



Journeying with MAF

When MAF's Training Centre in Australia hosted a group of teenagers for a life-changing bushland trek, the event enabled the students to experience the importance of MAF flights for people in remote areas.

Kylie McGillivray, Relationship Lead for Education for MAF in Australia, told them, 'Imagine you lived in PNG and had to trek on foot to get to school, walking over mountains and across rivers. How would you feel about that?'

After a hot and sweaty hike through bushland backroads, and a three-hour wait in the sweltering sun in Far North Queensland, Kylie's question was no longer a purely academic one.



'By the time it was done, we were exhausted and just wanted to go home,' remarked Gabe Beckett, one of the students. 'It was really hot, and there weren't many comfortable places to sit, so we ended up sitting on gravel.'

'After a walk like that, we were so happy to see the plane land.'

The aim was to show what it's like living in an isolated area, contrasting the exhausting experience of hiking through the bush with a short, comfortable, stress-free plane ride.

The students' three-day learning experience included a flight with MAF pilots, a hands-on lesson using our Redbird flight simulator, a visit to the MAF hangar, and a tour

of our Support Office.

The programme, which is part of MAF's outreach to schools, allows participants to experience our mission and hopefully work towards becoming a pilot or aircraft maintenance engineer.

Apart from inspiring the next generation of MAF staff, the aim is to have the students pass on their enthusiasm for light aircraft to family and friends.

Although Gabe hasn't yet finished high school, he already has a clear sense of how his passion for aviation can be combined with mission. 'It's a great opportunity,' he said, 'to give people what they need and help them find faith in God.'

Pause for prayer

Please uphold Gabe and Alex Beckett, along with all the others who took part in MAF's trek, praying that they'll retain their enthusiasm for aviation and MAF. Pray too that God will enable the teenage students to one day serve with us, blessing remote and isolated people in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region.

Book an MAF speaker

Why not invite an MAF speaker to visit and inspire your congregation through words and images, showing how MAF is reaching the world's most isolated people. Booking a speaker is completely free of charge and we are available for Sunday services and mid-week groups. Find out more www.maf-uk.org/speaker-request

New Year, new career?

It takes a lot of different skills to operate the world's largest humanitarian airline. Not only do we recruit pilots and engineers, but we are also looking for managers, IT technicians and teachers. Find out more about serving overseas with MAF at www.maf-uk.org/work-with-maf