

# MANINGRIDA

## MIRAGE

FEB / TH 1974

VOL No 223

### A Community's Newspaper

The Maningrida Mirage was begun in the closing months of 1969 by the Reverend Gowan Armstrong. He saw it as a medium for expressing the views of the people of Maningrida, and for keeping the people in touch with what was happening in our ever changing community. There are times when many of us doubt if the latter is possible.

The Mirage has been through many changes since it began. At present it is being run by a provisional committee of people who are very concerned that the Mirage keeps going and grows stronger and more meaningful.

Now that we have settled down from the holiday period and the newcomers have come, the committee feels that it is time for a meeting of all people who are interested in their community's newspaper.

The meeting will be held next Monday night in the Resources Centre at the school at 7.30pm. At that meeting we would like to see the following:-

- The election of an editorial committee for the Mirage
- An indication from people who are prepared to write articles or be responsible for gathering Mirage news from various sections of the community.
- An indication from people who are prepared to help with typing, roneoing, stapling and distributing the Mirage.
- A discussion of the role of the Mirage in the community of Maningrida and its outstations.
- The production of a manifesto for the Mirage that will set out its aims and its attitudes to such issues as the relevance and suitability of material, attempts by the Government at censorship and suppression, the outside media etc. etc.

We hope to see many representatives of the various Aboriginal cultures at the meeting. We also hope to see representatives of every Government institution as well as interested private individuals.

The Mirage is not a great newspaper but it can be a relevant contemporary journal as well as a highly significant historical one.

MONDAY NEXT - 7.30pm.

RESOURCE CENTRE - at the School.

Dan Gillespie, for  
Provisional Committee.

### Darwin Conference

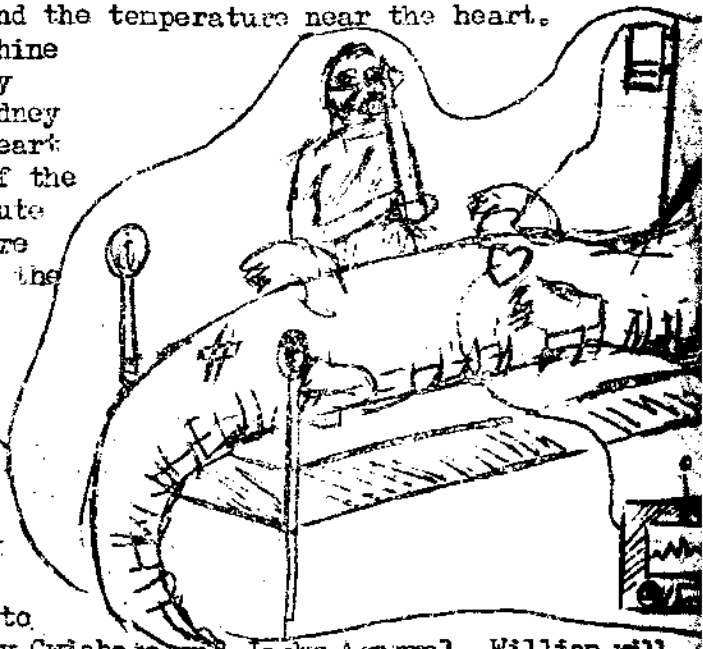
Three people will leave on Saturday to attend a program of lectures and discussions on many subjects relating to settlements and missions. John Reister, from Forestry and Peter and Lee Pinder from the YMCA are going. The meetings will be held at Nungalinga College in Darwin. People taking part come from the Church Missionary Society, the United Church of Northern Australia, Forestry, the YMCA and Catholic Missions. The program will last 11 days. Bapa Gowan Armstrong, who is one of the organisers will also lecture at the course. There will be aboriginal speakers as well as people from D.A.A., Forestry and Rural Health.

P. Cooke

# Crocodilian Cardiac Conditions

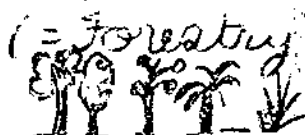
The crocodile research team has been recording the heart beat of a small saltwater crocodile in the large blue enclosure next to the beach flats. A CARDIOSPAN machine continuously records rise and fall in heart beat on graph paper. THERMOCOUPLES have been placed just under the croc's skin to record body temperature and the temperature near the heart.

The crocodile and machine were watched constantly for a few days by Michael Moran and Peter Driscoll from Sydney University. They found the crocodile's heart beats at about 45 beats per minute out of the water but slows to 8 to 10 beats per minute when he is submerged. The body temperature stays fairly close to the temperature of the water in the tank.



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## Woodland Testings



Triple-certificated

Woodchuck William Hilliger has returned to Maningrida. With the assistance of Johnny Gwiabaja and Jacky Agarral, William will be surveying new roads near Ananayirra creek and the Nanja area around the 20 chain breaks and West Takaladoma Road about 12 miles out of town. On his last visit Bill and Jacky were working across the Cadell River. The river is running strongly and is too deep to cross now.



\* \* \*

A new radio mast was put up at the Forestry office this week. The aerial is usually stretched between two masts but a vehicle knocked one down a few months ago. Despite the repairs, the radio operators in Darwin still maintain they can't understand what the venerable clerk, Charles 'The Pipe' Prince is saying.

\* \* \*

Brady's Bridge between Botgard Crossing and the gardens at Gotjanjinjirra, has been rebuilt. Decking on the old bridge came adrift late last year presenting quite a tricky obstacle for the drivers of many a vehicle. New decking has been laid and the bridge is ready for traffic again. Another crew has been painting and repainting road signs. The old 20 chain break roads now have sign posts proclaiming them to be Nanja North and Nanja South.

Extensive repairs to the Gudgera Crossing are currently under way. Much of the gravelled approaches to the crossing have broken up into black mud holes. Corduroys are being made over the boggy sections and gravel will be laid over these. The early rains scotched plans of a major reconstruction of the crossing this wet season. Traffic has been diverted from the 26 fire trail along Cadell Road. Traffic for 'the gardens should take the "Nanja South Road coming out just before Fred's Bridge". Working on the crossing repairs are John Coulson, Jimmy Calarawuna and others.

\* \* \* \*

Out in the bush blanket lizards are now to be found in abundance and many workers are adding them to the lunchtime menu. Even from vehiclestravelling at 40mph Aboriginal people seem to have no trouble at all spotting the big frilled dragons clinging to saplings. The writer has difficulty seeing them even when they are pointed out. The lizards stay stock still and the hunters are able to pluck them off the tree by the tail. The meat is white and pleasant eating. Frilled dragons are mixed feeders, eating both plants and insects.



# Malk-kar



This week quite an influx of people are coming into Maningrida from Elcho for that "Malk-kar" (Honey - bee) ceremony. This is Ray Munyals dreaming and his "own keeping". They are Mar-run-gu and Junipara - pingi people (mostly Elcho, but including Ray. The business will go on for 2 weeks mostly up near Ray Munyal's camp



For most people at Maningrida it will be the first time they have seen this dancing; even on Elcho it has not been done for many years.

A number-one songman that has come from Elcho for the ceremony is Barringu.

J.G. as told by R.Munyal

## NOTE:

New Europeans to Maningrida should note that it is considered a grave matter of discourtesy for Europeans to go and see ceremonies without being previously invited by the leading people. Trespass in this regard will be viewed most seriously.

.. J.Gardiner, Admin. Officer

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## SOIL EROSION:

Members expressed annoyance at the state of the settlement and the effects of heavy erosion both through the camps and the Administration areas. It was decided that the president write to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs about the matter in the hope that at last some action would be taken.

He has seen fit to publish the text of this letter:-

" Dear Sir,

The Maningrida Village Council wishes to bring to your attention a matter of grave importance and needing your immediate action.

Five years ago, Mr John Hunter, then Maningridas Superintendent, wrote to the Director of Welfare Services about the exigency of constructing drains for storm water drainage. There have been several follow-ups from our office but to date, FIVE YEARS LATER, no attempt to remedy the situation by relevant departments has been exerted.

The condition of our roads has deteriorated. Heavy rains have completely washed most of our roads away. The gaping pot holes and trenches running across them have either rendered them impassable or dangerous for driving. The whole situation is compounded by the damage the storm waters are wreaking on the camps. It is impossible to walk around the camps with swirling waters running through them. This being the wet season, the roads will soon be from worse to worst.

The Governments inaction in constructing a satisfactory water drainage system has adversely affected Maningrida, especially the Aborigines who have to bear the brunt of government apathy.

The people of Maningrida will appreciate some action from your department regarding this matter of vital importance. "

HELPING HAPPY CLUB: The council made a loan of \$2000 to the Maningrida Happy Club to pay off creditors due to mismanagement.

Although requests were made to the council to spend the remaining part of their per-capital grant of \$6400 on such items as water tanks for outstations, tilly lamps, and camp improvements, they decided not to spend the money but to bank it.

SCHOOL CHILDREN: Councillors, acting on previous resolutions passed have commenced patrolling the camp areas for would be school evaders. At the Headmasters request an all-out drive will take place on Monday with three trucks because the Headmaster particularly wants every child to be at school on that day.

PERMITS : Over the past three weeks councillors have expressed concern at the failure of the Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs to notify it of persons seeking entry permits onto reserves. The Department over the past two years has continuously expounded a doctrine whereby all applicants for permits would be processed in the first instance by the council concerned. The council feels very strongly about the entry of Europeans onto the reserve without their prior knowledge, and has expressed such sentiments

# Council For The Arts Visitors

## Anthony Wallis

Project Officer with the Aboriginal Arts

Board of the Aust Council for the Arts visited last weekend. He was looking over the craft shop and meeting old friends like Johnny Bulan Bulan, Dick Bundalil and Talbert Banadura who have all been down south at different times to show balandas their music, dance and painting. Anthony had been to Yirrkala and Galiwinku also. He went to Milingimbi and came back here for a little while on Thursday with Mrs Dorothy Bennett.

Dorothy's job is to go around encouraging old custom painting and asking painters, especially older ones, to do special large paintings. These paintings are paid for with Government money and they go into museums in Australia and sometimes into travelling shows that go across the world. Some paintings by Gubargu, Mandarrg and other Maningrida men are in a big show travelling to Canada.

On Monday last, with Anthony Wallis I went to Botgardi and Gotjandjindjirra, the Cadell Gardens. At Botgardi there are some very good old custom bark houses. The Renbarrnga people have made them in long tunnel shapes. Jacky Kala Kala and some other men are going to start bark painting soon.

At Gotjandjindjirra England Bungala and Michael Burulpuna were working on Iorrokun - hollow log coffins for bones. These coffins are being made to be part of another big show that is travelling overseas. Six different people will be making bone coffins at Maningrida. Englands bone coffin is 2.5 metres long with sharp prongs on the end.



Dan Gillespie.

## Photographers

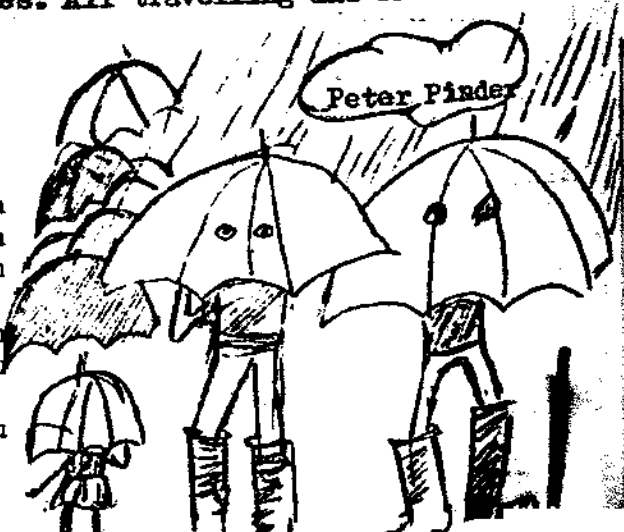
Recently, Maningrida was visited by three German photographers. On their arrival here they called on Peter Pinder and asked for his assistance in travelling around the Liverpool and Cadell River. Peter suggested they see John Bulan Bulan. Their first call was to the craft shop. Unfortunately John Bulan Bulan was not in. Between the YMCA house and the craft shop seven hundred feet of film were run off. They travelled to Cadell Gardens with Peter with a load of the little people. Everyone got on very well - despite the language barriers. The Gunardpa people were willing subjects and much more film was expended. On their way back to Maningrida Takaladorna was visited. Back to the craft shop where quite a bit of art and craft stuff was bought. Then the crocodilus people were visited. Plenty of movie and still photography eventuated. By the end of the day about 10 rolls of movie film and over 1000 still photos were taken. They left on the same day, very satisfied with themselves and happy with the cooperation they had received.

The 3 photographers have been travelling around the world for the last 10 years sponsored by European magazines. All travelling and film expenses are paid for.



## Rainfall

Wednesday	30th	9.6mm
Thursday	31st	5.6mm
Friday	1st	21.2mm
Saturday	2nd	Nil
Sunday	3rd	4.2mm
Monday	4th	0.2mm
Tuesday	5th	Nil
Wednesday	6th	2.1mm



## Reading Workshop.

In September Mrs Kathie Glasgow will come to Maningrida for a Reading Workshop if enough people are interested and give their names to either Johnny Giyabakka or to the Council.

The workshop will aim to help 3 kinds of people:-

- 1) Those who can read in Burada. Everything printed in Burada - books old and new will be available for people to practise reading.
- 2) Those who will teach others to read in Burada. A new primer specially made to help teachers to teach new readers will be used.
- 3) Those who can't read but want to learn. The teacher trainees from group 2 will use their primers with help from Kathy, to teach those who want to read to read the Burada books.

It's possible that people working for D.A.A. may be able to get some time off from work to attend these classes.

If you are interested give your names to the Council or Johnny now.

G.A. for Kathy Glasgow.

## MHA Shopping News

As from and after Friday 15th February Friday night shopping will be a feature.

Store hours will be Monday to Thursday as usual:

Friday 9.00a.m. - 12.45 p.m.  
2.00p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

CLOSED ON SATURDAY MORNING

### Bakery Hours

Monday to Thursday 11.30 a.m. - 12.45 p.m.  
2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Friday 11.30 a.m. - 12.45 p.m.  
2.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. (or sold out)

CLOSED ON SATURDAY MORNING.

Hasty Tasty Hours - no change.

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## Free Perishable Freight



The following is an extract of a letter sent to Woolworths (Qld) Ltd, Northern Meat Exporters, Northern Fruit Exchange and others concerning government staff free-perishable loadings on Connair.

\* Dear Sir,

Difficulties have arisen for Connair Pty.Ltd. and the Supply Section of the Department of the Northern Territory in respect of the acceptance of consignments of personal perishables for which the Department pays freight, and as a result of a conference between principals of Connair and the Supply Section, it became obvious that a change in the procedure of acceptance is necessary.

A procedure to overcome the difficulties was decided on and is detailed hereunder: The procedure will be adopted on and from 21 January 1974. Consignments to be paid for by the Department of the Northern Territory will only be accepted by a representative of the Supply Section of the Department.

This representative will attend the Connair depot at N.A.H. from 1.30pm to 3.30pm for acceptance of consignments for the following day, i.e. Maningrida and Snake Bay consignments depart Saturday a.m. and Monday a.m., acceptance from suppliers 1.30p.m. - 3.30 pm Friday.

The Department pay for a consignment of 25kg per employee and packages up to this weight only will be accepted. Any other goods ordered by the customer should be packed separately and become a separate deal between the customer, the supplier and Connair Pty.Ltd.\*

It was signed by the Secretary, Dept. of the N.T.

## Darwin Library Writes:

We have been concerned for a long time with the quality of our library service to you. We are able to offer so few books from which you can choose. Despite our information sheets on your interests we are too often unable to supply the precise material you require. Consequently in 1974 we hope to make all our current deposit station readers -country

borrowers. This will mean that we shall keep a file on you as an individual.

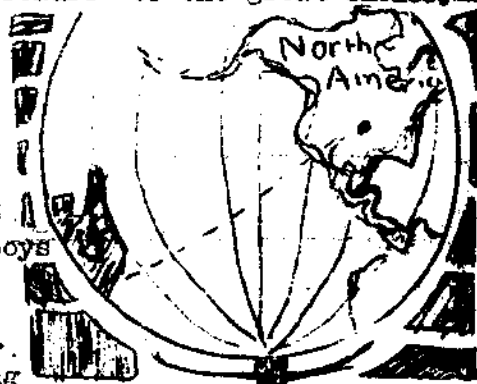
As a country borrower you can request specific books and subjects that interest you. We will send you four books at a time for up to four weeks. We pay the outward freight cost. You will pay the return freight cost. If you wish to register as a country borrower you may do so now. Fill out the enrolment cards that are enclosed, and fill out one of our interest profiles or attach a list of books or subjects that interest you.

People interested in becoming country borrowers please see Marg Inglis for enrolment forms.

## America

No, America is not an expensive place to live in. It is quite inexpensive compared with Australian prices. Clothing is of very good quality and low price and it is easy to find just what you want because of the great choice. When the Americans do something they do it properly. All of their roads and buildings are not only richly built but richly maintained. It was a pleasure to walk through Disneyland and not worry about walking in rubbish on the footpath. A beggar couldn't survive on the very few scraps dropped anywhere.

Our large Australian cars are almost 2/3 the size of Americas cars. If you've ever dreamed of cowboys and Indians you would really believe in them if you drove around Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The land is very much like Australia with its vast space and deserts etc - the large cacti of Arizona change the view. Anyone wanting to invest their money, take it to the Southern States and buy up land and houses. I never wanted to go to U.S.A. but since being there I am entranced and romanced. The place is magnetic.



## The Fix-It

The fix-it program has started with a great burst of enthusiasm. Repairs have been carried out on 2 houses at the Gunnwingu camp. If other people want us to help them repair their own houses contact Barry Gon Gon, Albert Nunzara, Leah and Peter Pinder or Stephen Joseph. The fix-it mob will also carry out jobs for Europeans at \$1.50 per man hour. Gil Anies has already contracted them to do some painting. Repairs to electronic equipment or leather ware will be carried out, the money going to Y.M.C.A., community workshop and adult education.

Stephen Joseph will also be conducting night classes on electronic repairs. Interested people should contact him at the aluminium house. He will also be giving sailing lessons on Sunday at 10am.



The Armstrong family are certainly spread out now. Roslyn attending Waganan school, John at Casuarina High School (where he met Ted Davy), Shirley teaching at Stuart Park and Bapa working at Millner. Bapa has agreed to do some on the spot reporting for "The Mirage" on relevant happenings in Darwin. We are very grateful for his assistance which we hope will make this paper even more newsy.

Sister Maija Passed through Darwin last weekend to take up an appointment at Derby in W.A. Here she will almost certainly meet Mr and Mrs Dave Drysdale who were stationed at Maningrida in 1957. We can imagine how interested they will be to meet someone who has worked in the "Ingrid Drysdale Hospital" for several years and who knows the Maningrida people.

That Miss Scott (teacher 1970-71) was busy buying up insect repellent etc to beat the sandflies at Milinginbi.

Russell Ainley is in Darwin on official business. He will be back tomorrow. Maurie Crewer from Borroinah was here this week to look at houses. Carpenter Arthur Evans and his offsider Pascal Hayes from Santa Theresa, are currently making repairs to many Forestry houses. That up and coming woodchuck and saxophonist of some note, Roger Bourke is coming back to Maningrida shortly for relieving duties.

*Weekend Duties* Duty Officer: Mr. Brolga  
Duty Sister: Sister Lee.

*Star Theatre*

Friday: For the love of Ivy - Sydney Poiter  
Saturday: Allveraz Kelly - William Holden,

*Church:*



We extend our general invitation to all those who would like to worship and have fellowship within the Christian Church at Maningrida. Don't hesitate to come along if you are new to this place and people. The church activities are listed below, and you will be cordially welcome to any of these meetings. We are looking forward to having you with any of your contributions to the gathering of Faith.

<u>SUNDAY</u>	9.30	Sunday School Classes in the Church.	
	7.30 pm	Evening Service. Theme Of Study: "We Hear And Adore The Lord." Bible References: Acts Chs. 3 & 4.	
<u>TUESDAY</u>	5.30 pm	Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by	
	7.30 pm	Church Fellowship & Bible Discussion, at the same place.	
<u>THURSDAY</u>	7.45 pm	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at John Gardiner's place. This group is studying the letter to the Ephesians.	

### *School Bell Again*

The Gordan Sweeney School staff this year is greatly varied in ages shapes and sizes. You all know the "Stayers" from years gone by - Mrs Inglis, Mr & Mrs Neab, Misses Salian, Le Cheminant, Pascoe and Mrs Cooke (who has now moved to new premises).

On the new list is Brian Deslandes, the new headteacher who is at present terrorizing the single ladies until his wife arrives. The senior teachers are Marg. Inglis, and Margaret and Bruce Neale. Toni and Mary Ivison and their two sons have come from Melbourne to us. Toni will be running the library. Ask Carmen Ruiz about bullfighting for she's Spanish. She will be teaching our infants, so maybe her knowledge about this sport could be useful. She came from Perth. Helen and Russell Watson and son Rufus are fresh out of the Canberra College of Advanced Education. They're loaded with enthusiasm and ideas.

Lenore Chapman from Canberra will be with our infants. She is, at present, single, but not for long.

Bob and Bev. Hale and their daughter and son have come from Todwoonba. They seem to have caught up with the system here already; very practical. Pat Meissner is not single, despite what the Department thinks. She was last at Gillen Primary School in Alice Springs. Gwen Durbett has come all the way from Sydney to do the staff morning teas and take a class (Ed. In order of importance ?) Good luck to you Gwen.

Patricia Jenner from that Skip Wilders country in Gippsland Victoria. She will be at the pre-school with Jan. Shirley Kuhne comes from Melbourne also to the pre-school. If you can't read that name, go to the pre-school and see her.

Doddie Cash has been here before. If you didn't know her then, you'll know who she is when she starts to laugh.



### *And From An Oldie*

Gladys Pascoe.

Its Jacky Newman (teacher 1972/3) who writes from Canberra: "I ended up taking a 6th grade for most of the day, just relieving though. I won't know till tomorrow (1st.) whether I'll be teaching a composite 3rd/4th class, or be the relief teacher for the school.....went over to Yarrowonga to see Tom Toole and ..... " (Ed. That's another story, which we've asked Jacky to tell us more.)

on many occasions both in written submissions and verbally to the Darwin heirarchy.

**WORKSHOP:** The Council expressed its full support and confidence in Mr Josephs "Communitys Workshop" proposal and has forwarded a relevant detailed submission for grant.

**TRANSPORT:** The next meeting will be discussing an application for a grant to purchase a suitable vehicle to be used by all aboriginal communities for recreational purposes. The Council recently received a letter from the Administration stating that they( the Administration) considered that communities should become more self reliant and not to depend on Government vehicles. The Community Adviser had the responsibility of advising his community on the availability of finance to assist with such purchases.

**GAMBLING:** The Community Adviser expressed his concern of the amount of gambling going on throughout the settlement. He told the council he felt that this was one of the prime causes of child neglect; more than once this last week he had caught children in the garbage tins looking for tucker that their parents should have provided for them. The closure of the kitchen because of a gas/barge problem did not help.

**HOSPITAL RADIO:** The council has been informed from Uninpeachable sources that provision was made in the 1973/1974 budget for the installation of a fixed radio station in the Maningrida Hospital office (this assurance followed a letter written to ministers by the council some time ago) The council was pleased with this but noted with concern that the financial year was fast ending, and to date no radio technicians appeared on the scene, nor were government officials able to supply any information of such developments.

Sect.  
Maningrida Council





**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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