



World's remotest graduates

The first grade 10 students graduate in remote Papua New Guinea (PNG)

In December 2022, hundreds turned out in Mougulu — an isolated village PNG's Western Province — to celebrate the graduation of Mougulu Secondary School's first grade 10 students.

With secondary education so rare in this part of the world, most of the graduates were over the age of 20, and the oldest was 29. Some tried four or five times to pass grade 10, which is the equivalent of UK GCSEs.

The school was opened in January 2021 by Australian missionaries Sally and Ian Lloyd, and is thought



PHOTOS: MANDY GLASS AND LANDEN KELLY

to be one of the remotest in the world. The closest secondary school is a week's walk away in Kiunga, and the majority of the 220 students at Mougulu receive food, medical care and boarding facilities because they have to walk 3 days or more to reach it.

Mougulu lies in the heart of PNG's rainforest and can only be reached by foot or aircraft. All the building materials, food, medicine and teaching resources are flown in by MAF — who have partnered with Sally and Ian for over 50 years.

Providing secondary schooling for

girls has been one of Sally's key objectives, with UNICEF reporting that only 50% of girls transition into secondary school in PNG, with 27% forced into marriage before they are 18.

Sally says, 'Without air transport, we simply cannot function. MAF is a massive part of our ministry, and everyone is determined to make this work to provide good access to education. It's not safe for girls to go to school, but I believe that everyone in PNG deserves an equal chance.'

Pause for prayer

Please pray for all the students studying at Mougulu, and for Sally, Ian and MAF's continued partnership. Pray also for the countless children and young adults in PNG and across the world who aren't able to access education because of their race, gender or simply due to the remoteness of where they live.

Flying For Life Podcast

You can listen to Sally share her story and hear from Mougulu's science teacher Maika Yabua — the only person to achieve a degree in his village — on MAF's new Flying For Life Podcast. Join radio presenter Josh Carter to understand how ground-breaking this secondary school is in the rainforests of PNG. Visit www.maf-uk.org/podcast

Education Day

To mark the International Day of Education on 24 January, Sally reported, 'After what seems like a big struggle, we are now able to offer grade 11 and 12 at Mougulu — and 25 students have been selected to progress with their studies. For others, we hope to offer vocational or distance learning. Mougulu was rated the 3rd best school in our province.'