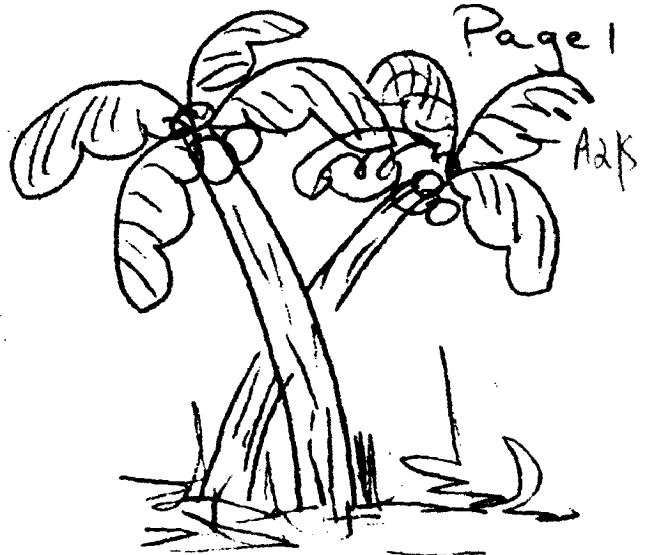


# Manningrida Mirage

4-5-73



Volume 184

## IMPORTANT      PROGRESS STORY

On Wednesday the Aboriginal men who are on the Progress Association Committee held a meeting. All the Balandas who were on the Committee have left - this is because the Government has said that all balandas must leave Progress Associations - they must be full ungagalia. I was there to write down the story.

It was a good meeting. Tommy Ibberal said first that there should be someone to speak for the three bush places. All the men thought this was a good idea. They said next that Jimmy Matjiri should be put off the Committee. He was elected last year but he did not come to meetings. This meant that they needed six new men. These men were nominated -

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Jimmy Cooper    | Stephen Gawulgu        |
| Jack Wunawun    | Old Peter Maral wangu  |
| Nym Manalpoi    | Big Barney Geridawanga |
| George Fry      | Paddy Fordhan          |
| Peter Gangalara | George Bararula.       |

The meeting then talked about these men. They cut out Nym Manalpoi, Peter Gangalara, Old Peter Maralwangu and George Fry So the new men are Jimmy Cooper, Jack Wunawun, Stephen Gawulgu, Big Barney Geridawanga (from the Blyth River Station people), Paddy Fordhan (from the Guyun Station and the other places of the Rembarrnga, Dangbon of Gungurragonne people) and George Bararula (from the Gardens at Gotjanginjerra where the Gunardba people are living.)

The meeting decided these things :

1. President - Silas Roberts  
Secretary - Jimmy Cooper  
Vice President - Joe Fry  
Treasurer - Tommy Ibberal.
2. The committee would have some men to give them advice and stories if they needed any help:

- Alec Rorrison - a lawyer man from Darwin;
- Richard Morris - a man who knew all about looking after money, who comes from Darwin;
- Glen Bagshaw - he had been running all the Progress business for a long time and the committee would need his help.

The meeting said that Jimmy Cooper would be their secretary - if he needed any help he would ask me and I agreed to help.

The men said they would meet every month, at the start of the month. Ray Munyal and Billy Yiriyin would have the job of getting all the men together - especially the men from the bush stations.

Acting story (1)

A couple of weeks ago on Sunday 22nd April, 1973 a few Europeans (Monanga) and I went out fishing and to catch crabs at Navy Landing (Biritji). Most of them were my teachers and Forestry friends. They were very friendly and good. We left Maningrida about 10o'clock bound for Navy Creek. We passed the small road between Animunbi and Natjarrbuka and Arakalkurra. We arrived at the Animunbi beach and saw one aboriginal man's bike, Tommy, and he was fishing. We saw the Connair truck too. It was nearly high tide and we saw a boat heading from west to east. My balanda friends had a talk to the captain of the dinghy. Then we returned to the road to the Animunbi swamp.

We followed a little curly road and stopped halfway to take some photos of the long green grass. We then took off to the tiny open saltbush plain. One truck got bogged so we pulled it out with another truck. We tried to go another way and two trucks got bogged together. We jacked up one truck and used ant hills to make a hard road, then pulled that truck out with the other truck. Then two trucks pulled out the second truck that was bogged.

When we got back to the road we stopped and had some beers and they were lovely after all that hard work.

On the way back one truck had a tyre blow out. It was hard work to change the tyre so we had another beer. We finally got back to the Connair truck and motor bike. We stopped there and had a lovely swim to wash the mud off. Then we had a big dinner to get ready to catch crabs.

After lunch we left two ladies and a truck behind at the dinner camp. We went straight along the beach to Navy Landing and passed some Aboriginal men and women who were walking. We stopped at the crab creek. We saw some other Balandas there with a few young school boys. We left the two vehicles at the beach and then went into the mangroves and scrubs to catch the crabs. My Balanda friends were using all the fish spears, but I was the only one carrying a 22 rifle to shoot some teal duck, if any there. There we caught some crabs and a few small baramundies and little salt water prawns. It was very funny to see my Balanda friends trying to walk and getting bogged in the black mud. A few other Balandas (monga) were following behind us. We all got bogged again when we were carrying our crabs back to the trucks. That was funny because everybody fell over and got really dirty and bogged.

When we left in the trucks, the tide was coming in too fast. One truck nearly got bogged. Two trucks got bogged. It was easy to get one out but very hard to get the other one out, and the tide was still coming in fast near the truck.

It was very good fun that day like any other citizens who get bogged all the time.

When we got back to the dinner camp, we were happy because it was a frightening fast ride along the beach. We picked up the two ladies and the other truck, and went off home to Maningrida. My brothers were worrying for me. They thought that the Balandas got me lost. Half way home one of the trucks ran out of water, so we had to stop and fill it up.

When we got home to Maningrida we had a good shower. One of my brothers came with me to the party and we joined the Balandas. Outside we cooked all the crabs, camp way and had some beer there. A few Forrestry people came, one man from Welfare and one fisherman visited us, and joined us in a crab dinner. It was good.

It was a very good night at that camp fire. My brother and I were sitting there among all the citizens, we were very quiet and sorry for ourselves. It is hard for us to smile and

An

editorial

faux pas

(so what's new already)

Christine

of Anne

the student

preschool

teachers

have

written

to say

thank

you to

all the

people

at Manin-

grida

for

making

their

stay

at

Maningrida

So

pleasant

I

Sorry

for

the vertical

writing

style

ED.

join in but we still go and try this way. We can't live any other way but our friends help us to join in.

A few Europeans worrying that the English-speaking people are destroying the aborigines with drinking beer or grog. But this is a lie. I myself believe these white Australian medicine men arrived with medicine and helped the aborigines to keep healthy and free from sickness, and not trying to destroy us. Nowadays we are all living a long time and healthy and we are growing huge number of aborigines in the N.T.

When I was a Patrol Officer's Guide in Darwin, Maningrida started as the last settlement in Arnhemland. My aboriginal relations are thinking this place is too much like a town called Katherine and they want to go away and build their own tribal land. But I believe we should ask the government to help us learn how to find minerals, and do some mining and find oil, and build up a big forestry and fishing industry. That day at Navy Landing made me realize that all these things would make Maningrida a good aboriginal township, organized by our own people.

Jack Mirritji

Jack - You and I both know how much English you can write. You and I know that you didn't write very much of this story. Balanda people often help you with your stories for the Mirage. Some of them try to write your thinking as much as they can. Others do most of your thinking and writing for you. When they do your stories come out like the bulldust that's in this story. It's your head, Jack, - use it yourself - write your own stories and let them stand by themselves. The Mirage is not worried to print your stories because there are English mistakes in them - you should not be worried either. Think for yourself and write for yourself.

EDITOR

Stay away from school !!

During school holidays would all the parents make sure that the children are not allowed to be or rather hang around at the school during the day and evening. We know it is hard to tell our children but it is against the school law and therefore the children have to stay away from the school area. The children should now know the school law and obedient with this law concern. This may lead the children to a mischief and will be in trouble for not obeying. Your regards. TRANSLATION:

Gun-guna school holiday nyipidi ni pada nyinyipi nymambu muyu adapa nyanyipu nuyu nyengke pada puduwu tellipa yedje gala pada apidi tikgidka pada apidini adengeadenge adapi ana-munya. Naypidpi narnggi gun-guna school law gunika gunterte wengke wudu tellippa yedje pada adawu pada apidi tikgidga. Tellippa yedje pidippi narnggi adappi narnggi apidini pada apidi tikidga munypi nuinyipi nymambu nuyu adapi nyanyipi puduwu nyeni nyorkiyana wudu pudupi gala gupunanggini ngulu wengke apudu workiyana. Munypi tellippa yedje apudu wente apuduni gunede jana apidiji pada, galapi trouble gupuna munypi nyanyupu puduwu adapi nyanpu puduwu gala janguny gupuna-ngini n ulu wudu guwu paypiti ada adapi guwupaypini apidini apudu workiya ngulu wengke.

J.P. (T.O.)

Nunbulwar visitors

- On Monday Dee Uibo's mother and sister arrived to spend a week or so here. They came via Groote Eylandt and Gove.

Stories of it reverberate around the oops place.

It appears that most trips about the place now are "coloured" somewhat by MUD, as are the occupants and vehicles on their return from pleasant trips into the country or Sunday afternoon drives.

The BIG BOG is on alright, despite those who say we are approaching the dry. Perhaps it is this belief that impels the over anxious travellers to stray afar and break new ground. The new ground, solid as it may appear, conceals the lurking, all-engulfing grey substance that has a habit of sapping mens strength and spirits as it attempts to "consume man and beast".

Just such a situation(s) was experienced by a number of brave Maningridians (21 of the mob) and their convoy of four vehicles one sunny Sunday.

One would imagine that a trip to Navy Landing would be a fairly straight forward affair but not so, after 6 bogs were recorded and many laborious man hours spent re-mobilising vehicles, the pleasant Sunday afternoon drive was converted into a pioneering feat as a battle with the elements in many of its forms ensued.

It all started with Jacky Mirritji's assurity that this sneaky track he knew would eliminate the foreshore drive from Rocky Point to Navy Landing. In high spirits we set out through the tallest grass taking what appeared like a track made by one after 4 cans at the beer club.

svoo 1 All went well until we hit the seemingly dry salt pans and then..... UGH Number one vehicle bogged..... number 2 pulls it out..... number 3 down..... number 2 pulls it out..... number 2 and 3 bogged OH NO not number 3 again. It was time to throw the shovel in and turn about. So sad, we could hear the ocean just over the hill too. Flagging spirits determined that maybe we would return in a couple of months.

After a bit of scrub bashing and a nasty 4" gash in the orange terrors favourite tyre we reached that refuge of the mammoth crustacean. We scored ourselves about 50 of them, some prawns and a bucket or two of fish trapped by the mighty throw net.

In an effort to remove that woeful grey substance once again we doused our bodies in the rapidly advancing tide. We also celebrated ourplentiful catch.

A sudden realisation thatthe tide was beginning to lap a little too closely to the vehicles, we boarded. Number one vehicle took off around the bend homeward. They soon discovered they were not being flanked by the rest of the convoy. A hasty return to the scene revealed number 2 vehicle in grave distress. It was bogged dangerously close to the ever-advancing tide (about a foot) Thirty minutes of frantic heaving, pushing and pulling was to no avail. The gravity of the situation was drawn home as we all visualized the vehicles roof being the only visible part by 10 o'clock which was high tide and many hours off yet - even the dogs started whining.

The tide was now gently lapping into the drivers door as the vehicle subnitte itself to its watery bed and snuggled even deeper into the sand and water up to its axles. We were all fearing for our vehicles at this stage. Then the dreaded hand winch was brought to the rescue and with many groans from the strapping men in the party the doomed vehicle was winched painfully inch by inch to safety and each inch forced number 3 vehicle (which the winch was hooked to) sideways deeper into the sand.

Finally off again along the whole "2½ inches" of sand left, praying that there would be no more stoppages. Vehicle one roared through a pool of water and thoroughly doused the engine - "cough, splutter, splutter OH NO water on the distributor" quick head for higher ground " echoed throughout the car. No 2 and 3 stopped to assist.

At last; the final ridge to solid ground. We rejoined the two ladies who chose to remain at Rocky Point (smart ones) They had just been busy peering along the beach through binoculars worrying for the fishermen who hadnt returned.

Only one more incident- a very thirsty and steaming radiator held the convey up before the company arrived home to the lovely Maningrida to relish the hard earned catch.

MORAL: He that goes to Navy Landing should stay at Rocky Point or catch a plane.

NB Enquiries can be made at amphibious tours pty.ltd.

....Marg Neale

Book worms Corner: The Adult Library will be closed from 4th May to 18th May. The Adult Library will next be opened on 24th May at 7 30 pm - hope this wont inconvenience you.

Lately there have been indications that some Aboriginal and European people may not be very happy about the operation of the weekly picture program.

There are two things to think about regarding the pictures.

1. Weekly pictures are a service to the Maningrida community, and as such consideration should be given to the likes and dislikes of all the people concerned so that the most efficient and pleasurable service is given.
2. The Parents' & Friends' Association has been operating the pictures as an economic aid to the school. There is no doubt the school would suffer financial embarrassment if some form of assistance was not available.

At the moment the pictures are shown in the school grounds on Friday and Saturday nights. The school grounds are left in a filthy condition and the general area, particularly under the Head Teacher's Office, used as a toilet.

I am of the opinion that when the town hall is completed the pictures should be screened there on Friday and Saturday nights and the operation continue under the care of the now completely Aboriginal executive of the Parents' & Friends' Association. The Town Hall I believe offers ideal conditions, amenities and other necessary facilities, and this place should be given a trial perhaps it may be too hot or noisy.

However, I am suggesting that those who are bottling up their opinion, accept this invitation to genuinely and sincerely openly voice their opinions by personally discussing the situation with me or perhaps forwarding to me your signed opinion in writing. Some of the points you may wish to outline could include the place of screening, the times, the organisation to operate the screening, the type of films you would like to see, the charges made, ways of keeping the place tidy, the proper place to use for a toilet.

You will need to keep in mind that new and more powerful projection equipment may have to be purchased and this may be a separate issue to who actually operates the pictures. Also someone, or an organisation, may need to operate the town hall shop at picture time and possibly other times.

There are a number of unresolved matters at the moment and we do not have all the answers. It may be just a matter of patient waiting, nevertheless if you wish to offer constructive opinion, please do so as soon as possible.

- David Nassall

OUR SCHOOL:10 YEARS AGO

"Early morning rising to check children at breakfast, and full lunch duty at the kitchen, plus supervision of tea, to gather in the truants. This will be a daily routine for a week or so."

SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS

On Monday morning at 8 O'clock we were going to the carnival in the trucks. There were four House teams. Reggie and I were in Bundiama. Steven was the champion swimmer for the senior boys. Some boys and girls tryed their best to win. Andy and I won first together in the broad jumping. Mullamulurra won the whole swimming carnival. The scores were Mullamularra 113, Bundiama 108, Ngaburra 93½, and Ginga 79.

- Patrick Mudjana

Sporting Roundup.

BOXER WINS AGAIN:Part-Aboriginal boxer, Tony Mundine, the Australian and Commonwealth middleweight champion, knocked out Luis Vinales in the second round of their fight at Festival Hall in Brisbane on Tuesday night. It was Tony Mundine's 17th knock-out win in a row. Tony Mundine then left Australia on Thursday for a fight in France on May 14 against Max Cohen. Tony Mundine's brother was a member of the All-Aboriginal Rugby League team that went to New Zealand a little while ago.

KOPANGA ALL THE WAY:The Kopanga girls team earned a place in the grand-final with a big win 36 to 22 over Guyun in the final on Tuesday night. Joy and Sandra played good basketball to drive Kopanga to the win. Special mention should be made of Alice who scored 20 to Guyun's 22 points. In the boys' final Kopanga just beat Navy Landing 36-34 in a very impressive game. Bad luck, Navy Landing; you played excellent team basketball, especially in the second half. Raymond, Terry and Luke always kept Kopanga just in front. Roger and Joe played good basketball for Navy Landing.

GRAND-FINAL RESULTS.

GIRLS. Kopanga 24 beat Bamboo Crook 22, after extra time.

BOYS. Junction Bay 37 beat Kopanga 34. Congratulations to the grand-final winners and to every-one else who played in the competitions.

B.S.

## Walk into Lalagajirripa

Page 7

Last week Peter Bunjurljurl, Peter Djakundra, Jacky B. & I walked from Rocky Point to the camp of the Anbara and Matai people at Lalagajirripa. We set off at six a.m. and it was a surprisingly easy and pleasant walk along the beach. We covered the 12 or 13 miles by 1/2 past 10 and we had about 1/2 an hour in smokos.

On the way we found two turtles nests and raided them. We also came across some Nakara people camped at Navy Landing. There are now nearly 100 people in the Blyth River area ..at Lalagajirripa on the Western side & Mandapulpul-ajirripa, Manakudok-ajirripa & up to Inangandua on the Eastern side. Canoe making is still enjoying its revival--- from 6 footers up to the big ocean going models. Pandanus sails are being made for the first time for many years by the ladies. The Craft Shop is selling these canoes-- so far we have sent one to the N.T. MUSEUM, Greta Daly Gallery in Canberra, Myers in Adelaide and the Y.M.C.A. in Darwin. A new hotel being built in Darwin. is also keen to get one. Big Barney is going to make an ocean going canoe for the National Ethnographic Collection in Canberra.

Barney is making rope for the sails from hibiscus (midjingalmungalma). This rope is made in a very interesting way. Barney uses a Spanish windlass type of tool to plait the rope while Ruby, Nancy Mary and Horace pass the threads of the rope from hand to hand. The children were very interested -- they had never seen this done before.

Good hauls of fish are being taken again. Barramundi are being speared as they return to the sea from the creeks on the new moon and full moon tides. Yam-hunting is in full swing. People are going to both sides after the big yams munbarndi.



Is it a record? The Lala school was operating on Good Friday- it must have been the only school in the Commonwealth to have done so.

Is it a record? Sam Gamuragan caught a groper the other day on a 60 lb. handline. It was estimated at 300 lbs. plus- it couldn't be weighed- it was 5 1/2 ft. long. Sam weighs 120 lbs standing under a shower wearing an Army great-coat.

Frank Guramanamana continues to show his quiet leadership and his great knowledge of his culture and the bush.

D.G., B.M. & R.J.

## Cricket

---/---

Cricket 1.30pm Sunday at the M.C.G. All players and spectators welcome. B.B.Q. at Canning residence Sunday evening--7.30p.m.--bring roan drink, meat and a bob or two for a raffle.

Cricket Club

## Women's Basketball

THE BIG WOMEN FLY AGAIN: The "Yellow Terrors" from the Gunavidji camp headed by the inexhaustible Helen, toppled the Mighty Red Baronesses from their perch in a superb game on Monday night. Scores 32 baskets to Red's 24.

The Gunavidji mob have really moulded themselves in a top team in all ways. They possess that killer instinct that fires any game they are in. The Red Baronesses, somewhat drooping after the first match, got themselves into gear and rebounded into yet another battle with the Burera ladies-PINK. Red took it away with a score of 26 to 21. Its really "beaut" (sic) to see all the girls trying their hardest, everyone is putting everything they have into the games. Result many glistening and glowing bodies.

Much of the present high standard of play and the resultant increase in enthusiasm can be attributed to the superb umpiring by Jacky & Gladys Pascoe (uh huh!! a husband & wife team?) there is an increased emphasis on rules which can only be a step forward and very handy as the Darwin team found out recently. This brings a new respect for the umpire & the game. Welcome back to the ranks of the mavers Heather Cross.

Next week Start 7pm. Yellow (Gunavidji) v Pink (Burera)  
v Red (Barrenesses)

cont. somewhere

UMPIRES Jacky Pascoe  
Jimmy Pascoe

Gladys Pascoe  
Fred Luff?

SCORERS: Pauline and Nonie  
Helen and Doreen

TIMEKEEPER: Clive McMahon (Step toe and son)

An approach will be made to some of the men who played in Darwin to give some coaching to the girls in the finer points of the rules which need some attention

MARG. NEALE

Meteorology department

<u>TIDES</u>	Saturday	High 8a.m.	Low 4p.m.
	Sunday	High 9a.m.	Low 5p.m.
	Monday	No tides	Public Holiday

<u>Weather</u>	29/4/73.	Max 33.0	Min 22.0
	30/4/73.	" 32.5	Min 21.0
	1/5/73.	" 32.0	Min 22.5

Rainfall for April 638 points.... rainfall this year 3845 points

Movies; don't know

Duty Officer - Bert  
(the sweetheart of the Daly River) Ryan

Duty sister - Sister Betty

For this relief ---/--- much thanks!

Thank you to Roger Pink & Bob Stutchbury for getting the Mirage out last week. Take a bow also our regular typists Pat Christopher, Shirley Soutter and Peter Cooke - also our resident artist Denise Carwardine.

Editorial (1)

The Mirage gives its unqualified support to David Hassall's call for discussion on the future of the pictures at Maningrida. This is a decision that everybody can take part in if they have something to say.

If you have got an idea about this matter don't sit and bitch in private - make your thinking known.

(2)

---and some have greatness thrust upon them"

We may not have had greatness thrust upon us yet but what has been thrust upon the Mirage is the knowledge that someday the paper will be a very valuable record of the life of Maningrida. Already we have received requests for a complete copy of all the back issues since Vol. 1. We find that we may not be able to fill this order completely. I think that it is very important that we place a complete set of our papers in the National Archives and other places where people will have access to them in the future. What I propose is a Day of Documentation sometime in the near future

We will need a few volunteers, access to copying and duplicating gear and the loan of back copies of the Mirage. In this way we can make sure that we have multiple copies of every Mirage available and we can also make sure that a number of important institutions also have complete sets. In time to come the Mirage will have great value to historians, anthropologists and sociologists to name a few. If you think you can help, let me know.

D. G.

Beware the rumour...

This week we are pleased to report that there were no tractors, Toyotas graders, trailers, motorbikes, bulldozers, Gunwinngu or Gunardba work parties, or assistant managers bogged in the vicinity of the Cadell River. Stories to the contrary are without foundation and the work of scandal-mongers, liars and subversives...editor.



**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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