

M A Y 2 0 1 3

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 now Operations Manager, 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.

Thank you

Thank you for your continued interest and support for us as a family - we really value your partnership with us as we serve in this challenging, needy and isolated place.

Christmas passed and we have experienced the hottest, driest period for many years with very little rainfall, so we wondered "where is the wet season?". It finally arrived in late March and lasted a only a week, but it still caused lots of disruption!

Highs and tropical lows

The church here on Elcho has had many 'highs' over the years, including a revival in 1979 which transformed the community from the inside out. Each year the church remembers this spiritual awakening in March with a Thanksgiving weekend. Over recent months a new local gospel band has been leading worship and evenings events around the community, and there has been a swelling of the Sunday congregation with younger people and more men. It is exciting to be part of this renewal.

A tropical low formed in the Gulf bringing wild winds. The church roof was holed by a falling tree, several houses were damaged, and an empty minibus was crushed. The low became tropical cyclone Oswald, which then continued down the eastern side of Australia bringing major flooding to Queensland and New South Wales. So that is where our rain went...



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The Elcho Staff

We are fully staffed again at Elcho Island with four pilots Arjan, Matt, Des and David (flying part-time). We welcomed the Vautier family (left) in January, recently arrived from New Zealand. Des and Emily spent three months in Yirrkala receiving technical and local orientation.

Arjan has now taken over from David as Elcho Base Manager, allowing David to concentrate on his Operations role and pilot training & checking duties. Matt (centre) will be leaving Elcho soon to become part of the Gove-based MAF team after four years with us. We wish him well.

Prayer Points

Philippians 4:6-7

Protection and stamina for those MAF staff who work outside in the heat.

Elcho Sunday School providing activities and teaching about Jesus.

Effective outreach and teaching to the youth of Galiwin'ku to offer real hope for the future.

The new Galiwin'ku mens' fellowship group meeting weekly on Wednesday evening.

For more mission staff, especially engineers, to join the MAF programs in the coming year.

Sunday School restarts



It is exciting to see the Sunday School activities restart this year. Ngandama, a very faithful lady, who has run Sunday School for years and years asked some of the younger ladies from the weekly Bible Study to take up the leadership. With support from Graham and Jen they are leading a group of 20-50 children each week.

Jonathan provides valuable technical support from home for the Sunday School, and all the family are still involved with the weekly market stall which provides resources for local Christians and funds towards specific needs such as an LCD projector for Wangarr (discipler) and a 4WD vehicle for Margaret (Co-ordinate program).