



Sharing Margaret's Story

A member made sure his late wife's book was published.



Bryan Beames could easily have shredded his late wife's final book. He was destroying boxes of old contracts and notes when he stumbled across the draft for Margaret's 42nd book, *The Owen Girl*.

Margaret Beames - a multi-award-winning children's author - died in 2016 after a battle with cancer.

For a long time Bryan Beames asked himself why Margaret had never told him about the book before she died.

"It was a total mystery. I was amazed when I stopped shredding for a moment to find a page one, page two, through to page 70.

"I've read all her books and this, without a doubt, is her best."

He decided to send it to book reviewer Barbara Murison, who said: "I couldn't put it down. It must be published." Months later, Austin Macauley Publishers in London printed the book.

It tells the story of 15-year-old Jenna, who runs away from home after being abused by her stepfather. She goes to her grandmother's beach house, which has been empty for years, determined to be independent and stay safe.

It was another one of Margaret's imaginative narratives - she was renowned for drawing young readers into worlds of drama and suspense, Beames said.

Her first book, *The Greenstone Summer*, was published in 1977, before she went on to win the picture book and children's choice categories at the 2001 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards.

Bryan and Margaret married in the United Kingdom in 1958,

moving to New Zealand in 1974. She began writing in her new home.

The Greenstone Summer was picked up immediately by WH Reed in New Zealand and Stanmore Press in England.

"The first 20 books paid the rates. The last 20 books blew my income away," Beames said.

"She was very secretive. She would be working away for hours, but she was very meticulous. She would take chapters or characters out, sometimes add them... It had to be perfect."

Margaret always said stories helped people understand themselves and each other, Beames said.

"From understanding grows tolerance, respect and expansion of mind and, from that, dare one hope, a better and more peaceful future."

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What's been happening in our area

On the 7th April, we had our Annual General Meeting in Petone, Wellington. This year we gave members the chance to join the meeting electronically via zoom link. This was particularly successful and we are keen to repeat it. It would be great to get your feedback if you think this is a good idea. Please email or phone our office.

At the AGM several new committee members were elected. Your 2018 committee members are:

Annelize Steyn – Branch Chairperson and National Council rep

Urmit Patel – Branch Treasurer
Lyn and John Hawkins – returning Committee Members
Bernadette & Tristram Ingham – newly elected Committee Members (Tristram is also an elected councillor on MDA's National Council)

Jan Beerworth – newly elected Committee Member

Jayshree Ranchhod – newly elected Committee Member

Thank you to those who were on the committee in 2017. The contributions that Liz Mills, Jon-Paul Bignold and Andrew Holt made to our committee and branch are greatly appreciated.

Annual Street Appeal

Our annual Freedom street appeal will be taking place in September. We're looking for volunteer collectors to help us on the following dates:

- 7 th September
- 14 th September (National Street Appeal)
- 21st September

Details are still to be finalised however if you can help for an hour or two please let Elizabeth in the office know.



Big news from our Office Manager

Later this year Elizabeth and her husband will become parents to their first child.

From the committee chair

Warm greetings

It has once again been a busy time. The AGM in April saw some new councilors join our team. I am looking forward to working with each and every one over the coming year.

For those of you that don't know me, here is snapshot of my story. I was diagnosed with FSH MD in my second to last year of school and first became a member of MDA South Africa in 1982. I joined MDA Auckland Branch when I immigrated to NZ in 2000. I have learned to cope with the different stages with wonderful support from family, friends and colleagues, although I miss dancing three times a week! As a stepmother to four adult children, I am blessed to have



five grandchildren, who give my life meaning. I became a committee member of the Wellington Branch in 2016 and was elected to be Chairperson in 2017 and 2018. Attached to this newsletter is a page introducing our 2018 / 2019 Wellington branch committee, bringing to the table a variety of experiences, complimenting the wonderful work past committees have done and the branch staff is doing.

I value the support we receive from National Office. My vision

for our branch is to have financial independence and to increase member engagement and raise community awareness. Building on the wonderful work last year's committee did, the 2018 committee bring their own unique skills to take us on the road ahead. The committee is keen to see representation in the different regions of our branch and to receive input to establish communication between the committee and members. Kindly email me using wellingtonbranchchair@gmail.com or text me on mobile number 021 480 108. Looking forward to the year,

Annelize Steyn
Branch Chair

Contact us



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Our supporters

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Caffiend Petone
Speights Ale House Petone

Ways to help

Did you know you can donate to us at any time?
Donations are tax deductible

As an organisation that relies on donations we are grateful for even the smallest donation. If you would like to donate, here are some of the ways to do it:

Internet Banking

Account Number: 03-1533-0006178-00

Particulars: Please use your surname

Code: your membership ID

Reference: Spring 2017

By Cheque

Please make your cheques payable to Muscular Dystrophy Assn Wgtn.

We also have a Givealittle page set up. Just search Muscular Dystrophy Association Wellington Branch.

All donations over \$5 are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt for your donation

Just a reminder that if your contact details have changed please contact our office or email Elizabeth.

