

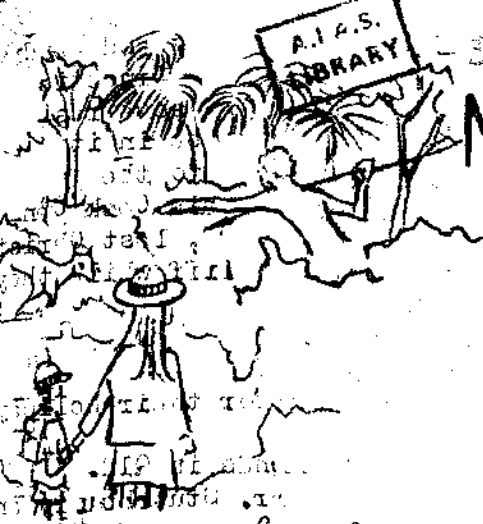
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MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

VOL. 115

Fri. Dec. 15th 1971



"Walkabout"

The Arnhemland premiere of the film "Walkabout" was held at the Star Theatre on Tuesday night before quite a large audience. It was one of the few audiences where people would have understood what David was saying in his Dalwangu language.

We have asked 3 people to comment of the film.

As two young Aboriginal men saw it.

Barney Winunguj has read the book and seen the film twice. Lucky Balarka, like most of us, saw the film for the first time on Tuesday.

"It was great to have a Maningrida bloke in the film, and I only hope he continues on."

"The hanging of David at the end - it wasn't the way of Aboriginal people to do this. That's based on a European idea."

Lucky: - "The girl didn't cry when David hanged himself - he had looked after her and the boy. She was feeling happy at the end."

"That was a sad part when the two buffalo shooters went past in the Land Rover. David was sad then. They treated him as an animal, too. That's when he cried. They nearly ran over him, and their Landrover threw sand over him."

Barney: - "When David ran down the hill at the beginning with only half his clothes on - (a belt and pubic tassel) - all the kids (in the audience) laughed, and that really hurt me. The kids were being stupid. David wore just what our ancestors did."

"The speaking in an Aboriginal language was good. The hunting was good, too. When they were walking through Palm Valley the little kid was telling his story and there was a white cockatoo, a possum and a bandicoot in the trees. David missed seeing all these things, because the kid was telling his story. He could have caught them easily."

Barney thought that "the kid was stupid because David couldn't understand English, so what was the use of telling the story?"

As a Balanda saw it.

The showing of the film "Walkabout" (or, the film that everybody 'talkabout', sorry about that) was for me, a memorable evening.

Fair enough, those who know the Aboriginal way and those who could pick the technical faults can easily criticise this film. On the other hand, if we wanted a true to life representation of something then we wouldn't go to the cinema in the first place.

The beginning and the ending, erratic and emotionless as they are, only serve to enhance the other (and main) 99% of the film. The magnificent photography, clever blending of an attractive musical score and the simplicity of action, coupled with a welcome lack of dialogue ; all added up to be what can only be called ' good cinema'.

I have a feeling that, regardless of what opinion one may have had of the film, it will not be forgotten. It has provoked a good deal of discussion, not only locally, I'll stick my neck

"Walkabout" Cont.

out even further and predict that it is, for all its apparent failings, destined to become something of a classic.

The film has a dreamlike quality, in this it did not have to do or say any more than it did. The nightmarish flashbacks to the scene of the disaster and the perfect bathing scenes say all that needed to be said,

After seeing the film it is easy to realise that it is one man's (plus photographer) essay on a problem that is timeless. A statement of the fact that there can be no merging of cultures or ideals. There is just one way or the other, there is nothing between,.... or is there?

Resting time for Crocodiles



The Gunnwingu men have been having a bit of a feast lately, biggest mobs of crocodile eggs we gather, or rather they gather, from the Tompkinson and Liverpool River plains country. An egg ~~xxx~~ a day keeps the Doctor (Baku) away, or so it seems.

N.T. News readers will probably have heard by now of the study which is under way by Professor Harry Messell and the N. T. A.'s Wildlife section. It is intended to 'learn as much as possible' about these giant reptiles in a programme to be conducted over the next five years. Who knows, we may yet see; JOCKEY B.B. B. Sc. (Hon) or LUMPY D. Sc. (Illit) before too long.

Home Again!

' SCALES '

Yesterday's morning's plane brought Forestry men Mr. Bruce Gowun and Mr. Harry Jawudi and his wife Mary and their children back to Maningrida after their sea-side holiday in Victoria. They all looked refreshed and in good shape. The baby, young Cambell, looked the very model of a well dressed baby in his woolen booties.

They were the only Aboriginal people in the holiday flats at Queenscliff, but a number of people led by Mr. Doug. Phenister, brother of John, were good friends to them. These people took them for outings - into Geelong to shop, down to Torquay to see the beach, and out to Doug's farm where the children were very interested in the sheep and cattle. Twice the men and the boys were taken fishing, but no luck. As Jimmy says "Maybe no fish around there."

The family went to Melbourne twice. Once to see the Zoo which quite impressed Mary, and once by train ("it cost \$10 for all of us) to do some more shopping.

The girls thought that TV was the highlight of life in the South, especially 'The Andy Williams Show'. Undeterred by the cooler weather they splashed into the sea on four occasions. Poor old Bruce felt the cold in his bones. He confessed that he wore two pairs of socks all the time and that he spent a bit more time curled up under the blankets than the others did.

If another holiday opportunity came along, Betty and Landy are not sure whether they would like to go to Victoria again. Bruce is sure that he would plug for some warm place. Mary who felt some reservations about going out into the unknown, at first, would be in it again for sure. Luke and Jimmy were on their second visit to the Sthn. states. Luke went to Sydney with the Cubs for the Captain Cook Centenary Celebrations and Jimmy went to the Jamboree in Sydney, last Christmas. Both boys attended Cub and Scout meetings at Queenscliff while they were away.

Other Travellers

Mr. and Mrs. John Phenister have gone to England for their holidays. They have settled into life at Jay Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gillespie have gone to visit friends in Qld. Renee and Irene travelled south to Sydney to stay with Mr. Stutchbury and his parents.

The Bird watcher

With our particular Wet - Dry climate in the Territory, all living things, from the simplest single-celled protozoa to the highly complex mammal, must be able to fit into the best niche available for their survival, and must vary their behaviour accordingly. Here all animals and plants have adapted themselves to survive the Dry and to breed in the Wet when food and water are plentiful. So we have our unique animals and plants, such as the Mud Toad and the short-growing-season flowers and grasses.

Feathered individuals must also fit themselves suitably into the environment, and over countless generations and seasons habits have been inbred into each individual by natural selection, making them more specialised to handle survival. The Maggie Goose would be the best known case of such a bird that has adapted its habits. In the Dry they vacate the southern part of the Territory to cram into the few remaining permanent waterholes by the coast, but come the Wet they move back to spread over the inundated plains and to feed on the ripening water grasses and sedges. In this plentiful supply of food they bring up their young, but they must do this in time so that the young can fly before the swamps dry out. Most other water birds, such as the Whistle Duck and the Brolga, time their life in the same strict schedule in a similar north-south movement. Most of our seed and fruit eating birds have similar, though not so marked, movements. The Torres Strait Pigeons (often called simply the White Pigeon by Maningridians) have dispersed south to about Katherine in search of ripening fruit. The Sacred Kingfishers also spread south at this time to move out onto the river waters. You will notice, the Mudlark has left us; he will now have his mud-nest well under construction somewhere down south. He will be living just with his partner, not in the large flocks we see here.

Maggie
Goose



Brolga



Rainbow Bird

You may also have noticed that the Peaceful Dove and the Rainbow Bird have turned up in good numbers about the settlement, and I have even seen some crimson finches and red-winged parrots near the cliff house, and I have never seen these birds inside the settlement before, although they are plentiful enough in the surrounding bush. I cannot offer a definite explanation for their occurrences, but more than likely it is just a small movement, following the seeding of some particular grass or tree.

J.G.

Forestry

Digby has done it. Congratulations to Mr. Denis Coleman on his engagement to a Wran at Coonawarra. Digby is naturally a very happy man and hoping that it will be possible for his fiance to come to Maningrida in the near future.

Working Ten Hours a Day. The bulldozer is clearing lines for the planting of the Cypress seedlings, in the area south of the settlement about 4 miles away. As time is running out, two drivers are working in shifts to do the maximum amount of work each day.

Christmas Trees. The Supervisor, Mr. Eric Quick, is very pleased with the way in which people have made their requests for trees, thus ensuring the young pines which really need to be thinned out are the ones which will be taken.

For the Jet Setters

To avoid confusion regarding arrival/departure times for Connair,

	Be at Govt. Store	Plane
Mon.	11 a.m.	11.40 a.m.
Tues.	11.45 a.m.	12.25 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m.	8.40 a.m.
Thurs.	10 a.m.	10.45 a.m. (Mission flight)
	10 a.m.	11.40 a.m.
Fri.	10.15 a.m.	10.55 a.m.
Sat.	10.30 a.m.	11.15 a.m.

Please note that Passengers plus Baggage must be weighed.

O.K.? T.K.

WEEKEND
DUTIES

Duty Officer: Mr. Bill Beckett
Duty Sister: Sister Cec Carey

STAR
THEATRE

Friday: "Zebra in the Kitchen"
Saturday: "Caprice"

CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Advent.
9.30 am Sunday Schools "God at hand"
7 pm Evening Service
Wednesday, 7.30 pm Crusaders' Fellowship
Christmas morning 9.30 am Nativity play and Service.



"The Crown of Thorns and blood of Christ"



"The Eternal is with us."



"The promised One has come."



"The Light has come."



"Sign of everlasting life."

BIRTHS

- Darcy is the name of the boy born to Mandy and Jack Habalaya.
- Clara daughter of Mary Ann Guduwanga and Wally Libuwanga, in Darwin Hospital.
- Ingrid daughter of Maisie Milingwanga and Brian Nyinawanga, on December, 9th.
- Freda daughter of Lena Lorna and Jacky Jabalala on 12th Dec.
- Cheryl daughter born to Shirley and Herv Mason at 1.30 pm, on 14th Dec. in Darwin Hospital.

DEATH

Johnny, prematurely born baby (2 lbs.4 oz.) of Rose Wadaguga and Johnny Mayara, died in the plane on the way into Darwin.

People

Sister Edith left yesterday for a holiday in Port Moresby. Mrs. Croft may be there for a few days, too.

Messrs. John Wilders, Charlie Godjuwa, and Jim Walbaraka were also among the holiday makers, heading for Traralgon in Victoria.

From Milingimbi: - Dr. Ray Baku hastened to Milingimbi to attend Bungawuy who was having a bad time with a chest complaint. An old Maningrida resident, Topsy Yena Yena, is very sick and has asked for some of her relatives to visit her. Ronnie Baramala has returned to Maningrida from Godji.

Wood carver John Godawa, Rachel Dayguma (winner of the second prize for a pandanus mat in the Darwin Show), Shop assistant Mavis Mowuridja, and "Killer" Bill's mother Rosalie Gandiwanga are taking the air in Darwin while they are having X-ray reviews for T.B.

Here for a second visit is Steven Gade from Adelaide staying with Mrs. Gill Amies. Steven has his friend Chris Talbert with him.

Wesley and Carl Dickfoss have their cousins from Tennant Creek staying with them.

A word to some of our readers.

"Lumpy is alive and well"

If you read something in the Mirage that seems too bad to be true, read it over two or three times until you understand the meaning of the whole story.

If you read something which seems too good, read it again.

Twice lately, people have read three words in a story and forgotten the other 97, which gave quite a different meaning.

Barney winunguj and Lucky Balarka are taking the Scouts and the visitors Steven and Chris. out for a camp at Rocky Point.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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