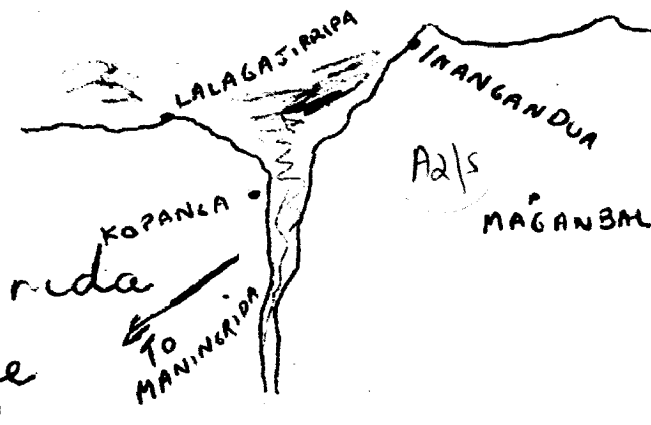


Maningrida Mirage



Volume 174

LALA SUPERMARKET

23rd February '73

NEWS FROM THE BLYTH RIVER.

About the end of December 1972 the large dry season camp at Kopanga split into several groups and moved to other places. By this time the mosquitoes were very bad and the fresh water had to be carted more than half a mile across plain and flooded mud flat.

One group of people, mainly Anbara, moved to Lalagadjiripa, another mainly Matai, went to an inland site on the eastern side of the Blyth River called Maganbal. (David Bandarpi's canoe is named after this site) and the rest Gulali and Matai settled in several coastal places also on the eastern side of the river.

Lalagadjiripa is a very open site on the N.W. corner of the Blyth River, when the Anbara first arrived there they camped on the beach, after a few heavy showers had fallen, they moved into wet season houses behind the first dune. These are long and low, designed to withstand the heavy winds that are a feature of the wet season in this area. During this time there was not much wind, it was hot and sticky, and the flies, sandflies and mosquitoes were appalling: however things were brighter. Huge hauls of fish, shellfish and fruit were common and often there was surplus food in the camp.

When the N.W. Monsoon, Bara, arrived in full splendour, and the winds and rain battered the camp site, everyone moved their houses to the third dune behind the beach. The main reason for this move was to get away from the extra-ordinarily high tides that occurred during this period due to the heavy winds and full moon. When the winds were blowing and the rain was falling there were only a few mosquitoes around, in general, the climate was quite pleasant.

After the huge pounding tides a large number of shell fish were washed up onto the beach and women and children began to collect from there. Many of the species collected were the normal type: diama, andjurwurigra, for example, but many of the others came from further out. These included anagrutdjala, ngandipudida and gunamilaumilawa. This stand collecting went on for a week or more and several times was referred to as "the supermarket". As these shells began to die, the stench on the beach front was awful.

As the wind and the rain went away temporarily, people began to move west along the beach and inland, from these forays, ducks goannas, turtles, wallabies, snakes, Djingombulas and fruit were produced. This same pattern, plus the addition of fish and shell fish still pertains at the moment.

Occasionally some of the people from Maganbal visit Lalagadjiripa to bring food and to pick up their balidja. They have brought djingombula, ngatja, emu and kangaroo so far, and are hoping soon to get buffalo as there are lots around.

There are still about 100 people living in the area, 40 of these are at Lalagadjiripa. Most of the holidaying school boys walked back to Maningrida for the new term and a few people have been commuting

to Maningrida and Darwin for health reasons. Everyone here is in excellent health and looking forward to rarandjar (cold weather time) when the fish traps will be functioning and the yan harvest starts.

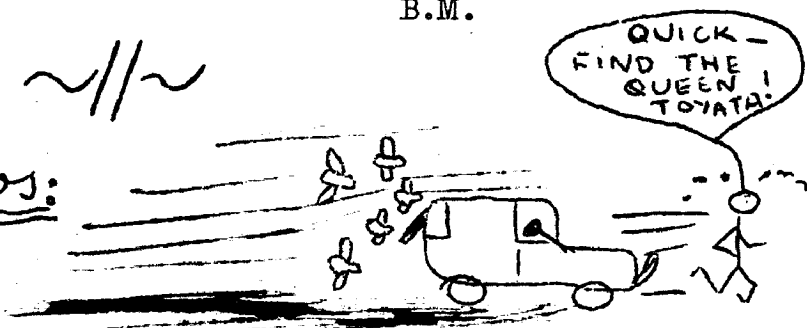
David Miriwana in his usual dedicated fashion has built a temporary school building and is starting an informal wet season school room, teaching both in his own language (Gidjingale) and in English. Out of school hours, he shows his prowess as a hunter. The children out here are very happy to have him, and all the parents appreciate his efforts to teach the children in their own country.

The efforts of John Hunter, Bob Collins Libby Gillespie, Charlie Mulumbuk and the staff of the Maningrida Store, and the Sisters at the Hospital to maintain the flow of supplies to the mouth of the Blyth River, are very much appreciated by all the people out here.

They have asked me to pass on their thanks to the "Mirage".

B.M.

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Forestry News:



Chris Haynes from H.O. Darwin spoke to the council during his visit about what Forestry is going to do in the future. Forestry will be asking the council to help them know where sacred and dreaming places are so that nothing happens to them.

Last Thursday at the gardens the bees of one of the hives swarmed into a tree. Luckily John Thompson was near by and he knows about such tricky business. John moved all the bees back into their hive with only one sting. John had a bit of bad luck the next day. His Toyota slid out on the Gardens road and side swiped a tree. John jumped out and dashed around the side to look at the damage. However the back door had sprung up and it hit him in the face.

Tommy Dudunga had a nasty accident on Tuesday. A 44 gallon drum rolled off the small front end loader's forks and hit him. He was taken to Darwin in the Medical Plane.

Clearing of the extra gardens area at Gotjanjinjerra has finished. Herv Ryder and Peter Cooke are now making a new road from the Gardens to Shotgun Straight. Bob Collins is looking forward to some good old stick picking.

From the Newspapers:

Houses: Mr. Gardon Bryant is the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. He came to Darwin and other places last weekend. He said that there would be more money for Housing Associations to build houses for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and that Aboriginal people would work on building them as they do at Maningrida.

Big Floods: All around the Northern Territory there are floods. This week the roads to Queensland was closed. So were the roads to Western Australia and South Australia. The railway line running to Adelaide from Alice Springs had a piece washed away.

We hoped to have a late story on Tommy Dudunga's condition but no news when we went to press ed

Classifieds:

Wanted: Newspaper is urgently required at the Hasty Tasty. If you have old papers please give a yell to Gil Amies.

FOR SALE One Suzuki trail bike 120.c.c. High and low ratio. Good conditions. New battery registration. Often seen driving around community at high speeds.... \$250

See John Gardiner, welfare office

PUBLIC NOTICE: Maningrida Cub Group will begin for 1973 next Wednesday 28 th February..... Mick Uibo.

FOR SALE: One only 30h.p. Mercury outboard motor...\$200 . See Bob Fisher.

WANTED: A couple of prospective sub-editors to sniff out and write news and other stories for the Mirage. Apply to Dan Gillespie-- liberal salary-- loads of overtime.

PUBLIC NOTICE: From now on , unless you have real stop press material the deadline for Mirage material will be 10.a.m. Thursday. ed.

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Gridians:

All women welcome to Gridians February 21st. at the home of Merrill Hassall at 7.30.p.m.

Bring along your favourite cake, biscuit or other delectable cookies using a chocolate flavouring. Please bring the recipe too.



Merrill Hassall.

Support Your Lending Library:

Unless we have at least 10 borrowers weekly we now propose to close the lending section completely. It is not possible to maintain this service for only two or three people. If the residents of Maningrida require this service they are requested to, present a petition naming at least ten persons who will definitely regularly borrow books weekly, and hand this list to David Hassall no later than Wednesday 28th. February.

David Hassall.

Gordon Sweeney School Notes:

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Student enterprise.

While viewing films during the week the teacher of one class was called away. Upon arriving back the teacher found an extra non-programmed film running..... one Ningle had threaded up the projector with a presently very popular film. Full marks.

SCHOOL DIARY---TEN YEARS AGO:

A disorganized sort of a day it being uncertain whether it was a holiday here or not. Further, the water pump broke down and we were without water till 10.45-- the water went off when half the school had been showered. At 9.40 we assembled to hear the Queen speak over the outback radio and we were unable to hear her....(later)... at the office where we could hear, stations were replying and what we heard of the tail-end didn't make much sense

(Do we have problems still.)

SCHOOL NOTES (cont) (Official Notices)

OOPS! slip of the typewriter. Primary school finishes at 3.00p.m. daily, not 2.30 as previously advertised. Sorry teachers! (Our apologies -ED.)

"Professor"

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Council Meeting:

Precis of the Minutes of the meeting held on 19/2/73 .
Present 12 councillors ,5visitors.

Forestry: Chris Haynes spoke to the meeting. He said that Forestry wanted to work with the Council. It wanted to make sure that Council advised them about such things as sacred places. Chris told the meeting that Forestry wanted to make a road along the Gudjerana Creek to stop hunting fires from going into timber country. Council looked at aerial photographs and decided that Jocky Bunda Bunda & Johnny Naliva were the men to speak to about that place. Paddy Fordham said that the Rembarrnga people were worried about Forestry going into places like the Jalak (Turtle) dreaming place. Chris Haynes said he was sorry that this had happened but if Forestry and Council talked this trouble wouldn't happen again.

Vernacular Teaching: The Government is waiting for Council's ideas about languages in the school. Council talked about some parts of this and decided to talk more at the next meeting.

Shop: There was a letter from the M.P.A. manager about people throwing rubbish around the Shop. It was decided to send Council Munya along to teach people to put their rubbish in the bins.

New Councillors: Joseph Mannguya (Gunavidji.)
Frank Naminjilawiri (Gunwinngu.)
Jim Biriya (Gunwinngu)

Cr. Peter Maralwanga resumed his position on the Council.

Councillor's School: Cr. Riala said that at the recent conference Mr. Giese said that a school for Councillors should be started at Maningrida. Supt. said that this was tried last year but people didn't come enough. Some Councillors said they would attend & Supt. said he would see Headmaster about running a class.

Cadell: Cr. Gangerlara said that Cadell should have a Bus Service like Guyuna. Supt. said that this could be arranged. Cr. Gangerala said that Cadell people wanted their beer club at Cadell. Supt said last time people stole beer so it couldn't be done.

Cards: There was a long talk about card playing -- some Councillors felt that Maningrida had a different law for card playing. In other places people played cards without any trouble. Council decided that if the police took cards the people should not get wild with the police. They should go to Court with a lawyer to defend them.

Children: Council were worried about children's behaviour. The special trouble was petrol sniffing. Council decided to bring back night patrols.

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About Your Land:

Next week we will have a story about land. The new Government is going to give Aboriginal people their land. We will all have to think very hard about many questions. We didn't have time for this big story this week. Next week we will give plenty of space to this story to tell you some of the things that are happening.

Important Visitor:

This week the Minister for Education, Mr. Kim Beazley came to Maningrida. He said that in future Aboriginal and balance schools would be equal.

Weekend Duties

DUTY OFFICER: Mr. Ron Berryman
DUTY SISTER: Sister Lee.

Stage Theatre

FRIDAY: "SOUND OF MUSIC" Needs no introduction. Bring your \$1.00

SATURDAY: "PLEASE SIR" Based on television show. British comedy about a school, the pupils, and the staff.

Church

SUNDAY 9.45 am Sunday Schools
7.15 pm Evening Service

TUESDAY 5.30 pm Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY 7.30 pm Church Fellowship

If there is any "image" in the New Testament it is the image of one new man in Jesus Christ, and the image of a free and reconciled community or new humanity. In Colossians 3:11 Paul speaks of renewal after the image of the Creator, and a similar passage occurs in Galatians 3:28. This reminds us that in the new humanity there are no distinctions of race, of nation, of social, economic or political status, of culture or religion or of sex. The grace of God towards man allows nothing to come between God and Man, and the grace of man towards man means allowing nothing to come between man. The Church as the nucleus of the new humanity is to be the demonstration of this grace.

M.I.

Birth

Christopher was born last Friday to Margaret Garaindidja and father Nym Manalby, brother to Mildred.

Cricket, Chaps...

Players are requested to be at the ground at 1.00 pm sharp, and ready to play. All enquiries to Ron Berryman down at the Welfare Workshop (sometimes).

People

Polly Diladila, Nancy Djinbor's daughter, who was born at Ngalidjibama in August of 1972, can now sit up by herself. She has been seen recently at the "Hook" with her mother who was fishing, and out on the shell beds where she collected 3 diama. Not bad for a 6 month old baby.

B.M.

Another letter has come from Gowan Armstrong - Gowan is still at Woodville in Adelaide and is busy putting together his thesis on the Gunavidji people. He says that one of the pleasant surprises is that anthropological notes he made 8 or 9 years ago seem to be slipping into place now. We hope that he is writing his thesis on decent paper and has lost the habit of writing information on the backs of letters and the sides of cartons. The professors may not be impressed.

Gowan reports that George Winunguj passed through Adelaide on a world tour with the Adelaide Wind Quintet. Gowan keeps an eye on us by reading the N.T. News in the Public Library.

Roslyn and John are settling into school, and Roslyn has a little Japanese friend. She is teaching her class some dances she learnt from Maningrida Girls. Shirley is 2Lb overweight. Good on you S.K.

Mr Rhys Jones passed through from Lalagejupa last weekend on his way to a conference in Canberra.

Gavin O'Brien, Meg and Alana returned from Holidays but only to pack. They leave today for Melbourne where Gavin is to study Anthropology, Sociology and Politics this year at Monish. Our best wishes to the O'Briens.

More Visitors:

Today some members of the Legislative Council are coming to visit Maningrida. They will be having a look around and finding all about the place. Some of those coming will be Rupert Kentish, Les MacFarlane and Bernie Kilgariff.

Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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