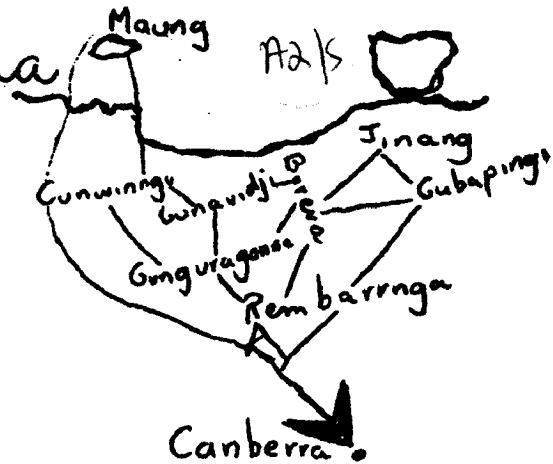


Maningrida Mirage



Volume 175

2nd March, 1973

Canberra.

Gungaibirripa arrowa

Ngilamalung gorrubei

Inyirra weba

Ngaitberri gunrad

Our land.

EDITORIAL:

Today in The Mirage we are talking about land - your land. Right now Aboriginal people do not own their land. You do not own the beaches, and billabongs and rivers in your country. You do not own the dreaming places. You can move around in these places and live in them with no trouble but by balanda law all the Arnhem Land country belongs to the Government.

But this is going to change! You remember that we had voting last year. In that voting the old government was beaten and we have a new government - a Labour Party government.

The new government is going to give you your land - give it to you by balanda law so that it is yours and not the government's.

But before this happens the government must hear everybody's story. You can read about this in John Hunter's story in this Mirage now.

It is time for talking to start - talking to your countrymen, talking to other languages and talking to your council. When you have talked at Maningrida some people might like to talk to other tribesmen at Milingimbi, or Oenpelli or Goulburn Island.

This is going to be a big business for you. It is time for every tribe and every group and every language to speak.

IT IS YOUR TIME.

IT IS YOUR LAND.

Dan Gillespie

It is important for Maningrida people to think about these things. The people come here from all over the middle part of Arnhem Land and there are several different tribes. A lot of people still live on their own land - Anbaras, Maringas, Madais, Gunardbas, Gunavidjis, Gunguragois, Dangbons, Rembarrngas, Gunwinggus, Jinangs. Most other people, even though they do not live thus, are very interested in their land; no-one has forgotten it. People will need to think how they would like to take their land, group and group, or tribe and tribe. Some places might want to take it as a group of tribes, or as a community. The Government will have to make some rules about this and that is one of the reasons it has asked Mr. Justice Woodward to make the enquiry. People will also need to think about what they will do with the land. Some people are already wanting to start cattle stations and farms, whilst others want to have their land because they are close to it or want to live and hunt on it and look after it.

It is time now to start deciding these things; Maningrida people might even want to say something to Judge Woodward about it. If you want to talk, or ask questions, or see what others are thinking, go to your Council meetings. Start next week.

John Hunter

COUNCIL MEETING:

Precis of Council Meeting minutes -----27/2/73----- 10councillors, 2visitors, present

LANGUAGE:

Council talked some more about which language they should choose as the language or languages to be used as the one for teaching in the school. Cuouncillor Riala said that Maningrida people might have to be ready for Burera as it might take over as the main language anyway. Burera speakers were the biggest number. He said that maybe Gunwinngu should be used too as to have all Burera at this stage would not be fair. Other Councillors were speaking both ways. Councillor Fordham was worried that Rembarrnga would be wiped out. He understood that it would be much easier to make the number of languages as small as possible.

Mr. Hassall said that the more languages, the harder it would be to teach them. He said maybe Council needed more time to think about this problem. President said that most children used Burera for talking to each other.

Council decided to make Burera the language for a try out and if there were too many troubles they could look at this problem again.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Council was asked to name one woman and one man to be new teaching assistants. It was decided to hold a meeting during the week about this.

PATROL OFFICER: There was more talk about a patrol officer to work with the people who live in the bush. Some felt that a balanda might not know enough about the people's customs to do the job properly. Maybe an Aboriginal man would be better. It was resolved that some help was needed and a patrol officer at this stage would be a good idea.

BEER BUSINESS: Council talked about some Gunwinngu people getting wild at the Club on Saturday night. Cuouncillor Riala said that when this happens Council should close the Club down to show it had power. President said it was only talking and Council could just not worry about it. People could talk hard about Councillors as long as there was no fighting and hitting. If there was serious trouble Council would close the Club then.

NO WEATHER!

///-///

Sorry readers -- your editor and the weather man had such a tight schedule yesterday that their paths just didn't cross until too late.

Gordon Sweeney School Notes Page 1

Are there any trained teachers 'hiding' in the community at Maningrida who would be willing to be placed on a list for casual relief at this school in the event of any of our permanent staff teachers being off duty through illness or other reasons.

If there are any persons who would be interested in accepting this enjoyable part-time salaried position please discuss the matter with David Hassall as soon as conveniently possible.

School Diary - 10 years ago (19.4.63)

Yesterday 2 Americans 1 Frenchman and 1 Aussie moved into the vacant classroom and generally made as much noise as the children, handing out lollies etc.

24.4.63

The inspection concluded at 11.30. We marched up to the airstrip to see Mr Althaus off after dinner.

SPORT:

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L** Yesterday afternoon Navy Landing played with Kopanga. The good player was Roger and some other boys. The Kopanga score was 38 and Navy Landing score was 32 so Kopanga won.

In the second game Junction Bay played Gunnewinja. Junction Bay had 29 and Gunnewinja 24. The good player was Luke.

Michael Gunbururu.

SLOW READERS RELAX:

For those tardy library book returners, requested to return books by Thursday 29th February, it is estimated that this happy day will occur in 1996.

Unmathematical mathematician.

LETTER FROM KORMILDA:

Last week I got a letter from Nellie Melbaija. She tell me all about school work in her letter. She is in the Grade third year, and she doing very well her school studies and also she made a lots of freinds from Mission to Mission, and they enjoying together in the school. They were had a good fun with Nellie Melbaija there in Kormilda College, and Nellie Melbaija she was very happy for them mission girls and settlement girls, and they doing school very well together at College, and she ask me to go there College for Teaching Assistant, but I don't know yet what time I am going there for Training at Kormilda College.

MR.G.Richard Garawun.

THE ARTS:

A Film Review:

On Tuesday night we saw a picture called "Please Sir" and it was very funny. Some people laughed and laughed. Some people saw two men were inside the wire and they saw lots of chickens in the night, but the old women and old man saw them holding the chicken. That night some boys were in the pub drinking wine and the teacher said to them "go back to bed". Suddenly they were playing bear with a little boy but the teacher came out and growled them. That morning one boy put the toy spider and it was crawling on the floor and the lady stood up on the chair. That night one boy was smoking and the teacher said to him "you naughty boy don't you smoke cigarettes".

Duty Officer: Bert Ryan
Duty Sister: Sr. Betty
Movies: Not here yet but should be
FRIDAY: Tarzan & the Jungle Boy
SATURDAY: KLUTE - highly acclaimed modern movie about a private detective

Reggie Wurjal.

CLASSIFIEDS:

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Mr Lyle Lee of A.M.P. will be visiting Maningrida to service his clients 13th-16th of March.

WANTED.

Old picture magazines eg: Womens Weekly Post etc. and comics are needed for the Drop In Club. If you have any see Roger Pink or Bob Stutchbury.

FORESTRY NOTES:

V.I.P's

Some Senior Officers from Darwin have been visiting this week.

NEW ROAD.

Work is still going on, on the new road from the Gardens at Gotjanjunjirra to the Shotgun Straight road.

WATER DIVINER:

With awed cries of "Lo, the great water diviner cometh", The entire population runs to fill the bath with water.

Down the road roars The Great Water Diviner on his magnificent machine. Blade quivering, the great man sniffs the air, eyes narrow and twitch. His hand hovers, fluttering on the levers.

Then....."Bang".....another water pipe gone.

from C.P

CHURCH NOTICES:

SUNDAY: 9.45am Sunday Schools

7.15pm Evening Service.

TUESDAY: 7.30pm Church Fellowship

THURSDAY : 5.30pm Prayer Meeting
7.30pm Choir Practice

N.B. Note that activities on Thursday & Tuesday have been swapped.

Jesus gave his invitation, "Follow me" to the fisherman by the seashores. It was for a purpose, "and I will make you fishers of men.

Jesus came with a purpose to accomplish in the world. He is a man with a mission. Jesus said "I come to do the will of God in calling men to follow Him"

The Church in Maningrida invites all who are willing to have the privilege of sharing His ideals and co-operating with his purpose.

PEOPLE:

We bid goodbye this week to P.O. John Quelch and his wife Jenny. They are going on leave & then to another community.

A belated welcome to our new P.O.I.T. Paul Josif. We missed him out in the last few issues.

Welcome also to our new storeman Peter Wilkinson

Mr Peter Gangalara, his wife Mabel and son Ningle are planning to go to Bathurst Island for the wedding of Peter Galaluk, their son. Peter is marrying a Bathurst Is. girl

The gearbox out of the Bedford bus fell on Ron Berryman's arm this week and he is in Darwin for treatment. We hope it does not affect his spin bowling.

David Gulpalil has been offered a part in a programme for children in Sydney interpreting the myths of the brolga.

The Woodward Land Rights Commission.

The government has asked a Judge, Mr. Justice Woodward, to make enquiries into Aboriginal land rights and land use. He has got to find out about a number of things and then tell the government what he heard so that it can decide what to do.

We will talk about some of these things shortly but first it is important to realize a few things :-

- i) The Government has already said that it will give land rights to Aboriginal people on the reserves;
- ii) It has also said that it will give the rights to minerals and timber on reserves to Aboriginal people;
- iii) Some people had applied for leases under the old system but have not got any word from the Government. This does not mean that they won't get the land. It means that the Government is not going to do anything until it decides how best the land should be given. This will depend on what Mr. Justice Woodward finds out.

How does he find out? He asks any interested person to tell him what they think; they are able to write to him or ask to talk with him - whatever they like.

So that he does not get too many stories the Government has set out some items of reference or things that it wants the Judge to find out about. He can only listen to stories about these things.

They are set down here for you to think about :

- i) The way in which the land, and the rights to minerals and timber on reserves is to be given to Aboriginals;
- ii) The way in which claims by Aboriginals for land outside reserves are to be looked at or how best the land needs of Aboriginals living outside reserves can be met;
- iii) How will those things such as mining leases, government leases and government contracts which are already existing on reserves effect the granting of land rights to Aboriginals in some areas.
- iv) What laws are to be changed so that the things decided can be started for Aboriginals, and
- v) Any other things to do with land rights or land which the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs asks the Judge to look at.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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