

18 OCT 1972



The Council and the Doctors.

Present: 7 councillors and 5 visitors.

Hospital Patients: Cr. Riala said that patients from settlements and missions, particularly at Darwin Hospital, were causing trouble by going out with other people or getting drunk. President said that he knew of the trouble and asked the council to write a letter to missions and settlements about it. He would like to see councillors from various places come together and discuss the matter.

Dr. Eastwell (visitor) said that maybe a Social Worker could help.

Dr. Soong (visitor) said that Government departments would be interested to hear what the council thought about the problem.

Visitors: The Superintendent mentioned that visitors from Bamyili and the missions were coming for dancing and that it was planned to accommodate them in the old kitchen. Councillors suggested that the Scout Hall could be used. Superintendent said they would have to ask Bapa Armstrong or Bob Collins.

Aboriginal Doctors: President spoke about black and white doctors working together. The three visiting Doctors are looking for "aboriginal doctors". The black and the white doctor would work together observing each other and healing.

Cr. Riala said that the aboriginal doctor sometimes tells the truth and sometimes lies. If the patient is sick and dies, people ask the doctor to come next day to look at the human body and see where he was sick. He agreed that it was a good idea for black and white doctors to work together. President asked the councillors to think it over. He said Bob Bilinyara always heals, but nobody pays him. This is part of his work just like other doctors and nurses.

Bones: Cr. Yiriyin said that bones could be taken out of a grave at this weekend, but relatives are waiting for an old man to come.

Juda Point: Cr. Riala said that the people at Kalalak (Darwin) had "bought" their land and are using it. The Juda Point lease has not been fixed up yet. President said that the council had been talking about this for three months but had not done anything about it. President said Juda should now have a fence and signposts.

Permit System: President said "No. If people from Darwin travel through Arnhemland overland, there will be many balandas living in our area in later years."

New Uniforms: The President asked the councillors if they wished to have new uniforms. He said he would see councillors at the office to measure them.

New Councillors: Superintendent asked President if he is still thinking about getting new councillors. Cr. Riala "What has happened to the old councillors?"

Continued over

Council Cont.

President: "There are not enough men to handle this place - just 7 people." Cr. Riala: "The Maningrida Village Council makes laws for the people but many of us fight over things. In the Legislative Council in Darwin, Mr. H. C. Giese is the only person who is fighting for many things and helping us."

Bus: President wanted to know about the bus and whether people could go for a ride in it. Superintendent said that it has been registered but he would have to work out how much the fares would cost.

Cards: Crs. Gandjibala, Riala and the President led a long discussion on the subject.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The Bus

During the week the "Morwell Bus" has been turning, reversing, driving and stopping. Its all been part of the training programme for new drivers who include Messrs.



Congratulations to Frank and his mechanical helpers for getting the Goose truck and Dick Smith's truck on the road again last weekend.

Where have all the Teachers gone?

Here are starters and riders for the Gordon Sweeney Holiday Flying Handicap staged over the school holiday period. Starters are prefaced by saddlecloth numbers as they appear in the race-day special of the "Mirage".

1. Liz Wicks - will be running in Sydney after enjoying a short spell in Queensland.
2. Rosemary Walters - broke away at the barrier and was transferred to Darwin where she is performing solo this time up.
3. Dan, Ben and Libby Gillespie - have been airfreighted to Darwin for special exhibition gallops at the Gun Turret.
4. David Hassall - always in a photo finish. We expect the magic-eye camera to be used each time he runs in the Headmasters' Conference Handicap on the Katherine course.
5. Bob Stutchbury - no appeal; should do better over a longer distance.
7. Roger Pink - needs a run or two to bring him to peak fitness.
8. Trevor King - a late entry for the local running after a recent successful result.
9. Eileen O'Leary - had to be sent to Darwin for veterinary treatment.
10. Jan Little - has only been racing a short time on the Maningrida course, but is campaigning in Darwin at the moment.

Sometimes when the Duty Officer has asked people to turn off their hoses, sprinklers on the towns parks and gardens are still spraying merrily away on lawns, etc. Anything wrong?

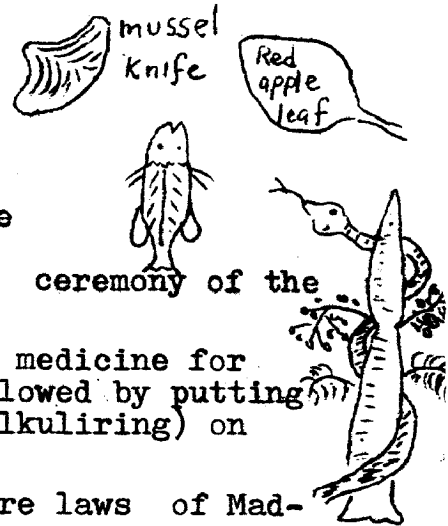
NO. They are supplied from the spring near the Superintendent's house. This is not drinking water and therefore not fed into the household taps.

The clever Black Fellow Doctors of Ancient Times

Many years ago, during my initiation ceremony, which included the male dingo dances, the Yiritja people gave me instructions. They told me not to talk to my brother in law or to close relatives, not to speak or have any thing to do with girls or women, not to steal things from anyone, and not to drink water until my circumcision.

I believe now that it was wrong for me to have to be circumcised but the old believed in it.

The black fellow doctor was an old man. He used animal bones shaped into blades, from all over Arnhamland. The doctor observes the reptiles having sexual intercourse. He tells the young men to admire and imitate the blanket lizard. Once a man is circumcised, he may have intercourse with any girl or woman he wants to, within the proper skin groups, at the closing ceremony of the Kunapippi.

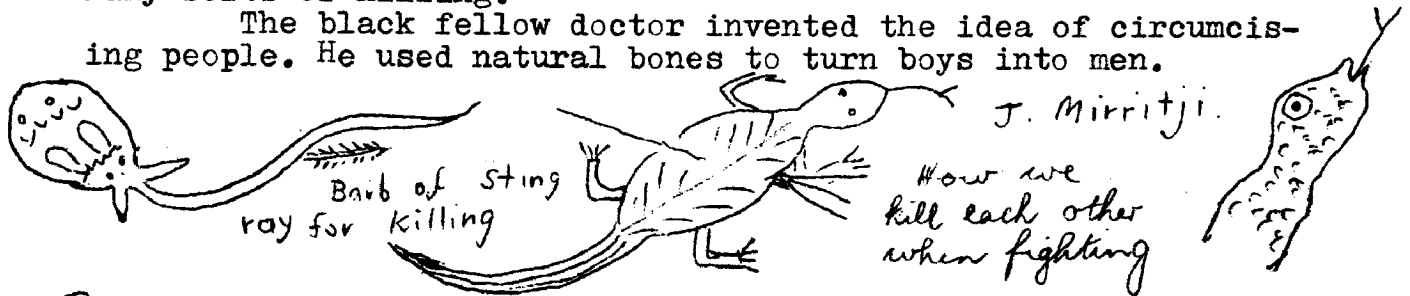


To my mind, the beginning of modern medicine for Aborigines came when the circumcision was followed by putting burning hot leaves from the red apple tree (djalkuliring) on the sore.

Circumcision and sexual intercourse are laws of Madayan. Death is also a law of God (Madayan).

Circumcision and sexual intercourse bring about death or tribal war. From all places more evil spirits come to do many sorts of killing.

The black fellow doctor invented the idea of circumcising people. He used natural bones to turn boys into men.



People

Frd Milmkuma and Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Brongur arrived today from Beswick. Kevin's wife is a sister to Geoff Campion. They travelled up with Dan and Lyn Watson who have come up to visit their old haunts again. Dan and Lyn are at Beswick Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Taffy Williams of Katherine are spending a few days with Noel and Bronwyn Perkins.

Andrew and Venie Jeffery and Tennant Creek family from Tennant Creek, are spending the weekend here. Andrew is Dep-head of the school there.

Graham McKay has gone to spend a few days at the S.I.L. headquarters in Berrimah.

Rhys and Betty in on a shopping trip from the Blyth yesterday estimate that 250 people were at the Blyth for the wind up of the Kunapippi. Rhys could hardly believe his eyes, seeing this great mass of people moving out in the bush, and when the tide was out, a great gathering of women gathering the cockles.

Rev. Cecil and Mrs. Gribble went on today to Goulburn Island, on their way to attend the United Church Conference in Dawin next week. He spoke of the large number of young people who volunteer these days to go for periods to developing countries to lend a hand with the skill they have - at a very low salary. He sees this as a movement of the Spirit in our day. Some of these volunteers remain on, and work for longer periods, making useful contributions.

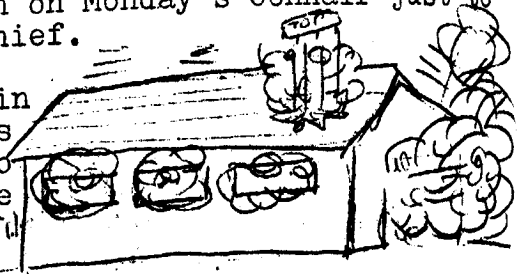
In Next Week's issue = a report of the End of term School sports = "Maningrida's Munich"

For Tender

N.T.A. has issued tenders for the purchase and removal of the 4x4 Toyotas 2BD217 and 2BD 454 now at Maningrida. Tenders have to be in by the 25/9/72. Anyone interested should contact the office and complete a tender schedule. Inspection of the vehicles can be arranged either through the Superintendent or Manager.

Fisheries Accident

Phil Green was evacuated on Sunday after an accident at his freezer works the same day. The top of the compressor blew off spraying ammonia in Phil's eyes; a very painful experience. We have not heard of him since, but no news is good news. Mrs Green went in on Monday's Connair just to make sure Phil did not get up to any mischief. Silas will look after the plant until Phil returns. Noel Perkins, returning from Darwin Wednesday, has good news to report. Phil has been extremely lucky, suffering no damage to his eyesight. He's sitting up in bed in the hospital and should be "let out" soon. J.G.

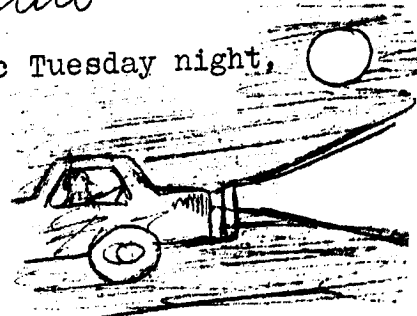


Notice to Water Consumers

- (1) It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a full head of water in the storage tanks due to heavier consumption, and periodic bore equipment problems.
- (2) It will be necessary, from time to time for the remainder of the dry to close off the water supply to the settlement from 10:30P.M. to 5:00A.M. Any inconvenience caused is regretted but it is most important to have sort of reserve supply to boost pressure and in case of emergency.
- (3) Householders may assist in minimising water shut-downs by turning off all sprinklers before 6:30P.M. each evening and generally conserving water.
- (4) Your co-operation in reporting leaking taps, etc. would be valued. Supt.

Foster's Friendly Forestry Club

Bob Fisher and Clive McMahon spent a hectic Tuesday night, leaving Maningrida at about 1800 to go and help Roger Davey and Frank McCabe who had broken down with mechanical troubles not far from Hunters Crossing. Unfortunately they couldn't find them, so they had to search for them and it wasn't until 0500 on Wednesday that they came across their camp. Bob arrived back at Maningrida at about 0830 feeling tired and worn.

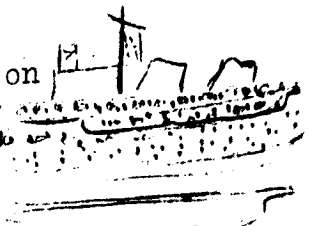


Col Wilson is visiting us at the moment, and for the uninformed, he is the Senior Technical Officer in our Darwin Office. We hope that he has a pleasant stay and doesn't find too many blues in our work.

Eric Quick is reported to be feeling the cold in Alice Springs. Roger Smith has been scouting around for firewood to keep the poor man warm. This is not as simple as you think. Apparently there is a ban on the taking of firewood in the area near Alice Springs.

From the Newspapers

At Christmas time a ship with a lot of tourists on board will call at Darwin. They will pick up some Aboriginal people to dance and teach the passengers how to play the didgeridoo. They will travel to Indonesia, Singapore, Port Moresby and Brisbane.



"FORGOTTEN GENERATION".

Wally Wulanybama and Bob Randall took part in a big discussion in Darwin at the weekend. They were trying to help young grown-up Aboriginal and part-Aboriginal people.

Didgerdoo

the East Arm newspaper is a new paper and is printed monthly (August - Vol. 4.) This issue has some drawings done by Jacky Marapuma (Judy Lamarnga's husband) and the report of the birth of: "SARAH - a new daughter for Jill and Stephen of Maningrida and a sister for Harold and Joseph."

People Everywhere

At present so many people are away in the bush that the number of resident actually in Maningrida is lower than it has been for several years.

WHERE ARE THEY?

The Gunwinggu people are at Magalidban and at Mumayga on the Mann river getting ready for their "ststions" in these places. Gubargu, the bark pain and family, and a few single men are here.

At Juda Point John Godawa and Jimmy Borborg are living in a land of plenty and are looking forward to the arrival of Goulburn Island relatives so that a Hollow Log Coffin ceremony can begin.

Bamboo Creek has some distinguished citizens, Jack Banbiarka, Barry Gon gon and others.

The black pig is about the last survivor in the Rembaranga camp while the people are living at Guyun or the men are away at business.

Nangak has a smaller number of Gungoragone and relatives.

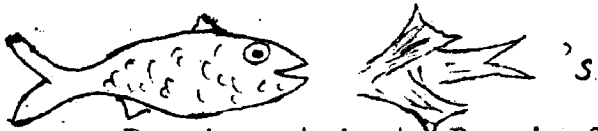
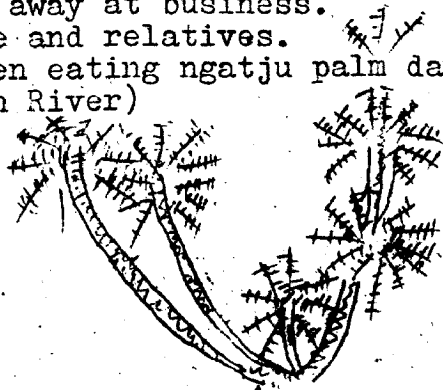
The Anbara and Matay Burada people have been eating ngatju palm damper at Gupanga and Ngalijibama (east of the Blyth River)

Have you ever tried this bush gourmets delight? People returning on Sunday afternoon brought some home. Barney Ungulbu was sharing some with older people and they were enjoying it, but the children were throwing it down on the blanket. "They didn't taste it before" explained Barney.

A balanda could hardly blame them. The smell.....Ask Betty Meehan and Rhys Jones who live near the Ngatju bread factory or John Hunter who sampled some last week.

Betty and Rhys estimate that about 60 people have been living at Kupanga on this side of the Blyth and another 60 or so at the Kunapippi ceremony across on the Eastern bank. The ceremony ended with the full moon at the week end. A truck came in on Sunday full of people who'd gone out for the climax of the ceremony on Sunday afternoon - carrying arm fulls of spears, swags, billy cans and new suitcases.

The Ganardpas are expected to settle in large numbers at the Cadell. The water supply at their village has been restored and a 32volt electric supply is expected to be set up to provide lighting shortly. About 15 or so are there now and others travel daily from Maningrida.



By Noel Perkins

Due to a trip to Darwin for 3 days I have not heard where or what has been caught. Prior to my leaving I caught a 20lb barra at Fisheries Beach, as well as a few smaller ones. Greg Hore accompanied me and now can boast of having caught his first barra. Fishing on Thursday morning at Fisheries with Taffy Williams, the vet from Katherine, I managed to hook a barra about 30lbs but failed to land it as the fish threw the lure. So contrary to last week's column, the barra are back. Fisheries have been inactive since Phil Green's accident, so that is all there is to report this week.

From Galiwinku. (Elcho)

The sharks and other funny things ^{that} have been caught in the nets off the beach have caused some interest. Ever acted as a midwife to a mother shark? The daddy of all was caught last week. A Saw shark about 20' long. It had its moments when being brought ashore. Apart from its size, it was very much alive and didn't take too kindly to being caught. We eventually got him into the shallows and a couple of solid shot-gun slugs made him easier to cope with. Then started a job of cutting him down to size. The saw is about 5' long and about 1' wide. The teeth on it are about 2½" long.

Weekend Duties

Duty Officer ; Mr. Bert Ryan.
Duty Sister : Sister Lena
Firewatch : Mr. Fred Luff

Star Theatre

Friday. "The Victors" by the same chap who did
"Guns of the Nararone". War picture in
which a fighting patrol blasts its
way to Berlin.

Saturday: Southwest to Sonora" A Western ?

Church

Sunday 9.45a.m.: Sunday Schools
7.15p.m. Evening Service.

Tuesday 7.30 Choir Practice.

Next week the United Church of North Australia Conference meets at St, John's College in Darwin, and Mr. Silas Roberts will accompany the minister to represent Maningrida.

It's Here at Last!

The new Gestetner purchased by the Parents and Friends arrived on the barge on Monday morning. It's a fine machine, and we hope that our printing problems are now over.

You may have noticed that the typing in the last few weeks is now uniform. How come? The Mirage now owns its own typewriter, and this is available to the Mirage typists during the day as well as in the evenings.

PEOPLE

SUMI, a Japanese pearling captain well known in these waters, called in last week with some Golburn Island men among his crew

Danny and Lin WATSON will be at Maningrida This weekend to collect some belongings and to see old friends and places again.

Kaylene SEYMOUR returned from Darwin after taking Lenniece to a specialist (foot). Kay heard local radio announces telling Darwin people to be sure to visit the Folk Singers Club on Saturday night to hear Danny and Libby Gillespie.

Mr. Allan O'BRIEN, Deputy Administrator and Mr. J. COLLINS, the First Assistant Commissioner of the Public Service Board spent two hours here on Wednesday. In the absence of the Superintendent in Darwin, Mr. Eddy Carey splendid in long-socks, suede shoes, and best shirt, along with Council President Mr. Tommy Yibberal, escorted them around the Settlement. They later moved on to Geve.

Visiting the Blyth River area a short time ago archeologist Mr. John MULVANEY was advising Betty Meehan in her studies. Mr. Mulvaney was here in 1965 and found some interesting Macassan pottery on Enterance Island.

WELL SPOKEN OF.....

Reprinted from "The Advertiser" of Saturday, August 19:-

The small exhibition of traditional bark paintings from Maningrida - 19 well chosen works - at the Lombard Street Gallery, North Adelaide, is most impressive

It presents contemporary bark paintings with a dignity that gives full recognition to their aesthetic qualities

Each bark is mounted on a coarse weave fabric in muted tones natural, orange, green, purple, blue - and, simply framed in natural wood, they make distinctive decorative panels at a reasonable price. ##

BIRTH AND DEATH.

A baby boy, Renton Wilson, was born to Wendy Ningalgal father Harry Mugabi on Monday, but later died on Tuesday night. We share Harry and Wendy's sadness.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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