

Scout Hall

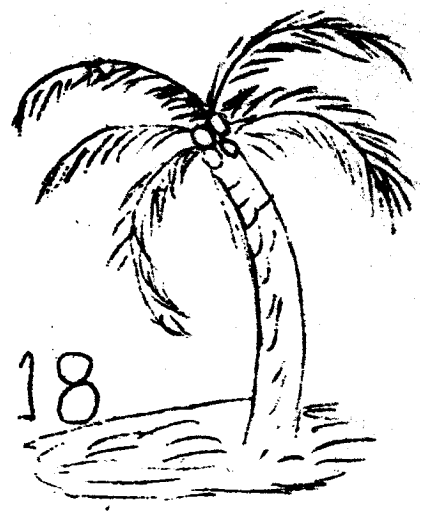
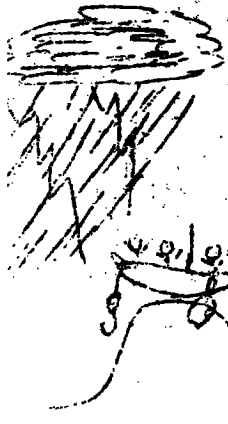
Charlie G.

FRI JAN 7TH 72

# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

## VOL 118

### Drama on the High Seas



On Wednesday afternoon, four young men, Lucky Balarka, Barney Winuwi, Jimmy Maralanga and Morris Kambaba, set out from Maningrida for an afternoon's fishing and sailing. Come evening, a violent rain-storm, and no sign of the sailors. A search party was hurriedly put together to examine the coast from the settle next to Juda Point. By this time it was, of course, pitch dark and there was not really much to be seen from the se archers dinghy except the mangrove line illuminated by the occasional flash of lightning, and the phosphorescent swirls of myriad fish.

There was no sign of the missing Heron dinghy at Juda Point beach, or in Gudjerama Creek. Light rain fell continuously, so it was not felt that the mariners, if ashore, would be in a position to light a fire. After a search of Gudjerama Creek, as far as the jetty, the party decided to return to Maningrida and resume in daylight hours.

Early on Thursday morning Charlie Malumbuk and Billy Yirinyin commenced a search from the settlement to Juda Point and across to Entrance Island. Shortly after starting Silas Roberts sighted the missing group through binoculars on Entrance Island where they were subsequently picked up by Billy and Charlie.

On return to Maningrida all proved to be fit and well, but with some good tales to tell of their adventures. After their motor had broken down, and with the prospect of a storm, they had wisely decided to make for the island instead of trying to sail back to Maningrida. They had rigged up a night camp on the beach with the Heron sails and had put in a fairly grey, if supperless, night.

Barney said, that they had seen a lot of sharks around the island and that one had actually leaped him as they were paddling the dinghy to shore. An enormous white shark had also come close to the dinghy but retreated when Barney hit the side of the boat.

J. Hunter.



### Christmas in Port Moresby

Sister Edith returned this week after 8 days in Port Moresby. Naturally she would have liked to stay longer to get a better view of Papua and particularly to travel with someone like a District Nursing Sister and thus have the opportunity to get to know the Papuans. However Christmas with old friends from Africa was very pleasant.

Some of Edith's impressions:

- A. Port Moresby was not as hot and humid as Darwin.
- B. The trees were "absolutely wonderful" in size, foliage and general appearance.
- C. In the Christmas period one expects to see a few people under the weather, but the city seemed to be full of drunks.

- D. The Papuan people in Port Moresby would turn their heads away when a European went by and would give nasty looks when they went driving in the country.
- E. At Garoke where Edith's friends live the two favourite dishes are pork and dog. Perhaps Maningrida could invite people to send recipes " Twelve interesting ways to serve tasty dog."
- F. Edith was impressed with some of the buildings in this rather spread out city, particularly the medical buildings in the new university and a Church which is shaped liked an upturned canoe.
- G. A highlight of the Papuan journey was a trip up the famous Kokoda Trail, as far as McDonald's Corner.



## Stingers AGAIN!

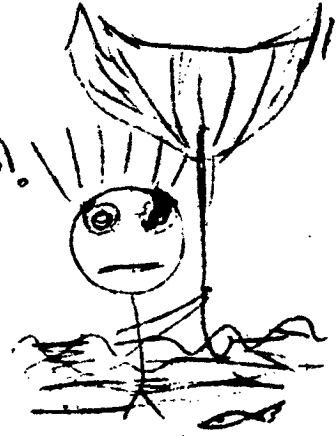
A young girl Vanessa was ~~stung~~ rushed to the hospital on Wednesday morning. She was stung while swimming with the other small children off the beach near the hospital. The sisters had to hurry to save her.

Maningrida seems to have many silly big people++ MOTHERS and FATHERS. Small kids can't think about stingers, so you big people must stop them swirring. Every big person should be angry at kids who swim where stingers are.

The sisters say that about 5 kids each week come to the hospital because they have been stung. These are usually big kids -- school kids! You know about stingers. You are very silly. Maybe one day if somebody dies the silly people will THINK ABOUT STINGERS.

## Warning!

Smooth young gent with umbrella raised,  
Proudly stepped out but forgot to gaze  
Down;  
Down, down he went into the pit,  
From whence he came all covered in grit.



For others like him, there is a BIG HOLE running right through the middle of the settlement. Watch your step!

Eight young men of school age are due to leave Maningrida on Monday for a course at Kormilda. They will be under the leadership of Lucky Balarka and Raymond Ngulla. This makes ~~them~~ many people very happy to see a group of aboriginals going away with older aboriginal people in charge of them. The group camp is at Kormilda for 17 days. They will be joined by similar groups from three other settlements.

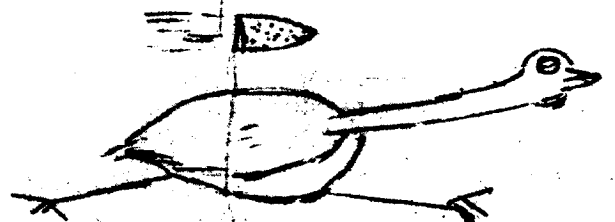
STOP PRESS: Maybe there will be some sailing lessons thrown in..

## Dead Eyed Dick!

(RIP)

Michael Brown wins the marksmans award for 1971 by downing two emus with one shot from his 12 gauge. Michael modestly claims that he performs this feat as a matter of routine, nevertheless it was witnessed as have been some of his other efforts where kangaroos have escaped unscathed through a storm of shot and shell which would put the U.S.M.C. to shame.

As a matter of interest your correspondant understands that David Galbuna is reported to have downed 3 emus with one shot, but you can take this story as you will. Imagine trying to tuck 3 emus into your belt and still make a dignified entrance into camp.



( No Brologn, not ~~any~~ Emu Bitters--you know, those birds.)



## Along The Feathered Trail

The Megapodes, a family of birds unique to Australia, are one of our most interesting of all our birds, because of their habit of retaining the reptilian habit of burying their eggs (like the crocodile) instead of sitting on them to hatch them. To fit them for this task Mother Nature, through evolution, has given them an amazing series of instincts. After the female bird lays its eggs in the mound of rotten and decaying material, the temperature of the eggs becomes the prime motive behind exhaustive attention by the male bird on the mound for the next few months. Heat generated from the decomposing moist vegetation keeps the mound warm from below, and the heat of the sun warms it from above.



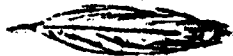
The face of the male bird has special heat-sensitive organs in which he can register the internal temperature of the mound by poking his head in. The temperature is regulated by either addition or subtraction of the decaying material on the mound, the male bird usually visiting the mound twice a day.

When the chicks hatch, they dig their way up through the mound till they reach the surface. How they do this without suffocating we don't know. From the moment they hatch, they must fend for themselves, and will never see their parents. They are large eggs, and hatch as large featured chicks, much more developed than other nestlings.

At Maningrida we have only the one representative of this family, the scrub-fowl, which is a dark chestnut brown bird which may remind you of a domestic chook or a pheasant.

It is a shy bird, but not too shy, and has a small crest. It will often fly into a tall tree, and that would be the best time for a clear view of the bird. You cannot mistake the bird once you have seen it. I've found them quite common in the scrub by the edge of the mangroves at Hovey Landing. I have also found a mound, about 6' high and 12' across, inland from Juda Point. Unfortunately it looks as though someone looking for bush tucker has also found the mound, and dug into it to feast himself on the mound.

Feathers.



## Forestry

A new motor mechanic arrived last Thursday and is working hard to get all our broken down plant in order. His name is Bruce Brotherton and his home state N.S.W.

Bruce Craven and family left last Friday. Bruce has been transferred to the Agricultural Branch in Berrimah.

Mr. Mike Craven has gone to England to work.

Digby arrived back from Darwin on the 29th Dec. equipped with a brand new set of choppers. It is rumoured that he has made a New Year's resolution to leave them at home whenever he goes socializing in future.

Dozer and grader are working on the 26 miles fire trail and are now close to Gudjerana Creek crossing.

The planting of 35,000 cypress pine seedlings commenced on 4th Jan. in compartment 21.

Rainfall: 27pts-- Saturday.  
72pts-- Sunday.  
16pts-- Monday.  
24pts-- Tuesday.  
91pts-- Wednesday.



Weekend Duties: Duty Officer: Mr. EDWARD CAREY.  
 Duty ~~Officer~~ Sister EHA.  
 Sister:

Church: Sunday, "Finding Wisdom."  
 9.30a.m. Sunday School.  
 7p.m. Evening Service. Preacher Mr. Bob Cross.

Star Theatre: Keep you guessing.

Birth: Chris, a 6lb 4oz boy to Claire Barudba and Peter Weinangga on Sunday.

Birth: Philip Andrew to Heather and Bob Cross, on Wednesday.

Craft shop: -- will be open from 3-5p.m., Monday to Friday next week.

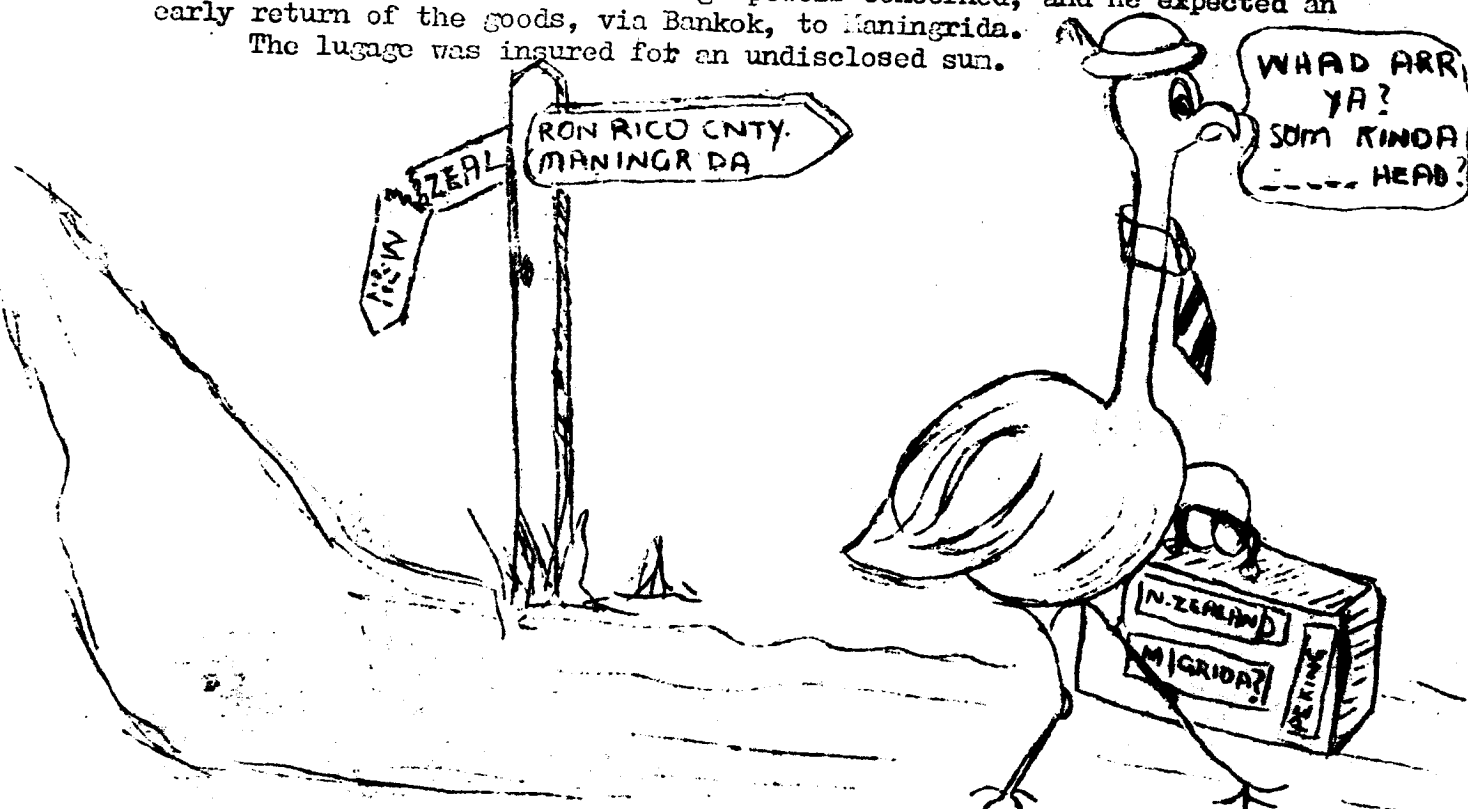
Reverend Gowan Armstrong, Shirley, John and Roslyn went to Darwin last Monday for a short holiday. Maybe Shirley will be glad to come back to Maningrida as her shoes don't seem to like her.

Hope Connair is still running - nothing foot-walk

## Stop Press.

Unconfirmed reports from our overseas correspondents would suggest that miscellaneous items of luggage belonging to one BROLGA BECKETT was last seen at a foreign port of call, and fears are held for its safety. Custom officials are already investigating, and it is believed that Scotland Yard will now be called in because of suspicious circumstances.

In an exclusive "Mirage" interview with Mr Brolga, it was claimed that the Red China Secret Service was responsible, but negotiations were now well under way with the foreign powers concerned, and he expected an early return of the goods, via Bangkok, to Maningrida. The luggage was insured for an undisclosed sum.



**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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