27 PM

Subject: Lockdown

To: Julia Warne



Image - express.co.uk

Hello there dear Julia. Yes, there are lots of Queen's birthday holidays around the world! They are in a good place at Windsor and out of any contagion issues – must have been scary for them when Prince Charles contracted it though and of course Boris.

We are getting back to 'normal'. 10 days ago, retail shops, gyms, garden centres, cafes and restaurants opened. Last Thursday pubs and clubs opened. All with the distancing rules applying though and contact tracing for food shops etc. Other businesses just have to have contract tracing for their staff. Schools returned last Monday. So far, so good. Our COVID numbers have been zero for the last 10 days – bar one day, I think. Surely when we have no numbers and no cases still going in the community, then we can get back to normal. With our borders working well, it must be OK.

We are going back to institute on 3rd June. At Elaine's home. There is plenty of room there for our members. Usually only 10 at meetings anyway. Will take our own lunches too. We are all looking forward to getting back to institute again. There is to be an announcement by Jacinda this arvo, hopefully increasing the crowd numbers we can have and allow churches to return. We have all been very patient as we watch cinemas open (with groups of 10 and then distanced) bars etc., but not churches! I guess we are all huggers at heart and would find it hard to contain ourselves!!

I tipped out 45mls of rain this morning which was much needed. Yesterday was freezing – 10 degrees (not cold for you I know!). I had two fires going all day. Had Laura and Ollie here as it was Liv's 34th birthday, so they came over. Need to keep the house warm for little ones.

Our National body decided to erect a statue to Miss Jerome Spencer to commemorate 100 years of WI in NZ. That is 2021. They originally said it would cost about \$315,000 and most of us were horrified. Then they said that it would all come from grants. Now they are saying it will be half that cost. However, since we have all been in lockdown for 7 weeks and not going out and getting our daily coffee fixes, perhaps we could all donate the \$5 that we would have spent to go towards the statue. I still think the money could go towards something more tangible. Scholarships/refitting a refuge house etc. The committee have the final say and that is what they want. It will apparently be in Napier CBD. Somewhere for the birds to roost anyway!

Skyler is such a brave little man. Latest photo shows he has some hair growing back after all these months of baldness. His left side is still weak and will most likely remain that way, but Gemma and Scott are moving heaven and earth with therapists etc to make it as good as can be. This won't be easy for Skyler or them. Hard to tell a nearly 4-year-old that without pain sometimes there is no gain. Meanwhile he loves being at home and playing with his trucks/diggers etc. They have coco pops/cotton wool balls etc for him to dig with. Sandpits etc are a no go and will be for a while. He also likes cooking, so they are often in the kitchen and mixing, stirring etc. We just pray now that the final MRI gives him an all clear. It will be a different world when they all get back to normal. The 24/7 pizza shop that Gemma and Scott started 4 weeks before Skyler's diagnosis will be a different place with COVID. No tourists in Byron Bay to speak of. People without work won't be spending money on pizzas. Gemma might have to return to her hairdressing and childcare skills.

I haven't emailed or spoken with Pat for two weeks, so am hoping that she is 100% now. At least with reinforced rest and no family contact, she had no choice but to rest with Keith looking after her.

Daniel went duck shooting this weekend. The opening was delayed 3 weeks, so they were very ready to get out there. He said they had a great opening day with all the party getting their limit of 15 that day. His gundog Nook was outstanding too! He likes to have about 80 duck breasts in his freezer and he gets it made into salami which is very nice. The season goes until the end of June here and the end of July in the South Island. With us being by a river and dams too, there were lots of gunshots from 6.30am on Saturday morning!! Luckily it is just the first and last weekends that seem to get the most shooters, so it isn't too bad. We have a family of swans on our river and I always hope that they are safe.

OK. Tis all for now. Rain back again but supposed to end at lunchtime. Do you know the weather app www.yr.no ? It is amazingly accurate. I just google yr.no Eketahuna and up it comes. So very clever, seeing it originates from Norway.

Will get some vacuuming and floor washing done before Ayla arrives.

Love to you dear Julia
Keep safe and well
Denise x x

From: Julia Warne
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 12:16 AM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: Re: Lockdown

Dear Denise

The Queen has more birthdays than the rest of us, and she continues to look well on it. Prince Philip will be 99, I think, in a couple of weeks. Good that they are safely at Windsor and not having to greet and entertain all the usual host of visitors.

Thank you so much for the update on brave little Skyler. Let's hope progress continues to be good. His parents have endured and continue to endure so many highs and lows. My heart goes out to them.

We are due to start week 10 of lockdown tomorrow. Garden centres are now open, so we can buy compost and summer bedding plants. Construction companies and DIY stores are as well. It is planned to open Primary schools on 1st June, possibly only the youngest and oldest classes. Some teachers and also parents are not happy with this because of the continuing risk of contagion - we shall see. More businesses need to be allowed to open, otherwise the country will be bankrupt, which it must almost be already. Who knows when Baslow Village Hall will open again? So many of the users are in the vulnerable over 70 age group. WI is quiet, of course, but Ann is doing a good job trying to put something new on the website and Facebook most days.

We have had a couple of cooler, very bluster days and a little, much needed rain. Looks like it will be brightening up this afternoon, although temperature only 13C.

Love to you all

Julia x