

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 2

TOP END TALES

THE PETT FAMILY SERVING WITH **MAF** IN AUSTRALIA'S ARNHEM LAND



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.

David is a pilot, whilst Jen runs homeschool for the boys, provides hospitality to visitors, and hosts a Bible study for Yolngu ladies.

MAF aircraft fly in over 30 countries to serve isolated communities in Christ's name and share His love.

Short and sweet

Our home assignment seemed to pass so quickly yet it was still so good to see our family and friends again, both in the UK and around Melbourne. Thank you for your faithful and sacrificial support for us and the work of MAF in these isolated places.

A year in review

David has reached the milestone of 3,000 total flying hours and over 2,000 hours in the [GA8 Airvan](#). He has recently completed the final part of his 'Instructor Pilot' training and can now perform flying skill checks on other MAF pilots.

Jen has continued to meet each week with a faithful group of ladies who study the Bible using materials provided by the CWCI's [Know Your Bible](#) program. They have now completed the Gospels of Matthew and Mark verse-by-verse in English and Yolngu Matha, and have moved on to the story of Esther. With the boys' help, Jen is supplying Bibles, Christian books, DVDs and CDs to the community at the weekly market.

The boys have continued with their homeschool program, which is always a challenge in this environment, with its random power outages, unexpected visitors, disturbed sleep and energy-sapping climate. They have chosen subject options for their Year 12 certificate and are considering their future career choices and how we might help to achieve them.



Contact details:

PMB 285
Winnellie, NT 0822
Australia
Tel +61 8 8970 5052
home@pett-family.info

Support and newsletter enquiries:

[MAF UK](#)
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone
CT20 2TN
Tel 0845 8509505



It has taken many years to actually happen, but the long-awaited new development has been opened to provide around 70 new homes in Galiwin'ku. This is in addition to another 20 new homes within the original community and a major renovation program of existing houses.

The new 'estate' has been named Buthan (meaning gecko) and was officially opened in June. This has reduced the overcrowding in Galiwin'ku with all its health and social problems associated with high occupancy - up to 30 people in a two-bedroom house!

Prayer Points

Phillipians 4:6-7

For continued Christian growth of the local believers through Bible study and teaching.

For creative ways to use our MAF resources to their greatest effect to extend the Kingdom.

For boldness and protection on the MAF outreach teams flying out to share the Christmas story in the Homelands.

For MAF's staff and operating costs to be fully funded in spite of global economic uncertainty.

To those that wait ...

Waiting is something that we probably all struggle to do with any grace, or to see a delay as a positive opportunity for God to provide a better outcome. However, we have been amazed at how our housing situation on Elcho is resolving as we have waited and prayed for a solution. In June, we were awarded official leases to the two original plots allocated to MAF which immediately provided accommodation for another family.

New arrivals and new roles

We welcomed [Arjan and Aartje Paas](#) (from the Netherlands) in August which finally returned the team to full strength. This has enabled David to pass the Elcho Base Manager role to Arjan, and to take on the role of Operations Manager. David now co-ordinates the six MAF bases and maintenance of 14 aircraft, whilst still flying about two days each week at Elcho.

MAF International

On the front page you may have noticed a [new logo](#) for MAF which was launched in August. It reflects the growing integration of the various MAF operations. MAF UK has featured videos and [stories](#) from [Arnhem Land](#) in recent publicity as part of this wider international focus. We have had a number of MAF International staff visit us during the year.



Clockwise from top left:
At the Elcho Bible Translation
Centre for lunch and a chat

Mould on our ceilings

On holiday in Victoria

Baptisms on Elcho Island in
the Arafura Sea



Speaking at churches about
MAF and Arnhem Land

Galiwin'ku Church service

Reading materials for the
aircraft seat pockets

Galiwin'ku solar eclipse
(14 November)





To all our family, friends
and partners in mission:

We pray for joy and peace to be yours
this Christmas; that you receive
by faith God's gift of Christ Jesus.

With our love and gratitude,

David, Jen, Graham and Jonathan