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MANINGRIDA

MIRAGES



VOL 136

MAY 12 1972

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8.5.72

PRESENT: Present were 14 Councillors and 3 visitors.

PRESIDENT: President on holidays. Vice President takes his place and welcomes Mr. Ivory.

HEALTH VISIT: Cr. Munyal said it is very important to keep the village clean; he pointed out that in the Centre many children die and, as more babies are born here we should take care that the same thing does not happen here. He said that the sale of lollies should be reduced and the sale of chocolate, fruit juice and milk should be improved.

President agreed with this and told the council to keep on telling the people to clean up. Even if they don't listen, keep telling them and do not give up.

FISHING: Cr. Yirinyin once again pointed out the importance of fishing camps and suggested that girls should be trained to do the net mending.

GOVERNMENT VISITS: Cr. Riala objected strongly to the continuous visits and inquiries by Government parties. He implied that by now the Government should know what we want, they only have to read the Mirage. He said that he would talk to them if there were any results. All they do is ask all the time the same questions, but nothing happens afterwards. They never really help us. Its time now the Government helps us with materials and money and not with words.

SAWMILL: The A.D.(N) asked the council their opinion about the Sawmill employing European labour instead of aborigines.

Cr Riala: There is nothing left for aborigines. They take our timber so let them cut it; we don't get any of it.

President: I think one thing is important and that is that the boys at the sawmill should work all the time.

Cr. Riala: Money is not important all the time, but your home is. What will happen to my children and your children when they grow up. Where are they going to live.

President: But work is also very important.

Adviser: Would the men work harder if some of the timber stayed here for your use.

Cr. Riala: Many of the boys in the sawmill work hard and they should give us at least half the timber.

Cr. Fordham: We are very mixed up. On one side we want new law but on the other side we do not. We talk and talk but we do nothing. We should work together and tell them what we want; maybe we get something.

GENERAL: The council talked also about age pensioners, how to help them and look after them.

It was proposed to extend the meals on wheels services on weekends and holidays. This would be looked into at the next meeting.

COUNCIL CONTINUED:

GENERAL: Also the beer stealing was talked about. The lockup room should be strengthened as well as the matter referred to the Police as the beer belonged to everybody and not to some persons.

PEOPLE

* * * * *

Like a flock of startled pigeons, the schoolies fly in all directions when the holidays roll round.

- * Carol Davies and Jan Hay are enjoying the Queensland climate.
- * Liz Wicks almost went home to freeze in Tasmania, but settled on a stay in Darwin at the last moment.
- * Jackie Newman went to Darwin to meet her brother
- * Libby Gillespie and Merrill Hassall had a brief burst in Darwin spending their husbands' hard-earned money
- * Trevor and Helen King, after a stay in Darwin, flew on the Connair "milk-run" to visit Robin and John Stevens at Goulburn Island. Trevor stopped at Maningrida on Tuesday whilst en route and we are sad to report that a disaster has overtaken his hair.
- * Mick Uibo was unfortunately taken ill on Friday last and went to Darwin on the Dove. We hope the medicos in Darwin can fix Mick's trouble up for good and that we'll see him back soon. Didamain has gone to town to keep him company and to supply him with supplements to the hospital diet.
- * Well known stuntrider Allan Grieve returned on Wednesday sporting a walking stick and other trophies of his battle with a Honda 100 - we hope Allan will soon be back in the saddle.
- * Two of Eagle's men Louie & Phillip (the supervisor) depart Maningrida on Friday. We send them away with our best wishes. Phillip has been here for over 6 months and as well as doing a good job with our new buildings he has been co-operative and generous with small jobs on behalf of the school, unloading barges, etc. Good luck wherever you go, gents.
- * David and Dick (in Sydney for rehearsals) - from a letter "... they were taken to see "Jesus Christ Superstar" rehearsal. Their reactions were not recorded though many of them snored because they had just come from a civic reception in their honour." Fortunately both David and Dick are teetotallers.
- * Surprise visitor this week was Kormilda Headmaster Mr. Peter Williams, who flew in on Wednesday evening with that new aviator, John Carpenter.

The children were letting their parents know. "Mr. Williams is home!"

- * Margaret Mussig and children went into the big city for a weeks holiday on Wednesday.
- * Assistant Director (Northern) Mr Mick Ivory was back in his old country this week to meet the staff and talk over settlement matters.
- * Rev. Jack Goodluck, Director of Christian Education with the United Church, spent two days discussing future plans this week and meeting young people. He was the "guest artist" for this week's Mirage drawings.

LUGGAGE

When passengers get off an aeroplane it is up to them to make sure that their suitcases are unloaded.

Its no good waiting until the plane is half way down the strip to take off, or worse still, walking away and leaving it all to someone else.

All passengers - make sure that your luggage has been taken off the plane.

Public Meeting - To discuss and protest against the proposed new staff housing. Help save Maningrida from Darwin Slums!
At the school, 7.30 p.m. Monday 15 th May. D.G.

As I See It

In a brief story, let me tell you what is going on here at the Settlement. You can believe it, or not.

I reckon that it sounds silly to you Balanda people but this is the way it happens. What am I? What happened to me when I was brought up? What is my position in life?

I am here working for my own good and earning my modern living, because I was educated. What about my parents, neighbours, and relations? Is it too late for them or will it happen to them too one day? Why shouldn't they change their old way of living to live in a good clean modern house to be proud themselves? Because this settlement is growing too fast with a Police Station etc.

When will they change their life, culture, ceremonies, Madayan and marrying system? I tell you this - this is because we are in the Government's hand and fighting and wanting what we do because you balanda people are pushing us too fast, and we cant decide which life we will choose, yours or ours. We Aborigines are living in two ways, because we're Aborigines and you are telling us what to do tomorrow and in the future.

Because we believe in what you say to us in your way, but when we tell you or explain to you, you cant even believe (understa'd) what we believe. You don't have to believe because your skin is different from mine. You believe in what you believe in and I believe what I do because it has been given to me by my ancestors.

If you were I, you could believe what you are saying because you have the right to speak for yourself, and to believe and to want or not want for yourself or to happen to you for one day or maybe for the whole of your life.

If I were you (a balanda) I couldn't believe (understand.) what Aborigines are saying, I could only say, if I were a balanda, "Your'e silly. Why cant you change your life and live like me. I live in peace. You are a citizen and I am a citizen, and that means that we're equal." "What does citizenship mean? If I'm a citizen, why cant you weld me (join Aboriginal and Balanda) or change my skin?"

All you Balandas you dont have to believe what we're saying and telling you about our lives. We do what we do, because we are Aborigines brought up by our ancestors.



"Why can't you people change your life and live in peace like we balander people do. We are now full citizens; come to the law and live a good modern life. Work for your freedom, and earn yoyr living in peace."

"Your wrong Bungawa. Just look at me. In what community do I belong? What Madayan was I brought up in. It is tpo late for me to change into a knew way of living and leave my forefathers and great great great grandfather' customs, culture and Madayan. You do what you beleive and live for and I do what I beleive and live in the way my ancestors have given. But we are on the same land especially you, who are on my land. Don't you go on telling me this and that because we are friends, baack and white, but not citizens. I don't know what citizen and law neans; my law is Madayan."

RUNNING INTO THE WOUNDED BUFFALO

FINAL EPISODE OF THE DARWIN WALK

We met Dick Butji and Ciruso this side of the Gumadir and had some buffalo and kangaroo which they had shot in the morning. Then at 1 p.m. we got up and walked several miles and came to the place where the Gunwinggu people call the dingo dreaming. At 6 o'clock we stopped to camp. Some rain surprised and we quickly cut bark for a shelter (we had 2 tomahawks) but it rained for half an hour and all our things blankets etc got soaked.

Next morning Johnny Mayerra got up at 6 a.m. and made damper while Peter Banjuljil boiled the tea. We walked a mile and ran into the Mining Road which leads up to the Red Lilly place back between Gumadir and Oenpelli.

Later on we came to Garabu Ck., then to "one of the Liverpool Crossings". Johnny showed me where the Gunwinggu people had their Gunabibi ceremonial ground. At dinner time we ran into some fish. We all had spears. Johnny speared four Barramundi, but the rest of us got none.

After dinner, Johnny and I went ahead of the others and we ran into a wounded buffalo. This is where the fun started. The buffalo turned back and ran into Peter and Jacky. Jacky was carrying the flour on his head and didn't hear the buffalo running up. They didn't know what to do. They threw their spears and flour on the ground and headed for a tree.

About 5 or 6 o'clock we ran into Budji's old camp at the place called Mawurrk. Here Johnny Mayerra speared two catfish, so we had two fish and damper for dinner.

We walked on through the swamp. It was swamp all the way on from Mawurrk with water up to our waists. Then we came to Ralph Evans Hill named after that Forestry bloke. We camped here for a night. A storm came and again all our things got wet.

Next day I went ahead of the others and came to the main road that leads to Bulman and (Upper) Cadell. We came to the Rembarranga place called Gwiywun. Bryan's people were there. At the billabong, Johnny told us he had made a yard there for the cattle. Down the bottom of the road we heard a truck coming. It was Toby Onn, but we were about one mile away from the main road.

Then we came to the place where the man shot himself - Dandam. We had two goannas for dinner here.

By 5 o'clock we came past the Fire Tower past the Air Strip and at 6 o'clock we heard the bell ring for the Wet canteen. We sat down behind the Sawmill until the sun went down. We were shy. I got to my place and my wife had a surprise. She saw me sitting on the verandah.

J. Cooper.

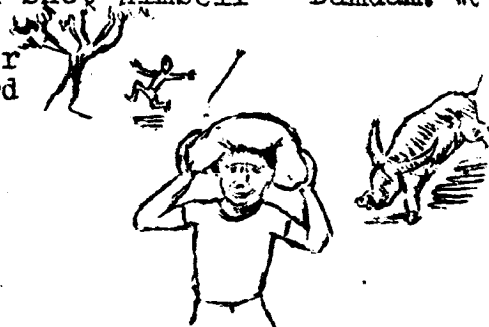
PS. While crossing the Liverpool, Jack Nagatjira was carrying the bag of flour on his head, when he lost his balance and down he went into the water with the flour on top of him. It got wet. J.C.

X-ray men Stephen Clegg and Gerry Kenny expect to complete the survey of 550 people over 14 years of age during this morning. The films will be developed in Darwin, and the results sent to Aero-Medical for follow up action where necessary. Next they go to East Arn, and then to Ports Keats.

Social Worker Miss Elizabeth Lovett has been meeting the families of some children, and getting to know their background. Elizabeth works for Welfare Branch.

Women's Basketball The Final will be played on Monday night at 7.00 p.m. between Marrijalas and Cobras. Umpires Fred Luff and Lucky Balaka. The winner will meet Dots'n'Dashes in the Grand Final on Monday the 22nd. Last Monday D'n'D 48 defeated Marrijalas 40., and Cobras 32 defeated Albatrosses 19.

B.N.



from the **PAPERS**

DOCTOR JACOBS SPEAKING: Dr Don Jacobs was speaking to the Government Health Committee in Darwin. He said many of the Aboriginal families at Maningrida did not have enough money coming in for food. Dr. Don said that the wages paid to people on the Training Allowance Scheme were not enough. Many children at Maningrida never



never have enough food .

MIRAGES IN THE SKY: In Darwin the Air Force has been having training in Mirage Jets. This week over Maningrida we could see the smoke from the Mirages high in the sky. On tuesday and Wednesday one flew low over the Gudjerama and back towards Darwin. Not long ago one of the Mirages crashed near Darwin but the pilot landed safely in his parachute.

Basket Ball

RESULTS OF LAST WEEK'S GAMES:

- Thursday 4th May Kupanga 24 drew Jinang 24
- Garatpu 36 defeated Cape Stewart 34
- Tuesday 9th may M.P.A. 52 defeated Cadell Brothers 44
- EAGLES 32 defeated Jinang 24

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

- Tuesday 16 th May Pioneers Vs Garatpu at 7.00 p.m.
- Cape Stewart Vs Eagles at 8.00 p.m.
- Thursday 18th Kupanga Vs Cadell Brothers at 7.00 p.m.
- M.P.A. Vs Jinang at 8.00 p.p.

Tim Darcey

FORESTRY

Mr. Bob Fisher, the recently appointed Technical Officer (acting) has taken up residence in the Bruce Craven home. He is most likely to succeed Mr. Eric Quick when he goes to Alice Springs (to turn the desert into a forest!).

Bob's first breath took in some cool English air - but much more recently from Mount Gambier where he knew Randall Scott. Bob is a blonde eligible bachelor - but not for long. He is very keen to get out there where the fish are biting and when home at 'the Mount' takes aim at the clay pigeons.

Mr. Garry Donoghue is the new clerk to succeed Norm Faint. Garry a tall young man who has not long left school "I finished matric. 2½ years ago and I've just been kicking around" - looking for his future sphere of work. He hopes to spend a year at Maningrida. Garry has worked in a paper mill, been a casualty clerk in Sydney Hospital (still has bloodstains on some shirts) and so on. He hails from Geeveston in the heart of the Huon Valley apple growing country.

His main hobby - car racing.

Weather

	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.	Max. Day Humidity	Rain.
Fri.	88	71	72	-
Sat.	89	71	72	-
Sun.	80	70	73	-
Mon.	89	72	76	16
Tues.	90	72	76	-
Wed.	91	70	72	-
Thurs.	90	68	69	-

WEEKEND DUTIES Duty Officer: Mr. Barry Tuite.
Duty Sister: Sister Helen King.

STAR THEATRE

Fri. "The Rain People." starring Shirley Knight
James Caan, & Robert Duvall. (Grand Prize
Winner San Sebastian Festival.)

CHURCH

Sunday after Ascension Day. (Mother's Day).
9.30a.m. Sunday Schools
7p.m. Holy Communion. Film "I beheld His
glory."

Wed. 7p.m. Crusader's Fellowship.

Clouds. White clouds, wind clouds high up in the sky. Black storm clouds. Mick Magani paints the clouds on his barks and tells an old story about them.

In the Old Testament days, God often appeared to His people to speak to them or to lead them in a cloud.

The clouds remind us of 2 happenings in the life of Jesus

* The cloud came down on to the mountain top when Jesus was taken up to heaven. This is a mystery too great for our minds to understand.

* The cloud is a sign that one day Jesus will come with 'power and great glory'. A wonderful happening in the future.

Births.

Frank - son born to Teresa Djangala and Barney Wungurda on 5/5/72. Burada tribe.

Margaret Nalbalgu had a baby born prematurely in Darwin Hospital on 8/5/72.

PEOPLE

A newsy letter from the Buzza family. Melva is very busy with her Guides with 6 working for their Queen's Badge.

Ray has retired from football playing. He is coaching a team instead. He had a surprise when the Jensens turned up in his office looking for work.

Andy Cannell is the new bench-man at the Mill. Oddly enough after he had been at Maningrida for 4 days, he discovered that his room mate Garry Donaghue was a fellow Tasmanian and that he had done his apprenticeship as a wood machinist under Garry's uncle.

SMILE PLEASE

After a lot of shutters shutting and films rolling about the place, Mr. Barry Tuite, Honourable storeman cum Shell man cum Connair man, has met with some success. He is a member of the Red Cliff Photography Club in Brisbane and in a recent inter-club competition, Barry won a 2nd. and a 3rd. prize in the portrait sections. Both works of art were of Jack John, the 2nd. prize being one of Jack's face and bright red shirt beneath it. The other was Jack's side profile.

J.G

SELF SERVICE AND PAYDAY

Everyone wondered what would happen when hundreds of people surged into the shop on Pay Day afternoon. Manager Mr Graham Inglis was most pleasantly surprised.

- * Customers passing through the check-out were handled quite rapidly, and the floor that evening was virtually spotless - three cig. butts and a piece of paper.
- * Since Self-Service, Baby Foods sales have risen by 500 to 600%.
- * 20 cartons of 2lb rice were on the shelves. The 2lb packs "like steam", but the 1lb packs (same brand) have not moved anywhere as quickly.
- * Aboriginal people have bought many more eggs.
- * Small tins of powdered Milk, spaghetti, and tinned meat have moved more rapidly.

Maningrida Mirage

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"Maningrida Mirage Volume 136" May 12th, 1972.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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To cite this file use:

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