

## Around Our Neighbourhood

January 24th



A pondok natal, A snapped a few pics of some the ones along our road.

Open below to see **4 more pictures**.

I thought I would just share a few little stories about life here in Sentani. We've shared some heavy stuff this past month, so this seems like a good change of pace. Enjoy!

### Pondok Natal's

I know that talking about Christmas in January feels a little off, but here Christmas often spills over into January. One local Papuan Christmas custom is to create tropical style nativities (called a "pondok natal") beside the roads in their neighbourhoods. This year, apparently the local government put some pretty hefty cash prizes up for the best pondok natal in each neighbourhood, as well as for the district. I attached a couple photos of a couple pondok natahs along our road, there must have been 7 or 8 of them in a 1 km stretch. A lot of them had lights on in the evening (all part of trying to win the prize), so it did give a bit of that Christmas feel we miss from back home... (I'm

thinking of candy cane lane in Prince George, just no snow to go along with it! But to give it a uniquely Papuan feel, some of them did blast music all hours of the day and night :)

## **Getting Around Town**

While Amy is daily is out and about in our car, I usually use my motorcycle to get to / from the hangar and wherever else I need to be. I'm sure that maintaining vehicles is not everyone's favorite way to spend a Saturday, but I rather enjoy taking my bike to the local "bengkel" (bike shop). I always find it interesting to watch a guy wrench on a bike in flip flops and maybe a cigarette hanging out of his mouth. As an aircraft mechanic, it really is a clash of cultures; I would want to do so many things differently. But boy, these guys know how to get a job done. They can disassemble, troubleshoot, re-assemble (and light another smoke) in the same amount of time it would take me to watch some how-to Youtube videos and find the tools I would need. I often try to take mental notes how they took something apart or what they did in case I ever need to attempt it.

## **Wind and Falling Trees**

Last week we had an unusual amount of wind, all in one direction. It was the outer effects of a large Pacific storm passing a few hundred Km's to the north. We have some large "sea spruce" trees (for those of you who geek out on Latin: Casuarina equisetifolia...I had to google this. Gerald Hills, if you read this, this was for you). They are pretty and remind me some of pine trees back in Canada, but they get tall and can rot out in the middle without showing it. The wind brought one down a few days ago, and thankfully just missed our house. It hit the main power line, pulling the power meter off our house wall. Surprisingly, the power is still on, and as I type (3 days later) it is STILL hanging off our wall. I have gone to the office twice of the local power provider to come and fix their meter and power cable, but...Yah, they haven't come yet. So, we just stay away from the cable lying on the ground and I will go down there to complain again later today.

## **Flying Continues!**

Despite the tough things that happened in December, MAF has continued to operate through it all. In fact, the Christmas season is always a time of high flight requests. I hope to start posting more stories about this flying soon. I am continually taken aback by the opportunities we have here to model Christ's love to needy people in truly hard to get places. And we are continually grateful for all of you who pray over this ministry and support it in multiple ways!

## **Respond and Encourage**

Taking a second to respond to this update makes a big difference for The Eadies.

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