



- 3 JUL 1972

MANINGRIDA MIRAGE



A2/S

Vol. 106

Friday 15th October 1971

The Cadell Gardens of Tomorrow.

The M.P.A. has long expressed interest in establishing a garden complex at Cadell River, and is pleased that development as originally envisaged will proceed almost immediately.

The Association has employed Mr. Bob Collins, a person very well known in the Territory, and a man with an enviable reputation. Bob comes to Maningrida on or about the 15th November next, and will live at Cadell.

Initially an area comprising 15 acres will be cleared and developed, crops will include banana, paw paw, pineapple, sweet potato, tomato, cucumber, melons, beans, etc., also specialist crops such as lettuce, sweetcorn, chillies, etc.

Equipment has been or is being purchased and includes vehicle, tractor, towbar, headstock and implements, boom spray, knapsack sprayers, hand tools, irrigation equipment, fertilizer, insecticide, fuel, pumps, lighting plant and much more, including material for erection of packing sheds, trellising, etc.

The Association has received approval of A.B.T.F. monies to subsidise salary, and is investing some of the monies received from our mineral agreement in the project.

Bob will not be a stranger to the people of Maningrida. Apart from having visited the area, he would be known to practical every aboriginal person who has visited Darwin during the past years. He can be assured of the complete support and cooperation of the Association in what will be a tremendous challenge. G. B.

Looking Below The Surface with the Mining Men.

For some weeks the Wolpers & Law back hoe has been digging trenches to help the geologists with their mapping work (e.g. where sand hides the rock beneath) and now this implement is back at Maningrida digging holes for the powerline which will bring electricity to operate the pumps on the bores near the fire tower.

A mechanical auger drill mounted on a trailer is due to arrive in the Junction Bay area next week after an overland trip via Oonpelli. This will be used to provide the same kind of underground information as the back hoe has been providing. The aboriginal men who have been using the hand auger drill at Milingimbi will be very pleased to know that this one does not bring up blisters on the hands.

Road Makers.

Joseph and the Gunwinggu road makers have made roads in two areas and their tractor is now back helping to keep the settlement clean.

At present 4 Goulburn Isld. men, including Bunug and Charlie Irrwala, and three Maningrida stalwarts, Crowfoot, Willie and Stephen Gawulgu, are helping with the survey work until the rains bring operations to a close.

Its going up

What is going up? The rest room at the Maningrida Airport. Calling all air travellers. All together now ... Hip ..Hip..Hooray.

The Cry of My Country

An article by Mrs Jan Croft for Maningrida readers. Jan was born in New Guinea, and until recently taught in schools there. Recently the people of Waria Valley presented her with the badge of a LULJAI. (Leader)

Neither the article nor any part of it may be used without the permission of the writer.

* * * * *

A child of the Papuan Waria (part of New Guinea and a part of Papua) once wrote a poem about the Aboriginal children of Australia. Part of it read:-

"When over the land the purple dusk
Forms a canopy of peace,
From the heat of the day and the clinging flies,
And your woes that never cease;
When the dingoes howl, and the curlews call,
And the embers smoulder and die,
Remember out there, in the lonely heart,
There are some who hear your cry."

I never forgot that poem. Neither will I forget the child who wrote it.

* * * * *

The cry of the children of Papua and New Guinea - the cry of the old men and women of the Papuan Waria, the Bia-Waria and the cry of the Highlands People - distresses one. "No Independence before we are ready; our education is, as yet, inadequate; we could not cope. Don't leave us." The cry of a few irresponsible folk - seeking power now - only for power's sake is - "We should have had Independence yesterday." This is the call that will create, and is creating, fear in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

UNITY AND TRIBAL RIVALRIES:

The children of the Territory realise only too well, because of their studies at schools, because of Current Events broadcast each week, that talk of unity is "window-dressing".- that there will only be unity when the indigenous people have a common enemy. Dispose of that common enemy and fighting between Papua & New Guinea and inter-tribal fighting may follow (in a fight for supremacy) and New Britain and other small islands may well break away from the mainland. Where is unity then?

The majority of the folk in T.P.N.G. have a great respect for one another - Australians and local people alike - sitting down to discuss their mutual problems - attending social functions and so on, but always the Papuans and New Guineans know that inevitably, Australians will leave to return to the Australian mainland, and they will have to settle down to life under indigenous leadership; that they will be left with many problems which only they themselves can solve. This could well, if introduced too early, create chaos. There will always be cultural, linguistic, land and economic difficulties. Unity will be a difficult thing to achieve.

Already there is a division in their way of thinking. Some want Independence now; others say "No". Too, they want to be Christians, but always there is the fear of sorcery (and this will take years to resolve). They want to be practical, and work out their economic future, but, as with Christianity and sorcery, practicality goes by the board when Cargo Cultism comes in through the door - and the latter has many adherents. There was the fellow from the Upper Watut, who thought he had found the secret of the banking system. All one had to do was build a little house, with a padlocked door, sit inside overnight, and hey - presto! in the morning when the doors were opened - the money his "wantoks" had brought in would be multiplied. Unfortunately for him, the method failed.

One one occasion the New Hanoverians decided they wanted no part of the Australians standing for election to the House of Assembly - they would vote only for Americans. A petition was sent to Mr. Johnson in the U.S.A. It just so happened that Mr. Johnson (the present Administrator and then Director of Education) was doing the rounds. Word went around that the President of the U.S.A. had arrived. It was a case of "sori tumas". Wrong man!

While people think that money will fall from heaven; that goods arriving by ship and plane are meant for the local population, but are being taken by the "Europeans" - the outlook is black indeed. They even think boundary markers are a clue to the wealth ? of Australians.

DRINKING PROBLEMS:

It has always seemed ironic to me that a missionary was one of those who spoke out in favour of drinking in the Territory. Before the introduction of drinking, men could be fined for driving under the influence of betel-nut. Now they not only have betel-nut to befuddle and disturb the mind, but permission to mix vodka, gin, rum, brandy and whisky. This, of course, is usually topped up with S.P. The poor folk of the bush don't know one drink from another - so the method of pointing, accompanied by the words "Em nau" usually achieved a deplorable state of intoxication within a short time. A combination of betel-nut and hard liquor (neat) in the towns, has had a disastrous effect. While I was in Lae, two people (Europeans) were pistol-whipped, one missionary horribly injured (following an attack at night) and even more recently (I am told on good authority) Lae experienced mutilation murders. I have not yet seen the report in print, but I do know of an earlier murder at Busu Road. Houses are all protected with what used to be called "boi wire" but now more commonly termed "security wire". Most houses are patrolled by Security guards (at a cost to the tenant of the house). This is not a privilege, but a necessity.

TIME IS NOT ON THEIR SIDE:

If only there was patience; if only the few hot-heads would listen to the Government; obey laws (which have been made for their own protection, as well as for the protection of others); if only Independence could wait for the present generation (now going through the Secondary Schools) - the transition period could be a peaceful one. But time is not on their side.

The younger ones are afraid for their country; afraid of the Australians they know going. Their cry is: "Why did you leave us? Why do these other local people tell Australians to go? Australia is our mother; she has cared for us and kept our country going; she has tried to help our progress. Please don't go." It is a pathetic cry. They know of the economic difficulties that would come with early Independence. They know of the fights that would follow; of the possible disintegration of their country. Speaking recently to the Matron of the Lae Technical School, I found she had the same experience as I did on departure - children crying and begging her to stay.

THE RADICAL LEADERS:

I remember only too well my own departure from the Wazira Valley - a guard of honour - the school band - children and staff weeping while trying to sing "Now is the Hour". At the ship's side, the same thing. Children in droves - disturbed and bewildered. Is the awful hatred which some leaders have (without cause, in most instances) blinding them to the wishes of the younger generation; of the older people in the hinterland; of the Highlanders (in all their thousands in the uplands of New Guinea)? *One leader* was a nice boy. What can one say of him now? He rather reminds me of a haus-boi I once had, who, when asked if he knew how to clean a fowl and boil eggs - asserted most strongly - "Yes, yes, yes. I know everything." When shown the clock and told to remove eggs after the second hand had gone around the clock three times - he promptly boiled the clock with the egg, removed all the feathers from the fowl and placed said fowl (still alive) in the bokus-ice.

I shall always love my people of Papua & New Guinea - and the thought of what lies ahead for the children causes me deep concern. One can only hope that all will go well for them.

Jan Croft.

*The Boat from the * * * * * Blyth River.*

Last week's mystery boat which caused so much concern arrived in Darwin on Tuesday night. Whereupon the Police and Fisheries Inspectors boarded her.

The explanation was that they had gone in to find some supplies of Fresh Water?

When asked about the net, they claimed it was being worked by a "big mob" of aborigines who were working from the Forestry camp. The boat had only 600lb of Barramundi on board!!

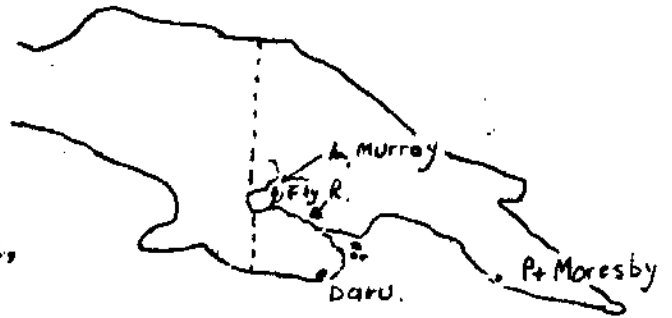
We have a feeling that it will be some time before they come this way again.

J. Carpenter.

Former Fisheries Chief Writes

Dennis Puffet writes:

"We are living in an area of Native villages and though it may be noisy, but in fact it is much quieter than where we lived in Darwin. I saw in one "Mirage" that Silas was elected President of the Progress Association, and I would like to congratulate him and wish him well in his position.



My first trip away from Port Moresby was to Lake Murray in the Western District of Papua.... The barge was the "Pera" of 300 tons skippered by Roy Moffat, who was a crocodile shooter in the N.T. some years ago. On Pera was a consignment of 18 cattle going to a place called Oriomo, about 30 miles up the Oriomo River. A number of "experts" said that a vessel of that size could not get up the river but it was decided to try. The cattle, 2 bulls and 16 heifers, were the first over in the area and the whole village had turned out to see them, most of the people had never seen bullamcows (pidgin for cattle) before and the cattle yards they had built were from plans they had been sent and they did a first class job with them.

Going up the river we passed a village with a mission boat called the "Light" tied up near the bank, so I can now truly say that I have seen the light....

I also saw my first sago trees, first bird of paradise, first orchid and first large butterfly up the Oriomo. From Daru we went into the Fly River and travelled up stream to Obo landing, a river distance of 230 miles; the Fly is a most impressive river, over 70 miles wide at the mouth. On the way up the Fly I saw my first wild crocodile, first cus cus, Torres strait pigeons and fruit bats. I stayed a week at Lake Murray, planning the operations with the manager and visiting some of the villages to arrange the purchase of live crocodiles; we now have over 500 and hope to soon have 1,000.



Great Bird of Paradise

At a village called Maka I had a look at the school and found it quite a bit different to Maningrida; there are 6 buildings made largely of native material, 3 of them are raised but the other 3 are on the ground with earth floors - in one of these I found 2 piglets rooting about among the desks, these were Native pigs with stripes on them and quite attractive in appearance.

I had a talk with the only European teacher, he is, in fact, the only European on the island, he is a Swiss named Stig Ernbro and he told me that it is a pleasure to teach the local children as they are so keen to learn and look on education as a privilege. It is the only school in a 30 mile radius and as there are no roads the children have to come from the far villages by canoe so they stay at Maka all week even though it is not a boarding school. On return to Port Moresby I found that whilst away I had been promoted to the position of Superintendent of Wildlife." Congratulations, Dennis!!!

From a letter to Mr. John Hunter.

Forestry

A grader operator, Mr. Charlie Chili, is due to arrive today. Charlie is a middle-aged man from Thursday Island.

"Hoppy" the evergreen mechanical supervisor arrived with the mechanic from Murganella and are getting the D7 bulldozer mobile.

Mr. Kevin Enniss will return today to his old haunts at the sawmill for two weeks' work. Good news about Eddy Webber's thumb. The doctor has managed to put the first knuckle of his thumb back into place and he was released from Darwin Hospital a couple of days ago.

More About Sea Wasps - *Chironex Fleckeri*

Events of the past few weeks have brought to mind the evils of the sea wasps, and an interested reader of the "Mirage" from Melbourne has been prompted to send me an article from the Australian Medical Journal which may interest many Maningridians. I have put together some of the interesting facts this article brings to light.

To the biologist the sea wasp is known as *CHIRONEX FLECKERI*, and has been described as a species only since 1956 by a South Australian zoologist. A Dr. Hugo Fleckeri of Cairns was first to suggest it was responsible for serious human injury.

The smallest sea wasp may only have one tentacle and be only the size of a match head, while its larger relatives can grow to have 15 tentacles and be large enough to fill a 2-gallon bucket. Each tentacle of an average size specimen has millions of nematocysts (or stinging cells) which together would be able to inflict enough toxin to kill three adult humans. All other jellyfish have these nematocysts in their tentacles, but what makes *chironex* so special is the ability its nematocysts have of penetrating human skin, the high toxicity of their venom, and a reflex chain reaction by the tentacle when triggered off.



Not every injury will be fatal, in fact, most are very minor; but of those that can be fatal, the victim may collapse within five minutes of being stung and resuscitation and cardiac massage are necessary to save the patient. If recovery is to take place, it will be quite rapid and complete, except for the scars which take many weeks to heal. Children are more likely to be seriously stung because they will be in the more shallow water, have a lower body weight, and have softer skin.

Favourite haunts for this unpleasant little creature are shallow tropical inshore waters, near a creek or river mouth, and during the warmer times of the year. They do not like being near any turbulence (waves and currents), live on coral or marine vegetation. On very calm water they may come in to water as shallow as 12 inches.



Recent scientific research is concentrated on finding the life history of this jellyfish, and to be able to predict occurrences of the menace on the more popular beaches. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories have just produced an antivenin (as is used for snake bites) and a prophylactic (protective) drug, but as yet these have been only used on animals and their human success is still not established. Methylated Spirits is still recognised as the best first-aid measure, but it is only effective if applied immediately.

The article is very interesting and not difficult to understand, and anyone interested may borrow it. Happy swimming, customers!!

J.G.

The Red-Breasted Babbler

The Babblers are interesting birds with peculiar habits, varied (and usually pleasant) calls, and a highly social communal way of life. The nests, large dome-shaped constructions of sticks, quite untidy and with an entrance to the side, are quite common in our country in scrubby bushes up to 6 feet high. The Babblers feed entirely on insects, and a small party of from 4 to a dozen birds will work energetically and systematically through the undergrowth for food. They never fight among themselves. One of their unusual habits is to build 6 or 7 nests, only one of which they lay eggs in, the others being either "play" nests or used for shelter. There are four species of babblers in Australia, but at Maningrida we have only the one, the Red-breasted Babbler, which is the second largest of the four, and told apart from the others by its rusty breast. It is quite common here, and breeding commences about August.



J.G.



Weighing in

Connair have supplied Mr. Barry Tuite with a new set of scales, and passengers should call at the office and weigh themselves and their luggage on the day of travel.

Don't Drive across the Airstrip

D.C.A. officials have drawn attention to a track across the bottom of the strip. Drivers are asked to drive around and not across the strip.

FOUND

Bunch of three keys on ring with Castrol label and old RAGU card.

Apply Welfare Office.

WANTED TO BUY

Folding bed complete with mattress (for bush use).

Jack Hardiner (Office)

THE GRIDIAN GROUP

There is a meeting at Jenny Tuite's Residence at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th October. An exciting evening is in store for all. See you there.

Kay and Jenny.

HASTY - TASTY

Hours of Business: 5.30 to 8.00 p.m.

- Menu: Hamburgers - 20¢
- Hot Dogs - 20¢ (with local rolls)
- Hot Pies - 20¢
- Chico's - 25¢

Also available: Ice cream, cigarettes, tobacco, cool drinks.

Coming up soon: Banana Splits
& flavouring to suit

BASKETBALL

On Tuesday Night's matches, Cape Stewart 56 defeated Jinang (usually called Arnhemland) It was a terrific game. Not only did they play well, but they played cleanly and fairly.

The second match was a good one, too, played by Chalkies and Kupanga. I hope that those people who came to watch enjoyed the game. The scores were Kupanga 28 defeated Chalkies 25. On Wednesday night there was a meeting held at school about the basketball matters and its rules.

All the captains of the basketball teams take note: Please explain to your teams the stories you've heard and how the game will be played whilst on court etc. Another matter, 3 fellows went to play for another team without asking me. These 3 men will not have the match for a week or else will be thrown out, - Sam Gumugun, Johnny Jiburrjun and Jimmy Y. Mason.

J. Pascoc.

Tribunal

Instead of Messrs. John Phemister and Tom Yibberal, the basketball captains elected Mr. John Wilders to take the place of Mr. John Phemister.

J.P.

FOUND
BUY

WEEKEND DUTIES: Duty Officer: Mr Edward Carey
Duty Sister : Sister Helen King
Fire Duty : Mr Fred Luff

STAR THEATRE: Friday: Film will come today we hope.

CHURCH: Saturday 7.30 p.m. Two films "Jerusalem" and "The promise"
Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools "The easy way and the hard way".
7.00 p.m. Evening Service
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Fellowship.

In 2 weeks the Mission will be held. Part of the Goulburn Is. choir hope to come and take part.

On Saturday there will be gatherings in the village and on Sunday the 2 services will be held at the beach under the coconut palm below Cliff House.

BIRTH: Sandy son of Mary Wulduyin and Murray Maryabala - their 7th child - was born on Mon. 13/10/71.

Mr Glen Benson (N.T.A. Horticulturist) and Mr Bob Collins arrived from Darwin Tuesday on an overland journey to take soil samples from the Cadell Garden and generally look at the plans for future development.

Mr Ray Cinoaid a mechanic here some years ago and now representative of the Apprenticeship Board visited our apprentices this week.

Mr Rupert Kentish visited Maningrida on Wednesday afternoon and spoke to several people about the Legislative Council elections.

Two Sisters

The Hospital Staff has once again been increased by two travelling sisters - Elaine Jardine from Maryborough, Victoria, and Peggy Healy from Kildare in Ireland.

Elaine trained in her home town followed by Midwifery in Melbourne at the Sacred Heart Hospital.

Peggy went to Surrey, England, to complete her training at the Croydon General Hospital and arrived out here in Australia by ship.



Both girls have travelled up the East Coast by car to Darwin. From here they plan to work in Darwin, Alice Springs, returning home to Maryborough.

Studying Nerves

On Monday the Medical plane left behind two sisters from East Arm - Sister Annetto and Sister Eileen Jones accompanied by a portable Electromyography Machine. Their work here has been to carry out Nerve Conduction Studies on Leprosy patients or patients for whom Sister Cec is concerned. This machine enables the discovery of Peripheral Nerve damage. The treatment that follows depends on the discoveries made.

The Sisters wish they were staying for the weekend so that they could enjoy some fishing but are departing today (Friday). However, if these studies prove profitable, the sisters hope to return to Maningrida.

H.C.

Jamboree of the Air.

Scouts and Girl Guides all over Australia will try to speak to each other at various times during this week end by radio. At 2 p.m. on Saturday Mrs. Malva Buzza and the Bunbury Guides will try to speak to the Guides at Galiwinku (Elcho) and to the Scouts and Guides at Maningrida. Radio Reception at that time of day is not terribly good, but we will be trying.

Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

"Maningrida Mirage Volume 106" October 15th, 1971.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

(r000005900888_v106_a.pdf)

To cite this file use:

http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/1971/r000005900888_v106_a.pdf

© Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community