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MANINGRIDA MIRAGE



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Fiji For Fun, Friends & Festivals

I think that we had a wonderful time in Fiji. We enjoyed being with the Fijian people, because they are very friendly. You can go to visit Fijian people on holiday. There are nice beaches for swimming. They can take you like they took us. We went swimming with Fijian girls, they were nice (bala) - in Fijian means very pretty.

I would like to go to Fiji for a holiday. They are good people.

We were there for the opening ceremony of the South Pacific Festival of Arts. People came to dance from many islands. The Fijians have dancing as part of their ceremonies like we do here in North Australia.

Dick and I would like to get two other boys whom we are going to need. Dick, Talbert and I are going next year or sometime for filming. I will need Dick and Talbert with me and two little boys who are very good dancers.

Dick and I took a lot of photos so if you want to see some of Fiji we will show you.

We had never seen Queenslanders dance before. They are good dancers. I can do the Queensland dances now, because we were dancing together. We met some aboriginals from Sydney and they said "We would like you to teach us how to dance." They would really like it. If I go and show them some dances from here we can teach them.

Another thing is that old people do not like to go overseas for dancing. Four old men from Bathurst Island and four from Queensland - one was a very old man - were not happy because it was too cold for them sometimes. So Talbert and I were very, very sad for them. Sometimes they danced, and sometimes not. "The heart is bad." Young men like Dick, Talbert and I could dance all the time.

When we got back to Sydney and everybody went home I think that they were glad to be going home. There was a film company from Germany who filmed us at Fiji while we were dancing. In Darwin Dick and Talbert and I met a lot of Maningrida people and a lot from Milingimbi.

I will tell you about some of the places we visited. In Darwin before leaving we met dancers from Port Keats and Bathurst Island. Dick and I came from Maningrida and met Talbert at the YMCA, where we stayed one night together. Joli Lawanga from Bamyili was with us.

On Thursday April 27th a special plane took us to Gove to pick up James Galarrwuy Yunupingu and then to Weipa to pick up the Queensland dancers. In Brisbane we picked up Lance Bennett, Director of the Aboriginal Theatre Foundation. (He was travelling with us to Fiji). Then to Sydney. What happened in Sydney? We all rehearsed our own dances from Friday until Tuesday May 7th and then departed for Nadi in Fiji where we stayed overnight. Next morning we travelled by bus to Suva.

In Suva we had a good look at the people going up and down. It was just like Darwin. The Fijian people knew that we were coming from Australia. They were very friendly and they came to visit us. Some of the men were seeing Fiji for the first time, but Dick and I

were making our second trip to Fiji. In Suva we had a big day for dancing at the Showground called Albert Park, the biggest place in Suva, Fiji.

After the opening ceremony at Suva we went to Levuka Island to dance. Then back to Suva for spear throwing at Albert Park. After that we flew to the island called Savu Savu. We danced and had spear throwing. Then to Labasa by plane for more dancing and spear throwing. Then Joli and I flew back to Suva and got a taxi to Sigatoka for more dancing and spear throwing. On May 23rd we returned to Sydney. There we danced at the University of New South Wales.

On the morning of Friday 6 men went to the Aboriginal Theatre Foundation for a meeting. In the afternoon Dick and I went to Channel 9, T.V. I was dancing. Also we went to the ABC News Radio Station. They asked me about Fiji and I said "I was there last year when Dick and I went overseas to Hong Kong, Cannes, London, New York - all over the world. They also asked me about going to Fiji again next year.

Thank you,
Yours sincerely,
David Gulpilil.

Back To Bulman

The adventurous expedition left the outskirts of Maningrida after work on Friday and made its way towards the Bulman. It comprised George Namarabil armed with shotgun, Rod Seymour with jaffle iron and John Gardiner with a more or less respectable Toyota. Advance was made to the "stone country" crossing without mishap, where we camped. George dined at the country of Wally Mandarrg. In the early morning we found ourselves following Mr. Hunter's tracks until they came to an abrupt stop. That's where the lumberjacking started. While reclining at one stop, admiring the scenic environment, Rod Seymour became alarmed when set upon by a roaring, snorting buffalo bull, and a hasty retreat was made by all, John being very worried for the well-being of his truck.

Then we drove and drove and drove and drove. We felt as though we were crossing Australia, not just Arnhemland. When John put his foot on the brake pedal he found that he had no brakes and it was deemed time to boil the billy. A lot of swearing, sweating and tea-drinking got the brakes back in action, and off we went. After the Gove turn-off (some traffic had apparently been using that road already this Dry) the country became more interesting, the road very rough, the buffalo more frequent, and the day long. None of the crossings proved troublesome. At one, we surprised two healthy brumbies.

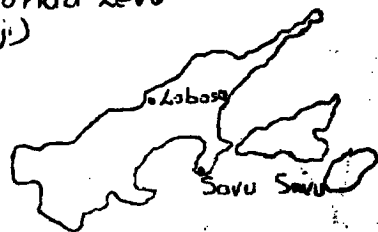
At the Bulman homestead one was surprised to learn of Danny Watson being there for the weekend, but on our arrival he was "over there somewhere, fishing with a policenan." Although the beautiful garden and fishpond were no longer up to their former standard, the place was still in good condition, and there had been no vandalism.

A camp was made by the old Mainoru road by a beautiful stretch of river. George was continually perturbed by the possibility of cheeky buffalo, and woke the rest of the party when he stoked up the fire every hour. Poor George did not sleep well that night.

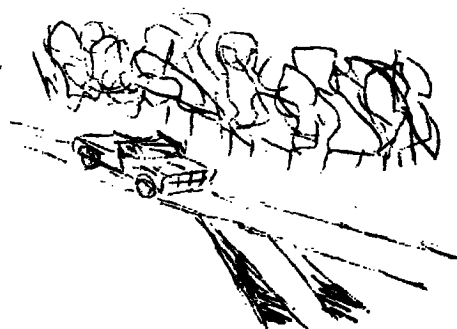
A look at the Bulman waterhole and the old mine was all that we could fit in before the time came to leave, and we found ourselves back at the Mandarrg complex at the Cadell at dusk. The road is in quite passable condition but very rough. A party will leave soon to clear some fallen trees off, and then the road should be quite good.

J.G.

Vonua Levu
(Fiji)



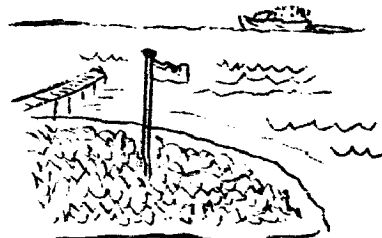
Viti Levu
(Fiji)



From The Newspapers

Aboriginal People to get an Island.

In South Australia, the Government has an Aboriginal Lands Trust. These people are all Aborigines. They look after all the land which the Government gives to Aboriginal people. The Government there is trying to give back land to the Aborigines. They have given them an Island. It used to be a burying place for Aboriginal people many years ago. Now the Aboriginal people will use it to make money by having people come for holidays to the place and paying for their time.



Dancing men come home.

The men who went to Fiji for dancing have all come home. You might have seen Dick or David in his new shirt. In Fiji they were the "stars" of the Fijian Festival. In many places all the people stopped their work and came and watched the dancers. After Fiji, the men danced in two concerts in Sydney.



Mangiwa Comes Home.

Mangiwa Mandjirdju, the Goulburn Is. lady, who is known by many Maningrida people has come home from Fiji and Hawaii. She has been over there finding out about Pre-school for Fijians and Hawaiians. She said that those countries like the mothers and fathers to come along to pre-school and learn with their children. She will try to bring along the Aboriginal parents at Goulburn to the Pre-school which she has run for a number of years. While in Fiji, Mangiwa saw the dancing men, from the Northern Territory.



Yirrkala^a Starts Looking.

The Aboriginal people at Yirrkala Mission, along with the United Church have got leases to look for minerals in their country.- the same as some Maningrida people. Now they are trying to find a big company to help them dig in the ground and look around.



Aerial Bombing

On Monday 5/6/72 we will have Mike Rowell, Acting Senior Technical Officer from Head Office, out here to supervise the aerial burning operations. The plane arrives on Monday and should be here until Wednesday.

Last week's Mirage gave details of the areas burnt but anybody needing more precise information please contact FORESTRY OFFICE.



Many thanks to those people who have reported fires to us.

We are badly understaffed, and any such assistance is very welcome.

Maurie Holman, the staff mechanic from Snake Bay, returned there Thursday after helping Bruce out for a week or so.

Maurie turned out to be a handy bloke - as well as helping in the workshop he also fixed one of our washing machines.

Mr. Eric Quick left for his new appointment in Alice Springs on Wednesday. Barbara will be following in a couple of week's time when their house becomes available. Eric has promised to hang the waterbag on the front gate for old friends passing through Alice Springs.

Boys Basketball

The boys' basketball competition got off to a great start last Saturday night. The first game, between Anabadaga and Gunejangga was a fast, open game. Anabadaga took an early lead but Gunejangga soon caught up and the scores were close from then on. The final result was a good one, Anabadaga 22, Gunejangga 22, a draw. Best players were Steven for Anabadaga and Ronnie for Gunejangga.

The second game was not as close as the first one. Balpanarra were far too good for Lala-gujida and beat them 34 to 12. Roger was the best player for Balpanarra and Terry Napalil was the best player for Lala-Gujida.

Every week a different person will choose the best player from each team and at the end of the competition a prize will be given to the boy who has been chosen most times. There will also be one prize for the most improved player. This is for the boy who tries the hardest and gets better and better all the time.

Draw for next week - Saturday afternoon 3.6.72 (before pictures)

5 O'clock Balpanarra play Gunejangga

6 O'clock Anabadaga play Lala-gujida

B.S.

Public Holiday

LET THERE BE NO CONFUSION! We at Maningrida will have our Queen's Birthday holiday on Monday, 12th June, in line with other public servants in the N.T. "The rest" can do what they like.

New Arrival

Const. Noel Perkins arrived on Thursday to take up duty. He and his family are settling in to their new house.

From The Brickmakers

If the children are found breaking bricks during the weekend and on working days he or she will have to make up however many bricks they have broken. It's a very hard job to make bricks each day and it is not an easy job. This has happened since we started to make bricks and no-one was there to stop them from breaking them. From now on if I find a kid breaking my bricks I'm going to make him do it for me.

So kids keep well away from the brick yard property. Otherwise look out for me.

Jack Pascoe.



For Better Basketball

In last weeks article I said that the officials sometimes make a few mistakes not knowing what they are doing. Some of us don't have enough experience of basketball and we don't memorise the rules and its situational regulations of this or any other activities.

We must start acting now for our future. We should study the rules. Some of us are complaining about the 3 seconds rule before dribbling on the ground or throwing in the air, and some other problems. But I would like to make some comments on this. First of all, I would like to see that any activities will run perfectly according to the regulations. So far there are four or five major games football, basketball, softball, tennis and vollyball which we enjoy. All you basketballers who have the rule book please study it, especially the officials, referee and umpire.

The reason why I want you to learn these rules is to end our unsportsmanlike behaviour and become one of the sportsmen of the whole year. We want to see the real thing happening but not in an unsportsmanlike manner. The scoreboard has been set up and the tribunal should come to watch just in case trouble starts. Also our court should be repaired for the next basketball season because

there are tracks everywhere in the field.

Jimmy Pascoe



Sports Committee

From the meeting on Monday the 30th May 1972.

Tennis Courts

A fee of 40 cents per hour per player will be payed by non members. A fee of 20 cents per hour per player for members of the sports club.

Reminder: 50 cents membership can be paid to Trevor King or Larry Weipa anytime. All tennis monies will go towards the purchase of urgently needed equipment. Players are urged to buy their own balls from the shop until the club gets on its feet.

Basketball

Last week's results

Pioneers 40 D Eagles 27:Kupanga 34 D Cadell 20
Pioneers 30 D Jinang 27:Eagles 32 D Cadell 26

Next week's games

Tuesday 7th June

7.00 p.m. M.P.A. vs Kupanga (last round score 26-32)

8.00 p.m. Cape Stewart vs Pioneers (last round 50-42)

Thursday 9th June

7.00 p.m. Garatpu vs Eagles (last round 38-30)

8.00 p.m. Cadell vs Jinang (last round 40-48)

Bricklayers

Laying the bricks for the new Community Hall are cousins John and David Raddatz from Sunny Qld. and their labourer John Jones from Melbourne. Chris, another Kiwi, is John's wife and the cook and chief bottle washer. The men work for Ron McCulloch

Declaration of Independence.

Once, long ago in the dim, dusty past, a woman only found her meaning for life in her man. She lived to please him and was only happy when she was bestowing approval on her latest efforts to conform to his standards of what a woman should be. It is surprising the number of men in Maningrida who think that those dusty dim ages are still with us.

Maningrida has quite a high proportion of liberated females. For those males (and there are many) who are frightened of, or bewildered by, the concept of a free woman, who regards herself as everybody's equal, here is a little information.

A liberated woman is not necessarily an enormous, aggressive, terrifying overwhelming Amazon - though she may be such if she chooses. She can be petite and charming. She may be wild and with-it. She may have whatever combination of physical or personality characteristics that she feels best expresses her own identity - and she may change them a dozen times a month. Similarly she may dress in any clothes whatsoever - masculine, feminine or neuter.

She might drink or she might not. She may smoke or perhaps she will choose not to. She may love sport or she may loathe it. She may love sex and indulge in it freely or love sex, yet limit herself to one partner only or simply give sex a big miss - or even take all three stands at various times in her life.

You may find the liberated female vacuuming a carpet, flying a plane, furthering her career, studying for another degree, reading a Donald Duck comic, fighting for her rights, going to church, robbing a bank, succeeding or failing in business (by, or without, really trying) or doing any ^{other} conceivable thing.

One man may be shocked by a woman who is daring and modern. Another man might be exasperated to find that a girl is modest and conventional. Both men are equally old fashioned.

Just as "charmingly" antiquated is the man who classifies a woman by a single characteristic (eg. "she does" or "she doesn't") instead of encountering her open-mindedly as a total person. Such men as those just mentioned are hoping (still!) that women will conform to an ideal (or stereotype) of what a female "should be like".

Whether the current ideal is "prude-ish" or "nude-ish", women have long lost interest in conforming to it. They have found the far more fascinating pursuit of discovering their real selves, revealing those selves and being themselves.

The Declaration carries six signatures.

RW. G.B. J.M. J.N. C.D. E.W.

Letter.

Mr. John Phenister writes from Jay Creek. "The place is certainly different from Maningrida. Since we arrived there has been a murder, a major fire, three deaths on the road, a major brawl, a flood (10 inches of rain in 36 hours.), a drowning, and the camp was gloriously drunk for a prolonged period "On the credit side 'there are some beautiful places around here' John has ordered some barks to sell in their tourist trade.

Mother's Club.

On Thursday afternoons groups of girls and mothers from Home Management, Domestic Science and the village gather together.

Recently they met near Nancy Lubar's house to cook some dampers - using powdered milk and baking powder. At first local residents were a bit slow in coming until Mr Hunter spoke some magic words to a nearby group of card players!!



Last week the group fried scones near the Rembarrnga camp. Yesterday they moved to several places and began making a strip film of the themes from the booklet "Are you a good Mother?"

Sister Edith

Stop! Thief Stop!

Early last Friday morning Johnny Godowa and Jimmy Borbug were sleeping peacefully on the beach at Juda Point.

Then Johnny woke up feeling cold. His blanket had gone. Maybe brother Jimmy had taken it! Johnny woke his brother and began to growl. Brother Jimmy didn't know what he was talking about.



Then in the early morning light the two old men saw a dingo pulling something along the beach with his mouth. What was it? It couldn't be! It was the missing blanket.

On Saturday morning Mr. John Hunter on the tractor and trailer, and Mr John Wilders aboard the Galion Grader, towed 2 self-help houses out to the Point for the new "settlement" there.

Womans Rights Versus Mens Lefties

The boys at Maningrida
Really get it rough
For girls are such a scarcity
We never get enough.

Well mannered and real gentlemen
We surely should be liked
But conquests are a rarity
Our poor hearts have been spiked.

The Forestry Fosters Friendly Club
Is all that keeps us sane
For Womens Lib is growing strong
And don't we feel the strain.

At Parties and such gatherings
The Fair ones are quite fun
But try to talk of mens dilemma
And then we get the gun.

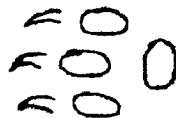
Womens Rights may do some good
When aimed at married men
But single blokes are not fair game
So help us now and then.

Anon.

Warning

Over the last week or two cats in the area have been active. They are particularly vicious in their home situation and are noted for their claws.

People are warned that they should take care when moving about in areas populated with these feline species.



It is not know how long this situation will last but no improvement is imminent.

M.M.'s

Cheques

The Progress Association re-states its policy regarding the cashing of cheques.

1. Cheques will be cashed for all permanent staff, e.g. Welfare, Education, Forestry, M.P.A., Health, etc, but it would be appreciated if the respective departments would either introduce a new member of staff or inform us of arrivals.
2. Cheques will be cashed for any and all others who establish their credit with the Association by means of cheque clearance (usually 4 days) if drawn on Darwin Bank.
3. Arrangements will be made with contracting firms.
4. Cheques will not be cashed for casual visitors who do not come within either of the aforementioned categories.

Your support in what is a difficult problem will be appreciated. 727 cheques were processed through the Association during May.

G.B.

Duties.

Duty Officers: Mr Bert Ryan

Duty Sister: Sister Maija.

Fire -watch Duty:

Star Theatre

Friday. Cleopatra: Story of an Egyptian Queen. Long film and a very good one. Elizabeth Taylor, Rich. Burton, Rex Harrison. No other shorts.

Saturday. The Arrangement. Kirk Douglas, Faye Dunaway, Deborah Kerr, Rich. Boone. Often mystifying, never dull.

Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools.

7 p.m. Evening Service.

Tuesday 7.30 p.m. Crusier's Fellowship.

Church.

A Man and His Money

Printed on the cash register of a garage I visited recently were these words:-

"NO CREDIT TO ABORIGINES"

As the garage proprietor claims to be a Christian, I decided to ask him about this. He replied "We have been let down by our ^{so often} Aboriginal customers that we are not prepared to take the chance again."

.....We may not fully agree with the hard line taken by the garage proprietor but we should aim to live by the rule "Owe no man anything" If a man is careless about paying his bills, he is stealing. He is keeping for himself, money which should rightly go to some one else.....

From the Magazine "Today".

Sister Sandra

A cutting from a Melbourne newspaper has a photo of Sister Sandra (Stacey) Different hair style now, That typical Sister Sandra bun on top of her hair must have been eaten by those babies in Central Aust.

An interesting report of a paper she gave to the Seminar on Aboriginal Health Services is printed there. "...Aboriginals did not see any relationship between what they ate and their health..... Many Aboriginal women believed it was the responsibility of the child to demand food, rather than the responsibility of the mother to make it eat...."

Birth

Bill born to Margaret Jinjinjilara at the Darwin Hospital on May 24th.

Death

Tommy Dangurawurde at Milingimbi at the week end. Tom had been living with his father-in-law Baku on the mainland near Nganagalala when he became very ill. In earlier days he was one of the regular men in the Maningrida Garden. He was 49 years old.

Hospital News

Two new Sisters arrived this week - Val Armstrong from Wanganui in New Zealand and Betty Conaglen from Opunake also in the north Island of N.Z. Val and Betty are on a journey around Australia - they have travelled up the Eastern coast to Cairns then across through Mt. Isa to Alice Springs and up North. Val is dead keen to see a crocodile - preferably from a distance - and Betty is keen to see some of the birds in the area. They were prepared to find Maningrida to be dry and dusty like the country about Hermannsburg and were pleasantly surprised to see so much bush. The girls asked "Is there a library here?"

Sister Ann Groothius who was here several years ago is married to an American man now and has gone to the United States.

Miss Judith Sweetie of the Camell Gardens, is learning to do some clinical work in the hospital so that she can do some of the simple medical work in the garden community. Barbara, wife of Mickey Maliba, will be doing a similar work

Shirley Algarid went into Darwin Hospital yesterday for an operation of on her foot.

Stop Press. Doris Djindjingara wife of Barney Reritjibala has had a baby girl in Darwin.

Dr. John Gardiner, Jack's father, arrives on today's Connair to spend three week's holiday. Jack and his father will probably spend a few days at the settlement before setting out to see some of the Territory by road. Dr. Gardiner runs a private general practice in Melbourne.

Maningrida Mirage

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