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# MANINGRIDA

## MIRAGE

### Vol 100



Journal  
3rd September 1971

#### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 5.30 PM ON 30TH AUGUST 1971

Present: 10 Councillors and 15 visitors.

Business: President asked men to get a team together for the dancing competition to be held at the school fete on 24/9/71. He was going to get his own team together. Others who might do so would be Paddy Fordham, Crusoe, John Godowa and Barney Beibananga.

Jambij Ceremony: President wanted to have Jambij ceremony at Milingimbi but a number of the participants were at Mangalala. It was too complicated trying to get people together for the ceremony.

KUNAPIPI: The Balpanada Kunapipi was to finish next pay-day weekend. President asked if Superintendent could send a truck to Kojjan-jindidi on Friday p.m. after work to take participants and pick them up Sunday. Superintendent said okay.

Fish: Some people wanted fish in the kitchen again. Superintendent said he would arrange with the Fisheries.

Night-Watchmen: The Nightwatchman business had fallen apart. President said no use in trying to have the idea if there were not good men to be night-watchmen. It was up to the Councillors.

Boats: Councillor Jolppa said he had been waiting too long for his boat. It had all been fixed up a long time ago but no boat yet.

Police House: The Policemens' houses were going up but it would be at least another 7 months before they were finished. Cr. Baleiya thought that the Police should be at Maningrida sooner than that as there was too much trouble to handle. It was decided to write and ask for Police to come and live at Maningrida before Christmas.

Bulman School: President said that Bulman people were asking for a school. They had talked to him about it last time he visited. He would write to Mr. Giese.

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#### News from The Benefits Trust.

Good news for the Housing Association when Mr. Giese announced that the funds for Stage II had been cleared by the Minister. This amounts to \$30,000 and the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs has been approached for \$30,000 to match it, as occurred with Stage I.

Mr. Giese also announced that the Minister had approved a \$15,500 loan for the Fisheries. This has not yet been funded but will be so in the near future.

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#### NOTICE

Relief Clerical Assistant required in Settlement office for approximately 2 months commencing mid-November.

Interested persons are invited to see Messrs. Hunter or Wilders for further details.

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# BASKETBALL

Tuesday's game: Kupanga defeated Eagles 36 to 24 points.

In the second game Chalkies defeated Pioneers 36 to 24. Tim Darcy scored 14 points.

## Draw for next week:

Tuesday, 7/9/71, 7.00 p.m. - Arnhemland v. Entrance Isld.  
8.00 p.m. - Chalkies v. Dolphins,  
Cadell Bye, - Duty Referee & Scorer.

Thursday, 9/9/71, 7.00 p.m. - Eagles v. Pioneers  
8.00 p.m. - Kupanga v. Cape Stewart,  
Cadell Bye, - Duty Referee & Scorer.

## SCHOOL VACATIONERS

With our representatives spread over such a wide part of Australia, it's good to see them all returning home for holidays. All of them seem to be in good health and of those we could find to talk with it would seem that Kormilda, Kings and "The Baptist" must be just about the most perfect places.

Barney reports that Kings College is very good and that he has settled down well. He is hoping that Gilbert will be able to join him again next year. Gilbert is working hard at Darwin High School towards this end and has asked Mr. Gallacher if he can return to Adelaide to be at Kings College.

Tim Darcy is finding his course most stimulating and is hoping that he will be able to extend this for a second year.

Our reporter was unable to talk with most of the holidaymakers as they were making the most of their fortnight and were out fishing.

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### Contd. from previous page:

And the third, too, carries a warning to all travellers:

#### Envoi for a Traveller

Hark! Listen for the arriving  
And be prepared  
For we know not  
The hour of its coming  
Or its departure. ANON.

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### BULMAN BLUES:

The embattled Bulmanites have not gone down yet. Despite massive problems with their water and transport, the accent is on development. The stock-camp has been out for only 2 months but has got some good results:

July	83	brandings
August	29	"
September	50	"

This is an excellent result and all concerned are to be congratulated. It will have to be the end for the year, though, as there are not enough stockhorses, and they are getting pretty worn-out.

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## A NEW RELEASE.

No single event in the whole history of Maningrida has stirred the muse as did the sad series of events on Monday, when Mrs. Armstrong failed to catch the Connair flight. The real causes have not yet been determined but messages of sympathy have been virtually flooding in. Sir 'Enry Bolte has offered to appoint a Royal Commission, and Mr. 'Awke has sent a telegram of sympathy and the Darwin ~~warfes~~ have offered to strike for 24 hours. Some cynics have claimed that it was part of a move by Connair to take over the ANSETT empire, but this seems to be a less likely cause. Others claim that a pilot found a schedule and followed it.

Still, what is Connair's loss is another's gain and shortly after the family were up and away. Such a moving story, alack and als, I have been diverted as all I had to do was write the introduction. All our staff poets and artists have worked the theme for these results.

It is gone, gone far away  
On the wing, -  
And I am left bewailing.

Without a sound it came.  
Silently, softly,  
And I am left bemoaning.

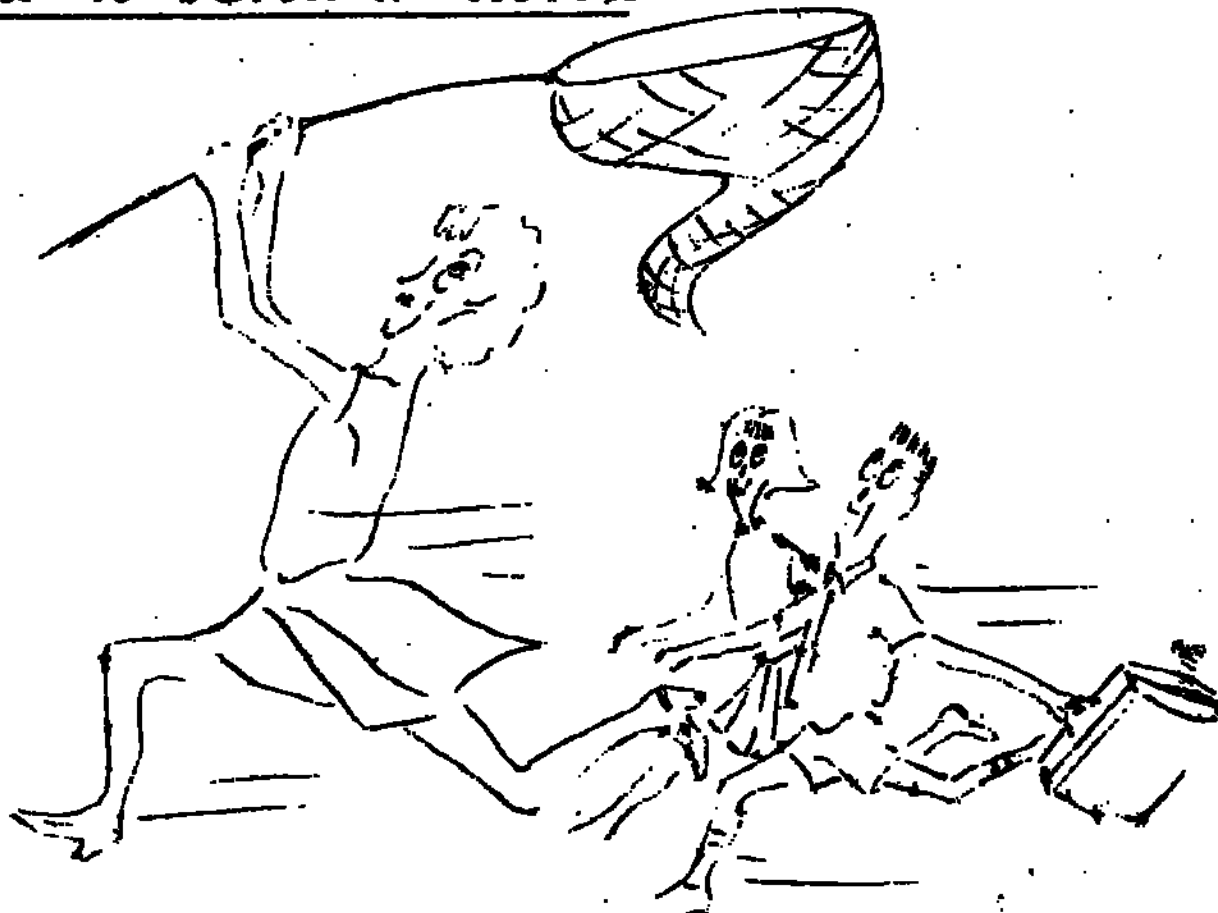
At full throated roar  
It departed,  
And left me alone and weeping.

Our concrete poet produced a most moving and sentimental piece:

NO PLANE NOW  
JUST A FAR NOISE  
A DUST CLOUD  
MRS. ARMSTRONG  
TWO KIDS AND A BAG.

contd. next page.

## How to catch a "Herch" by S.K.A.



# The Darter



The Darter, or Snake-bird, is easily distinguished by its cormorant-like body, and the S-shaped neck. They frequent Northern lagoons and rivers of the Territory, but are also found in other parts of Australia. They are expert at stalking and spearing fish and other aquatic life underwater; they are the avian spearfishermen. To be able to use their finely-pointed bill as a spear, the eighth joint of their neck has a hinge-like mechanism, giving the neck and bill a spring-like reaction. Unlike most birds its plumage is permeable to water, so that after fishing it will often be seen perched with wings spread to dry them in the sun. If the plumage was not permeable, the bird would have great difficulty in submerging itself. Normally

darters perch and nest in trees above water, and in our area they breed from the middle of the Wet to about July.

J.G.

## Heard on the Grapevine.

Mr Nic Peterson (filmed a Kunapipi ceremony for the Institute of Aborig. affairs here a few weeks ago) is headed for David Gulpilil's birthplace MIRRINGATJA on the mainland S. of Elcho Is. to complete some research in Anthropology there. Nic. lived with the people there for a dry season a couple of years ago and among other things made a particular study of the diet and hunting habits of the people and the areas in which bush foods are found.

Also travelling in the East at present - the artist and bark painting authority Dr. Karel Kupka, who sends his best wishes to Bert, Bill and Broлга. Also Professor and Mrs. Berndt, well known writer on Aboriginal people, visiting old haunts.

Sheppy is "grounded" for a few months while he does a motoring trip driving to his home country in S.A., then across to W.A. and back up through the Pilbara and Kimberleys to arrive in the N.T. in November before the Wet.

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## The Land Board.

The N.T. Lands Board sat at Maningrida yesterday to hear lease applications lodged by the Maningrida Progress Association and Housing Association. The Progress Association is seeking leases over the areas occupied by the store, bakery, and Glen Bagshaw's house. It also wants leases over two vacant sites next to Bob Cross' for new staff houses. The Housing Association is seeking 14 blocks, including that occupied by the flats under construction near the Power House, and an area for Silas Roberts new house just down from Bob Cross' on the airstrip road.

The Lands Board is comprised as follows:

Chairman Mr. Barry Hart (Director of the P.I.B.)  
Messrs. Giese, Kentish, Lowler, Yibberal and Yirinyin.

## The Bakery Opened.

The Maningrida Bakery was officially opened by Mr. Giese on Thursday afternoon. Speaking to a small, select audience, Mr. Giese said that it was the first commercial production bakery ever on an N.T. Settlement or Mission. He went on to say that he hoped in 5 or 10 years that it could be run and managed completely by aboriginal people. In concluding his remarks he said that it represented the culmination of an outstanding team effort by the people concerned. Mr. Ruper Kentish, MLC, who also spoke, said that he was very impressed by the advances which had taken place in Maningrida over the past three years.

After the opening ceremony, the official party inspected the interior of the bakery, which displayed a wide range of bakery products and included a demonstration of the slicing/wrapping machine, operated by Melanie.

## The Great Fire.

It just had to happen. Last month the junior arsonists league (Burera chapter) managed to raze the old garden area. Yesterday an over-zealous cleaner set fire to the lime plantation just 1/2 an hour before Mr. Giese was due to visit Maningrida. Some very quick action by Eric Quick saved the experimental pine plot behind the Scout Hall but the limes are goners. Some people claim to have seen the Superintendent stalking through the smoking ruins with a .32 pistol but it was not clear what he was up to - probably going to use it on himself.

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# O for a chalet de Necessité The poetry Competition

"A passenger to Maningrida by air  
Arrived in a state of despair  
To relieve he just must  
He was fair fit to bust  
But at nothing, to point Percy, was  
there."

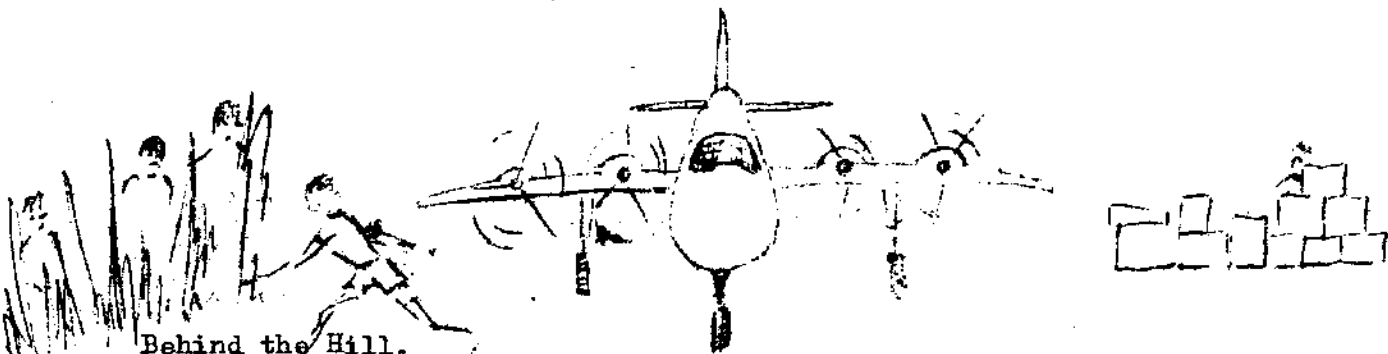
Anonymous.

*(with apologies to Barry Humphries.)*

To the tune of Oh! No John, No John, No!

"A fair young maid arrived at Maningrida  
Just to see her loving young lad,  
Was at a party ere leaving Darwin  
A toilet she was wanting bad,  
But, Oh, no John, no John, No!"

Anonymous.



Behind the Hill.

Day after day, you'll see at the strip,  
The passenger's anguished look, when he  
Must take that long trip.  
By 'trip', I dont mean his flying, or a  
forced shot of L.S.D. -  
The passenger's really dying,  
to go and be relieved.  
So he walks to the hill,  
And though he feels a dill  
He must go - heaven knows!

Once in a while, in pre-metal crouch,  
The passenger wishes he was born  
with one extra pouch.  
The trouble is where to put it...  
The only way left 's to foot it,  
To that silly little hill,  
Where you peer left and right,  
Make sure no one's in sight -  
You're away as they say .

Anon.

Not even a tree

Therés Tulamarine,  
With dykes serene  
Oh what fun,  
To try each one.

Therés Kingsford Smith,  
So lovely to sniff,  
You dont have to wait  
Put a cent in the gate.

But take Maningrida  
A Settlement Leader  
Not even a tree,  
For you and me.

So take a short trot,  
And likely as not  
You'll find a wee lush,  
If there isn't a rush.

Anon.

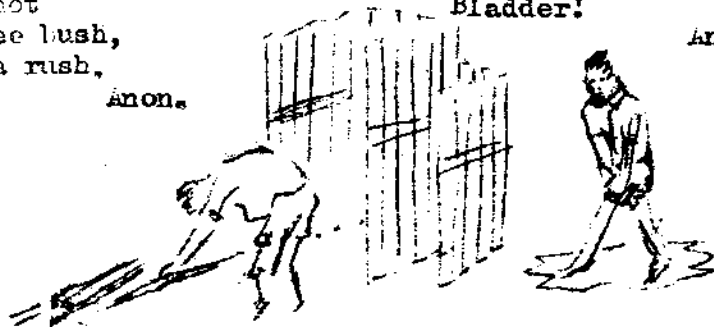
While flying low  
In Connair plane  
I look around  
But all in vain  
My hopes, maybe,  
Run much too high  
For every minute :  
I must sigh  
As crammer run through  
my abdomen .....  
And shocks of pain  
Like a bad omen.

2. Therefore I dream  
Of what I think  
Lies soon ahead  
Of hopes to drain  
All the stress  
Of water, water,  
Water;

3. And when the plane  
Comes in to land  
At Maningrida  
Where at the end  
Of run-way one  
I hope and pray  
Will be the last  
Of my hell's stay.  
Now we touch down  
and we roll hence  
To hurry  
my deliverance.

4. There fore I think  
Will this be it.....  
But O my God..  
Now where to sit ?  
Nowhere to mess.  
Oh bladder, bladder,  
Bladder!

Annon.



WEEKEND  
DUTIES

Duty Officer: Mr. Barry Tuite  
Duty Sister: Sister Heather Cross  
Fire Duty: E. Quick and J. Delaney

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STAR  
THEATRE

Friday: LOCK BACK IN ANGER

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CHURCH

Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools - "God's Grace - Baptism"  
7 p.m. Evening Service  
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Fellowship  
"Let me not live to be useless" -  
so John Wesley prayed sometimes.

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PEOPLE

James Wilson has returned from the plumbing course in Darwin.

Yvonne Scott has gone to Darwin to sample the high life.

Kath Jones who was here earlier this year is to act as her guide.

The Dowsett jetty builders have completed their project and departed on yesterday's flight. Mr. Beckett reports that the festivities held upon completion of the project were most successful.

Sister June Ashbury was here for two days to talk with the girls who had graduated from the Nursing Aides Course.

GATJI

MORE OF THE SACA.

After much tearful leave-taking, packing of swags, loading of truck, etc., on Sunday, the conveyance known as Dick Smith's truck had a "heart attack" and despite ministrations by the Jinang Medical Company a quick recovery was not forthcoming, and as it seems that the vehicle will be convalescing for a considerable time, the fields of GATJI will again be un-tilled.

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THE BARGE LANDING:

The NARAWUNYA landing (at Bat Island) was officially finished yesterday, and characteristic of our carriers, got its first barge the day before completion. Beachmaster Commodore Bert Ryan (RNVR) reckons that he should have got some training at Normandy, or Tarawa, before taking on this job. What with scoommobiles shuttling cement and bricks shoreward, and earthmoving trucks carting fill in the other direction, and all operating in the same area, he was more than occupied just directing traffic.

Narawunya gets its second tryout on Saturday when Warrender calls again.

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**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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