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MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

MANINGRIDA SETTLEMENT
opened
by the Hon. PAUL HASLUCK M.P.
the 9th Day of June 1962



Vol. 41.

Friday 17th July.

SIR PAUL HASLUCK

A man of many parts, scholar, poet, historian, politician, statesman and now the Queen's representative in Australia. Born in Fremantle on April 1, 1905, he was educated at the University of Western Australia. He worked as a journalist (1922) and a University lecturer (1939) before joining the Department of External Affairs (1941). He was the first Australian permanent representative at the U.N. (1946) and wrote the political volume of the Australian official war history (The Government and the People, 1939-41, 1951). He was member of the House of Representatives for the Western Australian electorate of Curtin (1949-69), Minister for Territories from 1951 to 1963 (the terrible Tiger dubbed him "Oom Paul"), and Minister for Defence 1963-64). As Minister for External Affairs (1964-69), he carried the responsibility of dealing with Australian involvement in Vietnam and the problem of Australia's defence after the projected U.K. withdrawal from Southeast Asia in 1971.

Sir Paul's reluctance to mix it with other contenders (W. McMahon in 1966 and John Gorton in 1968) cost him the Deputy Leadership and leadership of the Liberal Party in that order. His detachment and non-partisan approach to politics, and his refusal to canvass his supporters at crucial moments no doubt left him prey to less scrupulous colleagues.

Freed of the inhibitions of party politics he has spoken out on the Australia of the future. His concern for the standards and quality of life in Australia is expressed in his poetry:

"We have found in the land a true
song of Australia, a song for Australians,
a song of the earth
A song of the strongly beating heart,
the free mind, the rough hand
of courage, of goodness.
It is Man's strength, healthy earth
and the broad open sweep of the sky."

One suspects he feels a special association with North Australia and his impending tour is, in part, a journey steeped in nostalgia.

"The muddy tide streams up the gulf
Behind the iron-roof town;
Mangroves, hot marsh, gaunt jetty piles
Are slowly sinking down.
Here, where the ochreous peeling wall
Of corrugated shack
Hangs by the dry ant-eaten posts
And the foundations crack....."

Thus, he expresses his keen sense of the Australian continent.

Borrowed from the 1970 Britannica Book of the Year, and the "Bulletin". J.H.

His excellency, the Governor General, Sir Paul Hasluck, will visit Maningrida next Wednesday July 22nd. and will stay overnight.

VISITORS.

Distinguished visitors for the week included Mr Peter Nixon, Minister for the Interior, his wife, the Administrator, Mr Chancy and Mr Bob Swift, top man in the Dept. of Interior. The party arrived from Gove where Mr Nixon reported successful fishing expedition earlier in the morning. After lunch (capably prepared by Mrs Faye Watson), the Minister spoke briefly with the school children before visiting the Domestic Science and Post Primary. He then went on to inspect the Church, Scout-Hall, Nursery and Progress Association Store, where he was visibly impressed with the lay-out. The party then saw the Craft-Centre, Fishery, Hospital and Saw-mill before departing for Murganella.

Mr Nixon asked that his compliments be passed to the schoolchildren who looked so smart in their new uniforms.

BIG RE-UNION

It was Gippslander's day at Maningrida on Wednesday. Mr Nixon and his wife hail from that fair part of a perhaps otherwise undistinguished state. They took little time to unearth some countrymen, Sister Cec. (from Sale) and Skip (Traralgon). Reminiscences were exchanged and all parted happily, warmed by their chance meeting so far from home.

written by J.H. (from Bega just over the border, on the sunny side of course.)

WATER: Sad to say, but the Leper hole seems to be in a state of rapid depletion. The water level fall to eighteen inches on Tuesday morning; a reasonable indication (on past experience) that it is about to give out altogether.

So early in the year? Afraid so but it was not entirely unexpected on account of the 'dry' wet experienced last season.

What's going to happen? Maningrida is going to have to do without water for a period each day as the bores just cannot cope with even the minimum demand. Further news will be circulated as the position is better defined.

The Water Resources Department are visiting to-day. Perhaps they will come to our rescue.

For the bird watcher. (2).

maybe Broadbilled F.C.



when it flies.

Bun-gul-atta. Probably a type of the "fly-catchers". It has a black head and a black tipped tail. The breast is white and the back is dark feathered. They may be seen sitting in a line of seven or eight huddled together on a dry limb, or singly among some of the trees in blossom. It's about the size of a swallow and has a gliding motion. It has dreaming places at Murrunggu Is. (near Elcho) and at Mir-win-bi between Milingimbi and Gadji. Roy Rewa sings the song of Bun-gulatta. There is a ceremony in which a smoky fire is made and the birds come down into the smoke looking for insects. It is usually sung in the Morning Star corroboree.

ALONG THE NEVER NEVER WAY

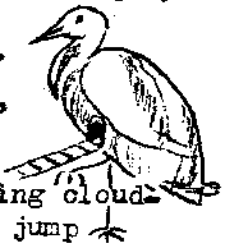
So long, it's been nice to know you,
But I've gotta be moving along

(A farewell line from Mrs. Prussian, who enjoyed her stay at Maningrida
So much, she stayed an extra week.)

It was from Darwin airport, that my holiday begun
As I watched those 'giant air birds' come taxiing down the run-
and I looked me all around for a very special one.

Ah yes! there it was, -around the corner stood the lovely blue-grey bird
There was Connellans Heron, such a beauty, 'pon my word,
-And she's wonderful to ride in was the rumour that I'd heard.

When an air flight in from India brought a cosmopolitan crowd,
And right on its tail a Sydney flight,
The P.A. system roared out loud,
But the noise began to simmer down, when a voice like a bursting cloud
Grated out "Caw-nellan's airflight for Manin-greeda" made me jump
and gasp aloud -!

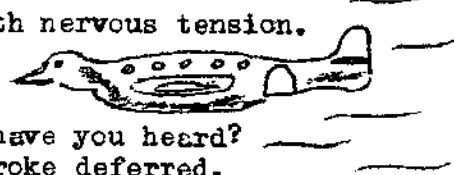


But I strode across the tarmac, climbed her steps and settled in -
The motors started roaring, never heard quite such a din,-
As the cheerful pilot took his seat and turned around with a grin.

I sat in my seat with a feeling of suspension-
When a voice remarked "She's tail heavy,
I felt apprehension,
And pulled the belt up tighter, gripped my seat with nervous tension.

Then she spluttered, and she roared a lot,
but took off like a bird,-

Like the one she's named after- she's a heron have you heard?
Oh those engines throbbing smoothly, with not a stroke deferred.



As we flew to Maningrida, and came down gently on the strip,
Rob was there to meet me, and asked "How was the trip?"
"It's reliable our aircraft, never late or gives the slip?"

Then travel worn, and dusty, I climbed aboard the jeep,
Was shown around the settlement, not a chance to sleep,
For that night there was a party, till dawn began to creep.

But in spite of it's discomforts, I've had a lot of fun,
Felt quite sorry to be leaving as we taxied down the run,
And will have some happy memories, of this land of "plenty sun".

Of iggly -wiggly cricket things and funny sorts of "wogs",
And 'pon my soul I never have seen such a place for dogs.

-I wondered to myself, if they all end up in "hollow logs"??



In this little corner of the world, friendliness seemed everywhere,
I met such charming people and happy children there,
Photographed some pretty spots, plus a brolga with a 'delicate air'.

As I now journey Southward to my West Australian home,
I'll carry pleasant memories and when next I wish to roam,

I'll board a Connellan's Heron- the only way to fly - ??
And I'll come to Maningrida for the season of the 'dry'.

MRS. P.

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting

30/7/70

7.30 p.m.

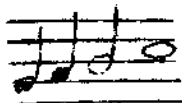
at the School.

Business.

Presentation of the Annual Report, and Financial Statement.
Election of officers and general business.

J. Hunter.
President.

It is proposed that the monthly meetings of the Association
be held at an evening hour, and that all interested people be invited to
attend. A period will be set aside for questions, and be followed by
supper.



O happy day!

Engagement.

Heather daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Jackson of Daylesford Vic. to Robert son of Mrs. E.M. Cross and the late Mr. A. Cross of Ballarat Vic.

We are all very happy that Bob has a 'promise' now.

We wish him and Heather much happiness as they plan for the future. In the meantime, we hope that Heather has a pleasant holiday here.

Wedding.

Merv. Mason and Shirley Barr marry at St. Pauls Church of England, Manuka, Canberra on Saturday afternoon. We wish them every happiness for their marriage.



Mr. Neil Fitcher.

Neil teacher here in 1969 is now teaching at the Sydney Grammar Preparatory School at St. Ives in Sydney. He lives at the school and chicken for dinner each day. When he stands on the weighing machine the needle dabs dashes around to 13 stone.

He drives a motor car, has a girl friend and reckons that life is good.

Mr. Mick Minidji has come back to Maningrida after being away for a long time. He has been working for the RAAF.

Mr. George Mulumbuk has returned from 2 weeks holiday in Milingimbi and brought Joshua's mother, Barbara Mondolmi, home after quite a long holiday in the Crocodile Islands.

Mr. Roy Davell, Director of Social Services for S.A., spent a day here last week and in a letter to the Supt. he passes on his compliments to all those who assisted to make his day worth while and especially to Mrs. Shirley Armstrong and the Domestic Science girls for a delightful lunch.

Johnny Giyabakka and a number of other men have made a dancing ground ready for the ceremony to be held for a dead man. This is up near the Single men's long house. It may be that Jawa and some Milingimbi people will come for-part of it.

Banking Hours.

The Bank will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3p.m.

Week-end Duty Officer. Mr. Bert Ryan.

Weekend Duty Sister. Sister Helen Miller.

Star Theatre.

Friday: "Hell Drivers" plus "Crimson Ghost" etc.

Sat. "Tiara Tahiti"

Church Notices.

Sunday: 9.30 a.m. All age Sunday Schools. "Faithful to the Covenant"
7.30 p.m. Evening Service to be conducted by Mr. Silas Roberts.

The Church Council met last Sat. and decided to approach the Film Committee about the possibility of having some films such as The Ten Commandments, The Robe, Ben Hur shown on the fourth Sat. night. The Church Council to help meet extra costs from the Jumble Sale account. John Giyabakka was appointed to be the lay representative at the annual Synod at Milingimbi in Sept.

Ministerial doings. Rev. Jack Goodluck (Director of Christian Educ. in the district) will be here for a couple of hours between planes on Sat. Older people who remember Rev. Arthur Ellemore, Supt. of Milingimbi in the days that Mr. Syd. Kyle-Little calls 'Flaring Feuds and Flying Spears' (Ch. 1. Whispering Wind) is to marry a deaconess on Sat. His first wife was killed in a tragic motor accident some years ago.

Birth. On Monday 13th. Candy, daughter for Mabel Wudungura and Horace Didja.

Arts and Crafts. A statement compiled this week revealed that there was a turnover of \$14,550 during the past financial year. This is the highest yet.

Mr. Mick Magani has gone into the show to demonstrate the ancient art of bark painting at the show and will stay at the Tiwi Motel.

Council

As reported by Secretary Jimmy Gulerawuna and interpreted by G.A.

At the meeting on Monday 6th. July several new Councillors were received. They included - Messrs. John Balaya, Jack Meritja, Peter Banjurljurl, Jack Wurumala, England Mankurinyin, Marali (from Foulburn Is.) to bring the council to full strength.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th.

1. Councillor Billy Yiriyin asked for good men to work for fisheries,
2. Councillor Peter Gangulara asked 'why dont we teach the young children the customs so that they will understand. Members said it would be good to do so.
3. Councillor John Balaya spoke about some school children who were playing with a bullroarer on the basketball court. He said that this belongs to the Gupapuyngu people and that it was not right for people to use 'customs' which belonged to some other people.
4. Albert Wurdjal spoke about the law. There was the law that had to do with Aboriginal customs and there was the European law that had to do with new houses, trucks, doing work, having one wife, and visiting other places. By keeping these 'we can make ourselves a good name'.
5. Big Barney Gudrowanga spoke about names. He said 'I didn't change my name because it was given to me according to the old customs. If I die, my son will remember me. When he gets married, and he has a son he will call the child by my name, and so on for ever.'
7. Willy Jolppa asked "Why dont we make the people happy?" We should show our customs to the people.
8. Peter Banjurljurl spoke about children not coming to school. He spoke about asking the Superintendent if three Councillors could have the loan of a Government truck to do a round up of the children.
9. Big Barney said that he could not understand the younger school children. He felt that there would be some troubles "until we can teach them how to behave." "My children are making trouble for me. My girl was promised to Michael Anangara but she has broken the law. Michael has paid a lot of money to her mother and uncle (to grow her up).
10. The President Mr. Tommy Imbaral asked 'What are we going to do with the young girl. He recognised that while the promise system was an old custom it was a cause of trouble.

Men at work.

The mobile works force, under the direction of Mr. Tom Hole have been on the job finishing off the four houses in the South Eastern corner of the Settlement. Messrs. David Wombana, Jimmy Gilgal, John Baya and until recently Jimmy Cooper (gone to Snake Bay) have made up the building team. The four houses there are to be lined inside, and then operations will move to the cleared and pegged section further to the East where 16 new houses will go up. These are to have electricity and water laid on. Tom expects that another European carpenter will come to swell their ranks, soon.

A works Force painter, Uri originally from Russia, has been here touching up the staff single quarters in readiness for the arrival of the Governor General.

Public Meeting.

Purpose: To form Maningrida Housing Trust.

Thursday 23/7/70

7.30 p.m.

at the School.

The Board is to comprise four (4) Aborigines and three (3) non Aborigines

Everybody welcome.

Is the peewee (see last issue) a mudlark? One bird watcher says that in Vic. the mudlark is brownish with a yellow beak and has a dark patch on top of his head. Probable explanation: A dreaming place in a mud bank of the R. Yarra. This could account for the brown coloured feathers

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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