



MANINGRIDA

MIRAGE

VOL. 116

FRI. Dec. 24th 1971

Malaria Check.

During yesterday morning, the Dept. of Health sent well known Inspector of health, Mr. Jim Shepherd and two other men to make on the spot checks for malaria. Jim gathered some water from the Maningrida Spring and the other men took blood samples from about 100 people.

This check arose out of the report that one of our staff, who had lived in New Guinea, had suffered from some malaria attacks while at Maningrida during the past few months.

The Dept. of Health are keeping a careful eye on all areas where people have ^{come} from lands where malaria is prevalent.

Good fruit.

This is the time of the 'red apples' and the 'bush plums' in Arnhemland. In the Southern states, the summer fruits have started to ripen and have begun to appear in the store.

A week or so ago, the barge brought some loquats and gooseberries. What can be better than fresh gooseberry jam and cream? Strangely enough, two men from a fairly South Eastern state did not know what loquats were!

This week apricots and peaches made their first appearance.

Father Christmas

When Father Christmas drives through the Settlement with a fine array of toys, books etc. on Christmas morning, we will want to say a big 'thank you' to Mrs. Gill Amies for arranging an appeal to be made over Radio 5KA last year and for a very fine response of gifts from the radio listeners in Adelaide.

Then the Home Management staff did an excellent job in packing the 400 gifts in brightly coloured Christmas paper.

Sports - Spear-throwing etc.

The annual sports are planned for Monday. Some of the spear throwers to watch are last year's champions - John Godawa and George Mulumbuk who scored 10 points each, and Jimmy Morduk who got 8 points.

John Godawa's skill with the harpoon brought home another large dugong from the waters off the mouth of the Gudjerama a few days ago.

Progress Association

For the 7 months, April 1st. 1971 - November 3rd. 1971
Expenses of the Progress Association totalled \$285,241.28 . Income for the same period totalled 271,942.35
plus mineral agreements receipts 20,000.00 so far.

The above indicates that normal day to day business expenses plus development, is accounting in full for all monies received.

A monthly excess of expenditure over receipts is expected to continue for the next 3 months, when further expenses will be incurred on the 2 staff residences currently under construction, and the store-bakery toilet complex, also under construction.

A correction is noted re the last issue of the Mirage. The six monthly audit has taken place with the visit of Mr. D. Gamble whose report is expected soon. It was my opinion that a drop in profits would have a significant effect in the M.P.A.'s ability to maintain

it's present development , not Mr. Gamble's as stated in the Mirage.

Meningrida Housing Association.

1972 is expected to be a good year for the development of the Housing Assoc. Two Brownbuilt units will be erected for Aboriginal tenants and at least 6 other residences will be built , plans of which are currently being drawn up for submission to the Health and Building authorities.

Bread

Because of the increased production achieved by Mr. Holt and staff, the increased cost of flour at present will be absorbed and thus the price will remain at 40c. per $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. loaf .

No other prices will rise at present . Not all cost factors as outlined in the N.T. News regarding bread prices are relevant to Meningrida at present eg. wages and power

Thanks.

The Association cannot function without the support and co-operation of, the Welfare Division at Meningrida , it is expected to do so, and our appreciation and thanks are extended to all who have assisted during the year , particularly with regard to the unloading of barges and use of machinery. Thank you. G.B.

The Red winged Parrot.

The red winged parrot is one of the more common birds of the surrounding open eucalypt forest, and recently I've seen a small party feeding in the large eucalypt near the Cliff House. As the name suggests , the most striking thing about them is the flashes of red seen on their wing as they fly- even the most casual observer cannot fail to notice them. They are usually in pairs , the female being slightly duller than her partner, but in the off-breeding season they may concentrate in small flocks,. Normally they are timid and difficult to approach. When disturbed they rise into the air amidst great calling and move off to the next clump of trees. They feed on the uppermost branches of the trees on almost anything available - fruits, seeds, nectar, insects etc. and in the Southern part of the range they have been accused of damaging orchard trees.



Any movement of the population that does occur, is quite irregular, and only occurs in the extremities of their range where food or water supply may become bad in a particular season; generally they are content to stay where they are. Here the breeding season is hard to define, but it is generally timed so that the chicks are reared when the rains have produced a good supply of tucker (ie. about February). Like most other parrots, the nest is a hole in a tree, which leads to a very deep hollow . One nest recorded , had an entrance 35 ' high, yet the eggs were laid on ground level. The female bird does all the brooding, but the male lends a helping hand some times to feed the young. Young male birds do not attain their brilliant plumage until about two years old.

Forestry

All operations East of the Cadell have come to an end and the 3 caravans are back in the settlement after fairly heavy rains in the Blyth River area. The grader went down into a soft patch and all six wheels were bogged!!!

What happens when a big machine like this bogs? Fred Luff will answer next week.

New Road to Juda. The present track to Juda Point (Namalaydja) turning off the main highway (opposite the sign post which points to Gudjuraga) is now being widened to make a 33' wide road and this will go down to the Gudjerama Crossing and up and away to Du-gala-dorna where it will provide a link with Shot Gun Straight (and a better road to Cadell Gdns.)

Planting lines The clearing of the planting lines is now complete and the O.I.C. says "All we have to do now is pray for rain". It seems to some of us that it has been fairly dry at Meningrida but in the planting area, Compartment On it is drier still.

The fire season is closed but when thunderstorms are cracking , a watch will be kept for any fires set going by lightning. Mr. Quirk and staff wish to thank everyone for their cooperation during the last fire season.

On Next page ... H's, W's, S's and sometimes G's are hard to read. See

News from Ngangalala.

Johnny Mayarra told me about my country. It is going on well at Rarunginiyn. The Murwangi Pastoral Association are working there.

But some men want me to go back to that place, and I will be boss for my country, and for the Pastoral Association.

But somebody will be boss for that country. I don't want to go back there. I like to stay here for ever. I will write a letter to them any time, because that place is too dangerous for me. (Maybe some one may take my blood). G.C

Asking Questions by George Garawun

Why are we always fighting for young girls and old women, and for dead men? What is wrong with our heads? Why are we always thinking wrongly in our heads?

Shouldn't we follow God's way? and have more life? Because He gave us long holidays (to live) here, until we reach 100 years before we die. Then we will go up to heaven. But all you smart men will find out afterwards in heaven, because you always like to make trouble every time. You always fight over girls under 16 years old or under 15 years old. Those people are very important ones. You may go to jail and you won't come back any more. I'm always thinking about this

Vote Garawun G. 1

I would like to be a Councillor man. I get more good ideas than the younger men or the older men.

I could fight over anything - community matters, and for dead men when they die too young as they were dying. But I don't want to fight over these things.

We have to stop the promise business to the men. Sometimes a girl doesn't like her promised husband and follows another man, because he is a nice boy. So, he can make more crowds of children. We have not got many crowds of people here in Maningrida. We have only got a few crowds of people here in Maningrida. Because we have not got enough ideas to wake up and look every way laws (other customs).

But one thing I am thinking - is about becoming a Councillor man. If I became a Councillor, I'd be too young. I'm thinking they say too. I could do my best to be a Councillor man.

G. Garawun Teaching Assistant.

Growing up in Maningrida.

I was born at Cape Stewart, where my parents were staying. Afterwards, we left Cape Stewart and came to Maningrida. So I started to go to school, to learn how to read and write. But I didn't know what way I was going, when I began to learn about the European way. One day I made trouble because I didn't know about the rules, and also I didn't like going to school.

One day Jimmy Gularawuna came and he was explaining to me. So he asked me "Why don't you like going to school?" I didn't say any word. After a while he said "Come and see the Head Master" "O.K." I said to Jimmy, so we both went to see him. And the Head Master asked me "Why are you running away from school," But no answer. So he decided to ask me if I could go to Sydney (on a school excursion). So I went to Sydney. While I was in Sydney I didn't know yet. Later I left Sydney and came back to Maningrida, and still I didn't know about the rules yet.



Then the Head Master wanted me to go to Koorilda College. I stayed at College for about two years and I was learning about experience. And later I was sent back to Maningrida for my holidays. When I was at Maningrida, I stayed with Jimmy. But I've kept on asking more about understanding. He said "Yes." "It's a long story." So Jimmy explained to me more about understanding. Each night he kept on telling me more about rules. On Monday I asked him again and he said "Some day, you will talk with me and you will see for yourself."

And he said "Yes Dudley, you will (be with me) because there is a doctor coming on Tuesday. You can come with me and pick all the patients. So I did what he told me. When Tuesday came, I went around the camp with Jimmy and picked up the sick patients. This was very hard for me. I went back to the office and the boss asked me if I would make a story for the Mirago. And I'm looking forward to make more Mirago stories each week.

But I also go to Church each Sunday. Sometimes I go to talk with Bob Collins also.

Dudley Gubunam.

"ODYSSY"

Bangkok Beckons.

I flew into Bangkok at twenty one past six
And the dying sun missed me with its golden lips
Over the paddies and blengs which surround,
To land with a screech, on the black hard ground.

The bus rolls towards the sleek silver jet,
And the hostess smiles, when I reach the last step
A guy takes my papers and looks up at me,
I smile and act almost too naturally.

The city is aflame, like a red ball of fire
With neon signs and electrified wire.
It must be a dream, and I think its unreal
But all around me are impressions to smell and to feel.

I walk down an alley - in the west end I think
All the people gaze up and think "Yankee, you stink."
But I explain that I'm not from U.S.A.
"We come from Australia from around Darwin way!"

The incense slowly rises above the narrow street,
All walks of life are here, just for me to meet.
There are palmists, pushers and beggars and whores
All going about their diversified chores.

Central Bangkok - a hive of humanity
Impossible to breathe there and hold on to sanity
The noise is a vibrant, screaming sensation
All traffic clogs the roads like a lemming migration.

Now its all over, its all far behind
But I know some time that again I will find
Myself being hypnotically drawn to the market block
Right in the heart of Central Bangkok.

Geoff Baysha



PUZZLE.

I have been given a gift of \$100 and I want to buy 100 head of stock - some cattle, some sheep and some chickens.
Cows sell for \$5 each, sheep for \$1 each and chickens for 1/- each.
Spending all my money, how many cattle, sheep and chickens can I buy to make a total of 100.

Fred Luff worked this out in 2 hours. Can you better that?

To Swim or not to Swim.

Husband sends wife into Darwin to buy a household swimming pool for the children. He "Something big enough, so that I can fall back into it as well.



The barge brought the swimming pool a day or so before the wife arrived. Husband unwrapped the parcel, to his dismay found that it was 6' square and only a foot deep. Husband thinking "She's playing a joke on me. There must be a big one hidden somewhere." Wife arrives "What happened to the swimming pool?" She "Didn't it arrive?" He "A parcel came on the barge" She "That was it" Husband collapses!!! A larger sized pool has since come and all is well.

Council.

From the minutes of the Council meeting held at 7 PM on 13/12/71.

Present: 18 Councillors.

Councillor Riala addressed the council and said that he had second thoughts about his absence from the council. He realized that he should do his part to help the people and that he could best do this by returning to Council.

Councillor Balaiya wanted to hear his reasons for the absence in the first place.

Councillor Riala said that he had disagreed with President and Mr. Wilders over the new beer tickets and this was the reason he left. He had thought it over and had decided that he had done the wrong thing. Council accepted his return.

HOUSES Councillor Riala said that the houses of the Europeans who had gone away on holidays should be protected in case someone tried to break into them. It was decided to keep a close check on them.

FOOD FOR OLD PEOPLE. Councillor Oln said that some old people (or sick people) needed to have food taken to them. Superintendent said that this could be done by contacting himself, and if he decided that there was a need for it in each case, it could be supplied.

SPORTS DAY. Superintendent asked if councillors thought a sports day during the Christmas break was a good idea. There was general agreement and some events such as spear-throwing, tug-of-war, high jumps, etc. were suggested. Councillor Fry said that the Football Club was awaiting word from Milingimbi re. a football match.

HOUSE PLANS. Councillor Riala produced a house plan which had been given to him. It was not, he thought, the right sort of house for people at Maningrida to have. We do not have to copy other plans unless they are good for people at Maningrida to live in.

BEER AT CHRISTMAS. In reply to a question by Cr. Balaiya, the Superintendent said that the club would not change over Christmas. Beer could only be drunk in the club, not anywhere else.

BEER IN NEW HOUSES. In reply to a question by Cr. Riala, the Superintendent said that permission would not be given for people in the new houses to have their own beer. Because of the strength of the old laws at Maningrida, it was still too hard to make new laws to suit individual people. For a law to be accepted, it had to be understood and followed by everyone. Some of the old laws would have to be changed before new laws could be effectively introduced.

LAW. Cr. Mulumbuk said that he couldn't break the old laws, he still had his madayin and it was too strong. This led off a long discussion concerning the conflicts arising from attempts to reconcile European laws with the old madayin law. The point generally made was that even if a man wanted to change, of his own accord, and was prepared to forgo some of the old laws in line with the alteration in his beliefs, his tribal kin would prevent him from doing so. Not enough people were ready to change and so reduce this problem.

HOLIDAYS. Several councillors expressed the opinion that the children needed activities to keep them occupied over the holidays.

VISIT BY MR. LARCOMBE. Messrs. Larcombe and Evans had met with the Council during the day and President had asked them to affirm that Council was within its rights in acting against trouble makers (suspending beer). Mr. Larcombe had said that such rules could be made to protect the community. President said that Councillors had to stick together in this regard; they had to be strong enough to overcome pressure by relations. Councillor Fry expressed the opinion that not enough Councillors were true.

Meeting closed 9.00 P.M.

Attention - Connair Travellers.

The usual Saturday schedule will not be flown on this Saturday, Christmas Day, but on Sunday, December 26th.

T.K.

Weekend Duties

Duty Officer: Mr. Bert Ryan
Duty Sister: Sister Ena Pickersgill

Friday Christmas Eve ; Vehicles will be ready to leave the office area shortly after 7 p.m.

Star Theatre

Friday (following the Carols) : "Rampage"

Saturday, Christmas Day 9.30a.m. Nativity Play & Service.

Sunday . Theme 'God in the Flesh'.

9.30.a.m. Sunday School

7p.m. Evening Service.

Wednesday 7.30p.m. Crusader's Fellowship.

Church

Many of us will enjoy a very good Christmas dinner this afternoon. Others of us will be having Dinner tomorrow. In almost every case there will be more than enough to eat and drink. No wonder that we all look forward to it from year to year.

However in India and Pakistan there are large numbers of refugees who will have little or nothing at all. There will be an offering plate in Church on Sat. morning to receive gifts to send to some of these people in need.

This is one way in which we can worship the Christ Child. Jesus said "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these you have done it unto Me".

Births

Shane - Son for Shirley Minnindjala and Frank Melgurde on Dec. 19th.

Glen - son of Mundridj and Nambainga on Dec. 21st.

The Hospital record card says that the age of Nambainga is 87 ?? a very virile 87 !!

People

Mrs. Margaret Inglis who has done the drawings for the last issues of the Mirage has gone into Darwin Hospital for a few days. We are sorry that Margaret will be away for the Christmas period and we wish her a speedy return.

Mr. Johnson Roberts has gone to stay with relatives at Galiwinku.

Mr. and Mrs. Merv. Mason arrived home from Darwin yesterday with their baby daughter . They have begun the big job of unpacking and setting up house.

David and Wayne Montland are having a holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Alf Dickfoss. They come from Tennant Creek. Also from Tennant C. is Janine Bulsey, staying with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pickersgill.

Digby and Disaster.

Earlier this week, a Forestry family invited Digby and two of the single men for the evening meal - as the men had grown a bit tired of their own cooking. The meal was a pleasant occasion.

Digby however, was overcome by an unsettled feeling in the tummy and had to leave the table hurriedly. In the toilet, the tummy came up with a rush. But, alas. Out fell Digby's lower teeth. Splash! And away! One of the disadvantages of sewerage!

So on Monday morning, he had to make a hurried trip to Darwin to see the dentist. It was a piece of bad luck for Dennis.

Mr. Randall Scott the new Technical Assistant 2 has come from St. Gambier (the third person from that Blue lake country).

When the new Forestry outstation is built on the Cadell (up river from the Gardens) he will be stationed there.

Mrs. Gwen Burchett arrived on Wednesday and she and Chris moved into Cliff house. As the Patrol Officer's course has been postponed until July of next year, Chris will be stationed here for the intervening period and Gwen hopes to join the school staff.

Wishing all our readers a very happy
Christmas and New Year

Maningrida Mirage

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