

Scientist Graeme Webb and his helpers have been spending a lot of time listening to the radio this week.

But the sounds they've been hearing aren't like the radio programs we're used to.

The radio is a special one that picks up signals from a transmitter attached to the head of 'Jockey', the saltwater crocodile, caught here 10 days ago. Robert Record, a technician from the University of Sydney, arrived in Maningrida with the transmitter on last Monday's plane.

Within a few hours the crocodile men had Jockey on Fisheries Beach to fit the transmitter, a plastic box about 5 inches long and a few inches high. Small clips were used to fasten the box on top of Jockey's head and he was then set free again.

He didn't hurry off, but slipped slowly into the water, had a good look around and headed upriver.

The crocodile people followed him with their radio receiver, which makes a 'beep-beep' noise when it picks up sounds sent out by the transmitter. As they get closer to the croc, the sounds become louder.

Jockey finally settled down on Monday in a small creek about a mile and a half upriver. He was still there, resting and getting over his strange experience, when Dr Webb went out on Wednesday.

The transmitter has been working perfectly. The receiver can pick up signals across 2 miles of water and Dr Webb is confident it would be effective up to 40 miles if carried in an aircraft. The transmitter is different from the one tested here last year and was designed specifically for the crocodile project by Keith Brocklesby at Sydney Uni. Robert Record is the man who built it.

Catching Jockey was no easy task. Graeme Webb, Pierce Dougherty, and young Jockey Gabriel spent 4 hours following the croc around in a boat before they could get a small harpoon to stick in the skin behind his head.

It wasn't until Saturday that the scientists found just how big their catch was. With Jockey the croc lying on his back and held down by three men Dr Webb measured from tip to tail -- 10 ft 2 inches -- pardon our error last issue.

Using a big set of scales and a Toyota winch they found his weight to be 195 lb -- and that's a lot of crocodile to tangle with.

It is estimated that Jockey's transmitter will continue sending out signals for four months before the batteries run down.

The researchers went to a lot of trouble to instal this transmitter because they believe Jockey may be a visitor to these waters.

Next week photographer Bill Green returns to Maningrida with other members of the research team to test a new model transmitter.

from Peter Cooke

GOOD NEWS - PRICES



PRICES - No-one, wherever they reside has been happy with the continual rises of food prices during the past year. Nationally, this has approximated 22% and with literally hundreds of applications before the prices justification tribunal the end does not seem in sight.

Our own store in common with all the Territory has been hit by the flood disasters of the past 4 months. There is however some bright news, the supply lines through both Adelaide and Perth are now operating and shelf prices will be lowered almost immediately, additionally with the increasing volume of turnover margins will be reduced in keeping with the Association's objective of restricting margins to reasonable levels. The Association doubtless, has considerable responsibilities as the only store operator in the Community, some would say advantages too, the latter I doubt, and expressing a personal viewpoint, I believe it is time in a growing community for the wider participation of enterprises than afforded by either Associations or Government departments.

G. Bagshaw.

WEEKEND DUTY ROSTER

DUTY OFFICER: Mr. Eddy Carey

DUTY SISTER: Sr. Ena Pickersgill

STAR THEATRE

FRIDAY: "Billion Dollar Brain"

SATURDAY: "Blind Man PT"



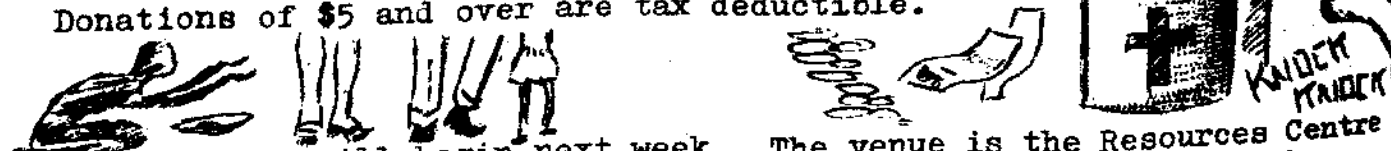
WANTED TO BUY

A 10' to 12' dinghy, aluminium or wood. Condition is not important. See Horst Meissner with Mobile Works Force or Pat Meissner at school.



Keep some cash on hand this weekend to help the Red Cross help others. Lee McMahon and her helpers will be knocking on doors on Saturday and Sunday looking for donations to this worthy cause.

Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible.

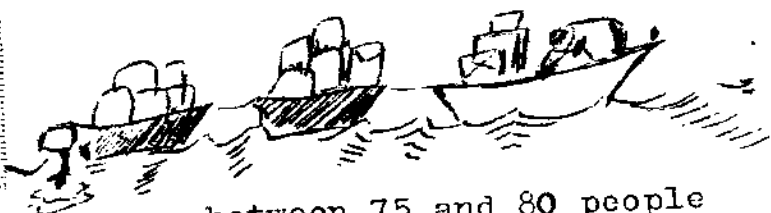


Yoga classes will begin next week. The venue is the Resources Centre but the class will be held on Monday night as Tuesday seems to be inconvenient for many people.

Ladies who haven't tried Yoga before are encouraged to give it a go. It's a good way to trim off excess pounds and keep fit without raising a sweat.

The class starts at 7.30p.m. The Electronics class which is usually held at the Resource Centre on Monday night will now be held in the Manual Arts room.

QUESTIONS



At Kopanga last Thursday evening there were between 75 and 80 people on the beach. They had all come together to buy their balidja - flour, sugar, tea etc after being without supplies for nearly a month. Many people say that the aboriginal people who have gone back to their own country will give up and come back to this place. The Burera people have now gone through their second Wet season in the bush and their numbers are as high as ever.

Old man Frank Guramaminana says that soon work will start on another ungradaitjia - the big conical fish trap. This will be used on the creeks at Djunamunja, on the western side of the Blyth.

The Madagalidban people are using their boat to do their shopping now - John Dalnga Dalnga is captain.

The Munbulagardi people are going well. They have made a couple of old custom bark canoes which are stitched up with vine and filled with mud packing to cross the river. They have sold these and many good barks.

The Government seems to be taking no interest in what happens to the bush people. What many bush people worry about is that they are never sure that someone will keep in touch with them - to carry rations etc. They have shown before that they are prepared to pay for a simple regular service.

When Darwin is cut off by floods the Government brings in the RAAF to keep the tucker coming in. Some of us balandas have tucker sent from Darwin and the Government pays to bring it out. Why then not spend a small amount of money, which can be recovered, to help the bush people lead a more independant life, where they think for themselves.

It would probably save the Government some money in the long run. D.G.



Save your old clothes etc for the Fete folks! Watch for more news.

CONNAIR

Connair have a 'new' DC3 on the Maningrida run. but the signwriters have yet to get to work on it. At present it has a very colorful paint job with a bird of paradise emblazoned on the tail and AIR NUIGINI in big letters along the side.

SPORTS CLUB CHAT

A meeting of the Maningrida Sports Club was held at the Resources Centre on Wednesday. Community Adviser Andy Hazel talked about how the club could frame its constitution. Peat . Marwick and Mitchell are going to draw up a constitution and it's hoped that the club will be properly constituted within a month or so.



We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have been so kind recently. Special thanks to those who looked after our three children and thanks ,too, to those who offered assistance.
Anne and Andrew Hazel

GOOD-HUNTING



Gunavidji people have been having good luck hunting turtle and dugong lately. Last Sunday Solomon Yalbarr, Geoffrey London and Joshua Morbug went out past Entrance Island looking for green turtle (Mar-Redja).

Near Haul-Around-Island Joshua put his harpoon (Alidjali) into a big turtle and the boys had an exciting time getting it into the 12ft. boat.

It was the second turtle Gunavidji people brought home in a few days.

Three dugongs (Munung) were harpooned in Gudgerama Creek last week. Jimmy Bunguru Horace Dedja and Stephen Gawulgu caught a cow and calf one afternoon. At night they went back and got the bull.

The harpoon Horace used is different from the turtle harpoon. It has barbs to stop it coming out and is called Djala/Djirait.

Solomon Yalbarr told this story to Peter G.

FROM THE SCHOOL

I can run. I can play with the ball.

Linda (Infant 3)

The crocodile has a little wireless on its head. Crocodilus let it go.

Phillip McMahon (Infant 3)

I swept the floor. I cleaned the bath and cleaned the basin. I made the beds and washed the clothes while Mummy was doing the gardening with Daddy.

Amelia (Infants 3)



FROM THE DHUPUMA KIDS

Sports at Yirrakala.

On Friday morning we went to Yirrakala to play sport. In the morning all the students and I went to school and after dinner we were on our way to Yirrakala. There were three trucks one, was the commer and the other two were Toyotas. When we were at Yirrakala we played four sports. We played Basketball, six girls played vollyball, nine boys played baseball and the other girls played softball. We won three games but we lost one game. It was a very successful day, and was very happy when we left Yirrakala. If we win we are going to Groote or Darwin. We might see the Maningrida children there.

Patrick Mudjana Fry.

Going Swimming at Nhulunbuy.

We were very excited to go to swim at Nhulunbuy pool. We had our breakfast, then hopped in the trucks and were on our way. Mr. Rourke was taking us a photograph. We were smiling when he took us. At last we came to Nhulunbuy swimming pool. We jumped out of the truck and went in the gates and payed 10c. We swam all day long until the sun was going down, and every body was very tired.

Patrick Mudjana Fry.

Going to the Beach

Last Tuesday we went on an excursion to the Lagoons beach and there we had a lovely time. There we saw Miss Ferguson, Mr. Fong, Mr. Graham and Mrs Graham, they were very happy to see us. After that Miss Ferguson took us to the Library at Nhulunbuy. It was a lovely room, covered with smooth woolen floors and books on the shelves. It was half past one, so we went to the beach and Mr Barr and Mrs Barr showed us to make pictures out of shells. We made a big dug out canoe, and the other group made patterns and the other group made a make up stories. After that we went down the stream and caught many coloured fish, they were very pretty. Soon it was dimer time, we ate our dinner and we were all full. After dimer we played softball. We had two teams one was a horriable crocodile and the other one was the seawasp and seawasp won by 7 points. I was the Best and fairest in seawasp. Soon it was afternoon, we went back to Dhupama feeling very tired. When we came back we had homework with Miss Ferguson. I think it was a wonderful time.

Patrick Mudjana Fry.

AD.

The "Junckie", Marg Neale will be around at your house on Monday afternoon to collect all your junk. The Art Centre has almost reached a standstill because there is no junk around to make more junk with. Have it ready. If any absentee readers have any junk they would love to give, please post it to Marg Neale, Maningrida, via Darwin. Many thanks.

A STORY FROM THE PAST

Most people at Maningrida know Mick Magani, a great bark painter and a leader of the Miljingi people. Mick has been written about in a few books and his bark paintings have gone to overseas countries as well as to Museums and art galleries in Australia. Nowadays Mick doesn't paint very much because his eyes are getting weak. The records show that he is less than 65 years old but it is quite likely that he is older. Mick has an interesting story from the old days at Milingimbi.

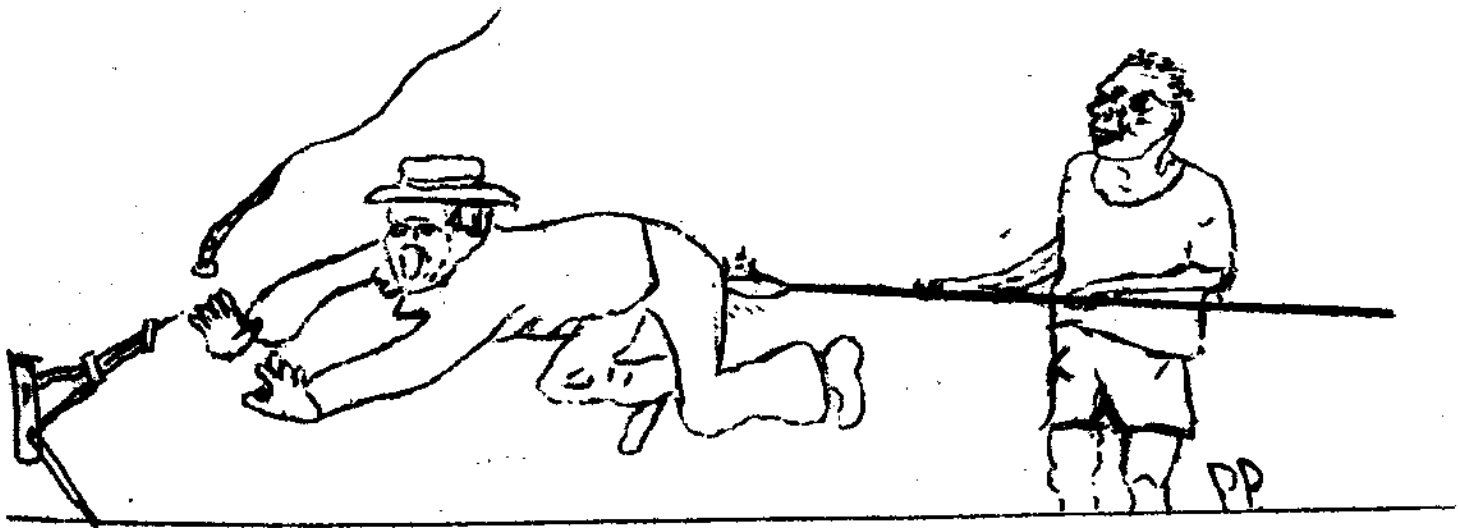
Sometime before the war a man had died at Milingimbi. Some people from Elcho Island (Galiwinku) had come across for the ceremonies for the dead man and the "washing" ceremony was going on through the night.

The singing and dancing made one of the mission staff angry and in the middle of the night the balanda came down and began to whip the people from Elcho with a stockwhip. The aboriginal people were very angry and Magani got his steel shovel hand and arm and went into his shoulder. He was not killed.

Mick was taken to Darwin to court, found guilty and sent to Fannie Bay Gaol. He cannot remember how long he was there. He thinks it was more than three years.

The story is an interesting one. If it is all true, it is another part of the story of why Aboriginal people have often not been able to see the justice in the law the White man has bought. It is also another part of the story of how balandas, and often those of Christian faiths, have stopped Aboriginal people from following their own religion by brute force as well as coercion.

Dan Gillespie.



CHURCH NOTES -

Theme of study for this week is 'studying life.' Read these Bible passages as your guidance to this theme:-

- Matthew 8 : 23 - 27
- John 14 : 25 - 27
- 1 John 4 : 18 - 19

The church activities programme will be carrying on in the same time as usual. We remind everyone to come and join us when church bell rings.

As the easter week is coming closer we have to hold a special church service on Good Friday with the celebration of the Lord's supper in the morning at 9.30 a.m.

WAIT AND PONDER :

Second Samuel 22:3 : The God of my rock; in him will I trust:
He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower,
and my refuge my Saviour; thou savest me from violence.

ROCK POWER

RUB: A-DUB-DUB

A fishing trip to the island turned into a miserable ordeal for three men last Sunday.

They spent nearly seven hours wet and cold drifting around the harbour and didn't get home until nearly 11 o'clock at night.

The story began when Ron Berryman, Terry Canning and Trevor Wade (from Darwin) set out in Ron's boat on Sunday morning.

They fished at Entrance Island for a while but landed three Long Toms only.

When they started to come home the fan belt on the motor broke. They rigged up a hand pump to pump cool water through the motor and were plodding quietly home until the pump slipped into the drive shaft and broke.

With no pump they could only run the motor for a few minutes before it got too hot.

Then it began to rain. Heavy rain pelted down and the boat, that was following lost sight of them and went home alone.

Night (and more rain) fell about an hour later and they drifted along in the dark with not much idea where they were going.

Wet, cold and miserable they tried fishing to pass the time. Trevor Wade caught a few sharks which snapped around in the bottom of the boat, not helping matters much.

They started the motor a few times and helped by the tide got to within half a mile or so of the shore by about 10 o'clock.

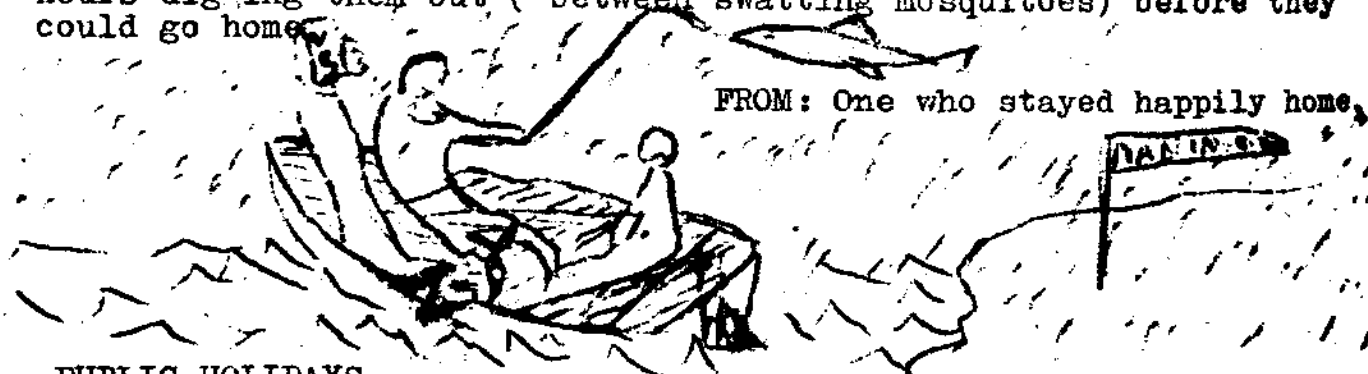
The Crocodilus boat went out to look for them and they tried to light a petrol soaked shirt for a flare but to no avail.

When the Crocodilus men found them on their way back they were only a few hundred yards off fisheries beach.

But the drifting fishermen weren't the only people to have a miserable Sunday.

Four trucks got bogged at Crab Creek and the occupants spent a few hours digging them out (between swatting mosquitoes) before they could go home.

FROM: One who stayed happily home,



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

GOOD FRIDAY 12/4/74 - next Friday

EASTER MONDAY 15/4/74

ANZAC DAY 25/4/74

School holidays start Monday 6/5/74.

Contact has been made with a Catholic priest from Darwin who is prepared to come out and say Mass in a home. Any Catholics interested in contributing towards the cost of his airfare please contact Bob Hale.

Maningrida Mirage

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