

## World-wide Weekly

I am sitting at my desk watching tractor loads of coffee coming into the factory for pulping and drying on long trays in the sun. I have a lovely view of Mount Kilimanjaro, reminding me that we have ice and snow not far away.

Our two sons and their lovely wives are trying their luck in Mareeba, Queensland, on a new project, growing coffee for Australia. So far they have built their own homes, put up a windmill, grown thousands of seedlings of coffee and put them in plastic sleeves for planting when the land is prepared and ready.

Linda, the wife of our younger son, has just had her first baby, so we do have a foot in Australia! The link that keeps us together is The Australian Women's Weekly.

I just hope my children will think of giving me the same fabulous gift for Christmas so that we may feel even closer in 1981.

Mrs A. E. Jacques, Arusha, Tanzania.

57

## People FROM PAGE 9

### A pioneering family gets a coffee break

"We lived with a barbed-wire fence around the house, surrounded by guard dogs and with a loaded shotgun under the bed," said Linda Jaques.

"Coming to Australia was like a breath of fresh air. Now we can grow our coffee without worrying about anything but the weather."

Linda and her husband Anthony are coffee growers from Tanzania, in East Africa. They are pioneers who lived in a tin shed and caravan while clearing virgin bush and building themselves a house near Mareeba, in the north of Queensland.

"We left Africa because whites are not wanted any more," said Linda.

They travelled around Australia in a caravan, working at different jobs, until they found a spot that



Anthony and Linda Jaques, with baby Jason, survey newly-planted fields of coffee trees.

looked good for coffee growing.

They got a lease from the Government with an option to buy 64ha of land near the big Tinaroo Dam. The main condition was that they spend \$200,000 on improvements.

The elevation near Mareeba, about 500m, agrees with coffee, and the hot climate, it is hoped, will tickle the beans along.

They built a pleasant, low-slung bungalow of

concrete bricks, hoping to get the roof on before the tropical rainy season set in.

A big achievement was burying 104km of plastic piping underground so that each tree has its own water supply controlled by a clock. Anthony's brother Richard and his wife Mariolyn, came to join the plantation as partners.

Getting coffee to plant was a problem — only disease-free coffee from New Guinea was allowed into

Australia, and this had to be fumigated on arrival.

Now their 104,000 coffee trees march across about 40ha and in another three years or so should be loaded with beans which are destined for the coffee pots of Australia. Next the Jaqueses will have to get a \$60,000 harvester to bring in their crop.

"We are all looking forward to the first cup of our own coffee," said Linda.

— KEITH FINLAY