

D E C 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.



Tropical storms to snowflakes!

We've made it back to the UK just in time for the snow, and to wish you Christ's peace and blessing for Christmas and 2012!

Thank you for your encouragement, generosity and faithful support through another year of service in Arnhem Land. The year finished really well with Graham and Jonathan completing a record number of school modules in their last month.

We were also able to complete a number of long-awaited jobs around the house including painting our guest room, laying a concrete pathway and installing a rain-cover to give sheltered access to our laundry area under the house. Special thanks go to Craig for help with the concreting, and to MAF's Charley and Eric who twice flew over from Gove to replace some rusted roofing sheets and improve our plumbing system.

2011 has been a challenging year and we are certainly ready for a break. We still find our roles very fulfilling and please be encouraged that your intercessions and prayers do help us to get through the more demanding moments.

Unfortunately, our time in the UK is limited by the Australian 'summer' school holidays so we shall be leaving via Melbourne on 22 January. We are staying with Jen's family until Christmas and then we shall head north to David's family for New Year, before moving on to Suffolk for a week from 12 January.

✳ May God bless you this Christmas time and always. ✳

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In October, MAF supported the commissioning of Kevin Buwathay Dhurrkay (centre left) as community pastor for Dhalinbuy Homeland. MAF offered subsidised charters for Galiwin'ku people to attend the celebrations, and David took a GA8 (left) and seven passengers for the day of

the actual ceremony. It was a colourful event, dominated by the green of the Dhurrkay clan set against the Uniting Church's robes and the traditional ceremonial wear of the elders and dancers. Parts of the New Testament are being translated into Wangurri, the clan's dialect.

Prayer Points

Phillipians 4:6-7

For true rest, refreshment and renewal for our next term of service.

For inspired and visionary leadership for those who represent the Yolngu's interests.

For progress in securing land to build MAF's own staff housing on Elcho.

For creative ways to overcome the lack of new staff and aircraft available to us in 2012.

Supporting development with a difference

The MAF team has been assisting the [AHED](#) staff build their new residential facilities at Ngayawili, just outside Galiwin'ku. The Arnhem Land Human Enterprise Development (AHED) project aims to encourage and facilitate Yolngu people to bring their ideas and dreams to fruition.



found at the local dump but some trees were sawn and milled to provide hardwood beams. Our team have contributed labour for the footings and welding skills in their spare time.

Tim and Kama, along with Ben, Jesse and Noah (2), are establishing a temporary home in safari tents with a covered communal area between. Wishing to set an example, most of the major building materials were

