

MANINGRIDA

MIRAGE

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Nanunguda Link with Nungalinga College

In 1966 John Laklak, holidaying here at present (from Milingimbi), was a Forestry trainee, and attended a course on citizenship run by a group of combined Churches at the famous Winnellie showgrounds. Similar courses were held over the next couple of years with people coming from Yuendumu, Warrabri, Hooker Creek and towns in Arnhem Land.

Jack Goodluck and others dreamed of the day when permanent buildings could be put up for people to live and learn in and courses could be held not only for Aboriginal people but also for staff coming to work in Aboriginal communities. They looked forward to a training centre which would assist in training leaders for the Churches (some going on to become ordained ministers) and also take an active part in preparing people for community development - helping to awaken a greater awareness and sensitivity to Aboriginal people and their aspirations and the means available to assist them.

A body of trustees was appointed in the early seventies with Bishop Mason as the president and Rev Gordon Symons as secretary. A lease was granted on a 9 acre block of land on Dripstone Road - just across from Community College on Lakeside Drive. (A notice which says something about Nakara housing project stands on the land).

Early in 1973 Dr Keith Cole of Melbourne who in earlier years got a college started in Kenya, (Africa) was appointed principal and I have been appointed as the Registrar. Dr Cole has been largely engaged in raising funds and making known the needs of the college all over Australia. We hope that sufficient money will be in hand to build the first stage this year.

In the meantime, various consultations have been held in Arnhem Land and courses held in Darwin. Towards the end of last year rooms in Carpentaria College were used for an orientation course for staff. In a similar course in February it is anticipated that staff from a number of Govt departments e.g. Forestry, Police who work with Aboriginal People will take part.

The name Nungalinga pronounced Noong-a-linga is a Larakia word. It is the name of a big rock just off Casuarina Beach which is exposed at low tide and can easily be seen from the windows of a Connair plane.

G.A. ARMSTRONG.

Another Snake Story

Willie Jeriniri and Johnny Mayara came across a 5ft snake on Thursday while mowing the airstrip. The snake was very indignant at having its peace interrupted by their intrusion and attacked the tractor. The terrified tractor drivers immediately left the scene and ran to Mr Bert for help. Bert came along and ran over the snake (which also attacked the Toyota) while Willie and Johnny stood up on top of the Toyota's roof still very petrified. The snake was not known to anyone; it had stripes like a tiger snake and an all jet black head. Its body was a lot longer than a tiger snake. "Crocodilus" experts have taken its head and will identify it.

The Y.M.C.A. - and Maningrida - and You

The following is an extract of a letter received by several Maningrida residents, and is published at the suggestion of one of the recipients who considers it contains information that we all should appreciate.

" The Y.M.C.A. move to Maningrida is the first experiment of an outside organisation moving into an Aboriginal society to assist with social development and recreation. As an experimental situation there are bound to be mistakes made. One obvious mistake for which I accept the responsibility is for insufficient publication of the role of the Y.M.C.A. at Maningrida. One reason for lack of publication of this role is because the role of an organisation in an experiment situation is largely unknown and is dependant on the responses of the community in the situation.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has supplied a subsidy for one officer and two Aboriginal Assistants to co-ordinate a Youth recreational Activities Programme. Mr Peter Pinder was appointed by us as a recreational officer. Mr Lucky Balarka and Mrs Betty Wandug are currently the Aboriginal Assistants.

Mrs Pinder has been appointed by the Y.M.C.A. as a social worker and her duties require her to work closely with the aboriginal community and to encourage them to accept responsibility in community and family affairs. To do this job she must undertake group and individual counselling.

Her role as a social worker - community developer, makes it essential that she identify with the aboriginals and that she become involved in social issues. It is not the wish of the Y.M.C.A. to become embroiled in controversies however, if it is necessary for the Y. to take a firm stand on issues then the Y. will not hesitate to do so.

Mrs Pinder is a highly qualified community developer and has the confidence of both the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Y.M.C.A.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you of my willingness to discuss the Y.M.C.A. work with you when I next visit Maningrida as it is necessary to have the cooperation of the community if the maximum progress is to be made.

Yours faithfully,

R.J.Norman
Executive Director.

Bits and Things

oOo

Did you read in the papers on Wednesday where a certain Mr Grant Steels tried to break up a fight at Hooker Creek. One man (not Rusty!) was sentenced to 3 months gaol over the incident.

Mr and Mrs Jim Pickersgill and grandson Stewart are off on three weeks holiday to visit and stay with Jims brother on a farm near Gynpie.

Word has it that Mr Sniley Hanning is working in Darwin Hospital kitchen and has applied for a similar position at Gove.

We wish to explain the reason for the roar that was emitted from the McMahons residence in the early hours of the morning of New Years Day. Apparently the Mc Mahon juniors were rather perturbed that their father could not arise from his bed after a heavy night beforehand, so a bucket of water was used to awaken him. Anyway this is the story that Clive gave us and he's sticking to it

oOo

Weather

Rainfall for the f/n ended yesterday was as follows:

Thur.	27/12	13pts.	Fri.	4/1	9.8 cm.
Fri.	28/12	1 pt.	Sat.	5/1	33.9 cm.
Sat	29/12	117pts.	Sunday	6/1	10.5 cm.
Sunday	30/12	3pts	Mon.	7/1	15.5 cm.
Mon	31/12	1 pt.	Tues.	8/1	10.7 cm.
Wed.	2/1	20.2 cm	Wed	9/1	30.2 cm.
			Thur	10/1	6.0 cm.

Rainfall for the year 1973 was 68.67 inches . For the month of December it was 4.87 inches which was well below November (19.06 Inches). You will also note that with the close of that wonderful year, inches went out and cm's came in. Mr. Charles has kindly offered any assistance to those who may be a muddle.

Old Friends

Sister Dorothy Sands, who was a sister at Maningrida in 1965, recently married a grazier from Queensland, and now she has gone across to live in that country. When she was here, Dorothy was senior sister.

Also found by our roving correspondent was a patrol officer by the name of "Dicky" Bird , who was the acting storeman in Dorothy's time. In November last he was at a language school learning to speak Pitjantjatjarra.

Sister Sandra Stacy, the survey sister who started the survey which Sister Edith has just completed, is now with the Institute of Aboriginal Development. Our correspondent saw her in Alice Springs driving around a very aged Austin A40.

In her duties she visits surrounding cattle stations and settlements, to see and chat with the mothers, and learn from them about the old ways of feeding babies from bush tucker. In return, Sandra helps them to learn how to cook food sold in the shops.

G.A.

Gulyun Move

The Gulyun people, headed by Jacky Kala-Kala have decided to move their camp to within half a mile of the Botgardi Crossing (on the Cadell). The actual site they have chosen is not far in from the road on the right hand side (i.e. upstream). The young people will be the ones to move first, and they will do the hard work of clearing and building houses and fences. When they have made the site more comfortable the older people will come in and live there. As well as the river (now in full flood) they have a spring at the site which has very good water.

N.A.C.C. Visitor

On Wednesday Mr John Gadwar, who originally comes from Goulburn Island, arrived to see Maningrida people and to gather some information for the N.C.C. He discussed many points with them in relation to the Legislative Council and the number of representatives who should serve on the council, and the system by which they should be elected. Should there be Aboriginal representatives, and if so how many, and how should they be elected. John left on Thursday to continue his trip along the coast.

To Give Away

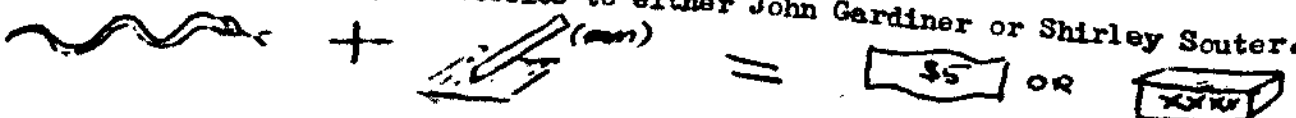
One canoe (ex Trewin) for anyone who wants it. Price \$0.00 Apply J. Gardiner.

Snakes

"The Mirage" has become keenly interested in the number of snakes that are putting in an appearance about the settlement since the rains started, and the resultant excitement and the display of human personalities they produce.

"The Mirage" will therefore offer \$5.00 (or maybe a carton of ale) to the best story in writing received by Thursday morning, 24 Jan. It must be more or less true, and local.

Please forward your stories to either John Gardiner or Shirley Souter.



Weekend Duties

Duty Officer: Mr. Bert Ryan.
Duty Sister: Sister Lee.

Star Theatre

Friday: "The 633 Squadron."

Saturday: "Ester and The King."

Church

- Sunday: 9.30 am Sunday Schools.
Classes in the church and camps
Theme of Study: "Finding Wisdom"
- 7.30 pm Evening Service
In the Church. Come along and join us in this
time of worship and fellowship.
- Tuesday 5.30 pm Prayer meeting as usual in the Church.
- 7.30 pm The Church Fellowship in the church; it
is open to everyone who is willing to share
this fellowship.
- Thursday 8.00 pm Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at the Cross'
home. To those who are interested and
capable to participate in such experience
don't hesitate to join us.

"The Need To Come Together"

M.B.

Everyone is talking about Community.
Let's get together and agree ! Let's have peace, and love, and
prosperity, and fun !
Community is in the air !

If we are ever going to achieve any real community among men, we must be
realistic about the facts of division. Division is everywhere: deep, unhealing
wounds, unbridgeable chasms, irreconcilable trends, interests, prejudices. . . .
These form the crazy pattern :-

people against
people

city against city

street against
street

nation against nation

MAN against MAN.

(From "Bread and Wine")

house against house

Mr Russel Ainley arrived on yesterday's plane and will take on the
O.I.C. Forestry position at Maningrida. Russel has been in Darwin for some
time since his university days.

Introducing Russel to his new job and new home is Chris Haynes who
has been holding the fort in the mean time. Once Russel feels his way around
and brings a few forestry clerks into order, Chris will leave him to it, and
return home to Darwin.

Y. M. C. A. Helper

Miss Mariette Edgecomb came last Tuesday and will stay for about
three weeks to help Peter and Lee in running the Y.M.C.A.'s children program
for the remaining part of the holidays. Mariette comes from the College of
Advanced Education Canberra. She has never been on a community such as
ours, but has an intense interest in Aborigines. We hope she does not find
the education too quokoor the experience too hard.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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