



PROUDLY SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH
ALL NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

April 21, 2017

Birthday dreams come true with \$2.35m win

It was a 34th birthday celebration Kaori Tanaka and Ben Marshall will never forget. The couple were walking to dinner at Elizabeth Quay when both of their phones rang. On Ben's phone was his former boss.

"He said to me I just saw your names on the news, have you won a house and a million dollars? I said to him, have you been drinking?" said Ben.

Ben then turned to Kaori who had a look of shock and surprise on her face as she was being told they'd won a fully furnished, luxury Webb & Browne-Neaves home in Sorrento worth \$1.35 million and one million dollars' cash in MSWA's Mega Home Lottery.

"Kaori got off the phone and told me that we had won the first prize in the lottery. I had no idea she'd even bought a ticket, we've never bought a Lotto ticket before, so it was a real shock, I had to pinch myself."

"I didn't tell Ben about the ticket because I didn't think we'd win anything, so I didn't bother to mention it to him," said Kaori.

For the Success couple, the win has turned their lives around. Ben is a qualified geologist but lost his job when the oil price fell two and a half years ago. Since then he's been working as a labourer.

"We've been scratching around to make ends meet. I even defaulted on a mortgage payment so I could buy a birthday present for Kaori and take her out to dinner. Now we've got a whole new perspective on what we can do with our lives. I might even go back to uni, there are just so many options," Ben said.

After dinner, the couple drove to Sorrento to view the outside of their new home.

"I was so excited I couldn't sleep last night. I've been on the website and saw the pictures of it, I just can't wait to have a look inside," said Kaori.

The couple say they're looking forward to moving into the luxury home and already have some ideas about what they'll spend some of the million dollars on.

"We'd certainly like a European holiday, a puppy and a wedding. We actually got married one and a half years ago but couldn't afford to have a wedding, I don't care about the wedding ring I just want to have a proper wedding function and to be able to tell everyone we're married," Kaori added.

As well as the \$2.35 million Grand Prize, the MSWA Mega Home Lottery gave away more than 9,000 prizes with a total prize pool worth over \$5.5 million dollars, including an Early Bird Prize of a \$700,000 apg house and land package or \$600,000 cash, luxury cars, overseas holidays, adventure prizes and the latest electronics.



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“When I heard Ben and Kaori’s story I couldn’t think of a more deserving couple, it’s a prize that’s changed their lives forever and I wish them all the best for the future. I’d like to thank them and everyone else who bought a ticket in the MSWA Mega Home Lottery because the money raised helps to change the lives of people with multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions,” said MSWA CEO, Marcus Stafford.

“This year alone we’ve invested more than two million dollars into research to help to find the cause and cure for MS and other neurological conditions. We’re spending \$8 million to build a services and accommodation facility in Perth’s northern suburbs and recently opened a Bunbury facility that provides a range of services including nursing, physiotherapy and counselling. We’re also increasing the number of services we can provide to our Members, their families and carers. All this is made possible because of our incredible supporters’ generosity.”

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