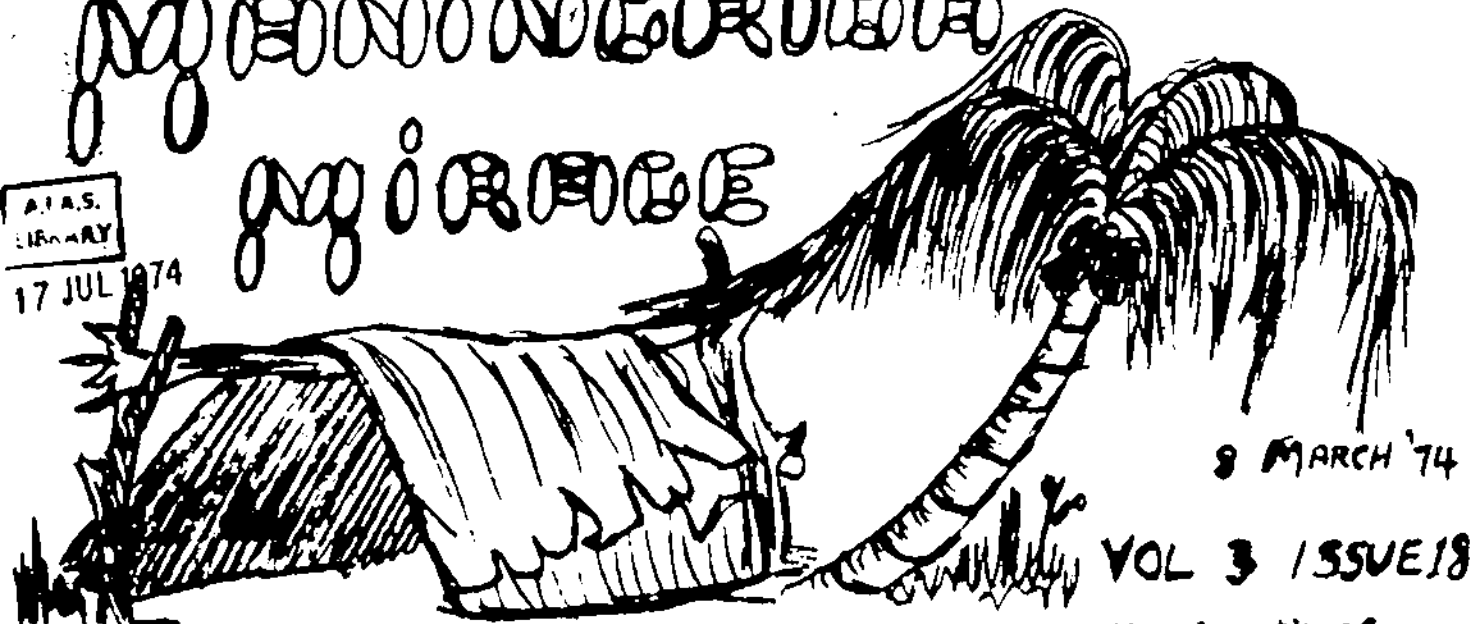


NARANI " - read all about it! - back page!

MANINGRIDA
Housing Association

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8 MARCH '74

VOL 3 / ISSUE 18

In the sixties, Maningrida's principal deficiency was the dearth of housing and the associated facilities to those Aborigines who aspired to improve their standard of living.

Their desire for housing was amply demonstrated by those who sought a 'self help house'. They were faced with many problems but with much determination and under the leadership of Mr. Hunter they slowly got mobile.

The Government had and still have their own Mobile Works programme, which had at that time an average building rate of 2.4 houses per year - all are simple dwellings which should not take the average builder's team more than four weeks. These are the factors which brought about the 'self help' house scheme in 1967. The people realised that any advance in housing standards was not going to come from the government but that people here had to "do something" about housing.

Building commenced with a direct contribution of \$40 each and their own labour. With a limited amount of European supervision they were coming off the assembly line at the rate of 10 per year, being a locally sponsored project, it was quite gratifying to see that some families had a roof over their head.

I don't know the exact number of these units built; their prominent figure still constitutes a part of Maningrida, I believe Mr. Jim Pickersgill was on the assembly line - this is how they obtained the name of Pickersgill's P.P.P.

It wasn't till the late 1970 when funds from the A.B.T.F. and matching grants from the office of Aboriginal Affairs totalling \$60,000, got the Housing Association mobile. From there on it hasn't looked back. The Maningrida Housing Association was one of the first Housing Associations to be incorporated. This happened in early 1971, and building operations began in March of that year.



Two European builders were employed under this scheme and 15 buildings were erected in the two years. All aborigines were on training allowance and were given an incentive from the Housing Association funds. Conditions under this scheme were very hard - no vehicles or equipment. The Progress Association provided assistance in many ways and as I glance back through the old files I think of the many hours of hand writing Mr. Bagshaw did as a public officer for the Association. All his work was done on a voluntary basis. Mr. Bagshaw became active in the Association in 1970 and retired in late 1972.

Many thanks to Mr. Glen Bagshaw.

In early 1973, consultants and accountants were brought in to supervise the operations of Housing Associations in the Territory - this is a scheme that must work. From then onwards the Association has grown to what it is today from grants of \$60,000 in 1970 to nearly \$1,000,000 in 1973.

It is the aim of the Housing Association to continue constructing new homes, in addition to maintenance and improving existing Aboriginal homes plus the gradual taking over of existing government housing.

We have undertaken to establish a workshop complex in the industrial area south of the Forestry area. This will include a shed for storage electrical, plumbing, mechanical, paint and joinery works. A second building is to be erected to house two power operated arid machines

Thirty Aboriginal houses, which include 2 houses in the Gunaviddj area, and 2 at Cadell and 5 staff houses are to be erected immediately

The present employment figures show 9 Europeans with 5 more on the way. There are 39 Aboriginals employed at present and there will be work for at least 60 Aboriginals by June.

I urge all Aboriginals that this huge programme is for your benefit and to help us help you, your attendance at work is needed to make this programme feasible. Maningrida has the biggest and most efficient Housing Association in the Territory. Let's keep it that way.

R.J. Seymour.

+++

FOOTNOTE:

Rod Seymour of the M.H.A. came as Supervisor in March 1971, and became Manager in February 1973. He is the only original supervisor left in the Territory who commenced when the housing associations were formed.

Church Notes

This Sunday 10th March is recognised by Christians of this country as the "Leprosy Sunday". Many people are praying as well as contributing to the important work of treating and helping those who have unfortunately become lepers.

If there is any contribution to this cause in the form of money or any other material things please see Mrs. H. Cross.

Second hand clothes sale from the Church ground at 5.00p.m. tomorrow (Friday). Come and give your help for a worthwhile cause. Thanks.

The Church visit to Cadell Camp this week. The programme for church activities is the same as per usual.

WAIT AND PONDER:

Proverbs 4:1 & 2 Hear ye children instructions of the Father and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine. forsake ye not my law.

* Star Theatre *

FRIDAY - "9 Hours to Rama"
SATURDAY - "Oh You are Awful"



There will be a meeting of PARENTS AND FRIENDS next Tuesday 12th March at 7:30p.m. at the Resources Centre. All welcome.

"Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon and the deeper it sinks into the mind."

Hospital Horrors!!

I am going to tell you a story about blood testing.

I sometime go around the camp and test thin bloods. If the blood is low that means its very weak and we can send people in Darwin to give them some blood and they may come back home more better. I work in the leprosy clinic with Peter Galarla. I've learnt little bit about leprosy so when I go back again for more course and learnt so when I get back to my own country and teach my own people.



Mickey Gunjangawui.

Departures

Jack Gardiner leaves on Monday 18th for holidays overseas. Jonathan Brown from Hooker Creek comes on the 11th to relieve Jack. Jonathan is married with a baby.

Cecil Graham arrives on the 18th to relieve Shirley Soutter in the office. Shirley is heading for South Africa.

Letters from Oldies.

Jacky Newman (teacher 1972-73) writes to John Gardiner from Canberra:-

"I don't know if I can say much about Tom, (M.P.A. Baker 72-73) it seems fairly ordinary. It was great to see him, of course. He had some lovely ladies working for him. One of the girls went out the back of the shop to get him when I arrived. He came out with a stunned expression. I just dropped by, he didn't know I was even in the area. We sat and talked, and talked and talked - about Maningrida mainly. He'd seen Pauline (Pre-school teacher '73) and she was going to teach at Brewarrina in the Pre-school there this year. His shop looks very nice, 'O'TOOLE'S BAKERY' says the sign. His baking is still good too, I sampled some wares."

Roger Pink teacher here 1971-73 and now Youth Activities Officer at Dhupuma College visited on Tuesday night. He brought letters and messages from the Maningrida children at Dhupuma.

"The real difficulty with children is not so much educating their brains as developing their hearts."

I would give up all my fame and all my art if there were one woman who cared whether or not I came home late for dinner.....

FACE-LIFT FOR ART/CRAFT CENTRE

The school's new art and craft centre has had an important facelift. Changes were made in an effort to turn a clinical metal box into a communal art/craft centre, which is more in keeping with its surroundings, the aboriginal culture and to plant the seeds of cottage industries.



The Changes



1. A BUSH SHELTER - has been built (complete with white sand floor) at the back of the centre. It was built by secondary boys, teaching assistants and other aboriginal instructors. This is to be the aboriginal art and craft activities area where school children will have the opportunity to watch and learn from aboriginal men and women who will be working there all the time.

2. A SMALLER BUSH SHELTER - is being built onto this and will become a communal craft area. We are working with Steven Joseph building primitive open pit and macassan type kilns. It is hoped that people will feel free to come there at any time and mess around with clay and other materials. Also older groups of school children will have instruction in pottery in an effort to make it a commercial venture along the lines of Bagot pottery. Here they will have the opportunity to learn how to make pots to sell as an additional source of income.



3. FABRIC PRINTING - tie-dye, batik and silkscreening. This will continue and expand to make money for the school. It has already proved to be a big money maker in the past two years; on fete day alone we have had takings of between \$200 and \$300. If markets can be found outside Maningrida as well this may also prove to be the beginnings of a small industry and income earner for some.

The inside of the art centre has not escaped unscathed.

4. LEATHERCRAFT SHOP - has been set up in one corner in the form of a corral or mini-ranch. Bush materials have been used. Peter Pinder has been busy making a steel leather punching press so that the kids will see a saleable end product in a short time. Such items as leather bags, belts, stubby cooler holders will be made by the students and other interested people.

ART/CRAFT PROGRAM - is designed on an elective basis. Children can choose the area they would like to follow.

All of the above crafts will draw on aboriginal designs, skills and knowledge. There are also many other art/craft activities offered that are not rated in the cottage industry plan at this stage e.g. off loom weaving, weaving from other cultures, macrame, painting, drawing, sculpture etc.

Later in the year Jewellery making classes will be started.

The long term plan is to provide Aboriginal people at Maningrida with other avenues of employment in addition to and including the sale of artifacts; craft avenues that they have proved competent in or at least have displayed special qualities for.

Later this term evening or weekend classes in the above crafts will be conducted for everyone. We are waiting on supplies. Anyway, how about dropping in and sharing the experience.

Marg. Neale.

Bedtime Story.

Last night my father told me about the bush and it was good storys that I ever heard; a good story in the world. It's about a man who lived in a bush. He is name Bunny W.

He is my father he can make good houses out of grass and sticks also he can make spears.

Last night I saw little owl flying around and he sat down on the football ground.

Dorothy Wor C. Grade 5.

Rosidon Adventure

On Saturday we saw a picture about a big ship. One day the ship was going to a different land but the captain got the telescope then and looked over the water. He saw big waves. But the ship was going very slowly. The waves made the ship tip over and the people were all drowned but only five people were safe. Then the helicopter took them home.

by Alexander grade 5.

Luna Park

When we went to the Sydney Zoo and we went into a cage there were lots of birds. They were singing well. After that we went to see some snakes inside a glass box. There were big snakes and thin snakes. There were all kinds of animals at the zoo. There were monkeys, bears, kangaroos and goannas. After that we went home on a ferry boat. We got ready for Luna Park. We went into the Connie Island after it was closing time for Luna Park and we went home on the train.

by Rita Roberts grade 5.

Kopunga Visit.

Brian and I arrived at Kopunga after a very relaxing boat trip from Maningrida on Monday. Fishing was popular and we enjoyed a meal of catfish and tortoise.

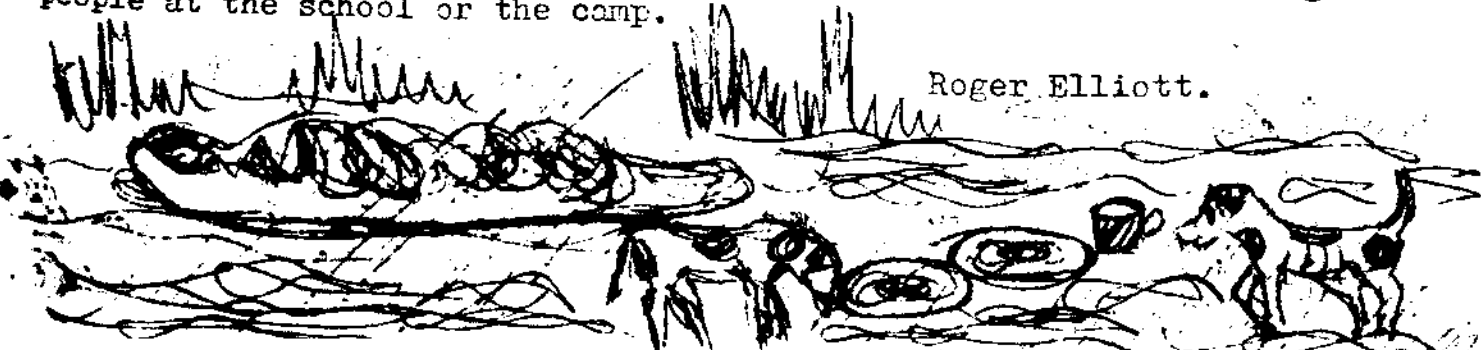
During a meeting with the people we discussed the Kopunga school, the supply of a pre-fab. school building made by Maningrida school boys and re-erected at Kopunga. Future proposed visits by Gladys Pascoe may include instruction in dressmaking and possibly the supply of 1 or 2 treadle sewing machines.

In future I anticipate many rewarding weeks at Kopunga, Manakodoka, Adjripa, Gochan Jinjida and other out centres, working with the people in the area of school and education. Brian and I went along the Liverpool yesterday to Maragulidjban, Manbulagardi and Momega. The purpose of our journey is to meet the Aboriginal people and discuss education.

Dogs, Kapanga dogs, made us very welcome, at all times eager to devour our rations. At night they slept nearby and it looked as though the mosquitoes had dropped them near us. Big Barney's canoe was moved from the beach to the water during the evening but the sea was too rough for Tommy Yibberal to tow it to Maningrida.

At Maningrida I will talk about school in outstations with Aboriginal people at the school or the camp.

Roger Elliott.



KODANCA TRIP - again?

On Monday last I went with Chris Burchett, Tim Darcy, Tommy Ibbertal, Brian Deslandes and Roger Elliot to Kopanga in Tommy's boat Inangandua. Life is going along there in its usual pattern. There is a lot of water lying behind the camp and a few mosquitoes around.

The Blyth River is completely fresh when the tide is on the run out and people are drinking directly from the river. There must be a huge volume of water coming into the river upstream. The big yellow freshwater catfish are being caught at Kopanga.

There was some very good stuff for the craftshop - in particular some fine edge ground axes which had been found in an old occupation site behind Lalagajirripa and put into new handles by Tommy Steele Gondorr.



When we were asleep on Monday night Nancy Banderama gave everyone fright when she yelled out "nganapurra!" She had seen a buffalo standing beside her house. Everyone ran to the spot with that famous hunter David Bandarpi in the lead. Chris Burchett could see the buffalo on the beach. When David reached the spot the buffalo was only a bush.

The trip home took 6½ hours - the seas were heavy and we were sailing into bara the North West Monsoon.

Dan Gillespie.

"Success consists of getting up once oftener than you fall down."

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS *****

Maningrida is soon to have an adventure playground - maybe two adventure playgrounds. Hopefully, these areas will cater for many of the children who wander around after school, often getting into mischief.

The YMCA management committee talked about the idea on Tuesday night and decided to make a start tomorrow week (Maila week Saturday).

A few places were discussed.

Children living near the town hall had a place to go after school. Two other places where children already play were chosen.

One is west of the creek where the bungul was held last year. The other is behind the kitchen complex.

The site across the creek will be developed first and if enough material is collected, a start will be made soon after on the other places.



The idea is to use scrap material - old tyres, cable reels, off-cuts and scrapped machinery. Poles will be cut in the bush to build climbing frames and it is hoped that a big pile of sand and gravel can be dumped on site.

The committee is looking for ropes, nails, chain, trestles, crates and paint for a start. Anyone who can help should see one of these people: Peter Pinder, Bruce Neale or Jan Cooke.

On Saturday week a truck will go around to collect the material and that afternoon a start will be made on erecting some fixed play equipment.

It's hoped that the children and adults from the areas where the playgrounds are to be built will do most of the work.

Chairman of Y Management Committee, Silas Roberts, resigned from the position on Tuesday night. Silas said he had too many jobs and that in future he would concentrate on his job with the land council.

from Peter Cooke.

Wolpers and Law have arrived and are beginning work on the new powerhouse, on the back road which runs from the sawmill to the cemetery road. They are also going to put in some new wiring for the electricity supply.

The Postmistress, Elva Dickfoss, wishes to advise that the post office will no longer be open on Saturdays.

- ****
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Saturday | 10.30a.m. | Softball at cricket ground |
| Monday | 11a.m. | Leathercraft - open to all - in the Art Centre |
| | 7.30p.m. | Electronics class in the Resource Centre |
| Tuesday | 7.30p.m. | Mirage meeting - Gladys Pascoe's house
Scouts at Scout Hall |
| Wednesday | 7.30p.m. | Drop-In Club at the Hall. All welcome.
Women's basketball, new players welcome. |
| Thursday | 2p.m. | Mothers Club at Home Management. Talks, pictures, cup of tea etc. |
| | 7.30p.m. | Mens basketball, new players welcome.
Gymnastics at the hall with the Y. |
- ****

Last Saturday, the Maningrida School went to Milingimbi to play football against Milingimbi. The home side has never been beaten on their own grounds; so the challenge to the Maningrida boys was eagerly accepted. (At half-time only one goal separated the teams.) The third quarter was a disaster for Maningrida. They let Milingimbi off the hook, by scoring a lone point in the session. Though Maningrida out-scored the home side in the fourth session, the damage had been done, with Milingimbi running out winners by five goals.

Best players for Maningrida were Richard, Andy, Charlie and Rexie. Further trips are planned for the team later in the year.

"Position Vacant"



Forestry are looking for a new clerical assistant. Interviews will be held Monday afternoon. Applicants require nerves of steel and a confused mind. For further info. come to the Forestry office.

STAR THEATRE :

Friday: "Nine Hours to Rama"

Saturday: "Oh You Are Awful"

THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE ...

1. The town-hall committee, consisting of Peter Pinder, Jimmy Burinyl, Bob Cross and Bruce Neale, met last Monday to make up some rules for the community hall.

This hall is for the benefit of everyone at Maningrida, but it must be subject to the following rules, which will later be written on a board and mounted in the hall.

- (1) Arrange for the use of the hall with the YMCA officer at least 24 hours before you wish to use it.
- (2) Balcony and stage are out of bounds without authorisation.
- (3) Children using gymnastic equipment must be supervised.
- (4) People should not sit on gymnastic equipment during pictures or concerts.
- (5) Ropes are not to be thrown over the walls.
- (6) Chairs must be stacked when not in use.
- (7) Stones must not be thrown into the hall.
- (8) By law, all gates must be unlocked during a function.
- (9) All doors and gates must be locked after every function.
- (10) All users must see that the hall is cleaned if necessary after a function.
- (11) A central aisle should be left when chairs are arranged for a function.
- (12) The piano must be locked in the change-room when not in use.

There are also rules to be adhered to concerning the projection room:

- (a) Equipment is for the benefit of all, but is only to be operated by people who are qualified to the satisfaction of the hall committee.
- (b) No more than TWO people at a time to be in the projection room at any one time. This means NO relatives or friends.
- (c) No smoking or drinking (anything) in the projection room.
- (d) Room must be kept clean.

Community Hall" - efficiency or not?

Some recommendations are made for the increased efficiency of the hall.

1. Barbed wire be fitted at the top of the brick wall to stop children climbing over it.
2. A pandanus screen be constructed and hung at the inside of the entrance foyer on picture nights to prevent people watching the pictures from outside the front gate.
3. Several modifications be made to the projector room and the wiring system to increase the quality of the movies.
4. A permanent cleaner be appointed and issued with keys to gates and toilets.
5. Village councillors be empowered to police the above rules.

A scale of charges was also drawn up to cover maintenance costs on the equipment within the hall.

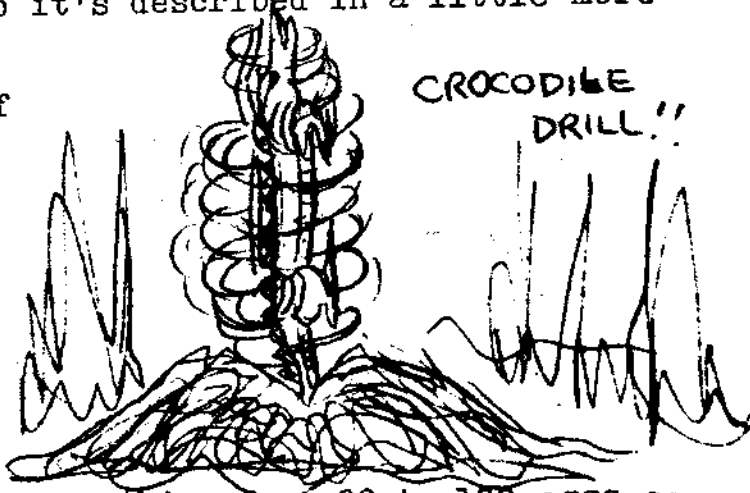
- 1 That Parents and Friends and YMCA both contribute an initial \$25 for the maintenance of the amplifier.
- 2 That Parents and Friends pay a charge of \$11 per week for the use of the projectors.
- 3 That the YMCA pay \$2 per week for the use of the gymnastic equipment.
- 4 That any other party wishing to use the electronic equipment in the hall pay a charge of \$5 per hour for the use of the projectors, of \$3 per hour for the use of the other electronic equipment (e.g. tape recorder, record player, P.A. system etc.) and of \$1 per time for the use of other equipment (e.g. gymnastic equipment etc.)

Crocodile Constructions.

It has been suggested that more information on crocodile nesting would be of interest to Mirage readers, so it's described in a little more detail below:

The nest is typically constructed of vegetation and mud. I do not have the positive identifications on the plants used as yet, but the main species in the Liverpool system is a tall (4') grass frequently covering flood plains. The female crocodile rakes together grass from an area up to 9 metres in diameter. This is made into a pile which varies in size but is usually about 60 cm. high and 120 in diameter.

Within a few days of making the nest, anything from 20 to 120 eggs can be laid, and these are deposited in a cavity in the centre of the nest. At this stage I am not sure how she makes the cavity. When the eggs are laid she seems to pack the nest in with her tail, as deep tail grooves are found on the top of nests with eggs. The eggs themselves are about 125 grams, and 8 cm. x 5 c.m. (diameter); the size is remarkably consistent. The shell is calcified and quite hard.



Unless the nest is made next to flowing freshwater, a wallow is built

within a few metres of the nest. The female appears to spend time here during incubation, and when the young are hatching. Hatchlings are about 28 cm. long. As with most reptiles, they possess an egg tooth which allows them to cut through the shell.

A question concerning the growth of crocodiles in terms of proportions of length to girth has also been asked. There are long thin crocodiles and short stumpy ones, and basically adults seem to vary considerably. The first few year classes are fairly consistent, however there are quite definite increases in specific girth and weight during the wet season.

Dr. Grahame Webb.

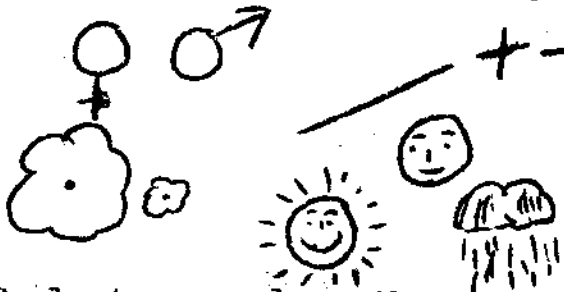
Thank!!

"The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year."

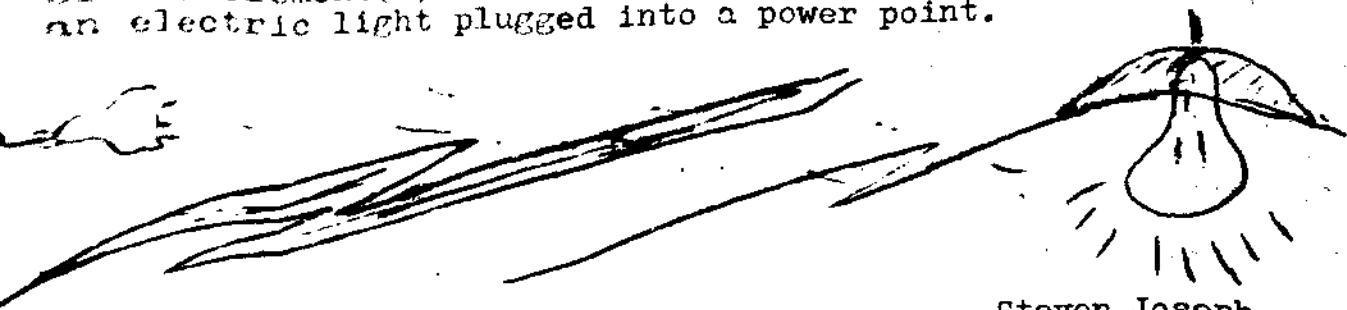
Electrical Buzzing.

We see all sorts of opposites in nature, i.e. female and male, big trees and small trees, so too in electricity there are opposites. One is called a positive charge and one is called a negative charge. Just like females and males they are attracted to each other. The negative charge (-) consists of an excess of electrons. Electrons are invisible "balls" that circle around protons (or positive charges).

Electrons and protons (and a particle called a neutron) all make up atoms. Atoms are invisible particles and they combine to make up all that we see. In certain substances electrons float around freely (and randomly) (i.e. copper) and when this substance (or conductor) is connected between two substances, one containing an excess of electrons and another containing a deficiency of electrons (i.e. as in a copper wire) connected to the positive negative terminal of a battery electrons will flow through this wire.



This flow of electrons is called a current and the force that pushes these electrons along (i.e. the attraction of the electrons to the region of positive charge) is called an Electro-motive force (E.M.F.) The current is measured in Amps and the E.M.F. in volts. When electrons flow along a conductor they bump into atoms and slow down and cause heat. This slowing down is called resistance. Resistance is measured in ohms. It is found that the current is equal to the voltage (say of a battery) divided by the resistance of the element(s) that connect the positive and negative terminus i.e. an electric light plugged into a power point.



Steven Joseph.

From our special correspondent
in Canberra. ***

ROADS 000

The Prime Minister rose in the house today to answer newspaper criticism on the lack of drains at Maningrida.

'There has been' he said 'some ill informed criticism from a minority of cranks and stirrers (Hear! Hear!) on the subject'

'These 'critics' (laughter) are typical of the mealy mouthed wingeing reactionaries whose days are over (Hear! Hear!) Therefore, in conjunction with Works Department, (cheers) we are bringing a new dynamic concept of transport to Maningrida. (Hear! Hear!)

'The new steel power poles' the Prime Minister told a hushed house 'are to be used as anchors to winch vehicles through the streets. (applause and cheers) This is only the begining' he bellowed 'When we have the report of Messrs. Burke and Wills to hand, we shall go on with even more dynamic development in the north' (cheers, applause and foot stamping)

* * *

At 10.30p.m. the house went into the committee stage of the 'Recognition of the Holy Roman Empire Bill' 'This bill' said Senator Ravener 'should not be rushed into headlong, and I believe' he added 'that cool deliberation is the key to good government'

The house adjourned at 11.21p.m.

+ + + + +

Duty Officer: Edward Carey, Esq.

Duty Sister: Sister Heather



The "WARAWI" Sinks.

The small coastal freighter Warawi sank about 30 miles north of Maningrida on Wednesday.

The owner, Ningle Haritos and two crew left the 56ft boat in a rubber dinghy after water started pouring in through seams in the wooden hull.

The rode out rough seas in the dinghy for more than 8 hours before a Navy boat, the HMAS Vendetta, picked them up.

Winds up to 35 knots and 7 ft waves carried them near to the coast at Cape Stewart and the big Navy boat had trouble getting close enough to take the men on board.

News of the sinking reached Maningrida within a few hours, via the pilot of the Connair flight.

The people organising the rescue rang up the Progress Association during the afternoon to ask questions about ocean currents in that area.

The Warawi, was well-known along the northern coast.

It was operated for many years by the Methodist Church, carrying supplies to Elcho Island mission as well as taking Elcho timber to other settlements. It usually carried an Abotiginal skipper, European radio operator and two Aboriginal crew.

The Warawi brought timber from Elcho to Maningrida for the MPA stor building 4½ years ago.

Bob Cross remembers the day well. The timber was floated ashore and Bob had to wade in up to his chin to guide it onto the beach.

On its last voyage the Warawi was returning to Darwin with a cargo of 4# gallon drums from Groote Eylandt.



A tree has been set aside on the banks of the Cadell River and it will henceforward be called the "police canoe tree". The tree will be ready for felling in about ten years' time. Tenders will then be called fro the supply of an axe to fell the tree and carve the canoe. The canoe will be designed with outriggers and pandanus sail thus giving it maximum speed and reliability for sea-going rescue operations.

Women's Basketball.

- Wednesday's Scores - 1. Dots n' Dashes (red) defeated (blue) Betty Wandug's team. 17 - 9
2. Gunavidji team (maroon) defeated Judy's team. 18 - 4

Highest scorers were Mandy & Nora.
Best and Fairest players were Tamie and Betty W.

Next Week's Draw

1. Betty W's team play Gunavidji team 7.30p.m.
2. Dots n' Dashes play Judy Sweetie's team 8.30p.m.

Umpires - F. Luff, Gary Moriarty, Tim Darch, Bobby Smith G. Pascoe.

Scorekeepers - Timekeepers - are anyone who is sitting around idle.

Marg Neale.

Maningrida Mirage

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