

*(The beginning of this letter is missing. If you have a copy, please contact us. If you have a copy of a photograph sent with it, please contact us.)*

More recently, Clare Harvey, a university friend of Viv's, came to visit us. She stayed for almost a month, and as well as all the above visited Tanna with Ian. Tanna is an island to the south of us which is famous for its active volcano Yasur. The following week we all travelled to Santo, an island north of Port Vila. On Santo, we visited Vanafo, a village of local political significance, Champagne Beach, a famous beauty spot, the natural fresh water Blue Hole and the so-called Million Dollar Point, where the U.S. Army dumped huge amounts of war surplus into the sea at the end of World War II.

Ian's work continues much as before. The government changed to a new main computer at the start of the year, and this meant that he was involved in lots of work changing from the old to the new. All that is complete now, so he is involved in day-to-day running of the system and the writing of some new programs.

Every Monday, Ian still goes out running with Port Vila Hash House Harriers, a group dedicated to running first and drinking afterwards. He has now been there over fifty times, which means that he has been awarded a pewter tankard for his pains. He has just come to the end of a year taking turns in producing their weekly newsletter, and by way of thanks has been reappointed to the same task for the next year, for which he is not entirely grateful. During our first year in Port Vila, Ian lost a stone in weight, probably assisted by hashing, but unfortunately he put it all back when we were on leave. However, the weight is coming off again this year.

Just before the end of July, Viv suffered a road accident on one of the gravel roads outside town, and skidded off the road hitting a tree. She was in hospital for two days, suffering severe bruising and requiring stitches to her forehead and right knee. Remarkably, nothing was broken and both children were completely unscathed. Viv will have some marks on her for life, but has otherwise recovered completely. The red Toyota Starlet, our newly purchased second car, however, was a complete write-off, so we are back to one car again.

On Sundays, we still go to the Family Worship Centre. Our pastor Frank is shortly to leave us for a year. Viv is still involved in helping with the music and is also on the church committee. Ian, on the other hand, has just agreed to start producing the church newsletter.

It's been a very interesting couple of months here politically. By the time this reaches you it may have made it to the small print in your newspapers, but it goes like this: Some members of the party which has been ruling Vanuatu since independence in 1980 called a special congress at which they elected a new president of the party, Donald Kalpokas, replacing the Prime Minister. Walter Lini. Lini did not resign as P.M. but instead questioned the legality of the Mele conference in the courts, and after a sequence of events a special session of Parliament was called, firstly to elect a new speaker and then to call a vote of no confidence in the P.M. The P.M.'s response to this was to question the legality of the Parliamentary session.

On Tuesday 3rd September, the special session was called to order, but as Lini's group had boycotted the session, it was inquorate. On Friday 6th September, the quorum was reduced to a level where Lini could not stop it, so all the members were present. A lively vote of no confidence motion was read out, debated and carried by a show of hands by 24 votes to 21. It was then necessary to elect a new P.M. and not surprisingly the two candidates were Kalpokas and Lini. In a secret ballot, Kalpokas scored 25, against Lini's 20.

So Vanuatu has a new P.M. but what the future holds obviously remains to be seen. A general election will take place here on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, but nobody really has any idea who is likely to win.

Please feel free to write with all your news - all letters are very welcome indeed, as are visitors. Anyway, I must go now, for a cup of coffee awaits (how's that for a circular).

all our love,

Ian, Viv, David, Matthew