



Dear Friends

This is the first anniversary edition of our time in Arnhem Land. It is also a celebration edition because David achieved the milestone 1000 total flying hours during June. It seems incredible to us that a whole year has passed and that we are now seeing the seasonal cycle repeat again. With the arrival of the cooler weather, we have a bit more energy, which is good timing since we recently took on a neighbour's dog, Potato, who loves his walks on the beach and around the community. We have Jen's cousin, Nell, arriving soon for a fortnight, and we have had a steady stream of MAF guests and staff staying with us since we returned from Victoria. We are grateful that our house has enough bedrooms to have a guest room!



The view above is the main street in Galiwin'ku and one of the few sealed roads in the community. Galiwin'ku was originally a military airstrip base, which then developed through the mission work of Rev. Harold Shepherson after his arrival in 1942. It became an established community with many facilities and amenities operated by the Yolngu themselves. In the 1970s, the Australian government took over the mission stations and brought in many changes, some helpful and others less so. Galiwin'ku has become the administrative hub for the surrounding homeland communities on Elcho Island and on the adjacent mainland.

Today most professional, technical and skilled work is carried out by non-Aboriginals, "Balanda" (literally Hollander). There is no industry apart from artwork sales, and the community is totally dependent on government welfare programmes and funding. Some Yolngu continue to be involved in community leadership, health, education and skilled trades, but most are unemployed. Our baggage handler tells us that, in spite of family pressure to not work, God has placed the desire to work in his heart. It is, perhaps, only the direct impact of the Gospel and transformation of many lives during the spiritual revival in 1979, that allows Galiwin'ku to be so different from other communities where crime and violence are more common.



As we write, there is much concern and confusion surrounding the Australian government's intervention in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities, which you may have heard reported. Many communities are dysfunctional and there are some that have particular problems with crime and abuse. The government is now acting to "secure" communities using the military and police, and then assess the community, particularly children's health. A number of welfare reforms are also being introduced in tandem with the reorganisation of the regional councils and removal of visitor permits. Such widespread and simultaneous change has brought much fear and further distress to these vulnerable people. Please pray for those advocating the needs of the Yolngu people and challenging these changes. Also pray that government attitudes will soften.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

As some of you are aware, only two days after our return from our leave, David had a partial engine failure en-route to Darwin. Thankfully, the engine did restart and he was able to make a normal landing at Maningrida. In the following weeks he had several other minor incidents which have reinforced the need for continual care and prayerful dependence on God for safe flying. Overall in this first year, he flew over 600 hours using 40,000 litres of fuel, made 1173 landings, carried a total of 3270 passengers and moved approx. 30,000kg of freight.



News in brief...we are pleased to report that Jonathan has now caught his first fish on an outing in May - an amazing 30kg, 1.2m dew fish, pictured below. However, the only baramundi we have tasted so far was in Melbourne!

Following MAF team visits to Manmoyi and Mäpuru homelands earlier in the year, we are hoping to join other local Christians in setting up visits to several remote homelands for fellowship and encouragement, subsidised by MAF's mission fund.

The Djamburpuynu Bible translation team are now making good progress proof-reading the New Testament and have largely overcome their technical difficulties. Cultural and family commitments have held some team members in Darwin but they are hopeful of moving on to the next stage soon. As a result of the extra workload on the translation team our language course has been postponed but we are hopeful that we shall attend the course before the end of this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement which we value so much, and we wish you God's blessing.

With our love, David, Jen, Graham and Jonathan



Mata Mata homeland



The big one!



Shopping by barge

Praise Points

- Full approval for homeschooling from the Northern Territory government.
- A relaxing and encouraging time in Victoria.
- Continuing support and interest from our partner churches and groups.
- Restoration of the water supply at Dharrwarr homeland.

Prayer Points

- Repentance, humility and reconciliation in Australia towards the Aboriginal people.
- Graham, as he completes Northern Territory pupil assessments in August.
- Our visa nomination, submitted by MAF in March, which is still being processed in Darwin.
- Strength and wisdom for our base manager, Jonathan, as he copes with long-term office staff absence and plans for the future needs of the Elcho operation.
- Ben (pilot) and Jazlie as they leave Elcho soon to prepare for their marriage in November.

David, Jen, Graham and Jonathan Pett serving with **Mission Aviation Fellowship**

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