



# MANINGRIDA



## MIRAGE

Friday

Vol. 95

30th July 1971

### MANN VALLEY VISIT.....

The Mann River Valley Exploration Society made its initial foray last weekend with a two day reconnaissance of the northern sector.

First stop was routine call to the Gunninggu road makers who are clearing a shot gun track from Guiyun (Jungle Hill) directly to the valley entrance. They are currently 5 miles to the SW of Guiyun, in scrub country, with about another 10-12 miles to go. This track, when complete will considerably improve access to the valley and cut driving time down to about 1 1/2 hours.

Second call, after a night camp, was to a group of interesting looking hills on the edge of the forest country, about three miles east of the Mac Intyre track. Examination of the hills indicated them to be composed of sandstone (siltstone) whilst the northernmost one seemed to have some magnetic influence on the car compass.

The valley floor is quite easy to move about in, except for a series of short, deep cracks and the usual coverage of high grass. There was no difficulty up the in driving up the eastern side of the Mann to the point where it flows out of the valley, through fairly rugged stone country. Unfortunately time did not permit more than a 'sampling' of likely looking areas. The first, on the Eastern bank, disclosed a small number of very old rockpaintings (red-line) but no signs of recent habitation. A second inspection of broken sandstone outcrops on the Western bank was more interesting. Old red-line paintings were found in 3 separate locations, also a quantity of stone implements. Best find was a cave area, the floor being completely covered with the charcoal of old fires and strewn with stone implements and bones. There were quite a number of paintings on the roof and walls, including whiteline paintings with the ochre flaking off. There were several hand-prints, child size, along the walls about 2 feet above the floor. This has obviously been a well lived in place at some time in the past.

This raises the interesting questions of how long the valley has been deserted. We know that there were people living around the stone country in Gordon Sweeneys time (late 1930's). The Gunninggu people who are custodians of the country have not lived there in more recent years but have visited on occasions. It might not be unreasonable to infer that the area has been virtually abandoned for the last 30 years, the people having moved out into more habitable country, food-wise, in the Maragulidban region. One bark hut, probably wet season 1970/71, was located at the entrance to the valley but its construction and the absence of debris in the vicinity indicated that it served only for a very brief stay. There is little difficulty in concluding that the Mann valley contains a lot of interesting possibilities.

J.H.

### School News

The Post Primary students over 15 years will soon be spending half their time working. Two boys and two girls at the bakery, two boys as builders, two at Fisheries and one in the garage, one in the office, one in the craft shop, one at the store one girl at Home Management and two girls at school.

Some months ago Peter and Mavis commenced working part-time at the store and the success of this experiment prompted the idea of starting, what we hope, will be a realistic approach to solving the unemployment problem for school leavers.

Under this system third year Post Primary Students over 15 years will be able to  
 1. Choose a career based on interest. 2. Receive on the job training. 3. Have the opportunity at school of learning the necessary skills. 4. Remain a member of the school. 5. Receive guidance from teachers. 6. Have the opportunity to change their minds before commencing full time employment.

It is hoped that there will be three boys apprenticed to local tradesmen in 1972.

# BASKETBALL

I'd like to explain more about the basketball and how it will be run by me through the year. The fact is that I have made strong rules, the same as they are everywhere else. I have nominated two people to spy on the teams who make trouble on the court, like fighting or swearing. These two people are called "Tribunal" and if you make trouble at the basketball they will decide whether there will be a punishment or a fine. The two men will be the President Tommy Yibberal and Mr. PHEMister.

When the game begins every player must have 20 cents to pay, if you haven't got 20 cents you won't be able to play. We are collecting this money to let the Association buy trophies for the end of the year, for the team that wins the final game.

You cannot change from one team to another during the season, unless you ask John PHEMister or me. You must tell us on Friday, Saturday or Sunday as we will close up the members book on Sunday night and not open it again until Friday. Please keep to these rules so that we can be proud of our Basketball Competition.

## Results of Tuesdays Games.

Dolphins 58 defeated Eagles 48.

Arnhemland 48 defeated Blyth River 40.

Top goal scorer Ray Benddage (Eagles) 26 points

## Next Weeks Draw.... Round 2 Week 2

	Tuesday 3/8/71.	Thursday 5/8/71
Cape Stewart	v Pioneers..... 7pm	Kupanga v Entrance Island..... 7pm
Dolphins	v Cadell..... 8pm	Chalkies v Eagles..... 6pm
	Arnhemland.....	Bye. (Duty Club)

Jim Pascoe.

## IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS

Cadell Garden is looking well, as are the incumbents. The Ranks are swelled somewhat by the Guñardba "business" push and those who might be stranded there from time to time when the Jinang truck goes into one of its beaut 'fainting' spells. The eight or nine resident school absconders are very well organised. Their "cockatoo" observes the entry road continuously, should that blue government car hove into view then all concerned take to the bush until it has passed by. Not a bad scheme but it may be spoiled soon. Sister Tilley was delighted to find a new face - born about 7 or 8 months ago but not yet discovered. Her name is Cecina and her mother is Rhoda.

Meanwhile, down at Murrbudun, about 3 miles past Botgari, the Rembarrnga campers are enjoying the good life. Only a few people here, Brian Nynawanga, Jack Miyarga, and their families, anso Del Maningara.

## THE BIRD WATCHER.

Sea Eagles are always about the settlement, and very common along the coast. As you may have noticed there are two types at Maningrida, the White Breasted Sea Eagle and the Brahminy Kite.

The White-breasted Sea Eagle is our second largest eagle, second only to the Wedge-tailed eagle and closely related to it. It is a grey and white bird, the immatures being all brown but becoming progressively lighter and paler with age. It feeds on carrion left by the tides, small mammals, fish, turtles, sea-snakes, eels and larger crustaceans. As with all birds of prey the female is larger than the male.

The Brahminy Kite seems to be more common here, but it is a much smaller bird and a close relative of the Whistling Kite. It has much the same habits as a White Breasted Sea Eagle but can be told apart by its white head and neck which contrasts sharply with the rusty red of the breast, back and wings. This bird is also found in Burma and India. It is also called the Red-Backed Sea Eagle, but this name is misleading because it is not a true Eagle.

J.C.

WELCOME BACK to Sister Maija, who has just returned from a long stay in the teeming metropolis of Sydney. We hope you can settle into the hectic life here at Maningrida again.

WEEKEND DUTIES

Duty Officer: Mr. W. BECKETT

Duty Sister: Sister Christine.

Nightwatchman: Jack John.

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STAR THEATRE.

Friday..... HATARI !!!!!

Saturday.....

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CHURCH

Sunday 9.30am . Sunday Schools  
"Faithful to the Covenant"

7.00pm. Evening Service. Mr. Bob CROSS.

Thursday 7.30pm. Fellowship.

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VISITORS

Last Friday :- Messrs Beanllien, Justice Street, George White and their wives paid an informal call to Maningrida and were entertained to lunch.

This week:- Mr. George Darling and Dr. Douglas of MacIntyre Mines are her to inspect progress with the prospecting programme. George is already well known to Maningridians whilst Dr. Douglas is Consulting Geologist to the Company.

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POETRY  
COMPETITION

The editor did not realise that there were so many people on the settlement with an urge to create. Our poetry competition has drawn so many entries that we are having difficulty storing them. The judges have already disqualified the material on the two kitchens, the Infant Welfare Clinic, the Hospital and School. The authors are greatly disappointed and are likely to appeal to a higher authority, in the meanwhile Jim Mussig is demanding their removal. Maningrida poets are asked to submit their entries on paper. We hope that there is no truth in the rumour that the Jinang Literary Society is attempting to enter their work on the door of their "One-holer". Remember entries close shortly.

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PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday the 2nd of August is Northern Territory Picnic Day. All Settlement Workers and School Children have a holiday.

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CRIME DOES'NT PAY

During last night the Phantom Flier struck again, but this time the Trackers were far more successful and the culprit was detected. We hope that this time the N.T. Police will take suitable action. Let us hope that the Maningrida Crime wave is over.

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FOR SALE

One plywood dinghy, in perfect order. Price \$430 See P. Williams  
Porta Gas Cylinder and Lamp, no further use, Cheap \$10  
See J. Phemister.

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THURSDAYS BASKETBALL

Cadell defeated Cape Stuart. 58 to 48.  
Chalkies defeated Entrance Is. 46 to 36.  
Dont forget to bring a Dollar for each tem.

Jim Pascoe.

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**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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