

27 JUL 1974

A.I.A.S.
LIBRARY

Vol 1

Issue
196

Friday 10th Aug.
1973.



ANIMATED

MIRAGE

FOR SALE!

J.M.

Toshiba Stereo Record Player, + Radio!!
 Radio has SW1 + SW2.
 See JACQUELINE NEWMAN.

School at the Beach!

Not so very long ago it was thought improper for school lessons to be given anywhere but within the four walls of the classroom.

It was only right to teach nature science and geography from the pretty picture books available and even the 3 R's could surely only become effective when taught within the room.

Times change however and some unfortunate traditions give way.

Nowadays you will find classroom dividing walls being demolished to form open space unity, even whole new schools constructed on the open space plan. And what is most significant, classes moving into the open for many appropriate subjects, such as nature science being carried out out on field excursions and arithmetic being worked in the local supermarket.

It was therefore a great pleasure to see last week a further development in education innovation here. Joe and Carmel Donnelly took the grade 6 pupils on a three day education camp to a delightful coastal site three miles east along the beach from Rocky Point.

What more meaningful education experience at the "school at the beach" than - catching fish, counting the haul and working out weights, prices and profits - baking a huge round cake and cutting into fractions - writing letters on their experience - discussing the local geography and history - discussion on, and putting into practice effective camp health and hygiene - not to mention the experience and economics as all pupils participated in the planning of the venture.

Some of the following pupils letters tell you more.

D. HASSALL (Headmaster).

Tuesday 31st July, 1973.

"Yesterday morning we packed our supplies for the beach on the truck. Our driver was Jack Gardner. We brought spoon, fork, knife, blanket and fishing gear. I brought for me a warm bag and a sheet. We brought this for our school at the beach. Also a \$3 note to help buy some things. We left school at 10.30 am. With Jack Gardner. I brought a fisheire and other boys brought their spears at the Craft Shop. We are staying at Second Creek. Now we are on our way to the School at the beach.

When we arrived at the beach we unloaded our things. We camped on the Peninsula of Second creek, with some trees called Casuarina above us. This is our campsite. We had our meal and went to fishing at the biggest creek. After the lunbh we were washing up the creek Namangarda. There we speared crabs and fish. Altogether we caught thirteen biggest fish."

STEPHEN WUNGURRU JAMES

"...After we came back from fishing we went to collect some wood. And we dug a hole for our rubbish. Stephen fried the fish, and Bazil lit the fier, and Bob, Renee and Steve cut the onions. Luke and Nigel cook the fish. The boy baked the potatoe in ashes. Jedaa and Renee were preparing custard. Carmel Don elly was coking the rice with milk. It was delicious. We were not hungry now. We did washing of plates. It got a little bit dark so we spread out blankets. We hearing the story about Pitjandjara desert man. We heard Buffe Saint Marie in the tape singing Circle game. We also discussed effects of petrol on the human. While were talking about Milkyway and we were all sleeping."

BOB MUNAJIRRARR

Wednesday morning:

"We woke up on the sand and prepared for our breakfast. Luke and Steven lit the fire. Steven and Ningle fried the eggs. We all had egg hamburger. Later washed up our plate, and we went fishing after writing diary for school time. We caught so many fish. There were twelve fish and we speared seventeen crabs. We clean and drag, them in bags. We went to get firewood..."

BAZIL ANAGULMUKA

WWe carried the big logs across the creek, then we prepared the meal. Basil and Ben cut the onions. We all baked the fish on the ashes. Renee and Joy mized the custard. We all learned how to make apple crumble. We liked the apple crumble. Carmel made but no-one liked washing dishes. We did wash them before we went to fishing..."

NINGLE WARAMUNDA GIBSON

"We went to fishing in the night and Bob caught a big fish it was another shark. Mr. Donnelly told Bob to slacken the line while the fish was pulling so the line would not brake. We all excited and ran on beach in the dark, chasing the beach crabs and trading on it killing it then we come back and sleep on sand with stars."

LUKE RINGINGUMRI

Thursday 2nd August:

"Yesterday morning we woke up late when the sun was high up in the sky. Carmel organized people to et breakfast. Bob lit the fire. Renee, Joy and I sat up in bed and peeled and sliced onions. Ningle cooked the onions and Steven the eggs. We put the food with saucer on peices of bread. Bob made a billy of tea and Joe Donnelly beated up the milk, that was breakfast. After the breakfast most of the boys went away along the beach. Later on they come back to the camp and we talked about education. What it means, is it necessary. We agree it was necessary to be able to write to tell people about the things we need. We pretended we needed a guitar. So we practiced writing a letter to the Manager of a guitar store..."

JEDDA BUNEIBI SMITH

"... As we were writing we heard a truck coming towards us from the beach. We saw Miss Pascoe, Miss Ilyn, Mr. Hassal and some older girls. They had lunch together with us. Later when they left we played a softball on the beach. Steven team won the softball. Later some of the children went fishing. The boys talked to the teacher and learnt a match trick we all thought it was funny. Then the boys got fire wood on the other side of the creek. After that we dug the second rubbish pit. Then it was tea time again. We had vegetable stew, apple crumble that Bazil made, and chocolate custard. That night we fish and we went to sleep, early because the big fish they broke the lines at high tide."

JOY MANARLAWULA MASON

Friday 3rd August.

"On Friday we planned to return to Maningrida. We help prepare our food as usual and we rolled up our swag. The tide was in so we did some school work for a while. Four people finished then 'daily journal' with Mrs. Carmel Donnelly. While Joe was teaching some boys to do fractions, we were doing multiply too."

Our "classroom" at the beach was under the Casuarina tree on a tarpaulin. We sat in a part circle with our legs crossed or lying and we learned about a lot of things. And we were happy there. It was cooler than the school at Maningrida, and the view of the blue waters and sunny. And when we stopped on the sand it made a funny noise. It was the sound of the bird squiking.

Later the girls went crabbing while the boys and Jedda listened to the tape and some children went to sleep waiting...*

BEN NARIJARA

"All the time at the beach we took turns playing Bobs ukelele. Bob taught us all the tunes that he knew from his brother."

The tide was going out, we were getting hungry so we ate some crab and waited for the truck to arrive. We drank some milk and at nearly four o'clock the truck came. We were happy and quickly loaded our luggage. First we pushed it through the soft sand and on to the hard sand. We got on the truck and rode near to the water. There was a lot of bumps. We hung on tightly and laugh, our hair was blowing everywhere.

We travel back to the main road and back to school then home. We thought that it was a good idea to go to the beach for school because we shared a lot of things and time to do aboriginal things too. We learnt to co-operate with one another with the other boys and girls. It was fun having school at the beach."

RENEE JUNMULUMBURR DAMSEY

Don't Forget to see Jacky about the stereo!

They came - they're having fun and they will conquer! (hopefully)
What? Your guess is as good as anybody else's.

Ten very determined ladies who desire to remain incognito (for personal reasons) are regulars at the YMCA Keep Fit Sessions held every Monday night at 7.30 pm. Sessions have been held regularly at the Resource Centre under the expert intelage of Jan Cooke. (whose figure is an inspiration to the ladies who don't mind at all the perspiration.) Margaret Inglis kicked-off the sessions with her Yoga exercises and since then Jan has patiently taken over the giggly, groaning, cackling and crackling bunch of young once who'll win the Battle of the Bulge if only they stopped eating.

Overheard at the Keep Fit Session -

"Oh my back - I'll never be able to get up tomorrow."

"My husband won't let me come again if I don't show improvement in a month."

"How do you push your bottom up?"

"My toes - they're so far away."

"That's for double jointed people."

"I'm conscious. I'll practice alone and soon I'll do the shoulder stand."

"If I stretch too long my guts would spill out."

"I can't do that - I've got a weak stomach."

"I'll have to do that in the bathroom while the shower is a full blast."

"I'm heavy. Help!"

VANITY - THY NAME IS WOMAN.

Keep fit on Monday will be at the Town Hall. If you think you need to keep fit come. But if you think you don't, don't have a fit - come anyway for fun!

*Stereo for Sale + + +
- See Jacky Newman!*

A WALKABOUT FILM AND HUNTING STORY.

This is a walkabout film and hunting story about David Gulpilil and my brother Dick Jululil. David Gulpilil came back from Sydney to Maningrida on last Thursday the 2nd August, 1973 with two balandas, one camera man Tony and the sound recordist Wolf. They are taking David Gulpilil, Dick Jululil and shooting some animals and landmarks round about.

Paddy Fordam, of the Rembarranga tribe joined with them and they are having very good fun with the acting job, but still they were working without money so I'm not in it. They also are using the hire truck for about a week and then will return to Sydney.

David is the boss. He is learning to become a director.

BREATHING AND SMELLING PETROL.

On Sunday 5th August 1973, 15 school children were breathing and smelling petrol behind the power house. I came and took one plastic bottle away from them. Graham Inglis and Bob Collins met me on the road. I showed it to them, then we all took it up to the police station.

Jack Miritji

+ + + +

From Betty and Rhys....

T H A N K Y O U

We wish to thank the black people at Maningrida for allowing us to visit their town during the last twelve months. We also wish to thank those white people at Maningrida, who assisted us in various ways with our fieldwork on the Blyth River - in particular, John Hunter, Bob Collins, Sister Maija, David Hassal, Mrs. Dickfoss, Dan and Libby Gillespie, Ad and Alfreda Borsboom, Bob Stutchbury and Roger Pink. Without the co-operation and friendship of these people, our work could not have been done.

At the Blyth River, we would like to thank all the Anbara, Gulala and Matai people who made us welcome in their society for one year. Further, the success of our work is due, to a large extent, to Frank Buemanamana, his wives Nancy Bandeyama and Margaret Markowitz, and Nancy's children Sam, Betty, Elva, Ernie and Mirabelle. This family looked after us for the entire period, and graciously accepted our constant observation, questioning and photographing of

the way they collected and prepared local foods. Without their co-operation, our work could not have been completed.

If all goes as planned, we hope to return to the area for a month or six weeks next dry season, to answer some of the questions we forgot to ask this time.

Thank you all for a very rewarding time.

Betty Meehan and Rhys Jones.

+ + + +

ON REFLECTION

We carried out anthropological fieldwork around the Blyth River mouth from July 1972 until July 1973. During that period, though living away from day to day with the black people in the area, we were visited by many white people. With few exceptions, on these occasions, we found ourselves being asked to defend the fact that the black people were living "in the bush" rather than at Maningrida, and thus missing out on medical care, schooling and so on. Normally we presented a number of reasons why we thought that Lalargadjiripa, Moganara, Kopanga and Manakudok-adjiripa were preferable from Maningrida for the people who were living at them: better food was available there were fewer people in the groups, the soil was cleaner, social control was more intact, and so on.

Sitting back in Canberra, in our not so dingy little offices, we have had time to reflect on these arguments, away from the stresses and strains of a field situation. It seems to us now that we need not have put forward any justifications on behalf of the Aborigines for living in their own country. They simply want to live there and that is all that matters! They should not have to justify that. Nobody ever asks the residents of Tibooburra why they want to live there and not at Bourke or Dubbo. And the residents of Tibooburra have a flying doctor service, school facilities, a Royal Mail and so on. They have these services as a right because they are citizens of this country. The Aborigines at Lalargadjiripa and similar stations, seek only the support that is given automatically to all such small communities in Australia. They do not have to justify the fact that they want it. It is their right as Australians.

Betty Meehan and Rhys Jones.

+ + + + Jacky has a
Stereo - TOP BRAND
to Sell!!! -
see front page for details!

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor
Maningrida Mirage.

Dear Editor,

With the resurgence of petrol sniffing and other anti-social behaviour here in Maningrida, the YMCA has been receiving the brunt of unjustified criticisms. Comments like "What has the Y been doing?" has grave repercussions which have put the Y in a most uncomfortable position in the community. The YMCA thinks that there is a need to ventilate issues and clear its position before anything more should be said.

1. The YMCA has only been here for a month and a half and with a staff of three, plus and equipment of TWO Basketballs has strived to cope up with demands at its level best. IT CAN NOT PERFORM MIRACLES.

2. The problem of juvenile delinquency has existed long before the YMCA came. What means, preventive or adjustive, have been taken by the community to curb its rise?

3. The YMCA is asked to have remedial programmes to help delinquents but it can not work alone without due co-operation from other agencies.

4. The problem of juvenile delinquency has deep personal social roots. The delinquent is made by his environment. Unacceptable behaviour, whether conscious or unconscious is a retaliation against the established order. To understand these factors will lend insight to dealing with delinquency.

5. The YMCA can not cure delinquency. It can only provide a panacea. Treating a social disease is a dynamic effort in a continuum - more so in a society fraught with adult delinquency.

"What has the Y been doing?" is not the question of the hour, but rather - WHAT HAVE WEE BEEN DOING? (WEE include all agencies involved in the community development and services.) Unless of course - our mentality has reverted to the "kind" which lays the blame on others for our failures.

Yours truly,

The YMCA.

Dear YMCA,

Hold tight! Some fresh blood is sure to come and take the blame. After all, you are the freshest blood in the place, so you can carry the blame until some other sucker comes along. You must realize that someone is always to blame, we cannot blame ourselves, so you must be at fault. Be patient. Meanwhile, may I suggest that you make this book your Bible -

"HOW TO PERFORM MIRACKES WITHOUT REALLY TRYING".

Yours truly,

The Editor.

P.S. This book is really popular at Maningrida.

+ + + +

DJINANGS ON THE TRACK.

At this moment a Djinang road party of seven men are working in the bush between Gadji-Djimbi, their countries, and the Blyth River (Nimirrili crossing), in order to improve the road between these two places. The men are Ray Munyal, Dick Smith Miwirri, Dick Smith jr., Alec Djimar, Jimmy Burinyala, Robert Brarangu and old man Baku. They are accompanied by their wives and children who all assist very well in the job.

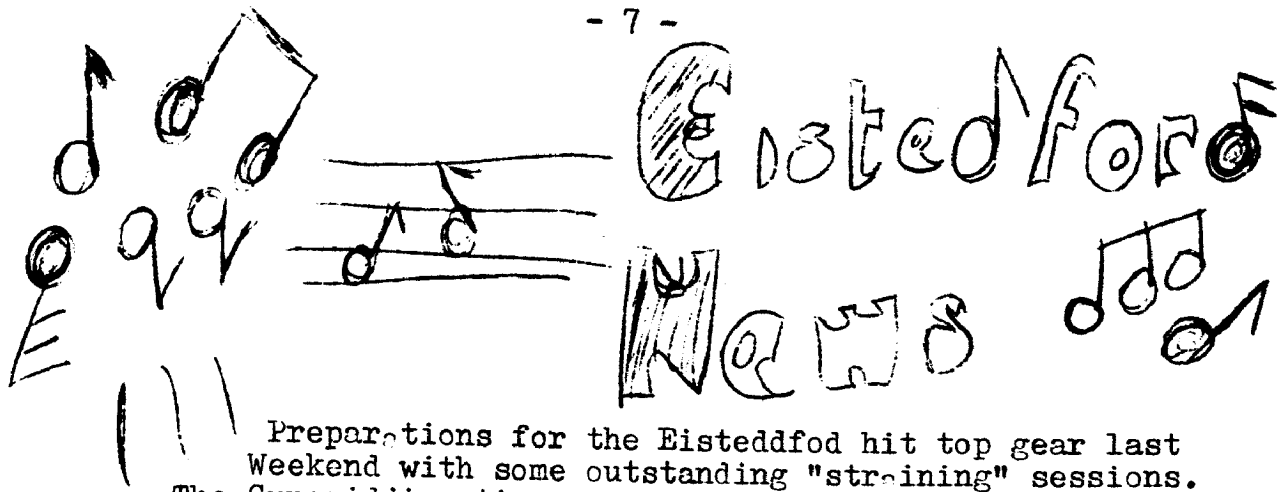
This new straight road will shorten the travelling time considerable, while the quality of the track will be better too.

On their way to Gadji they also made a new track from the big Forestry road up to the Nimirrili crossing. This road, which crosses Guwiji creek and Mirrini creek, reduces the travelling time between the big road and the Blyth River to 45 minutes by truck.

All this impressing work is done within one week time. This Djinang company will spend another two weeks in the countries to finish the job. After some time they will start to build a road between Gadji and Gamedj.

Ad Dorsboom.

+ + + +



Eisteddfod News

Preparations for the Eisteddfod hit top gear last Weekend with some outstanding "straining" sessions. The Gunavidji nation performed their Mitjan dance, a mammoth production. The Murrugun group performed many dances from the Morning Star cycle. These Murrugun men, particularly Charlie Mau-undungu and Peter Banjurljurl, have been training the school boys and girls and this shows in their dancing.

On Monday afternoon Harry Mulumbuk and a dance group that included some Blyth River men, performed dances from the Diamo cycle. The finale was spectacular. The ladies and girls, led by Shirley Malgarid, danced in a procession as Harry rose from the ground and danced.

The school children have also been practicing their songs for the various folk song sections. "Teach Your Children", "Blackbird" and "Days of '49", are some of the songs that they will perform. The girls look really smart (number one), in the new dresses, produced by the hands of Gladys Pascoe.

60 people from Maningrida will be performing in the Eisteddfod. If they all stick together they will put on a very strong and impressive display.

Bob Stutchbury.

+ + + +

STAR THEATRE.

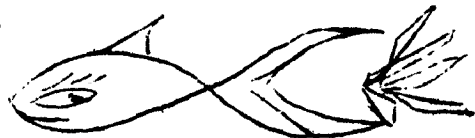
FRIDAY: "Yellow Rolls-Royce."
Actors are Ingrid Bergman, Rex Harrison, Alain Delon, Shirley Maclaine.

MONDAY: "Once You Kiss A Stranger."
Actors are Paul Burke, Carollyn Lynley, Martha Hyer.

From Luke Darwin, Bob Weipa, Steven James.



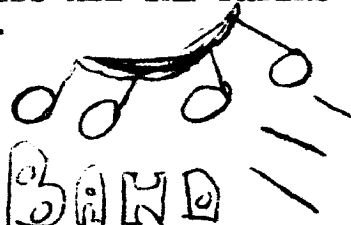
+ + + +



HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP !

CALLING ALL NEWSPAPER OWNERS. THE HASTY TASTY NEEDS ALL THE PAPERS YOU DON'T. YOU MAY EVEN GET A FREE CHIP FOR THEM.

ROBER RIVER ROCK BAND
Saturday night - 8.00 p.m. - 12.00 a.m.
Adults \$1.00 Children 50c



Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

"Maningrida Mirage Volume 196" August 10th, 1973.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

(r000005900888_v196_a.pdf)

To cite this file use:

http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/1973/r000005900888_v196_a.pdf

© Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community