

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

From: **Denise Gavin**
Date: Sun 7 June 2020 at 3.30AM
Subject: June
To: Julia Warne

Hello dear Julia and the Baslow Darlings,

We had our June meeting at Elaine's home on Wednesday. There were 9 of us there which was good. With 4 now living near Masterton, we are quite scattered. Margaret Simpson is still in lockdown at her nursing home and hopefully we will see her at our July meeting. We are all keeping well however, Gladys missed the meeting as she had a minor eye procedure that day. Pat is 90% better now which is great.



For our meeting, Elaine had prepared small packs for us all to make a book mark and had borrowed her daughter's laminator to finish them off. They looked great!

There was lots to discuss with not having had a meeting in April or May and we were lucky to have had our AGM and meeting in early March. Other institutes with meeting dates later in the month didn't make it!

However, this has meant that we have had to look in other directions and the National Executive has been Zooming around the place for their meetings and is encouraging Federations to do the same thing. All well and good if you have good internet access plus a microphone and camera on your computer (I haven't!).

I think most of us enjoyed our enforced lockdown. Lots of gardening, sewing, knitting, cooking (growing waistlines too!), reading, walking, bike riding and more have been done. Playing with children and grandchildren and relishing that precious time that we were given. Now working from home may become the new normal for many people as internet access allows them to do this. We know some places have become more community conscious as they actually found out who their neighbours were and worked in with each other.

it is freezing today – 8 deg this morning. They had snow in the South Island yesterday and the wind is blasting up from there. I just tried to start the lawnmower, but I just couldn't get it to go and now we are having a few showers again! Oh well, this coming week is supposed to be sunnier, so hope my 'contractor' next door with the ride-on mower will come and do it, or I will cross my fingers and have another go!

My daughter and I have reinvigorated the garden outside my kitchen window. Have battled with weeds in this garden, so we dug it all out (apart from two roses) put down weedmat and then laid wooden pallets. Now my pot collection is well underway for this and pots aren't cheap! Am going to have a go at hypertufa pots. Did this years ago and still have the little pots, so am hoping to do some larger ones and maybe even a trough. Just getting the moulds will be the tricky part. Elaine suggested making wooden post troughs, but these could also be my moulds.....
have you tried Hypertufa over there?

NZ has not had any new COVID 19 cases for 2 weeks now and there is only 1 active case in the country and not in hospital. We are all hoping that tomorrow Jacinda will tell us that we can go down to Level 1 on Wednesday and get things going. I desperately need to hug friends from all over the place!

This week has been absolutely tragic around the world, but especially in the United States. We just hope that some sense comes of this. We are all children of a God and loved by many.

We hope that this next week brings better news and light to our troubled world.

Keep safe and well

Love from the Hukanui-Hamua Darlings x x x

From: **Julia Warne**

Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 12:51 PM

Subject: Re: June

To: Denise Gavin

Dear Denise and the Hukanui-Hamua Darlings

Lovely, as always, to hear from you and, particularly, about your first meeting since lockdown. Good to know that Pat has improved so much and also that others are doing well. It will be sometime yet before we are able to meet again at the Village Hall. In the interim Zoom meetings are being put in place. Let's hope they go well. The Team is working hard at keeping as many members as possible involved and committed.

Like you, people have spent a great deal of time gardening. There should be some wonderful gardens in Baslow this summer. Personally, I had never heard of Hypertufa, so had to google it. Looks a bit complicated for me. My patio pots are now all planted, albeit not quite to the usual standard but it will do for this year. We have had two months of glorious weather, way above average, until last Wednesday when we had much needed rain and a big drop in temperature. This has continued with 8C at the moment due to rise later to about 11C, below average for this time of year.

Karsten and family from Birmingham took advantage of the last hot day to visit. First time I had seen granddaughters and daughter in law since first week in January. NZ has done really well with containing the Covid virus. In the UK there are already over 40,000 deaths. Lockdown measures are gradually being relaxed. Dentists can open today but it is going to take them a while to sort out procedures and ensure supplies of PPE. Most, maybe all, shops will be allowed to open from next Monday. More relaxations are proposed early July. It all depends whether the early relaxations cause an increase in cases. Also the recent city centre protests are likely to cause a spike. We are so lucky to live in a beautiful rural area with easy access to the supplies we need.

Maybe there will be a report from Jane this week. If so, I will forward it to you. She is a whizz at creating an enjoyable read out of very little material.

Keep safe and well,

Love to you all from the Baslow WI Darlings xxx