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Below is an old Mirage story written by Rosemary Walters (ex Maningrida teacher) which I feel is worth repeating and in fact the ideas expressed in it could never be repeated enough. This story, when first printed in the Mirage in 1972 resulted in Jack Mirritji writing about how he saw the problem. One of these stories was published in the Mirage a few weeks ago.

Marg Neale.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Coons. Boongs. Blacks. Natives. Apes. Why do we Europeans use these words to describe you aboriginals?

Why do we laugh at the way you speak English? Most of us (teachers, Forestry workers, Mining people, Works Force workers, builders etc can scarcely speak a word in any other language than our own, let alone use several languages as most of you do. So why do we laugh in that condescending way?

Why do we criticize you for not living in the European way? Few of us have ever tried to live in any other way than the conventional European style. None of us has ever tried to combine two ways of life as you are trying to do. We know we couldn't learn to be "Aboriginal" easily so why are we so impatient with you for not being "European"?

Why do we say your society is "primitive" and "unsophisticated"? Few Europeans understand the structure or history of their own society. Even less of us have even a vague knowledge of the complexities of your society. So how is it that we feel so confident about comparing the two and deciding which is better. (An anthropologist or sociologist might suggest that societies are not "better" or "worse" but only "different" according to the needs of the people in them).



Why is it that we think our culture is better than yours? White Australians receive an "Australian Education". This means we know next to nothing about our own culture. We either like classical music or modern: few of us can appreciate both. Most of us don't understand Modern Art or know anything of the history of art. Most of us are only observers when it comes to any other dance-forms other than modern 'free' dancing. Few of us learn to do sculpture and we scarcely know how to judge which of our hundreds of books and films are good and which are not.

Since our "Australian Education" gives us so little knowledge of our own culture, it's amazing that we feel so sure about judging yours.

From where do we get our infinite sense of superiority? Why do we believe that a European is tired but an Aboriginal is lazy, a European is hungry but an Aboriginal greedy, a European is sick but an Aboriginal is only pretending to feel ill.

In the Territory, white Australians (teachers, Forestry workers, Mining people, Works Force workers, Builders etc) come to work on Aboriginal settlements. We come full of ignorance and prejudice. We stay for a while and then, still ignorant and prejudiced go down south again

and say; "Of course I know about Aborigines: I've worked with them!" We think that a few months teaching Aboriginal children or working with Aboriginal men or women has given us a real understanding of Aboriginal society, culture, religion and attitudes. The unique opportunity that a settlement offers of really learning to understand a way of life totally different to our own is nearly always wasted but our own ignorance and prejudice is passed on to other people with a new note of authority and experience.

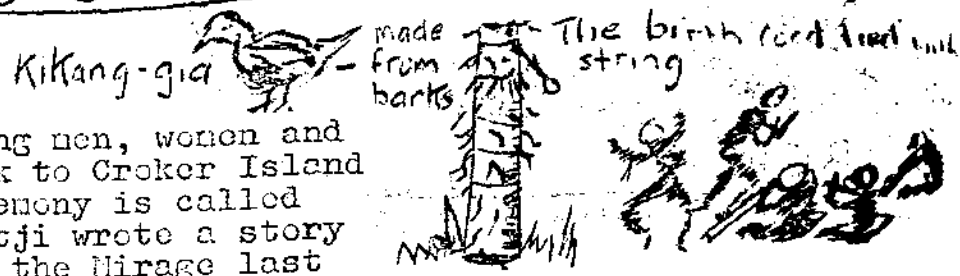
Coons, Boongs, Blacks, Natives, Apes. Who can cure us of the attitudes behind these words?

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CEREMONIES START AGAIN :

MARRADJIRI AT CROKER

About twenty Djinang men, women and children went this week to Croker Island for a ceremony. The ceremony is called Marradjiri - Jack Miritji wrote a story about this ceremony in the Mirage last year. The Djinang people will be giving the ceremony to Croker people - including the Rev. Lazarus Lami Lami. At the finish of the ceremony the big feathered pole and some hair or the birth cord of a baby born some years ago is handed over with very exciting singing and dancing.



At Croker Island the Djinang people will meet up with Dutch anthropologist Ad Bersboon (balung). Ad was at Maningrida all last year with his wife Elfreda (who is now expecting a baby). Ad was studying the Djinang peoples ceremony and mythology and he has been lucky to get another chance to see the Marradjiri. The Djinang people have kept in touch with him and when the ceremony was ready to start Jimmy Burinyila sent a telegram asking Ad to come to Croker.

DJAPI AT MANINGRIDA



On Saturday a young man (djapi) ceremony was started at Maningrida. It is for the young brother of Ray Carter and Charlie Djordilla. The singers and dancers for the ceremony are mostly Renbarrnga men - Jacky Kala Kala, Les Midagurua, Jack Docherty and others. Don Gundinga and David Gulpalil were also dancing on Saturday. The singing and dancing is sothern style and like the singing and dancing of old Jolly Laiwanga and the Banyili men.



Duban - nest of the kikang-gia. told by numerous informants. Stands about 18" tall - decorated to Dan Gillespie.

SCHOOL STORIES:

Over Weekend:

In two weeks time we had one good holiday. We always go hunting or fishing or swimming. And me and Wendy we went down the beach then after that went fishing my friend she had our fishing line and we went long way so we caught fishes and I saw one little girl she was follow us her name is Laurie and we went together to a same place. And I didn't caught any some of fish only those girls caught some of fish then I made a fire to cook some of fish. Then we went home.

-Told by Mandy Gudjamin.



JOHN HUNTER RETURNS:

John Hunter, Superintendent and later Community Advisor at Maningrida for many years up till the end of 1973 returned to Maningrida last week, John now works for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Darwin as a Projects Officer. He works in a small section with Ted Evans, Bill Gray and Anita Campbell.

The section concerns itself with special problems and developments arising in today's Aboriginal communities. John recently undertook a study of racism in Alice Springs which he said was extremely interesting. Prior to that he had completed a survey of the Aboriginal authority structure at Garden Point.

Here at Maningrida he is moving around to and camping at the various outstations, talking to the people and discussing their problems and their future. He is travelling with Chris Burchett. Community Advisor Andy Hazel went with them on last week's trip to the Blyth River outstations.

It is to be hoped that the outstations can expect better support from Darwin as a result of John's visit. With the weather at last looking stable the number of people in the bush is sure to grow again.

This Dry Season would be an ideal time for the Government to establish its support role for those people trying to shake off the chains of the Maningrida machine.

Dan Gillespie.

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Do You Want to be a Voter?

One thing that is clear from last Saturday's voting is that there are a number of people at Maningrida who are old enough to vote but their names are not on the voting list.

Last year the Government changed the law so that as soon as you are 18 years old you can have a vote at election time. You can vote for the Government in Canberra and the Government in Darwin when voting time comes around.

I am going to ask the voting people in Darwin to send out some papers so people can have their names put on the voting lists.

If you are 18 years or older and you would like to have a vote to pick the person you would like to be in the Government let people know so that you can fill out your papers.

Dan Gillespie.

School Stories (cont.)

A Short Hop:

Bill sat in his office thinking. Along came Jack, "Do you think I could take a film of you and Bob in the two M.E. Meshersmits firing at each other, except missing each other?" "I think I could. When is it going to be?" "Next Monday". was the reply. Bill was waiting at the airport. "I'll have this one". The pilots were in their planes roaring the engines, with the cameras ready. They taxied along the runway then they slowly rose into the air. There was a whole lot of tracer coming out behind them. Bill saw petrol on the tank, and said "Don't shoot!" But Bob did shoot and it burst into flames and it came screaming down. He hopped out just in time.

Timothy - grade 5.

The Shipwreck - Thomas grade 5

One day in March the 'Warawi' was going along in the water and the front broke open. Three men were in the boat. The men took some flares and some food. The navy ship saved the three men and took them to Darwin.

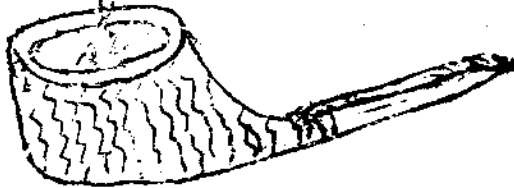
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RED CROSS:

Mrs. Clive McMahon received a letter from Mr. Greaves, General Secretary of the Red Cross in Darwin thanking all the people of Maningrida for their donations for the Red Cross Appeal. The amount collected was \$202.

LOST AND FOUND:

Charles Prince has lost a pipe. It is a stumpy little short stemmed specimen. All you pipe smokers will understand what a bind it is to lose a good pipe. Any information to Charles at the Forestry Office.



DOGS etc:

Noel and Shirley Soutter's red kelpie has produced 4 (at last count) more genuine kelpies--two males two females.

Meanwhile Gladys Pascoe is trying to mate her Doberman with Ron Berryman's dog of the same ilk.

Persons interested in starting a St. Bernard, Great Dane or Russian Timber Wolf owners club should contact the editors.

FORESTRY etc:

Muldoon Gestetner teenage bandit son of Herb Gestetner, Forestry employee has gone bush again. He was seen straking down Fisheries beach clad only in a folio of Woodchucks Debenture shares. Mr and Mrs Gestetner would like anyone who finds Muldoon to contact them as soon as possible.

Road maintainence, logging and the sawmill continue to be badly affected by absenteeism.

Mr. William Hilliger roving agent for the Alarm and Despondency Organization (a non profit making charity) is due this week to spreadrumour and flagging tape in a survey on the Nanja South road. He expects to remain a week unless asked to leave.

Woodchuck Enterprise Shares @ 22/5/74.

	B.P.	S.P.
Woodchuck A shares	\$1.98	\$0.3
Woodchuck Exploration N/L	\$1.00	\$0.98
Woodchuck Gravel	\$28.43	\$28.20
Woodchuck (Aust) Firewood	\$0.75	\$0.68

Trading was quiet on the market and doubts about chainsaw supplies kept most buyers away. Woodchuck Exploration (N/L) shares have aroused considerable interest. An advance party has set up camp at Bamboo Creek. An early report is not expected.

The article above arrived last week after our noon Wednesday deadline. In fact when it came in our hardworking and sometimes maligned helpers had already gone to press. So here it is this week with minor alterations to bring it up to date.... eds.

WHO WON??

last Saturday everybody in Australia whose names were on the voting rolls had to go to vote for the Government of Australia. People picked the man or woman that they wanted to speak for their area in the Parliament in Canberra for the next 3 years.

The voting was very close and as we are writing this story we still do not know how everything will finish up. It seems sure that the Labour Party, with Mr. Whitlam as Prime Minister, will be the Government again. However, the Labour Party will only have maybe one or two more men in the Government than the Liberal and Country parties will have on their side—they will be almost equal.

The whole of the Northern Territory sends only one man to Canberra to speak for it. He had to pick between Mr. Calder from the Country Party, who already had the job, and Mr. Waters from the Labour Party and Mr. Allan-Stewart who doesn't have a party.

Again it is still not sure at the time of writing this story who was the winner. It seems pretty sure that Sam Calder will be the winner and he will be the man who speaks for the people of the Northern Territory in Canberra. Mr. Waters pushed him very hard in the voting and has come very close to taking the job from him. Mr. Allan-Stewart did not get many votes at all.

The next time people in the Northern Territory will have to vote will probably be to pick the people we want to speak for us in the Legislative Council in Darwin

Dan Gillospie.

CLOTHING JUMBLE SALE:

Please hunt out your old clothes suitable for sale at the Fete. A chance to clear out those cupboards. Truck will collect on Sunday.

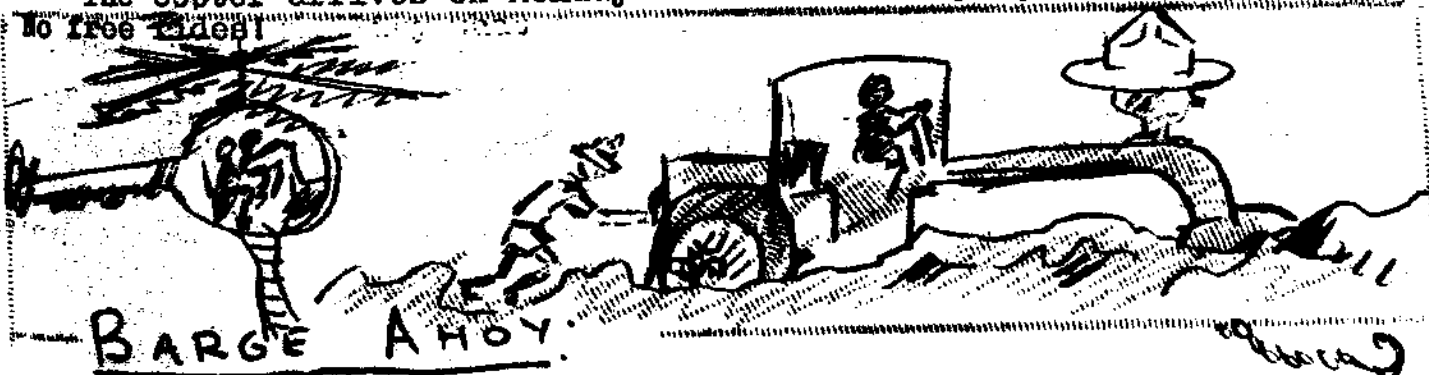


FORESTRY STOP PRESS:

All Woodchuck shares have tumbled with the arrival of Woodchuck Thompson who bogged the grader at Bamboo Creek.

Eddy Webber arrived this week on the Islander aircraft in company with Senior Woodchuck explorer Bill Goodwin and associates. They were here to peruse the sitch.

The copter arrives on Monday and will be staying for about a month. To free sides!



According to V.B. Perkins Top End agent Squirty Bert the barge, at last rumour, is due to arrive at Maningrida tomorrow



The Fishing Competition: results

The fishing competition on last Sunday, was not as successful as we expected it to be. The Aboriginal participation was nil. Was this because there was not any transport provided or any eats and drinks provided?

However, the event was a pleasant one, and everyone who participated really enjoyed themselves.

The winners of the day were:-

Junior Male - Edwin McMahon with a 10lb Trevalli
Junior Female - no prize
Middle Male - Neil McMahon with a 2½lb Trevalli
Middle Female - no prize
Senior Male - Clive McMahon with an 8½lb Trevalli
Senior Female - Pat Meissner with a 5lb Trevalli

Bonus Prizes:-

Most fish of the day - Wesley and Carl Dickfoss both come with a total of 9 fish and the total weights both were 8lb.
Most unusual fish - Fred Luff caught 2 Toadies on a line.

Congratulations to all those people. Thanks to those who entered and helped us to raise some money. Thanks to Mr. Pickersgill for his and his wife's offer of help with the organisation of the next one.

On Duty This Weekend

Duty Officer - Terry Canning

Duty Sister - Sr. Betty Reister

Church Notes

Last Sunday evening we had the open air church service in the top camp at Charlie Djarrabili's camp. There were many people came and we sat around the fire. Our local band music was doing a good job in drawing few others to come into the crowd.

A team of three preachers took part in their 5 - 10 minutes turn in preaching.

The atmosphere of worship and fellowship were real and very good, among the congregation. The church is planning more of this type of church services around the camps in the future.

THEME OF STUDY FOR THIS WEEK - "The Gospel and the New Testament".
Read Acts 8:26-40. In this study we are learning to see the way the good news of Christ's coming affects people of all walks of life: men women, slaves, free men, fishermen, scholars, Greek, Romans, Jews, dark and light.

Other church meetings and activities as usual.

M. Latu.

Maningrida Mirage

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"Maningrida Mirage Volume 3 Issue 29" May 24th, 1974.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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To cite this file use:

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