

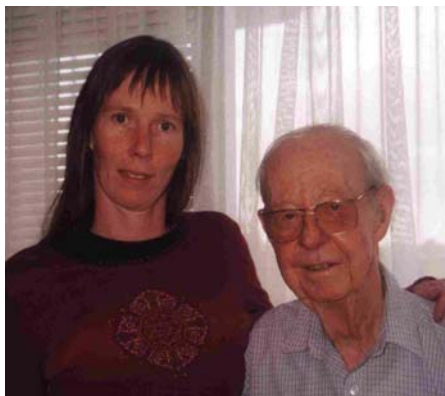
Our news starts with our new home.

The Kitchen was finally finished in time for us to move in permanently at Easter - just a week short of two years since we moved out of Galaxy Drive. The house except for the kitchen had been finished last year in time for Richard, Cherie and the grandchildren to live in over Christmas and the New Year, but we had to wait another three months to vacate the cottage. We have enjoyed the new facilities through the winter. The last piece of furniture to be located in the house was Jan's 100+ year old very heavy iron framed piano that had languished in the garage for some eight months



while many theories as to how it would be manoeuvred up one level to its planned location, were finally solved by old fashioned muscle power by three incredibly strong piano shifting specialists working under very difficult confined circumstances.

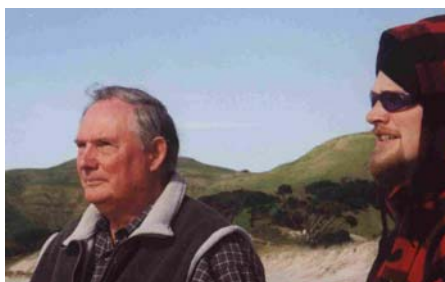
The outside deck and spa pool have just been completed and the interior requires only a door to be designed and installed, and we've finished the major inside items at last, leaving only the 'extras' such as enhancing the burglar alarm, closed circuit TV etc etc. Now we must turn our attention to the daunting task of shaping the grounds. A start was made in May during an unseasonably dry spell of weather when major terracing and grassing was achieved. We now need to give the cottage at least an exterior birthday to change the pitch of the roof and tiles, and cladding and colour scheme to match the house. When the builders and heavy traffic have finished, the sweeping driveway which is already formed and metalled, will be concreted. Then we can return to our preferred project of developing the 'park' on the other side of the bush.



Lyndell and her Grandfather (98)

Lyndell visited and personalised the front entrance with some magnificent lead light windows she and Jan designed (to complement the beaten copper entrance door Jan designed and Reg beat). She has now moved from Milford Sound in the South Island, to the heart of the tourist area at Lake Wanaka in the centre of the Southern Alps skiing area, thoroughly enjoying her role as a chef.

Jan's Dad turned 98 in December and still lives in a retirement village. He keeps remarkably well, not even succumbing to the 'flu this year. He gets frustrated with his poor hearing and mixed up thinking.



Paul visited for a weekend before attending a conference on Beekeeping in Auckland. This is still an interest of his, but is confined to hobby status on his West Coast 100 acre property while he continues practicing optometry in Christchurch. In a burst of energy, he got Reg started on setting up the basement storage area. Paul and Karen shouted us to a weekend on Great Barrier Island including flights. While there, we visited Reg's cousin Tony and his wife Mel at Port Fitzroy. Mel is a respected painter. We were looking for original artwork for the entranceway of the house and couldn't decide between her impressionist painting or one of her new abstract creations. We avoided choosing, and bought them both.

Richard and Cherie now live 7 degrees South of the equator at an isolated jungle airstrip in the lowlands of PNG called Kawito on the edge of a major river. The only 'road' is the river which is very wide and deep, facilitating occasional large barge traffic, and the quickest form of travel is Richard's 6 seater Missionary Aviation Fellowship aircraft (we've heard of Company cars. but this is ridiculous!). The family came home from Northern Territories to



spend Christmas with us. but due to PNG visa complications, were stuck in NZ until early April. Who were we, as doting grandparents to complain? When they did get away, it was to Mt Hagen for orientation before being posted to Kawito. Although it is isolated (apart from another MAF family, the nearest Europeans are an American Missionary family 20 minutes up river by boat), they are enjoying the peace and space of the location and the friendly people, if not the heat and humidity.

PNG In the last half of November. we visited Richard and Cherie and Larissa (5) and Marcus(3). In Port Moresby we were conscious of the security issues (hotel gates would stop a tank), but in the village, we found the locals would respond to a smile, a wave and a spoken greeting. Richard's major frustration is the lack of reliable communications. They are dependant on a High Frequency (Short Wave) radio link which is unreliable. Reg took an hour to receive an email which would take one second at his home, but his culture shock in Kawito was not having newspapers, email, interneting or TV, although he did manage to keep reasonably current with main NZ and world news via his portable Short Wave receiver. It is rumoured he actually read a couple of books - ones without pictures!.



All hands to the Pump



Larissa



Sunday afternoon kite watching – Kawito style

to successfully stand up while visiting to check the fishing nets of one of the local village elders. The family will move to Goroka in April next year when Richard commences his First Officer training on multi-engine multi-crew twin engine Otter aircraft. After a year of that, he will then achieve his Captains rating. He has already done the ground theory courses and training up to a Boeing 767 aircraft.

Jan enjoys her weekly walking group, bible study meetings and embroidery group, discovering new and wonderful friends in the area.

Reg has had an accident-prone year, rolling the ride-on mower down a bank, fortunately breaking the plastic engine cover, and not himself, although when he took a backwards tumble down some outside stairs, arms waving in a pathetic attempt to fly, the handrail he fell on broke his fall as well as some ribs.

40 years on! On December 8th, two days after Jan's father turned 98, we celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary with an 'At Home' on a Sunday afternoon for 40 people. The weather treated us kindly, and the place looked a picture. The big surprise was the unexpected arrival of Paul and Lyndell from the South Island. We were overwhelmed. From the feedback, everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time.

Please accept this newsletter as our personal Christmas greetings to you. As usual, we pray God's blessings for you and all your families as we remember the **'reason for the season'**.

With Love from

Jan and Reg

Jan thought it was ideal, but she found out the hard way that the heat and humidity were complicated by being bitten by mosquitoes through the mosquito net at night if any part of you was touching the net. She has had a lot of discomfort. Obviously no self respecting mosquito considered Reg worth the effort. We found sleeping under a mosquito net which reduced what little airflow there was, and perspiring continuously for 24 hours a day for 16 days, very wearying, especially at night when the ceiling fan stopped turning when the generator turned off. The kids loved Jan, and she and Larissa spent a lot of time together, as did Reg and Marcus. In contrast to Reg's ignominious back flip out of a dugout canoe while trying to stand up, while Jan managed



Cherie and Marcus

