

MANINGRIDA



MIRAGE.

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Supply & Demand

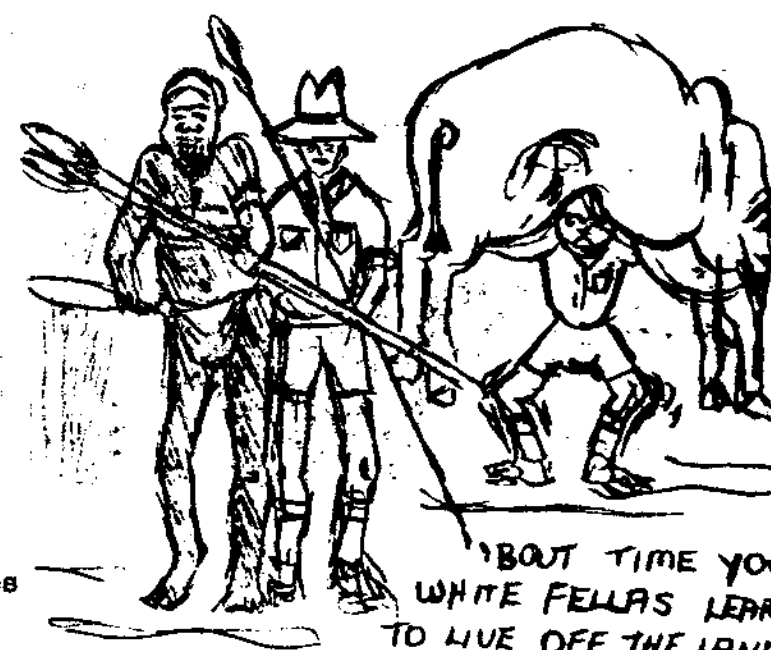
We dont like to welcome new

residents of Maningrida with a story that isnt very cheerful but here it is. You've all no doubt read of the tucker shortages that are hitting Darwin and other places due to the weather conditions - Maningrida is having its share of troubles too. The following is an account of our troubles as told by Glen Bagshaw, the Business Manager of the Maningrida Progress Association:-

All are aware of the present floods - this annual devastation of communications to the ever growing Territory - in fact it is reaching the proportions of an annual national disaster.

The Maningrida store has a major consignment of goods hopelessly bogged in the vicinity of Oodnadatta. It has been bogged for three weeks and on latest information we will not see for at least three weeks.

Another consignment is being held in Adelaide - as youve read the Adelaide-Alice road has been blockaded in any case. As you have also read Darwin is drastically short of many foodstuffs. \$30,000 worth of Maningrida goods is stuck in these two places.



ABOUT TIME YOU WHITE FELLAS LEARN TO LIVE OFF THE LAND

In a difficult situation we are doing the best we can
(a) buying whatever we can from Darwin, which is always more expensive
(b) we have chartered a DC3 at a cost of \$800 to bring whatever perishables we can lay our hands on in Darwin to Maningrida on Saturday 2/2/74. At present there are virtually no perishables available in Darwin.

To add to our woes the barge company V.B.Perkins at no notice whatsoever (i.e. after the sailing of the previous barge) suddenly indicated that both their large barges were due for marine survey. Meaning in effect that we go from 10th January till the middle of February without a barge.

If we load the barges freezer and cooler rooms to capacity, we can carry 10 days worth of perishables - this can be stretched to a fortnight if we use a dry-ice refrigerated container - but there is no way we can bring in or maintain 5 weeks worth of perishables.

We are at present negotiating with the barge company to allow us to carry emergency food supplies on a chartered barge sailing to Groote Eylandt at the end of the first week in February.

Supply and demand - when will the powers that be recognise the needs of communities like Maningrida.

In 1969 the store had sales of \$250,000 per annum, the hasty tasty had sales of \$40,000 per annum and there was no bakery. In the current year these figures have escalated to:- store \$600,000, hasty tasty \$70,000 and bakery \$45,000. Whilst appreciating that there has been a considerable increase in the balanda population of Maningrida and a consequent increase in the amount they spend at the

Crocodus Frontier

Crocodile researchers at Maningrida have begun watching the nesting activities of *Crocodylus porosus* along the Liverpool and Tomkinson Rivers.

The director of the program here, Dr Grahame Webb, says the egg laying was initiated by the big rains which came from the north early in January. Five nests containing eggs have been found, four of these by Gunwinggu men, Anchor Gulunba and associates.

The Aboriginal people will get 40 dozen chicken eggs for finding the sites, if the crocodile eggs are left untouched. Anchor planned to take Dr Webb to a fifth nest, but all the eggs were taken from it a few weeks ago by people travelling up the river by boat.

The scientists will now be spending much of their time in hides near the nests; taking photographs, and recording air and nest temperatures. When the young crocs hatch, their first sounds will be picked up by microphones set into the nests.

Bill Green, the program's full-time photographer can now look forward to shooting some good footage of nesting. Bill has just spent a week up the river watching a site in the hope he'd get shots of a nest under construction - but without success.

For the past few weeks the team has been making and testing nets and snares to trap larger specimens. Two large males were captured, the larger

last Saturday night. An alarm linked by radio with the base at Fisheries Beach sent the crocodile men up river about 10pm to weigh and measure their catch and it was after daybreak on Sunday when they returned.

The big one weighed 480lb, and measured 11ft 10inches, but had obviously lost about two feet of tail at some stage.

For the measuring and weighing, the croc was left wrapped in the snare with ropes holding the jaws shut. It lay quietly throughout most of the operation but burst into action a few times, thrashing about with a most forbidding armor plated tail.

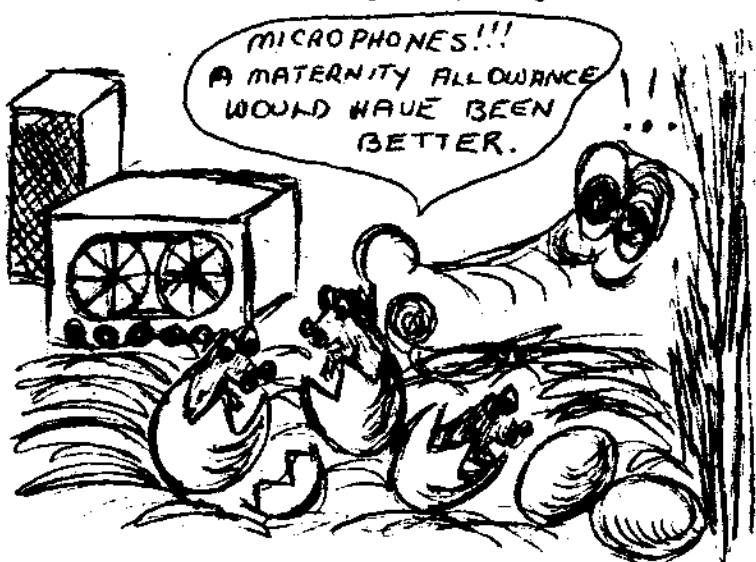
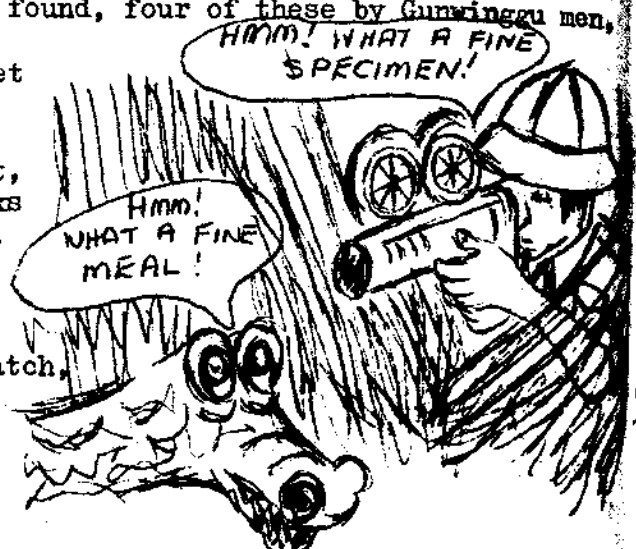
It was the 363rd croc caught and

tagged here. Number 362, the other croc caught in a netting trap measured 11ft 2inches and weighed 300lb.

A smaller croc, number 160 is under observation in captivity at Fisheries Beach. When first caught in August last year number 160 weighed 1120grams but was found to have doubled his weight when recaptured on January 20.

Professor Harry Messell, the director of the 15 - year study will be arriving in Maningrida soon to take over the reins for a few weeks while Dr Webb attends a herpetology symposium in Armidale. Three students have arrived to work with the team. They are David Gemell (New England University), and Michael Moran and Peter Driscoll from Sydney University.

Also from Sydney Uni, from the Physics workshop, has come Ken Lee who is here for a month to assist with the technology of the venture.



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Hasty Tasty

New fish + chip prices are good:-

1 lb of 'f + ch' = 80c

1/2 lb " " = 40c.

News papers needed

Marritjiri Ceremony.

The Gunardba people are presenting a Marritjiri ceremony to Charlie Fry Wokala. The big feathered pole has been prepared and the ceremony may take place this weekend. Last year in the Mirage Jack Miritji wrote a long story telling everyone about this ceremony. Usually a piece of a baby's hair or its birth cord is part of the ceremony and is represented to the group that it came from some time ago. It is a fine ceremony with great dancing and a lot of excitement.

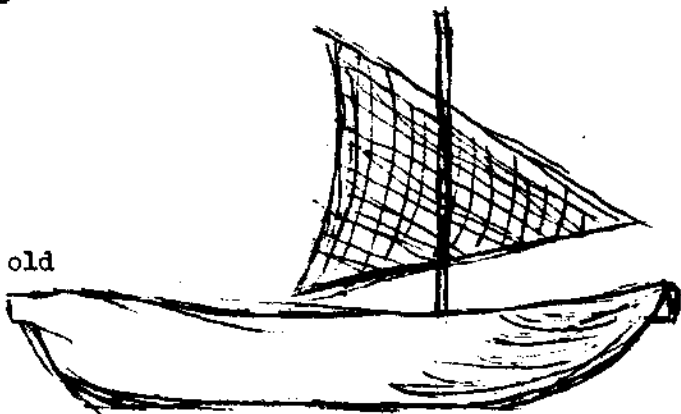
from Johnny Bulun Bulun



Big LIPPA LIPPA Finished

Big Barney Geridruwanga

has finished the big dugout canoe he has been making for the Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra. His wives and his sister have also finished the pandanus sail to go with the canoe. The sail was used in the old days when there was no material like cotton to make sails from. Barney is now thinking about how to get the canoe into Maningrida. The road to the Cadell River Landing (Anderabalkada - Aningana) is cut so the canoe can't come up the river. The open sea is very rough because Bara (the North West Monsoon) is still blowing very hard. Barney says he thinks he will just wait for a couple of months till the wind dies or the floods go away. It will be an exciting day when the big canoe comes to town Barney and David Bandarpi started work in it back in September.



Barney told us an interesting story the other day about some beer that made its way by accident out to his camp at Blyth River. It seems that there was a party that started during the day, went through the night and right through till sundown next day. Barney says that the ladies were frightened and went and made their own camp away from the men.

Barney said that just because he drank a lot of beer, that doesn't mean he has to pay for it. If he ordered a carton of beer and it came and he drank it then he would have to pay for it. But he didn't order any beer and a lot of beer came. He only drank the beer to help in the party. He thinks the people who carried the beer should pay.

Barney said "I'm not a rich man!"

Dan Gillespie & Johnny
Bulun Bulun.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND (cont.)

retail outlets there has obviously been a very marked per capita increase in Aboriginal spending power. In 1969 the per capita spending power of Aboriginal people at Maningrida was estimated at \$7 per week. At present it is in the high twenties per week. In Darwin and Canberra and elsewhere there is little understanding of the size of Maningrida or its requirements by the various Government agencies concerned with the community's services. The use of arDC3 as a relief measure at these times of crisis is simply not good enough.

There is a large community here that is entitled to the services that all Australian communities expect — in fact demand. We believe that it is the Government's responsibility to relieve the Territory's annual supply crisis in general and our continual dependence on an unpredictable supply in particular.

P.S. You will have read of the cuts in bread production in Darwin. Our bakery has enough flour to continue production for another 3 weeks.

as told to Dan Gillespie

AT THE WEEKEND:

DUTY OFFICE : Mr. Edward (Jet Set) Carey.
DUTY SISTER: Friday—Sister Heather
Saturday & Sunday—Sister Betty

Star Theatre

No information to date. Films are probably somewhere. If they arrive, perhaps someone will put a notice on the board at the store.

9.30am.

CHURCH NOTES: Sunday: Sunday schools in the church. There will be church visits to Guyun and Gotjandjindjerra (Cadell) camps in the morning.

7.30p.m.

Sunday: Evening service with communion. We extend an invitation to all who have faith in the Lord to join us.

BACHELOR STORY

Barry GongGon, Peter BundaBunda, Albert Nganmara, Helen Williams, Dora Daiguma, Don Weibananga, Nancy Clark, Phillip Malinga and a few other Maningrida people have not long returned from their courses at Bachelor.

Talking to Barry GongGon they seemed to have had a good time. Barry and Albert did a building maintenance course there. They had school in the morning—learning the new way of measuring with centimetres and millimetres. Then in the afternoon they went around with their teacher and did repair work on some of the houses and buildings in the town. They replaced louvres and broken windows, repaired locks, made tool boxes, broke down old walls and made new ones. The boys and girls lived in separate buildings. Generally two people shared a room. Everyone had their meals in the dining room and everyone was expected to keep their room clean and tidy.

Much of the spare time there was spent with Steve Joseph, the Recreation Officer. Together they made quite a few trips—often to Casuarina Centre on Thursdays for shopping, Adelaide River for swimming, hunting, a glass of beer at the pub and a game of billiards. Barry says that he and Peter BundaBunda are the best snooker players in Maningrida. After work people played basketball, volleyball, shuttlecock or painted. After tea, often they met in the recreation room and talked and danced, and later the girls made coffee.

Steve Joseph, after meeting so many Maningrida people at Bachelor, decided to come here. Steve was a metallurgist. His experience includes being Recreation Officer at Bachelor and technological advisor with the Bourke (N.S.W.) Aboriginal Advancement Association. He helped there with building design.

Steve is known as 'Mr. Fixit' or 'The Y Mending Man' and he hopes to start a workshop here where people can come and manufacture things on a commercial basis, with Steve's help. He hopes to work around the camp doing odd jobs, if the material is available. His two fellow workers will be Barry GongGon and Albert Nganmara.

It will take them time to get things started, as they are still awaiting equipment for their workshop. Steve is hopeful that some Aboriginals will teach him their oral and languages. While engaged in all this (♻️) he'll also be working closely with Peter Pindor and the Y programme which is moving into activities like pottery and jewellery making and lathe work.

One of Steve's big ambitions is to make billycans out of beer cans. Whilst not receiving a grant from Carlton & United, he feels that their cans are of fine quality and found in large commercial quantities here—and could be put to use.

WARNING:

When negotiating Gudjerama Crossing with a dollars worth of chips be sure to place one of the chips in each corner of the Toyota. If the weight of all four chips should be on one axle then the vehicle may break through into the subsoil of the crossing.

R.F.

RAINFALL

FOR

JANUARY

1973- 1274 points

1974- 1841 points—3653mm—27 wet days.

Ideal conditions for building, boating and other outdoor pursuits.

Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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