

- 3 JUL 1972

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# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE Vol. 102



Friday 17th September 1971.

## BUGS GALORE

Knowing full well the intense interest generated locally when the subject of bugs comes to the fore you would be well advised to read on, folks.

A couple of weekends ago your correspondent had cause to visit the upper Cadell Crossing (Dakalajarin) with Mr. Bob Collins, a visitor from Darwin. Mandarrg, and his family, are camped there and in the course of delivering stores, receiving craftwork, etc, some of the children produced a bottle containing some live grasshoppers. There were a half dozen, or so, magnificently hued in vivid orange and blue and altogether very unusual, and attractive. The kids said that they found the creatures in the rocks (no shortage thereabouts) and that there were plenty more 'hoppers of the same variety in the vicinity.

Bob, who works for the PIB, was extremely interested and volunteered to carry the gaudy little fellows back to Darwin, for examination by the CSIRO.

Word has now come back that the grasshoppers are extremely rare, having been recorded as last seen by Leichardt in the 1800's. The specimens have now been sent South for examination.

If you see any of these little fellows around, don't use them for barra-mundi bait - stick them in a bottle and hand them in to your friendly Wildlife Ranger, who will be duly grateful.

From the Entomologist's Corner  
By J.C.H.

## FROM THE COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13/9/71

PRESENT: 10 Councillors and 6 visitors.

DANCING COMPETITION: The trophy for the dancing competition was exhibited. President asked Councillors to try and get as many teams as possible. Council was to go around next Monday and list all the teams.

CADELL: Superintendent asked Councillors what people would think of the idea of having a European gardener living at Cadell. Cr. Riala thought that it would be a good idea but that one should be enough. He would have to train aboriginal people to work a garden. Cr. Jack John thought that it would be a good idea.

WATER: Cr. Riala asked why Maningrida couldn't get water from the Cadell. There was plenty out there and Maningrida didn't have enough. Sometimes people got sick from drinking the water.

LEG. CO. ELECTIONS: President reminded Councillors that there would be a Legislative Council election this year. He wanted to see that an aboriginal was nominated for this electorate.

## TALES of a TRAVELLER. THE CENTRE

On the Tuesday afternoon Silas travelled with the Aboriginal Pensioners' Homes Advisory Committee to Amoongoona and who should he see but Jimmy Gilgal, Works Force carpenter from Maningrida! Both had a surprise. This was part of an inspection of housing on settlements and missions.

On the Sunday one group went to Santa Theresa, a Catholic mission, mainly for part aboriginal people, and here Silas was very impressed by the living standard of the people.

On the Monday they were able to see Papunya and speak to the people for a couple of hours. (Here the Pintubi people prefer to make their own wurlies rather than live in houses.)

Then on to Arcyonga where the people are mining copper and earning some money. Flying back to Alice Springs they visited Napier Station where a number of aboriginal people live and where a shortage of water is a problem.



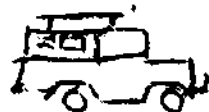
In Alice Springs Silas met his brother Jacob and his sister Mercy (who was at Maningrida for a short time) - now the wife of glider pilot Herby Butler and mother of a baby boy.

The sight of people living in the bed of the Todd river, untidy and dirty, made everyone feel sad, but pleased to hear that plans are afoot to build houses for Aborigines down near the Old Timers' Homes.

The Committee is trying to encourage people to collect money to help themselves.

### NANGALALA and BACK

Recently Mr. Alfie Roberts made the trip over and back, taking about five hours each way. The Land Rover did the job without any complaints or trouble.



### APOLOGY.

We regret that this edition is a little below par but we are operating on casual staff as a casual edition.



## BIRDWATCHER

Several times I have noticed the little red-crowned pigeon in the woodlands nearby, particularly in the wetter places, and you may be interested to hear of it. As its name would suggest, it is quite a colourful bird; a characteristic which you may think out of place for a pigeon. It is not larger than the little Peaceful Doves about the settlement, but unlike most other pigeons, it is basically green in colour with a red/rose cap, orange lower parts and grey front and neck. The female bird has a violet abdominal patch. It will be found in the foliage of berry-bearing trees, and as such, is quite impossible to see unless it gives its "Coo" call or moves. This habitat necessitates the green colour for camouflage against predators, as distinct from ground-feeding pigeons and doves who have a grey or brown colour to blend with the ground. Despite the fact that it is difficult to spot, it is by no means a shy bird and can easily be approached.

Sorry  
but he's  
flown.

In its nesting habits it is a typical pigeon, in that it has a clutch of white eggs, and that the nest is only a thin, roughly made platform of sticks. In our area the breeding season is believed to be in the 'Wet', to correspond to the bountiful supply of berries and fruit at that time. It is described by being a generally common bird in the monsoonal forests along the coasts and islands of these parts. Its scientific name of *Ptilinopus Regina* means, in rough translation, the "queen of the feather-footed".

## PEOPLE

Round about knock-off time last Wednesday, smoke from two fires was seen near the Little Gudjerama. Mr. Eric Quick quickly rounded up six men to help. Harry Jawadi was halfway through a shave, and Bruce Gowung was walking home with a string bag full of food from the shop.

Putting their fire training into practice the men worked as a team and had the first fire out within a short time - only 3 acres lost. The next fire was harder to control and the bulldozer had to be brought from 8 miles away to make a fire break.

There is no doubt that someone had passed there and either dropped a lighted match or cigarette butt. If the person who did this is found he will definitely be taken to court.

But it wasn't the Administrator.

This week Eric Q. received a radio message that fire officer R. Hooper would come on Tuesday with Mr. Chaney and a Mr. Murray from W.A.

So Eric put on a clean shirt and polished his boots while Barbara started thinking about the refreshments for mid-afternoon. When the plane landed it was not the Administrator, the Honourable Mr. Chaney who stepped onto the airstrip but a visiting Forester whose name is Phil Chaney - from W.A.!!!

### Departed

Mr. Peter Philp who had long flowing hair and was secretly known as "Goldilocks" to some lady admirers, is in Darwin working with a firm repairing motor bikes.

### Arriving

Mr. Robert Burns (a poet??) a Technical Assistant 2, is here for 4 weeks to learn the ropes.

### Arriving and Departing

Mr. Rob Prussian will arrive from Murganella at the weekend to say goodbye to friends before he leaves for his home state, W.A. On Monday he will drive Mr. Allen Brady back to take up his post at Murganella. Allen will be missed at Waningrida. He has played an active and helpful part in the community life. Doubtless, the Navy will splice the main brace as a farewell gesture. We all wish Allen and Rob good luck for their future.

## FROM THE MAILBAG.

News of our travelling ex-Sisters Wendy, Christine and Ann. A letter received telling us of their safe journey via Mt Isa to the east coast of Queensland. All was very hot and dusty to Townsville when they struck some rain. However, it hasn't prevented them enjoying the various places they've travelled through - Magnetic Island where Wendy was able to cuddle a koala bear and Christine had her second opportunity to be chased by a brolga (a real live one!) and on up to Cairns from where they travelled to Kuranda on the Scenic Railway and out to Green Island to see the coral and fish via glass bottom boats and the underwater observatory.

The girls have decided to keep on travelling down around the coast to Adelaide (homesick?) They say they miss Maningrida.

Bill Clissold, the roving electrician, has done it! He went South in May, Dianne came over from Tasmania "and believe it or not, we found that we were still in love so we got engaged there and then." The wedding day is planned for January 8th.

Bill is now at Queenstown in Tasmania, shivering away in the snow but thinking of his future, has begun a four year course in electronics at the request of the Mt Lyell Mining Co. He is sorry that he won't be able to come back to Maningrida.

Among other things he has been speaking to the school children about Aboriginal bark painting.

Mrs. Betty Wandug is nearing the end of her trainee nurses course in Darwin and looking forward to coming home. She worked at East Arm for two weeks recently.

Mr. Dennis Strand is living through a cold Melbourne winter with many coughs and colds and thinks of this warmer country. Young Matthew is now running about, sometimes like a blue streak (training for Carlton!) Val, who had another operation on her eye some months ago, is well.

WEEKEND DUTIES:

Duty Officer: Mr Edward Caroy  
Duty Sister: Sister Heather Cross  
Nightwatchman:  
Fire Officer:

STAR THEATRE:

Friday: in tomorrow - plane.

CHURCH:

Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools "The Body of Christ."  
7.00 p.m. Evening Service. Proacher Mr Bob Cross.  
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Fellowship

Looking beyond Maningrida to the rest of the world.

When the congregation makes suggestions for prayers - we think of friends or relatives who are sick or away in some other place. This is good. However the interest of people rarely reaches beyond Arnhemland while in India thousands of people can be in danger through floods, people in Nth Ireland bitterly fighting each other and happier things happening elsewhere.

Christ came to save the World, and He told his disciples to have a world outlook. "Go into all the world."

How can we look wider?

We propose to bring a map of the world into Church services and speak about 2 or 3 happenings in other parts of the world and mark the position with a coloured flag. Then we will pray for the people there.

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Arid - son of Ngardiyn and Micky Jundarngu on Friday Sept. 10th.  
Arid is No. 9 in Micky's family.

Sister Helen King will begin at the Hospital on Monday.

Mr Jack Gardiner is having a few days break in Darwin and will spend one night at Oenpelli on the return journey to look at the birds there - the ones with feathers.

Supt. Mr John Hunter made an official visit to Darwin on Wednesday.

**Maningrida Mirage**

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"Maningrida Mirage Volume 102" September 17th, 1971.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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