

1969: Vol. V, 24th Oct.

Beay Melan



3 AM 1969

# MANTINGRIDA

# MIRAGE



VOLUME V OCTOBER 24th 1969

## IN SEARCH OF DREAMING PLACES

In a recent issue of the Mirage, there was a story about the big new loop road which Forestry are making. The road comes around to the Cadall Crossing where the cave paintings are. Some reports about the proposed road and sacred places had come to the ears of Mr Wentworth and Mr Giese, and urgent commands were given for the matter to be investigated.

A party of Welfare and Forestry officers, John Wilders, Dan Watson, Bill Goodwin and Mr Frank McCabe set out in company with four aboriginal men from that country, relatives of Mandarrg.

The party scoured several miles on either side of the crossing and questioned the aboriginal men as to whether the rock piles and paintings were "sacred" or "rubbish" (ie secular). In each case the people said "rubbish". At no stage was a dreaming place found or seen.

They saw the bones of Mandarrg's father and noted that the head was missing. Mandarrg's comment was "Don't worry..... dog bin eat his."

Desecration at Yirrkala. After all the publicity of the bulldozer running amok on Mt Saunders and damaging sacred rocks there, the two aboriginal representatives to the Goulburn Island Synod, reported that the contractors had repaired the rock face and the people were happy about it. Trees also being planted around the area to replace those which were uprooted.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A WORD OF APPRECIATION

In last week's issue the Scouts meant to say thank you to all the parents and friends of Scouts and Cubs who helped in one way or another on the day of the opening of the Hall. It was very good to see so many of the Aboriginal people present.

Mr Bob Phillips wrote from Darwin "The impact that the visit had on the guests is quite astonishing...." "I wouldn't be surprised if this causes a greater interest in some form by the RAAF in Maningrida. The visiting Scouters voted to provide greater assistance to Aboriginal scouting."

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTMAS CHEER

Two people who helped with special arrangements last Christmas have made comments.

Mr Bob Cross on the Christmas Dinner:

"The kitchen staff went to a lot of trouble and turned on a really good dinner. However most of the people came ate only a little of it, and a lot was pushed off into garbage cans. The containers of jellied fruit were barely touched.

It struck me that if there had been a barbecued buffalo or a whole lot of bush tucker (such as we had at Open Day) they would have hoed into it and eaten the lot."

"The rains really stated on Christmas day and this may have caused some people to stay away from the dining room."

Mr John Wilders, then acting Supt., as now, had one complaint to make. The cook newly arrived from Snake Bay asked for rum to put in the pudding. The Supt. obliged. However the rum found its way down another channel. It frustrated the cook as he stirred the pudding. So when the bill for this particular ingredient arrived, the Supt. thought it only right to pass it on to the one who had benefitted.

A SUGGESTION... If roads and weather permit, a grand picnic might be more acceptable than the dinner and a sports day. At least it would be easier to organise and enthusiasm wouldn't be hard to build up. The carol singing and Father Christmas visit would still take place.

Hospital Jimmy agrees with Bob on the above comments. He thinks that maybe people ate "tucker" of their own at home and that is why they didn't eat much of the dinner. (Pay day and Christmas Day followed closely) Jimmy thinks that a picnic idea is sound. "People could bring their own tucker as well"

\*\*\*\*\*

### MR STRAND IS BACK!!

Aft The children in the school were very pleased on Tuesday to see their bearded master's face again. Dennis reports that all is well with Val, that the doctors have given the all clear, and that she will be back next week. Dennis on Melbourne "That country no good"

\*\*\*

NORMAN....the "Swinger" who almost succeeded in hanging himself is back and seen flying about on the monkey bars on Tuesday night.

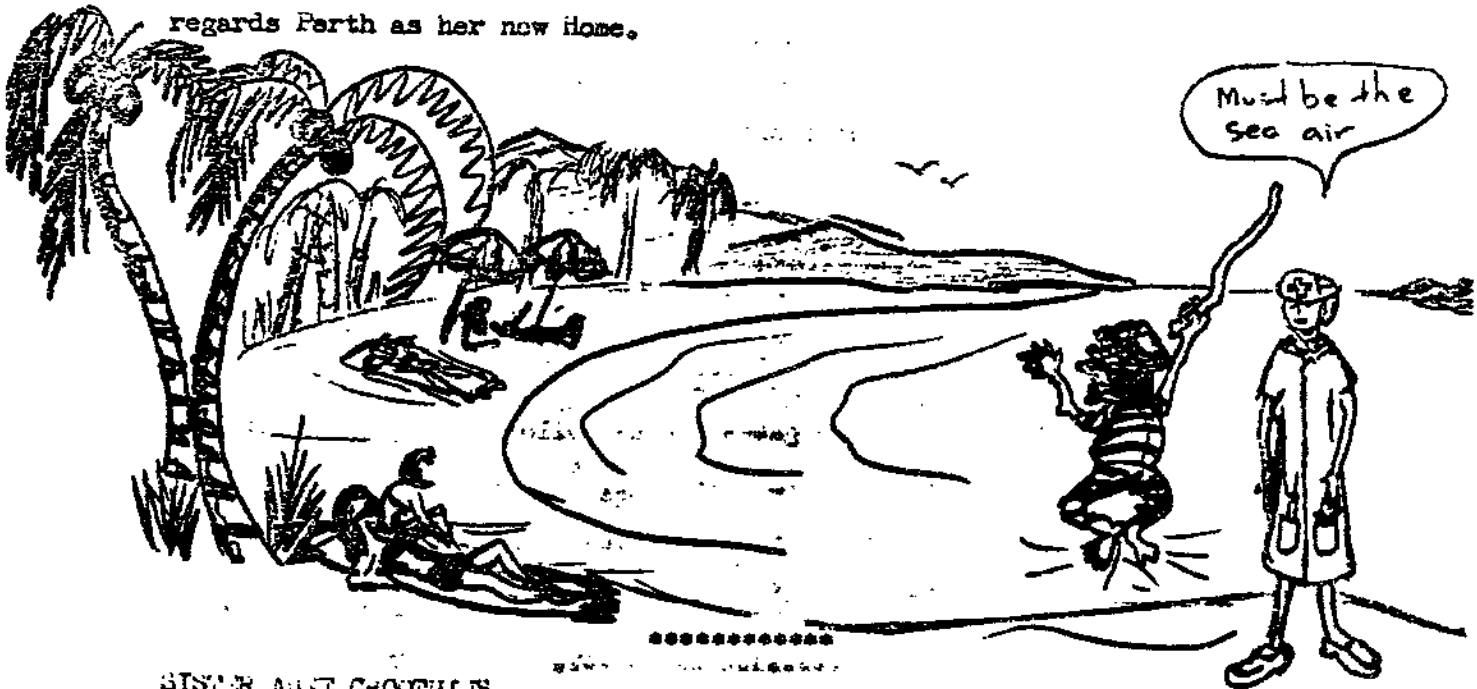
Edith LONDON TO MANINGRIDA

Today Sister Edith is helping to care for Aboriginal mothers and babies at Maningrida. However back in 1960 she was the private nurse to a wealthy old eccentric gentleman. At the age of 94 years his eyes lit upon an advertisement for Hayman Island - actually a blonde decorating the scene there - and for Hayman Island he felt a magnetic attraction. So in service to the aged, Edith saw some of the beauties of the Great Barrier Reef for six weeks.

Later she went to nurse in Kenya where her sister had also been working. These were the days when the Union Jack flew at the masts and only Europeans were treated in the particular hospital. After a term, and a period in England, Independence came to Kenya and Edith returned. For four years she was in charge of a hospital and people of all races were admitted. Some of these were Asians whose great grandparents who had been brought across from India.

On leaving Africa for Australia a lady doctor gave her the address of a friend of hers, a sister who had nursed in Kenya, and come to Australia. The name was MAIJA.

Edith was born in London but after a year in Western Australia she regards Perth as her new home.



SISTER ANNE GROTHUIS

Sister Anne who was on the staff here last year has been doing the mid-wifery course at the Women's Hospital Herston QLD, during this year and sits for her exams on the 24th - 26th November.

Then she plans to do a study tour of Indonesia, and will return to Brisbane in February in time to begin the next course (child welfare maybe).

She has aroused a number of Service Clubs in QLD and N.S.W. to send parcels of second hand clothes to Maningrida. One large sale netted \$800 which helped to buy some of the building materials needed for the Scout Hall. She has also arranged orders for craft work.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEVELOPING THE NORTH

Mr Ken Nowland, assistant Supt. at Milingimbi is expected to travel overland to Maningrida on Thursday. He comes to tell the Maningrida people whose country is East of the Blyth River, the Cape Stewart, and the Jinang people - about a big cattle station company which the groups living south of Milingimbi are forming. If the people here are interested in joining the company, he hopes to take two or three of their representatives to mark the boundaries of their tribal country and enable him to draw these on his map.

Manjalala on the Clyde river is a base for this development. Three staff families and 100 aborigines are living there.

The main town centre planned is at a place pronounced 'Ram-in-gin-in'. Water Resources have measured the water flow in streams there and found it be equivalent of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Darwin's supply.

\*\*\*\*\*

SPORT

BASKETBALL:

The second round of matches were won by Gorillas, Demons, Dugong. Demons defeated Kiwis 51-26; Dugongs defeated Chalkies 32-16; and Gorillas scraped home in front of Hawks 35-33.

Premiership table reads:

- Demons
- Hawks
- Kiwis
- Gorillas.

Fixtures for next week's games are as follows:

|        |   |          |           |
|--------|---|----------|-----------|
| Demons | v | Dugongs  | 7 O'clock |
| Hawks  | v | Chalkies | 8 O'clock |
| Kiwis  | v | Gorillas | 9 O'clock |

\*\*\*\*\*

AT THE THEATRE TONIGHT

"The Pigeon that took Rose"

CHURCH SERVICES:

- Sunday 9.30 am. All age Sunday School.
- 7.30 pm. Evening Service followed by Silas' slides of Singapore.
- Tuesday 7.30 pm. Women's Club.

\* \*\*\*\*\*

**Maningrida Mirage**

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

"Maningrida Mirage Volume 5" October 24th, 1969.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

(r000005900888\_v5\_a.pdf)

To cite this file use:

[http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig\\_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/69-70/r000005900888\\_v5\\_a.pdf](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/maningrida/pdf/69-70/r000005900888_v5_a.pdf)

© Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community