



# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

VOL 158

Friday 13th Oct.

## The Areyonga Trip.

Well folks here we are back again from the desert - all weary, some sore of foot and throat and all of us the wiser for what we've seen, I hope.

The Maningrida kids gave a good account of themselves (and were welcomed) wherever they went. They did very well when one recalls that they gave 10 performances in 10 days in strange country, before strange audiences under unpleasant weather conditions. People throughout the trip commented on the Maningrida children's cleanliness, politeness (but lack of shyness) and their ability to initiate and carry on conversations. I noticed the great shyness and more serious temperament of the desert people generally - though there are exceptions of course. The Maningrida children have a lot to think about from what they saw - they passed a lot of comment about housing on the various settlements and also on the general living conditions of the people from place to place eg. dogs, cleanliness, runny noses etc. Our coach driver through the desert was Terry Rice. Terry is an Aranda man who was born at Santa Theresa. He now has a nice house in Alice Springs, a car, a wife and four very nice children. He has been driving a coach for two years for Tiwa, an Aboriginal bus and tourist activity company. Terry was very popular with us and he was able to tell us about trees and flowers we saw, stories about interesting places, the 'dreaming' places of animals in the mountains and hills. Terry has worked at Snake Bay and said he would like a holiday at Maningrida to be near the saltwater again.

### A quick sketch of some of our stops:

Warrabri: The people here were quiet. The deputy headmaster, Frank Brennan is trying to encourage the people to pass on Aboriginal music and dance before it is too late. Our dancing was enthusiastically received.

Yuendumu: An impressive place - we received a great welcome and help (and food) at every turn. We were impressed with the dancing we saw, particularly with the ironic humour in some dances.

Papunya: The men at Papunya were enthused by the Maningrida children's performance and the next night when they came to Areyonga they put on a marvellous show with lots of intricate body decoration and big hats - like the ones in the Mandayala ceremony we see here sometimes.

Areyonga: Fantastic scenery - huge rock hills surround it - it could become claustrophobic. The natural sound shell is truly amazing - and now very effectively lit by night. We were impressed also by the Areyonga dogs - surely the most numerous, enthusiastic and uncontrollable we saw.

We dropped into Jay Creek but the Phemisters had gone to town to shop - the children had been looking forward to seeing them. We did see Jan Croft who is at Warrabri - she seemed her usual irrepresible self.

Amoonguna: A nice looking place. However it is only 6 mile from Alice Springs and this brings problems with drink, fighting etc. The Headmaster, Tom Bonner, is a sports enthus ast and the children's efforts here are a great credit to him. They do very well in local competition. Their 2nd string softball team (girls) thrashed us soundly - the pitcher had a dynamite arm.

Our last performance was at Gillen Primary School in Alice - very impressive physically - lovely lawns and buildings.

Maningrida people at Kormilda seem happy and well. Bobby Pascoe and Kenny Smith have fallen victim to the very vicious flu strain that is around Darwin and elsewhere.

We saw the boys and girls at Kormilda being taught to drive cars and to check over things like oil, water, brakes etc. - these lessons seemed very popular. Kormilda is brushing itself up for the visit by Princess Margaret and her husband next week.

All in all a tiring but interesting and rewarding trip - well worth the effort and successful in that it created a lot of interest amongst the desert people.

Dan G.

P.S.

Ningle would be very pleased if someone could tell him who made the Devil's Marbles - he is convinced that they're some kind of a ruse to trick tourists.

### *Another Big Blyth Meeting :-*

There was another meeting at Kupanga on Sunday last when the leaders met with the Superintendent and the Headmaster to talk more about the school and other things. Decisions:

- i. A school shade would be built and the Superintendent would provide a list of all the school-children at Blyth River. The Headmaster would examine a possibility of preparing lessons for children at Kupanga, to be supervised by one of the people living there. Tommy Galbaranga, Morky, and Jack Maranbada would start building the shelter.
- ii. A truck would visit Kupanga each Thursday to take orders, and collect produce.
- iii. Pat Gamangga would be employed to give treatments to sick people.
- iv. Fred would bring back a load of iron on Friday; the carpenters could build shelters for those who wanted them.

After the meeting the Superintendent and Mr Hassall were taken on a tour, in Maganbal, the big canoe, to Lalagijirra, to have a look at the wet season camping place and the wells. It is a good place, high above the sea, and open, where the wet season wind, Bara, comes to blow the mosquitoes away. Frank Guramanamana and David Bandarpi also showed the visitors the big shellfish beds, diarma, and the brain mussel, anjewergia.

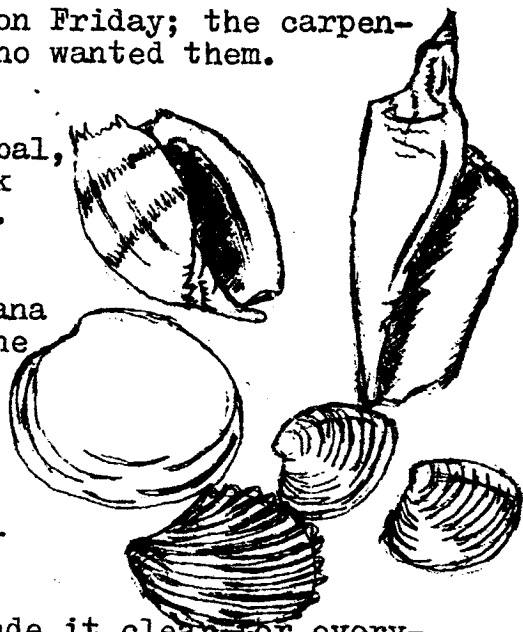
After sailing back to Kupanga the men, and Mary Manalawula, held a very dramatic ceremony and sang the diarma song. Mary Manalawula "smoked" the canoe with green leaves, also the builder, Big Barney, and the captain, David Bandarpi. This very moving ceremony made it clear for everyone to go in Maganbal.

Many of the people had gathered an enormous amount of diarma, perhaps 1500lbs, to take back to Maningrida to sell. This was a big effort; unfortunately there was too much diarma and most of it went bad before it could be sold. (When the Superintendent visited again, on Tuesday, the people were out gathering crabs to send in on Thursday.)

Alec Wurmala also sent back some beautifully made stone axes.

### *People*

Mrs Sylvia Williams, mother of Elva Dickfoss and Ena Pickersgill, is visiting Maningrida for a few days, together with a friend Mr. Franklin, also from Tennant Creek.



# Forestry, Fires and Shinkers

Present: 10 councillors and 2 visitors.

Bush  
Fire:

Chris Haynes, a Forestry man from Darwin, spoke to Council. He talked about bush fires and said there were too many fires coming. They were killing the small pine trees and making the job very hard for Forestry as well as ruining the future of timber at Maningrida. He wanted to know if people realised why bush fires were bad. He asked Council for suggestions for the control of bush fires. President agreed there were fires everywhere. Forestry had talked before about bush fires. A few years ago there were not so many fires as in the last couple of years and people were burning everywhere.

Cr. Munyal said that Council should get out into the bush areas and tell the people about the damage to trees and country caused by bush fires. If people were interested in seeing Maningrida grow they should be stopped. Council decided to go and talk about fires now, not wait until next year.

Library:

Superintendent said he wanted to remind council about the Library. It is open Tuesday and Thursday night from 7.00 pm until 9.00pm. People were invited to come along.

Jobs:

Cr Riala said there were seven men not at work who were supposed to be working. His supervisor, Rod Seymour, said that if he couldn't get men to work he would be looking for balandas to do the building work next year.

Cr Riala said the Superintendent should be looking around in the morning for men not at work. He should be pushing them, sending them to work so that the jobs can get going. President said the card business kept people away from their jobs. They played all night and all day and didn't think of work till they lost their money.

Superintendent said he would try to chase men for work if he could get someone to take over his other jobs in the morning.

Working  
Hours:

Cr Riala pointed out that there were times for their jobs and they were supposed to knock off at half past 4. Sometimes they would knock off at 5 or 6pm. If a Forestry worker worked late he got overtime, but there was no overtime in his job. He said it was good money for over-time sometimes.

Football:

President asked how many councillors volunteered to take Maningrida Football team to Ngangalala. Council nominated George Ganjibala and Ray Munyal.

## The Society Column - this week in Maningrida...

"David Jones" and the clothing counter of the store did a roaring trade as people prepared for the social event of the year = one that was to be more spectacular than any "Black and White Ball" or high society charity performance. Necks chafed to the unfamiliar rub of white shirts and ties. Many pairs of long trousers gained their only exercise of the year.

The characters of Fred Astaire, Nola Deckyvere, Bazza MacKenzie, Killer Kowalski, Errol Flynn, Arthur Murray, Marilyn Munroe and the Flying Scotsman were eclipsed as the local's rose to the occasion to help John and Betty celebrate their wedding day.

Aided by multitudinous quantities of superb food and drink (you can guess what ran out first) people exhibited skill and proficiency in areas they had previously camouflaged.

The celebrations resembled a marathon race and at one stage it was thought they would reach the Biblical proportions of 40 days and 40 nights. The question one must ask is - who will be next?



## Last Saturday Afternoon...

The social event of the year has been the wedding of John Reister and Betty Conaglin. Visitors came as far away as New Zealand, and everyone enjoyed themselves completely, the more so because they had all helped so much in the preparation for the great occasion.

The approach of the bridal car (courtesy of Lance) caused some anxiety since at one spot it was seen to slow down, stop, and even go backwards! However the presumed hesitancy of the occupants was obviously overcome and the bride eventually arrived at the church.

The church was beautifully decorated with huge bowls of bougainvillaea, frangipanis and gladiolis. As the bride walked up the aisle, the organist, Shirley Armstrong, played the theme from the film "Lovestory".

Betty looked quietly elegant in a cream bonded lace pantsuit. The long semi-fitted top featured stunning flared sleeves. The head piece worn at the back of her head was a lace bow to which flowers were attached. She wore gold sandals and carried a spray of orchids.

Betty's bridesmaid was Val Armstrong. She wore an aqua pantsuit of a crepe-crepe material edged with tiny aqua daisies. The style of her pantsuit was similar to that of the bride. Val carried a small posy of flowers.

John looking very happy and relaxed wore a white shirt, tie, and dark trousers. His brother, Gordon, was best man and looked very dashing in fawn-coloured gear.

The members of the congregation revealed new selves, dressed to the height of Maningrida fashion.

The words of the wedding service were simple, and the ceremony was very beautiful. The Mass was celebrated by Father McPhillamy. After the signing of the register, the organist played Lara's Theme while the couple walked from the church, naturally to be showered with confetti. They went from the Church in the wedding car to the Carey's where photos were taken.

The open air reception, held on the lawns of the Welfare Single Quarters was a great success with swinging music and dancing among the tables. The tables themselves were laden with an overwhelming variety and quantity of foods. The wedding cake, a single tiered square cake decorated with a few beautiful frangipanis, was much admired and rapidly consumed.

The toasts and telegrams proved interesting, amusing, and even risqué! The drinks flowed liberally until past four in the morning.

At this point it was not the drinks which faltered but - believe it or not - the drinkers. (Except for a few who were having cups of tea with Tom and other "beverages" with Gill).

The bride and groom had made a quiet exit at some previous time and many guests had also left. Most of those who remained owe Gill Amies sincere thanks for allowing her flat to become a "crash-landing-pad".

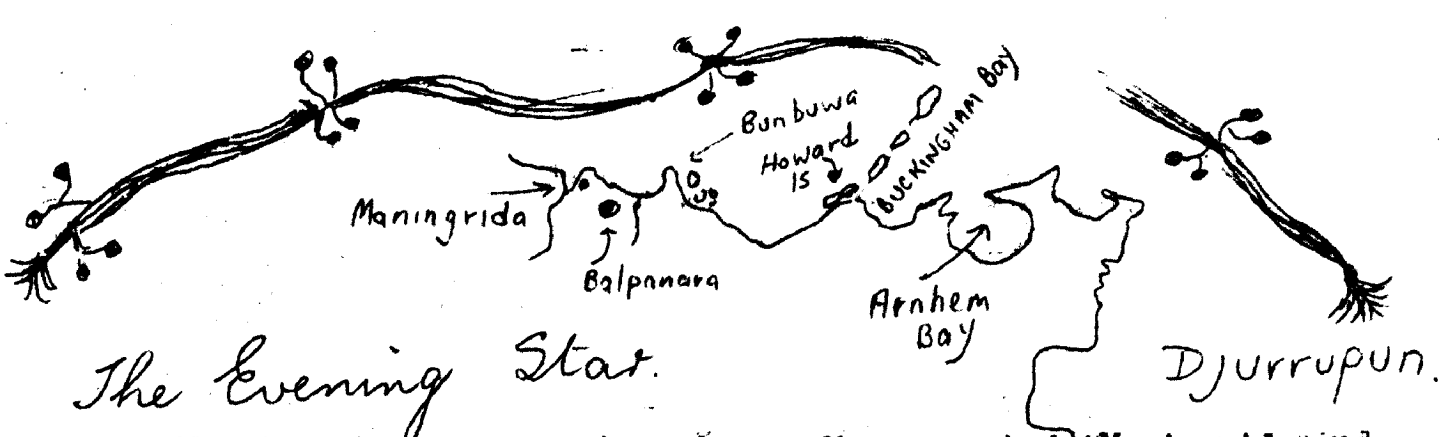
The celebration of John and Betty's marriage brought together an enormous number of people in a very special way, making it a memorable and joyful occasion for all.

Rosemary and Jackie, Social reporters.

## The Mining Men.

Brian and the mining men have been working in the Junction Bay area. They have been camping by the creek near the "young girl dreaming place."





## The Evening Star.

The Morning Star ceremony has shone often enough in Maningrida and elsewhere but now the Evening Star (Djurrapun has risen upon us. Men from 5 (approx) groups called the Manjikay (sandfly) people are here from Elcho to present some Evening star emblems to Jacky Jabilali. The dancing has already begun and the main dances may ~~come~~ at the weekend - near Jacky's house and out on the oval.

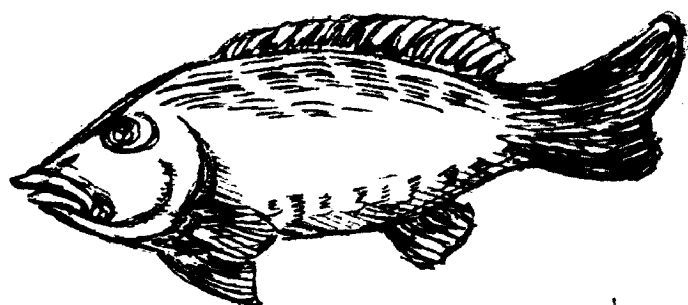
Two emblems will be presented publicly. One is a 6' long thin post decorated by Mr Burramarra with wool of many different colours in the custom of the Waramuri people. Then there is a long series of bush string beautifully made with white feathers at either end representing the light of the star, along the string at intervals there are clusters of 4 lily roots attached by a thread to the main string. These represent the lily covered billabongs in the countries of the groups who own the Evening Star ceremony. These countries stretch across the top of N.E. Arnhemland Ballanara, Bunbuwa an Island near Milingimbi, Howard Island and areas near Buckingham and Arnhem Bays.

In itself this evening star emblem is a remarkable symbol of the way in which Aboriginal people are not so many individuals but groups of people linked together with many ties. In the dancing we may see some mock fighting with fighting sticks and spears. Galpu galpu representing the Galiwinku Town and Village Councils is accompanying the men. Two of the ceremonial leaders are Wanguri men., Godal'min and Dumalambu.

## FISH



Due to the lack of space and time spent fishing, we have not had a column for 2 weeks. During this time some very good catches of barramundi have been made in the Navy Landing area. Ken Trewin can now boast catching barramundi all day. Greg Hore and Rod Seymour spent a weekend looking for a billabong down the Mann way, but failed to find it, they fished the Liverpool river but found the saratoga too thick to give the barra a go.



As I promised last column a few facts about threadfin salmon. These excellent sporting fish are extremely interesting. The early settlers called them salmon due to some having pink flesh, but they are not salmon and people who know about fish (Ichthyologists) recommended they be called threadfin, but the original name stuck and now they are popularly known as threadfin salmon. They are most at home in the discoloured muddy water of estuaries during the wet season. The snout and eyes are encased in a thick gelatinous shield which has a perspex like appearance which clouds over after being caught. Another unusual feature is the growth of thread like rays in front of each of the pectoral fins. It is believed that these rays help in locating and selecting food and resulted in the slang name "Tassel Fish". There are four species found in the waters around Maningrida though the "Cooktown salmon or Giant Threadfin" is the fish mostly caught in this area. Next week where and how to catch a salmon.

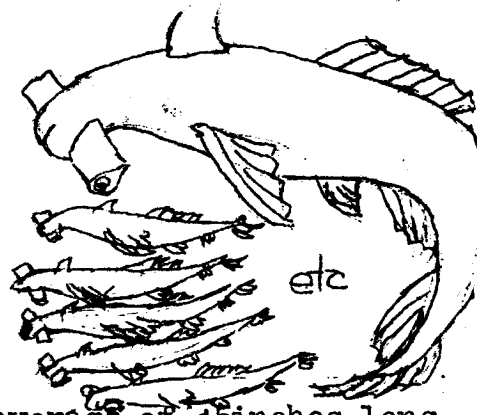
N. Perkins.

New Guinea visitor -  
Miss Nellie Hope from Dept of Health Port Moresby is visiting her sister, Mrs Betty Trewin.

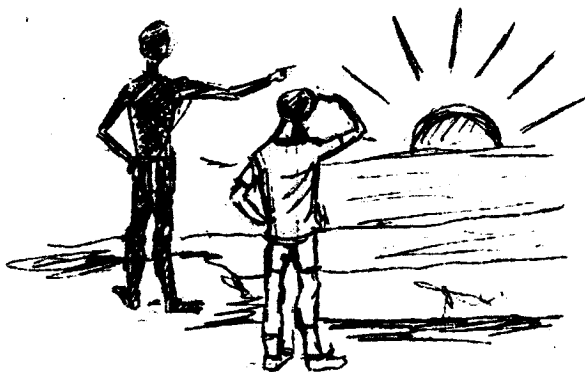
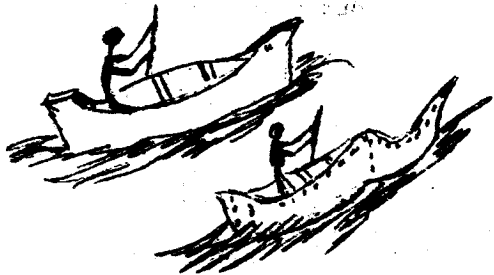
## The Fishermen

Our boats average 150lbs of mixed fish daily, but, it was thought that a net placed in the water just off Fisheries Beach could produce some added gain. On Wednesday morning the net was examined and yielded the following:- 50lbs of Barramundi, 21lbs of Catfish, 60lbs of Greynurse Shark (they bite) and one Hammerhead Shark (Female) which when opened up yielded 23 baby Hammerhead sharks each an average of 15 inches long, mother was approx 450lbs in weight and 6 feet long.

Would-be swimmers should know that the Greynurse Shark will bite from birth (they are born at 8 inches long approx) and when looking for food will often swim in water 18 inches deep (very close to shore).



Phil Green.



## My Relation to Balandas

My balanda or monanga (European) name is Jack. My own people of the Jinang Wulaki group sometimes call me Balanda, because they think I am turning away from them and learning European ways. This is only because I have sincere feelings of gratitude towards many English speaking people who sometimes helped me with various problems. I think Balandas are welcome to come and work in Arnhem Land with Aborigines. We Aboriginal people can't do everything ourselves, but we look to you as friends and we should help each other. We cannot do all the different tasks by ourselves such as building houses and mending trucks and so on.

English speaking people helped me for example with producing my stories, and I learned from them to express myself in written words. I have been very glad of their assistance in expressing my knowledge.

Life has not been easy for me in the past years, there is changing a lot. I have had good and bad times. I learned how to be a patrol officer's guide, having done a course; I learned how to find food (wali) on a walkabout at all times and I learned how to be a teaching assistant. I was moving from place to place either as a truck driver, from Darwin into Arnhem Land, or paddling a wooden canoe (lipa lipa) or as a settlement medical helper. I also learned to use money and other things.

I have learned about European culture but I think it is hard for many Aboriginal people to understand and to live with it. The future is unknown both for the Aboriginal as for European people. At present time, Aboriginal people are protected by the Australian Government. The balanda culture still dominates in Australia and we may have to have two separate groups. But when both groups are willing to cooperate with each other the future doesn't have to be a bad time.

Jack Miritji.

**CORRECTION:** In last week's issue a printer's devil caused the Progress Association to be planning the purchase of a secondhand fishing boat. This should read "second fishing boat"

## A new home

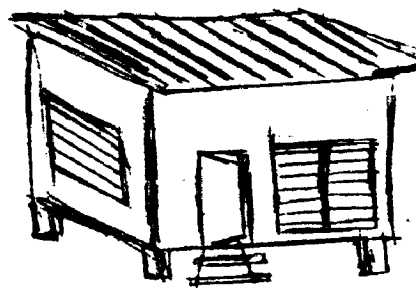
After patiently waiting for a long time for a new home, Silas and his family have moved into their new house. Silas is very happy with it.

Robert Roberts's cottage will be completed soon too. The original frame of the house was built by Tom Armstrong and carpenters like Tommy Galbaranaga, Barry Baybananga and the late Robert Ww as a home for a gardiner down near the water pump. In 1962/3 there used to be quite a stand of bananas there in the damp ground there.

A later attempt to make a garden nearly failed because the Gabalyar Creek pump could not supply enough water. So the cottage stood all these years un-lived in. Now it has been brought into the Settlement and the carpenters are to be commended on the job they have done. G.A.  
But not all have a good house.

When I was a little boy, I started work in Welfare Jobs for nine years but I didn't get the good house. Some other boys they got a good house, but I am still living in a Rubbish house, with no Light and Bathroom. Kitchen, Bedroom. I'm worrying myself. I have been working here at Maningrida for a long time.

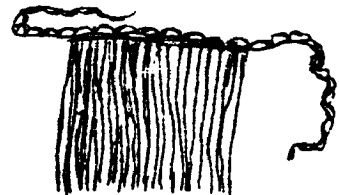
G. Garawun



## In the old days — from "Wanga"

A long time ago in the dreaming time we had no clothes to wear and no blankets to cover ourselves at night and we didn't know how to grow fruit and vegetables. But we used to wear paper bark skin or a skin from the tree. We used to stamp them with a stone and leave them in the sun to dry, and we used to make a fishing net. They dig the tree and cut special root and take the skin off and stamp them with a rock and drink the juice out of them. When they dried up, they get them one by one and spin like cotton.

Sean Tobarling



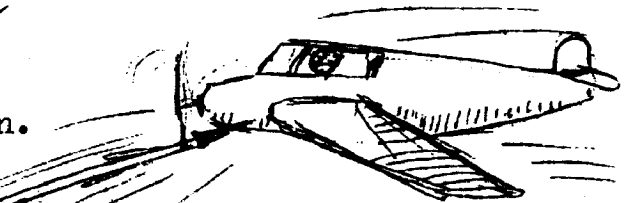
## A Jinang Outing

On Sunday morning all we Jinang people went to Namangora (Crab Creek) with the Landrover we called "Makey" with our language, that means "Red Paint". We had no fishing line or spear for fish and no gun too, but we had too many crabs. Some we cooked and some we bring to our parents to give them, and we saw them all the Burada Boys. They were following us behind to fish. Some Balanda people they went first to Crab Creek, and we saw them there. We were playing cards there in the bush, and all balandas they were giving us half fish. Then we ate them all up. When Bobby and Robert, Dick Smith, Kevin come back from Crabs, we said to them "Hey boys we had a half fish from balandas they gave it to us but we ate them all up". When we came back home I was sleeping in the front because I was very tired from walking around looking for crabs everywhere. I like very much hunting every day.

G. GARAWUN.

## In the Pastime from "Wanga"

Last Thursday afternoon Jimmy's father told us a story about the war at Darwin. He was in the Army, in the morning they were marching along when suddenly he threw the gun and the General said to him "Hey don't throw that gun it will save you life". Then they went to Milingimbi and suddenly the Japanese plane shot at them and they all jumped into the water. Jimmy's father shot the the Japanese plane with his spear. Then all the Army went back to Darwin.



## WEEKEND DUTIES

Duty Officer: Mr. Ron Berryman  
Duty Sister: Sister Lee

## STAR THEATRE

Friday: "Legend of Custer" - Wayne Maunder, Slim Pickens. Never a more violent era.....  
Saturday: "Kotch" = Walter Matthau, Deborah Winters, Felicia Farr. A comedy drama focusing on the touching relationship between a 72 year old widower and an unmarried pregnant teenager. A moving story about loneliness.

## CHURCH

Sunday: 9.45am Sunday Schools  
7.15pm Evening Service, Holy Communion  
Tuesday 7.30pm Crusaders Fellowship  
Wednesday 7.30pm Church Council

We expect that a group of young people will come over with Rev. Phil Taylor from Oenpelli for ~~Nov. 3-5<sup>th</sup>~~. They will sing and speak to us about "Christian Way"

## BROLGA SEEKS

The Hygiene Department needs 5 gall. drums, oil drums - any sort of 5 gall drums. Please bring them to Mr Bill Beckett, or let him know where he can pick them up.

## DARWIN LIBRARY DEPOSIT STATION

As it is time for the deposit station to be exchanged, please return all books by Thursday 19th October to allow this to be done as quickly as possible. Should anyone have special requests for authors or subject for the next deposit, we would be glad to pass this information on  
Margaret Inglis.

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOC.

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Monday evening at the School at 7.30pm. All welcome

J.Gardiner

## People.

Sister Maija writes from Colombo in Ceylon - "Am still alive and ticking. All aeroplanes are deserted, about 30-40 passengers only. Met about 10 Finns in Singapore."

Messrs Charlie Godjuwa and Jim Walbaraka have gone on a trip into Darwin.

Betty and Rhys went into Darwin today after Rhys having a severe bout of sickness out at Kupanga. (Might have been pneumonia.)

Claus and Alex have been flying over us several times each day to photograph areas around Maningrida from approx 12,000' up. It gets cold up there. They have to put on pullovers while we perspire down below.

A man not seen in Maningrida for a long time - Jir-maygu - a Gunwinggu man, is about again. Also bark-painters David Milaybuma, Minmiruru and Peter Nambarayt along with several other Gunwinggu men including the evergreen father Peter Maralwanga and the irrepressible Caruso.

The Progress Association men returned from Oenpelli and Mt Borrodale on Sunday night. They were very impressed by the galleries of rock paintings which they saw in their travels. They struck a number of men from Government Departments particularly at Coopers Creek where they camped. "With transistors going etc., it sounded like Smith Street in Darwin," said Glen.

The Maningrida Football team are playing at Nangalala this weekend.

Phil and Jean Green leave for Darwin on Monday and will be away for a week.

The Guyun men who have been working on an alternative and new track to the Mann River Crossing en route for Oenpelli are reported to be very close to completing the job.



**Maningrida Mirage**

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

"Maningrida Mirage Volume 158" October 13th, 1972.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

(r000005900888\_v158\_a.pdf)

To cite this file use:

[http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig\\_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/1972/r000005900888\\_v158\\_a.pdf](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/1972/r000005900888_v158_a.pdf)

© Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community