

FLYING FOR LIFE



Summer 2024/25

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
OF MAF IN AUSTRALIA

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bring help, hope & healing



**"Be strong and *courageous*. . .
for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go."**

– Joshua 1:9 (NIV)



Image: P2-WET at MAF PNG headquarters at Kagamuga. Photo by: Mandy Glass.

Welcome from the CEO

MAF reaches out with help, hope and healing to many isolated communities around the world, yet there are still so many more people we are unable to reach.

However, opportunities arise regularly to serve new communities, and it is so awesome when they turn into reality—especially in countries where we have a significant, long-term presence, like Papua New Guinea.

In this edition of Flying for Life, we share the joy of the launch of P2-WET, our new amphibious plane to support isolated communities in Western Province, PNG.

The P2-WET is a modified Cessna 208 Caravan. This project reflects our broader commitment to the global fleet renewal program, focused on transitioning to the Cessna 208 as our aircraft of choice, to help our operations become more efficient and effective.

We are so blessed with the provision of this plane. Now, we can each play a part in helping fund the \$970,000 needed to get the plane fully operational, unlocking unprecedented help and hope for people in communities around Lake Murray (see pp 4-5).

Earlier this year I visited MAF in Uganda, where we are also looking to introduce an amphibious Cessna 208 Caravan, to support isolated communities on Lake Victoria. The lessons from our Lake Murray project will be invaluable in helping expedite the implementation of the Lake Victoria service, bringing help, hope and healing to even more isolated communities.

I have recently been reflecting on God's words to Joshua. In chapter 1, God encourages Joshua three times to be strong and courageous, and promises to be with him wherever he goes. At the end of the chapter the Israelites themselves remind him to be strong and courageous.

As 2024 comes to a close and we look towards 2025, I believe God is calling MAF, and you, our valued supporters, to be strong and courageous as we partner together to reach more isolated communities—on Lake Murray and beyond. And I pray that you have a joyful Christmas season as you celebrate the birth of the Light of the World—Jesus Christ.

In Christ,



Chris Barnes,
CEO, MAF in Australia

Images: P2-WET arriving at Lake Murray, PNG.
Photos by: Terry Fahey.



The *joyous* arrival of P2-WET

Hundreds of cheering people greeted P2-WET, MAF's amphibious plane, as it touched down on Lake Murray and the Balimo lagoon on its maiden flight into Papua New Guinea.

Adapted from an article originally titled 'Cheers and tears of joy as floatplane arrives' by MAF International.

It was a long-awaited day when P2-WET touched down on PNG waters—not only for the two pilots Chad Tilley and Volkher Jacobsen, but also for people on the ground. MAF civil engineer Terry Fahey, who has worked with MAF and communities in Western Province to prepare for the plane's arrival, shared the emotions of local families.

"We've had a lot of setbacks and challenges. But seeing the plane come over the cellphone tower in Lake Murray, some tears came to my eyes. And again, as we were pulling into the MAF base at Mt Hagen and seeing all the cheering MAF staff waiting, again, the tears started to roll," Terry said.

"These people have never seen this kind of plane. They have only heard stories from their great grandparents, when the previous MAF P2-WET used to fly on the upper part of the lake."

The newly arrived amphibious plane (able to land on water and ground), which previously flew in MAF's

Bangladesh program, carries the same registration as the old P2-WET Cessna 185 floatplane (a plane that only landed on water) that served in PNG in the late 1970's. The success of bringing P2-WET into PNG is a testament to a colossal team effort across MAF departments and locations.

"We had groups in Mareeba who were maintaining the aircraft and preparing it specifically for Papua New Guinea. We had the support departments, both in Europe and in Cairns, who were working on the changes that had to be made to training guides and operations manuals," Terry said. "And there were people here in the program who were working to get them all approved through CASA PNG. So I'm amazed to think about the number of people it took just to do the first landing here in PNG."

The project has been supported by our partner Sustainable Development Program (SDP) and will bring SDP Aerial Health Patrols to more isolated communities across Western Province. SDP staff worked alongside Terry to help build the docks and infrastructure. "They are a key stakeholder and they put a lot of effort into this whole process, which we're very grateful for," added Terry.

Terry engaged with local communities around Lake Murray to help them envision the operation and locate safe landing sites, as well as building docking stations.

"Some of the older folks were saying, we're really excited – we have shared stories with our children (about the plane that landed on the water) and they have no idea what we're talking about. But today they understand."


"Currently, we have six locations, five on Lake Murray and one in the Balimo area. And then over the next months and years, we'll be phasing in to likely 24 more locations."

The amphibious plane is now fully operational, but there is still a need for a dedicated pilot. MAF pilot Chad Tilley, with floatplane experience, has been training other MAF pilots, who will be seconded to the project short-term. Please pray for the people of Lake Murray, for the project to be safe and effective, for operational costs to be raised, and for God's provision of a dedicated full-time pilot.

If you would like to support this vital project in PNG, please prayerfully consider a generous gift to this Christmas' P2-WET Appeal.

Help provide life-changing support to isolated communities on Lake Murray: maf.org.au/helpmany






Lake Murray, PNG


LOCATION: Western Province

AREA: 1,675 square km, approx. varying in size seasonally due to rainfall.


POPULATION: 20,000 people (estimated; 14,410 people in 2011 Census)

There is a huge need to improve health outcomes across PNG







One child in every 13 will die before the age of 5, largely due to preventable causes.



35% of children under 5 are malnourished.



7% of child deaths are caused by pneumonia.



0.6 health workers per 1000 people.

When a lake becomes an airstrip

Reaching communities along waterways in Papua New Guinea.

The original MAF floatplanes in PNG were limited to water landings only, at communities and villages alongside lakes, rivers and creeks. When the amphibious aircraft, able to land on both airstrips and water, was introduced, it brought greater flexibility and reach.

The following timeline focuses on one era of amphibious operations in the Western and Gulf regions of PNG. Floatplanes and amphibious planes have operated at other times and in other locations of PNG over the past six decades.



Image top: The P2-WET U206 moored at Kapuna.
Image above: Landing near village (without a jetty).



Amphibious aircraft in the 1960s and 70s in PNG

Late 1960s

MAF commences floatplane operations in PNG, with a float-equipped Cessna 180 registered VH-BVR, based in Wewak. Pilots including Max Flavel, Lawrie Darrington and David Grace flew VH-BVR. Its introduction was supported by MAF USA pilot George Boggs.



May 1974

A Cessna 185 amphibian, a larger and more powerful plane, registered 'P2-WET' replaced the Cessna 180 floatplane in PNG, and was flown by pilots including Ron Kingsley and Ted Crawford.



20 July 1976

Cessna 185 amphibian P2-WET crashed in the Sepik River; no lives were lost.

1977

A Cessna U206 amphibian aircraft, also with registration 'P2-WET', was introduced in PNG. This aircraft was based in Mt Hagen and flown by Ted Crawford and Alan Stray, primarily in support of the Kapuna and river delta people in the Gulf Province.



Late 1979

Amphibious floats were removed from P2-WET and it again served as a landplane.

Interview with former MAF Pilot, Alan Stray

Flying for Life interviewed Alan Stray about his work with MAF's amphibious aircraft in PNG in the 1970s.



Image: Alan Stray assisting nurses and aid-post orderlies at a village in PNG in the 1970s.

When did you serve with MAF in PNG?

At the beginning of the 1970s I began flying for LUTA Air, the aviation arm of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG (which became part of MAF in 1977). My wife, Heather, and I joined MAF in May 1975, and served until June 1979, based at Anguganak, Wapenamanda and Mt Hagen. I was privileged to fly the amphibious P2-WET between 23 May 1977 and 28 May 1979.

How did the Cessna U206 P2-WET support remote communities in PNG?

The MAF amphibious aircraft program achieved important outcomes both medically and evangelistically in the 1970s. It provided a lifeline to villagers who usually travelled via canoes or small boats around the expanse of winding rivers and creeks of the huge delta in the Gulf Province. The amphibious aircraft could take the straight line between villages, dramatically reducing travel time.

Ted Crawford trained me in flying P2-WET, and under his expert guidance and mentoring, the program was a success, particularly in support of the United Church Hospital at Kapuna in the Gulf Province, (now called Gulf Christian Services Hospital and still playing a critical role in medical care for the region).

What were some of the highlights of this ministry as a MAF pilot?

There were so many special experiences Ted and I shared flying the amphibian in the 1970s. We carried out medevacs, and many routine clinic patrols transporting health workers from Kapuna Hospital. Occasionally I waited at a village while the health workers provided medical care, and shared the gospel with the families who attended the clinic. The surprise and joy on the faces of the families when the MAF pilot helped the nurses dress sores, or weighed babies, added so much meaning and value to my work.

Ted and I also flew P2-WET into the fast-flowing Erave River alongside the Woposali village in the Southern Highlands, south of Mt Hagen. We flew a small tractor in many pieces from Pangia to Woposali, and this tractor was subsequently used to build an airstrip for the village alongside the river.

What excites you about the new amphibious plane for Lake Murray?

The new P2-WET Cessna 208 Caravan amphibian is much larger and more powerful than its Cessna 206 predecessor that I flew. It has a very reliable turbine engine, and state of the art instrumentation and global positioning system (GPS) that we could only dream of in the 1970s.

P2-WET is a huge advancement in capacity, performance and safety for the pilots and for the remote communities that MAF will serve.

As a God-given link for remote PNG communities of the Western Province with vital health, education, economic services and evangelistic outreach, I believe it is a worthwhile investment for the MAF community.



Image above left: Alan Stray in recent years.
Image above right: Ted Crawford training Alan Stray at Lake Kutubu.

Image below: Finance team member, Patience Oduro with PNG flag. Photo by Mandy Glass.



Could you *serve* with MAF in our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea?

There are many opportunities to use your skills to make a difference in this nation that has significant needs and challenges.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve with MAF, and ask Him to provide the right people for these roles in His sovereign timing.

For more information or to apply, visit: maf.org.au/current-vacancies



We are currently seeking:



Experienced Pilots

A dedicated pilot for the new P2-WET*
*Urgent need.



Engineers

Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers



Management

Country Director
Finance Manager
General Manager (Aviation)

Make a *difference* this Christmas

Shop the MAF Christmas Catalogue and give a gift that brings help, hope and healing to those in need.



Gift of Hope

\$50

Enable people to hear about God's love in their own language.

Your gift can deliver a solar-powered audio Bible, loaded with hours of Bible narration, perfectly suited for people who are unable to read a printed copy of the Good News.

***This item is non-tax deductible.*

Gift of Light

Help a mother give birth safely.

\$275

MAF Technologies in Papua New Guinea are equipping rural 'Mama's Waiting Huts' with solar lighting, creating safe spaces for pregnant women to deliver in remote areas. This lighting ensures care during labour, reduces risks, and stabilises both mother and baby before they return home. Give the gift of light this Christmas. **This item is tax deductible.*



Gift of Safety

\$2000

Sponsor an evacuation flight for a victim of domestic violence.

MAF in Arnhem Land has a vital partnership with Crisis Accommodation Gove and local women's shelters to offer emergency evacuation for victims of domestic violence in remote communities. Your gift will enable an evacuation flight that will cut travel time from 12 hours by road to just 20-60 minutes, providing crucial, timely support and safe escape from danger. **This item is tax deductible.*



www.maf.org.au/giftcatalogue

Explore our Christmas Catalogue online, and choose from gifts to suit all budgets and interests across the full breadth of MAF's life-changing work.





Transforming lives in *Jesus'* name

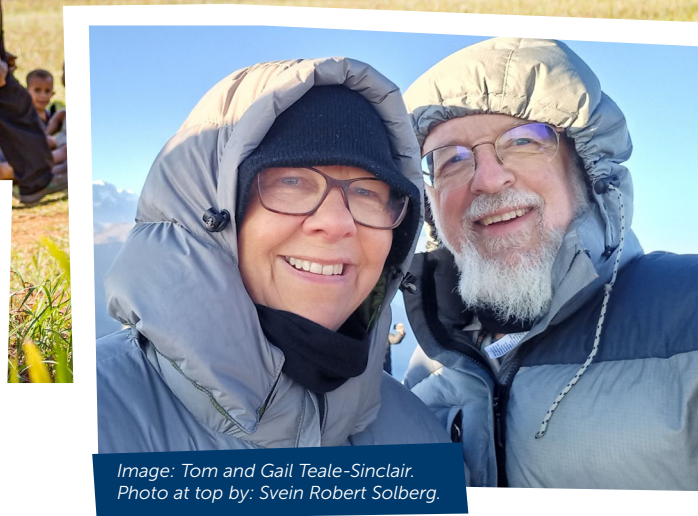


Image: Tom and Gail Teale-Sinclair.
Photo at top by: Svein Robert Solberg.

Tom and Gail Teale-Sinclair understand the positive difference MAF's mission brings through medical, educational, logistical, and missional support.

After spending a year in Arnhem Land (1989), they served with MAF for nine years in Papua New Guinea. Tom flew to many remote communities in difficult regions. They remain committed to supporting MAF.

"We are leaving a gift to MAF in our Will because we have seen first-hand how effective this ministry is in transforming people's lives both physically and spiritually in Jesus' name."

"It's really the two hands of the Gospel – the compassionate heart of Jesus towards people in

their suffering and the bringing of the Good News, as local pastors and evangelists are given access to isolated areas. To make it easier, and so that we don't need to adjust for inflation, we've made this gift as a percentage rather than a fixed amount."

If you are considering a gift in your Will, Tom and Gail say: "After taking care of your family's needs, think through what mission agencies to support. MAF is an excellent organisation to help through a legacy gift in your Will."

If you would like to find out more about including a gift in your Will to MAF, contact Dave Martin by emailing dave.martin@maf.org.au or visit our webpage.



Fuel for Father's Day *impact*

MAF's 12th Annual Fuel for Father's Day campaign has come to a close, and we are deeply thankful for the incredible support from individuals and churches across Australia.

Over the past 12 years, your generosity has fuelled 140 minutes of flying time each day for MAF, helping deliver life-saving aid to people in some of the most remote corners of the world.

Churches nationwide have gone above and beyond to raise funds for this cause, and we're excited to share one of the inspiring stories from this year's campaign.

Charlestown Presbyterian Church in NSW hosted a vibrant and engaging fundraising concert in support of the MAF Fuel for Father's Day campaign. The evening was a testament to the creativity and generosity of the congregation, as they came together to raise over \$2,000 for MAF's life-saving mission.



Image: A big thank you to Josh Flynn and his family for being the faces behind this year's Fuel for Father's Day campaign.



Image: Fuel for Father's Day event at Charlestown Presbyterian Church, NSW.

The church was decked out with MAF-themed decorations, including a fleet of paper planes suspended from the ceiling and a profile of the MAF Cessna Caravan, creating an aviation atmosphere that reflected the spirit of the night.

The goal was clear—to fuel the work of MAF and ensure remote communities have access to essential services like medical care, humanitarian aid and the Gospel.

One of the event organisers shared, "we saw so much diversity from our congregation showing their unique talents, from opera to country and everything in between. With some audience participation, comic skits, and a delectable feast of treats during interval, it was an interactive and enjoyable experience for everyone."

A key highlight of the event was a video presentation that gave attendees a deeper look into MAF's mission and impact around the world. For some, this was their first introduction to MAF's work, and it sparked meaningful conversations about the role of aviation in bringing help, hope and healing to isolated areas.

As the night drew to a close, the church celebrated not only the funds raised but also the opportunity to partner with MAF in mission. Events like this demonstrate the powerful impact local churches can have in supporting global ministries. Thank you to everyone who made the evening a success and for standing with MAF as we continue to reach those in need.



Snapshots from around Australia

Housing update for Nhulunbuy

MAF missionaries have been serving in Nhulunbuy, NT for over 50 years. Staff housing has felt the passing of time, showing evidence of these years of ministry and service.

A recent project has seen the first of these homes updated to a modern contextually appropriate standard.

Over nine weeks, teams of volunteers from across the country, led by Andrew Nielsen (Facilities Manager) came together to restore this home - giving generously of their time and skilled trade labour.

Amazed by the home's transformation, one visitor praised the team's efforts, saying:

"Having a place you want to come home to, that is clean, comfortable, and safe has a positive impact on your ability to face each day's challenges."

God-willing, this year's project will be the first of many, serving MAF staff and mission partners as they work alongside the Yolŋu people of East Arnhem Land. Get in touch with us if you would like to find out how you can pray, give, or go to support this project.



Image at top: Arnhem Land by air. Photo by: Janne Rytkonen.
Images above: MAF volunteer team renovating staff housing in Arnhem Land.



Image left: MAF Pilot, Matthew Kaye.
Image above: MAF Australia CEO, Chris Barnes with Jack Hemmings.

“Here for people in the joyful times, but also when life is tough”

MAF pilot Matthew Kaye was recently called to assist in a domestic violence rescue flight in Arnhem Land.

Matt received an urgent request to help a mother reunite with her young daughter. With the situation rapidly evolving, just after finishing a charter flight, Matt and the MAF team discreetly assisted the woman before flying her to a remote homeland to collect her child. Despite the danger, the mission was a success, and the mother and child were safely transported to a women’s shelter.

Reflecting on the experience, Matt shared, “As pilots, we may not have the entire picture of what’s going on for people but by going the extra mile in the small things, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those we’re serving. I often say we’re here for people in the joyful times, but also when life is tough.”

Chris Barnes with MAF Legend, Jack Hemmings

Our CEO of MAF in Australia, Chris Barnes, recently had what he calls, “the best MAF day ever”.

While in the UK for MAF meetings, Chris spent a day with Jack Hemmings, one of the founders of MAF. According to Chris,

“It was an amazing privilege to meet Jack Hemmings, who helped found MAF almost 80 years ago.”

“At 103 years old, Jack is hard to keep up with! We chatted about the initial ideas and flights, right through to his recent flight in a Spitfire. It was a wonderful conversation in the presence of a true legend and pioneer. A day I’ll never forget.”

How your support has *powered* us



Education Flights

Arnhem Land | Tax Appeal 2023



Meet Nathan Roberts, a dedicated primary school teacher at Laynhapuy Homelands School. In partnership with MAF, Nathan relies on aviation to travel to remote communities across East Arnhem Land to ensure Yolŋu students can live on Country with their families, while receiving an education. He flies to these isolated homelands, staying three to four days at a time, adapting to challenging and unpredictable situations. Thank you for making this partnership possible, enabling Nathan to serve young people in regions that are otherwise cut off by distance and seasonal weather.

Medevac Flights

Atauro Island, Timor-Leste | Autumn Appeal 2022



Meet baby Amorcisa, a two-month-old from Atauro Island, Timor-Leste. When Amorcisa developed a serious lung condition that couldn't be treated on the Island, the national ambulance service called on MAF to transfer her to Timor-Leste's National Hospital in Dili. Unable to make the risky sea crossing, MAF provided a swift medevac flight, piloted by Joe Farren, that took just 15 minutes. Thanks to your support, this partnership plays a crucial role in responding to medical emergencies, providing life-saving transport to people in remote areas.



5Y-ESU: The hands and feet of Jesus

Kenya | Christmas Appeal 2022



Meet the members of 'Christ is the Answer Ministries' (CITAM), whose partnership with MAF enabled them to commission life-changing projects for the community of Olturot in northern Kenya, including a new solar-powered borehole. Women who previously endured long, exhausting journeys to fetch water now have a sustainable, local water supply. The MAF flight on 5Y-ESU reduced travel time from Nairobi from nine hours to just two! Thank you for helping enable CITAM leaders Rev Justus Mugambi and Rev Elias Mwaura to oversee the project's completion, transforming lives in a community that has long prayed for accessible water.



Image: James and Ruth Mollenhauer.

Adopt a Mission

James and Ruth Mollenhauer previously worked with MAF Technologies in Papua New Guinea (1989– 2005). After feeling called to return to cross-cultural mission work, James and Ruth have been faithfully serving in South Sudan with MAF since 2017.

Decades of conflict have left the nation of South Sudan with minimal infrastructure. James and Ruth work alongside local communities, supporting missions and NGOs through MAF's aviation services. James is the Facilities Manager, overseeing vital services like construction, maintenance, and security for MAF. Ruth, a nurse, uses her skills to serve at a local clinic, and teaches English and Bible lessons to children and young adults.

They're also deeply involved in their local church, providing mentoring and sharing God's love with those around them.

"Thank you for encouraging us by your partnership in the work of MAF in South Sudan, and thank you for partnering with us in prayer. We are encouraged and very aware that it is the Lord who equips, enables and sustains."

– James and Ruth Mollenhauer

Through MAF's 'Adopt a Mission' initiative, you can support James and Ruth's work through prayer and/or sponsorship.

Visit maf.org.au/sponsor to adopt James and Ruth, or other dedicated missionaries, helping to further God's mission!



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Bring life-changing *hope* to the people of Lake Murray, PNG.

We need your support this Christmas to help fund PNG's P2-WET project.

maf.org.au/helpmany

Give today!



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