

PETTS' PROGRESS

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Newsletter of David & Jen Pett serving with MAF International in Cairns

We wish you peace and joy at Easter as we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus our Saviour. Without this defining event, we have no reason for hope, and it is the foundation of our faith.

We write this newsletter having just returned to Cairns after an unplanned visit to the UK. We received the news of the death of Jen's father, Michael, on 12 March. He suffered a major stroke and died in hospital within hours with Jen's mum, Ann, and sister, Sue, at his bedside. We are thankful that there were available flights at short notice and for the flexibility of MAF in releasing David for three weeks to accompany Jen and tackle some practical tasks.

We were able to complete some essential maintenance on the house, walk with her mum through the initial 'officialdom' and be part of arranging the funeral. Waiting for the Coroner's review process to be completed and an overseas family wedding in the meantime has meant that the funeral will take place in May. Our home assignment will also include two family weddings, one at each end.

Our schedule is almost complete, albeit a little late due to jet lag, and we will confirm our June dates in a separate update. We hope we will see you soon, either in the UK, or on a visit to Melbourne later in the year, God willing.

In July 2018 we celebrated 25 years of marriage (photo top right) on Fitzroy Island, a short ferry ride from Cairns. The weather was perfect, the sea was clear, and we were privileged to see whales breaching about 500m from the shore. We tried tandem kayaking and reef snorkelling - with wetsuits for the chilly 24°C water!



Thanksgiving & Prayer

- For our improving health.
- For our loving and supportive church family in Australia, the UK and around the world.
- Please pray for Jen's family as they grieve and plan for the future.

Where to find us ...

19 May	St Mark's, Kempshott
26 May	St Faith's & Riverside, Hull
2 June	St Michael's, Brantham
9/16 June	Capel Community Church (tbc)
23 June	(tbc)

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(14 May - 25 June)



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David's mum, Hilary, visited us in Cairns in June and we enjoyed introducing her to our favourite local places, the activities and groups we are part of, and explored the Atherton Tablelands. We also had a meal together with Toni's parents, photo top left. In December 2019 we are hoping to welcome more family visitors for Christmas.



David completed a three year project to standardise the checklist system used in the MAF aircraft fleet and had the challenge of learning a Garmin G1000 'glass cockpit' avionics system in order to fly the Training Centre's new Cessna 182 aircraft (left), in time for a CWCI* Safari in the Top End of Australia. He flew 8 hours from Cairns to Darwin, refuelling twice, to pick up his two passengers and then took them to Jabiru for the first part of their tour around isolated communities to speak and encourage groups of ladies. He then flew to Gove to hand over to another pilot for the second week.



He also ran a training course to qualify the Mareeba Training Centre instructors to conduct check flights for MAF pilots in their programmes in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Arnhem Land, see bottom left.

Jen continues to be involved in mentoring English as a Second Language (ESL) students attending a weekly course at our church (below) and helps with the Mainly Music pre-school programme also at the church. As treasurer for the Cairns CWCI committee, she helps organise the annual weekend retreat which will again be held at the conference centre where Graham works as a part-time groundsman.

(*Christian Women Communicating International)

Graham has been kept busy in his gardening business with the wet season growth but the heat, humidity and physical demands of the work are taking a toll on his energy and health. He has arranged two public events for Creation Ministries to present scientific evidence that supports the Biblical account of a global flood and rapid fossil formation. Toni is enjoying her teaching and has been given a full-time kindergarten class.



Jonathan has now gained his certificate in Telecommunications and has been inducting a new trainee over the past six months. He has now joined his Dad and brother on the church sound-desk team and also supports Graham and Toni's weekly young people's homegroup.

We would like to express our gratitude for the kind messages of condolence, your prayers and patience as we worked through our health issues in the second half of last year. We have received much love and support from our churches, family and friends, and we are very thankful.



We look forward to sharing more about the impact of MAF's work around the world during our UK visit in May and June. God bless,

The Men's group set up for Mainly Music before work.

David & Jen