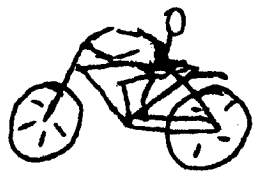


MANINGRIDA

MIRAGE



VOL No. 218

Christmas at Maningrida

28TH DEC. 1973



Ads



The usual carol singers on four wheels did their singing on Christmas Eve; one of the most heart warming and happy sounds to be heard here. Unfortunately many people missed the singers of joy because of the pictures, but those who heard them were not disappointed. The musical talent seemed to be much greater this year and included guitar (Jacob Roberts) accordion (Bob Cross) and even trumpet (Rev. Latu).

After the service and Christmas play in the morning, a football match got underway on the old oval, and after the match the spectators feasted themselves to a "tremendous" dinner to end all dinners prepared by Eric and John and their staff in the kitchen. The menu included soft drink, fruit juices, icecream, pickled pork and chicken. After such a feast as that it was not surprising that Maningrida had a very quiet and lazy afternoon, except for a savage dog bite out at Cadell (we havent heard the dogs side of the story yet) and some Tongan "sing song" and dancing in a more remote part of the settlement, which was heard going well into the night.

Hospital Moves

Sisters Maija and Edith received notice on Monday that they will be moving off after the new year. Sister Edith, who has been here for over four years, is off to Pine Creek while Sister Maija is back again to Umbakumba where John Wilders is also stationed. We hope she does not burn the hospital down this time because it is only a new one. We wish the best of luck to both of them. Sister Scribbens who was here for a short stay about 18 months back will take Sr Maijas place as S.I.C.

Water and Power Saboteurs

During the past week there have been three separate incidents of interference with the towns water and power supply.

On Sunday night (or afternoon) someone turned two four valves off at the storage tanks, not only causing the supply to run dry but also busting a joint between the bores and tanks. It took considerable time during the early hours of Monday morning by staff already exhausted by barge unloading to find out and rectify the fault. Damage could have been much greater and even unrepairable (e.g. seized pump).

On Christmas morning some phantom hand turned the power off (easily done by pressing the right button; if he pressed the wrong button he would not even know about it!).

On Tuesday night (or afternoon) someone fiddled with the power supply on the bores and again the tanks ran dry.

This type of offence is a new element at Maningrida, and be either balanda or aboriginal offenders the matter is being viewed most seriously by the Police and severe action is going to be taken to protect the others of Maningrida from such criminals.

The Mirage

Apologies for the failure of "The Mirage" to hit the newspaper stalls last week, but the editor was called into Darwin at short notice.

The paper looks to have a bright future in front of it for 1974. The editorship is being taken over by John Gardiner until about February when Mr Gillespie will take over as permanent editor. It is not the policy of the editor to publish any political opinions other than official Maningrida Council notes nor will it be his policy (unfortunately) to encourage outside postal subscriptions as the work load involved is becoming too great and the newspaper is only designed for local convenience and interest.

Mr Peter Cooke has offered his services when he can spare the time and the paper is grateful for his assistance - he did an excellent job on the Crocodile article last week..

Our most serious problem at the moment is the need for an artist.

Bakery

The Manager of the M.P.A. has advised that although the bakery is working to its fullest capacity bread will always be sold out before closing time on Saturday and he strongly suggests that customers buy their weekend bread on Friday.

New Year's Day

Shop	Closed all Day
Bakery	" " "
Post Office & Bank	" " "
Hasty Tasty	Open as usual

Connair = Both inwards and outward flights, but the office will NOT be opened, nor will freight be delivered. Customers are advised to book beforehand and collect their own freight.

Post Office Hours

As from 2 Jan Elva will delay her lunch hours till 12.20 to 1.20 to enable inward mail to be sorted.

Council Notes

1. SPECIAL WORKS PROJECT

A letter from the D.A.A. has advised that the council should talk and plan about different projects it can sponsor to provide chances of employment for other persons in the settlement who may not be able to receive award wages. These Special Works Projects will contribute largely to ensuring full employment within the community.

2. PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

It is a part of a new govt policy to pay unemployment benefits to all people on the reserve because the government thinks it can not provide jobs for everybody. This benefit will be provided as temporary payment until work is available.

A letter from the social security office says that benefits will be paid to

a) young persons at least 16 yrs of age have finished school and can not be paid on training allowance.

b) an older person who has stayed away from the settlement and has returned. Mr Fraith however specified that:

a) these people must want to work when a job is offered to them

b) money, when paid to a married man must be used for his family. In the case that he does not use the money for this purpose the money will be taken away from him and will be paid directly to his wife

3. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

The Council wants the public to know the position of secretary occupied by Mrs Leah Pinder is an honorary position - approved in a resolution passed in August 18 1973 and also approved by Mr John Hunter

of the local welfare office. She is to occupy the position until such a time that an aboriginal can take over the responsibilities of a council secretary.

4. HOSPITAL SITE.

A resolution was passed that the area marked as park land adjacent to the power house be set aside as an additional area to the 4.5 acres agreed to by the councillors as the new hospital complex. This resolution increases the site from 4.5 acres to 15.5 acres.

5. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COUNCIL.

The council also approved the suggestion that two young men be elected as ex-officio members of the council. The young men will serve as the voice of the younger generation and as a channel through which the older generation can establish communication.

oOo

Club News

James Cooper the manager of the Beer Club suspended seven members of the Club for their involvement in a near fatal brawl at the town hall on Friday night the 14th of December. Included in the suspension is one club officer.

The suspension is the third since the reorganisation of the club last month.

James Cooper stated that he will suspend club members any time a rule is violated.

Suspension means two weeks without beer plus a fine of \$6.00 upon reinstatement of membership.

The Rumor That Never Was . . .

The young and the old - two generations apart - two different worlds in one world. Apart yet inextricably bound together. The generation gap has become a social signature. So is it in Maningrida. It recognises no barriers - ethnic or racial. The gap is further widened by inflexibilities on both sides. Generation gap communication gap start varied personal and social problems.

The conflict between the older people and a group of young men was precipitated by a rumour that the councillors called the young men Bastards. So rumours are by nature faster than the wind the young men without stopping to think on the verocity of the rumour aggravated by heads foggy with beer sought out the councillors for a showdown. Bastards - they were presumably called, Bastards they were going to be.

Result - TROUBLE. The timely intervention of the police and cooler heads assuaged ruffled feelings but a dialogue between the two groups had to be conducted. The course of the dialogue reacted that the accusation came from another young man, not from one of the councillors. It was apparent too that the young men did not know their councillors. Mr Arthur Marks suggested that the young men should get together and elect a representative to the council so that they could have a chance to articulate the sentiments of the younger generation. To this the councillors agreed.

The dialogue has ventilated crucial issues which affect social life in Maningrida. Perhaps dialogues are needed here. The oftener the better. Too often actions are impelled by mere rumours. To stop, to check, to think on the truth of a rumour is essential to a peaceful and harmonious life.

All is well that ends well.

- Lee Pinder.

Subscriptions Now Due

Most subscription fees fall due on the 1st. Jan. They are:

Home subscription:	\$3.00
Postal Subscription	\$5.00

Weekend Duties

Duty Officer: Mr. Albert Ryan
Duty Sister: Weekend: Sister Ena
Tuesday: Sister Edith.

Star Theatre

As "The Mirage" goes to print, no films had arrived. Responsible authorities fear that the films shown earlier this week were meant for the weekend, so movie fans may be missing out this weekend.

Church Notes

Sunday: 9.30am Sunday School classes in the church and camps.
Theme of study: "The World Seeking Christ"

7.30pm Evening Service. We extend a warm invitation to who would like to worship and have fellowship together.

We will welcome Rev. Gowan Armstrong and his family at the service; it is good to meet and hear Bapa Armstrong again.

Also Mr Jacob Roberts is going to participate in the service by giving a testimony of his Christian experiences.

The Maningrida Church expresses its appreciation to both Sister Maija and Edith for their involvements during the past years. Best wishes and blessings be with you as you are leaving us.

* * * * *

What does "Faith" mean to you ?

Faith is a journey of a world beyond reason, yet it is a journey amongst both man and God. Christ lives and is present amongst the everyday affairs of men. In the journey you may encounter both the sorrow of infidelity and the courage to start afresh; both the peace that comes from discovery and the anxiety arising from the realization that even more is involved; both the certainty of truth and the need for new light.

(Robert Crotty adapted)

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Rainfall

The Maningrida Metrological Bureau apologizes to it's clients for not being successful in organising a White Christmas. They will try harder the following year. Rainfall figures are as follows:-

Monday 17Th	39 pts
Tuesday 18Th	114 pts
Wednesday 19Th	114 pts
Thursday 27Th	13 pts (till 2.00pm)

People + Places.

As the last "Mirage" was going to press a new policeman and his family arrived at Maningrida, and we now bid him a welcome. He is Kerry Morgan and he arrived on Wednesday 12th December to take over Noel Perkin's former office in the law business. He brought with him his very charming wife Pan, son Paddy, and daughter Kelly. No, he doesn't come straight from Ireland (despite the names) but is a Queenslander from way back.

Gowan (Bapa) Armstrong along with family Shirley, John, and Roslyn came on yesterday's plane to invade their former haunts for a week. Gowan has much work to do and cannot look upon his stay as a holiday, but the rest of them are all set for a good time. Among the first things Gowan searched out for, and found was his old Yes, you guessed it ! And all that's wrong with it is two flat tyres. For new Maningridians who do not know Gowan, he was the first minister at Maningrida, and was here for a period that even outranked John Hunter. Shirley had been the Domestic Science teacher for some years. Gowan was responsible for starting off "The Mirage" and brought about 200 issues to the news stalls. They will be staying at the Carey's house.

Shirley Souter's parents, Claude and Mavis Baker, have come to have a look at this wonderful place their daughter has found herself in, and will be staying till next Saturday.

Silas Robert's brother Jacob is also here on a short visit and taking it easy after a lung operation in Darwin Hospital. Jacob runs his own bus business.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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