

MANINGRILL MIRAGE

Vol. XXXIX July 3rd. 1970

INSTRUCTION IN ASPECTS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE: On Tuesday 5th of the senior School students were introduced to Aboriginal Craft. Fifteen Boys, under the watchful eyes of Charlie Jarabiti and George Carawon started bark paintings and 20 girls assisted by Topsy, Mary and Isobel began learning the skills of mat making.

It is planned to devote 2 hours weekly to these activities involving all the children over 12 years of age. Such things as Art and Craft, Weapon making Collection and knowledge of 'bush-tucker' hunting skills, legends, songs and dances will be taught.

The reasons behind these activities should be evident to all who attended Open Day 1970. Knowledge has dropped to an all time low. Acculturation has been so rapid over the last few years that many aboriginals, not fully understanding European Culture, yet too eager to detach themselves from the Aboriginal way of life find themselves in a great void. Disinterest in Aboriginal culture has developed into feelings of shame particularly in the school children. By setting aside this time at school we may help overcome this depressing decline in their culture before it is too late.

TRUCK: The Parents and Friends Association recently purchased the Dodge truck from Mr Olsson for the school. It is intended to use the truck for carrying equipment eg. timber, machinery etc & for school excursions such as a trip to the Cadell gardens project.

The manual training students will learn motor maintenance in keeping the truck in good condition. The truck will prove a real asset to the school and we thank the Parents and Friends Association.

DEPARTURE MR OLSSON: Mr Olsson and family are off to Sydney in 2 weeks - Richard to do a patrol officers course. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

As well as a teacher, Mr Olsson will be remembered as Mr Fitcher's 'Hot-Dog' assistant at the pictures. The School wishes the family all the best in their new venture.

P.R.W.

School Fence. After a protracted debate, a decisive move has been made on the school fence. The economics of the project have been a problem. It was resolved that a quote be obtained for the supply of star pickets and pig wire fencing. This could be planted with shrubs and trees.

Financial grants to the School. Monies were set aside for the purchase of music books and educational magazines for the School.

D.G.

A Letter

Mrs. G. Prussian,
Maningrida.

Dear Sir,

I have been having a holiday at Maningrida with my son Rob, and have enjoyed it so much, I would like to say "thank you" to Rob, Allan Brady, and all the folk here, who have helped to make my stay at Maningrida a pleasant one. Would it be possible for me to do this through your most interesting little paper, the 'Mirage'. If so, I enclose my thanks.

Thanks for the memory

Of my stay at Maningrida at the season of the Dry
Where I had to get accustomed to the slogan "bye and bye",
Where no one seems to hurry, and there's always fish to fry.

How lovely it was.....

Thanks for the memory ...

Of rocking on the river in Allan's gallant 'tub'
The tucker that you fed me on, you called it 'good grub'
And if feeling like a 'skin full', you never need a pub,
How lovely it was.....

Thanks for the memory....

Of tripping up the river, and catching fish galore,
And mending all your "ripping times", sewing buttons by the score,
How lovely it was.....

Thanks for the memory...

Of the trip to see the sea-birds on the island and all that,
The corns upon my 'latter end', because of "how" I sit,
Ant then I went and let the wind take poor Rob's brand new hat,
How lovely it was....

Thanks for the memory...

Of Eha's happy party, where we sang till 'wee small hours'
The lovely swamp you took me to for water lily flowers,
The chillies and the Caspicum that burnt my tongue for hours.
How lovely it was....

Thanks for the memory...

Of that tasty dinner Allan cooked, and wasn't there to eat...??
The prickly burrs about the place that got into my feet -
For all the good intentions that we never did complete,
How lovely it was.....

Thanks for the memory....

Of the night we sang at "Flour Bag's" place, when he became of age,
The chickens and that "barbeque" that 'eyed' us all with rage -
To say a word of thanks to everyone, I'd need another page -
How lovely it was.....

Thanks for the memory....

The perspiration that I lost, the mopping up of such,
The sandflies, the mosquitoes, bumpy roads that made me clutch -
For the sunburn and the windburn, yes indeed, for every thing

I thank you all, so much .

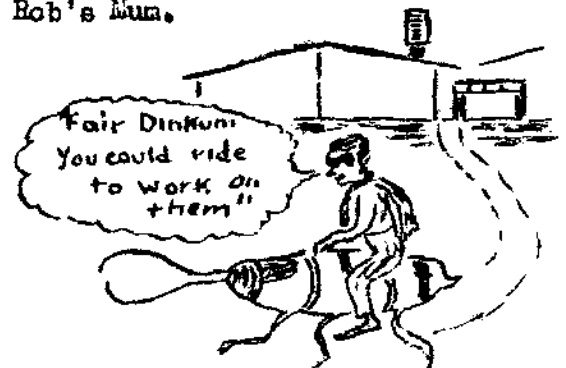
Rob's Mum.

COCKROACHES

If you have some of these creatures
at home and wish you didn't, Mr. W.A.
Flick & Co. may be able to help you,

They require a minimum of 5
buildings which can be treated on the
one day for a sum of \$16.50 incash
each (treatments covering a 3 month period)
If ants or spiders are your trouble, they
can be flicked away for a slightly larger fee.

Interested people are asked to see the notice in the office.



The Heavy Duty type.



When the sixth plane (within an hour) droned across the river on Tuesday morning it turned out to be an R.A.A.F. Baribou. No one expected it. In fact the Supt. and Assist. Supt. were still in bed!!!

Who could it be? The R.A.A.F. on a training flight? "No!" said April "when it comes there is always someone important on board". Well perhaps part of the American evacuation from Cambodia.

Then to complicate matters, there was no vehicle - and the bell had rung for cup o' tea. It turned out to be representatives of the armed services, paying a good will visit to the North Australian Shoreline. The Assist. Supt. "flu" out of bed and paid his respects and the party "flew" off to Milingimbi.

TO EVERYMAN ACCORDING TO HIS NEED !

During the past year the Maningrida airport facilities have considerably improved, rest room, running water and motor driven fuel pump. But in one respect it doesn't quite reach international standards. There are no toilets! Now if a healthy young man comes off a plane it is easy enough to say "Go bush young man". But what about a mother with a 2 weeks old baby!!

C.A.

In other Places.



Huge Wedding.

Six Hundred Aboriginal people gathered at Numbulwar, last week for a huge Corroboree to celebrate a wedding. The girl came from Groote Eylandt. There were no men on Groote who were allowed (skin laws) to marry her, so she was promised to a mainland man. Old Aboriginal people could not remember a corroboree as big as this. The girl's family were of the "Morning Star" totem, and this dance was performed. After the wedding, the girl led all the people in a celebration dance.

Walkabout.

The 1970 Walkabout in Darwin was again won by Helmut Schimmel who covered the distance in 2 hours 12 minutes. Several Aboriginal students from Kormilda College gained places in their section.

Trouble at Gove.

A man from Sydney claims that he saw police at Gove drag an Aboriginal man from a truck by his hair and take him to the police station. He said he heard sounds of punching from the station. An Inspector, who went to Gove to find out, says that there is no evidence that the bashing happened at all.

Poisoner in Alice Springs.

A dog poisoner has killed more than 100 dogs in Alice Springs over the past few weeks. The baits contain strychnine, which causes the dogs to die in agony. Many parents were worried that their children will eat one of the baits accidentally.

Trouble in Belfast.

Fierce riots have broken out in Belfast (not far from England) as Catholic politician Bernadette Devlin was sent to jail for her part in the last troubles. Five people were killed, and cars and houses were burnt with petrol bombs. British soldiers are using tear gas to control the mobs.

DG

Painting the Hasty Tasty

Perhaps you have noticed the slight colour changes occutring to the exterior of the Hasty Tasty, or perhaps you saw a number of children daubed with a similar hue. This is not part of some mystical ritual but an attempt on the part of a class from the school, to come into possession of a share of the source of all economic values. That is to amass a considerable sum of cold hard cash.

The reason for this spate of activity is not difficult to find because next Christmas Vacation should see most of these workers departing from Maningrida on the "Grand Tour" of the southern states; Without which a school student's education is not complete. The boys in the class will be going to the Scout Jamboree in Sydney and returning through Melbourne and Adelaide. A small party of girls will be going to Queenscliff in Victoria for a two week holiday, before going to Sydney for three days of shopping. They should return to Maningrida in time to resume school in February '71.

This excursion by the girls was one of the benefits of the visit by the Aboriginal Sports Foundation to Maningrida earlier this year. The leader of that party, Pastor Doug. Nicholls is one of the trustees of a block of Holiday Flats at Queenscliff in Victoria. These flats are available to anyone wishing to have a holiday near the sea, but to encourage Aboriginal people to use them the trustees charge a lower price to Aboriginal people. These flats are well equipped and will provide an ideal place for the children to have a good holiday.

For those who are admiring the shades of the Hasty Tasty we advise that the colours now displayed are a dashing shade of "SUNFLOWER" and if you can spare the time next Saturday you are most welcome to watch the remaining section gain its new coat. Also we will be providing a special attraction at no extra cost when the window frames and the trim will be splashed with our latest import from the painter manufacturers laboratories, this most charming shade of "CHARTREUSE." Sidewalk Superintendents viewing platform opens at 9 am.

...ooo000ooo...

J.P.

Overlanders

St. John Bick and Gillian Phillips, friends for the Gillespies, arrived on Tuesday evening from Sydney. They drove a V.W. Kombi van up through the Bulman. They were a bit worried about the road conditions by some information they received, but according to St. John, the Bulman Road is an armchair ride compared to some of the desert tracks. They had no trouble at all and said that they were very impressed by the country around the Bulman and Cadell River. Their Kombi van, which is a home on wheels, has been checked and approved inside and out by a team of junior mechanics, led by Ningle Waramanbia.

Post Office.

The Post Office will officially commence operating (in the Store) on July 6th.

Until private letter boxes are built, all mail will be handed to enquirers (as per Regulations) at the store between 9 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Post office will make every effort to cater for Saturday mail even when late, and at the moment will sell stamps (can't be booked on accounts any more), Postal notes, Registered mail, and will receive and forward all telegrams.

G.B.

More Parent's and Friends News.

Pictures. At the request of the Village Council, pictures will shortly be increased to four a fortnight. The price of admission will not be increased. Bob Cross' offsider James, has agreed to be the official projectionist for the four nights.

The P. & F. meeting recorded its distres at the number of people not paying for the pictures. It was felt that Europeans were the worst offenders. The meeting felt that the behaviour of some people in the matter was miser miserly. The \$1 goes to an excellent cause- that of improving the school.

D.G.

WEEKEND DUTY OFFICER: MR EDWARD CAREY

WEEKEND DUTY SISTER: SISTER Edith Tilley.

STAR THEATRE: Friday 7.30 "Clarence the Cross Eyed Lion"
Saturday 7.50 "Guns in the Afternoon"

Church Notices: Sunday 9.30am. Sunday Schools 'Covenant and Ceremony'
7.50pm. Holy Communion
Tuesday 7.50pm. Women's Club.

"Praise the Lord, for our sister water, who is very useful for us,
and humble and precious and clean. Praise the Lord for our brother
fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness: for he is bright
and pleasant and very mighty and strong" St Francis of Assisi.

BIRTHS: BOBBY WILSON - son of Julie and Jim ^{Narila} ~~Narima~~ on Sat. 27th.
RAYMOND - son of Malabinbin and Billy Djiringal born at Cadell
River Gardens (Gotjan jinjida) on about June 10th.

DEATHS: DJNGUWAWAIDJA - 49 years, wife of Yamburippaat Gotjan jinjida. Buried
at Maningrida on Wednesday July 1st.

We join in expressing our sympathy to Miss Cheryl Pullen in the
tragic loss of her young sister in a road accident.

In the early days of the Settlement, a child of Johnny "undurrug
Mundurrug was stung by a jelly fish and died. In the custom of those days,
his body was put up onto a tree platform and later his bones were taken
and wrapped in paper bark, and kept in Johnny's house. On a recent Sunday
afternoon, a ceremony was held and the bones were placed inside a small
hollow log coffin. This will be taken to Blyth River, in due course.

WATER

The Superintendant reminds all home gardeners that the notice re
watering only in the evenings remains in force, without qualification
until the first rains in the WET SEASON.

FLU EPIDEMIC: During the weekend particularly there were parts of the
village where almost every one seemed to be "very sick" or "drunk" with
the flu. The sister estimates that about 150 and possibly more have been
given anti biotic tablets. And the plague has not finished yet!

FORESTRY

Be careful with matches and cigarette ash

The first bush fire for the season started from the road to Gudjerama Garbage Dump not far from the airstrip. The fire fighters were quickly on the spot and only 15 acres were burnt.

It is very important for people to be careful with cigarette butts when the grass is so dry.

Roadmakers

Jeff Cummings and Garry Newstead are making firebreaks in the area between Shotgun Straight Road and the Cadell River.

Logging Ramp

During this week, men have been making a ramp out by the Leper Hole (near the road to Tomkinson's Hole) so that heavy logs can be pushed up on to the Leyland truck by the bulldozer.

Meanwhile work on the new sawmill is progressing well.

Testing the Strength of Bridges

Some of the Darwin Forestry men reckon (with a grin) that Maningrida has hit on a new engineering technique. If a bridge can stand up to a 25-ton bulldozer going across it once, then it must have a 25 ton load capacity - if the 'dozer reverses and comes across it backwards and the bridge is still intact, then it can bear a weight of 50 tons, and so on.

Promotion

Bill Goodwin (former supervisor here) has been promoted from the position of Technical Officer (T.O.1) to T.O.2.

THE CO-OP. SOC. — THE MAN'G. STORE

The name of the Maningrida Co-operative Society has become a well-known name in this community, or more familiarly, by its abbreviation "The Co-op". No doubt it will linger for some time, and will take some erasing from our thoughts, but as from and after Wednesday 1st July - the former Co-op will be known for all purposes as the Maningrida Store (Maningrida Progress Assoc.). The last legalities of liquidation will take up to a further 2 or at most 3 months, but notwithstanding our position is now sufficiently advanced to enable us to commence trading under the new name. Within a 4 week period of time it is envisaged that all banking, buying, correspondence and trading will be in the name of the Maningrida Store (Progress Assoc.)

Should there be any shareholder who wishes to withdraw his or her shares, rather than transfer same to the Progress Assoc., would they please notify G. Bagshaw in writing at earliest possible date. It is our trust that the new store will enjoy the respect and good name enjoyed throughout business circles as the Co-op. Society.

Thanks

1. to our Forestry friends the site has been levelled for the Bakery. I assure them their efforts were much appreciated.
2. to J. McInemey, F. Smith, A. Grieve, G. & S. Armstrong, ^{W. Scott,} B. Quick, C. Pullen, D. Strand, D. Gillespie for their excellent assistance during our stocktaking over the last weekend. Their physical check has passed the scrutiny of our accountant and doubtless we would still be counting without their help.
3. to G. Armstrong, F. Smith, T. Hole and Accountant Doug Gamble for their mission of mercy and rescue in the morning of Tuesday 30th June. Huff said!

G.B.

Our hearty congratulations to Mr. Glen Bagshaw on successfully

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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