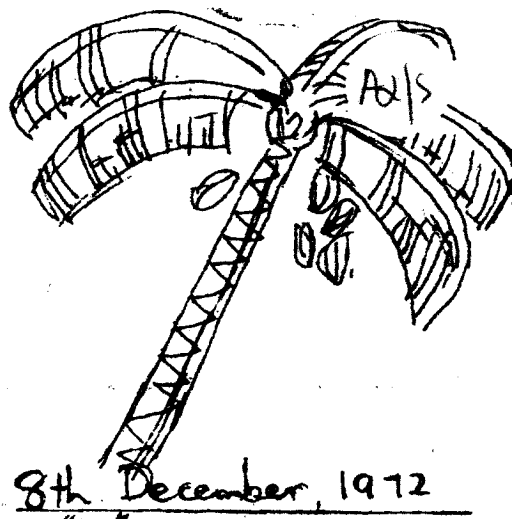


MANINGRIDA
MIRAGE



Volume 166

8th December, 1972

TEACHERS ON THE MOVE!



Old faces and new faces - that long awaited document - the postings for teachers for next year, has arrived. People who are staying with us next year are+ Dave Hassall, Mick Uiibo, Roger Pink, Eileen O'Leary, Bob Stutchbury, Bruce and Margaret Neale, Marg Inglis, Jackie Newman, and Jan Cooke.

New faces are Denise Cawadine (who came here for a practice in 1971) and Miss P. Balding - both for pre-school, Miss I. Salian from Banyili, Miss J Le Cheminat a new graduate, Mr. A. Christopher from Maryvale in the desert, Miss G. Pascoe from Milingimbi, Mr. L. Poulter a new appointee and two other new appointees to be named.

Mr. Trevor King is off to Melbourne to do a 1 year course in the teaching of the deaf.

Miss Jane Little is off to that same town to do an Art Specialists course.

NEWS FROM KOPANGA!

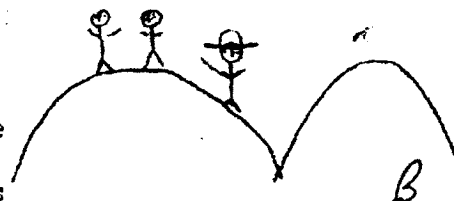
Fairly regular rain has been falling at Kopanga. A number of ideas have been put forward as to why the rain is coming. One oft them is that two of the Kopanga men have been singing rain for Maningrida because they are angry about some things that have happened. However the rain doesn't always fall in the target area and so Kopanga has been getting most of it. Big Barney suggested that the rain is coming because the grader made a new road to Andarabaikada.

The Kopanga road is holding up at present but its future remains very dubious. The black soil plain will only take so much water - then it will start to give a few tricks. As the road nears Kopanga it crosses two of the reed covered ponds - called gin-gotjula - which are getting damper and will probably be a bit sticky before long. When the truck was going back the other night and the going was a bit greasy, Big Barney remarked that "this motorcar him just like aeroplane"

The population at present is about 120 - split about 50/50 between Kopanga and the Kurapipi site at Inangandua.

Some of the people who sent in postal votes from Kopanga probably have some of the most unusual occupations in Australia marked on their postal vote envelopes eg. hunter, huntress, spear-maker, canoe-maker, canoe-captain.

A new track has been cut from Yirringba - near Kopanga to Gotjandjijida the site of the gardens. It skirts the edge of Balpanarra - the huge swamp that has so many geese and tortoises. Men and women from Kopanga went to Gotjandjijida and Peter Gangalara gave them a present of buffalo meat which he had just killed. In return for this present, the Kopanga people brought back a present of diarma - the shell fish that lives at Kopanga. While they were on this trip Rhys and Betty saw some very good mounds called gungara.



Continued

called gungapala - which are former sites of occupation. The Kopanga people said that it was on one of these mounds that Gordon Sweeny first met Harry Mulumbuk, Tommy Galpadanga and other people. These mounds were made of ant-bed and earth, whereas the ones at Kopanga, which are enormous, are made almost entirely of old shells from edible shellfish.

From Rhys Jones.

Elections and Land.

4/12/72

Six Councillors and 1 visitor present.

FEDERAL ELECTION:

The Supt. said that everyone came to vote to select the men who are to sit in Parliament. In the voting the Liberal party have lost and now in the opposition. We now have a new Labour Party Government.

President. "Will the Labour Party look after the Aborigines and their land?"

Supt. "Yes. Your ancestral land will not be taken again, and the Government has promised the land rights for the Aboriginal people in the N.T."

President. "We still want young people to come and discuss their problems and interests at the council meetings."
"There will be an election for new councillors"

Supt. "Maybe we could have a meeting at a certain area like last year." Council agreed.

Secretary J. Matjarri, asked the council if the councillors want to look after the basketballers while the game is on - incase there is a fight or an informal debate. The council talked about this matter and agreed. Ray Munyal and Billy Yiriyin were nominated to do their duty at the court.

Course The advisory committee members elected to do a course in Darwin next year are: J.Riäla, B.Yiriyin, R.Munyal and G.Ganjibala.

Donation A donation has been arranged through the council for the Armstrong family. We hope that they have a successful trip and hope to hear their correspondance soon.

The Rain brings Tucker

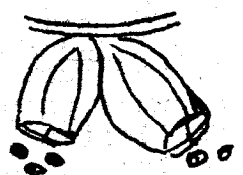
When the wet season starts to come on many different bush tuckers are ready for eating. This week I went with some children to the end of the airstrip and down towards the sewerage ponds and in a circle of about three hundred yards radius it was amazing how many different kinds of fruits we found - most of them very tasty. Here are three of them (we haven't tracked down their botanical or common names yet)
Mungubeitja - a small green fruit with speckles of yellow and black. It has a white fibre which tastes like a custard apple to me, around a black seed which is sometimes crushed and eaten too. They are the childrens favourite - referred to as 'plums or lollies'.



Gorritdola - the tree is everywhere around Maningrida. The fruit is generally picked from the tree - the ones on the ground often have worms in them. Inside are long yellow powdery fibres which are chewed and then spat out.



Gongerra - the seed pod of the tree sometimes called the 'woolly butt.' When you tap them little black kernals that have a sweet nutty taste fall out.



Dan Gillespie.

HEADMASTERS REPORT:

(Given at school speech night 5/12/72)

To me, 1972 at Gordon Sweeney School has been an enjoyable year. I believe that for the school it has been a time of consolidation and achievement, and progress in social change and adaptation to a new way of life for the Aboriginal pupils attending. For most of the boys and girls it is not easy to fully understand what school really means nor perhaps what the future may have waiting for them. The potential within the student is real, awaiting the right conditions for an awakening. You will all know of the perfect adult butterfly breaking out of the chrysalis into the light of day.

Nevertheless, there have been some noticeable changes and adaptations, and a maturing evident in the senior students. I have seen groups of the older boys and girls conducting their own meetings, holding discussions, making decisions and successfully planning and starting programs of work and activities, as one example only. This is not to say that all plans have worked out, as some have not. But who never makes mistakes? I feel that much helpful experience has come from these ventures.

Of valuable assistance to the post primary students has been the vocation discovery scheme carried out this year. This is not an entirely new idea. However we have introduced some local ideas and doggedly pursued the plan to reach successful conclusion. I have appreciated the practical help given by the various government and M.P.A. sections of the settlement in accepting the students into their work situations week by week. Without this assistance the plan could not have started. There is no doubt that most of the students have now been better able to make a sound decision on their future vocation because of the scheme.

I hope that those pupils leaving school this year will be happy and be able to look back over the years spent at school and feel that it has been worthwhile and that they have made the best and most profitable use of their time here as pupils. It is a big jump from the school situation into the world of job responsibility. In thinking about this point I hope too that we teachers never forget the responsibility we accept in guiding a fellow being while they are in our care at school.

I am pleased to see the number of teachers with us this year who will also be here next year. I feel it is important to have a majority of continuing staff in our schools for Aboriginal children. It takes some time for a firm understanding to take place between our two cultural groups and truly effective work to begin. I have appreciated the genuine effort and interest among the school staff with us this year. I would like to see we teachers being able to understand and learn a great deal more about the Aboriginal way of life and how this unique way of life influences the thinking and behaviour of the children at school. I hope the Aboriginal adults of Maningrida will see the need to tell us more about themselves and I hope we can give them the necessary opportunity and time.

Of great importance has been the increasing part played by Aboriginals in the work of the school. We have one trained teaching officer and a number of promising teaching assistants. I would like to see the number of fully trained teaching officers increase and I hope that more young Aboriginal men and women may see the vital part they may play as teachers in the progress of their own people. Our teaching assistants have begun holding their own meetings, on similar lines to our normal regular staff meetings which they also attend. It has given me great pleasure to see the way the Aboriginal staff have accepted responsibility in the classroom both with the European teacher present and also absent. This Aboriginal element has not only given assistance in the normal school sense but has also guided the pupils in their own cultural activities, and one assistant has painted a traditional bark-type painting which now hangs in the Resource Centre. A number of other men and women skilled in bark painting, carving, weaving and dancing have greatly helped the students by showing them these skills and maintaining an interest in these important matters. I would like to thank these people for their help.

Another interesting development in education is to be seen at Kopanga. At the request of the people living there, an experimental school was set up. The local people made the building and we supplied the books, pencils and guidance on work to be done. I have not seen such genuine initiative, enthusiasm and effort as has been given by the teaching assistant there, a man who has had no formal teacher training.

HEADMASTERS REPORT: (cont.)

This year we have been very fortunate in having two very useful new buildings built for us by the Northern Territory Administration. They are the Pre-School and the Resource Centre. I am sure the young boys and girls at pre-school have greatly benefited by their wonderful building which would be the envy of many community centres. The Resource Centre is a place of tremendous potential and we have barely commenced making it into what it will eventually be. I am hopeful that very soon we may again have discussions with the Aboriginal people about how they might be able to make culturally rich contribution to the museum section.

I hope that we all understand that the school cannot assist the community all on its own nor should we believe we can or should. For this reason I wish to encourage the people of this settlement to visit the school from time to time, see what is going on, ask questions, and make constructive suggestions. I would like to hear of the ways in which we may assist the community and help the boys and girls become better citizens. Some people may wish to join the Parents and Friends Association and be in a position to assist the school and its pupils as a group of interested and willing men and women.

You will hear tonight of a shield being given to the successful house team at the recent swimming carnival. This shield award has been made possible by the kindness of Mr. Fred Luff. We also have the Armstrong Athletics shield given for the first time this year by the Rev. and Mrs. Gowan Armstrong. I believe this is evidence of a team spirit at Maningrida which goes such a long way to make work among Aboriginal people a success. On behalf of all school staff and pupils, I express appreciation for the amount of help we have received from all sections of the Settlement this year.

(Due to the sudden change in venue because of a threatening thunderstorm the evening's program was shortened and the above report was not given on the actual evening but is reproduced here).

(D. Hassall)
Headmaster

Bor Bor Bruno

Bruna and Deborah Ninanis would like to thank everyone for making their stay in Maningrida so enjoyable and interesting.

From the Editors Chair

In this issue, we welcome a new Editor to the Mirage, Mr. Dan Gillespie. Dan has contributed regularly over the past two years and many of his articles are literary gems. Under his leadership I am confident that the Mirage will make an increasing contribution to the life of Maningrida.

In signing off, I'd like to pay a tribute to every one who has helped in some way to bring it off the press each week.

First, there has been the editorial committee Dan, Jack G, (who makes a fine contribution as treasurer and sometimes printer also) and Jimmy Pascoe.

Then there have been the contributors who have either told their story or written it. It has been pleasing to see Aboriginal writers coping to the fore this year and we hope that their tribe increases. One of our best regular writers in earlier days inadvertently tested the strength of some public service regulations!

Beginning with Melva Buzza, there have been a number of willing typists who have often been quite ready to type the extra page at the eleventh hour. We especially thank April Elliott (who often did extra work) Chris. Cox, Jean Green and Pauline Hore.

Our artists have ranged from amateurs to really gifted people. In the absence of photographs the drawings of Allan Grieve, Margaret Neale and Jane Little have brought life to the printed passages and this has been particularly helpful for the Aboriginal readers who sometimes find reading difficult.

The readers have been encouraging and generous in their comments.

I hope to be able to contribute the odd item from time to time in the future when something of interest to Maningrida comes along.

Bowen Armstrong

EDITORIAL (a new feature):

In many parts of Australia, the names we see for streets, rivers and mountains mean something to the people who live there. They remind them of flowers, of famous people, of memorable battles. Perhaps they remind them of more immediate things such as the exploits of colourful characters - Conroy's Leap, Dugans Lookout, Youngs Crossing

It seems ironic in the light of this, that areas of Arnhem Land in particular around Maningrida, are becoming commonly known by introduced make-do names that are meaning less to the majority of people whose history lies within the area - ie the Aboriginal people

The Aboriginal people are meticulously exact in their naming of areas. The names are appropriate, concise and relevant. You may remember Gowan Armstrong in a "Mirage" earlier this year describing the names the Gunavidji people gave to small (really small) areas on the coast of our township - eg "the place where we killed the balandas" recalling an old encounter with Malayan Fishermen.

To us, there seems an irresistible case for making official all Aboriginal place names that are in common and widespread use, "too difficult" the cry may be but there are many streets and parks in our cities that have had their gazetted names changed overnight to honour a visiting dignitary - and we soon got used to them.

Let's face it - is there anything more inspired than names like Cadell Gardens, The Stone Country and (shudder) Rocky Point. Let's have some place names (and sign posts) that mean something to the people that have to live with them.

Dan Gillespie.

Voting Story:

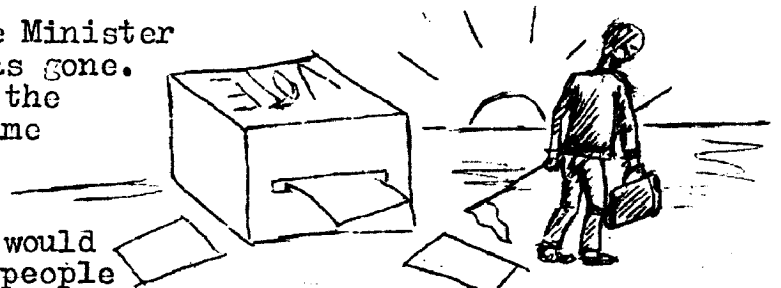
Last Saturday everyone in Australia who was old enough could vote for the men they wanted for the Government. In the Northern Territory we were voting for men like Sam Calder, Ted Robertson, Gordon Briscoe and others. This is what happened.

In the Northern Territory Sam Calder came first - he won - so he still goes to Canberra to talk to the Government for the people of the N.T

In the whole country, Ted Robertson's tribe, the Labour Party, won most of the races. Ted Robertson lost, but his party, his tribe, won in the whole country.

This means that Australia has a new Government - it is a Labour Party Government. Sam Calder's tribe, The Liberal Country Party are finished for being the Government. The Labour Party is the Government now.

Mr McMahon used to be Prime Minister but his tribe lost so he has gone. Now Mr Whitlam, the boss of the Labour Party is the new Prime Minister.



The Labour Party said they would do things to help ungasula people if they won. Now they have won, we are waiting to see if they told us a true story.

Dan Gillespie.

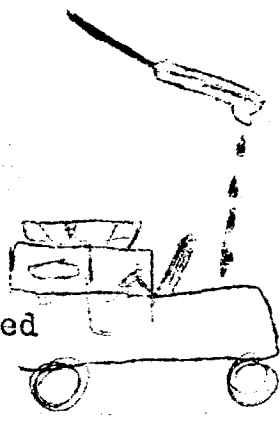
Hobbies Corner:

Philip Drewe Proposes to start up a GO-KART club and hoping for the cleared paddock up behind the police station, as well as this, next year, Phil hopes to get some dancing classes off the ground. (The go-kart ground? ed:). Anyone interested in both or either of these and would like to find out more (nda?) possibly assist him could they call round to Barry Tuites house or call into the Welfare Office. Thank-you.

(Some new ideas but what do readers think about a go-kart club so close to our township. ed.)

ANOTHER JINANG CUTING!

MORE
GREAT
PLASTIC
ENGINEERING!



We (myself, Dan, Johnny and Dick Smith) went out fishing in the goose truck. It was going well but it had no brakes. We left early in the morning with a fishing net. At Mawurrk we caught three barramundi. We cooked and ate one and saved two for our supper. We left the net in the water and set off back to Maningrida - we would pick up the net next day.

We got to Kubulula Hill near DanDan and started to drive up. When we were nearly at the top, the engine suddenly stopped and because we had no brakes, we started to roll back again. I told the boys to jump out quickley and I stayed in the truck while it was rolling backwards down the hill. The truck was going faster, and, faster and swerving all over the road, and the boys were running along side shouting "Jump out" "Jump out", but I couldn't jump out because I like my truck and I didn't want to wreck it. So I was looking for something to run into to stop. I hit a big dry tree, but it broke off and I kept going. Finally I hit a big rock and stopped. I wasn't hurt, but the rock had hit the radiator and all the water was leaking out. The boys ran to me and I said "We will have to walk home"?

We all stood there thinking how far it was to walk back to Maningrida. Then we had a good idea. We took a screwdriver, lit a fire and held the plastic handle over the flames. Soon it started to burn and then we held it over the hole in the radiator, and the plastic dripped onto the hole.

We used up three screwdrivers like this and finally fixed the radiator.

Then we only had a tiny bit of water in a bottle to put in it so we put that in and set off, hoping for the best. We drove about halfway home and just this side of Nangark we stopped and filled up our radiator. We arrived back at Maningrida about midnight, we went to sleep, and ate the other two fish next day.

Then we asked Dick Smith if we could use the Radiator out of his truck. He said yes, so we changed over the radiator and headed back to Mawurrk. When we got there we saw that the net was full of fish. When we had pulled them all out there were 38 of them. We sat down and ate four of them and a stingray, straight away, so our adventure ended up very well after all.

J. Mirritji.

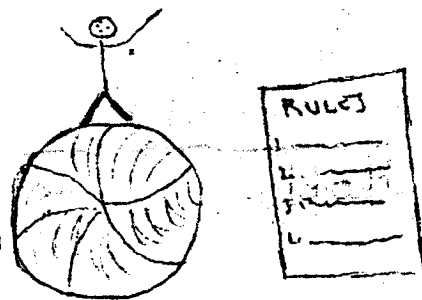
BASKETBALL TROUBLES

If you have some problem, please don't bring it up at the Basket Ball court or don't play it.

On Tuesday night David took the Basket-ball without being told, he had some reason for taking it. David is going to have a month off from playing basket-ball because, this is the second time. Last time the Captain kicked the ball and now the basket-ball has been taken away.

The Basket-ball only has one reason that's for playing games.

J. Pascoe.



Tuesday Night 21/11/72

7pm Jinang 42 defeated Gandayala 41

8pm M.P.A. 55 defeated Cadell 36

Thursday 23/11/72

Chalkies 44 defeated Diarama 42

Pioneers 47 defeated C/Stewart 46

J. Pascoe.

GRADE 5 AGAIN.

Some Quotes From Our Health Exam.

TOPIC: How can we keep ourselves healthy at Maningrida?

"I'm tired of eating rubbish food and drinking rubbish drinks" - Irene.

"If I eat good food I will be fat like Bob in our class" - Alice.

"My wife must keep my house clean and my bed tidy and I must keep my wife clean" - Basil.

"Before I go to school each morning I must have a shower and clean my teacher" - Roger.

Some Aboriginal people here have adopted European surnames over the years. There is an influx of new surnames in Grade 5 at the moment. One young lady had adopted the surname of "Dansey" whilst by far the most impressive is "Taylor-Spartacus."

Our School 10 years ago.

29-11-72

Today the boys received 2 new 'nagas' each.

Some girls received new dresses but there were not enough for all.

Enrolment is up to 52 children - and we now have only 1 teacher for them.

-extracts from school diary 1962

Grade 3 Sheila Tuesday 28th November 1972.

On Saturday we went to the Fisheries and we saw four jelly fish and we went to Bat Island and we saw big fish and the seaweed.

XMAS PRESENTS ALREADY:

Here They Are Folks, Your Authorised Christmas Holidays*

Monday	25th December
Tuesday	26th December
Wednesday	27th December (Only for Public Servants) (No others need apply)
Monday	1st January 1973

LOST AND FOUND:

LOST : One pedigree, queer cat, answer to the name of ROCKET. Colour- brown. Sex- too young Tom. This cat is a prize possession and is of sentimental value especially to the children of the house.

REWARD - Please present all clues to the PINK HOUSE by 12.30 Today.

OLD CUSTOM:

Come along on Wednesday December 20th. at 7.30p.m. to hear HANDEL'S MESSIAH At the home of David and Merrill Hassall. All interested listeners welcome.

Letter received:

In a letter to the Editor, Jack G. points out that there are a number of single young men on Maningrida who are not in the category described by Jane L. in last week's issue.

Duty Office

DUTY OFFICER: Mr. Albert Ryan

DUTY SISTER: Sister Betty Reister

Star

FRIDAY: "Escape from Zahrain". Yul Brynner, Sal Mineo. The story of a revolutionary leaders escape from a strife torn state with his fanatical followers help. Action packed to leave ypu breathless.

Theatre

SATURDAY: "Nobody's Perfect" Doug McClure Nancy Kwan. Sick berth P.C "Doc" Willoughby of the US Submarine rescue vessel USS Bustard falls for Navy nurse Tomiko etc., etc. Something about a smiling Budhha too.
Second Sunday In Advent.

Church

Sunday 9.45 am Sunday Schools
7.15 pm Evening Service
Monday 7.30 pm Church Council

As our term of ministry draws to a close next week we say "thank you" to the people of Maningrida who have given us much friendship and shown us many kindnesses during the past ten years.

The new minister, Rev. Mosesi Latu, his wife Vika and family are due to arrive early in January. Mosesi is highly regarded by the people of Milingimbi where he lived for some time, and we commend him and his family to you. The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Gowan Armstrong.

Births

Moses, born to Topsy Gattajang and Jacky Miriwulwul on Monday December 4th.
A baby born to Agnes Willingara and Raymond Walabirr in Darwin

Death

Davidson son of Alma Abaguyu passed away on Monday Dec 4,

People

A foreign body attacked Mr. John Hunter's eye this week, and unfortunately the eye became infected and he had to make a trip to see the doctor.

Sister Maija returned home on Friday after holidaying in Africa and Singapore looking very fit and well.

Mr. Bob Phillips came on Monday's plane to attend the Christmas breakup of the Guides, Scouts and Cubs.

Mr. Dick Bandalil who featured in the N.T. News with a fine big photograph was back at work on Wednesday after seven weeks in the South.

Mr Steven Namanil left on Tuesday to visit his wife in Sydney. He hopes to be back in Maningrida for Christmas.

News of old Maningridians

Sliprail Gutheridge who used to work with Forestry in the days of Ted Oppitz etc. is back in Darwin and driving a taxi.

Richard Olsen, now superintendent of Delissaville (teacher here on two occasions) was meeting his wife on a jet from Western Australia as Maningrida passengers were waiting to board the Heron a few days ago.

Former Mobile Works Force carpenter, Dennis Dale, is in his his home country New Zealand and sent Christmas greetings to some friends this week. Dennis built Dennis Strand's boat, also Jim Pickers ill!

April and Jim. Jim Elliott is still in Darwin Hospital (Ward 9) and may be there until next week. Jim and April have taken a house at Nightcliff where Jim will convalesce for possibly a month. During this time, April expects to work in the office at Bagot. April was back for a couple of days this week to finalise the packing. We bid them a fond farewell - They have been at Maningrida since November 1967. It seems that we are losing many of our old hands all at once.

Helen Miller (formerly sen. sister here) and the girls are heading down to Coolangatta in Qld. for the Christmas holidays. We hope that your back continues to improve Helen.

Latest subscriber to the Mirage is the Legislative Council library.



Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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