



In this article, drawn from John Hunter's journal, John tells of his visit to Kopanga a few weeks ago. John, a projects officer from D.A.A. Darwin concludes his tour of bush stations this week.

MAY 16th. - After an early lunch, we journeyed in "Y'lan" to MANAKADOKAJIRIPA and MOGANERA. The MANAKADOKAJIRIPA camp is much more substantial than Kopanga, with 3 platform type wet season houses and a modern tent of an aluminium frame (property of MORKY MARI-MARI). We saw a couple of ladies there, Mrs. Topsy Ridbal-bal and Mabel Langarangara. There were plenty of stores around the camp, drums of flour, tea, sugar. Gathering implements, Crow-bars, string bags, jerrks and bulapurrs were well in evidence, also fish-wires and fishing lines.

We met the rest of the inhabitants coming back in "MOGANBAL" the big canoe. At MOGANERA, there are two very insubstantial canvas shelters (and 19 assorted dogs). There was no-one home, all being across at KOPANGA for the meeting.

KOPANGA buildings are as follows:-

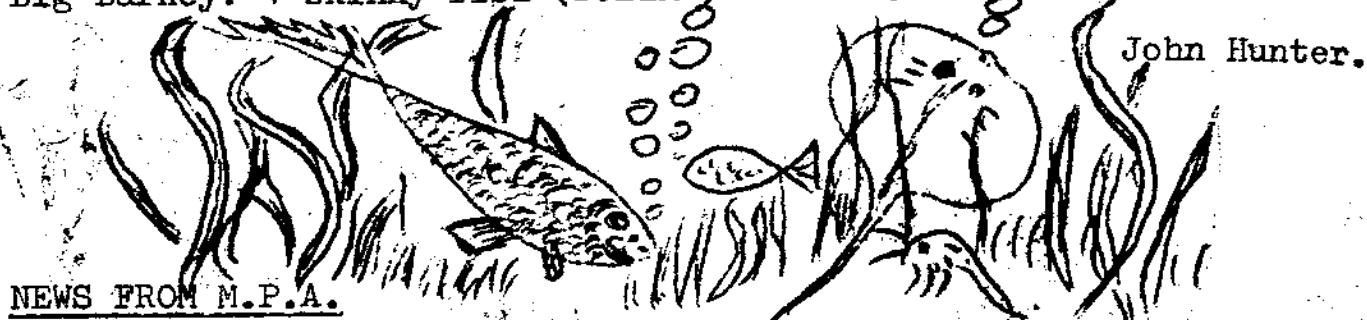
- 1 Secretary's tent in poor condition
- 1 hospital shelter, bush timber frame, roofed but unclad (not in use)
- 1 school shelter, bush timber framework, covered with two tarpaulins, one of which required replacement. The framework is quite serviceable and shows the usefulness of mangroves for the sort of construction which is suited to the Kopanga area.
- 3 canvas and iron "fringe dwellings" type shanties, property of Messrs: Guramanamana Anangara and Geridruwanga. None of these are occupied (probably on account of a death).
- 1 small ridge hole type tent (u's)
- 1 canvas covered beach shade (Big Barneys)
- 4 "tunnel" type canvas covered igloo shelters (used in the wet season)

The area occupied is quite tidy (probably done for my visit) but the outskirts contain the usual mass of debris raked there as a result of "cleaning". The water supply can be located about 200 yards from the camp behind the 2nd sand hill and consists of 3 shallow wells (the whole area is full of water this time of year). One of the wells is used only for drinking purposes whilst the other two are useful for "laundry" and drawing washing water.

At Kopanga, in the afternoon I accompanied two youths, Horace and Bruce, on a netting expedition in a small creek (BANAIKA) behind the camp. Horace had an ordinary beach cast net (full of holes) whilst Bruce used a traditional scoop net (DJARRAM OR MULATJA) constructed of woven banyan under bark (DJANPA). (These nets are sometimes referred to as butterfly nets because of their shape. The job went on for about 1½ hours and the lads were assisted by another boy, Ernie Burana, who collected and looked after the catch, storing it in a grass dilly bag (BULAPURR). The catch:-

9 large rainbow prawns (Janbal-janbal) 10 moon fish (JINGGOL)
 4 mullet (GUNDARRA). Many small banana prawns (WAKKAL) were also observed but most were small enough to easily escape the nets. Bruce, who was using the djarran caught most of the janbal-janbal. On return to the camp the catch was presented to Barney Geridruwanga (the area owner) who took the mullet (for fish bait) and gave the rest of the catch back to the boys (for consumption).

Barney and Andy Hazel then went fishing on the beach in front of the camp.
 The catch:- Andy Hazel: 1 anbulabinya(salmon) our supper, 1 stingray (YULUK) about 2'6" across the body, and given to Big Barney who pronounced it "proper fat" (fit for consumption).
 Big Barney: 1 skinny fish (DJEIMA) about 15lbs 1 crab



NEWS FROM M.P.A.

Retailing: The Association's retail outlets recorded a record turnover of \$77,000 last month.

FISHING:- The fleet delivered 5130lb of fish to the Association last month.

STORE & GARDENS:- The Gunardba gardens at Gotjanjinjirra sold \$800 worth of produce to the store during May. The figure is expected to pass the \$1000 mark this month. It is expected that within the next month the gardens will be able to fully meet the demand for these lines: bananas, water melon, sweet potatoes and tomatoes. Good quality tomatoes should be on sale from next week. Other crops soon to be harvested are carrots, capsicums, beets and pineapple.

The M.P.A. has arranged a guaranteed market for 300 gladioli blooms each week.

The store is well equipped with supplies and should be able to cope with transport problems better than in previous years.

HASTY TASTY:- The new Hasty Tasty is on schedule and fittings have been ordered.

OUTSTATIONS:- There is a significant demand for goods in the outstations. This was exemplified by a turnover of \$1300 for the travelling shop's one day visit to Kopanga this week.

Glen Bagshaw.

BAMBOO CREEK BABBLING



The boys at Bamboo Creek had a black day on Saturday. Not only did the helicopter break down but Woodchucks Thompson and Chuck were left stranded out towards Milinginbi in swamp country.

Being adventurous bushmen they decided to walk it out despite biting cold (not to mention the mosquitos). The helicopter was given rush repairs on Sunday so that the rescue could be expedited. However, early Sunday afternoon the weary wanderers returned. After being fed a good toddy and awarded their bushwalking and Blyth River swimming merit badges the lads settled down for a well-earned, mosquito-free sleep.

Apart from this slight excitement (even Prince Charles rolled up) work proceeded as usual with Woodchucks swarming throughout the scrub and selecting only the best trees to sleep under.

Graeme Hammer

MECHANICAL HUMBUG STRIKES AGAIN !!

Boat motors gave some people up the Liverpool River last week-end "big mobs of humbug".

The first victim was John Hunter. John was on his way to visit the people at Maragulidban, taking an icebox to help them start a fishing business. He went up Maragulidban Creek first and picked up young Ivan Louie, one of Peter Mareywongas sons at the top landing. Then they set out for Midui, the landing on the Liverpool River where the fishing boat was waiting.

A few hundred yards from the mouth of the creek the propeller stopped turning. John checked out the shear pin and as that was ok, decided a broken drive shaft was to blame. John and Ivan Louie spent

Saturday night battling the mosquitoes and sandflies on a mud flat behind the mangroves. They expected the Gunwinggu boat Midui to come looking for them on Sunday but it didn't show up. About 2pm the Pinders and Peter Cooke arrived on the scene in a 10ft boat. They took Ivan Louie back to the Maragulidban Creek landing and were heading back to pick up John when their motor gave up the ghost. John was waiting expectantly on the bank when they paddled into view about 6pm.

With a full moon to light the way and the tide with them they set out for Maningrida, 17 miles distant. They were nearing the junction of the Liverpool and Thompson Rivers when a search party in the Crocodilus boat took the little boat in tow.

On Monday, Micky Nalaulman arrived back from a fishing trip with an icebox full of Maragulidban Creek barra and a message stick from the captain of the Midui, Curly Bagalubu. The Midui didn't show up, the message stick explained, due to a broken throttle cable - more mechanical humbug!!



- by our special correspondent up the creek.

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CLUES FOR CONSUMERS

The latest issue of Choice, the journal of the Australian Consumers Association, features an article on household freezers.

The association tested many types of freezers and their good and bad features are noted in the article. Best value models are listed. Tests of a wide variety of goods, from freezers to disposable nappies, are published in Choice which is distributed monthly. For a modest outlay of \$5 for a year's subscription it can help you get good value for your money, especially if you are ordering goods by mail. To subscribe write to:-

Australian Consumers Association,
28-30 Queen St.

Chippendale NSW 2008 - enclosing a cheque for \$5. A list of back copies is published regularly and these are readily available.

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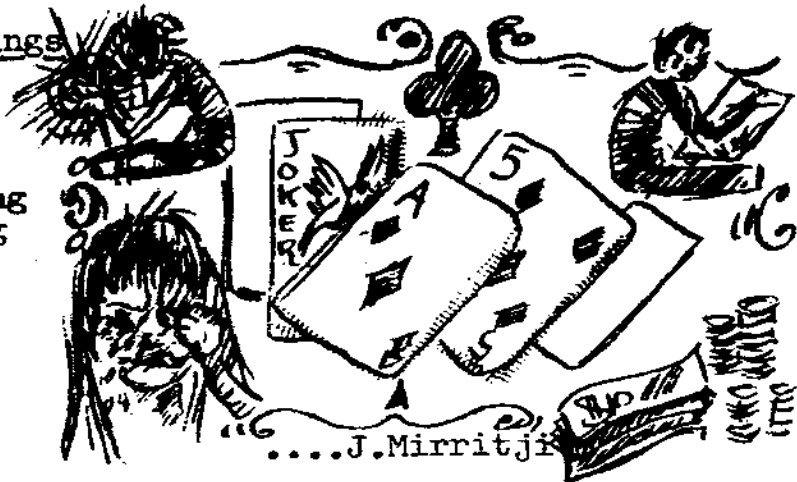
PUTTA CARD AND POKER GAME

This is the five card called putta and picture card called poker game. These two cards make trouble because people forget about other good things and most times we lose our small wage which we earn from bark paintings, spear making, carving and so on.

There is a little bit of interest in the worse of us and a little bit of fun in the best of them. It is the bad cheating people who get it.

Good things
Hospital
Hunting
Kitchen
fishing
Store
Swimming
Hasty Tasty
ceremonies
Bakery

Bad things
camps
dogs
cats
beer
gambling
smoking



....J.Mirritji

FIGHTING:

Last Saturday night there was a lot of fighting west of Maningrida Creek. One man spent the night in jail and a Gunwinggu man and a Gunavidgi man had to have bad cuts stitched up at the hospital.

CROCODILUS:

While out rescuing distressed marines on Sunday night the Crocodilus team saw their first hatching from the 1973-74 breeding season. The little croc was sitting happily in a few inches of water beside a mud bank and didn't move off until the boat came in quite close. The researchers are hoping to see crocs hatching very soon from nests under study in the Tomkinson River.

SHOP NOTICE: On fete day, June 14, the store and bakery will close from 12.30p.m. to 5p.m. with late trading from 5p.m. to 7p.m. The Hasty Tasty will be closed all day. On the following Monday, the Queen's birthday holiday, the store and bakery will be closed all day. The Hasty will open as usual.

ON THE MOVE:

Gunavidgi and Gunwinggu people have strong ties with the people on Goulburn Island. Small boats have been making the 60m trip to Goulburn almost weekly over the past few months. Plans were being made early this week for another trip this weekend. A ceremony was the reason given.

NOTICE FOR MOTHERS

The following vaccinations are now available at the Infant Health Centre between 1pm and 3pm any afternoon.

Triple Antigen

Measles

Smallpox

Sabin

B.C.G.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

There is a small but growing Adult Fiction and Non Fiction library in the Resources Centre. If you would like to borrow a book come and see what is available. Hours 8.30am + 12. 1-3.30pm.

T.Ivison

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PUPPET SHOW REMINDER

Next Monday 10th June is the Puppet Show!
Performances at 1PM and 3PM in the TOWN HALL. Students 20c
Adults 40c. Parents and other interested adults are invited to attend.

NOTICE: !!!

SPORTS CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 13/6 THURSDAY NIGHT
AT 7.30PM IN THE RESOURCES CENTRE.

WELCOME - to Lyn Berrymans brother, Jon Jenkins, friends Anne and Barry Smith from Cardiff NSW and Tim Woodbridge from TAA Darwin. Jon also works for TAA and is having a break from work til Friday.

CHURCH NOTES

Theme of study for this week "The Story of a nation and its leaders". Bible readings see I Samuel 10: 1-4, 16: 1-13; I Kings 1:34-40.

Sunday School classes at 9.30 am on Sunday.

The evening service at 7.30pm in the church. The rest of church fellowship and Prayer meetings on Tuesday and Thursdays remain the same.

The Church congregation is rejoicing together with the rest of Maningrida to see Mr.J.Gardiners return after the long and enjoyable world round trip.

WAIT AND PONDER: Proverbs 29:1-2. He that being often reprov'd hardened his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. 2. When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.

by M:L.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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