

MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

VAL. 3

ISSUE 10

An Apology:

23/8/74

Last week during our absence in Darwin, the Mirage carried two stories on the back page under the headings SHOOT UP-ARE LICENCES FOR BEER AND GUNS WORTH IT and CULTURE BREAKDOWN!

We apologise to our readers in general for the misrepresentations and half-truths contained in the articles.

In particular we apologise to the Aboriginal people of Maningrida and its outstations for the degrading insults heaped upon them in both articles.

We feel that a critical examination of both articles is called for.

ARTICLE NO.1 SHOOT UP.

The writers statement that licences (presumably for guns) are "so easy to get out here" would seem to be a reflection on the manner in which the officers of the N.T. Police Force discharge their duties. To the best of our knowledge the Firearms Ordinance is policed at Maningrida in the same manner as it is policed elsewhere in the N.T.

The significance of the writers statement that "spears have to be made manually first" completely escapes us.

The writer then goes on to say that "a few drunks" used guns "quite freely" in one of the outstations and that they fired on vehicles. The Police at Maningrida that they have had no reports of illegal use of firearms at any of the outstations. If the correspondent has any such information we suggest that it be communicated as a matter of urgency to the O.I.C., Maningrida Police Station

The writer may also care to enlighten us as to how it was deduced that the people were drunk and that there was a possibility that people would "come under fire".

OUR REPORT. Last week there was a disagreement amongst some people at Kotjandjindjerra (Cadell Gardens). During the dispute a vehicle was damaged with an axe and some of its wheel nuts were thrown away. During the dispute one man went to get a gun but it was taken from him.

As far as we are able to ascertain the dispute was a private matter concerning the residents of Kotjandjindjerra and no complaints were laid with the Police or any other official body. The community has now settled the dispute.

ARTICLE NO2 CULTURE BREAKDOWN.

We find the title of this article particularly distasteful. We suggest that the writer knows precious little of the various cultures at Maningrida and that a ridiculously distorted picture of what occurred has been presented.

The facts of the matter as we understand them are as follows.

. A man from Kotjandjindjerra who suffers from what might be called periodic bouts of depression had been under some stress to do with family matters.

. He decided to return to his country to die. That, dear writer, is an affirmation of the strength of the culture.

. The man went off into the bush and did in fact become lost.

. Various Aboriginal, in company with Vainga Vaikoso (who for the writer's information identifies with the Tongan culture and does not regard himself as a European) set off to look for the man.

. Mr. Vaikoso and a group of Aboriginal people eventually found the man and brought him to safety. We think it is worthy of mention that there was some disagreement between Mr. Vaikoso and the Aboriginal members of the party as to the route to follow during the search, and that the party itself was eventually in dire need of water.

. As far as we know the man was not drunk.

We would suggest that the writer takes steps to become acquainted with the law as it relates to libel, invasion of privacy and defamation.

Finally we wish to add a special apology to the people of Kotjandjindjerra for subjecting their personal affairs to public scrutiny under such unfortunate circumstances.

Dan Gillespie
Peter Cooke
co-Editors.

A MINI EDITORIAL ON THE ANCIENT PASTIME OF RUMOURING

Now when the rumour, comes to your town
It grows and grows,
Where it started no-one knows

Jamie R. Robertson

Maningrida is not a town ... it is an institution and rumour mongering is part of an institutions life style. We cant stop rumours but I would suggest that before anyone repeats the next piece of juicy sensationalism they hear, they might ask one or two questions about it. There is currently an insatiable appetite for the half-baked, second-hand half truth

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor,
Maningrida Mirage.

Dear Sir,

Two articles in last weeks Mirage have given me the opportunity to make my first contribution to this paper. However I am afraid to say that this letter has to be very critical to say the least.

The first article was signed by G. Pascoe and the second unsigned but the tone and style seem to indicate the same writer.

While this person is unknown to me, I would suggest that you scrap him or her from your editorial staff as this type of article can only do untold harm to the credibility of your paper.

Would you please check these two articles and correct them in your next issue.

To the writer of this article I have to say "Watch it!" As Community Advisor I cannot allow deliberate misinterpretations of the truth to be published.

Yours sincerely

John Wilders

As Pascoe claims authorship of both articles. We refer Mr. Wilders to our apology on page 1 of this issue.

co-eds.

Dear Mr. Wilders, Why did you not say this to me the other day when you saw me, instead of leaving it to me to ~~read it in the paper?~~ G. Pascoe.

M. P. A. NEWS:

This week we introduce to our readers the new General Manager of the M.P.A. Mr. Peter O'Connor. Peter was the Superintendent of Goulburn Island for 6½ years and many Maningrida people already know him.

Peter is currently learning the ropes from Glen Bagshaw the retiring Manager. Peter will take over the reins on the 1st of September and Glen will work with him in an advisory capacity for a month.

The new Hasty Tasty is nearing completion. We may see it in action some time in September--materials permitting.

D.G.

SCHOOL NEWS:

School holidays start today. School will start again on the 9th of September. The Dhupuma College students arrived home yesterday. They will be returning on the 7th of September.

Ms. K/Glasgow will be holding Burada classes at Maningrida from the 2/9/74 to the 27/9/74. Watch out for more details.

BANK NOTICE:

The bank will be closed on Tuesday next during a visit by the Commonwealth Banks liaison officer

FOR SALE:

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FOR SALE VW COUNTRY BUGGY AS IS WHERE IS SEE DAN GILLESPIE

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WEEKEND DUTY BISTER: SR.LACE

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Church:

This week the programme of Church activities will be the same as usual

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NEW TOYOTA STAMPEDE.

New Toyotas are pouring into the ~~Southern Territory~~ Territory. Last week the Arts and Crafts, Gunavidji and Gunardba Toyotas arrived. Jus before then three new Forestry vehicles had come in via the Bulman. We also hear that Housing is bringing in a new Toyota too...in fact it should be in when we go to press.

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BUNGGUL SOON:

The Council is sending out invitations to all the saltwater communities to come to the Maningrida bunggul on the 14 th and 15th of September. There will be about 250 dancers from 15 communities.

The dancers will be coming from as far afield as Port Keats and Numbulwar. The bunggul will be financed by the Aboriginal Theatre Foundation, Darwin.

PICTURES:

In defence of myself:

My two stories were first-handed from people who live at the said place, on the day after it happened.

I prefer to leave my stories uncorrected.

I feel no apology is needed to the Aboriginal people as I did not intend insult and fail to see how I did. I expressed my sympathies with them because the alcohol given to them is beginning to ruin them and their ability to live as capably and happily as in the past.

However, I would like to offer highest commendations from myself and on behalf of the majority of the community to Vainga Vaikoso and the group of aboriginal people who were with him. They deserve sincere thanks for risking their lives, to find the lost man just before he lost his life.

Now, I refer to M.M. Volume 223 8th February, 1974:-

See the Mirage "as a medium for expressing views of the people of Maningrida, and for keeping the people in touch with what was happening in our ever-changing community."

signed Dan Gillespie.

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"The meeting talked about some of the things that had happened in the old days when the Government in Canberra and Darwin had tried to stop the Mirage from talking about things in Maningrida. We give warning now that the Government or else will not stop the Mirage from saying what it has to say. The Mirage is for everyone at Maningrida. If any person, or group or organisation has anything to say to the community, say it in the Mirage."

signed Dan Gillespie.

"Our Liberty depends on the Freedom of the Press. Any interference with this destroys Liberty." Jefferson - U.S.A. President.

As the Mirage is no longer a "Free Paper, I hereby resign and leave it up to the men who control it all.

Gladys-Anne Pascoe.

co-editor, printer & distributor.

Gladys-Anne Pascoe.
23rd August, 1974.

Maningrida Mirage

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