

THE BROWN'S IN ARNHEM LAND

APRIL 2024

FAMILY
NEWS

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UPDATE

PICTURE: GAWA AIRSTRIP, ELCHO ISLAND

FAMILY NEWS

Dear friends,

The start of 2024 has been very busy full of new beginnings, hot weather and celebrations.

At the end of January, Barny embarked on an exciting new journey as he started school. We're incredibly blessed to have a Christian school right here in our town, providing Barny with not just education but also a nurturing environment for his faith to grow. He's been thriving in his first term, soaking up knowledge and making new friends along the way.



And just recently, we joyously celebrated Reuben's third birthday! It's incredible to see him growing and learning each day, a constant reminder of God's grace and goodness in our lives.

We eagerly anticipate the arrival of our newest family member in July. Esther has been in good health, and we are grateful for God's provision and care throughout this journey. As we prepare to welcome our precious bundle of joy, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of family and the excitement of new beginnings. Your prayers and support mean the world to us as we look forward to this joyful milestone in our lives.

The poor weather has confined us to the few tarmac roads over the past few months. But we have had plenty of opportunities to spend time at the town pool and fish off the rocks at the beach. The dry season is just about to start so we look forward to getting out into the bush for some adventures soon.





MINISTRY UPDATE

Education Flying

Ben has been kept very busy at work with the busiest start to a year for MAF Arnhem Land since 2019. Provision of support to indigenous education programmes has been the focus of a lot of flying and planes and pilots are now flying more than ever bringing children to school from across the Top End of Australia. In the Northern Territory indigenous children school attendance sits at around 50%. MAF works with local schools and the Government to support educational strategies designed to encourage Aboriginal children to remain in education.

Education is vital in the goal to reduce societal inequality. 45% of indigenous people in the Northern Territory live below the poverty line. Suicide and domestic abuse are prevalent in society and school programmes actively seek to break this vicious cycle.



WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS. FLOODING IN ARNHEM LAND HAS CUT OFF MANY COMMUNITIES FROM VITAL SUPPLIES AND HEALTH CARE. DAILY, MAF IS FLYING FOOD AND MEDICAL TEAMS INTO REMOTE COMMUNITIES

MINISTRY UPDATE



Elcho Island Revival Meeting

MAF had the privilege to fly Christians from around Arnhem Land to a Christian revival meeting on Elcho Island (you can search for it on google maps). This picture is some Yolngu Christians from Yirrkala waiting for their flight. These events rely on MAF to bring Christians from remote communities together.

Church

We have become increasingly involved with our church, which is run by a mission family from Brisbane. Ben is now preaching and we have formed some really great relationships. A recent Easter convention saw the church packed with a wonderful cross section of cultures, Yolngu, Western, African and Pacific Islander. The music is led by a Yolngu band so we get to sing some wonderful local tunes.



Domestic Violence Shelter

Esther continues to support the work of the Miyalk Domestic Violence Shelter. Miyalk is the word for woman in Yolngu Matha. She has the wonderful opportunity to share in some the good news of Jesus with women who come from very broken families.