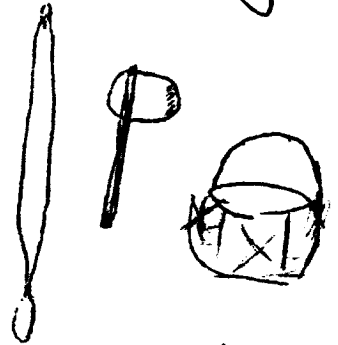




Manninguda
Mirage

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Volume 176:

9th March 1973

Some time ago we told our readers that people like Mandarrg had begun to make stone spears. This year Peter Bunjurljurl and I have been talking to people and trying to find out if there are other people who remember how to make other old custom things.

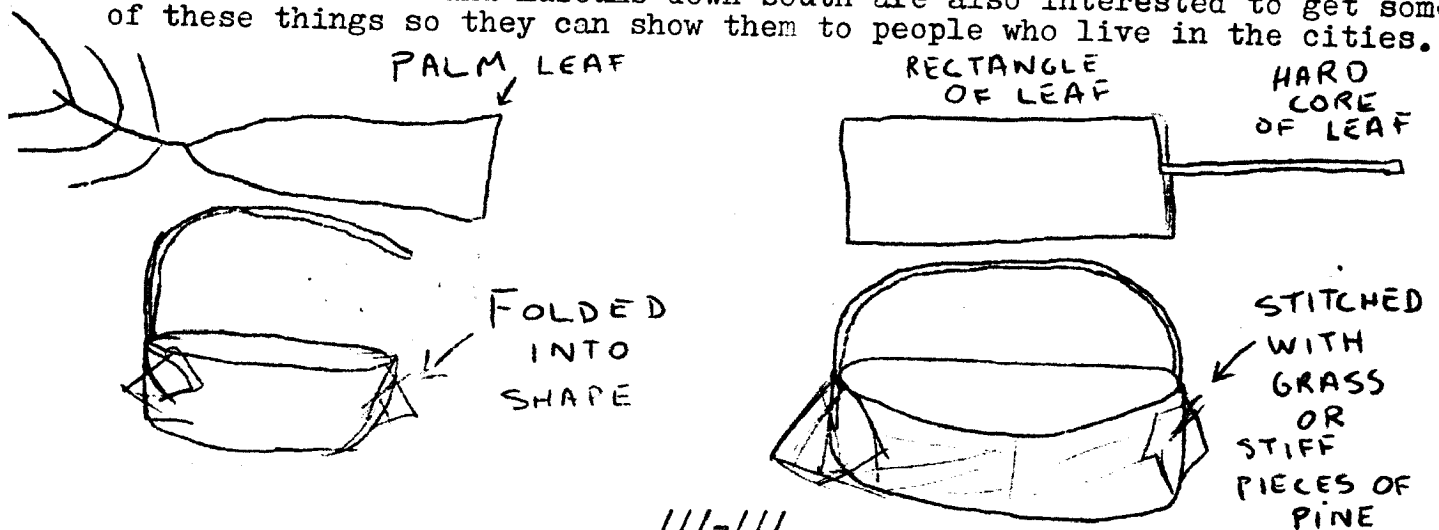
This week we travelled with Dick Butjm to the place called Nabolaitja and there we found some very tall palm trees. Dick said that he often camped at this place in other times. We were interested in the palm trees because Dick had told us that he knew how to make a kind of bucket used in the old days before billy cans to carry water.

Dick collected the leaves that had fallen from the trees and gave a quick story about how he would make the baskets. The next day Dick showed us step by step exactly how the job was done in the old days. It was very interesting and luckily Ad. Boorsboom photographed the job for us. There is one of these very unique and practical water carriers in the school museum.

A few other interesting things have come up. One lady has made a couple of dilly bags, not from the usual pandanus but from a kind of grass with small yellow seeds on top called (in Burera) munbala. This is the grass that is used to make the conical fish traps that are used in tidal creeks. We also found in the old craft shop a couple of containers used for washing lily roots & these too were made from the same grass.

The people at Lalagajirripa of course are making the tiny dilly bags that were and still are children's toys. Also we hope that soon we will be getting some toy dugout canoes from one or two men out there.

We are trying to put one each of these old custom things into the school museum so that people can look at them (especially children.). Some universities and museums down south are also interested to get some of these things so they can show them to people who live in the cities.



///-///

DUTY OFFICER: Mr. Rusty Steele

DUTY SISTER: Sister Maija

MOVIES: Not here as yet. Watch the notice board at the store and offer prayers to the patron saint of movie fans.

Gordon Sweeney School Notes: ^{Pages}

Recently a teaching assistant was stopped in the school grounds and greeted in genuine Strine with 'Howyagoin-----' to which he replied 'Fine'. He was then asked how he was progressing in his classroom work; the clear, thoughtful and sincere answer was 'I'm doing my best.'

A simple story but with a depth of quality and sincere determination of a person's character to be admired. This young Aboriginal man is not highly literate in English, he did not achieve an advanced level of education and in all probability he will be unable to gain further academic qualifications.

But with what qualifications this young man has, he is doing his best. Can anyone ask anymore from a person than that they do their best?

Our school has now enrolled 410 pupils & more are to come. We have 18 European teachers on the staff and one teaching officer and 9 other Aboriginal people involved in teaching. In addition, two European ladies are giving daily voluntary part time assistance. If accommodation was available we would employ a further four trained teachers. We are waiting to employ four more suitable Aboriginal teaching assistants now. Also "on the roll" are twelve Aboriginal men & women as cleaners, specialist cleaners, gardeners and involved in food preparation.

A school beautification programme is under way with trees being planted and gardens being prepared. We appreciate the assistance given by Forestry section in supplying the trees. Please help the trees to grow by not damaging the tree guards.

CHILDREN'S CORNER:

From Simon: I and Elvis we was cooking tea because we awas very angry. And My mother and I went to the camp. And Elvis and I we was eating some bread and tea.

From Crusoe: Yesterday we went to the Cadell River. And we saw a big buffalo walking on the roadway. And we was stop and have a good look at him. Then we got there to the Cadell and we eating some foods and we was playing on the river.

From Ivy: Yesterday afternoon we went getting some bush sugar cane. And we ate it owned up. And we went for a walk at beach.

From Zelda: Yesterday I went to the beach with girls. And we getting some cockles and I saw girls and boys. Then I went back home. Then I went to sleep on my bed.

The above stories are from George Garowun's Intermediate General Stream Class

SCHOOL DIARY - 10 YEARS AGO.

1/11/62. Chris opened the library after school today. Monday & Thursday 5.30 until dark is to be library time. Men are to pay 4 shillings to join and women and school children who can read well enough to join pay 2 shillings. This will help cover the cost of upkeep of books & initial outlay on record cards, plastic book covers etc.

OFFICIAL NOTES:

School First Term ends on Friday afternoon 4th. May

School Second Term commences on Monday 21st. May.

"professor"

TALKING ABOUT BEER CLUB!

There is something was happening on Wednesday night. The people was talk about their drivers. They thought drivers putting less beer in the club for people, But there's one(1) balanda who made wrong things. So the people looked forward to the drivers. The people think that way.

Jimmy Burinyila.

PROGRESS NEWS:

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BANKING: We request the co-operation of the Community with regard to banking. Banking hours have been amended due to the increasing pressure of after-hours work.

<u>HOURS:</u> 9.00 -- 12.45 } 2.00 --- 4.00 }	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.
2.00 -- 4.00	Wednesday.
9.00 -- 11.00	Saturday

Pay Friday hours will be extended to 5.00pm. Please note exceptions will be made for Forestry workers unable to use the bank during the above hours, also emergencies such as an urgent trip to Darwin.

STORE: Stock is improving though problems remain. No aircraft have been to Gove and returned to Maningrida, hence our regular supply of eggs has been interrupted & a current shortage in Darwin has not helped.

Clothing is in very short supply. We are obligated to buy and forward at cheapest rates. This is clearly per 3rd. class mail Sydney or Adelaide to Maningrida. This permits us to sell at Darwin prices or thereabouts and in many instances less. Connair are the licensed mail carriers but are not obliged to carry this mail other than at their convenience. (The reference is to 3rd. class mail only).

This leads to a huge bank-up of mail in Darwin.

With some thought and co-operation I suggest that this problem (weather excepted) shouldn't exist. I go along with the perishables freight to Maningrida, though all residents should qualify for this service. But surely the Government could make more use of the barge service at 2¢ a lb. instead of freighting all perishable cargo eg. fruit, vegetables, butter, eggs even Potatoes and onions by air at 13¢ per pound. This alone would make considerably more room for mail.

There should also be facilities whereby excessive bank-up of mail could be dispatched per barge if the licensed carrier is unable to reasonably handle same.

G.B.

Church Notices

SUNDAY: 9.45am Sunday Schools.

7.15pm Evening Service

TUESDAY: 7.30pm Church Fellowship

THURSDAY: 5.30pm Prayer Meeting

7.30pm Choir Practice

N.B. Communion Service is on the Sunday evening. "Time for Renewal!" An invitation for all who love the Lord may come along and join with us in this Service.

Note from an old-timer

David Drysdale one of Maningrida's true pioneers sent a small note. He sends his regards to all the Maningrida people.

Walkabouts of a Snake Man and a Snake woman.

Most black Australians of us have in mind that we cannot breath in the precense of a black woman who had no right to the knowledge. This history I like to tell to the white Australians, it is like this:

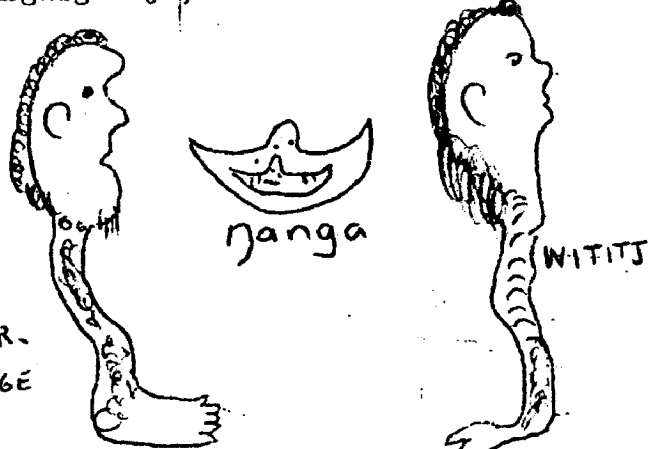
In the Dreamtime the water was hot, young and heat, featureless earth, hungry girl with flat belly and no baby inside. In this time all the ceremonies were sacred, like the animals, and initiation brought man knowledge about fighting, sickness and the very important things of our life. One tale was told by Thunder Snake man, Wulma.

The sound of the eastern wind (djimoro) is for day and night and for the dry season (rarandjar) and the wet season (midawar). This wind is made by Yirr-yirr-mirringe, a Thunders Snake. He brought life to the wallu (nations) of the Dua people. When he came he gave names to the reptiles and insects he met. Furthermore he named the daylight (walir - sunrise) and plants and he found Dua women and food.

He met a woman and he gave her a skinname. The woman was called Wititj (Red Ochre Snake) and the skinname became Gamanjan. She was the red sky ochre and changed afterwards her name to Burain, red ochre, and she got a second skinname too: Wamudjan. She came to a dark water called Bururu near the morningstar, al land full of pearls and shells. She became pregnant and carried all mussels within her. She camped with Thunder Snake near the Milky Way, which is a bone pole and there, they rested for the night. Next morning she gathered all people and collected yams (baratji), lilly roots (rarki), cabbage palm (gulweri), promised goannas (djirrmirr), bandicoots (wangura) and lizards (ngalgandji, frill necked lizards).

Through their walkabouts they carried around all ceremonies, rules (djubur), old time laws (Mardajin), skingroups (ma-alg), customs and familirelations, but they carried sickness as wel to all the Aborigines who lay sleeping at the bottom (this world), beneath the storm upper water (wongodj).

YIRR-Y:RR-
MIRRINGE



So this world became soon formed with meaning and with all these interesting names we can form our thoughts in our mind.

Jack Mirritji.

SPORT:

Boys Basketball Competition.

TUESDAY NIGHT:

Last night boys basketball was on. The first game Junction Bay 42 beat Kopanga 32. The best players were Luke, Colin. It was very good. The second game was Gunnewanga 34 beat Navy Landing 24. The best players were Ronnie, Joe. It was very good. All the girls and boys went home to sleep.

OMAR.

Points after Round 1. Junction Bay 5 Kopanga 4 Gunnewanga 2
Navy Landing 1

Stop Press Girl's B' Ball Thursday night.

1st game: Kopanga 36 beat Guyon 24.
2nd game: Bamboo Creek 30 beat Guyon 22. < starring "The Road-runner" < a really good game.

Maningrida Mirage

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"Maningrida Mirage Volume 176" March 9th, 1973.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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