

DELTA DIARIES

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been a while since we've written, but life motors on.

We had a most enjoyable holiday in NZ. We had lots of fun doing the Central Otago bike trail, though I have to admit, we cheated and did the spectacular parts twice and left out the mundane stretches.

Another fun time was camping out on the island at our old farm at Balclutha—six of us in a four-man tent!! We stayed up late singing around the bonfire and telling funny stories, and then tried to get some sleep in a sardinish sort of way. Jadon was very 'valiant' and opted to sleep in the awning, but was eaten alive by mosquitoes and sand flies—ouch!!

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In Auckland we became Lavara's chauffeur (occupational therapist, assessing clients for ACC). Her work car, the latest Hyundai complete with fridge and all the latest mod-cons proved, however, a little too smart for us.

Some hours out of Auckland in a little town, Lavara gave me the key and told me to 'do the town', and when I'd finished (I said it was a small town) I could wait in the car. I set off, met up with some interesting locals, and as you do, got chatting. I was in a hurry as Lavara had assured me she'd be at least an hour with her client...

...In the meantime, Lavara, collecting stuff from the car, accidentally let the door swing shut. To her chagrin, she discovers she is locked in tight with windows all up, and no way to get out! And all on an ultra-hot day...

Newsflash...Newsflash

!!we of the swamp now have a website!!

www.kapuna.org

Please check it out...it's in its infancy

And **YOU** can help it:

**Anecdotes...Photos...Corrections...
...Anything Kapuna...Anything PNG...
...Anything to extend God's Kingdom...**

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Kapuna Hospital

Kapuna Hospital is hidden deep in the jungle swamps of Papua New Guinea. Clinging tenaciously to the banks of the crocodile-infested Wame River, a tributary of the mighty Purani River, it is the only hospital within paddling distance for 30,000 PNG locals.

Think Kapuna, and you at once think Doctor Lin Calvert, who for the last 53 years has been resident 'surgeon/gynaecologist/obstetrician/anaesthetist/paediatrician' and a number of other hard-to-spell and even-harder-to-do medical things...but if you're the only doctor in the house, you have to do, 'cos they're dead-if-you-don't...

This website is for those who have been to Kapuna, for those who are thinking of going to Kapuna (for whatever reason), for those who support the work at Kapuna, and for those who happen along and have a few moments to view a very different place with a very different lifestyle. In fact, the only people this website is not for? Those living at Kapuna: the Internet, in spinning its worldwide web, has to-date managed to avoid ensnaring Kapuna.

To early viewers of this site, thank you, but as you see, you are a trifle too early. In the hale tradition of Calvert thrift, we have not yielded to the temptation to 'pay a professional' to set this website up (though if any professional out there would like to offer her/his spare time talents...). This is a real learn-on-the-job mission, so please bear with us as we grow in knowledge and understanding.



...She knows there must be an emergency exit, but how? Where?

She tries every knob and button, visible and invisible...and all the time it's getting hotter, and her appointment is ticking later.

When all else fails, what does any sensible married woman do? Yes, call the hubby on the mobile. He tells her there is an escape 'through the boot'. So Lavara, looking her usual professional well-groomed self, undertakes the elusive Houdini escape trick—front to back, back to boot, and boot to pavement...much to the amusement of the passersby!

Yes, it was a very sad day when we left New Zealand (leaving Lavara, Janai, Jadon, and for the first time, Shiana).

But we **old codgers** are slowly adapting, and we have **Stephanie** to keep us on our toes. She helps Colin with the Projects work, tutors the CHW trainees, and generally keeps everyone singing.

Lavara recently spent a long weekend in Queensland, and once home, developed flu symptoms...Swine Flu??? Praise the Lord, not nice, but only the normal flu.

Janai is teaching her 5 and 6-year olds at Sunnyvale School in Henderson. She is seeing the importance of living the spirit-led life. As a first year teacher, the work level is high, so she often goes into school in the weekends to catch up. She had planned to spend a recent Saturday afternoon at school, but decided to have a short snooze first. To her surprise, she woke up to a setting sun and was chiding herself for over-sleeping when the school Deputy Principal rang to say the school had been attacked by hoons (we'd call them raskols)—windows broken, equipment stolen, etc. Praise God for the safety of sleep!!!

Jadon is doing 2nd year Industrial Design at Massey Uni (in Wellington). He is living in an Urban Vision flat and is involved in the ministry to their inner-city community. Jade attends the Arise Church.

Shiana has settled down well at Kingsway School, and has already made some good friends. She came third (out of 100) for her science board and won \$20! Her biggest problem in NZ is there are so many good books to read, yet so much homework to occupy her time (sad face).

In our last newsletter, **Grandma Calvert** was looking forward to semi-retirement as she prepared to hand over the medical reins to a young PNG doctor. Sad news: the local doctor never made it.

So when Valerie is away (which is quite often), Grandma is still on the job. When Val is here, Grandma can usually be found with her wheelbarrow and spade tackling a patch of weeds or a blocked drain.

God's timing is perfect. I don't know how we would have survived if Valerie hadn't arrived on the scene. To add to the burden, the long-serving Principal of the Nursing School and her deputy both jumped ship this year. So Valerie is keeping one eye on the training school and the other on the hospital...when she isn't attending important meetings or supervising health centres.

We are always thankful for those who pray for us as a family and for God's work here. At present we are praying about setting up a local Christian Primary School.

We would appreciate your prayers to hear if this is God's idea or just a good idea for a big need.

For many years we have been running a 'tutoring service' for our staff children using the NZ Correspondence School material that our children were using.

We feel it might be time to expand this to the community so that parents who want a better education for their children have an avenue to do so.

The idea would be to grow it slowly, start with one class of J1s, and move on from there, class-by-class.

We have a large piece of suitable land and the possibility of some budding young teachers in the pipeline. It would take a miracle to get the school registered and funded, but if it's God's idea then nothing is too big/hard for HIM.



Rev Mane and his new 15hp outboard motor kindly gifted by Andrew Dunn and friends

This year I've been challenged again by the great commission: GO MAKE DISCIPLES, baptise them, teach them.

We have 24 new CHW students who we took out on a retreat. When they returned, seven went through the waters of baptism and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They are a great bunch of students and keen to be discipled.

In February, another group of 14 village men attended the three-month discipleship school.

A couple of them had been drug bodies who had given up on life and spent their time making trouble. At Christmas time, they were challenged by an open air preacher, and decided to come to Kapuna for the discipleship course.

They gave their lives to God and discovered they're evangelists and are presently doing their own outreaching to some of the toughest villages in the district.

And we now have seven boys pioneering the Advanced Discipleship program.

These boys have previously done the short course, spent time putting it into practice in the village, and were handpicked to receive training in both bible knowledge and carpentry. For two months these young guys have had intensive hands-on carpentry training and are about to assist in building a new staff house.

Bless you all heaps
Barb & Colin & tribe

Thank you to those who have donated to our work this year...bless you

Kiwibank Account: OKS Kapuna
Account number: 38-9006-0327945-00

Please use this account for any donations, or post cheques to: Calvert, 27 Valley Road, Waimauku RD1, Auckland 0881 (Please make cheques out to OKS Kapuna)
....And yes, we still have a supporter who will match any donations...dollar-for-dollar...for all of 2009