



VOL 3 ISSUE 16

Blackboard Papers.

We are now almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of the way through the first term and I think that we have made a pretty good start to '74. We have now our full staff and with a bit of luck might get some extras to help out in the more difficult areas. (numbers wise anyway).

The main news items so far appear to be lunches, compulsion, exchange, Dhupuma, the museum and fees.

Lunches:- With the shortage of gas the staff at school decided to give the children a decent meal each day, Gladys Pascoe has done a tremendous job in providing many interesting and tasty meals. She has been capably helped by the secondary girls. We want each child to pay \$2.00 for the meals to help cover the extra costs that have had to be met. Most people have paid but there are some who have not done so yet.

Dhupuma:- We at last managed to get 9 of our students to Dhupuma College. The delay was caused by the college dining room not being finished. It must be fixed now and we are sure that the boys and girls who went from Maningrida will do well and will come back and tell us lots of good stories.

Compulsion:- It is now law that every child **MUST** go to school every day. In the past, Aboriginal children did not have to go to school. They DO HAVE to now. Too many children are not coming to school and the council and the police are going to go around and collect these each morning and take them to school. They will also go around straight after lunch to make sure that the children do not stay home.

Exchange:- As some people may have read in the N.T. News we have arranged an exchange of teachers and resources with Wagaman Primary School. The idea behind this plan is for our teachers to see what new ideas are being tried in larger schools. It will also let some of our students go to Darwin to meet children of the same age who lead a different kind of life.

Museum:- We want to make the museum at the school a real attraction for the people who live at and visit Maningrida. To do this Pat and Horst Meissner have agreed to be curators and have already started by getting a canoe made by Willie Jolipa. If anyone has any item that they think could be useful and would like to loan it (then) to us Pat would be only too happy to take and display them.

Fees:- Every child at the school will be expected to pay \$10 fees. The fees are to cover ever increasing costs for consumable items in the fields of Art/Craft, Sport, Library and a Paper Fee (this being for duplicating etc) - a more detailed explanation and note will go home with the children next week.



B.Deslandes.

Departure of C.A.

Community Adviser, Arthur Marks, his wife Pam and baby Mathew are leaving Maningrida today. Arthur is going south on furlough leave for 5 months to take care of some personal matters before he receives another posting from D.A.A. He arrived in Maningrida in November and took over as Community Adviser from John Hunter in mid-December. It is not yet known who will take Arthur's place.

CANOE

On the beach this week, in front of Rev. Latu's house, work has been going on, on a big dugout canoe (lippa lippa). This canoe is the one that Big Barney Geriduwanga is making for Billy Yiriyi. Barney and David Bandarpi made this canoe and another one that is going to Canberra in the Gunaba country called Gubalapala, down across the Cadell River, back in September. Both canoes were paddled down the Sidell to Kopanga and there they were 'polished up'.

Tommy Ibberrera towed this canoe back to Maningrida with his boat Iningardua. This week Barney has been putting wood around the sides of the canoe to keep out splashes from the waves. When I spoke to Barney on the beach there were other people watching and helping with the work. Harry Mulumbuk was there, and George Irindilly and the two old Gunavidji men, Jimny Bergborg and Old John Godowa.

Everybody was talking about canoes and canoe stories from the old days. Barney and Harry had stories from many years ago when patrol officers like Ted Evans and Ted Egan, were walking through this country and how they were helped by Aboriginal saltwater men in their canoes. The old men, Jimny and John, had very interesting stories. John Godowa remembers the Macassans. When he was a boy and a young man the Macassans (Malay) were still coming to this coast to look for the sea slug (trepang). They came in their sailing praus and they carried with them dugout canoes which they used for short trips along the coast.



Aboriginal people took the idea of dugouts from the Macassans. They also took the name of the canoe lippa lippa. All along this saltwater coast today Aboriginal people still use the dugout canoe and they still use words that the Macassans brought with them, lippa lippa the dugout canoe, rupiah for money and balanda for white man which is thought to be another way of saying Hollander - a name the Macassans gave to the early Dutch explorers who came through their country and down to the top part of Australia. There are some other Macassan words too that still live in the Aboriginal languages along the coast.

Barney and Old John say that at first Aboriginal people didn't make very good lippa lippa - but they kept trying and they got better. The Macassa men had given them iron axes and so they had the right tool for the job. Many people do not know that the Aboriginal people of the saltwater coast had metals in their culture a good while before the white man came along.

After some time the Aboriginal people learned the best way to make lippa lippa. Big Barney Geriduwanga is one of the great canoe makers of this country. Everybody knows that Barney is a great craftsman who understands about canoe making and tools and the best tree to pick to make a canoe.

Barney says that he was taught all about canoe making by a man who was called Alligator Fred. He belonged to a tribe called MUMUDUE, and their country was around the Alligator Rivers and over to the Mary River. Barney thinks that that tribe is finished now, or all the people have gone out of their country. Barney and John Godowa still remember how to speak in that tribe's language a little bit.

Big Barney and John Godowa were talking about the canoes and the canoe 'captains' they remember. Some of the old canoes were such

(Cont'd. on page)

bigger than Billy Yiriyin's canoe. They were more than four feet wide and very deep and long. You could carry many people and lots of tucker. Canoes used to travel from Maningrida to Goulburn Island without a stop. They would start early in the morning and come to Goulburn late at night.

Barney and John Godowa have many interesting stories to tell. Next week we will have a story about some Japanese pearl divers who were wrecked out passed Iningandua (False Point) and how they were brought to Maningrida and after that we will have a story (or a few stories) from old people who remember Gordon Sweeney, the first balanda who walked through this country.

from Big Barney Geriduwanga, Harry Mulumbuk, Old John Godowa, Jimmy Borgborg, and George Irindilly - as told to Dan Gillespi.

Those two new seemingly identical buildings behind the Resource Centre are the art/craft centre and the Commercial Training Centre. The Commercial Training Centre is currently being used as the General subjects room for the Secondary children of the school (formerly called Post Primary). The art/craft centre hopes to be a vital centre both in the school and in the aboriginal community. In order to perform basic art activities we are willing to relieve people of a large proportion of their non-organic refuse.

The following are examples of the desired refuse.

PAPER

cardboard cartons, boxes (all sizes)
corrugated cardboard
milk cartons and fruit juice cartons
magazines, newspapers
paper cups, paper bags (all shapes and sizes) wrapping paper
tissue paper
cardboard rolls - (toilet rolls, foil and glad wrap rolls etc)
match boxes cigarette packets
silver paper.

WOOD

toothpicks, cane
cork, skewers,
cyclopole sticks
cotton reels etc.

PLASTICS

polystyrene (eg meat trays, packing foam, etc.)
plastic cups, cordial and detergent bottles.
ice cream containers, egg cartons.

METAL

chicken wire, flywire screening, wire (all gauges) nails tobacco tins, ice cream tins
cans (eg. from fruit juice and tinned food)
bicycle wheels, foil pie containers,
sisalcraft, bottletops.

MISCELLANEOUS

beads, shells,
pebbles, feathers, glass
offcuts, glass bottles, jars.

THREADS AND TEXTILES

string, rope, tomato twine
(from Woollies parcels),
wool thread, cotton, fishing
line, onion sacking, hessian
bags etc., fabric scraps
cotton wool, stockings.

Many of the Contractors and trades people around the place would have many pieces of junk we would find useful.

Please contact Marg Neale if you have or know of interesting junk. It would be much appreciated.

M.N.



THE DIRTY STORY

A big drive to clean up dirty areas in the villages has begun.

Thirteen women have been working as a hygiene team with Gil Anies this week. The ladies have been working very hard says Mrs. Anies but a lot of people won't help to clean up their areas.

After looking around the place, Mrs. Anies says the Jinang and Wulaki people have about the best kept and cleanest village. A lot of Burada and Gunavidgi people are letting their places become very dirty.

Many people are playing cards all the time. Some school children were found gambling and they had their money taken away. It will go into the Christmas fund.

Mrs. Anies found nearly all the toilet and shower blocks weren't being kept clean. Many people have been complaining about all the mess.



The clean up team will be spreading the word to everyone about hygiene and health hazards.

But next week they'll also be planting gnelina trees for shade all along the big road through the Burada and Jinang camps.

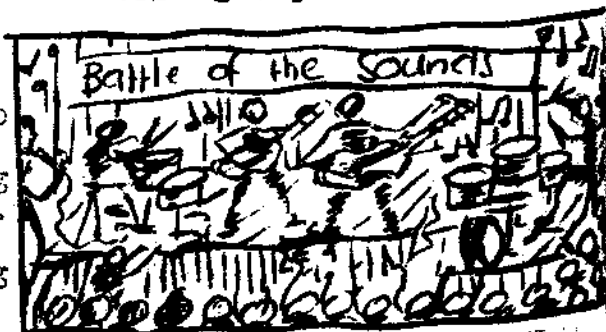
Seven ladies have done a really good job in their areas this week. They are: Margaret and Ruby, Agnés and Bridget, (Jinang), Maudie and Mario (Hillinginbi) and Mary (Burada).

In next week's Mirage we'll have an article on hygiene from Mrs. Anies and perhaps some stories from the girls at Home Management.

A BIG DANCE called the Battle of the Sounds will be held in the Town Hall tomorrow night.

Three bands will compete for the title of best group in Maningrida.

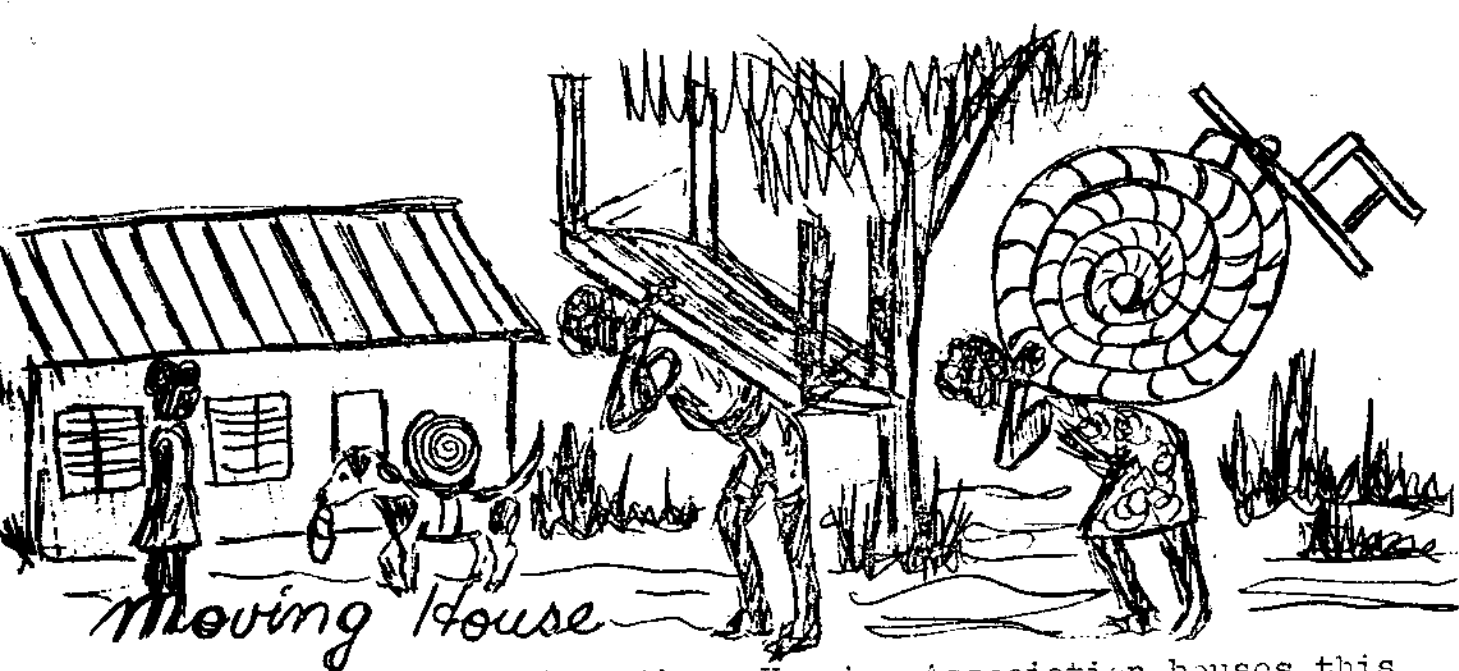
The Sunrise band will be trying hard to win, as they want to put the prize money towards a trip to play in Millinginbi. The boys who are living in the Scout Hall started this group. They've been practising together for many months and have been drawing big audiences to the hall of late.



They will be challenged by the Janason Band, advertised widely on T-shirts around town lately, and a group called Gnukurr.

Gnukurr takes its name from a rock near the settlement of Roper River. One of this group's songs will be a blues number they wrote themselves. It's called Crazy Monna.

(Cont'd. on page 7)



Aboriginal people moved into three Housing Association houses this week.

Jack Riala, Joe Fry and families, each have one of the fibro houses. These were completed nearly two years ago but they have been empty all this time waiting for the Government to connect the power.

Three single men will share one of the new brick houses on the road to the airport. They are David Anjuraigta, Alf Ganonin and Raymond Malingina.

The Association is busy finishing work on the mobile homes brought from Gove as accommodation for European single staff. The men should be able to move in this weekend.

There are quite a few new people coming to work for Housing here. Bob Olsen, the mechanic, arrived on Wednesday. He's a single bloke and comes from New Guinea.

Hans Zapun, a bricklayer, has been here a few weeks now. Hans is a keen fisherman. His wife and their three young children will be coming up in a few months.

Quite a few people met Ken Bowman last year when he was working for Condor here. He's coming back for Housing at the end of this month and will bring his wife Valmae.

A new leading hand carpenter soon to arrive is Tony Baulter from Ennerville in N.S.W. Tony is married and has four children.

Manager Rod Seynour was surprised to find Tony O'Brien still a single bloke when he returned from holidays. The big floods in Brisbane postponed the wedding bells for a while, Rod tells us.

Baptism of Babies.

Last Sunday night, 17th February, during evening service, three infants received and accepted to the church in Maningrida through the sacrament of Baptism. There were Ali Williams Darcy, the first son of Tim Darcy and Rose; William Scott the son of Peter Malaruanga and Laurie Magalji; the third baby was Andrew Mamiyina the son of Rita Djetmu.

These three parents and the Christian church have made their vows to create and provide the best environments for these young ones as they are growing and developing in life.

What a joy to see parents who began to have good visions and hope for the future of their children by bringing them to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The program of the church for the week activities as per usual. Come along when the bell is ringing. Come and see the Pastor any hour of the day if you have queries on Christian matters at the parsonage.

M.P.A. NEWS

Visitors last week included Mr. George Alcorn, general manager of the Mining company Ocean Resources N.L. and Mr. Bob Scarl, general manager of Canadian Superior Co., to discuss the future of exploration licences held jointly by the Goulburn Island and Maningrida Progress Association, and the Nuvwangi Pastoral Co.

Both gentlemen were accompanied by their company solicitors. To make the group complete seven men came from Goulburn, ten Maningrida people were present and of course our own solicitor Mr. Alex Rorrison. Generally speaking a satisfactory agreement for extension of option for a further period of time was negotiated, though the mining companies would have hoped for a longer period of time.

Uranium mineralisation (not to be confused with a viable ore body) was discovered late in the last dry season and considerable monies will be spent in the 1974 dry season.

---oOo---

Post Office

The new Post Box for the Post Office has arrived. It will be up soon and after a while the old posting slot in the Store will be closed.

Postmistress Elva Dickfoss would like people who put notices in the Post Office to use a dictionary. She's getting tired of being told "You left the 'b' out of plumber etc. etc."



A big thankyou to Maurice for finding and returning the lost thongs to Mrs. Cox. Also thanks to those who contributed to a stockpile of 49 odd coloured and shaped sandals, shoes and thongs



(Cont'd. from page 3)

Janason Band has had trouble getting equipment and if they win, the prize money will go back into gear for the band.

The dance is being run by the Y.M.C.A. Half the door takings will be put towards the revival of a Scout troupe here. Three judges will decide the winner.

- * The organisers want to get lots of people to come along, to dance
 - * or just to listen. Admision will be 50 cents for adults and
 - * 20 cents for children and the program starts at 8 p.m. The
 - * movies have been adjourned to Monday night.
- *****

From the Bouncil minutes. 20/2/74.

- Billy Yiriyin will be going to a meeting between the Regional Land Council and Mr. Justice Woodward in Darwin on 25/2/74. They will be talking about Aboriginal Land Rights. Billy will be speaking for Maningrida.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs had written a letter about a fire protection service - a way of fighting fires - for Maningrida. The council talked about this idea and they will tell the government that they want this service at Maningrida.

- David Gulpalil wrote to ask if a house would be ready for his family if they came over from Milinginbi. Council told him to apply to the Maningrida Housing Association.
- The Community Adviser Arthur Marks talked about the Council's job at Maningrida. Only the Councillors and the people could decide what sort of Council was best. The government would not push anything on to them.

Peter Bunda Bunda.

PERMITS:-

To all European residents of Maningrida: these people who wish to have relatives and friends visit them at Maningrida are reminded that an Entry Permit for these persons must be obtained from the Council. It is the policy of the D.A.A. to leave the issuing of Entry Permits in the control of the local council. Council welcomes European visitors to Maningrida but shows concern if Europeans arrive unannounced, particularly Europeans who have no friends at Maningrida and are unemployed.

VICTIMS OF CRUELTY.



Community Adviser.



The victims, people. The cruellers, dog owners. Previously the mental and physical state of Maningridians has been above average. The Mirage Observer has, in the past few months, noticed a rapid decline in the above-mentioned state. Incidents involving the large number of roaming dogs have caused this decline. Reports have been coming in about dogs terrorizing the school children and stealing their delectable lunches, invading private yards and even going into private houses and stealing private dog's dinners. The mental torture upon the minds of many people has had more disastrous effects than the Culex mosquito. The Director of Health is most concerned about the situation. The Director of Education is appalled. He is concerned about the uncontrollable increase in school enrollments and the decline in professionalism of the school staff. The dogs' class is almost larger than the children's classes. It would not be so distressing if the dogs' parents would pay \$2 for their dogs lunches. The Social Welfare Officer is concerned about the sheer lack of respect of the dog owners. It would not be at all demoralizing for dog owners to think seriously about the people who are mentally disturbed by the packs of destructive animals. It takes only a few words to ask if the dog is welcome in someone's house when visiting, or even to ask the headteacher, or the shop managers if the dog may come in.

The latest reports, to hand, are: A pack of vicious canines tore a small pet wallaby to pieces; an immature owner had great delight in forcing his dog to "beat up a puppy"; several new lawns have been torn up; a lady was nearly spooked into an accident on her way to work; pedigrees are feared to have been destroyed; many people have had sleepless nights due to canine prowlers; a lady was scared out of her wits by the presence of a large dog in her laundry; and lastly, but not least a European child was savaged and the dog destroyed.

If this drastic situation continues, the victims will take their own or legal action to control it.

(Cont'd. on page 8.)

VICTIMS OF CRUELTY (Cont'd.)

Trespassers can be prosecuted. Why don't you dog owners love your dogs and look after them at your own home?

If you can't do that, then try considering other people.

If you can't do that, get rid of the dog you say you own.

Surely saying you own a dog is not as much social status as actually owning it.



"M E E ' O W W"

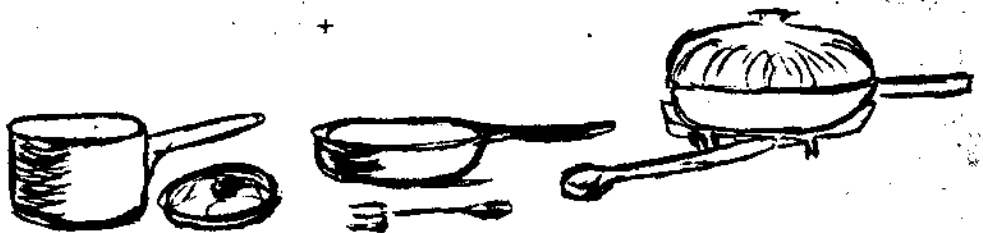
Weather Report.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|------|
| <u>RAINFALL</u> - | 14-2-74 | 7.8 |
| | 15 | Nil |
| | 16 | 6.2 |
| | 17 | Nil |
| | 18 | Nil |
| | 19 | 9.2 |
| | 20 | 13.6 |

$\frac{4}{7}$ wet days.

Woodchuck Enterprise \$1.00 shares dipped again on the stock exchange and now stand at 8 cents.

COOK WANTED:



5 Or 6 nights a week, about 2 hours per night at \$2.10 an hour.

Apply in person to the single blokes at Housing.

Duty Officers.

DUTY SISTER: Sister Ena.

DUTY OFFICER: Mr. Ron Berryman.

Star Theatre.

FRIDAY.: "The Poseidon Adventure"

SATURDAY: No pictures on Saturday. The YMCA is holding a dance to raise money for a small boat.

MONDAY: "Walk, Don't run!"

ANYONE WANTING TO COME AND PLAY OR LAUGH AT THE PLAYERS ON SATURDAY MORNING AT 10.30 IS WELCOME. YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO BE GOOD AT PLAYING SOFTBALL OR AT LAUGHING AT THE GAME.

Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

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