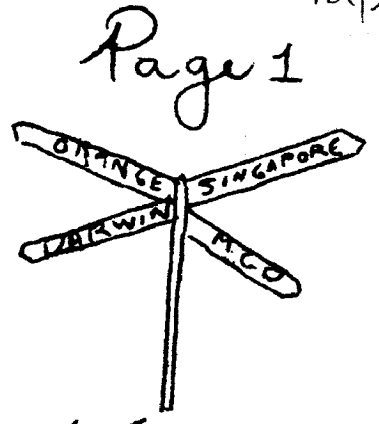




Maningrida Mirage



Page 1

Volume 170

26th January 1973

Oops!

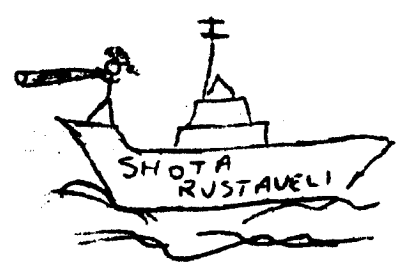
Well we missed another edition of the Mirage-- despite a valiant attempt to get it on the road early this week. We still are in desperate need of contributions. We are also getting a bit short of typistes. All offers gratefully received. Happy Australia Day! ..ed.

///-///

Travellers Tales:

THE AROUND AND WELCOME BACK TO HOME.

Dick Bundailil and I had been around so many times out overseas and also Australia. On last year November 1972 we went to Adelaide and Melbourne for the opera called Daisybates, we were performing in the theatre. We didn't like it very much on the opera because Daisybates story about the aboriginals called yound kabborli meaning grandmother and introduced by Margaret Sutherland.



So she write about for opera, and there were three white women and three white mans. They were made up by black paints to become black people, so I didn't like it very much. There were background music for singing and dance. I was dancing for band music and sometime Dick was playing a didgeridoo for me. Then after Melbourne Dick came to here at Maningrida and I stayed in Melbourne for four days before I went to Sydney and Brisbane to Townsville, then to Cairns and Innisfail.

I meet Mr. Bryan Nason. Some of you remember him. Last year he came and visit me and he was staying with me at my brothers camp Jacky Miritji. After Innisfail I wnet back to here at Maningrida town.

On the 28th December 1972 I leave Maningrida town to Darwin for a trip to Indonesia, and Singapore. I had one night in Darwin then on the 29th december I leave Darwin to Blue Sea and also Black Sea by the ship "Shota Rustaveli" I only one black Australian boy the first time on the ship, and I am the full blood aborigine. I went there for teach the Australian music didgeridoo. The first I visit crew members and Captain,

BRIGHT
LIGHTS
BIG
CITY

and they show me all the rooms and also workers, and they put me in the single room with telephone, bed everything on the ship. They have on the ship Star Theatre, Music Salon, Swimming Pools, Shop and many other things carried by ships.

Some of the white peoples meet me first time in their life and they saw the music didgeridoo first time. I teach and teach the didgeridoo on the ship but nobody can play our didgeridoo.

No whiteman or also some aborigines cannot learn sometime. We arrive Bali, on 2nd January. Then to

cont. over

B'

Djakarta. Then to Singapore. I stayed in Singapore for five days then I went back to Australia. I leave Singapore 10.30 at night for Sydney, took us 4 hours to get to Australia by Singapore Airlines.

I arrive Sydney at 10.00 in the mornings, I stayed one hour then went to ORANGE for filming. Well I am telling all my life what have done from when I was bush boy. I understand the life of citys (white) Today I live witeman life and blackman life and I sing whiteman song and blackman song. I been around so many time and I am welcome to home so many time too. I always glad to back to home and I always glad to go see many other wonderful world, full of streets lights and every sweet music. Whiteman world very wet, but my world very dry and hot. Every time we fight with each other for women so and many other things we fight for.

I don't know why my peoples they fight or some time they don't like me and some time they don't ask me for anything to be live among familys. I hope Maningrida peoples had a wonderful Happy New Year. But I dont mind I have every time New Year Ha !! Well well friends what we see 1973? I still hunt fish, my home in the tree up and down. Soon I go back to Sydney filming and so on. 8 years now I have to think more and work an so on. What will happen 1973 and 1974. I think I will be at U.S.A.

Thank You.

Yours sincerely,

David Gulpilil.

///-///

Miscellaneous:

Welcome back to John Hunter home from holidays and straight into the saddle.

This week in the newspaper there was a story about Charlie Chilli who used to drive a grader for Forestry here and amaze us with his artistry on that machine. Charlie is coaching the Nightcliffe Rugby League team again this year. In 1971, Charlie took the Nightcliffe team into the Grand Final but they were beaten by R.S.L. Good luck for this year Charlie.

Congratulations to Terry and Jean Canning who are the proud parents of a boy, Brett William. Bad weather for nappies.

Gil Amies tells us that the young girls like Ada, Margaret and Juliette are trying very hard at Home Management and doing a very good job.

No regular flight yesterday so it looks like a late payday to-day.

///-///

CRICKET MATCH OF THE CENTURY: at the M.C.C. Monday 2p.m. sharp (Aust. Day)

Umpire: Mr. G. Bagshaw.

Team 1. R. Berryman (Capt.), T. Canning, F. Luff, D. Swift, D. Callaghan, M. Mason, J. Thompson, P. Drew, L. Jones, G. Steele, J. Reister, B. Ryan, S. Hanning.

Team 2. B. Cross (Capt.), R. Seymour, M. Latu, N. Perkins, P. Phennesy, R. Davies, J. Quelch, Stan Electrician (no relation to F. Engineer), J. Pickersgill, D. Gillespie, M. Ryder, J. Callaghan, G. Hore, G. Bagshaw.

All players present themselves (no insurance). Spectators welcome.

~//~

P.S. Mosese is rumoured to be a danger fast bowler.

Forestry News:

John Thompson, a Forester from Darwin, arrived out here this week to take over as O.I.C.

John will be here for about 5 months and will be involved mainly in future planning of Forestry expansion in the area.

Geoff Green was out for 3 days this week to look over the sawmill and to see how our roading program is coming along over the Cadell River.

John Hopkins (Hoppy) and Dick Chater had a 3 days inspection tour this week. Dick hasn't been to Maningrida for a couple of years and really noticed the changes in the town and the amount of roads we have made in the Forestry area south of here.

Charles Prince our new clerk has set some sort of fishing record. Since Charlie came here he has been regularly fishing the coast and rivers and so far has only caught catfish. He is rather disgusted at this and is now sure we only have catfish in the local waters.

Last Saturday, Charlie and I fished in the Tomkinson River and caught about a dozen large catfish. The largest two were 32 lb. and 25 lb. and provided good sport when caught on light rods. The Tomkinson River, near the junction with the Liverpool provides a good spot for fishing in rough weather and has a good variety of fish including catfish, salmon, sharks, mangrove jack and barramundi.

from Bob Fisher.

///-///

Editorial: (1)

We'll folks we did it! Our editorial brought some very nice rain to Maningrida. The grass is growing, the trees are looking happy and the mosquitoes are biting twice as hard. Which proves the truth of that old saying, "The pen is mightier than the Monsoon"

(2)

///-///

It has been very good in the past week to see so much fine dancing for all the young men! For a while it seemed that dancing was finished at Maningrida-- it has been a long time since we could listen to the sound of the sticks every night. Last Saturday there was some good dancing from the Rembarrnga men-- Les was dancing some of the dances that we saw old Jolly Laiwanga dancing when he came to Maningrida last year. Jinang and Burera people danced a big fish story also on Saturday with men and women joining in. It was one of the best dances I have seen for a long time.

During the week Harry Mulumbuk was leading about 30 dancers in the story of Diamar- the cockle. The ladies part of this dance, along with the song which Harry and some older men sing, is a very impressive sight.

One of the best things to see in all the dancing was so many boys, girls and young men and women all joining in and showing that they were proud of these old customs.

D.G.

///-///

Go Slow!

The Acting Supt. has asked us to ask all drivers and riders to slow down a bit around town now that there is a bit of water on the roads. The less they're chopped up the less they'll disappear into the sea when we have heavy rainfall.

///-///

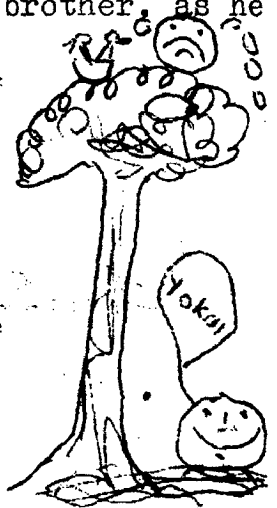
On the subject of rainfall we think it's about time we started to publish rainfall figures again. So it's over to weather man Charlie Prince.

See overpage

The Story of the Moons:

A long, long time ago the big brother moon had 10 wives and the little brother moon had 5 wives. One day they left all their wives in one place while they went hunting. The two brothers went different ways and the little speared a live kangaroo while the big one got an old one which a dingo had killed. Again and again he roasted the old kangaroo to make it hard but it stayed soft. He bought the rotten meat back to camp and hung it in a tree outside before he went and sat down with the women. They smelt the stink coming from his body and said, "What is that? Maybe you picked up a rotten one?" He said, "No. I speared one early this morning so its been hanging in the tree all day and it started to swell up! They tried to eat it but it was really rotten so they gave it to the dogs.

Meanwhile the younger brother was coming home with his good beef. On the way he saw an eagle in a nest in the top of a tree. He decided that next day he would come back with his brother to get the baby eagles. He went home, they ate the meat and slept till the next morning. When daylight came the two brothers set off to the tree. The big brother climbed up and started to throw down the baby eagles. At the same time the little brother sang the tree so that it swelled up underneath the moon up there and stopped him coming down. The big brother looked down. "What have you done to me? What has the tree done to me?" he said. "I sang the tree for you." "Why?" "So I could have your wives." said the young brother, as he left the other man sitting crying in the top of the tree. The young moon went home, told the women what had happened and took all of them for himself. They went away from there. They travelled for five days and then made a permanent camp.



The elder brother died of thirst in the top of the tree next afternoon and his flesh went rotten and fell off. Finally the bones fell out of the tree and went on the ground, they joined themselves up and the big brother came to life again. He cut himself a nulla nulla from pandanus and got a hook spear which he fixed to a shaft. He made a woomera.

Then he followed the other's tracks. After some days he came near their camp and heard them talking and shouting there. He waited all day until dark. They had cleared a big campsite and lit fires all around it, but he sneaked into the camp during the night after his brother. He hooked the spear up. Finding the brother sleeping inside a shelter he speared him in the back. The younger brother tried to get up. The big brother hit him on the head with the nulla nulla. He took all the women back and they made camp for him. They took the spear out of the younger brother's body.

... from a Rembarrnga version as told by Brian Nyinewanga to Graham McKay.

Weather:

///-///

	<u>TEMPERATURE</u> (9.a.m.)	<u>RAINFALL.</u>
<u>FRIDAY:</u>	26.0	0
<u>SATURDAY:</u>	29.0	2
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	28.5	286
<u>MONDAY:</u>	27.5	4
<u>TUESDAY:</u>	26.0	27
<u>WEDNESDAY:</u>	26.0	339
<u>THURSDAY:</u>	25.0	236



///-///

RECYCLE YOUR OLD PACKAGING MATERIAL:

The Craft Shop is in desperate need of all kinds of packaging materials: cartons from groceries, beer etc., newspapers, plastic wrapping. Give me a call and our pickup service will swing into action.

Dan Gillespie.

///-///

Telephone:

Page 5

The telephone situated in the Post Office is the private telephone of the Progress Association, which meets the costs involved such as rent, repairs etc. Our bill is over \$2000 per annum.

We have been prepared to allow the use of the telephone to everyone at Maningrida at cost price per call. However, a great number of people are not meeting this obligation and there has been considerable loss of both money and time.

The telephone service will not be continued after June of this year if this situation is not remedied.

Please pay as you call and enquire if you are one of the majority who owe unpaid sums.

All telephone calls will be available through Mrs. Dickfoss i.e. in Post Office hours, and will be on a cash basis.

For emergency calls see Glen Bagshaw or Graham Inglis.

Glen Bagshaw.

///-///

Craft Shop Accounts:

Beginning immediately, all goods bought at the Craft Shop must be paid for at the time of purchase. Accounts will no longer be kept. If you owe outstanding amounts for craft work please pay as soon as possible. If there are items in the store which you would like to reserve they will be held for a period of two weeks.

Dan Gillespie
Supervisor.

///-///

Important:

Notice to MIRAGE postal subscribers!

Most postal subscriptions became due on the 1st. of January. If you have not already done so please forward subscriptions to:

"Maningrida Mirage"
Attention: J. Gardiner
MANINGRIDA.
Via Darwin, N.T. 5791.

///-///

Home Management Films

Yesterday afternoon we saw a film about germs and disease and we saw a man sitting outside his house. Then after that he went in the corn patch and did his toilet on the ground and flies came and walked over the goona. Then flies flew down to a house and went on the food and made germs on the food.

Joyce.

Yesterday I saw a film about the germs. The man we saw was sick by the germs. While he was sitting he went to have his toilet on his wheat farm. When he was finished the storm came and washed away the goona down the river and people came and drank the water and the sickness from the man who left germs from the toilet. We must not do goona in our village because we will make all our children sick. We must use toilets and teach our families the right way to stop sickness.

Ada.

Yesterday we saw a picture about kangaroo and some animals also some koala bears. I liked best the bush where the kangaroos played and slept.

Margaret.

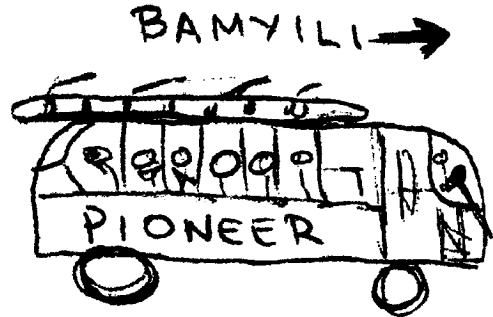
///-///

The Maridjiri trip to Banyili.

After a performance of two weeks the Maridjiri ceremony in Banyili, taken out by the Djinang people of Maningrida, finished on Saturday morning last week. This was the end of a fortnight of singing, dancing and painting, highly appreciated by the Banyili people.

The Maridjiri dancing and singing started on Monday the 8th of January. Then it went on till Thursday night, followed by a break for the weekend. The second part of — it started again on Monday and went on till Saturday morning when this ceremony finally ended with the presentation of the big Maridjiri pole, the bird made of ~~map~~ stringy bark called Gegangic and the little hollow log (Doban).

For preparing the ceremony, the Djinang people built a shade outside the village. Here they worked in the morningtime on the ritual artifacts, always accompanied by a didgeridoo player and one or two singers. In the afternoon the decoration of the bodies started and that took about four hours ~~every~~ every day. These bodypaintings were beautiful and represented ~~every~~ every time one of the dreamings of the Marangu group, this particular group of the Djinang mob who owns this Maridjiri. Then at



half past five the dancing started in the camp and went on till about six o'clock when the time for the highly appreciated three cans was there. From about eight o'clock till eleven the dancing and singing continued, provided that it did not rain too much. Especially these evening performances had a lot of good atmosphere in it, with enthusiastic dancers and many visitors who took part by clapping their hands on the rhythm of the clapsticks. The most impressive part was the final stage of this beautiful ritual. It took from Friday morning till Saturday morning, with hardly a break in ~~xxx~~ between. The artifacts needed for this final stage were finished and looked very nice with their paintings, strings and ~~paraxkxfztkhars~~ coloured feathers. With elaborated paintings on their bodies the dancers walked and danced through the camp at night time to show the big Maridjiri pole to everybody for the first time. There was a lot of excitement and many women cried when this "procession" came along.

After about ten o'clock at night, the dancing was finished for that day but the singing went on till ~~xxxxx~~ o'clock on Saturday morning. Everybody was sitting around the pole and the Djinang people got help with the singing of some Renbarnga people of Banyili and Beswick, who regularly took over the singing. Unfortunately at about ~~xxxxxx~~ twelve o'clock a big rain started and everybody had to go inside, but the singing continued all night through. The presentation of the pole was at Saturday morning at nine o'clock. Again with much excitement the Djinang people took the Maridjiri pole to the dancing place, where they offered him, while dancing and singing, to a Ngalben woman. Her late husband had asked the Marangu group for this ceremony a long time ago when a little daughter was born. A piece of her hair was on top of the pole. The little bird and small hollow log was presented as well. The Ngalben woman offered cloths, blankets and tobacco in return.

With this the Maridjiri was finished. Everybody was satisfied and the Djinang people started to organize the trip back home to Maningrida.

Ad Borsboom.



///-///

Hollow Logs and Spears:

At the Craft Shop we have been having a bit of a Spring clean. Apart from turning up a few old relics that were in the grip of the termites we also found a few interesting things. Some of these were the large number of hollow log coffins that were sleeping in various corners. We also found a good number of the short carved ceremonial spears that have been so popular in the past.

More Weather Stories:

Page 7

Now that we've started the rain we may very well have to resort to another editorial to stop it. Just have a look at those rainfall figures. Here are a few more stories on the rain.

BOTGARDI: Last Sunday the water was rushing over the Botgardi Crossing about a foot deep. It should be more now. This will make freshwater swimmers happy. Some Rembarrnga people were camped there as they were last Wet.

MANINGRIDA OLYMPIANS: The kids have been having a good time in the old waterhole below the silver house. There have been many male and female divers training for the next Olympics all week.

WASHOUTS: Bob Collins reports that the road from the gardens at Götjangin-gera to the landing at Anderabaikada was impassable last weekend. The road to the gardens, although it holds a lot of water is very hard underneath. Bob was unable to go to work last Wednesday because of a large washout at the site of the old corduroy crossing.

SHIFTING SANDS: Our local roads continue to disappear at their usual steady rate. Keep your eyes peeled when driving or riding-- especially when there is water on the roads.

GUYUN: The Guyun people say that their fresh water well is filling up nicely.

CAVE-IN: During the week Ken Trewin was sitting on the a bench in the carpenter's shop when suddenly there was a creak and a groan. All the workmen disappeared out the door at great speed. The combined weight of rain, leaves and old age was proving too much for the roof of the carpenter's shop. Ken has braced the offending beam with a piece of timber and everyone is feeling much keener about moving to new premises. Ken reports that the work on Tommy Ibberara's boat is coming along well.

MILINGIMBI: Milingimbi has had a bit of a bashing from the weather. Our latest information is that the airstrip will be out of commission until at least the 1st. of February. They are reported to be sad to be missing out on their bread supplies from our bakery. There is a possibility of a mail drop being made to them we understand-- just like the good old days. We hope things are O.K. for you soon Milingimbi.

It raineth on the just and the unjust - but mainly on the just - for the unjust have stolen their umbrellas - (from the sayings of Harry Scrawls)

///-///

More People Stories:

Three stories from Graham McKay: (at Bamyili) Jeff Campion (who came here with me) and I met John Wilders at Katherine Airport. He was about to go on the plane that we got off, to go south for a holiday. He was fit and well and looking forward to the holiday.

That well known personality Jacky Bunganial who left Maningrida for Adelaide River some months ago is now reported to have left Beswick Station for Bulman with his brother.

Old Fred Milmilkam has not arrived in these parts yet, even though reports reaching Guyun said he had left Oenpelli for Katherine. Maybe he's visiting his brother Charlie Wood, the police tracker at Adelaide River.

Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

"Maningrida Mirage Volume 170" January 26th, 1973.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

(r000005900888_v170_a.pdf)

To cite this file use:

http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/1973/r000005900888_v170_a.pdf

© Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community