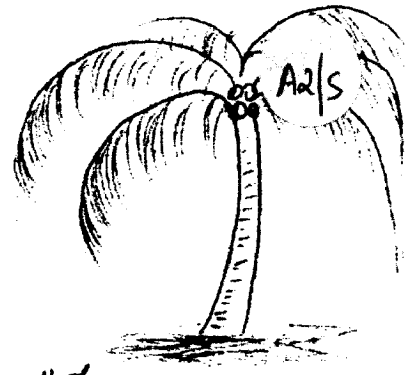


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February 1972



# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE



Vol 125

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1972

## Mining Development.

McIntyre Mines are about to re-commence mineral operations in the Mt. Boro-dale area (for which Goulburn Is. and Maningrida jointly hold what used to be called the 'Authority to Prospect'). A team of pack horses from Oenpelli will carry the equipment needed for further exploratory work, and an old air strip will be brought into commission.

The Progress Association Committee received a report yesterday from Mr. Glen Bagshaw on the latest mining developments.

\* The First Aboriginal Mining Company has now been formed (Most likely to be called FAMCO).

Initially Goulburn Island and Maningrida Progress Associations are members, but great interest is being shown by neighbouring communities.

\* The first meeting will be held at Maningrida on March 24th. when visitors from Oenpelli, Elcho Is., Milinginbi, Goulburn Is., and Darwin are expected to attend.

\* The Maningrida P.A. Committee expressed hearty satisfaction in the percentage basis of equity proposed for each participating member of the Company. G.A.

## Beware

Mr. Jim Shepherd, the Health Inspector, found definite evidence of the malaria carrier mosquito, the Anopheles, at Maningrida. He took 2 good specimens from bodies of Dr. Don Jacobs and Mr. John Carpenter near the Hospital.

Residents will have read about the measures being taken in Darwin to attack the breeding areas, and householders here are urged to take all the precautions of removing stagnant water about the house, repair of fly wire screens and the wise use of insect spray.

J.G.

## Movement On The Station

Sister Sherry Scribbens is being transferred to Umbakumba as Sister-in Charge and then Sister Maija Lehtonen will return to Maningrida.

The Mobile Works Force are mobilised for action once again. New toilets for the School is one of the projects on their list.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Fuller, formerly the Clerk with Forestry, left Maningrida on Monday. They were not certain as to where they would go.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Faint and their 4 children also arrived on Monday. Norm is the new Forestry Clerk. Earlier on, he was with Welfare, and was the Manager at both Bagot and Garden Point. His father, Mr. Jim Faint is a well known Welfare Officer. Maxine managed the shops at both settlements and also started clubs for the children. We hope that they will soon be at home here and wish them a long and happy stay.

## Caution

Forestry urges drivers to be very careful when driving on the road beyond Gudjerama Creek, especially when it is wet.

## Softball

A Women's Softball Meeting.

Room 13 at 6.30p.m. on Monday Feb. 28th.

All interested persons between 13 and 90. Please come or give your name to Liz Wicks by Monday afternoon.



Bill Calleo The auditor from Finance Branch arrived on yesterday's plane, and will spend a week with us.

## THE HORROR STRETCH OF THE GARDENS

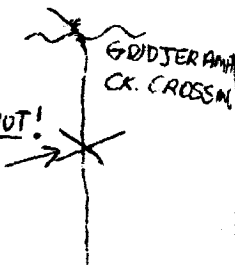
Bob Collins reports that the road from Gudjerama (the former corduroy crossing) to the Cadell Gardens is very beastly at present - particularly the section of new work between Gudjerama and the Dagarladorna Crossing which, with the recent solid rain and the fact that it has not had time to consolidate, is very boggy. Bob Collins tells us that he has had a couple of good bogs - 4 wheel drive, low ratio, boots and all! If you plan a visit to the Cadell Gardens, which grow more impressive by the week, take a few precautions!

Bob also warns all motorists of a dangerous washout situated down the road towards Gudjerama. He tells us that last week he witnessed what was almost a bad accident for an unsuspecting driver at this place. The washout comes in from the left approximately 3 miles down the new straight road towards the old corduroy Gudjerama Crossing after turning off the main Southern drag.

Last weeks heavy rain gave the gardens a bit of a bashing. Newly planted beds of spinach and lettuce were badly damaged.

D.G.

WASH OUT!



## FOR PLANE TAILS - THE GREAT FLYING FISH

The past two months have not been an auspicious time for aviation in the Northern Territory, what with so many schedules being disrupted by bad weather and the recent belly landing of the SAATAS Cessna 310 at Darwin Airstrip. Now, what may well prove to be a further retrograde step has been taken. John (2 barramundi for the price of 1) Carpenter has been granted an unrestricted pilots' licence!



John has many plans for his newfound freedom. He has in mind trips to Milingimbi and Gove, an airstrip for Entrance Island, low level bombing of the Balpanarda goose colony and aerial herding of flocks of barramundi along the Oenpelli road in the Dry Season. You will notice that when the Heron lands these days, one of the crew always stays at the controls to foil any hijack attempts by this enthusiastic fledgling.

In a more serious vein, we congratulate John and wish him happy flying - intending passengers contact your local insurance agent Trish Carpenter.

D.G.

## THE DROP-IN CLUB

The Drop-In Club is going well, folks, but already it is, to use an expression, on the bum. Reading materials are proving popular. If anybody has old Pix, Post or Womens Weekly magazines or suchlike for scholarly lads and lasses to have a look at, they would be much appreciated. Give a yell to the school, Skip or Bob Collins. Playboy magazines should be wrapped in brown paper, marked "Workshop Manual for International-Harvester Tractor" and delivered personally to Bob.

D.G.

## CALLING ALL LADY ATHLETES

Anyone interested in a short but stimulating jog each evening .... Front up to the Neale's residence for departure at 7.00 pm nightly. Strongly advised for those contemplating team sports this year.

Aboriginal and European alike cordially invited. Marg Neale.

## SPORTS CLUB MEETING

Tuesday Feb. 29th at 7.30pm in Mr Pinks room.

All persons (male and female) interested in playing sport at Maningrida please come.

SPORTS READY TO START - Womens 5/5 Side Basketball (see Mrs Neale)  
Womens Softball (see Miss Wicks)  
Mens Basketball, Cricket, Football.

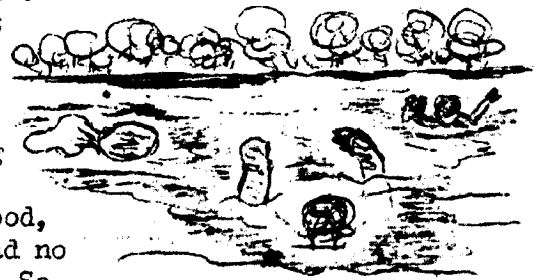
Main Business - Consider Proposed Constitution.

L.W.

# JOURNEY TO JIM JIM

Soon after 7 a.m. on a January morning, Peter Banjuljul and Johnny Mayera were striding down the Stuart Highway, bound for "aningrida. A bus had carried them from Bagot to the 11 Mile, a hospitable Holden brought them along to the 22 mile and then a brisk walk brought them into Humpty Doo. There they visited the last shop that they would see for three days and refreshed themselves with 2 cans of orange and  $\frac{1}{2}$  loaf of bread. Luck was with them as they hit the highway again. Friend and employer of several Ianin-grida-ites, Safari Operator, Mr. Peter Tonsen gave them a lift over the next 10 miles or so. After this, it was all footwalk.

Round about midday, some neat appeared on the road in the form of a goanna, just past Beatrice Hill. The men were quick to take after it, but alas, the wily creature disappeared among some rocks. As the day wore on, Johnny's feet began to get sore, but Peter shod in a pair of shoes was going as well as ever. Peter was carrying his bag with some clothes the remains of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  loaf of bread and cigarettes while Johnny had a suit-case. Three lots of friendly people stopped and talked to them - a buffalo shooter, and tourists from Queensland and Adelaide. That evening they came to what Peter called "The East Crocodile River". Here tragedy struck! The river was deep and the fast flowing current was strong. As the two travellers began to wade and then swim, Suddenly the current loosed the bag from Peter's grip and swirled it away and deep down into the murky depths. Now they had 'no food, no smokes, no nothing.' As darkness fell they had no fire to cheer them, and then rain began to fall. So ended the first day.



Next morning they were on the track again and saw many buffalo but it was a day of walk, walk, walk. Even Peter's well shod feet began to blister. The only people to talk to were some chaps in a Toyota who gave them the awful news that they were on the wrong track. So they had to retrace some of their steps but fortunately there were some 'good tucker berries growing along the road. Learning from last night's experience, they made a shelter under some pandanus trees, and Peter threw his blanket over the top for added protection.

Early on the morning of the third day, they came to a sign post which read "Darwin 160". Peter asked "How far JinJin?" and Johnny replied "Probably tomorrow."

A bit further along what should appear but another goanna. Johnny saw it first "Heh Uncle! We got goanna here." And it wasn't long before the two hungry men caught it. Now the problem was how to cook him. The matches were some where in the bowels of the Southern Alligator. However the old bush craft knowledge came to the fore and they looked for some fire sticks. But alas they couldn't get the right kind of wood. So they tried as best they could. As Peter remembered the incident he counted up the blisters on his hand ..four, five.. six.. seven.. All this and no fire. So they thre the goanna away, and kept on walking.



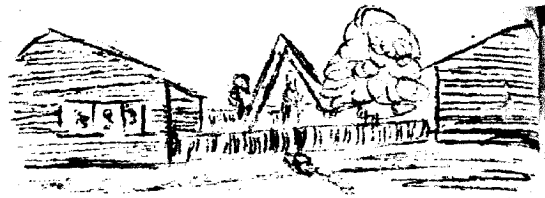
Round about 6p.m. they saw some horses and then the house of a part-Aboriginal man. On the one hand they needed matches badly so Peter said "We'll go and ask him." but on the other hand, as Johnny said "We don't know him. Maybe crook man." The day came to a close on a happier note. A sign post on the road said "JinJin 10 miles"

Next morning they were off at a brisk pace. Presently Johnny heard some one in the bush "Some one out there friend." It turned out to be a quaint old man who spoke Gunwinggu. "You hungry?" he said "I got sugar there and tea and tucker, big mob" Then as they approached his camp, he had second thoughts "No tucker no sugar". Peter observed that he had something wrong with his head, but in the end he did give them some tea, plug tobacco and some matches.



By 11 a.m. they were in Jin Jin - and were soon in the shop buying some food. Will our two friends make it to Oenpelli? Can they survive the perils before them?

# School Notes



Rita Djitnu and Laurie Muguldugi, who recently departed to do a teaching assistants' course at Kornilda College, have had to return for personal reasons. However, they are once again back at work in the Infants Section, where they are doing their usual competent job of taking groups for activities and helping to subdue enthusiastic junior scholars.

The language laboratory, at present housed in the old Infant Feeding Room, is being put back into shape by the Post Primary boys, under the direction of Messrs. Grieve and Neale. A capably qualified new recruit, Rosemary Walters, is in charge of the centre and she is currently assessing the situation and preparing tapes and material which, in due course, will provide language teaching facilities for all classes.

It is proposed to re-introduce the tuckshop at school next Monday. This will be run by the boys and girls in the Post Primary section. The tuckshop sells only nourishing products, such as flavoured milk, fruit juices and fresh fruit as available. It has proved a success in the past and provides some worthwhile value for spare pocket money.

D.G.

## Parents and Friends

At a very well attended meeting on Tuesday evening the following people were elected to the executive unopposed:

President: Silas Roberts      Secretary: Billy Yiriyin  
Treasurer: George Gungibala      Vice President: John Carpenter  
Assist. Secretary: Jack Gardiner  
Assist. Treasurer: Roger Pink.

Our congratulations to these men and we hope they can take the Parents & Friends on to bigger and better things. The constitution underwent some modification (or rather extension) of its objects and these are more specific now in certain areas. Copies of the new constitution as ratified by the meeting will be available shortly from the Assist. Secretary.

The Association will now proceed with its incorporation. An audit will be carried out in March, when the Progress Association's auditors visit for the annual stocktake.

The P. & F., although its finances are now relatively low, has a reasonable number of accomplishments to be proud of. Funds will now begin to mount up again. The school truck is now the P. & F.'s property; - last payment was made this week.

D. G.

## Football

Yes, it's football season, and has been for some time, even at Maningrida. Last week, at long last, we had a game worth watching. Even better, a game everybody enjoyed playing. After several weeks of no play - playing cards - the men think football is good sometimes. Black & White actually led by one point at 3/4 time last week. Other games they have been lucky to get within 50 points of the keen Red and White team.

Points so far for a small prize after two more games:

Raymond Carter	5	Tim Darcy	5
Mark	4		
Terry Darwin	3	Peter Galara	3
Jim	2	Robert (B. & W.)	2
George Putti	1	Alan (B. & W.)	1



# THE WHEELS ROLL

The response to the call for help for "Meals on Wheels" in the Mirage has been outstanding, and a meeting was held at the school last Tuesday of the helpers. A roster was drawn up, and if the enthusiasm continues on it's present level the project cannot help but succeed. It is hoped that later some relief is forthcoming for Str Tilley, but at the moment she will have to battle on by herself. Well done Str. T!

The Irish Stew brigade is as follows:-

ALL THE TIME	Sister Tilley	
Monday	Liz. Wicks	Dan Gillespie
Tuesday	Carol Davies	Roger Pink
Wednesday	Jack Gardiner	Jackie Newmann
Thursday	John Hunter	Tric Carpenter
Friday	John Carpenter	Jan Hay

RESERVES: Mrs Burchett, J.Wilders.

There are no "Meals on Wheels" Pay Fridays or during the week-ends.

J.G.

## GRIDIANS

The next meeting will be on Monday next (28th) at the home of Miss Carol Davies at 7.30pm. Leave your husbands and boy-friends at home!

J. T.

## FEATHERS GALORE

It's a common enough bird about our parts, and most of us have seen it without even looking for it. It's correct name is the PHEASANT COUCAL, but mostly it is simply called the pheasant because that's exactly what it looks and acts like. It's a shy and wary creature, but becomes obvious when it is disturbed by a car or walker from its haven in the tall grass thickets or pandanus. It is especially fond of living around water-courses or swampy areas overgrown with tall grass and the like. When you disturb it from the growth, you cannot be mistaken as to its identity, as it is "all wings and tail" just like a pheasant, and has similar plumage colouration. When it does fly up, it will either drop to the ground again and run to cover, or settle out of view in a tree.

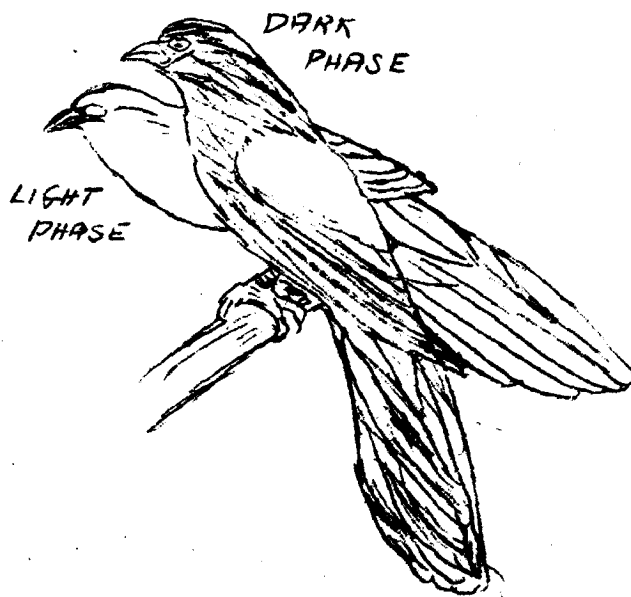
Like a pheasant it may well be, but in actual fact it is a Cuckoo, and a very unusual one at that, because it is the only Australian Cuckoo that does not deposit its eggs in the nests of other birds, but builds its own.

As a cuckoo it is not unusual in its large size (25" from tip of bill to tip of tail), for we have another large and unusual Cuckoo, The Channel-billed Cuckoo.

The nest is built in a tussock of tall grass and pairs breed sometime between December and April, depending on the arrival of the "Wet" (This year it will be late)

Like the pheasant it is a brown bird, but there are two distinct phases (or colour changes) brought about by seasonal moulting. The Nuptial (or breeding) phase is much darker, almost black, while the eclipse (or non-breeding) phase seen here during the "Dry" is a much lighter brown. It feeds on frogs, small

(CON'T)



(Con't from last page)

reptiles, small insects and the eggs and young of other birds.

I have seen many about here and a good place is amongst the tall grass and ant-hills by the Cadell just downstream from the garden. I have also seen them at the Blyth Rv. crossing, and in the upper valley of the Mann Rv. I've even seen one individual on the air-strip which is surprising because I would imagine them to be "Good Tucker".

NOTE 1. There are no true native Pheasants, but they have been introduced to Rottnest Island (WA), King Island and Tasmania.

2. No Australian Cuckoo has a "Cuc - koo" call like that of its European brothers.

J.G.

**WEEKEND DUTIES:** Duty Officer Bert Ryan.  
Duty Sister Str Ena.

**STAR THEATRE**

Friday "Prince Valiant"  
(As in the comics)

Saturday "It happened to Jane"  
(Don't ask us!)



**CHURCH**

Sunday : Second Sunday in Lent  
9.30 am Sunday School  
7.00 Evening Service

Tuesday ; 7.30 pm Church Council

Wednesday 6.30 pm Crusader's Fellowship

*Jesus - hung up  
for our Rang ups  
SOME OPEN MINDS  
NEED TO BE CLOSED  
FOR REPAIRS*

  
GOD IS WATCHING - SO GIVE  
HIM A GOOD SHOW

*GOD'S SPEED DOES'NT  
KILL  
PRAYER IS A  
WAY OF LIFE*

*IF YOUR TROUBLES  
ARE DEEP SEATED  
OR LONG STANDING  
TRY KNEELING*

*THE CHURCH IS A  
HOSPITAL FOR SINNERS  
- NOT A HOTEL FOR  
SAINTS*

*THE FUTURE OF  
THE FUTURE IS  
THE PRESENT*

Extract from "Elco News - Views" reporter who copied it from "HIS" kiosk at Urbana.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

The following officers have been elected to the Church Council:

Parish Clerk Bob Cross  
Secretary Silas Roberts  
Treasurer Jimmy Gulerawuna

**PEOPLE AND PLACES**

John and Robyn STEVENS have been pleased to find a well equipped school and grounds at Goulbourn Island. With the sea on one side, the garden on the other, and the Dairy further up the road, its like living on a farm.

John and Jay PHEMISTER write "Our holiday was beaut .... even the English weather was kind and the first snow fell in the last week of January ..... we spent most of our time in Essex and London..... We had a surprise visitor last week when Jan Croft came in. She was looking well ..... to Anthony's Lagoon.

Str Ces Carey came back home last week and it looks as though she will be soon on the football field again. Ces wishes it to be pointed out that the "strange" new man seen about the settlement on Monday was not in fact a stranger, but her beloved "dolloed" up for one of his rare visits into Darwin.

**Maningrida Mirage**

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"Maningrida Mirage Volume 125" February 25th, 1972.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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