



# NEWS FROM NORBS ABROAD

[WWW.MAF-UK.ORG/NORBURY](http://WWW.MAF-UK.ORG/NORBURY)

November 2024



## Hello everybody!

### TRACY WRITES...

We are SO grateful for how you all prayed us into the best holiday we have EVER had! And not only that, but it was also great to return to Mount Hagen and rejoin our MAF community and keep on with our work here.

During our time in Cairns, North Queensland, it was super lovely to hang out with MAF friends at Treetops Lodge, a missionary guesthouse. The guesthouse has a little swimming pool and good air-conditioning, both of which we made plenty of use of as the hot season was beginning (around 35 degrees every day). Another missionary kindly allowed us to borrow their car so we could easily drive into town to browse in shops, play at the waterfront, and enjoy the clean streets and general friendliness.

From there, we went on a six-hour train journey down the coast to Magnetic Island, where a former missionary doctor in PNG allowed us to stay in his family's holiday home for 10 stunningly sun-soaked days. We adopted one of the local beaches as 'our place' and spent many happy hours swimming, building sand forts, scrambling over boulders and playing hide-and-seek with tropical fish at the edges of

## Holiday Highpoints

- Swimming with rainbow parrotfish that were about 40cm long
- Eating waffles with chocolate sauce
- Watching street performers
- Going to Aussie-style church
- Buying properly fitting shoes
- Eating spinach
- Chatting with kookaburras
- Realising just how fluffy and sleepy koalas really are
- Making clams 'talk' to us underwater (they moved their shells when we swam close by)
- Having nothing planned
- Laughing so hard with friends that we felt young again!
- Getting sea-soaked on the ferry
- Seeing Oliver and Rosie's delight when Grandma arrived
- Hiking to the top of a hill overlooking an azure sea in three directions
- Getting to know the kids better
- Time to think and pray and dream

the bay. To top it all, we'd arranged with Fraser's mum that she would arrive part-way through our time on Magnetic Island and surprise the kids. This worked fabulously and Oliver and Rosie consequently spent a lot of time cuddling her and catching her up on all their news (as it had been a year since we last saw each other in person).

During our final weekend we took a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Green Island on the Great Barrier Reef. This was an incredible day during which we spent a lot of time swimming with a variety of marine life. We also went on a glass-bottomed boat tour and saw a turtle!

We had such an amazing few weeks of family fun and relaxation that I wondered how we would all feel about returning to the smells, sounds and street-life of Mount Hagen. I needn't have worried though: we were all very pleased to come home.

#### FRASER WRITES...

This excitement of the last month has been our aviation fuel supplier being unable to supply us any fuel. The team did an incredible job changing to fully imported fuel with only very minor disruption to service (we did use some imported fuel previously but not on the scale we are now).

We had to communicate with our customers, staff and board of directors; we had to work out supply chains for the fuel coming in including in-country barges, canoes and road transport; we had to work through the finances and how we can best maintain high impact whilst being able to afford it (imported fuel is very expensive). This was all done within days of the news dropping. Great job team.

If you are a person who prays we would love it if you could take a look at our prayer update on the right.

Thank you for being part of our lives and the work of the church in PNG through your prayers, finances, friendship and encouragement. We are grateful for and in need of all these blessings more than ever.

With love and big grins from  
Fraser, Tracy, Oliver and Primrose

## PRAYER UPDATE

Last time we asked you to pray for:

- **Our trip to Australia:** thank the Lord for the way He so fulsomely answered your prayers! He intervened specifically in the areas of timing and finance to make this a very special holiday.
- **New MAF families joining the PNG programme:** a lovely new family has arrived in our neighbouring compound. Please continue to pray for them and for the other two families who are due to arrive before Easter. Transition is hard work!
- **The church in PNG:** your brothers and sisters in Melanesia will always be grateful for your prayers on their behalf.

We'd also love it if you could pray for:

- **All four of us** as we set our hearts on what the Lord has planned for our family after we complete our initial 4-year term with MAF (in April 2025)
- **Fraser** as the financial year-end process begins in January and as he leads his team through the annual finance audit. January-May is an intense time each year and he has much juggling to do.
- For the urgent recruitment of **two Papua New Guinean accountants** to join the Finance Team and free Fraser up to concentrate on the more strategic aspects of his role.

Our mailing address:

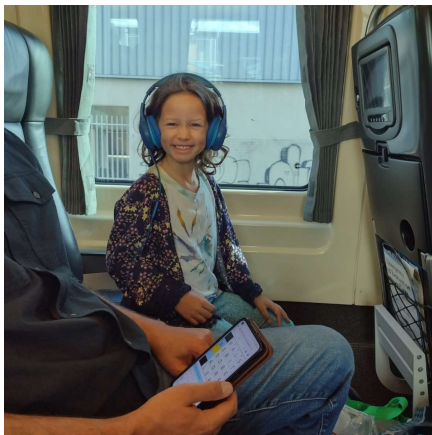
MAF PNG,  
Kagamuga Airport,  
Mount Hagen, WHP 281,  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Cairns was full of fun: bubblegum flavour ice-cream, a Peacock Spider portrait exhibition and the Esplanade



Magnetic Island: best train ride ever, fun at bus-stops and best beach ever (Alma Bay – worth a Google)!



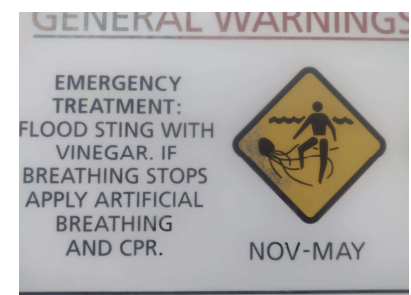
Magnetic Island rock wallabies are very tame and keen on carrots...



We saw the backsides of several sleeping koalas.

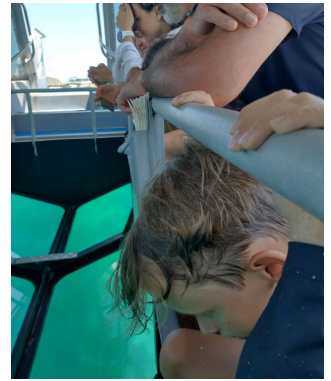


And we saw many signs like this. We were very grateful that we went on holiday just before Stinger Season started. The signs next to these ones often warn about saltwater crocodiles – swimming off the coast of Queensland can be a rather adrenaline-fueled experience!





Green Island: crystal waters and fascinating beachlife, dinner-plate-sized batfish and the boat we saw them from.



We returned home for Oliver's birthday (a young friend made this amazing Star Wars cake)...



...and Sports Carnival was again the highlight of the school year.



Fraser and our friend Bridget organized a MAF Taskmaster Family Fun Day – here is our team forming a human throne!



Our friend, Pastor Samuel, and his church and extended family have been working hard to build a house out in the countryside where we can spend weekends together. It will be called Mount Olive Fellowship Home and we pray that it will be a place for rest, relaxation and spiritual renewal for us and the other folks who will gather there. It will hopefully be completed within a couple of months.



P.S. Oliver is keen to let you all know that he climbed into our treehouse carrying half his own bodyweight in his backpack!

