

Roger B

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27 children, 12 dancing men and 4 members of the teaching staff journeyed to Darwin for the 1972 North Australian Eisteddfod. The Eisteddfod this year was treated more as an educational excursion than a musical excursion. Children were chosen who had never been to Darwin or had never been to an Eisteddfod. This group was supplemented by 4 children who had been to Eisteddfods before to give leadership and help to the less experienced ones. It was therefore very pleasing to see the group perform so well in the concerts and competitions. Once they walked onto a stage or stood in front of an audience their efforts far exceeded any practice efforts. They tried hard all the time and they exhibited the self-confidence and showmanship that Maningrida children are well known for. People were eager to know when the Maningrida children were performing because they knew that they would be entertained. The results of the various song sections showed that the adjudicator was also impressed.

True Folk Song - Group (18 years and under)

3rd place singing "Greenland Whale Fisheries".

Adjudicator's comments - "Congratulations on the clarity of your enunciation. The treatment is good and appropriately robust."

Folk Song Group - Primary

3rd place singing "I'd Like to Teach the World

to Sing". Adjudicator's comments - "Intonation and enunciation are excellent".

Modern Folk Song - Group (18 years and under)

2nd place singing "The Fool on the Hill".

Adjudicator's comments - "Nice work - near ideal intonation and impeccable enunciation."

True Folk Song Group - Primary

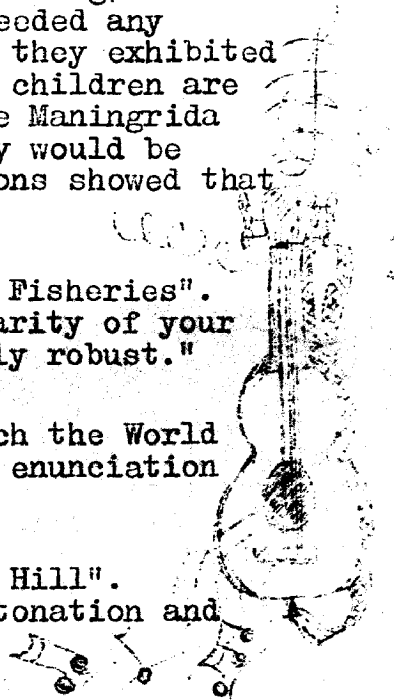
1st place singing "Four Little Johnny Cakes"

Adjudicator's comments - "Effective presentation. Good, robust tone. Excellently integrated and delightfully accurate intonation."

The children also performed enthusiastically and successfully in the Aboriginal culture sections. Most of the sections were virtually non-competitive but some competitors deserved special mention.

The boys finished second in the Aboriginal Traditional Story in Mime with their Bunba (Butterfly) dance. The girls performed very well in the non-competitive Aboriginal Female Group Dance (Open) Section. This is the first time that Maningrida girls have danced at the Eisteddfod and it was pleasing to see them dance confidently in front of a large audience at the Concert at the Civic Centre on Friday night.

The dancing men were a continual help. They supervised dance practices ("straining"), gave helpful "hints" to the dancers, painted up the competitors and provided music for the dancers. Although short of necessary bamboo and songmen they worked things out and their performances were colourful and excited. Talbert, David Gulpilil and Peter Bunjurljurl performed in the open solo dance section, the best dancing that I've seen from Maningrida men.



Last Week at the Council.

Chairman: President resumed the chair.

Mining: Vice-President reported that he had held meeting to discuss application by CRA for Exploration Licence in Cadell/Elyth area. The feeling of the meeting had been that the prospectors were okay but must be accompanied by aborigines from each area they were exploring.

President said it was getting more important to mark the country and to make a map of the area, putting down all the names of the people on the map.

Decision: To ask that prospectors be accompanied on ground surveys.

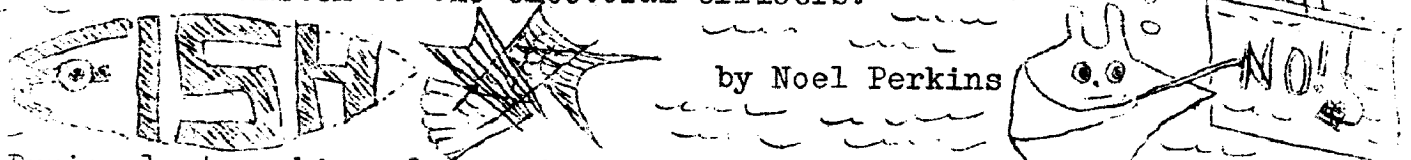
Permits: Superintendent asked councillors if there was any comment on the Bill to be introduced to Legislative Council by Mr. Kilgariff.

Cr. Riala said that he though that Europeans should be able to come to every mission or settlement without a permit, but they would have to get a licence from the people if they wanted to travel out into the country around each place.

President said that council had already said it opposed dropping of permits. He did not think that people had changed their minds about this; the permits must stay until they changed their minds.

There was no further discussion.

Voting Business: Superintendent introduced two electoral officers, Messrs Edwards and Cox, to council. He said that they had come to help people learn more about voting. Mr Edwards spoke to council and asked how council thought he could help at Maningrida. It was decided to call a meeting at 8.00pm in the Club and invite all interested persons to come along and listen to the electoral officers.



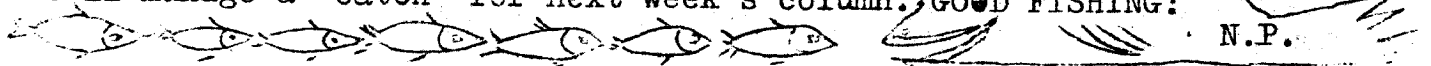
During last week's calm weather and crystal clear seas, Bronwyn and myself fished the reef off Rocky Point. We took 2 tuna of 5 lb. on the troll, failing to troll any mackerel, though several were seen around the reef. Coral trout, Spanish flag and Nannygai (snapper) made up the rest of the catch. The highlight of the day was the sighting of two very large schools of Manta Rays numbering well over 100 in each school and averaging about 4ft. across, swimming on the surface, and when approached in the boat would descend. They stretched away under the boat like something out of a science fiction movie. Reference books make no mention of such large schools of rays which make the sighting rather unusual. A loud indescribable noise seemed to be coming from the schools. A lone, but much larger, manta ray lying on the surface gave us a soaking as we moved too close!

On Sunday Fred Luff and the Forrestry boys reported that fishing was slow at Haul Round and Entrance Is. even though mackerel were giving bait fish a torrid time on the other side of Entrance. The wind which had been absent for the week began to blow again, making their trip home rough and wet.

On Tuesday this week with Keith Smart, the auditor from Darwin we fished the Rocky Point area, trolling inside the reef. We took 6 good sized Barracuda and a 15lb. Queenfish. The fisheries boys arrived so we followed them out to their favourite spot, through fairly rough seas. A wasted effort as the fish must have heard us coming as we only managed one 2 lb. Parrot fish. The trip home was better than going out. I think Keith was glad to set foot on Fisheries Beach again.

Charlie Mulumbuk and his crew have been trolling good catches of mackerel up to 30lb. in this area last week.

The barramundi are fairly scarce in the rivers at the moment but may be we'll manage a 'catch' for next week's column. GOOD FISHING!



As the children saw it...

Excerpts from Compositions.

MAY: "Holiday at Darwin" - Last week we went to Darwin for singing. When we landed at the airport a bus took us to the showground - then we went to get straw to sleep on. We packed everything up and then we went to get supper-----

MICHAEL - On Thursday we went to Darwin for singing and dancing. We won singing. It was very good fun-----

BOB - When we went to the Eisteddfod we saw Rolf Harris. We saw him at Howard Springs. He was with David and Dean and Talbert and some other men. They were taking pictures of him. He had a big hole on top of his hat. When we were going to come back to the showground he sang some songs for us. He sang "Give me that thing."



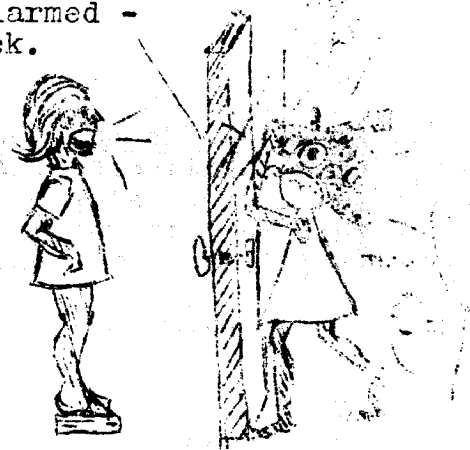
REGGIE- Last week we went to Komilda College for Open Day. We had a good fun. Jacky, Trevor, Bob, Terry and Coiln were playing on motor-bikes and they were very happy.

ROSEMARY - We went to the T.V. Station. We went in and had a good look around. The man showed us. It was very good to see. When the light shone on us we saw ourselves on the T.V. We thought it was true but it wasn't. We said to the man, "Thanks".

WHISPERS FROM WINELLIE

As we landed at Darwin Airport, Jeffrey obviously confused by the lack of natural soil on the airstrip, was very alarmed - "We're landing on the road. We might bump a truck."

Muffled ^{screams} sr ams came from the toilet -
"Miss Wicks, Miss Wicks, it's me, please let me out. My name's Dora and I'm locked in the toilet.
"Turn the handle, Dora."
"I can't, Miss Wicks, I'M locked in the toilet."



May and Reba must have thought their luck had changed. After being told that we were going to Howard Springs for a swim they exclaimed, "We're going to Alice Springs, Mr. Stutchbury?"

Mr. Smooth (Peter Milididj) fell in love with a Princess from Banyili. He says that He's the Prince now.

Evan decided that he would take a closer look at the stock behind the counter in Davis' Sports Store. Everything was alright until he was removed in no uncertain manner by the Manager.

No wonder that Bob N. is a big boy. His friend, Danny Pollard always made sure that Bob was well supplied with food.

Everyone is ready for television stardom after the visit to the A.B.C. T.V. studios.

Trevor decided that he would take a short-cross-country route in Woolworths. The consequences were alarming as he was trapped behind the ladies underwear counter by a purple-headed lady in see-through black and white.



A visit to the courts to observe proceedings must have interested a certain Maningridian man. He decided to return once more to really find out.

The Maningrida girls were the "belles of Howard Springs" in their dazzling swimming costumes. (Excuse me while I replace my eyes.)

From the Newspapers

PLANE ACCIDENT: At Groote Eylandt last weekend there was a bad plane crash. Some men came to a job at Groote. When they were going home their plane took off but crashed back into the airstrip.



DANGEROUS CATFISH! The boss of Fisheries, Mr. Kirkegaard in Darwin about people who bring in fish from other countries. Sometimes they let him go into the rivers and billabongs. They killed all the fish that belonged in that river or billabong. One catfish from America can live out the water and even walk about in wet grass. He said if this cheeky bloke came to the N.T. it might be dangerous for the barramundi and saratoga.

GUNWINGGU LAND: This week there was more talk about the Gumoinggu people. They have asked the Government to give them a lease (make them boss) for Mardagalidban. Then they can use the country for a cattle station and gardens. Yirrawala, Bobby Joran and their long time business friend and associate Mrs. Sandra Holmes are asking for this and a man who understands the law, Mr. Withnall is helping them. Bobby Joran told the Maningrida Council that he would be Superintendent at the new settlement they hope to build there.

Who applied first? The news quotes Mr. Withnall as saying that this is the first time a tribal group has lodged an application for a General Purpose Lease. The Gunavidji people lodged an application for a G.P.L. over their country at Juta in May and the Director of Lands sent an acknowledgement on June 2nd.

HOORAY! The Darwin City Council is to double its toilet block cleaning squad.

BREAKING THE LAW: Crocodiles are protected. This means that hunters cannot kill crocodiles to get their skins and sell them. If this law did not stop people, soon there would be no crocodiles left. This week in Darwin a hunter who had killed 183 crocodiles was sent to jail for 3 months. D.G.

Sports Foundation Visitors.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week Mr. Charles Perkins and Mr. Vincent Copley visited here. They are from the A.B.S.F., a group of people who want to help Aboriginal sport. On Tuesday afternoon they visited the school where they witnessed the tail-end of certain lads just clipping the high jump bar. They also had a look at the oval, the partially completed basketball/tennis complex etc. At a barbeque that night, they met the executive of the Sports Club. Subsequent to discussions, the Club has been asked to submit a report to Mr. Perkins.



Some possible improvements to look forward to in the near future

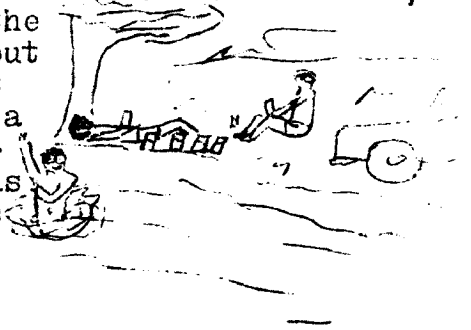
1. A Full time recreational officer.
2. A recreational officer in training.
3. Suitable accommodation for such people.
4. Lights on the second tennis and basketball court.
5. Equipment eg...tennis racquets, vaulting horse and mats, new basketballs and footballs, new football jumpers.
6. An all year round football oval .

It is in the club's aim to financially support as many of these things as it possibly can, especially where individual items such as football jumpers are concerned.

Thanks to Charles and Vincent for their visit. The club also thanks the kitchen staff and Mr. Hunter for the Barbeque.

Episode 3. Crowned Again.

Woken up at some unearthly hour by Mr Alf Wilson (travelling through to where some Aborigines were building an airstrip) they tried to go back to sleep but couldn't. Amid grumbles and unkind words about Alf Wilson's early travelling habits, they got out of their swags (somehow) and reorganized their stomachs and the truck. Feeling good to be on the move again, Ron and Merv pushed off on their bikes, wondering if this day would be as eventful as the one before. They arrived at the Gumadir without mishap, but soon after, Ron's bike with Jack at the controls (or the controls at Jack would be a better description!) developed point and electrical trouble. After the use of a lot of words and the removal of the flywheel, the engine was made to roar again. A mid-day siesta was made at the "Sleeping Lady" Creek (called on the map) which is a crystal clear and very inviting stream running over sandstone rocks. A great swimming spot. Some aviation people passed us by in their truck and said they were driving through to Milingimbi to do some work on the airstrip there.



It took all the willpower to leave such a camp, but we did have to be back at work next day. We made good time to the Liverpool; however at the crossing the riders didn't count on the river being somewhat higher than it was when they came out. Into the deep water that shouldn't have been deep at all they went, and both bikes came to a spluttering stop. To hurt the pride of Ron and Merv even more, Jack sailed past in the truck, through the river and over the sandhill, with a grin a mile wide from one ear to the other.



Merv, listening to the "expert" advice of Ron dried his engine out by way of removing the engine head, no easy task in the bush. Ron, who of course knew a lot better, went to no such trouble and drove the water out by repeated cranking and changing of sparkplugs. Greatly entertained by all this circus around him, Jack sat down to afternoon tea and a hunk of watermelon. Ron was first to be mobile again, followed not too far behind by Merv who had great fun bolting the engine head back into place.

It was now well on dark, so we made quick time back to Maningrida without further adventure.

J.G.

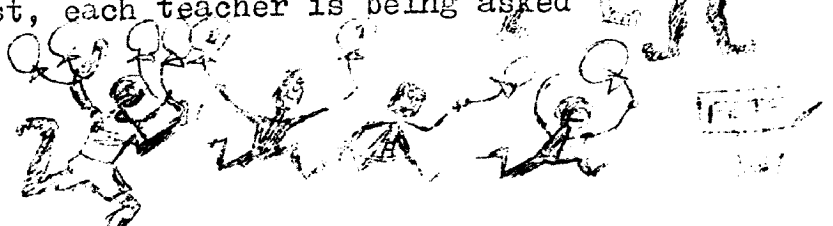
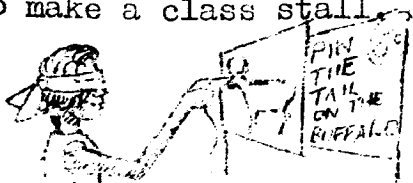
Parents and Friends

At the time of printing the Gestetner had still not arrived at Maningrida. It was expected to arrive on Tuesday by air.

We have had no success in trying to sell the school truck at a reasonable price, so it now seems best to hang on to it.

A lengthy discussion was held in respect of occupying the schoolchildren during the long Christmas holidays. A suggestion put forward was that trainee teachers (or other students) be recruited from southern States to act as recreation officers by day, entertainment officers by night, for the children. Their fares, living expenses etc would have to be sponsored (which would be about \$500) and the work would be on a voluntary basis. There will be a lot more discussion and investigation on this matter before any definite plans are made.

Preliminary discussions were also held on the school fete, and a tentative date was set for 17th October (a pay day). For the first time it will be held at night. This will mean we won't have the baby show, but it does mean we can have a BIG BAR-B-Q. As has been done in the past, each teacher is being asked to make a class stall.



A Future Tourist Resort?

standing on the edge of a high ridge at GUYUN one gets a magnificent view of the surrounding country looking across the Tomkinson River flats to the Mann and Liverpool Rivers and the sea beyond. Paddy Fordham with a gesture suggesting that a few miles one way or another don't matter - reckons that on a clear day you can see 'right up to Goulburn Is.' across to Nimbuwa Rock and the plains to the south stretch "way down into the snow country."



'Evans Lookout', a taller ridge, a short distance away to the South would be an even better lookout. However one should be careful here. The cliff face is steep, and way back there was a huge fall of rock which buried "thousands and thousands" of people of different tribes. This was in the time of the Ancestor MANWURRI WURRI.

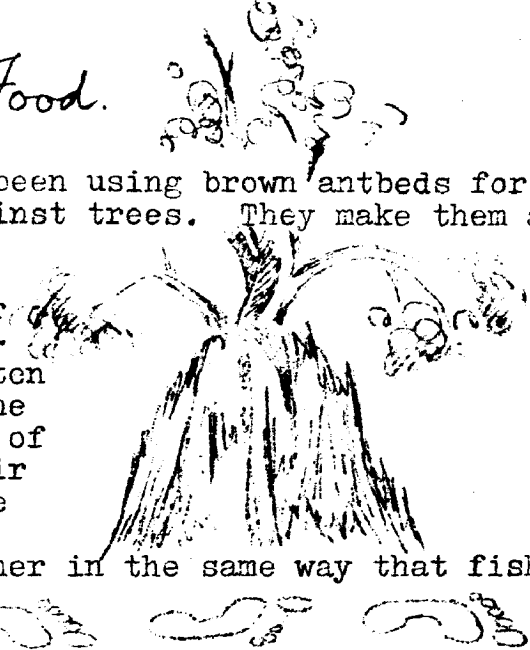
One could imagine a time in the future, when a Rembaranga Warden and guide would take visitors to see these and other places and return to GUYUN at a given time to watch a troupe of famous dancers perform.

The spacious and orderly layout of the Guyun camp, looking the essence of neatness is a credit to the people living there and particularly to its unofficial mayor and town clerk, Paddy Fordham.

Some Interesting Bush Food.

For many many years Aborigines have been using brown antbeds for food. The brown ants build their nests against trees. They make them about four feet high.

When Aboriginal women are looking for food, they can easily find these antbeds anywhere on the mainland and often they find an anteater (echidna) at the same time. The women collect pieces of the antbed and take them home to their families. The antbed tastes like the meat of a coconut. The anteater and the pieces of antbed are eaten together in the same way that fish and chips are eaten.



WHITE CLAY can also be eaten, as well as being used for painting. White clay is mainly found in wet ground, but can sometimes be found in dry soil.

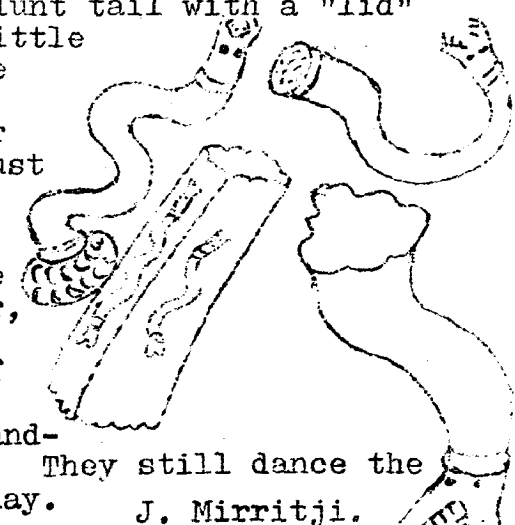
When eaten, white clay tastes similar to dry milk powder, and like milk powder it can be mixed with water. Then it is used for painting. People of North Australian centres still eat white clay just as people of olden times did.

The Mangrove tree worm can also be eaten. This worm is about 60 cm. long, and 4 cm. in diameter. It has a blunt tail with a "lid" similar to an army cap! and many sharp little teeth. They eat the wood of the mangrove trees.

The worms can be found on dry branches or living trees. Before eating them, you must cut off the head and tail. Then the insides can be sucked out and swallowed.

There are two different sorts of Mangrove Tree Worms. One is smaller and the other, the larger one, must be boiled because, when eaten raw, it causes inflammation of the throat.

The smaller one is the "father" of the sand-fly and totem of the Yirritja Aborigines. They still dance the ceremonies of this Mangrove Tree Worm today.



J. Mirritji.

WEEKEND DUTIES

Duty Officer: Mr Barry Tuite
Duty Sister: Sister Betty
Fire Watch: Mr. Randy Scott.

STAR THEATRE

See Shop Notice Board.

CHURCH

Sunday 9.45am Sunday Schools

7.45 pm Outdoor Service in the top Burada Camp

Thursday: Final visit of the General Secretary of M.C.S.,
Rev Cecil and Mrs Gibble before retirement.

PEOPLE

The Mussig family left Maningrida on Wednesday after being at the settlement for nearly two years. They have made no definite plans for their future employment, but Margaret has her heart on the sunny North Queensland coast, particularly Mackay. Jim was a familiar figure in the kitchen, and Margaret was well known to everyone who received a training allowance. We will miss them and the children, and wish them well in Qld.

Farewell to Les and Isabel Holt who expect to leave next Friday. Les, with his years of experience and skill has given the Bakery an excellent start. Every Maningrida bread eater and the Progress Association say "thank you" to Les and Isobel. Frank, all round helper and mechanical man who has given his time so readily to help others, will also be missed.

Welcome to Tom Toole, our new baker from Tocumwal. Tom has been working in Albury with two of Les' sons. Tocumwal, formerly the largest military base in the Southern Hemisphere, is now a quite river town. It boasts the largest Murray Cod on the river - a fibre glass one. Tom describes himself as "totally single".

A CHALKIES DAY!

This week we bid farewell to Liz Wicks who leaves on Saturday to join up with Carol Davies and then try her hand at teaching in sinful Sydney. Liz went through college with the Dave Fryer vintage and is in her fifth year in The Territory. We bid her farewell, goodluck, and deep breathing in the Sydney air, and thank her for the things she has done for Maningrida.

Jan Hay has left for Scotland to visit relatives there, and thence to England to look about.

The Burchetts have also written. Chris is working hard - he had five assignments in his first lecture (The tractor to Bulman was easier). Gwen has a 6th grade at Allambic Heights. There is only one man on the staff, so she has been made sportsmaster - the man was busy with the school band. Not only does Gwen have to organise house sports, she also has to arrange interschool Rugby League, Rugby Union, and Soccer competitions - she knows nothing about the games. The Burchetts have seen Peter Williams, and spent some time with him.

Margaret and Bruce Neale are in Darwin for conferences to do with their school labours

VISITING

Mr. Garry Hughes of Southern Cross, to advise on irrigation for the Cadell Gardens.

THIS WEEK

Mr John Keir from the "Nhulunbuy Milk and Beveridge Co.", who reconstitute cream, fruit juice, and ice cream

On Thursday Afternoon a party of 17 coastwatchers arrived on a RAAF plane and had a quick half-hour look at the Settlement.

ICE

The Fisheries Freezer began to produce ice this week. Phil says that some block and crushed ice can be made available to local residents for weekends. It takes some time to remove the ice from the containers, so please give your request in on Friday

Found. A key ring marked DTRI and some keys. Enquire at the office.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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