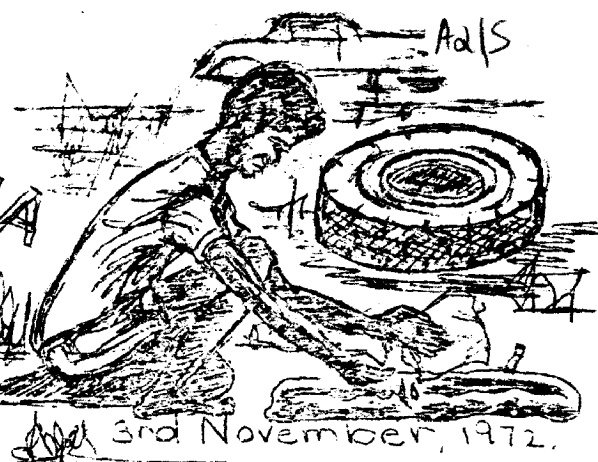


-8 JAN 1973



MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

Vol 161



3rd November, 1972.

Patching A puncture With Plastic

The Ford Falcon ground to a stop. The only spare tyre was punctured. Dead flat! Jack Wunawun got out of the driver's seat to have a look and others climbed out of the utility to take off the wheel. What could be done?

Someone found a little plastic bag. Someone else lit matches and melted the bag so that the hot plastic fell down over the puncture. It patched the tube! Presently the tube went back into the tyre and away flew the Falcon for a further four miles down the road.

Ten days before, Jack left Darwin with nine people on board - Charlie Marabinyin, Michael Brown, Michael Murndi from Ngangalala, David Wolobara and his wife from the Warramunga tribe, Captain Kookaburra Anwalangbira and his missus and "Dr " Johnny Bulunbulun.

They left Darwin at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening and made a camp by the big bridge over the Adelaide River. Then on to Mudginberry where they mended two punctures. On Tuesday they drove up to the border store losing a bolt from the steering arm. They camped there that night without tea or sugar - because their money had all gone!!

A very good friend...

In Oepelli next day Jack chanced to meet an old man Mindabul, whose family had been long-time friends of Jack's family. Jack's father used to send bamboo spears, hair belts and ritual dilly bags along the trade route to Mindabul and he sent back stone and shovel nosed spears and stone axes. Both Jack's son and Mindabul's son have a common name, Jirrpul. So it was the most natural thing for Mindabul to ask "You got enough fuel?"

Jack "Oh, little bit, but not much in the motor car tank".
Mindabul "We will give you some money". He gave Jack \$15.

Now they were able to make a journey back to the border store and buy the petrol etc. Two days of resting in Oepelli followed.

Back on the road again on Sunday morning - camping at Nimbuwa, getting bogged in the sand at the Liverpool crossing and again at Mumayga on the Mann River. Here two boys were added to the passenger list - ~~sons~~ ~~sons~~ was worrying about school they were missing. ~~to mend the puncture.~~ The vehicle and its eleven passengers arrived at Maningrida on Wednesday evening.

Although the speedo gauge shows 98,000 the bodywork looks to be in good shape.

* * * *

What would you have done if you were way out in the bush and your spare tyre was punctured? We ask three old hands. Two said stuff the tire full of dry grass. Another said fill it with old bags and blankets. We suggest you pack a couple of plastic bags in the emergency kit!

Mr John Jenkins is staying with his sister and brother-in-law, Lyn and Ron Berryman.

Health Inspector B. Keyes has been keeping Bolga company for four days of this week.

Getting To Gadji
COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 5.30PM ON 30 OCTOBER 1972

Present: 10 councillors and 1 visitor.

Uniforms: Secretary read a letter from Elcho Island asking about badge and uniforms.

Superintendent suggested that councillors didn't wear uniforms in places like Darwin, but ordinary clothes with a badge to show that the wearer was a Maningrida councillor. Council decided that the Secretary should write a letter to Elcho asking to see its Council badge.

Houses: President asked whether the houses had been cleared yet. Superintendent said it is for the Housing Association to decide who would live in the new houses. Jack Riala was mentioned and the others have to be allocated.

Council Meetings: Cr. Baleiya said he is still interested in finding out if the council meeting could be held on Saturday. President said if you still want to have a meeting, have one.

President suggested the Vice-President could take his place while he is away. Council decided to vote to elect a new President.

Gadji: Cr. Munyal said he would like to go to Darwin to see the Assistant Administrator, Mr. H.C. Giese, about his future home at Gadji. He said he has been here so long and was working and hasn't been helped by the Council.

Council talked about the problems of running Gadji and the bad road from Maningrida. Superintendent said Gadji is about 90 miles from Maningrida and in about 6 or 7 years Gadji could become the home town of Jinang people. It will be planned but we can't do it now. Materials we have here are for Maningrida which the government is providing for this settlement, but not for the district or certain areas.

Bus: Cr Riala wanted a shed to put the bus in. He said that children may break the windows. Certain places were mentioned and it was decided that the bus could be put in a sheltered spot.

Joyce Gilbert Pre School

Enquiries are being made about enrolment of Aboriginal and European children at our Pre-School.

The present situation is that we are already 46% over the official enrolment quota for the staff engaged, and with the current arrangements.

Under the circumstances, we regret that it is not possible to enrol any new pupils this year.

Nevertheless, it is our policy to ensure, where possible, that every child entering the the primary school (at first year infants level) is given the opportunity of having pre-school experience for the one year prior to entry to primary school, as a minimum.

Should any parents, who have children who will reach the age of five years by January 1974, but have not been to pre-school, would they please come and talk to the pre-school teacher, Mrs. Jan Cooks, as soon as possible, so that she may try and arrange for them to come and have at least one year at pre-school during 1973, before they start Infants in 1974.

D. Hassall, Headmaster.

Quyun. Triumph "O T T O". Young Otto Bulmania in Miss Jacky Newman's first year Infant's class, not only wrote his name but spelt it out. All the other children in the class could write their names too but they do not learn the alphabet sounds until Infants 2 or even 3. The remarkable thing is that someone at home had taught Otto the sounds. His father is Brian Nyinawanga & mother Maisie Miring wanga.

A Long Walk Home

"You take the old road
and I'll take the new road
and I'll be in Maningrida
before you"



Some young Maningrida men went hunting at the Kupanga on Sunday and when they returned, it was too late to catch the first afternoon truck returning to the settlement. The driver of the second truck was staying for the evening meal and did not intend to leave until about 8 p.m. But the boys had very itchy feet and decided to walk on ahead.

On the same day the settlement's "senior grader driver" had completed a brand new straight stretch of highway right to Kupanga. The boys, for some reason, or for no reason, took the old track. At 8 p.m. the second vehicle left and the driver naturally took the straight new road - with the inevitable result that the pilgrims continued walking. Next morning four weary footsore travellers were sighted near the Rocky Point turnoff. For further details see Tim Darcy, Tom Wurdjal, Albert and Jim Walbaraka.

From Bob C.

No Shortage Of Fish Here

On Saturday afternoon an interested observer noted that a small party of boys who left Kupanga at 4 p.m. to go fishing on the Blyth River in big Barbey's canoe (which is a magnificent sight under full sail) return 1½ hours later with 150 lbs. fish. Earlier that day a wallaby had been shot weighing 40 lbs. Numerous other small fish were also caught.

The Craft Room

At the craft shop we are changing over to a new way of paying the people who paint and make mats and baskets. Instead of paying on the spot for things we now keep a book for each person and on payday Friday we give each person a cheque for his or her work.

Peter Bunjurljurl is keeping up his good work - in one day last week Peter packed almost all of a large exhibition going to Brisbane. A heavy day's work. Don't forget the craft shop for easy one stop Christmas shopping without crowds.

D.G.

Dan has now taken up the responsibility for managing the business side of things in arts and crafts in preparation for working full time there next year.

Guyun Fishing Expedition

Last weekend Jack Miyarka and his wife, Jacky Yulurpirri and Jeff Champion, all of Guyun went on a fishing expedition to Nogredjel. They set off in pairs on foot. On the journey Jeff and Jacky shot seven ducks a couple of miles from a Rainbow Dreaming place before meeting up with Miyarka and his wife at Nogredjel. After a good feed on boiled duck and rice they set about collecting two types of tree traditionally used to poison the water. The trees were soaked to soften them and then beaten in a bag before being put back in the water. The water got darker. After a couple more applications some small fish began to rise, followed by bigger ones of all kinds. These fish can be eaten, but the water becomes unsuitable for drinking for a while. Jeff and Jacky had to hurry back on Sunday afternoon to be in time to start work on the Guyun Housing project, leaving their brother and his wife to return at a more leisurely pace.



How To Get Rid of Leeches

When I was a little boy, about 10 years old, my father would often take me hunting and fishing in his bark canoe. Whenever we arrived at a likely place, he left me sitting in the canoe while he waded through the marshes looking for wild game.



One day, while looking for geese father told me to climb a tree and wait for him, otherwise the leeches would eat me. At that time I did not believe him, so I went to swim after him into the water. When father saw this, he came towards me and said "Look at yourself Mirritji It was then I noticed all the leeches hanging from my body. I started to cry and tried to pull the beasts off. Whenever I took one off lots of blood came out of my wound. I looked to father for help. It was then that I noticed many more leeches (Matjal) hanging from his body, because he had to go into the water to help me.

Father quickly took some leaves and paperbark and made a fire. He told me to stand in the smoke, and while I was doing this I saw the leeches drop from my body one by one. Father did the same at first, but then he remembered the bark canoe (dirrka), so he had to go into the water again to retrieve it. When he came back, he stood in the smoke for a second cure. Afterwards, we went back to the canoe to go home. My father had made a platform of branches and leaves to cover the goose eggs, so that I could sit on them without breaking them, but I was feeling too sorry for myself to ride home in the canoe. However I had learnt yet another lesson. Father finally had to carry me all the way back home, with the result that he could not carry the goose eggs, and had no food for my mother and granny, or the other kids. It was all my fault. Still, they were not angry with me, in fact they started to cry when they saw the condition I was in. All I could do was huddle down near the fire to get warm and stop the shivering of my body, as this was during the wet season. When my father told everyone that ~~the~~ there was much tucker in the bark canoe, they all forgot about me and rushed off to where the canoe was, to carry the goose eggs, tortoises, snakes, ducks, barramundi, flying foxes, catfish and many other things ~~back~~ back to the camp.

J. Mirritji



Troubles

On Monday night after basketball, I went to the single boys house and we had good fun there. Andy and I, George and Toby. When we finished our fun, I went back to my home. Then I started screaming. My auntie, she after my fun (was jealous that I had been having good fun) she said to me "Hey! Stop screaming". I said to her "this is my business, anytime I can scream". Then we started giving each other smart words. I didn't start it, but she did, she didn't like me having fun. It was not right that this should come on my head. When we finished our trouble, I and my auntie, I picked up the swag and went to my second father's house. I'm always living there.

Birds

On Sunday morning my best friend, Gordon and I went to the old jetty shooting with the gun. We got 7 birds for our dinner. We cooked them halfway on the road. When we finished our lunch, we saw a tractor driven by Jimmy. He was taking some white sand for one man. Then he took us to our home. But we didn't say to him "thankyou" because we forgot him.



Mr. G. Richard Garawun.

HELP WANTED

One kind lady who would volunteer to help with Kupunga business, helping to put orders together, paying for them, selling craft goods, looking after bank books.

Anyo'e who could give three or four hours to this work is invited to see the Superintendent.

J. Hunter

CONNAIR BUSINESS

Mr. John Hunter and Mr. Gavin O'Brien have taken over the Connair Agency. The office is in the Government store where bookings will be made.

Mr. Hunter or Mr. O'Brien will try to be at the store one hour before any scheduled flights.

General enquiries can be made at the Superintendent's office during other hours.

SQUASH ---

G.O'B.

HOUSING ASSOCIATION

People wishing to put their name down for one of the five houses to be finished in March are invited to call at the office. See the Superintendent or Gavin O'Brien. One of the houses will be single quarters for men. Single men wishing to put their name down should also call at the office.

Housing Association rents and money for furniture should be paid at the Settlement office as from today.

BIRTHS

Mary Nabalangara had a baby boy in Darwin 26/10/72.

Freda Roberts (Mrs Robert Roberts) had a little baby girl, Wednesday 22/10/72 in Darwin.

DEATHS

Raina, aged nearly twelve months, daughter of Toby O. Malagaliya and Mildred Nawadiga on the 30/10 at Maningrida. We express our deepest sympathy to Toby and Mildred in their tragic loss.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This week Mr Glen Bagshaw attended a meeting of Progress Association managers and Welfare officers in Darwin. He will report on the meeting to the next Maningrida Progress Association meeting.

It does seem likely that an Association of Progress Associations may be formed in approximately three months time.

Representatives came from Hooker Creek, Wave Hill, Banyili, Bagot, Roper River and Maningrida, also some representatives from the Missions. Welfare officers who took part included Messrs H. Giese, R. McHenry, C. Lovegrove, A. Bishaw, M. Ivory, J. Frazier, Ted Evans, J. Shermer, Blake, R. Phillips, V. Parfitt.

While in Darwin Glen saw the vessels which are being purchased by Fred Luff and Bob Collins.

MENS' BASKETBALL

So far the games are gradually improving. The last 3 weeks the games have been fast and happy matches. But we captains of Mens basketball would like to suggest that whoever is playing the first matches please attend otherwise you will forfeit.

The results as from 17/10/72:

Diana 45 d. C. Stewart 24

Pioneers 50 d. Gandayala 36

19/10/72 at 7pm MPA 48 d. Jinang 14

at 8pm Chalkies 51 d. Cadell 34

24/10/72 Chalkies 41 d. MPA 36

Pioneers forfeited to Diana

26/10/72 Cape Stewart 52 d. Gandayala 45

31/10/72 Chalkies 36 d. Pioneers 26

Cape Stewart 52 d. Jinang 38.

Draws for next week

Tuesday 7/11/72

7pm Gandayala vs MPA

8pm Cadell v Diana

Thurs 9/11/72

7pm Chalkies v Cape Stewart

8pm Jinang v Pioneers

Children in Need.

Suppose you are a child - a poor child - a very poor child in a very poor country. Suppose you can't go to school you can't get a doctor if you are ill, nor a dentist no matter how bad your tooth aches. Suppose, you never ever have enough to eat and all your clothes are old clothes. Suppose, no matter how mixed-up you feel, there is no one to turn to, and your mother and father don't understand about the need to give you good food or to keep you clean. And then suppose you find a "foster parent" from a wealthy country, faraway (like Australia for instance) Your foster parent sends you \$14.50 every month.

Suddenly, you can go to school. Suddenly you get more to eat, and so do your brothers and sisters. You might get some new clothes and when you're in pain a doctor or a dentist comes. A social worker helps you to adjust to the new situation and helps your parents with the problems of running a home and keeping their children healthy. Sometimes your foster parent sends an extra couple of dollars and you receive a toy. You get letters and photographs from your foster-parent and you are allowed to write back. In the country where your foster-parent lives, \$14.50 doesn't pay the rent, but if you are a very poor child in a very poor country, \$14.50 can buy hope - and that's useful commodity in anyone's life.

Foster Parents Plan of Australia
36 Park Street.
South Melbourne. 3205
VICTORIA.

R. W.

People

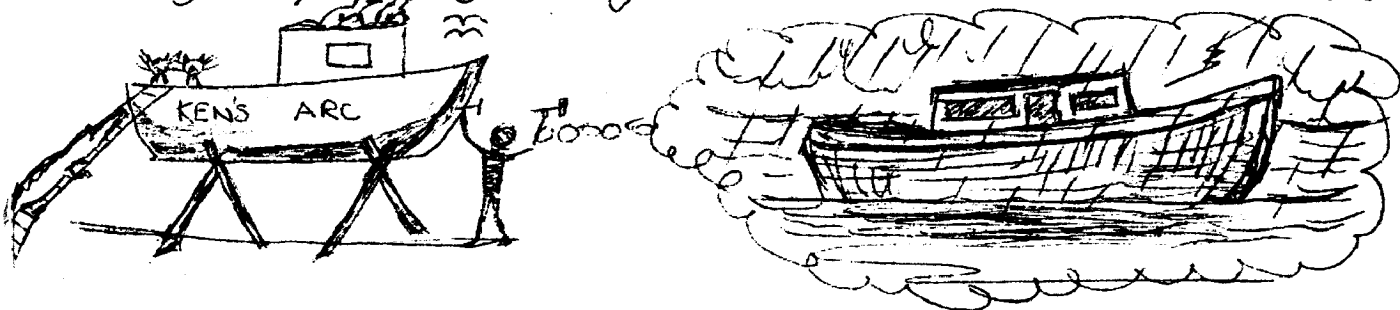
Toiling in the kitchen this week was Mr. Dan Pollard who came out to relieve while Smiley made a medical visit to Darwin.

Charlie Gunbuna is reported to be making good progress in Darwin Hospital. Johnny BulunBulun went in to help look after Charlie, and it was Charlie's suggestion that he come home in the Ford with Jack Wunawun. Kitty Walumba may have to stay in for 2 weeks longer while Lena Djamoraigu may have a long stay.

Deb, wife of Bruno Nimanis, has come out to be with Bruno till end of term.

history repeating itself ??

When she floats the wet is here



You see everything at Maningrida if you stick around long enough. Noah's Ark has come to town and looks quite impressive out-side Welfare's Carpenters Workshop.

C.D.Mc

"The Ark" is Tommy Yibberal's boat which was a regular supply vessel between Maningrida, Navy Landing and the Blyth River a few years ago. Bill Scott, Progress Association mechanic here two years ago, could tell us of all the difficulties they had in trying to get parts for an old model engine. The boat is now being refitted and it is hoped that it will be able to carry supplies to the Kupanga during the wet season.

Gridians

Gridians will be held at Dawn Cuthbert's place on Wednesday Nov. 8th at 7.30p.m. Hobbytex night. Darwin C.

WEEKEND DUTIES

Duty Officer Mr. Bert Ryan
Duty Sister Str. Ena

STAR THEATRE

Friday: "Flaming Star" Elvis Presley. Elvis plays a serious role as a half breed who is torn between his white and red ancestors, and becomes involved tragically in the conflict between two races.

Saturday: "Von Ryan's Express" Frank Sinatra
The story of Col. Joe Ryan, U.S.A.F., who came to be known ironically as Von Ryan. It is a story spun out of his unconquerable being, and his pride. Pride - maybe insane pride - is what made Von Ryan worth hating.

CHURCH

Sunday: 10.00 am Morning Service at the beach
7.15 pm Evening Service at the oval

Tuesday: 7.30 pm Choir Practice

THE CRUSADE

Twenty four people from Oenpelli and twelve from Goulburn Island will be arriving by plane this afternoon.

Saturday: During the morning they will board a truck and travel around the settlement singing and speaking to people about their visit.

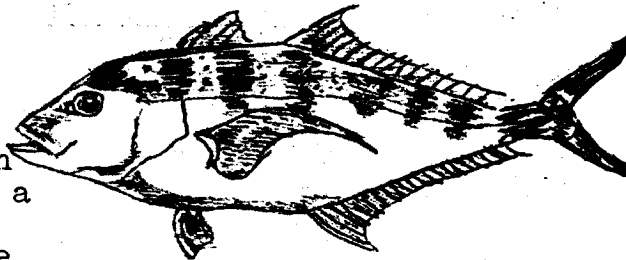
In the afternoon they make the journey to Guyun where the local people are preparing a welcome corroboree. Many of the Guyun people have visited Oenpelli at one time or another.

Round about sunset there will be an informal coffee cum hasty, tasty hour on the lawn by the church.

Sunday: People are invited to bring a blanket and sit down in the shade of the coconut palms by the beach for the morning service, and out on the oval in the evening where a film will be shown on a screen near the football clubrooms

This is a new day when Aboriginal people are able to come from neighbouring communities and themselves take the lead in singing and speaking about Our Lord Jesus Christ, and about the way He has guided and saved and strengthened their lives. We pray that many people, European as well as Aboriginal people, will hear the voice speaking to them in a new way during the weekend.

FISH



The fishing around the settlement has been slow, but further afield things have been a little brighter. Navy Landing is still producing both quantity and quality, while the fisheries boat is managing fair catches of reef fish but they are experiencing some difficulty in keeping the fish in the humid weather.

It was interesting to read in last week's issue, about the crab fattening pen. It will be a worth while venture if the crabs do not suffer too much damage fighting amongst themselves.

To the fish of the week "TURRUM or ALBACORE" as they are sometimes called. This fish is one of the largest of the Trevally family growing to a weight of some 71 lbs. and well known to sportsmen for their fighting ability. The young fish inhabit the shallow inshore waters. This fish is opalescent blue above and silver below; a few yellow spots are scattered over the upper part of the body. There are indications of six darker vertical bars across the back. Large fish are usually taken by trolling from a moving boat using spoons or drones, or baits of garfish or cut filets. This fish strikes without warning and puts up a terrific fight for freedom, making a good catch.

Next week: "GOLDEN TREVALLY".

Barry and Ted Tuite set off for Oenpelli en route for Darwin this week in Barry's truck. Ted had not been along that road before and was eagerly looking forward to some interesting photography.

Maningrida Mirage

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