



Pictured: 1. The first aircraft, VH-MEP arriving in the new hangar for maintenance from Arnhem Land.

As we begin to write this letter we are almost at the end of March and 2022 seems to be marching swiftly along. We spent Christmas day with the Wunderlis and 2 other families down in Cairns. We each brought something to share for our Christmas dinner and we had some fun games to finish off the day. Summer here in the tropics means it rains quite a lot (just like in NI)! On New Year's Eve we were blessed with a fine day and spent it at a nearby lake swimming with friends. In mid January, Julie Anne went to Brisbane for a few days for the Jubilee Christian College DE staff meeting. Queensland had recently opened its borders to the other states and there was an overflow of Covid cases in and around Brisbane and the Gold coast. Unfortunately she returned home feeling unwell and it turned out to be Covid. So as a family we had to self-isolate for a week and then test at the end of the week. Joshua and Glenn tested positive so we had to continue for another week whilst Julie Anne returned to work after the first week. This meant Esther missed the start of the new school year (24th January).

#### Please give thanks:

- The support of MAF and our church here
- The prayerful and financial support of our home churches, family and friends

#### Please pray:

- For our future in 2022, and all that it holds—that we will know clearly where God wants us to be.
- For Glenn's study, and exam—shortly after Easter.

#### Breaking News!

We are returning to Northern Ireland this year. It looks like the time of our return will be in July, though flights are still not yet booked. We are uncertain of our future with MAF and of what we will do when we return, but for now we need to get our boys back to NI so that they can explore futures for themselves, and get Esther into school so that she can quickly settle and readjust.



As for me and my household we will serve the Lord.

**Joshua 24 v 15**

Julie Anne: Term 1 finished on 1st April, and JA was glad to get to this stage. With the mandated vaccinations and the shortage of teachers in schools this has been a challenging and very busy term. Instead of working as a SWAN teacher for 5 days a week in Distance Education and On Campus, she was required to teach for 3 days in the classroom, with most of this being in Secondary school. This is definitely outside her comfort zone, but she rose to the challenge and taught the necessary subjects. This term has seen her teach Drama, Design Technology, Christian Studies, Science, HPE, and Art from Prep to Year 10, alongside continuing with 2 days of Special needs.

Having been blessed with a SUP (Stand up Paddleboard) at Christmas, she is very much looking forward to getting out on this again during the break.

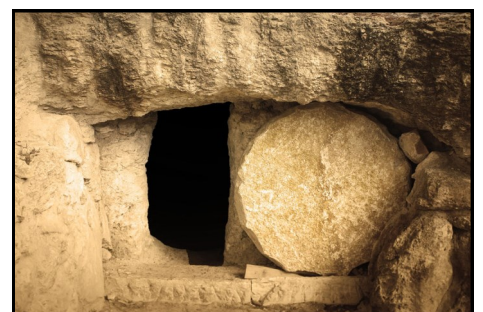


Joshua. Just before Christmas, Joshua along with his brother were leaders on a Scripture Union camp 'Splashout' for children aged between 9-12. The theme was surviving (hence the photo above) wearing camouflage gear. The young lady in the photo is Joshua's girl friend Nikia. They have known each other as class mates since we arrived here. She came to faith last year, she has been studying the Bible and has spent time with Julie Anne asking her lots of tricky questions as she has had little exposure to the Bible. She went on a 'Go' team (to the Gulf of Carpentaria) as well as being a leader on Splashout. She has just started her degree in Occupational Therapy at Goldcoast. Joshua is currently working locally at a packing shed where they sort and pack various crops from the Tablelands. He works long hours. He is also considering the possibility of a nursing degree back in the UK. He has made enquires about this and has been told he will have to pay international fees. We have been speaking to others who have had experience of finding a place in university for their children, and it's not straight forward. It will be a challenge for both boys.

He is not here.

He has risen!

Luke 24v6







**Esther:** was at a training session for the regional soccer team (in the middle of February) when she heard a pop while kicking the ball. She was in a lot of pain and Julie Anne had to be called over from work as training sessions are held in Atherton. An Ambulance was called, she was taken to the hospital and was given the “green whistle”, which is a kind of pain relief (laughing gas), and it made her really giddy. An X-ray showed there was no bone damage, and after visiting a Physio it was diagnosed as a muscular tear. She is back on her feet again after 2 weeks on crutches, and hopefully, soon will be ready to return to soccer.

Esther is working for Mitre 10 during the holidays, the hardware store where Joshua and Benjamin previously worked.

**Benjamin:** was able to get some work at the local primary school as a teacher aide. This was the same school Julie Anne first worked at and the school that he and Esther attended when they first arrived in Australia. He has been really enjoying it, having had some part-time work and then full time before the schools closed for Easter holidays.

He still enjoys soccer and is playing for the youth team this year.

Although he has finished school, he is unsure what direction he wishes to follow for his future. Similar to Joshua, this has been a very limited choice for him here, so far.



...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12 v 2

Please scan the QR code and watch a short Video of the New Hangar in Mareeba. Don't forget to give us the 'thumbs up'



**Pictures:** 2. Josh, Ben & Nikia at SU camp 'Splash Out' where they were leaders.

3. A recent day trip to nearby Kuranda rainforest.

4. Esther on the ambulance bed, clutching her green whistle.

5. Benjamin at the primary school sports day, with a wee friend.

7,8 &9 Inside the New Hangar.

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Glenn: Having studied at the beginning of the year for his exam in March, he was very disappointed to miss the mark he was hoping for, 75%, by 1%. So, Glenn has committed to attempting this exam one last time. He is now studying through the holidays so that he will be able to sit the exam immediately afterwards. The hangar team started to move into the new hangar on the 4th January. It has taken them a bit longer than they first thought to set it up as they have had to maintain aircraft at the same time, and a few members of staff have been off with covid as well. The photos below are of the new hangar taking shape. The sheet metal area below left which used to be in another part of the hangar, is now just off to the side. Above is a photo of one of the training school aircraft in for maintenance and in the background an Airvan that came down from PNG and has now been re-registered and will go to Arnhem land. Arriving before Easter is another Airvan from Arnhem land for a refit and a repaint in the new paint shop which Glenn will report on next time.

