

Elcho Outstations – Oct 2010



Early Oct Stephen Cutter and I 'Air North'ed out to the community of Galiwin'ku, Elcho Dog Health Programs.

Wow ! What a special experience ! We flew with MAF (Missions Aviation Fellowship) to different outstations over 2 days. At times it was as if we were flying over islands of the Great Barrier Reef. SO beautiful and remote !!!

The 3 very remote outstations of Matamata, Rorruwuy and Maparu (*see pic above Stephen carrying sedated dog*) were each no more than about 8 houses. At Maparu the "airport" was a buffalo skull in the nares of which the pilot places the flight plan (*see pic below*)!

At Matamata (*aerial pic below*), there was a zealous welcome of more dogs than people. Phyllis had us desex all her 6 companions that hunt and fish with her every morning. Phyllis's dogs lay around her in recovery while she stripped pandanus fronds (*see pic above*). She is famous for her quality weaving.

Over our 2 afternoons in Galiwin'ku we collected dogs from 3 different outstations on Elcho Island including the beautiful Nawili on a glorious long white beach (*pic above*). The surgeries we carried out on the usual – a door on two 44 gallon drums - in a huge old workshop.

We also ventured into some rodeo work – the community bull needed castration and dehorning (*see pic below*).

