

A.I.A. LIBRARY 8 JAN 1973
MANINGRIDA
To the Editor
Dear Sir,

MIRAGE
vol 162
Friday 10th Nov, '72



Your vol. 153 under the heading "Look Out" criticised amendments proposed to the Firearms Ordinance and my motives for introducing them.

My words taken from Hansard were "in a fairly recent incident a party of men were shooting at a popular recreation place where people were camping and swimming. A nearby landholder drew the attention of the offenders to a notice which said 'No Shooting'. They were apparently recently arrived migrants ... whose excuse was that they could not read and understand the sign. On hearing this story I recalled that under the Motor Vehicles Ordinance a person seeking a licence for a motor vehicle - which is another form of lethal weapon - is required to understand the road traffic laws of the Territory and be able to read signs and notices. The same principle should apply to firearms and that is what this Bill sets out to achieve."

There was no intention to use the law to discriminate against Aborigines hunting on reserves. I realized later that the wording used by the legal draftsman may have unintentionally produced this result and he has been instructed to write suitable amendments for further consideration in November. If necessary the Bill can be adjourned.

I cannot agree with your correspondent that "fear of irresponsibility in the use of firearms is an outmoded folk belief". Hardly a week passes without evidence of indiscriminate shooting of livestock, wildlife and road signs in the Territory. The trend throughout Australia is to tighten firearms laws. However, the special circumstances on reserves will be kept well in mind.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd: G.A. LETTS
(Member for Victoria River)

School Notes

We have a few dates of importance to school activities to bring to your notice:

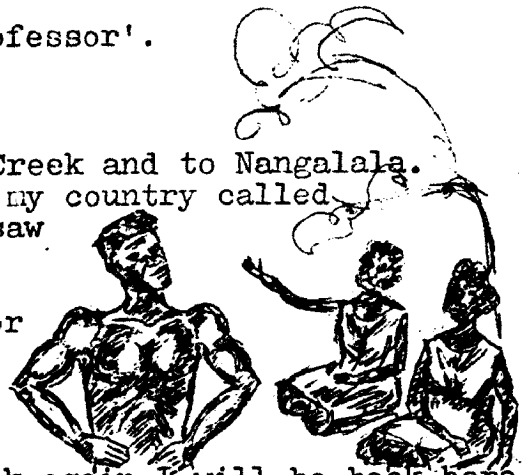
Infants Swimming Carnival Friday 1st December
Senior Swimming Carnival Monday 4th December
Speech Night with presentation of Prizes and Certificates,
Tuesday 5th December
(Further advice on this event will follow)

School closes Friday afternoon 8th December and reopens Mon. 5th February.

'Professor'.

Visit to Nangalala

On September we Jinang people went to Cadji Creek and to Nangalala. When we came to big road I saw big street to my country called Ruminanga Station. When we came to home I saw too many people sitting down in the shade. Suddenly they saw us. They said Hey, these people from Maningrida and they very happy for us. Then we sat down and they give us some tea and flour for our dinner. When I finished my dinner they said to me how long you will stay here George. I said to them I just been coming for visit. I am going back again I will be back here on December when we will have big holiday, so I will stay here for six weeks. Then they were worrying to me because I went there first time. I came here when I was little boy just way all the people from Nangalala they trying to stop me stay there because they were seen my body growing bigger. But I said to them no I want stay here. I don't like this place Nangalala. Then they said to me Why don't you like us stay here, and I said to them because I have got a job there to do. If I stay here what will I do. I have got no jobs around here but don't worry too much to me, you people. I will see you again any time. GURAWAN



Travelling Men

David Gulpulil and Dick Bundalil are at present in Adelaide for a performance. After this David takes off for Queensland, to the town of Innisfail for the annual drama and music festival there. He will be staying with producer Brian Nason who stayed with David, Jack and Don when he was last here. After Queensland David will join forces with the well-known dancer, singer and entrepreneur Mr. Paddy Fordham. Paddy and David will sail from Darwin on a cruise ship. As we previously mentioned they will be teaching tourists to play the didgeridoo as they sail to Indonesia. Delicate negotiations are still underway to obtain Paddy a passport and Indonesian visa. Paddy says he will take 'one long, one shorter and one short bamboo and give the people three tunes'. It is rumoured in the papers that Paddy and David will have a comely wench to assist them in their lessons.



D.G.

From the Newspapers.

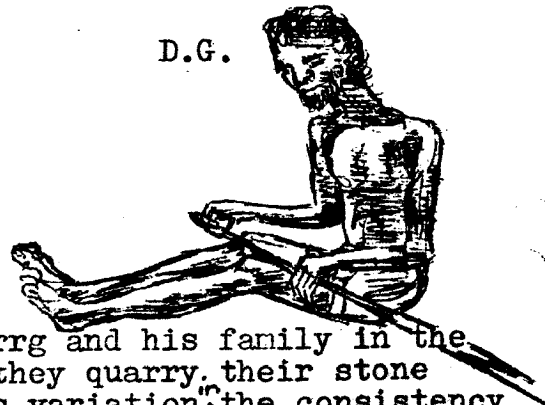
BIG TRAIN CRASH Most people who have been to Darwin have seen the big long trains that carry the iron ore from Mt. Bunday and Frances Creek into Darwin. Last Saturday a big train full of iron ore (2000 tons) went into the railway yards. The men driving it could not stop it - they jumped off. The man in the back of the train tried to stop it but he couldn't work the brakes. The train smashed into another one and four engines, many wagons and pieces of track were smashed. The damage is worth one million dollars.

OFF TO BRISBANE Some Bamyili girls had their picture in the paper. They were getting ready to go to Brisbane. Boys and girls from Bamyili and Port Keats are going to Brisbane with Mr. Jim Horne who went with the Maningrida children on the desert trip. They will be showing Aboriginal music and dance to people in Brisbane. At one concert they will dance outside the Brisbane City Hall. While the children are in Brisbane there will be a big exhibition of Maningrida bark painting and other craft worth more than \$1,000. We hope this is all sold to Brisbane people.

Craft Shop

Up to 6 months ago there had not been a traditional flint head spear in the Craft Shop for over two years. Now, with more people living permanently in the bush there has been a sudden resurgence of interest in making the flaked points. Mandarrg and his family in the Cadell area are really busy on the spears - they quarry their stone from a couple of different sites and there is variation in the consistency and appearance of the stones. Some of the spears made by Mandarrg have beautifully worked points, that have had a lot of care taken with them. Last Sunday he sent in a consignment of 72 stone spears. They are also coming from Bamboo Creek and Blyth River areas. It is good to see this ancient skill which appeared to be extinct, making a comeback.

D.G.



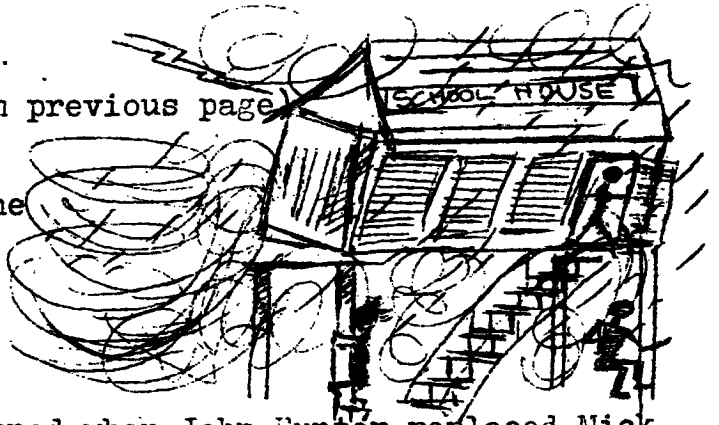
A man and the Cyclone Dan G.

During 1964 a big cyclone (burumalala) came to this settlement, trying to destroy the people of Maningrida, but the superintendent John Hunter was working hard for the heavy rain was falling two days and two nights. We were afraid and all went gathering in a group into the large school yard with very strong brick building, that still stands today. That day, no matter what people and tribes were there because the whirlwind (willy-willy) cannot move

(Cont'd. next page)

(A man and the cyclone - cont'd. from previous page)

or break the school building. But the willy-willy could easily break the bush houses of shelters (kurukuru). The superintendent John Hunter was guiding people by himself from different languages and different countrymen. There was no light, the people were laying down beside each other all over the floor. This happened when John Hunter replaced Mick Ivory, another superintendent. When this superintendent came back to Maningrida from Darwin, John Hunter returned to Beswick (Banyili) there he became a superintendent and some time later John Hunter came back to Maningrida again as superintendent. That was in February 1967.



J. Mirritji.

Fish.

There is very little news on the local scene this week, except that the number of sharks seen in local waters over the past couple of weeks has increased considerably.

"Golden Trevally or Banded Trevally" as they are also known, is as with the Turrum one of the larger members of the trevally family. Young fish are bright canary yellow over silver. The head and snout tinged with green; they have 10 to 12 narrow vertical dark cross bars on either side. With increasing length the body colour becomes more silvery than yellow and the bars become progressively fainter. All fins have a yellowish tint.

It is a popular fish with anglers because it is a determined fighter and good eating. It grows to 40 inches in length. Golden trevally can be caught on the same gear and using the same methods as for Turrum. Line fisherman in deeper water also get a fair share of large ones.

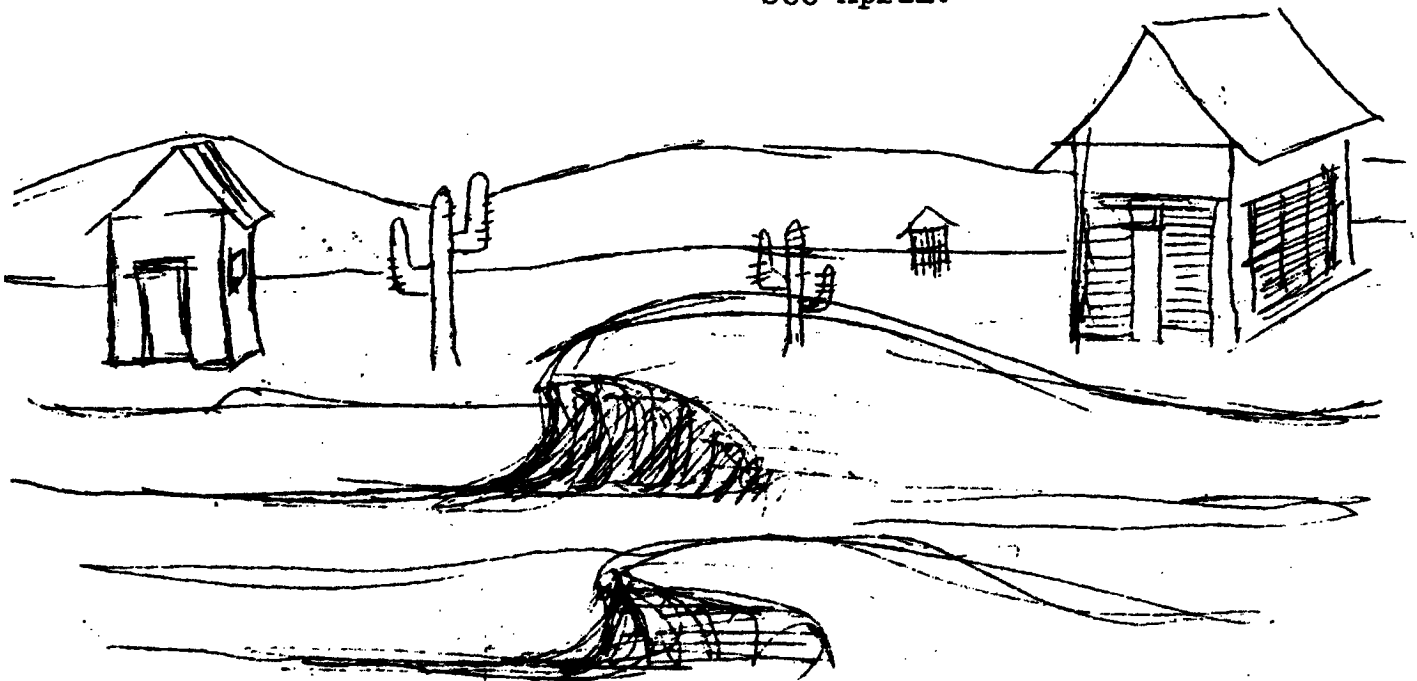
NOTICE RE WATER SUPPLY

DUE TO FAILURE OF PUMPS ALL GARDEN WATERING MUST CEASE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Superintendent.

FOUND

1 only fawn Dr Scholl Sandal, vicinity Welfare Office.
See April.



Good jobs for Men & Women.

The Welfare Division is now calling for names of persons who wish to enroll in training courses in February 1973. The courses are listed:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Living at</u>
Bricklaying/ Concreting	12 weeks	Darwin Comm.Coll.	Baptist Host.
Carpentry/Joinery	12 "	" "	" "
Motor Service	12 "	" "	" "
Motor Repair	12 "	" "	" "
Plumbing	12 "	" "	" "
Pre-apprenticeship	1 year	" "	YMCA Hostel
Pottery	Indefinite	Bagot Pottery	" "
Office Assistants (female)	20 weeks	Batchelor	Batchelor
Sewing Assistants (female)	20 "	"	"
Building Maintenance	16 "	"	"

Interested persons are invited to call at the office and talk to the Superintendent.

Fighting - good * * * * * or bad ?

George Anagarara and James Mason have been recent victims of UFO's. It is sad that the few trouble-makers at Maningrida have not learnt to sit down and talk about their problems instead of fighting.

P.S. or C.T.S. Chalkies dilemma.

Last Tuesday the newly appointed Acting Commissioner of the recently established Commonwealth Teaching Service, Mr. J. Weedon, visited Maningrida to discuss the Service with teachers who are presently employed as Commonwealth Public Servants. With him were Dr. H. Beare and his wife and Mr. J. Gallacher, the Director of Aboriginal Education,

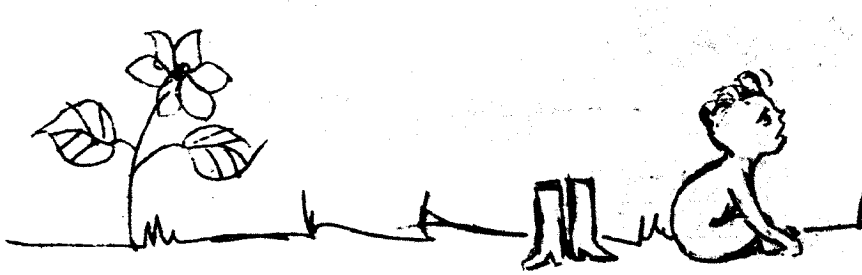
A Woman Councillor.

Four Yuendumu Councillors, including a lady, Mrs. Ruby Nangala, visited Maningrida during the week as part of a familiarisation tour. Whilst here they stayed with Mr & Mrs Jim Galgil (Mrs. Galgil comes from the Centre) and were escorted around the Settlement by members of the Maningrida Council. They saw the Maningrida Club in action, also made a visit to the Guyun station and toured more familiar aspects of the Settlement such as the Craft Store, shop and bakery. Some members attended a film screening which included the R. ("Felini") Stutchbury epic on the Eisteddfod visit.

They left on Thursday's plane - next stop Snake Bay.

If you don't laugh you'll cry dept.

The newer houses - like the ones along Progress Drive and the police houses - tend to have lower water pressure than most. During the past week when the supply has been weak the water usually stops in a couple of the houses by lunchtime. This gives rise to a number of instances of the pioneering spirit. But the most impressive of all was the sight of that strapping tradesman Bob Cross taking his daily bath in his son's wading pool in the backyard. Pioneering was never like this!



The Bird Watcher

In the last month or so the feathered population of the sewerage ponds seems to have snowballed, and now its almost a case of - you name it. Among the tenants therein is a party of 20 Grey Teal - smallish ducks, rather a plain freckled brown, that "float high" in the water. These chaps are easy to approach - they havn't been shot at, yet - and even if they do fly, soon settle down again.

The Grey Teal, an Australia wide bird, is a real anywhere, anytime anyhow, anything individual. It can be seen in flocks of thousands

upon thousands (as happened when the Murray River flooded) or as a lone pair by a small waterhole. They are very nomadic, always following the new waters, and moving off again as the rains stop and the waters dry. They are usually the first to find new waters, although in our case the Little Grebe ("Dabchick") beat them to it. They will eat

anything in the way of aquatic plant and animal life (they love rice) so that where ever they go in their wanders be it Tasmania or Maningrida, they can always get by on the tucker available, this ability being one of the endless number of ways natural selection has prepared this particular species for its particular habitat and way of life (niche). The main population of Grey Teal will wander to and fro over the whole continent in an erratic manner always following water. Their breeding is triggered by rainfall and its effects (increase in aquatic plant and animal life) and especially by the rise in water level of the holes and billabongs. So breeding starts as the water rises (no matter what time of the year it is) but as in places such as the Centre the water level may fall just as suddenly as it rose, and year after year in such places many small ducklings fall victim to predators. Those in a more stable climate have a better chance, but only to start a life forever dependant on rainfall and water somewhere somehow. Its easy to understand why they have such a high mortality rate - the average individual can expect to live only 1 year 2 months.

Its all but impossible to distinguish the sexes, but its interesting to see that the female, as in the human female, has a louder more penetrating voice.

Also in residence at Brolga's ponds are a pair of Burdekin Ducks (remember the pet one at Fisheries last year) Black-winged Stilts, Grey Plover, Masked Plovers, Little Grebes and many waders.

"Feathers"

Fair Go, Mate

Whoever "borrowed" the new extension lead out of the sports store at the school is invited to return it very soon. The lead, which wasn't cheap, is the private property of the Parents & Friends and unless it makes a quick appearance the police will be asked to investigate. If you happen to see it, give it a clip over the ears and send it home. You have been warned.

J. Gardiner

Parents & Friends

The November meeting of The Parents & Friends Association will be held at the school next Monday evening at 7.30. Matters to be discussed may include the possibility of throwing the projector into the depths of the Liverpool River.

J.G.

Thanks.

To Chris Cox for her work with the 'Mirage'. We wish the family a happy holiday.

Weekend Duties

Duty Officer : Mr. Eddy Carey
Duty Sister : Sister Lee

Star Theatre

Friday: "Town Tamer" Dana Andrews, Terry Moore, Pat O'Brien. When Condor sends a gunfighter to eliminate lawyer Rosser the assassin's bullet hits his wife. Rosser trails the killer to White Plains where he is asked to head a vigilante to rid Kansas of Condor's outlaw pack.

Church

Saturday: "The Games" (? ? ?)

Sunday: 9.45 am Sunday Schools
7.15 pm Evening Service.

Preacher Mr Dave Hassall

Tuesday: 7.30 pm Choir Practice

The Crusade last weekend gave us much to be thankful for. The presence of 24 members from two neighbouring churches was a source of strength in itself. A young Maningrida man said " I wish we had women here who could speak like those Oenpelli women. In their well prepared and well developed messages we sensed the fruit of a long period of fellowship in the Church at Oenpelli, and the benefit of some good school teachers there 30 years or so ago.

The Goulburn Island choir led by their enthusiastic conductor Mr George Winungiy again sang with real feeling and a real hauntingly splendid quality.

The journey to Guyun on Saturday afternoon, and the coming in of the people to the evening service on Sunday was a feature of this year's Crusade. Rev. Phil Taylor was delighted to meet Fred Milmkuma who with Paddy Fordham's father used to visit Oenpelli in Mr. Taylor's early days there.

The Saturday evening Hasty Tasty - coffee hour on the front lawns of the Church showed us how useful this piece of grass can be for future evening services

People

Charlie Gunbana looking remarkably fit returned from Darwin on Thursday without his Specialist Medical Attendant Johnny Bulunbulun. City environment was apparently not conducive to the later's medical pursuits.

Wendy and Mark McCann returned from Darwin on Wednesday.

The new Assistant Manager, Mr. Grant Steele, arrived on Tuesday. Grant comes from a farming background. He studied in an Agricultural College at Narrogin in W.A., and worked for a time at the Kununurra Research Station. Originally he hailed from Geraldton in W.A.

He is keen to know Aboriginal people and would like to teach people to do leather work, belts, leather bags, etc.

Mr John Carpenter paid a quick visit to Maningrida on Wednesday.

Master Stephen Luff has just taken an involuntary trip into Darwin with a broken arm; and only to miss the excitement of seeing his father break his toe. Fred assures us that his few days off sick has nothing to do with his new boat.

Stephen Namanail long time resident of Maningrida (brother of Ron Fisherman), has come back this week for a holiday from Sydney, where he works for D.C.A. at Mascot, laying underground cables.

Stephen has married since he was last here. He, and his wife Lynette and daughter Annette live at La Perouse.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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