

From: **Julia Warne**

Date: Sun, Feb 13, 2022 at 12:41 PM

Subject: Re: Last Wednesday!

To: Denise Gavin



Hello Denise and all the Hukanui-Hamua WI Darlings

Lovely to hear from you as always. What an interesting visit you had to Antoinette's garden. So many good ideas there for all our Greenies.

It must be very strange for you not having the children around for a few days. Suggest you make the most of it and get well rested, particularly with that nasty cough. Hope you will soon be feeling better.

We are going out and about again but most of us are still being careful and wearing masks, although it is not required. Keep hearing of Covid cases locally. In fact, my phone pinged yesterday morning saying I had been in close contact with someone who had the Omicron virus, after visiting a restaurant with my niece on Friday. However, we have tested negative. Must have been someone in the restaurant. All restrictions are to be lifted in a few weeks, so let's hope that all goes smoothly. It's probably a good thing. We have become used to having to abide by regulations; now we can all take personal responsibility.

You will see that Jane's report is attached. You would have enjoyed the speaker this month as she likes to focus on agricultural subjects - machinery, animals, farmyards. To make ends meet she also has to address other subjects such as weddings and food photography.

It is fairly wet here this week which is good, if not enjoyable, as we have had a dry winter. There is a good show of snowdrops and other flowers are now also starting to show. Spring is on the way!

Lots of love to you all

Julia and all the Baslow Hukanui-Hamua Darlings xx

On Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 8:51 PM

Denise Gavin wrote:

Hello dear Julia. Hope this finds you well and back into social things again!

Well, I remembered two days ago, that it was your institute day and I hadn't reported on our meeting!!

We met at Antoinette Lambert's garden on the outskirts of Eketahuna. The property had been an old slaughterhouse so had several outbuildings. 8 of us there and we started off with the competition dahlias. We could see one plant had a sun umbrella over it to stop the burning rays. Antoinette also puts a bamboo splint along the stem of the prize blooms to keep them straight and looking at the judges! She also takes a paint brush to competition to brush away dirt or anything that may detract! She told us how she takes off growth when they start to just keep 4 stems and takes off buds off them so the plant puts efforts into those blooms that are left. It was fascinating. We then walked a little further to a well fenced path and when we looked down, couldn't see the bottom of the gully. Lots of vegetation, but Antoinette's husband has made a mini hydrosystem from the spring that runs down the gully! They are off grid for power with solar as well. Hydro is the backup. They had four old rotary clotheslines with roses etc trailing over them at various spots in the garden. Plants on the banks don't get water, so the best survive. A few beautiful specimen trees. Then a fantastic veg garden. They use carpet as a ground cover for dahlias and all other plants. They have a horse and use the manure as a compost. Takes 51 wheelbarrow loads to fill their pit which they then cover in carpet for 12 months.

They lift the carpet on their corn patch etc once veges have finished, pile it high with compost, cover with carpet and leave it to mature. Around this patch they had trellises with espaliered peach, apple, plum and nectarine and below those plants they had thornless blackberries. Also loganberries on another trellis. Tomatoes were in mini tunnel houses and outside.

Antoinette works 3 days a week as a theatre nurse in Masterton, so the other 4 days are in the garden!!!! She is lucky to have a very handy husband who enjoys gardening too!!!!

So that was that. Took 1+1/2 hours to get around, then back to my church hall where we had a cuppa and our meeting. Now to sort out the calendar for the next 12 months and have it nearly sorted for our March AGM at Gladys' home.

The sunflowers at Mangamaire only lasted two weekends. They took a hammering with the heat (who would have thought!) and wind. However, they had over 3000 visitors over those two weekends!

My two girls and families are on their way to Wanaka this morning to have 3 days there with Daniel and family and then 3 nights in Queenstown. There are a couple of covid cases in Queenstown, so they will be on their guard. Meanwhile we will have 6 entirely children free days!

We have both been battling a nasty cough for 3 weeks now. I went to the respiratory clinic at Pahiatua on Wednesday and am on antibiotics and prednazone for a week, so hope that it kills it. Chest is clear so that is good. Also had a covid test which came back clear in a few hours. If we have a consultation and a covid test, the consultation is free of charge! Husband thinks he will just work through it!

Our kitchen clock finally gave up the ghost after 35 years this week! It is amazing how many times we check the time – most subconsciously I think. We will borrow Liv's clock whilst they are away and get another one next week.

OK. Will head across the paddock and let Liv's dogs off for a while. We are due for another dumping of rain this weekend, starting shortly.

it is our National Founders Day for WI on 21st Feb, but in their wisdom they booked the National Bowls Champs for that day in Wellington! Elaine's team from Tararua beat out competition to be the region's rep! She's a canny bowler, so now Founders Day for here is on Friday 25th February at the Ferry Reserve near to Woodville, where the federation planted a Kowhai Tree to recognise the centenary. It may be my last day with Ollie in Palmerston North as I think Laura finishes work that day in preparation for baby number 2.

Right, this time I am off. Have a good weekend dear Julia and Darlings.

Love to you all from the H-H Darlings

Denise x x