

MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

VOL. 127

Friday 10th March 1972

Council Proceedings

COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 5.30PM ON 6/3/72

PRESENT: 10 Councillors and 4 visitors.

BUSINESS:

TIMBER: Cr. Munyal - not satisfied with all timber going to Snake Bay. It should be kept here to build houses for aboriginal people. Suggested a letter be written to Mr. Giese.

Cr. Balaiya - not happy because ^{of the} story told to him that good houses given to good workers and good men; he had not got one yet.

Adviser - You know you can't get timber for nothing. Maybe if you put in for a grant with the ABTF, the Government will give you the timber to build self-help houses.

Cr. Munyal - agreed with this and said "Yes. Let us write a letter."

Cr. Balaiya - when letter comes back we will meet and try to build houses.

Mr. President - Let's work out how much timber we need.

This started a lot of general discussion about buying timber and how to pay for it.

Adviser - suggested that we should try and get timber for nothing first by way of a grant. If that fails, then ask Government for a loan.

COUNCIL
TRUCK:

Mr. President - spoke to Council about the possibility of getting a Council truck. "What you fellows think about it? Do you think we should get it? It is no use borrowing Company car - anybody want to borrow truck for hunting trip, football, visits to Juda Point, must pay the Council \$1. help pay off vehicle and pay for petrol, oil and maintenance. It could also be used for helping people stuck in the bush.

Council agreed with the idea.

Jimmy Gularawuna (visitor) said the truck will need a boss who collects the money and make sure it wasn't humbugged.

Adviser suggested a roster system with the best drivers who would collect money.

POLICE:

Cr. Munyal - asked when Police coming. Adviser said he was told by contractor that building finished by late April and Police coming maybe May - two months time.

CLUB:

Cr. Munyal - asked if Maningrida would be getting a new beer club. Adviser said no.

Cr. Balaiya - what Cr Munyal was meaning, was Maningrida ever going to get a real pub with glasses, etc.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED:

CLUB: Mr President and Adviser - we can't say when but will be long time.

Adviser - told the Council about a time, hundreds of years ago in balanda way, drinking made a lot of trouble for them. This time was called the "Industrial Revolution". Balanda's way was changing and people were thinking better. Better jobs with more money were around and Balanda could get better house. The Aboriginal people are having same trouble today with little money, bad houses and trouble with drink. It will change but only when more jobs come to Maningrida such as mining and brickmaking. Maybe take long time but only when these changes come will Maningrida get "really pub".

TIDYNESS: Cr Riala - people should try and keep houses cleaner and in better repair. Too many louveres being broken. Husbands should tell wives and kids not to break louveres. He asked Cr. Munyal how many were broken in his house. "I will mend any louveres for anybody who asks me" he said. Mr. Hunter said he would give Cr. Riala the louveres for nothing.



APOLOGY: Cr. Wurijul said he was very sorry for the trouble his daughter had caused at the store and said he had given her a hiding.

Mr. President said the girls would have to go to Darwin for Court.

COUNCIL APATHY: Cr. Brown said it made him sick with disgust at the number of "dead councillors".

PROWLERS: Cr. Fry talked about prowlers. He said he saw two boys last night but he couldn't catch them.

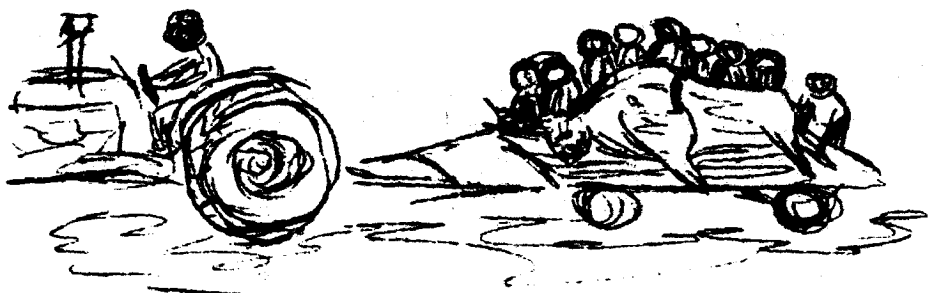
Hunting Late At Night

After the very heavy shower on Saturday evening some travellers were coming in from the Barn Dance at the Tomkinson Hole and passed a motor bike gamely sliding through the mud. This was about nine PM; about half an hour later on the return trip the travellers sighted another single light approaching.

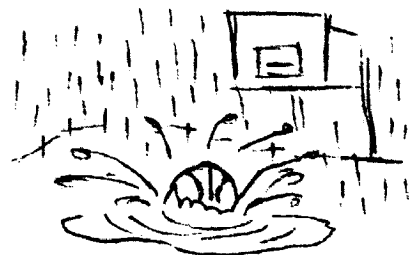


"Ah!" they thought, "The poor fellow probably fell off" However as the light drew near they saw it was no solitary motor bike, but the entire Gunwinggu tribe on tractor and trailer - travelling through the pitch darkness of 9.30 PM near the fire tower. The travellers could hardly believe their eyes.

Next Morning In The Gunwinggu Camp a buffalo head was sitting in the space between Peter Maralwanga's camp and Bilarney's; a side and the backbone were resting on the roof of Peter's house, and most of the blue paint of the tractor was covered in the life blood of the creature. In drums and pans on every fire buffalo was boiling, and a large number of visitors were heading home with pieces of meat. It was a happy morning!



Women's Basketball



Women started converging on the basketball courts, "nobbing it", from as early as 5.30 p.m., to witness the first game of the ladies' Basketball Competition. It started with a mighty splash Monday night. But more than rain was needed to dampen the spirits of the players, who braved the elements, regardless; in spite of a lil' ol' lady who thought otherwise as she bounded onto the court brandishing a "nulla-nulla" (or something) in an effort to hound off one of her enthusiastic proteges.

The rain upset the schedule somewhat, and the second game commenced before time; consequently a replay is suggested for Cobras and Dots and Dashes. Failing this, a forfeit will result.

The first match was taken away by MARRIJALAS (captained by Betty Cooper, vice-captained by Tricia Carpenter). They defeated Albatrosses 20 pts. to 6 pts. Albatrosses (captained by Laurie, vice-captained by Jacky Newman) kept the court play interesting. The two teams were evenly matched on the court, despite the deceiving scores.

Draw

DRAW for MONDAY NIGHT:

7.00 MARRIJALAS vs. DOTS/DASHES
8.00 ALBATROSSES vs. COBRAS

Results of Mon. March 6th.
Marrijas d. Albatross
Dots 'n Dashes d. Cobras.

N.B. changed time of the last match from 8.30 to 8.00.

Timekeeper: Norm Faint

Umpires: Fred Luff

Scorer: Elva Dickfoss

Jimmy Pascoe.

The school bell will ring 5 minutes before the matches to help the camp women.

M. N.

Impressions Of The East.

It's a far cry from the Cadell Garden in its infancy (not that Bob Collins and his men wear nappies to work) to the older established Yirrkala Garden which employs three supervisors and 50 gardeners, and caters for a large market in Nhulunbuy. However Bob Collins found it useful to see the garden there and at Elcho while Messrs John Hunter, John Wilders and Glen Bagshaw surveyed the Developments at Nhulunbuy.

Bob gave some of his impressions of Yirrkala.

- * Most of the people lived in houses with water and electricity.
 - * Young people would stop in the street and talk quite naturally to the balander stranger. It was quite common for Aborigines to visit Europeans in their homes, chat, and drink a cup of tea together.
 - * I've never seen so many beautiful young girls well dressed in bright clean clothes.
 - * A large number of Aborigines were at Church on Sunday and sang well.
 - * Scouting is going well under a particularly keen Aboriginal Assistant Scout Master.
 - * The gardens are developing three main crops, pineapples, paw paws and bananas, which are supplied to an almost limitless market at Nhulunbuy.
 - * Yirrkala is lucky to be set in an attractive site among hills.
- Impressions of Galiwinku (Elcho):-
- * The Elcho Garden was smaller but very well cared for. An Aboriginal gardener will shortly be developing his own garden.
 - * The town of Galiwinku was impressive because of all the trees that had been left standing and the arrangement of Balander and Aboriginal houses alternating in the streets.

My Hobby

I like to collect flowers in the forest. When I went home I saw that my sunflower was getting big. My mother said to me, "Your favourite sunflower has gone to your sister's wedding. You, me and Daddy are going to the church. So is your uncle and the other women."

I said to my mother, "Mother, I want to have my favourite flower back." When we finished at the church I went and got some flowers.

My mother said to me, "Your favourite flower is in the forest." I like collecting flowers because it makes me happy.

Audrey Baidjarlarl
Grade 5.



News From School

I would like to extend an invitation to fathers and mothers of boys and girls attending this school to come to my office at school to talk about their child's progress or other education matters if they would like to do this.

This year we are very pleased to have a number of teaching assistants working at school with us. They are Jimmy Matjera, George Garawun, Rita Jidnu, Laurie Magalangi, and Nancy Gununwanga.

The Post Primary boys and girls are operating a lunch time tuck shop at school where they sell fruit juices, fresh fruit and sultanas. These items are sold at reasonable prices.

Good progress continues with our new Resource Centre and Pre-School buildings. It is thought that construction will be complete by the end of this term when arrangements could then be made to commence school operations there about the middle of May.

Visitors to school lately have included two gentlemen from our Aboriginal Education Branch, namely, Mr. Keith Thiele (Supervisor - Manual Training) and Mr. Peter Garner (Master Teacher - Physical Education).

As from Monday 13th March, school will commence daily at 8.00 a.m. (not 8.15 a.m.). Primary Lunch recess will be from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. and Infant lunch recess from 12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Primary classes will dismiss at 3.00 p.m. and Infant classes at 2.30 p.m. (These comments do not have any reference to the Pre-School)

D. H.

Progress Association

The meeting of the Progress Association held on Wednesday evening was marked by thoughtful discussion.

Mr. Tommy Yibberal said that the aboriginal people had been encouraged to come and live at Maningrida. They came and now only wallabies, Goannas and Snakes lived in the bush. They had always eaten fish oysters and crabs but now they couldn't buy them. They needed timber for houses, but it was being sent to Darwin. He said that the aboriginal people were pushing him to help and he asked what the Progress Association could do.

Mr. Jack Riala asked why timber used to be available from the old mill but now when people want it for houses they can't get it. He also recalled the days when fish was available in the shop and asked why it had not been available lately.

Various speakers made the following comments:-

* Most of the out board motors had been broken down. Most of them had only lasted for six months.

*The mineral Potential in Arnhemland offers the possibility for further development both for Maningrida, and a wider number of aboriginal people. The next twelve months could prove to be a critical period.

Continued on page

BANAMBIRR -- the Morning Star.

Over this weekend and during next week Maningrida will see forty Elcho Island people dancing the "Morning Star". Ifnyu, an elderly, dignified grey haired leader with a short Macassan goatee beard is the Bungawa, Master of Ceremonies, and Harry Mulumbuk, once designated "King of the Kupanga" by a Mililingimbi Superintendent, is the local host to the visitors.



Burramarra, formerly a teaching assistant in the Elcho Island school is concerned that Europeans should understand more of the Aboriginal Culture.

THE LAND OF THE MORNING STAR

Burralku is a spirit land for Dua people far away toward the sunrise. There is good water and good food there, but only the spirits of the Dua dead can go there. Yiritja spirits go to another place in the North, (towards West Irian).

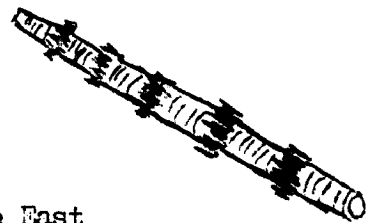
Once a man called Yuwalnggurra saw smoke coming from Burralku, and when he saw the smoke it made him want to leave Caledon Bay and go paddling in his dugout canoe towards the East.

When he arrived there a crowd of spirits came to see him, but they didn't like him as he still had his flesh and bones. They could not allow him to live at Burralku. So they gave him a lot of food for his return journey and pushed him off back to Caledon Bay.

On coming back to his own country he told his people about the spirit land and showed the food to his wife and children. Then he suddenly died. His spirit was now able to return to Burralku - the home of the Morning Star.

THE MORNING STAR EMBLEM!

The long pole is really the bone of Banambirr. The white feathered string bound tightly around the pole is a symbol of the brightness of the light. The rings of red feathers are the orb of red light which surrounds the star.



In the dance men extend their arms straight out from the shoulders to show that the star shines from the East towards the West. When they swing their arms upwards they are greeting the brightness of the star, and indicating that all spirits come to the Morning Star. When they crawl on their knees they are honouring the Star.

MEANING TODAY.

Burralku (spirit land) and Banambirr (Morning Star) have special meaning for all the people living at Elcho, Mililingimbi, Yirrkala, and down the Eastern coast past Blue Mud Bay to Ross River. It also has meaning for the inland Rembarranga people down to Mainoru.

The performing of the Banambirr is a sign of friendship between groups of people since the dreamtime era. One group dances and the other group gives gifts. It is a symbol of unity between Dua people.

It has a special meaning here because Harry and the Blyth River people live outside the Banambirr country. Here it is a symbol of forgiveness for some mistakes in olden times.

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Continued from page previous.

*Maningrida should be ready to take advantage of opportunities to supply services and goods when the demand arises.

*Maningrida and neighbouring communities should survey their economic potential with a view to a maximum cooperation and efficiency.

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Thanks

Thank You;

Last Saturday's Barn Dance and B+B+Q turned out to be a tremendous success thanks to the preparations and hard work by all the Forestry boys a number of the teachers and "Feathers".

Without the loan of various pieces of equipment the night would never have risen to the heights it did. Thanks go to those responsible.

Basketball

BASKETBALL

Season February to May.

Training of all teams will be on Thursday Afternoons at 4.30 p.m., and the competition matches will be held on Monday evenings, first match at 7.00 and the second at 8.00.

Softball will be played from May to September.

Hockey is still on the drawing-board, season probably from September to December.

SWEGMBJJCCTT

(Known to the less educated as Margaret H.)

Holidays

Aboriginal Trainees will have the following holidays over Easter:

Good Friday	31st March
Holy Saturday	1st April
Easter Sunday	2nd April
Easter Monday	3rd April

Hold That Snake.



Early in February a "dead" snake from Maningrida arrived at the Wildlife Section of N.T.A. in Darwin. It turned out to be only ALMOST dead; the bad smell it had was only a normal snake smell. They identified the snake as a Water Python, sometimes called a Swamp Python scientific name "Liasis fuscus". It was killed and preserved to take its place in the reference collection at Darwin. However it was noted that it had rather a full tummy, and dissection brought to light three partly digested smaller snakes. These proved to be even more interesting as they were identified as Enhydris polylepes, the Macleay's Water-snake. Prior to this discovery they were thought to be only in North Queensland and New Guinea. These were the first such snakes recorded in the Territory. This species lives in freshwater streams and swamps living on small fish and frogs etc.

The Water Python is much more well known, if only as "good tucker" It may be met with in scrub next to water, and eats almost any small animal it can swallow, such as bandicoots, rats, birds, snakes, lizards small crocodiles, etc.

We thank Dave Lindner, the Wildlife Ranger, for his interesting letter and notes on these reptiles. Maybe we send in some more interesting snakes to him, but lets make sure their dead!

J.G.

Connair Timetable

"MISSION FLIGHTS" marked thus *

	<u>DARWIN</u>	<u>MANINGRIDA</u>	<u>DARWIN</u>
ARRIVAL TIMES:- Monday	1000	1140	1420
Tuesday	0800	1225	1540*
Wednesday	1000	1140	1350
Thursday	0800	1045	1540*
	1000	1220	1430
Friday	1000	1140	1420
Saturday	0800	1225	1420

This Week's Weather.

	Temperature		Humidity	Rain
	Max.	Min.	(Max)	(Points)
Friday	84.0	75.5	91%	16
Saturday	86.0	75.0	91%	91
Sunday	87.0	75.0	91%	Nil
Monday	87.5	77.5	91%	5
Tuesday	90.0	77.0	91%	2
Wednesday	88.0	74.0	91%	0
Thursday	89.5	79.0	87%	0

WEEKEND DUTIES

Duty Officer Mr E. Carey
Duty Sister Sister Sherry

STAR THEATRE

Fri. "Spy in Lace Panties."
a funny spy story.



Sat. "Che". -the true story of Che Guevara the Cuban revolutionary. Omar Sharif .

CHURCH

SUNDAY

9.45 a.m. Baptismal Service at the Church, followed by procession through the village and at the beach

5.15 p.m. Tea on parsonage lawn.

7.00 p.m. Service to mark the amalgamation of M.O.M. with the United Church on North Australia.

Rev. Phillip Taylor of Oenpelli will preach at both services and will show slides of Arnhem Land in earlier years.

PEOPLE.

Mrs Annette Hamilton, anthropologist who lived in "Sister's Edith's caravan" and worked among the Burada people in 1968, has been awarded the (Sydney) University Medal and an M.A. degree with honours for her thesis "Nature and Nurture: Child-rearing in North Central Arnhem Land". We say "Congratulations Annette."

Annette is back at Sydney University now; "We have finished work in Central Australia for the moment, and hope to go back there sometime." G.A.

Mr. Jerome Gould from Los Angeles in U.S.A. will arrive tomorrow to watch the bark painters at work, and probably purchase a selection of barks. G.A.

Mr. Dennis Strand, deputy headmaster at Maningrida in 1970, is now back in Darwin with his family after completing a twelve months course in Melbourne on teaching of the deaf. Dennis, Val and children have taken up residence at Ludmilla. We may see Dennis out here from time to time in his professional capacity. D.G.

Mr. Denis (Digby) Coleman is leaving Maningrida and Forestry today to work with his father. We wish you well Digby.

Trio of Birthdays. Last Sunday at least three people celebrated a birthday - Glen Bagshaw notched up his $\frac{1}{2}$ century, while Margaret Heale and Meryl Hassal reached undisclosed figures.

Mr. Bob Eggers writes from his post in Port Hedland where he now has part of a new Government house. He finds it as humid as Darwin, but enjoys his frequent visits to Wittenoom, Roebourne, Onslow etc, on business bent. Last visit to Roebourne we fear - shades of days gone by - he returned to find "somebody" had left the electric frypan switched on.

Mr. Jock Mason (father Merv.) had a recent spell in Hospital with ruptured ulcers. He has to return for further treatment presently.

Mr. Ray Carter (formerly Forestry here) has also had a serious bout of sickness

A page of Maningrida's early history came to life yesterday when Mr. Jack Doonan came for a short visit. Jack helped to run the Trading Centre here with Mr. Syd Kyle-Little. Jocky Bunda - Bunda was quite overcome when he met Jack.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

The March Meeting of the Parents and Friends Association will be held at the school on Tuesday Night at 7.30 P.M.

BIRTH: - Raelene, born to Sarah, daughter of Lumpy Gandaidja and Mabel

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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