

D E C E M B E R 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 a Pilot and Base 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.*



## *Partners together*

We have now been working on Elcho Island for over seven years and we recognise that this has only been possible because of your faithful prayers and financial giving. We are privileged to serve in this unique place and thank you for your continuing partnership with us. We wish you every blessing and peace for Christmas and the coming new year.



## *40 years young*

In November 1973, a young couple woke up on a Monday morning to become the first MAF staff in Arnhem Land as the Methodist Overseas Mission transferred its Elcho-based operation, aircraft and commercial pilot to MAF. We

welcomed Ken and Jenny Stockton back to Elcho Island 40 years later to join in a service of celebration and thanksgiving at Galiwin'ku church. The Yolngu shared their stories of the early days of MAF and what MAF has meant to them over the years. In remembering the past, it has reignited interest in visiting the isolated homelands to share fellowship and encourage faith in these tiny bush settlements.

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## *Team changes*

It has been another year of change on Elcho, with a completely new team established in the closing weeks of the year. We welcomed two families: Jason and Kim Job with Sam (3), who were previously at MAF's Numbulwar base and also Ian, Adele, Jimmy (3) and Ned (1) who have just arrived having joined the MAF staff team after a year at Milingimbi as a relief pilot in 2011-12. David passes on his Operations role in January to concentrate on the Elcho Base Manager/Pilot role again.

We look forward to combining our varied skills and abilities to serve the community at Galiwin'ku and bring the hope of the good news of Jesus to those around us. We are planning to take out small teams from the local Church over the Christmas period to several local homelands to encourage the believers.



### *Praying for our Week*

#### **Sunday**

Sunday school will lead the children to know Jesus' love

#### **Monday**

Homeschool plans and learning goals will be achieved

#### **Tuesday**

Ladies' Bible study will reveal the heart of God

#### **Wednesday**

Family and team relationships will be healthy and strong

#### **Thursday**

Pilots and engineers will work safely and diligently.

#### **Friday**

Christian books, CDs and DVDs will inspire believers

#### **Saturday**

Believers will be encouraged when they meet together

## *A new roof over our heads*

Following the June staff conference a volunteer team from New Zealand came out to Elcho to replace the aging steel roofs on MAF's two houses.



We were all involved in the project either providing food and accommodation or helping with the work itself. Both houses had heat-reducing insulation installed, and seem

to be much quieter when the heavy rain pounds the steel sheeting. We are truly grateful for the work team who gave of their time and funded their own travel, so that we could be dry!

## *Family update*

Jonathan successfully took his driving test on Elcho in August and is now busy being taxi driver for us all. (Elcho has recently had some roads sealed with bitumen and there are even some line markings at junctions.)

Graham and Jonathan are both about one term away from completing their final year of school and have had a successful and productive year. Their future plans are still being developed but there are some opportunities on the Island in the short-term. They have extended their mowing work and now have a regular client base. Over this holiday period they have nine empty properties to maintain for the school.