



# Build Aid MISSIONS

September  
2017

## Challenges that strengthen us!

2017 looked like being a very dynamic year for BuildAid. We had carefully planned our trips, teams and timetable to make the most of the volunteers we already had signed up. Sometimes things change!

We began the year in Ranvetlam, Ambrym, Vanuatu laying floor tiles for the Richards family whose home we had built a few years back. The Richards' family were due to return to Vanuatu from the USA in May/June and this was the perfect opportunity to get this job done!



Unfortunately, our first attempt to complete this task was cut short with the sudden passing of Joanna's mum. This was unexpected and certainly changed the timing of upcoming trips but Ian was eventually able to

return to complete this job and then move on to Olal to do more tiling – this time for the Ellis' family's bathroom!

A planned trip home for the arrival of our second grandson Ryan in April was wonderful time with family. We are very blessed to now have two beautiful grandsons.

Ian returned to Olal, but while there he contracted Dengue Fever that kept him bed bound for some time. In fact we weren't even sure that it was Dengue until he returned to Australia for blood tests.

June was a very happy month with the wedding of our son Luke and his fiancée Amy. We were both thankful to be home in Australia for this time with family.



July/August were especially busy months with teams heading back out to Ambrym to work at Megamone School on the teacher's homes and to do some cleaning for the impending arrival of the Richard's family and Laura Thuleson. A large team from Moree in New South Wales worked especially hard to get all the brickwork and the bond completed.

Following on from where this team left off, Murray and Joanna joined Ian and Graham to begin the roof.



Unfortunately the weather wasn't too kind to begin with and the team was forced to return to Ranvetlam. This was indeed a blessing – we were able to clean and prepare the houses for the family to return, unload boxes of supplies, build a chicken coup for 30 young chicks that were about to arrive.

Would you like to be involved? Volunteers are needed to join with us this year. You don't have to have any particular building skills and there are opportunities for women as well as men to come along.



The weather eventually cleared and we were able to return to the northern end of the island to continue working at the school. Roof trusses were installed and the building was ready for roofing sheets.

We returned to Australian in August but unfortunately Ian suffered some serious health issues and as a result spent several days in hospital but is now home and resting. Also during this time our son-in-law discovered inadvertently that he had a cancerous tumor. This has now been removed and he has been given an "all clear". He will need to have follow up scans and blood tests but we are very grateful that both he and Ian are on the mend.



## Generosity flaws us!

Earlier this year we were blessed with the gift of a new vehicle to help us move teams and materials around North Ambrym. We can't thank the generous people and churches (especially those in the USA) that made this possible.



Places are now available for trips in November to Vanuatu and to Far North Queensland in January.  
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