

M A R C H 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, also known 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.

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



Flying for Life

A big thank you

Thank you to everyone who sent wishes of comfort and support to our family as we mourned the passing of David's father in January. We were able to return for his funeral in the UK and are grateful for some generous gifts towards our travel costs.

WELCOME TO 2011

The new year started with sadness as we learned of David's dad, Ron, in hospital with swine 'flu and then his death a few days later. The funeral was an uplifting event and gave a chance to see many people from the wider family and meet Dad's many friends. Mum has coped well so far and we will be returning to be with her and the family when we take our next furlough in December 2011.

When we left Australia in early January several states were battling flooding, and we returned in February to be greeted by cyclone Yasi approaching Queensland. David's training course near Cairns was postponed for a few days until the cyclone had passed. Thankfully, the cyclone veered south at the last moment, sparing Cairns and MAF's office and maintenance facilities, but sadly devastating several small sea-front communities.

In March, David taxied his aircraft into soft ground at a remote airstrip. In trying to push it clear of the runway with the help of some local men, he tore his calf-muscle and is now at home recuperating after a night in Gove District Hospital.

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Community Pastor commissioned

In October, Timothy Buthimang Dhurrkay was commissioned as the Community Pastor for Galiwinku Church. It was a moving event on the theme of 'servant leadership'. Buthimang is a greatly respected member of the community and was involved in the market garden enterprise in the mission days. He has recently started making juice from sugar cane, and he continues to encourage others to grow their own food in the community.

PRAYER POINTS

Our family as we grieve
the sudden loss of
David's father in January

Saber units will be
effective tools and prove
to be reliable in this
environment

Elcho's annual revival
thanksgiving celebrations
will bring unity and joy

Approval for MAF to
restart scheduled flights
to main communities will
be granted soon.

New arrivals

Ben and Jazlie Grygoruk, both pilots and originally from New South Wales, moved from Yirrkala to Elcho Island in October to bring our MAF team up to strength. The year has not started well for them either as they are currently in NSW after the death of Jazlie's Mum last month from cancer.

Saber mp3 players

Saber units have now been delivered by MAF pilots to eight local homelands. The contents include worship songs and scripture readings in several local dialects and some in English. These units have been donated by individuals and the Bible Society specifically for remote homelands.



Family news

Jen has re-established the weekly Ladies' 'Know Your Bible' course and they meet under the house during the wet season. Graham and Jonathan are now both enrolled with the Jubilee distance education programme and are working hard to keep on target. Our weekly market stall is thriving and continues to supply Bibles and other Christian resources to the Yolngu.