

MMM News

Australia

2023 Volume 6



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Front page

New Build-A-Bond Translation
Centre at Maningrida, NT.

MMM Banking details

Bank: Westpac
Account Name: MMM Australia
BSB: 033-349
Acct No: 541089

MMM FUNDRAISER



DEFIBRILLATOR FUNDRAISER

We are fundraising for \$20,000 to equip our mobile teams in each region, our National Office facility and safari teams with defibrillators.

The funds would be enough to purchase 7 AEDs with hard cases for travel. The funds would also cover First Aid training and replacement batteries and pads for the AEDs.

Use of an AED within the first three minutes of a cardiac arrest has shown to improve lifesaving outcomes of patients from 10% up to 70%.

Donate via our website www.mmm.org.au

Direct Deposit to MMM Australia

(Details below - Reference: "Defib and your surname")

OR

Contact us at 5/621 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham VIC 3152

PH: (03) 9837 2700

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Settling In

As we hurtle towards mid-year it's hard to fathom that I have already been with MMM for 7 months. The time has flown and I still feel as blessed as the day I arrived. I've been thinking about what our message is and can't get away from the central message that all Missions and Ministries carry and that is the Gospel message. Our motto 'serving those who serve' can almost give the impression of being a second tier ministry or a step away from carrying a frontline message, but that is not so. The Gospel message is demonstrated by our commitment to the practical works we do. This is a gifting that is mentioned in *1 Corinthians 12:28* of ministering (helping). Paul tells us that this is a God appointed ministry. It's not just in the doing but also in how we do the doing that speaks and witnesses.

The world has lost sight that it was historically the church that built many of the institutions and social organisations that underwrite our society today, examples being schools, hospitals, churches, community services, orphanages and many others. These days the state has taken over many of the functions that the church provided.

MMM Australia stands against this shifting tide supporting many and varied Christian ministries, and as we do this we demonstrate a Godly unity as we serve without favour the many denominations that now represent Jesus's body. Our potential theological differences are quickly lost as we work together in our pursuit of 'serving those who serve'. MMM is a God appointed ministry that shouldn't be lost and hopefully with His blessing will grow.

Since the previous Newsletter a great deal of energy has gone to planning, preparing and commencing the projects in the Northern Territory that are now being rolled out. For a brief time we have two teams, both in Maningrida, working alongside each other constructing a new Translation Centre and updating some aspects of the adjacent church house. The Maningrida project and the other Top End Safari projects represent a real sacrifice by both of our teams. The Top End Safari team will be pumping out 6 projects over a 12-week period. This sacrifice is one of time, money, resources and much

more, but in this sacrifice there is a true investment of God given talents. No burying a talent in the dirt here. We will see a God given return on this investment.

A great area for praise is the post pandemic turn around in finances. As I stepped into the roll it was evident that each month we were going backwards financially due to the impact of Covid. Most missions were reporting similar outcomes. But I'm happy to report that our fundraising efforts, the generous project completion donations and other giving has seen MMM turn the corner and buck the trend. Thank-you Lord. We still have a way to go but this has been an encouraging turn around.

James Lacey
Chief Executive Officer



BUILD-A-BOND PROJECT

Build-a-Bond Team

The Build-a-Bond team arrived in Darwin in mid May readying themselves for the intense weeks ahead. Some flew in to Darwin or Maningrida but most made the long trip by road. To get to this point was a great milestone given the amount of work required to make this project feasible. Months of design, documentation, planning and hard work had already been completed. The process was marked by the many answered prayers along the way.



12 TONS PACKED READY TO GO

The project, to build a translation centre in Maningrida, a 4000 strong closed indigenous community adjacent to the existing church house and build-in an undercroft area, a new kitchen and other repairs to the existing house. Maningrida sits on oceans edge in Arnhem Land and is accessible by barge and airplane year round and by road during the dry season. Maningrida is possibly the most

linguistically diverse community in the world with at least 12 vital languages. The translation centre is to be a community based operation.



ON ITS WAY TO DARWIN PORT VIA RAIL

More broadly it is hoped that the provision of such centres will empower local communities to take greater charge of translation work. As such, there is great interest in this project by the many groups who operate in this space. The outcome of this work could see demand for translation centres not only across Australia but throughout the South Pacific region; a region with 100's of languages requiring work.

To get this project out of the ground was one of the many hurdles to cross. The concrete floor slab had to be the work of a local builder but communication was difficult and so it was unknown whether the slab would be ready in time for the teams arrival.



PRAISE GOD THERE IS A SLAB!

Preparations continued, tickets were booked and many made the long drive in faith with the first confirmation of the slab being down and ready to build upon coming on the day the team had hoped to arrive on site. Logistics



CROSS MAKING IN JABARU WAITING FOR THE RIVERS TO GO DOWN

held up the start date by a week but the team remained as patient as possible, snuck in some sightseeing and continued to pray.



DAY 1

Our thanks go to Chris Stedman and his local team who built the slab.

MMM Projects Office

Phone: 03 9837 2700 **Email:** projects@mmm.org.au

MANINGRIDA NT

What seemed like a slow start quickly fell away as the team negotiated swollen rivers to make the final leg and commence on site. The containers arrived in dribs and drabs by barge but work progressed at speed and by the end of the first week the entire frame was up and ready for the convergence of the two teams. With the arrival of the Top End Safari team the Build-a-Bond team said goodbye to some of its members.

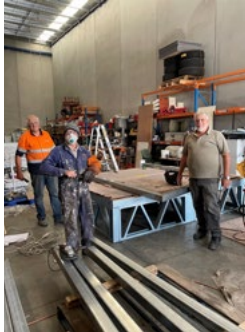


DAY 2

As the two teams melded work continued at pace. Instead of two teams it became one. This is MMM at work, overcoming obstacles, being a witness to the local community and leaving a legacy that will be spoken of for years to come. As the Build-a-Bond team faded the Top End Safari team picked up the baton and continued on with the work.

To complete such a project there are many to thank. Thanks to Rob Chambers who designed and documented the structural design, without charge at a time that he was under the pump. Thanks to VOS Shop Fitters (Head Office neighbours) for the supply of cabinets at a more than reasonable cost, packed and ready to ship.

Thanks to Denis Bromley who did some long days welding all of the portals together with base plates. Thanks to those who helped pack the container and in the production of the framing.



WELDING THE PORTAL FRAMES

Special thanks to Lindsay Parkhill, the Parkhill Foundation and the Uniting Church. Lindsay began the conversation with MMM over two years ago, hosted us at a translator's national conference, took us to Maningrida, drove the outcomes in the Northern



DAY 3

Territory and was the conduit between us and the community's needs. His tireless work made this all possible and has provided MMM with a platform to further promote our Mission.



The Team

Ian Graham (Build-a-Bond Projects Manager) Team Leader & Barbara Graham

Lloyd Graham (Documentation) & Linda

Graeme Burgess (Electrical design & install)

Cedric Wyndham

Terry Baxter

Rod Heape

Peter Norman

Mal Bell

Nathanael Cotton

COMPLETED BUILD



TOPEND SAFARI - NOW ON

At the same time as the Build-a-Bond team landed in Darwin the **Top End Safari Team** were also arriving at the site of their first project in Sanderson, Darwin. St. James Anglican church set on a generous piece of land warmly welcomed the Safari team and provided plenty of space for them



ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

to set up camp adjacent to the church building. This project was a great way for the team to start their journey together, to build team comradery and settle into a rhythm that is to see them complete 6 jobs over a 12 week period finishing at the end of July 2023.

Although not their first Safari Gary and Hilary Brewer stepped up with enthusiasm as first time leaders, and at the start of that process what had looked like a substantial group on paper shrunk to four people. An urgent message went out for more Safari team members and true to form the MMM community responded. We ended up with more people than we could fit on some of the sites.



PAINTING THE HIGH SPACES

With the St. James church painted the team were ready to head to Maningrida. Originally the program would have seen the Build-a-Bond team two weeks into their program before the Safari team's arrival. But that was not how it worked and so from the start the Safari team knew the additional

weeks work that had been put into the schedule for potential overrun would be required.

Like the Build-a-Bond team swollen rivers needed to be negotiated.



WE GO EVERYWHERE

This meant the team had to travel lightly leaving road caravans behind and for some, leaving comfortable beds behind too. For the first week of the two teams working together



TWO TEAMS COMBINE

the numbers grew to a maximum of 22 with the injection of enthusiasm and youth when Daniel and Dave arrived a few days later. One by one the Build-a-Bond team and some of the Safari team left as circumstances required until a much smaller crew of 6 remained for the last (fourth) week.

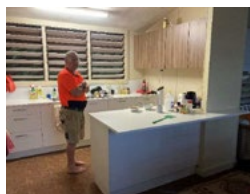


DINNER AROUND THE CAMP FIRE

In this short amount of time the new translation centre was built, the undercroft of the adjacent church house was built-in providing living and bedroom space for Pastor David and a new kitchen installed in the church house.

During the weeks spent the two teams were able to mix with the locals. Aussie Rules footy is big in the community as is evening church.

The team were able to get involved, have conversations and enjoy what is a very different way of life. It was counted as a blessing to be able



NEW KITCHEN

to enter this community and produce a building that will serve them in a fundamental way that bridges our two cultures with the meeting point being our Lord Jesus.

The Team

Gary and Hilary Brewer (Team Leaders)

Don and Bonnie McCaslin (Pastoral and Prayer Coordinators)

Ian Cameron

Barry Steer

John and Sylvia Kaiser (all jobs except Maningrida)

Hank and Rinska Moritz (last four jobs)

Dave, Anne Marie, Elouise, Fletcher and Charlie (Maningrida)

Bruce and Faye Spencer (Maningrida)

Dave Kerr (Maningrida)

Daniel McDonnell (Maningrida)

Kevin Barraclough (last two jobs)



NEW BEDROOM



PEOPLE NEWS



VALE - Lillian Buchanan

Lillian Buchanan recently passed away just shy of her 100th birthday, she was born 14th October 1923.

Lillian 'Lil' Buchanan and her husband Danzy purchased their farming property in Mango Hill, QLD over 50 years ago. They built their home there in 1985 but sadly Danzy passed away shortly afterwards. The Buchanan family has a strong legacy and wonderful Christian heritage in the area.

MMM Australia has been greatly blessed over the years by the generosity of the Buchannan family, in 1993 they provided the land for the MMM QLD base at Mango Hill at a greatly reduced price and were instrumental in helping to establish the centre.



VALE - Clifford Cooper

Cliff Cooper passed away on 3rd June 2003. Cliff was a long-term supporter and volunteer with MMM QLD. John and Anne Cooper, current QLD managers (no relation) remember Cliff as a man with a soft heart, a strong back and a man of few words. When John and Anne commenced their role in 2006, Cliff became

John's offsider.

Cliff had a servant heart. He assisted MMM in many ways for many years, his carpentry skills were highly valued, he worked on many building projects and would even help with garage sales even though they weren't his favourite thing.

MEDIA VOLUNTEER WANTED

PR

SOCIAL MEDIA

PRINTED MEDIA



CREATING MEANINGFUL MESSAGING IN TODAY'S WORLD IS CHALLENGING. EACH GENERATION HAS DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONDS AND REACTS TO DIFFERENT MEDIA TYPES, USE DIFFERENT PLATFORMS AND INTERACT AT DIFFERENT RATES. MMM NEEDS TO APPEAL TO A BROAD RANGE OF PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, SKILLED AND UNSKILLED, PRAYER WARRIORS, DOERS, THOSE WHO NEED HELP, THOSE THAT WANT TO HELP, THE ARTY, THE ORGANISED AND MANY MORE.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE NEED A COORDINATED APPROACH TO ALL OUR MEDIA, HAVE A SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WE ARE TALKING TO AND THE MESSAGE WE WANT TO CONVEY.

MMM IS CALLING FOR A VOLUNTEER WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA AND A HEART FOR THE MISSION. THE ROLE REQUIRES SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK INDEPENDENTLY BUT TAKE DIRECTION. HAS EXPERIENCE WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, CAN MANAGE WEBSITE CONTENT, HAS AN EYE FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN AND IS COGNISANT WITH DELIVERING A COORDINATED MESSAGE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFO PLEASE CONTACT MMM VIA E: ADMIN@MMM.ORG.AU

National Day of Prayer Sunday 10th September 2023



*We encourage you to invite your church to put aside some time
in their service on this day*

*to pray for MMM Australia and/ or commit to pray individually.
Register your interest at prayer@mmm.org.au*



MMM South Australia Annual Fundraising Dinner
Guest Speaker : Garth Grant (CEO: Steer JCC)
Cost \$ 45.00 per person
(Early -bird \$40.00 book before Sept 30th)

Saturday 14th October 2023
6:00pm

Aldgate Church of Christ, Aldgate, SA

Bookings via trybooking.com from August 1st
or call Jane : 0432 253 588 Geoff 0400 951 010



MMM PRAYER NEWS

God Cares About the Details

The year is well under way and we have so many projects happening and many have already been completed. We have been praying for able volunteers for our NT Safari and a wonderful team has come together, as always, in God's timing. We are so grateful for answered prayers and the opportunity to serve together, there is just so much we can do to help. We'd love your ongoing prayers for our NT Safari team, as they have faced quite a few challenges already and have been working hard to problem solve!



God cares about all those details. To share a little personal experience, I remember once, back in the day when I lived in a share house in Darwin, with 4 other Christian girls, I had completely ran out of shampoo. Every time I went to the shop to pick up a few things, I meant to buy shampoo and kept forgetting! I spent 2 weeks washing my hair with soap and feeling frustrated with myself for constantly forgetting to buy shampoo and my hair was feeling like straw. Honestly not a big deal in the scheme of things but God cares about the small things in our life. I unexpectedly received a parcel in the mail from a friend who was living in Perth, with a note that said something along the lines of "this is really weird, but I felt God tell me to send you a

bottle of shampoo." In the parcel was a bottle of shampoo! I was utterly gobsmacked and completely floored that God would provide for me like this, just because I kept forgetting. I didn't pray for shampoo, and I had the money to buy it so wasn't in need that way. But how amazing that our relationship with God is not transactional and He is so thoughtful and caring towards us.

Ruth Goelst, who serves as a Region Manager with her husband Shane, at MMM in Tasmania, sent me the following praise point. I hope it encourages you in God's care for the little things:

"A couple of weeks ago, while we were on project, someone asked me about paintbrushes and I told them honestly that I only like to use Monarchs, which may sound snobby, but a good quality paintbrush is essential for a good finish.

Yesterday, as we were sorting some painting gear in the shed, Shane said it was a shame that we didn't think about stocking up on paintbrushes before Andrew sold his business as we were getting a bit low and have a lot of painting jobs coming up (Andrew is a volunteer painter who had a paint shop in Devonport until a couple of months ago and we bought as much paint as we could possibly anticipate needing, at cost, before he finished up).

This morning, I went into Hope Hub for a coffee and had a chat to Peter Ferrall who heads up Teen Challenge with his wife, Tanya. He said he had a box in the car to give to me, something he'd been given at Bunnings, yesterday, when they were doing the sausage sizzle.



There were 46 assorted Monarch brushes in the box!! At an average price of \$30, that's a very nice donation from Bunnings without them even knowing it."

I love this verse 1 Peter 5:7, particularly how the Amplified translation expresses it:

"casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]."



God's care for us is tremendous. We see God moving all the time in the little things here at MMM, so many small miracles happen, it's just amazing. God watches over all of us and I look forward very much to seeing what He does next.

Blessings,

Robyn Fedrick

National Prayer Coordinator

MMM Prayer Network

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