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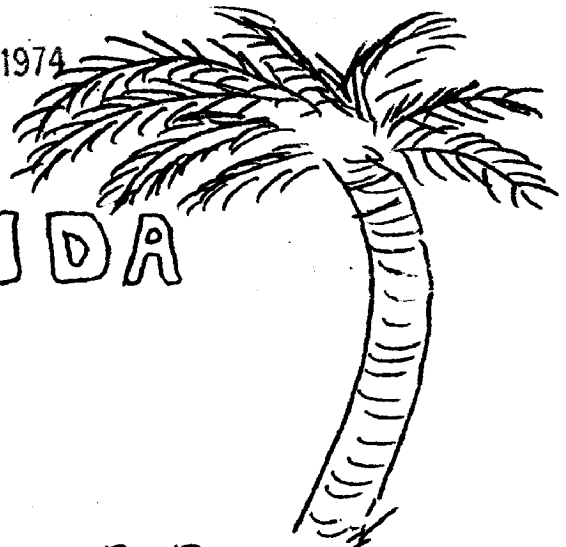
17 JUL 1974

MANINGRIDA

MIRAGE

14 DEC 1973

VOL No 217



A Confession!

Closing down a significant slice of one's life is a harmful task, mercifully relieved in the anticipation of lasting memories. It was my good fortune to be first associated with Maningrida in the twilight of those formative years, when the "development" push was just commencing. The physical aspects of the settlement were not so different then, but the jarring discord generated by the side by side placement of wealth, and poverty, grated on the mind.

The poverty was real enough, but it cloaked riches; riches of the human spirit. Here was a philosophy based not on material acquisition and the cult of the individual, but on the cementing of human relationships and mutuality.

To my shame the significance of this revelation has been lost until more recent times. It was probably in the subconscious when, having been absent for a lengthy period, I felt the pressure to return and to remain.

Maningrida re-visited was, again, not so different in the external aspects. It was bigger, and the relationships more superficial, the need for "development" seemed more urgent. The danger signs were evident, but not recognised, and largely submerged in the exigencies of being involved. There were many areas to cover hence the superficiality, and a tendency to equate development with progress may have been excusable in other circumstances.

The growth of "apathy" and "laziness" and the "lack of co-operation", and the "irresponsible" attitudes should have set the alarm bells clanging together with increasing reference to the need for "good" balandas to work on the settlement. Again in other circumstances the failure of recognition may have been excused. In this case some reflection on the disparity in the respective societies would have uncovered the clue. The visible evidence that aboriginals were, voluntarily moving into the consumer society also tended to cloud the issue. In fact with the establishment of Maningrida, they had little choice in the matter and an irrevocable course was set.

That which had been commenced was not generated internally in the minds of the people, it was forceful displacement of the culture emanating from an external source (i.e. Australian society) and fuelled with the trappings of the materialist culture.

This involuntary deculturation is the most destructive element present today - history tells us of the effects and our own observations should provide the warning. Aboriginal people are a part of Australian society, but it is not on for Australian society to tell them which part they shall occupy.

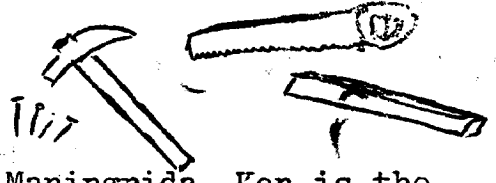
So it is with regret that I leave, encumbered with some sense of personal failure. This little story is directed towards non-aboriginal people; it has been written up with great authority by distinguished people, I am just repeating it in essence, but on the basis of a very personal experience.

For aboriginal people, though, there is still a chance with nothing to lose in the taking. Goodbye.

- JOHN HUNTER.

2

Housing Association News



Mr. Ken Larsen has arrived at Maningrida. Ken is the Housing Association electrician - he hails from New Guinea.

Mr and Mrs Carlson are also new residents to Maningrida - Rune is a painter, so will see him and his boys busily engaged painting the town red.

Mr and Mrs Michael Wraith left for holidays last Monday - Dick Smith junior has taken over and is facing up very well, keep this up Dick.

Over the past three weeks the associations consultants have made two visits here. Roger Winton spent last weekend in Maningrida visiting our local scenic spots.

Mr Peter Myers is busily engaged proposing notes and hopes to arrive at a more suitable home for aboriginals. He is an architect working in conjunction with our Consultant Engineers.

Kay and Luncice Seymour left for Qld last Thursday. Rod will be leaving next week, also going back to Qld next week for holidays is our plumber - he may bring back a bride.

"His Country" Rod Seymour.



Editorial

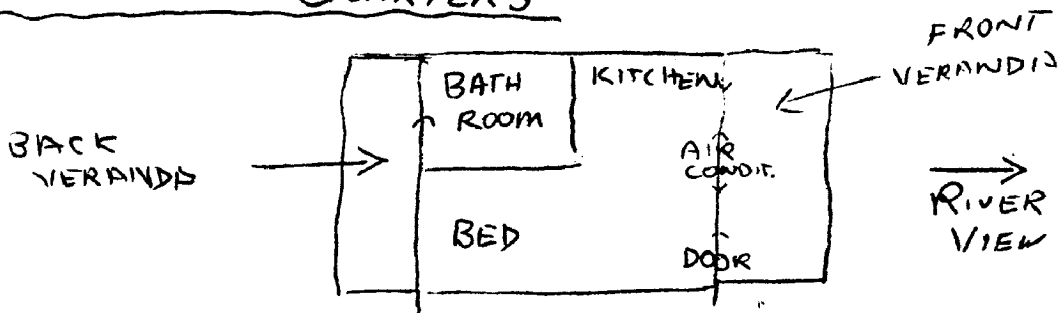
So the book is closed; the era has ended.

It is not easy to write about someone who has been the major cause and encouragement of the growth and welfare of the community. In his last seven years with us, John has given his maximum efforts to all his duties, and to many tasks that were far beyond his call of duty. Those of us who have worked next to him have always been astonished at the energy he would put into his work. His duties knew no hours, no bounds and no end. His patience with everyone's little problems at any hour of the day or night is something very few of us ever have.

To this great man we lift our glasses and remember the days of old. He may have left our shores, but it will always be "his" Maningrida and "his" people.

Editor....

New Nursing Quarters



Next week Condor will be handing over the 5 new nursing sisters flats. First appearances leave one very impressed. They are not unlike the 6 welfare flats in their layout (about the same size) except each has its own individual toilet block. Each flat is fitted with a 2HP air conditioning unit and each faces out into the sea. The colour schemes, different for each flat are very attractive (especially the first flat) and all the hot-water systems are solar. It is rather a pity, however, that more advantage was not taken of the sea view and a larger window fitted to the front of each flat with the airconditioner installed in the back.

As yet there is no sign of any furniture (not part of the

(Condor c ~~contract~~) and the flats cannot be occupied till the furniture arrives. No delay is expected in connecting powers.

In the short time they have been with us, Condor can only give an impression of a most efficient and hard working team and we warmly congratulate them on a job well done. We would love to see them come again.

oOo

Crocodylus porosus



Sean

Australia's first comprehensive study of the saltwater crocodile is moving into top gear since the arrival here of a team of 11 scientists and field assistants a fortnight ago.

The researchers are currently trying to locate as many Crocodylus porosus nesting sites as possible along the Liverpool and Tomkinson Rivers before the onset of the first monsoons. Hides are being built to watch and record the egg laying and nesting activities which begin soon after the first big rains.

Three sites have already been plotted and a Gunavidgi man has offered to lead biologist Dr Grahame Webb and associates to five others. Aboriginals who traditionally collect eggs from many of the sites, are being offered a reward in return for information on nest locations and an assurance that the eggs will be left to the cause of science.

To make up for loss of this bush tucker, the scientists are providing 10 dozen chicken eggs for each site located if the eggs are left untouched.

The study is programmed to last from 10 to 15 years and a base is being established in the former fish factory and other buildings nearby. Earlier this year Dr Webb and the programme's director, famed physicist and fund raiser professor Harry Messell led a team which caught, weighed, measured, tagged and released 360 crocodiles along the two rivers in three and a half months.

Contrary to rumours circulating here at that time, the researchers aren't using satellites to track the saurians.

However, miniature transmitters are being fixed to the skulls of some of the large crocodiles to facilitate electronic tracking from light aircraft and boats, satellites possibly being used in the future. Only one transmitter has been tested in the field so far. It was attached to an eight foot specimen which was subsequently recaptured and released again. Dr Webb is hopeful that it will be caught again this wet season. Much of the work next year will be carried out from "The Harry Messell", a 120 ton boat carrying laboratory facilities and considerable comforts to gladden the hearts of the researchers after long days amongst the mosquitoes, mud and mangroves.

The boat draws only 6 feet of water and it is hoped that it will be able to work as far as 20 miles upriver. Currently on a testing voyage after its sea trials, the 'Harry Messell' will arrive here about March next year. It will spend a few months on the Liverpool each year until the program concludes.

Among the group here at present are: Dr Robert Carrick, a population biologist from Scotland, Dr Gordon Grigg, a biologist from Sydney University and four students from the university, Chris Moran, Bill Magnusson, Arthur Georges and John Boland, who are working with the team during their vacation to gain experience in the field.

Also from Sydney University are Trevor Sutton and
ice Dougherty, to whom falls the task of keeping the programs
boards and vehicles in going condition.

Senior Technical Officer Dennis Puffett is here
representing the Wildlife section of the Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife
National Parks Branch. The only woman is Elizabeth Mills, from
Monday Island, who is cooking for the group.

P. COOKE

Manuaria Journal

1. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has approved a \$5,000.00 grant for the purchase of a Mini-Bus for the exclusive use of pensioners.
Silas Roberts stated however that should the bus be available, people wanting to use it can, upon payment of bus rent.
2. Mr. John Hunter discussed Award Wages which the government was going to implement. He said that not all workers are entitled to Award Wages. Only those who will be duly recommended by their respective department heads will get award wages. He emphasized that good work means good pay. Every man must sweat for his money if he wants good money.
3. Silas Roberts informed the Council that the proposal for the start of Adult Literacy Classes has been approved and that classes have been organized.

Monday - Thursday..... 3:00pm - 4:30 pm. ... Men
Wednesday- Thursday 1:30pm - 3:00 pm. ... Women

He spoke on how necessary it is to go to school and learn to read and write. He said that education is very important and urged everyone to make use of the opportunity to go to school.

Several men and women expressed interest to attend classes.

4. Councilor Munyal expressed deep concern over the number of balandas coming in. He said that the council would go to the different outstations to discuss this thing about balandas coming in.
5. A film projectionist training course has been offered by the V.T.C. at Batchelor next month. The training will take a week. Nominated by the Council to go were:

James Wilson
Albert Milaron
Peter Ganawun
Dennis Hood

Bobby Smith
Jimmy Pascoe
Rolly Gibson

6. The Management Committee informed the council that (Management Committee of the Beer Club) Men who are members of the Club and who refuse to cooperate with council projects will be suspended. Dirty camps will mean NO BEER for the day. The Council added that people with dirty camps will be fined \$2.00 if not, the Council will ask the Manager of the Club, James Cooper to refuse any man his ration of beer for the day. The men all reckoned this was a good story.
7. John Hunter announced the creation of Camp Hygiene Committees composed of women nominated by the Councilors and Mrs. Gill Anies. The main functions of these committees are to see to it that every area is cleaned everyday and that public areas like those surrounding ablution blocks are free from rubbish. Hygiene girls were to report to the Supt.'s office the names of persons who refused to clean up.

CA - Holiday Happenings.

ay... 14th December.

A wonderful way to end the first week with a barbeque and a treasure hunt at Caledona Water hole. Trip starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 pm. Mobs of fun over there..... games, swimming races, gymnastics and a sizzling barbeque. Don't miss this day.

Second Week

Monday... 17th December

10:00am-12:00 noon ... Table Tennis
10:00 am- 12:00 noon.. Indoor Hockey
10:00am - 12:00 noon .. Fun games for children below seven.

1:00 pm. - 3:00 pm.... Sing-along
1:00pm.- 3:00 pm. Gymnastics
4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. .. Football/ Basketball
8:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m. .. Keep fit for Teenage Girls

Tuesday.. 18th December

10:00 am - 12:00 noon .. Gymnastics
10:00 am - 12:00 noon .. Ball Games
10:00 am - 12:00 noon .. Penny Hike for children
8 and below.

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Sing-along
1:00 pm.- 3:00 pm. Quiet Games
3:00pm - 5:00 pm..... Softball/ Basketball/ Volleyball

Wednesday.. 19th December

10:00- 12:00 noon..... Hockey / Softball
10:00 - 12:00 noon Crab Football at the Hall

1:00- 3:00 pm..... Gymnastics
4:00 - 5:00 pm. Basketball
7:30 - 10:00 pm. DROP IN

Thursday... 20th December

10:00-12:00 Noon... COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY. CAN THE CAN
DRIVE
1:00- 3:00 pm. Table Tennis
1:00- 3:00 pm. Skating
1:00 - 3:00 pm..... Boxing
3:00 - 4:00 pm. ... Basketball / Football
7:30- 10:00 pm. .. KEEP FIT FOR MEN

Friday 21st December

Whole Day Excursion to Stone Country. Bring your own lunch.
Trip starts at 9:00 am. and we will be back in the afternoon.

SUNDAY..... 23rd of December

4:00 pm.- 7:00 pm. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.
GAMES..... FUN..... AND FOOD TO BE PROVIDED BY THE MPA.
VOLUNTEER HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS IS MORE THAN WELCOME.

P. P.

Rainfall.

Now that we have signs of a "Wet" upon us, The Mirage will publish weekly rainfall figures. They will be from the Thursday to the Wednesday.

This Week:	Thur 6th Nil	Sat. 8th Nil	Mon 10th 3 pts
	Fri. 7th Nil	Sun. 9th Nil	Tues. 11th 7 pts
			Wed 12 th Nil

Weekend Outing

Duty Officer : Brolga William Beckett Esq.
Duty Sister: Sister Lee.

Star Theatre

Friday: "In The Heart Of The Night"
Saturday: " Viva Maria"

Church

Programme For Coming Week:

Sunday: Sunday Schools 9.30 am at the church, and at Cadell Gardens.
Thence; "God Is At Hand"
Evening Service: Church 7.30 pm.

Tuesday: You are all asked to come along at 7.30 pm., to help us to help others to remember that Christmas means the birth of Jesus, by practising Christmas songs and plays.

Houses

About 30 people from Navy Landing, Rocky Point, Gulyun, Blyth River, and Cadell gathered on Tuesday afternoon to talk to Peter Myers about their bush dwellings. Peter has come here to find out the most suitable dwellings for each different people in each of their own different environments and ways of life. He will be here for about eight weeks.

He said that there was no need to change or lose one's own way of life in order to be able to, or try to, live in a particular house style. More better, he said, we change the house style rather than the way of life. With this in mind, he asked the people what type of houses they wanted, and got some surprisingly definite answers. Jacky Kala-Kala (Gulyun) would like to build his own brick house and not have to pay rental. Harry Mulumbuk, speaking for Blyth River, suggested an iron and brick house for that country, but his idea was not very popular. Others thought it was a better idea to have a brick house for the "Wet", and a more mobile structure for the "dry". Peter told them that if they wanted to build the same type of houses out bush as what was in Maningrida, then the cost would be considerable both for erection and services. A house would cause danger to the environment. Would it also encumber their movements?

On Education

Peter Myers' stay has been rather eventful since his first week here. Dan Gillespie (well known gentleman in these parts) took him footwalking from Nawalidja (Rocky Pt.) to Kupanga along the beach. When they arrived at Djunawunga (where the big casurina tree is) they turned inland and walked an hour before, due to a great navigational feat, dextrous thorough and neat in character, they found themselves to have gone around a full circle, and to be back under the casurina.

Never to be defeated, the party headed off again, but this time ended up in a marsh, and so had to turn back again. During their travels they heard many (too many) crocodile barking, and saw young ones feeding on the beach.

After a 25 mile walk, they never actually got to Kupanga.

Some People

Almost everyone has now met Arthur Marks, and his lovely wife Pan, and son Matthew. Of his background you may be interested.

Arthur originally comes from Melbourne town (that's where they play football) but that was a long time ago. For the last fourteen years he has worked with native affairs in P.N.G., spending four years in Bougainville and six years in the Western District, mainly on patrol work, and for the last four years as a sub-district officer in the East and West Sepik districts. In the Daru Highlands district he had 16,000 natives under his wing and six patrol officers, who did their work by either footwalk or boat (mostly the former). It was on Daru Island that he met a very good looking lass named Pan, and that's where the gay young single days ended.

Pan originally comes from Sydney (that's a place in N.S.W. where they sing opera) but had been teaching in the High School on Daru Island for six years. This was a government school, and she taught such things as history, english, and social studies.

We extend a big welcome to them both, and hope their stay will be long and happy.

Bob Fisher leaves our ranks on Friday with plans that include marriage and a trip to New Zealand.

We congratulate Vainga our new Tongan gardener on gaining his licence. While Bob Collins is on leave, he will be running the gardens Tongan Style.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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