

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

# TOP END TALES

THE PETT FAMILY SERVING WITH **MAF** IN AUSTRALIA'S ARNHEMLAND



## *Who are we?*

*David, Jen, Graham and Jonathan have been living on Elcho Island since 2006. The island is just off-shore from Australia's Top End and is home to around 2,500 Aboriginal people, known here as the Yolngu.*

*We prepared for service with Mission Aviation Fellowship first in the UK and then at Bible College in Melbourne. David is pilot/base manager and Jen homeschools the boys and provides hospitality to visiting staff.*

*135 MAF aircraft fly in 35 countries to serve isolated communities in Christ's name and share His love.*



Hello again from Arnhem Land as we move from the relative cool of the dry season into the 'build up' when the humidity and heat starts to rise again. The skies are enveloped in smoke from the annual traditional burning of the new undergrowth, creating some interesting challenges for our flying operations, especially when the bush fires are approaching the airstrips!

Fire is also burning through Arnhem Land in another way. The spiritual awakening that started last year is continuing in most communities. At present, regular meetings are taking place in Lake Evella (Gapuwiyak) where young and old alike are giving their lives to Jesus and finding new hope. It is encouraging for the faithful believers to see a new generation touched in this way, but there is also a need for good discipling and teaching.

## *Building up the team*

David joined the training team late last year and has enjoyed the privilege of inducting several new MAF pilots to the region. All training pilots attend standardisation courses at Mareeba, home of MAF's engineering base. Pictured right is David (2nd from left) and course members in front of a new Turbo GA8 for Papua New Guinea.



### Contact details:

PMB 285  
Winnellie  
NT 0822  
Australia  
[home@pett-family.info](mailto:home@pett-family.info)

### Support and newsletter enquiries:

**MAF UK**  
Castle Hill Avenue  
Folkestone  
CT20 2TN  
Tel 0845 8509505



It is with sadness that we say farewell to Lisa, our homeschool support teacher for the last three years. She leaves Arnhem Land in September and will help support the new MAF family in East Timor before settling back home in Victoria. Lisa has been a great friend to the homeschooling

mums and will be greatly missed. Lisa's mum, Barb, and friend, Rose, toured the MAF bases in August as part of the [CWCI](#) safari which aims to encourage women in remote areas. About twenty local ladies heard Barb speak in our back garden and watched the movie '[Magdalena](#)' afterwards.

## Prayer Points

Discernment for local believers to separate truthful teaching from distortions and lies.

Our furlough plans for December and January will fit well with family, friends and churches.

Wisdom and faith for our management to plan for the future role of MAF in Arnhem Land.

Timely approval of our land lease application and long-term rental agreements for houses.

## Learning Technologies

This is a new initiative for MAF in the Asia Pacific region to assist local churches and missions to teach leaders and members utilising relevant technology. Using local contributors, a DVD entitled *Manymak Dhäwru* (Good News) in the Gumatj dialect has just been completed and MAF bases are helping to distribute this illustrated guide to the Old and New Testament themes. LT have created a new website for MAF Arnhem Land and it has some useful information and links:



[www.maf-arnhemland.org](http://www.maf-arnhemland.org)

## Accommodation Answers

We heard in May that MAF could continue to occupy one of its Elcho rented houses until early 2012, however the bedsit still had to be vacated in June. God provided an alternative just in time so Matt now enjoys a larger flat available for the next year. We are still hoping to build two new houses but the land lease process is taking time to progress through the legal and traditional steps. MAF also wants to place an extra pilot at Elcho soon to reduce fatigue on the existing team and help Ben in the busy office.