

17 JUL 1974

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MANINGRIDA  
MIRAGE

Volume 3  
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Fri 28th Sept. 1973



WUNs i COONT  
 EVUH  
 SPEIK KLOK  
 KATOK KLOK  
 KARK  
 NOWIYAM WUN  
 SPOPH  
 KLARK!

RURAL NEWS

A few weeks ago, your correspondent went on a tour of some of the country of the Burera Madai people who are living on the other side of Blyth River.

These people are living for the present, at Jimmolinjera, about 2 miles to the S.E. of Kopanga. Their leader is Mr. Jack Gureiyiri, although the area belongs to Mr. Javk Gagadi and some other people. It is a long sand hill, covered with trees, and some jungle patches including a large hanyan tree (galwan) from the roots of which the "cotton" (djanpa) is derived for the manufacture of string bags (jerrk). The people who live at Jimmolinjera make a lot of these, also didjeridoos and other implements. They do a lot of hunting and when I arrived had just come back from a fishing expedition in one of the small fresh water boats. They had used a butterfly net (woven from djanpa) to catch a quantity of nyalk-nyalk (fresh water herrings about 6" in length). These were being grilled on the ashes and eaten for breakfast along with some pandanus kernels (jinga) which had been collected by some of the ladies the night before.

It was decided that we would camp at Jimmolinjera that night and that Jack Gureiyara and Big Barney would guide us on a tour of some of the areas to the north in the course of the afternoon. We accordingly set out for Dirra-dirra Adjiriha about 1 mile to the North-west. This took us out of the sand hill country and up on to a low flat like area of gravel (gurgarema) with eucalypt trees and a lot of ngatjn palm (cycas media). This is an extensive feature and we spent a good deal of time in such country in the course of the afternoon. Dirra-dirra Adjiriha is Tommy Yibberals fathers country and is hence under his custodianship. It has a well water supply nearby; there are in fact a number of wells in the shallow depression which par the gurgarema and we sampled several of them in our northwards journey. About 1/2 way along we came to a recently deserted camp of Mr Jack Djabalalis group. We eventually arrived at Malajabama, an important place about 1 mile inland from the beach, where the Kunapipi had been held last year. It is a good area, centrally located to take advantage of both the coastal areas and the gurgarema country with a copions supply of fresh water this time of year. We were shown a number of sites there before heading off into the interior on our way back to Jimmolinjera. This was a special significance to Tom Yibberal, as we visited the camp of his father (at Jimarda) where the family had customarily spent wet seasons.

This is right in the middle of the forest with plenty of evidence of old habitation, piles of sea-shells, old relics of shelters etc. Tommy showed us the old bush roads to the coast and to the interior which the family had used on their food and water getting expeditions. We followed one such track towards Jinnolinjera to a well and fresh water pool at Jinjarabinjera where a small fish trap (mindirra) had been constructed. There were plenty of fish there and the men excavated a number of small fish (dariaba) from the mud.

After we got back to Jinnolinjera we were given some freshly prepared ngatju to eat, it had been in the water for 3 days and had just been taken out. It has very little flavour, with a cheese like after-taste and is of a cottage cheese but lumpy texture. It is very important food and is freely available in large quantities but requires a good deal of preparation. The following day it was decided to make a journey to the east guided by Jack Gureiyara and Alec Wunala. This got under way the following morning, the road following the hunting track in common use. The men pointed out many camp sites on the way and after about 1 mile we came to the edge of a large plain containing the Jamalga creek. After a stop for water at Anagoyira we set out across the plain eastwards, until we came to a large open billabong, Anbulor, which abounded in wild fowl. Jack shot a few ducks (naranbai) and we pressed on to Gununa jungle, his own country. There is much evidence of old habitation in this region with plenty of gungapalas (mounds resulting from habitation debris) and an old mindirra (owned by Jack Gureiyara's father). After passing through several kulaij (spike rush) areas we made dinner camp at a paper bark swamp on the northern end of the plain (gunajurgula). The water here was quite good, although it will dry up in the hot weather. It was decided to leave our packs here and return to the area for night camp. This area is the point of the Ngandadauda - Jamalga creek watershed - they are in fact joined by a water course. Jack told me that the entire system had been controlled with Mindirra in the past (we saw several) so that the people could regulate the passage of fish in season.

After lunch (grilled naranbai and banda - long neck turtle) we went on to the east up the Ngandadauda water course until we came to the first of the mangroves in the tidal section. This place is known as Anagopora and in the country of Mr. Darky Balarganba. We saw a fire about 1 mile to the south and the men thought it might have been lit by Jack Bariabanga so we crossed the creek and went to investigate. There was no-one there but we had the opportunity to inspect some canoe trees in the jungle known as Ananganana. We could see the eucalypt forest (nalpin) to the east and then pointed out the direction of some of the coastal areas, Kanalgirira and Ngandadauda also Gungumungulgoira (Gumup-muk). We then turned back into the sun and passed by the area from which Mr. Jack Butjaraga had cut his dugout canoe, Dalinana. The canoe had been dragged across the plains by several men for at least 1 1/2 miles and launched in the Ngandadauda creek. Another couple of miles saw us back at our dinner camp, just on dusk.

On Wednesday we packed up again and set off to the south to skirt the nalpin (eucalypt forest) where the men hoped to secure some wild honey. They were unsuccessful and we sat down to rest on one of two prominent gungapalas at Jigubia. This commands an excellent view of the plains to the south and the areas of Moganana and Moganbal maybe 3-4 miles away. It is an enormous expanse of open country. Jigubia is the country of Jack Gureiyara's wife, also Tommy Gundara Steele. We turned back to the west, on the return journey to Jinnolinjera, passing through Moganga jungle. This is the country of Joe Mangguluda and there is a well disused by the side of the jungle. This is the only permanent water in this area.

We rejoined our outwards track at Anbulor where Jack Gureiyiri unsuccessfully sought some more naranbai before returning to Jinnolinjera.

The area was rich in associations for the men and all talked about their childhood days, hunting, moving around in the seasonal cycle, hiding in the jungles from the "soldiers" (from the east on raids) and memories of their parents. It is sad that has been deserted for so long, but the people are slowly moving back again as they seek to re-occupy their own country.

#### CENTRE WANDERINGS

If holiday means change - not rest - that's what thousands of people seem to do in September - and "Flock to the Rock" Buses, cars and planes were everywhere around Ayers Rock/Mt. Olga - a fabulous place regardless of the weather.

We went via Bulman, Alice Springs to Ayers Rock. Visited Jay Ck, Glen Helen, Hermannsburg, Areyonga, Kings Canyon. Spent several days in and around Alice, staying with friends, who have a market garden on the banks of the Todd (actually flowed a little while we were there)

Quality of shops is probably better than Darwin and the setting of Alice is much better too. The desert is certainly living at the moment.  
All told a round trip of 3,4000 miles.

Mick and Dee Uibo.

FOR SALE

3 Band Radio  
National Model R317  
Tuned RF Circuit  
Complete with case and all accessories.  
As new - \$55.00

see Mick Uibo.

M.H.A. NEWS

Applications wanted from interested Aborigines wanting houses.  
Application forms are available from Mr. Silas Roberts, M.P.A. Store  
and Housing Association Office.

R. Seynour.

+ + + +

C O M M U N I C A T I O N !!!

"For I believe, as many of us believe, that we will. All of us, as we have before, and can, nay must, once again if we are to be and - make no mistake about it - we cannot afford not to be.

"For, and let us be perfectly clear about this, in the past few months we have proved without and beyond any doubt that we do.

"And we will continue to do strongly, firmly and gently as we have in the past.

"But - and this is a big but - now at the same time - and this is a question only you can answer - shall we looking forward as we do, as we all do, indeed as it is our duty to do, at this time of decision or not?

"That is the question you must ask yourselves today.

"But I hear you saying "Ah, if only it were that clear."

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VACANCIES.

Persons interesting in operating Savings Bank agency at Maningrida are asked to see the Superintendent. Commission is approximately \$5,000 per annum on present transactions.

Persons interested in operating a Post Office at Maningrida please contact the Superintendent. Commission payable by the Post Office is approximately \$1,900 per annum.

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With regards to the cricket match played on last Sunday (of which full score sheets are published in this Mirage). We wish to thank all participants who took part. Especially the "Condor" people who turned up, Gordon and Pat did a terrific job there should be more like them if we are going to live with each other, if only for a few months.

Special thanks go out to John Riester and Phil? for such a great job they did umpireing. Phil because not knowing much about the game at least he tried to join in and did such a good job that the unanimous vote is "umpire always". A special thanks goes out to John Riester who umpired with a tooth so abscessed that it wasn't funny. So much for the rest of you Forrestry Fellows who didn't take part. THANKS JOHN RIESTER!

A special mention as far as the actual game is concerned was Terry Cannings fine 107. Graham Hammer made 80 not out also. Graham Inglis 60 not out. Frank the captain of the losing side didn't score many runs but held a couple of good catches and did some fantastic fielding along with Merv Ryder (who was outstanding) and Andrew Henderson.

R.B.

+ + + +

The Adult Library will soon be getting a change of books from Darwin. Would you please return any books you have finished or are not reading. Also please tell me what books you like so as I can get them from Darwin for you. Adult Library Tuesday nights 7p.m. to 8p.m.

Patricia Christopher,  
for  
Librarian.

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MRS NEALE'S SENIOR GENERAL STREAM CLASS.

"THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!"



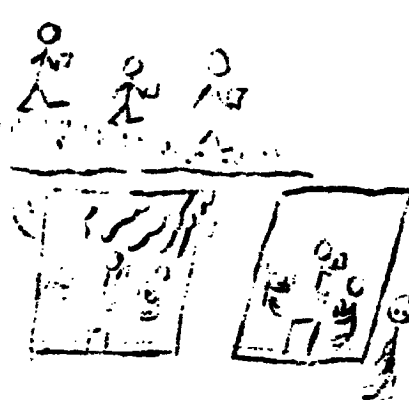
Annette

They creep at night and they get the petrol out of the drum.

They creep in that little hut to sniff the petrol.

Some little boys bring matches to burn the petrol. The fumes are everywhere.

The man comes and sees the three boys are sniffing petrol.



Three boys are running away because the man chases them. They leave the petrol.

+ + + +

Raymond Roberts.

DANGER PETROL.

This little hut is empty.

Some boys are running towards the little hut.

They locked the door and one boy started sniffing.

Then a man came and he lit a cigarette.

He pushed the door. And he saw some boys sniffing in the lot. It was dark. To see he lit a matches and BOOM the lot blew up, it was on fire.

Those boys who sniff BE CAREFUL!!!!!!!

+ + + +

Tamie.

DANGER PETROL.

Three boys are going to the hut to get some petrol.

And three boys are going to ge in and sniff petrol.

A little boy lit thē matches and youg men came saw them they were sniffed.

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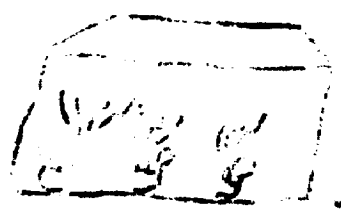
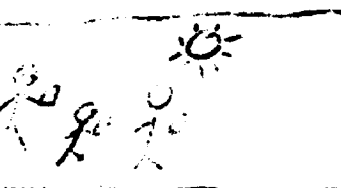
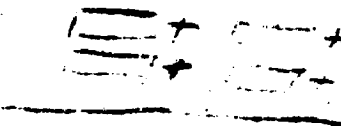
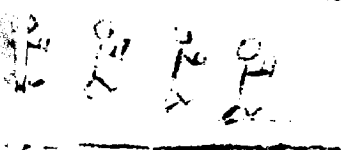
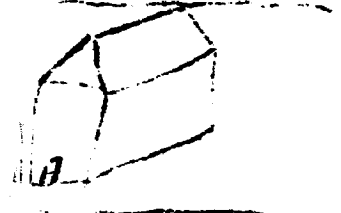
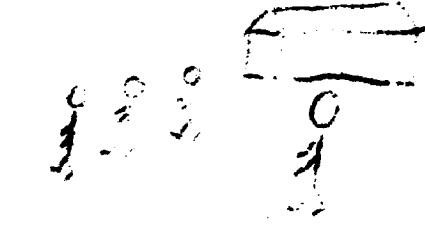
Dear Editor,

May I pass on a message to YMCA? Remember crying about being blamed for all that goes wrong? Remember the Editor telling you to hold tight? Well,,, you can let go now as I am the new sucker!!! Would you believe that I am the cause of all that goes wrong here at the moment?

Yours suckingly,

SUCKER.

+ + + +



Dear Editor,

What has happened to the Woodchucks?

Woodfan.

Dear Woodfan,

I have checked with the Archives. It appears that the Woodchucks and The Diary disappeared at the same time. A Nationwide search has yet been unsuccessful.

Editor.

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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, MR. GORDON BRYANT.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Gordon Bryant, today approved a comprehensive road construction program for Aboriginal communities in Central Australia.

The \$329,000 program provides funds for extensive road construction at nine communities and for a housing development at one of the communities.

The Aboriginal communities at Areyonga, Docker River, Jay Creek, Hermannsburg, Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Yuendumu, Warrabri, and Santa Teresa, would each receive \$21,000 to enable them to engage in road building for a period of six months.

The grant would enable the community to buy trucks and equipment and allow Aboriginal workmen to be employed on award wages.

Mr. Bryant said \$140,000 of the program would be spent on housing at Papunya.

He said it was a sad reflection on Government agencies in the past that roads ended at the entrances to many Aboriginal communities.

The advancement of these Aboriginal towns was closely tied in with the advancement of the Territory.

Mr. Bryant announced the grant at the end of a two-day conference in Alice Springs, called to discuss the development of Aboriginal communities.

It was attended by more than 100 aborigines and representatives of Government agencies.

Canberra 6/9/73.

+ + + +

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Gordon Bryant, is to set up a study group to look into relations between Aborigines and the Police.

The study will involve Aborigines, a former police officer and social scientists.

The group will work in close liaison with the Institute of Aboriginal Studies, the Attorney-General's Department and local Aboriginal groups.

"The group will set out to discover why there is more conflict between the Police and Aboriginal groups than between Police and other groups", Mr. Bryant said.

"It will be responsible for investigating allegations of Police discrimination and for developing programs to allay tension prevalent in some Aboriginal communities, particularly in Redfern, Alice Springs and Brisbane.

"It will also examine why Australian gaols, at any one time, contain a disproportionate number of Aborigines".

Mr. Bryant added that he planned to call a conference of Police Commissioners or their representatives, members of Police unions, criminologists and Aborigines later this year in an effort to improve relations.

Canberra 4/9/73.

+ + + +

How's your neck and head and everything?  
Awright.

+ + + +

Don't get too excited! That may have been the last ~~Mirage~~, Barge.

+ + + +

What else can I write?

+ + + +

I gotta fill in the last page!

+ + + +

From Catch 22:

How could he see he had flies in his eyes? He had flies in his eyes!

+ + + +

Soutter's great boat is here! You can view it if you just pay \$5 at the gate.

+ + + +

FOR SALE

6 cu foot Deep Freeze

1½ HP Airconditioner

see N.Perkins

**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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