



Pictured above is a RED setting sun. In late September to October as the dry season draws to an end and before the rains, controlled burning is done. The lair of smoke makes the sun appear red.

A year with COVID-19

Well, this was not the year that any of us planned! 2020, (such lovely round digits) was not supposed to go this way! However, this is what we have been dealt, and so this is the year that we have all had, and have had to deal with (a year to remember). We trust you have seen and felt more blessings and promises. We hope you have not felt that God was not there, in the hardship and the loneliness—for He knows and sees all things. If we could tap directly into God’s heart, I wonder what he would have to say about 2020? About our worry and anxieties? Philippians 4v 6&7

We are sorry that it has taken us so long to write another newsletter. There have been so many things happening in our lives down here, and we will strive to share many of them with you.

Each week we have been keeping up to date with phone calls to both sets of our parents, keeping up with the media, learning about your restrictions that COVID-19 has brought. One of the few advantages was being able to watch recorded Sunday services on YouTube and Facebook (from Ballymena, Moneymore and Ennis-killen). We realize that living in a rural town on the far north of this very large state and country, (Queensland, Australia), we’ve been blessed with only a few confirmed cases - a few months ago.

Philippians 4 v 6&7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Please Pray for:

MAF

Jubilee Christian College

Nate and his last days

Katie, Georgia and Jess (Nate’s Mum and sister’s

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...”

Psalm 46:1 and 2a

Joshua was School Captain with Gamu this year, and it was not quite the year that they thought it would be, in fact, it wasn't what any of us could have imagined it would be. However, although the Formal was postponed and Debutante was cancelled in the end (which affected both boys) it was able to proceed towards the end of Term 3. At the beginning of Term 4 it was time to handover their roles, and they did this very maturely at their Graduation service, or Valedictory.



When asked for what he had enjoyed best about his year as School captain his response was, "All of it!" Praise God that he was still able to do some of the special things this year. He began the year playing for the Thirds (Mareeba Bulls), and then was asked to play for the Seconds, the Youth team and the Reserves. He did have to become selective, however, as each team trained 2 nights a week plus a game each Sat. and he already had other commitments—like Year 12 exams!

At time of writing, early November, he is in the middle of his Year 12 external exams. He is very much looking forward to completing these. The future for him is uncertain, as the situation with our VISA means that he would only be able to attend University here as an International student—huge fees, paid upfront.

Esther: During lockdown Esther was diligent with the work sent to her by school and had it completed on time. Of course this gave her more free time which she would spend kicking ball outside. She says school is 'OK' but seems to manage well as her last school report suggests. When things got back to a 'normal' she ask to play football again for local club Mareeba Bulls. She was in a mixed U-14 team, pictured. They won both the league and the Grand final. Grand final was on the 31 October the season was later than usual so it was very hot , so they stopped every 15 minutes for water breaks. She still is helpful in the kitchen and with her mummy working helps prepare the tea. Also she likes to bake cupcakes and cakes. She made cupcakes and decorated them over several weeks which her Mum and Dad to took to work to sell. She put this money towards a Nutribullet which she has been using to make fruit smoothies.

For I am the Lord your Gpd who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41 v 13





In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.
Proverbs 16 v 9

Julie Anne is now into her 3rd term of working for Jubilee Christian College in Atherton. She has adjusted to working in Distance Education, and has still been able to stay in touch with school life as she was also teaching On Campus (at Jubilee) and working with some indigenous children from Groote Island Years 2-4 (who started just after she did in Term 2) They needed to learn the basics in English (both developing their speaking and beginning to read). Now in Term 4, she is now working On Campus again, this time covering the Vice Principals day release on Thursdays and DE Mon- Wed.

School Camp was the second week of the (2 week September) school holidays. It was a great camp, with lots of Bible teaching in the devotion times, (as it is a Christian school) when children were split up into their age groups. It was a 'Survival Camp' and even the Devotions were mostly related to a Survival theme.

During the first week of the holidays, we drove all the way across Queensland to visit a national park called Lawn Hill (over 1,000km). On the return journey, we stopped at a station on the Sea of Carpentaria, and visited a Christian family from JA's DE school. It was very interesting to meet them and have a snapshot of what their lives are like. We joined them for church by phone, along with a number of other stations.

The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever. Psalm 121 v 7-8



Benjamin: This year saw Benjamin join a soccer team for the first time, playing together with his brother in the same team at the beginning of the year. He enjoyed this very much, and when that ended, he signed up for netball, which he had been studying at school, in HPE (Health and Physical Ed.) Most sports were scrapped by the schools here, due to COVID, so they were very blessed to be able to play any. He is very much enjoying any opportunity to get behind the wheel and drive, now that he is 16 years old, and boosted his driving hours by about 20hrs, whilst we were on our mammoth journey (we drove about 2,600 km total, there and back). He had quite a bit of driving on dirt roads.



Interesting Facts: When learning to drive in Australia, you need to be 16 years old; you must first sit a road skills test; complete 100 hours driving whilst accompanied by another qualified driver (10 of these should be in the dark). When you turn 17 years old (and have completed your 100 hours—proven by your book or App) you are able to sit a second test and then can drive for a year with a 'P' plate and no essential adult supervisor. After this, a further test will allow you to progress to green 'P's - these last for 2 years.



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I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Philippians 4 v 13

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4 v 23

Glenn and the Hangar

Nate was able to have that extra time -he turned 4 in June, another birthday that the doctors said he would not have. Alas, he is not keeping as well any more. Having turned 4 years old, and with so many brain surgeries already under his belt, it was decided that he should have no more and that the cancer in his head was returning too quickly and too aggressively to keep cutting out. So Nate has had no more surgery and the tumours have grown very rapidly, now continuing to grow outside his little skull. Katie has made many difficult and very brave decisions, none more so than being determined to try to care for Nate to the end herself, in an attempt to keep him out of hospital as this is his desire. Although it is very sad to witness his deterioration, the love of this mother and child of God, for her child, is amazing. It is truly such a witness to those of us around her who love and admire her to see how God gives her the strength and courage to face each day, even when it is very challenging. At this stage in his life, he is unable to walk or move around, nor even lift his head.

Please join with us in praying for His will to be done in both Katie's and Nate's lives.

Work in the hangar is busy. Since our week has been reduced to 4 days this year we get a lot less done. We have been working on the second Twin Otter that came from PNG 2019 to make it ready for sale. It's been a big job spread out over four months; removing the engines to take off and paint the wings; lots of repairs and a general clean up. In Arnhem Land they are short of engineers. So each month an Airvan is flown here, to Mareeba, for maintenance. It can usually be turned around and delivered back to the programme in a week. One or two have had minor issues and taken a few days longer. In August-September Glenn did an exam—a resit. There was a lot of extra work as his confidence has always been low in Maths and speed is another issue; he found it challenging to complete all the questions in the allocated time. However, his speed improved and he finished all the questions this time, passing the exam as well. In the midst of the business of the hangar we just started work on an Airvan again from PNG that will be sent to MAF's new programme in Myanmar. This programme was due to open this year but as you know a lot of things didn't happen this year. A Cessna Caravan was also planned but due to budget restrictions it was decided to repurpose an Airvan to fly there, hopefully, in early 2021. The photo shows the engine and landing gear have been removed. The landing gear will be overhauled and a new engine fitted. Glenn has just finished upgrading the landing lights to LED's; this job took over two days to complete: wires to add to the loom, new switch and circuit breakers to install in the over head panel.

