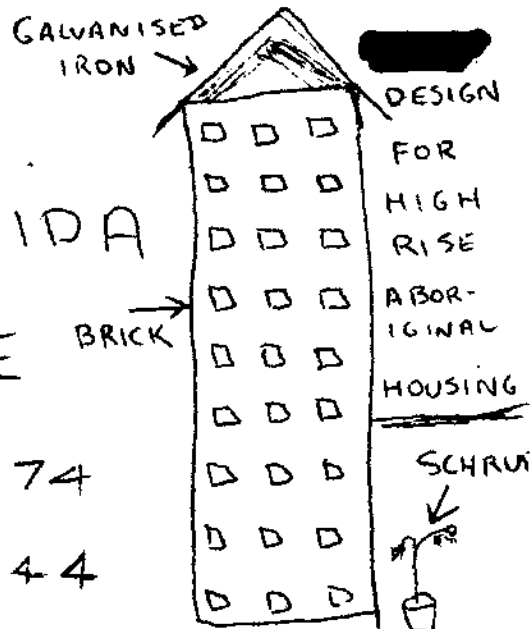


# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

Friday 4. 10. 74

PALM ISLAND: Vol 3 Issue 44



The Mirage has received some copies of "Smoke Signal" the newspaper of the Aboriginal people who live at Palm Island in Queensland. Some of the stories they have to tell are disgusting. It seems that black people who live in such settlements in the state of Queensland are fighting just to stay alive. Some of the things the Queensland Government do to the people are hardly believable. If anyone would like to read these papers they could see me. The Mirage also received with the papers the following notice.

A serious situation has arisen on Palm Island following the dismissal of the Palm Council without the approval or consultation of the Aboriginal people. We urgently ask you, therefore, to write to Senator Cavenagh expressing your concern and asking for the direct intervention of the Australian Government. What follows is a suggested draft for the letter:

It has come to my attention, as reported in the Australian (August 29), that the Palm Island Aboriginal Council was dismissed by the Queensland Government on August 28. The Government purported to act under Regulation 4I of the Queensland Aboriginal Act. The dismissal took place after a petition was received by the Queensland Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Hewitt. On Sunday in the late news, Senator Keefe stated that some names on the petition were forged and the Queensland Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen admitted this to be true.

Surely such a petition is invalid. We, therefore, urge the Australian Government to investigate the dismissal of the Council of Palm Island and to take over the administration of the island under the powers conferred on the Federal Government by the Referendum of 1967.

from Dan Gillespie

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M. H. A. RAP

## NOTICE

The Maningrida Housing Association was not responsible for the destruction of trees in the Gunavidji area, apparently there is a rumour circulating that the Housing Association was responsible, this is not correct and if any rumours continue the persons responsible had better "watch it" (sic) as further action may be taken.

Maningrida Hous. Ass.

The Housing Association staff have and are always very conservated (sic) towards natural vegetation - to prove this have a look at our workshop - single quarters area and Cadell. Only the very necessary trees have been destroyed - no one can shed the responsibility on us for the destruction of the trees in the new town area - because when the Housing Association commenced building in this area in March 1971 the total area was dozed ready for building - suckers are reappearing on some building blocks now. The Housing Association has budgeted for a landscaping programme - some of this work will be carried out before the wet (planting of trees shrubs and grass). Any new suburb in any town looks dead until the landscaping is carried out and this all takes time, plus the fact that our water supply is



insufficient at the present time.

As to the mining of sand deposits, the association has always negotiated (r/c) with the people from the particular areas prior to extracting deposits our plant operators have always taken care not to damage much surrounding vegetation, and tidy the area when sufficient deposits taken.

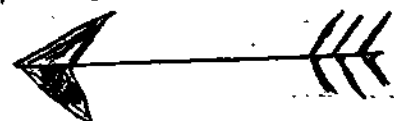
The Association held its General Meeting on Monday 30th. September. Mr. Silas Roberts resigned as President and the association wishes to thank him for the work he has done for the association over the past years.

In his report he stated how the Association had grown, big number of houses built for his people and hoped the association would continue its good role at Maningrida.

Finally he thanked the Consultants "Gutteridge Haskins and Davey the Accountants" Post Marwick and Mitchell and Rod Seymour for the good work they had done over the past 15 months.

New President	Tommy Yibberet
V President	Billy Yiriyin
Secretary	Ray Nulla
Treasurer	Jack Riala

AND NOW FOR



SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Gutteridge Haskins and Davey were reappointed as consultants for another 12 months. Post Marwick and Mitchell were reappointed as accountants. Both parties were elected unanimously thus proving they are carrying out a good job for the association.

Denis Breed and Denis Boucher from Gutteridge Haskins and Davey made a visit to Maningrida on Monday to survey the water problems. G.H.D. have been commissioned by the works dept. to propose the upgrading of the water supply-during their stay they took the opportunity to fly the Maningrida Cadell route-so maybe well be drawing water from the Cadell in future.

Rod Seymour

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VOTING ! VOTING ! VOTING !

ON OCTOBER THE 19TH THERE WILL BE VOTING VOTING FOR THE NEW  
GOVERNMENT IN DARWIN MAKE SURE YOU COME ALONG AND VOTE  
YOUR VOTING AREA IS ABORIGINAL VOTING WILL BE IN THE HOME  
MANAGEMENT VOTE VOTE VOTE COME ALONG AND MAKE YOUR VOTE

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VOTE FOR ME !

Here is a story from Betty Pearce she belongs to the Labour Party and she is asking for your vote. If we get stories from other people asking for your vote we will print them too.

ELIZABETH PEARCE ALP candidate for ALNHEN in the NT Legislative Assembly.

These are my reasons I want you all to vote for me. I am a proper blood relation to Silas Roberts therefore being Aboriginal I know and understand the problems of our people.

I am not a yes blackfeller. I will never be a yes blackfeller. I will always be called a cheeky blackfeller by white people because I always ask "Why does the white man want this?" "Why does the white man want that?" and plenty of times white people don't like this cheeky talk. That same white man wouldn't call it cheeky talk if another white man was answering him back. I have already been called cheeky blackfeller many times. Other white people ask why do I admit I am an Aboriginal. These white people have the cheek to say to me "You can call yourself white and no-one will know the difference". This kind of talk makes me angry because I would know and my relations would know I was not being true to myself and to my people if I said I was white.

Who wants to be a white man anyway? Just look at the whole world and see how much



damage white people are doing to each other. Then look at our own people and see how much damage the white man has done to us and is still doing to us. Many white people like to be boss and because they are not good enough to be boss over other white people they pick on Aboriginal to be boss over.

Just look around you and use some of the good plain blackfeller commonsense that our grandparents passed on to us and you will see what I mean.

Maningrida is a beautiful place but too many white people are damaging this country. It is about time our people stood up and said what they want to say and not just say yes to anything white people say to us. I am married to a white man so I can't say all white men are no good, many are good people.

The white man who tells black people he is here to help them is the one you must look at and say "Why do you want to help us? Are you going to get more out of us than we are going to get out of you? Will it be equal helping?" Question number three is the best one.

Now onto education white man style. To compete with white men our people must have the same education as white people. Education makes people think for themselves and it is about time our people started to think for themselves.

**DONT LET THE WHITE MAN THINK FOR YOU!!!**

There should be education of drinking liquor. While you mob are drunk and fighting the whiteman is sober, stealing your land, your pride everything—so that you have nothing left but sorrow for what you have lost. Think for yourselves and you can begin to help rebuild Aboriginal Culture before it is too late.

**THINK FOR YOURSELVES!!!!**

Are you getting anything good from all this building that is going on? Good for who??? Good image for your white man boss? Good houses??

Are you sure they are good houses? If they were built in Darwin would white people live in them?

Some white people are going to talk against me for writing all this. It is about time our people started to think for themselves.

**DONT FORGET TO THINK FOR YOURSELVES ON VOTING DAY**

**VOTE FOR ELIZABETH (BETTY) PEARCE**

**MONSTER WAKES UP AGAIN!!!**

Does Maningrida have its own monster? This question was asked by the N.T. NEWS July 6th. 1972. A story reported by two fishermen followed.

The Mirage for August 23rd. 1972 printed a story about this giant sea creature when it was seen by Maningrida residents in the bay near Gudgerama Creek.

The school museum has one photograph taken of it as it passed the old jetty. The school would like the older people to write some stories about this monster and tell what it means to all the Maningrida people.

All stories will be displayed in the school museum for the children and people to read.

Patricia A. Meisner.

**SAD STORY:**

Many people are sorry for the death of the son of Peter Gangalara and Mabel who drowned in the billabong at Goddjandjindjirra last Saturday. The dead boy was buried in his country on Monday.

**KEYS:**

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**FOUND** In the DAA toilet at the back of the DAA store... one set of Toyota keys plus some small keys (maybe for a suitcase) all in a leather case. See Dan Gillespie.



# A PATROLING ASSISTANT IN TRAINING

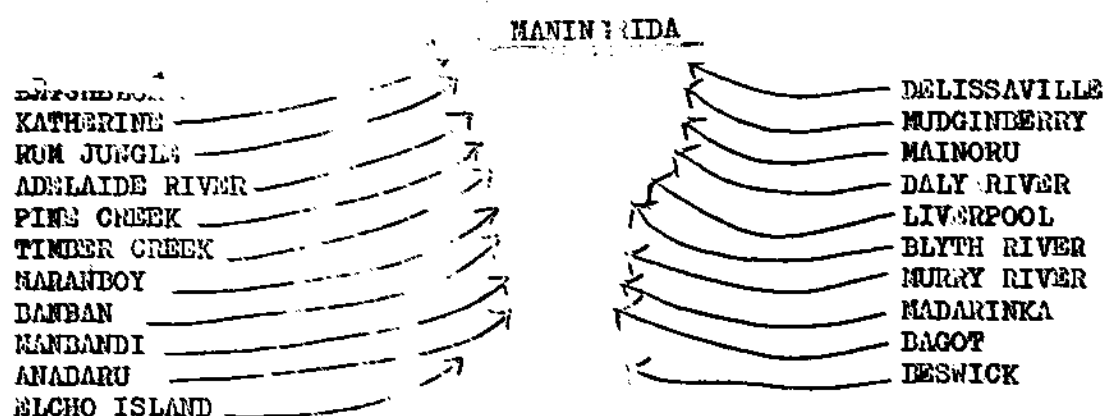
When I was a patrol officers guide in Darwin I was a very good watcher and doing a very nice job. I used to look for some returning boomerangs, it may come back towards against me. I always bringing many tribes very carefully to missions and the settlement where all the b8sh children could go to school, to learn to read and write.

Before I did not know what the job was or much about the Europeans way. But the native patrol officer was asking me for many people's names original skin groups promise clan marriages and mother tongue speaking. Still, I did not understand him, only working for my money. Because we have our own way of knowing our relations with moieties totems animalstr, on waters and plants.

But the white patrol officer taught me to wear clothes and told me to understand him and started to teach me (the new breed) how to read and write.

Afterwards I became a patrol assistant in training and was driving Commonwealth vehicles taking Aboriginal welfare to hospitals to court and gathering them to this station and that town.

Today I know that white men have capacity in Australia and I understand this blackmen have almost ancient land in Arnhem Land. I used to be travelled around and carried a child endowments or took the old widows and gave the age pensions. In these places see for example the undermentioned new reserves.



I did my course in Deswick (now called Bamylili). My trainees was Mr. Morris from the Welfare Branch and then worked at Darwin. My job was to take a languages by writing Birrinkin, Malakmalak, Larrakia, Mayili, Nalakbun, Dangbun, Djawun, Wagaman, Dalabun, Djingili, Mangara and so on.

After, my first trip to Sydney for exhibition Darwin stories and shown about stories from the Northern Territory. I went with Don White from Daly River Mission, a Malakmalak tribe. Jerry Long came with us as our guide. There in Sydney we meet two African and their employer. In two weeks we return to own home.

from Jack Mirritji.

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## JOTTINGS

We bid farewell to Glen and Joan Bagshaw who leave shortly after 5 years of service with the MPA. In that time the MPA has grown from a staggering Co-op shop (it used to be in the old white tin shed, now DAA store) to a thriving business under Glen's management and Joan's soldiering over the bookwork.

The outstation schools are thriving. Goydjandjindjerri, Nomega and Madagalidben all have bush schools with Balanda teachers working with Aboriginal teachers and after a meeting this week the school at Kopanga will be getting back into full swing in a fine building made of paperbark sheets on a timber frame by the Burera people.



**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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