



# Where on Earth

Peter & Amanda Fryatt | June 2023 |

## Welcome to June's edition of Where on Earth.

We've been travelling up and down the UK every week of June, with Amanda heading 'Down Under' at the beginning of the month.



19,932 miles travelled this month



8 locations

*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Romans 8v15*

*"All change, please" – Amanda travels to the MAF Support Office in Cairns, Australia to lead crucial changes in the international finance team.*

*"Marking out foundations" – find out why Pete has been experiencing virtual reality and what that means to aircraft maintenance.*

## *“All change, please”*

MAF International has been undergoing significant changes in the way the organisation is structured, which are designed to improve ways of working and supporting our operations across the world. It has been difficult at times with resistance from some who like things the way they were and others choosing to move away to other organisations. With God’s direction and grace, MAF is becoming fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and continues to bring skilled and experienced people into the MAF family.

Managing a diverse team can be hard work, especially through change – even harder when half of them are on the other side of the world! I am a relational person and love being face-to-face with my team working through important issues, so my time at the Cairns office in June is a necessary part of my job to support the team.

Having those crucial conversations and listening carefully to the issues that need solving are only really possible by being there in person. In a world of online virtual meeting rooms, it is difficult to build solid working relationships with people.

Cairns was home to me for a number of years so the familiarity of the place and the people is always welcome. When I’m there I stay with good friend and colleague, Clare.

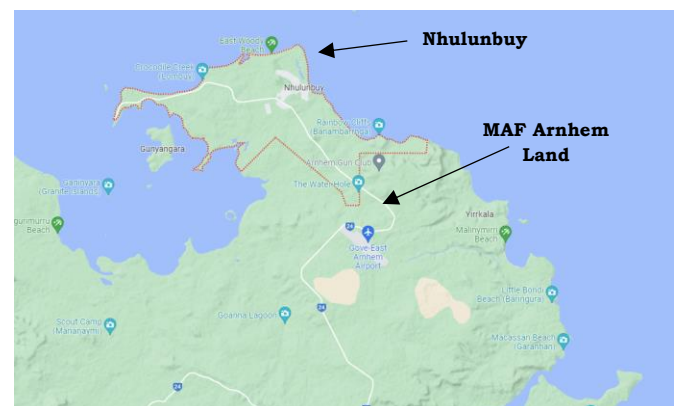
During my trip I travelled to Arnhem Land, on the Gove Peninsular in the Northern Territory state and was able to visit my Yolngu family who adopted me (Yolngu is an Aboriginal Australian people group).

It was such a joy to spend time with my Yolngu family again but incredibly difficult to leave the children.

## Please pray for:

- Amanda as she builds relationships with her team in the Cairns support office and also with her team in the Ashford (Kent) office – that God would give her wisdom and strength to work through issues and celebrate the achievements in both teams.
- MAF as an organisation as we continue to restructure teams and roles. May God grant us a listening ear to His Voice and the grace to make the right changes at the right times.
- Amanda’s Yolngu family, for protection and God’s blessing.
- The Aboriginal communities that MAF serves. May they come to know Christ and His love for them.

**Arnhem Land** is in the Northern Territory state of Australia.





### *“Marking Out Foundations”*

For any self-confessed ‘geek’ like me, playing with virtual reality headsets as part of my job is a dream come true. It comes with a serious purpose though, to enable engineering specialists to connect with maintenance staff across the world in real time and share safety critical data.

There are obvious risks from the developing remote technology scene, the major one being an increasing human disconnect and a waning ability to communicate on a deep and meaningful level (as we have been designed to do!).

As Manager of Technical Training & Innovation, I must help balance the introduction of new technologies into the aircraft maintenance environment by providing clear boundaries on how and when they must or must not be used.

Otherwise the very real danger for our engineers, especially of the younger generation, is that we are sucked into the comfort of relying on remote communication technology, rather than the far more important competence of building healthy, interdependent relationships in person.

Getting the balance right helps us mark out the foundations for a healthy family.

When I haven’t been playing with new toys, June has been busy with meetings with an aircraft maintenance training organisation who take our MAF engineering apprentices through their theory training, based in Perth, Scotland.

I’ve met with the UK Civil Aviation Authority in Gatwick, to learn and discuss how we can structure MAF maintenance training in such a way as to build a firm foundation for both MAF engineers in the future, but also look at ways of positively influencing the maintenance training in countries we serve.

Two of our MAF core values are Partnership and Impact. Working hard to build good relationships with African maintenance training providers and the aviation authorities, means we are in a position to serve and support the development of training and safety standards in local aviation industries.

#### **Please pray for:**

- New applicants for the MAF UK Engineering Training Scheme as the application window closes on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. Pray for those considering service with MAF that they would follow God’s call and respond.
- For wisdom as Peter works through various technology options and builds sensible use cases for them.
- Current conversations with the UK Civil Aviation Authority about approval of practical experience in our Programmes, and the possibility of approval for some of our own training courses.
- The technical training team, as Peter starts to open vacancies for a content developer and maintenance instructors.