

# Life without sight, taste and smell

## Inspiration



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Faced with a future without sight, Judy Hale's first thought was to stay on the land she loved.

The 78-year-old Cambridge grandmother lost her sight, smell, and taste 32 years ago and has written a book to not only detail her story but to also help others. The proceeds of her book will go to the Blind Foundation and specifically its Guide Dog Services.

Hale was 47 years old when she suffered horrific injuries while moving two mares with their foals on her North Waikato property on March 12, 1987.

The accident resulted in her being trampled and dragged by the horses.

"When I arrived in hospital I had lost one eye completely and my nose. I had a fractured skull, a fractured eye socket, no nose, and a broken jaw."

"She was put into a coma for six weeks. Hale had already suffered tragedy 10 years earlier when her husband Barry was killed, leaving her a solo parent of three. Barry died when his stock truck went through the railings of the Kopu Bridge on March 11, 1977. He was trapped in the cab and drowned. Their children at the time were 13, 11 and eight. Barry's death was one of the reasons Hale decided to write the book - which took about 18 months from start to finish. "Barry had been killed before any of our grandchildren were born and they began asking questions about Barry and what we did with the farm and I sort of thought, well, I should probably write about our lives."

Adjusting to life without sight, smell and taste took some time but the hospital put her



*"My subconscious must have said to me you are at the bottom of the ladder. What are you going to do about it? And me being me, I said I am going to climb to the top - so I gave it a good go."*

**Judy Hale**



**Judy Hale is telling her story for the benefit of the Blind Foundation and its guide dog services. Left, with her guide dog, Axel.**

TOM LEE/STUFF

straight in touch with the Blind Foundation.

"The foundation sent a mentor and they [medical staff] would bring me out of the coma for two to three hours in the early afternoon and the mentor would sit with me, talk to me about the fact that I was going to be totally blind and how I could overcome it.

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The decision to have proceeds of book sales to be donated to the Blind Foundation was due to Hale using their services for a number of years.

"I wanted to stay on the farm but how was I going to find my way?" The mentor that visited Hale in the hospital had talked to her about having a guide dog and she put in an application in 1989. She received her first guide dog, Ted, in 1991.

It wasn't long until she was

back feeding the cattle, getting horses in and out and even moving sheep.

"On the farm Ted gave me a great thrill, enabling me to walk paddocks of the farm paddocks and know where I was."

The accident hasn't put Hale off horses and she has even ridden, including on the hunting field.

And to this day she still has an interest in thoroughbreds, she is still racing, her latest success being Go Nicholas which is related to the first mare she bred from.

Hale is a qualified teacher and she admits that connection has helped her recovery.

"Because I had been a teacher a lot of schools wanted me to talk about coping with blindness and that was the best thing that happened to me because talking about it helped."

*Judy Hale's book is available from Cambridge PaperPlus and <http://www.forget-me-notlifestories.co.nz/bright-sunlight-dark-shadow.html>*

# Recycling scheme for bottles

**Ellen O'Dwyer**

The Government has announced it will implement a beverage container return scheme, where consumers will get between 5 and 20 cents back when they recycle their drink bottles.

Associate Minister for Environment Eugenie Sage made the announcement at the WasteMINZ conference in Hamilton yesterday, saying work had begun to investigate and design the scheme.

Plastic, glass and aluminium drink containers will carry a refundable deposit. Consumers will get this back when they



**Eugenie Sage**

recycle containers at a drop-off point.

"Too many beverage containers end up in landfill, on the streets, in

rivers and in the ocean. Our recovery rates are only between 42 and 58 per cent," Sage said.

She said the scheme was designed to incentivise more recycling of these items.

"[Beverage containers] would again become something of value, and we would see increased opportunities recycling and new opportunities for refilling."

The cost of the deposit will be added on to the product initially, but would be returned if the consumer recycles it, she said.

Auckland Council and Marlborough District Council will carry out the project design with Government funding of nearly \$1 million (\$966,000) from the Waste Minimisation Fund.

The two councils will work with the Ministry for the Environment and others including the beverage, packaging and recycling industries, councils, retailers, charitable organisations, Māori and consumer representatives.

The design proposal will be presented to the Government by August 2020 and it is anticipated the scheme could be operational by 2022. Sage said the type of container collection would be decided in the design process.

# Trespassed flyer leases land

**Matamata**  
**Sharnae Hope**

A Matamata flying instructor has been trespassed from using a publicly-owned airstrip, despite claiming to lease land at the aerodrome since 1994.

Sky Venture's Peter Ryan, who runs the privately-owned flying school at Matamata (Waharoa) Aerodrome, owes Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) more than \$3600 in outstanding landing fees.

He was trespassed on August 29 for not paying the fees for almost two years, as well as incorrect radio calls and breaching Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) rules and regulations. However, documentation given to *Stuff*, shows Ryan paid a lease of \$345.60 from July 2019 to June 2020 for his site as well as three hangars.

"You can't trespass someone from their own property. Now I lease the land, I've got a lease for 10 years and that's all paid up and it's only the landing fees in dispute. All I ask for is the same deal

as everyone else, but there's all sorts of deals. The whole thing is a mess," Ryan said.

Ryan admits to not following all council's rulings, but says it was in protest of there not being an "honest pay balance on the airfield". "They starting charging me \$40 a landing fee while the other schools and clubs are getting away with nothing.

He also admitted to incorrectly calling in for some landings.

"That's what I did, so I didn't have to pay the landing fee, but I always called in a plane... just not



always my plane, so there was never any health and safety issues."

Ryan has been fighting for fair fees since August 2018, when an Ombudsman investigated aerodrome fees. He said members of

**Sky Venture's Peter Ryan was trespassed from Matamata Aerodrome on August 29.**

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his flying club were charged \$40 per landing. He understood members of the Matamata Aero Club were charged \$50 each, per year. But the owner of the aerodrome, Matamata-Piako District Council, said Sky Venture is a commercial operation, a business, whereas the aero club is a not-for-profit organisation.

Ryan has since been given a second trespass notice by MPDC, on September 3. If he receives a third he can be fined of up to \$1000 or imprisonment not exceeding three months.