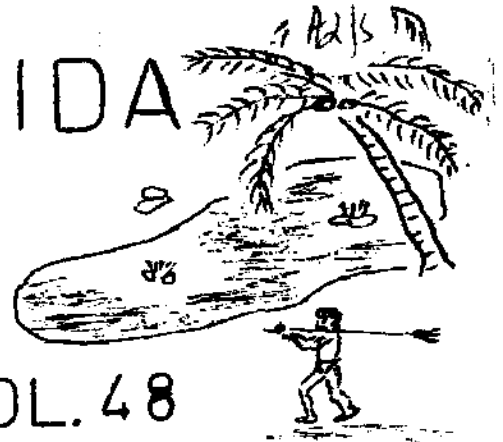
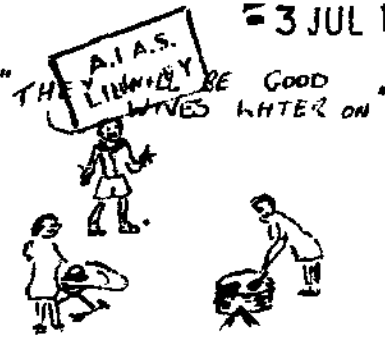


3 JUL 1972

# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

VOL. 48

Friday Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>



## TOO YOUNG TO MARRY

Recently three men have tried to take young girls under 16 years of age as wives. In each case the girl has been a "promise" to the men, but she did not wish to go to him. In each case the mother wanted the girl to stay single. The men either threatened or hit the girls, to try to force them to marry.

The Assistant Administrator, Mr. Giese, and the Assistant Director of Education, Mr. Gallacher, have written a letter. They say that they will help every girl under 16 years of age who is attending school and does not wish to go to her promise. If the husband tries to force her, while she is still under 16, he will be prosecuted (get trouble) in a Law Court.

If a man keeps on trying to force a young promise to come to him, he will be sent away from the Settlement (under Section 18 of the Welfare Ordinance).

What about young men who play about with young girls? Anywhere in Australia a man can be brought before a Court and prosecuted on a charge of carnal knowledge (making a baby) if he plays about with a girl under 16 years of age.

When the Councillors meet for a Council Meeting (as reports over past weeks show) they say that they are in favour of young men being given a chance to marry girls of their own age and whom they like, so long as Yiritja people marry Dua people.

When the Councillors gather with other people for meetings in the camps they don't speak up on these matters. Maybe the older people in the camp are not so sympathetic to "giving the young fellows a chance" and it is hard for an Aboriginal man to speak to an un-sympathetic audience who don't agree with him.

Interview with Mr. John Wilders.

FOUR CANS  OR THREE 

When the "Happy Club" served two cans a night, a year ago, there was a growing demand for three. It was the "Darwin" men - fellows in their thirties who had lived and worked in Darwin for some years "before Maningrida" who thirsted for more.

Now there is a move for 4 cans, but strangely the desire seems to be coming from the older men. One well known old man, who had first glimpse of the big city near Bullocky Point, at an Eisteddfod only 3 or 4 years ago, asked for four at the late afternoon meeting outside the kitchen on Tuesday.

Assistant Superintendent Mr. John Wilders leaves no doubt on future policy.

A little over \$7000 comes to Maningrida per week in the form of wages, pensions and other income. There are 1000 Aboriginal people. So there is an average of \$7. per week for every man, woman and child.

Eating in the kitchen costs an average of 60 cents a day, and for a week this amounts to \$4.20. So an adult has \$2.80 a week left (on the average) to go to the pictures, Hasty Tasty, shop, etc. If a man drinks more beer it means that a lot of men will be using money which is badly needed for their families.

Monday 31/8/70

# COUNCIL

13 councillors present  
and the following visitors.

Ray Baku, Johnny Ngaypul, Benny Mundurrug Mundurrug, Michael Bulakka, Paddy Fordam, Andrew Madaduba.

1. President: We have to think of our changing life and we must think about changing our laws and working together.
2. Cr Munyal said he would like to call the people for a meeting on the oval every Tuesday afternoon. Council agreed by a show of hands.
3. Cr Johnny Balaya: "I don't like to drink beer at nights. It's very cold for the old people and for me."

The President disagreed. "We should have our meeting before drinking." Cr Ray Munyal supported him.

4. Cr Robert Wukkawukka said: "We should have bark paintings inside the kitchen, so that when visitors come, they can see them." A lot of discussion followed and it was suggested that Charlie Gunbura might do some painting. There was unanimous agreement.
5. Cr Djakandra: "Why don't we trust people who come from Missions (by letting them buy beer tickets), we can make more money for us."

The President said: "Yes if we trust them, we can make more money for Maningrida (by selling them tickets)."

Cr Ray Munyal said: "They come here for 6 weeks for a corroboree." (The rule is that visitors are permitted to join the club as visitors but after 6 weeks they must either work or return home)

It was agreed that the President and Secretary should decide doubtful cases.

6. The question of more beer was left until the return of Mr Hunter.
7. Councillor C. R. Riala said that he didn't get his full pay on Friday. Mr. Wilders explained that money had been taken out for taxation.

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We welcome to Maningrida Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Bond (we do not know if he is related to James Bond). Ashley is a kitchen supervisor and Mrs. Bond has joined the office staff.

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It's good to see Kathy Glasgow and the children back for the September holidays. Kathy has been busy at Berrimah making booklets of "How to Read Burera", a collection of stories told and illustrated by local Burada speaking people and some translations of the gospel of St. Mark, and other scriptural passages. Dave is due on the new Ganardpa vehicle shortly. Since we saw him last he has been to the Phillipines for a conference and New Guinea. He has also been to a conference in the United States. When in Australia he visits Wycliffe staff in various places.

\*\*\*\*\*

George Namarabil and a big company of Oenpelli people on their way home, have come to Maningrida after the finishing of the Kunapipi ceremony.

AT THE WEEKEND

Duty Officer: Mr Berry Tuite  
Duty Sister : Sister Cec. Carey  
Fire Officer: Mr J. Reister

STAR THEATRE:

Friday - *Midnight Lace*  
Saturday - *Inn of the Sixth Happiness.*  
*Starring Ingrid Bergmann in the role*  
*of Gladys Svalbard.*

CHURCH NOTICES:

Sunday 9.30 a.m. All age Sunday Schools  
"The Body of Christ"  
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion  
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Fellowship at Sister Maija's

In the old days of the Aboriginal communities, the people all belonged to each other in "relationships" and no one is left out on his own. But in other parts of the world, and in Australia today, sometimes people are left alone on life and work; also many are trying to work just for themselves, trying to hurt others and make themselves rich or important.

The old way is closer to the Christian way of gathering together. .... Christians are called to give up living and working alone, and to live and work together as one body.

J. Goodluck

\*\*\*\*\*

PEOPLE



Mrs Margaret Pollard travelled to Albury N.S.W. on Tuesday for the funeral of her father. We convey our sympathy to Margaret and her family.

We also feel for Mrs April Elliott in the loss of her brother in Queensland.

Daymala a well built Milingimbi boxer is here for a short holiday. He met Johnny Famechon, the champion featherweight boxer at Katherine recently. Some group invited him to go to Melbourne but as it looked like fighting just for the love of punching and without pay, he decided to come back to his father at Milingimbi.

"Captain Roy Reiwa" has received some beautiful coloured pictures of Tasmania from Mr Glen Bagshaw. Glen says "It is a very cold country here .... there is plenty of snow in the mountains."

Next Tuesday morning Rev. Gowan Armstrong and Mr John Siyabakka travel to Milingimbi for the annual M.O.M. district Synod. They will be away for about 10 days. Sister Sandra will act as the bark painters friend for the period.

Mrs Helen Miller has received a letter from Miss Edna (home management). Edna has sat for some exams to become a kind of social worker. If she passes and is accepted, she may become either a policewoman or work in Holloway Gaol the famous English gaol for women.

In September every year a lot of birds fly away to different places. Where have they gone?

Miss Scott and Miss L. Johnson (Oenpelli) have gone to see the rooster fights in Timor (an island 200 miles North of Darwin). Mr and Mrs Dave Fryer will fly there too after a few days under the bright lights of Darwin.

(continued "Where have they gone")

Miss Cheryl Pullen after fluttering between Winnellie and the Darwin Town Hall for a couple of weeks has come home to rest.

Mr Peter Williams has jumped into a boat and has gone to Entrance Island to eat some fish.

Mrs Libby Gillespie has been laid low in Darwin and had to spend some time in Hospital. Libby and Dan are expected home today.

Girl Guides Betty, Rose and Anne Ennis have gone east to Elcho Island along with some girls and a Guider (leader) from Darwin for a camp.

### MAKING YOUNG MEN

Each afternoon and evening the didjeridoo drones, the sticks beat and men dance, while John Ruruyas two boys David Larambuwa and Charlie Dangurawurde wait for the big day to come - probably next pay weekend. Its good to see this initiation ceremony being held in the school holidays.

### AFTER TEN YEARS

Mrs Betty Hialt has come back to Maningrida for 2 weeks to do some preliminary archeological and anthropological research at the Blyth River.

Betty is eagerly looking forward to meeting old friends she made during the 1958-60 period when she lived here. It was then that she taught the first school class at Maningrida - before the school was built.

## FORESTRY

### OPENING OF THE SAWMILL

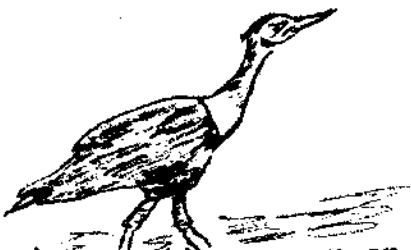
If a charter plane is available Messrs J. Collins, K. Ackland (Dept. of Works), J. Laws (Electrical Contractors), A. Galvin and C. Barchard (Forestry) will come to Maningrida at 9 a.m. on Monday to mark the completion of the construction of the mill.

### BUSHFIRES

- 1) Burnt out the West Dugarladorna Crossing and the D 7 is now building a couseway there.
- 2) East of the Juda Point in rather poor country.

WELCOME to Mr Anthony Soppa new bulldozer operator who arrived on Wednesday.

### FOR THE BIRD WATCHER



Plains Turkey or Australian Bustard  
BU-WATA

The song of this bird is sung by Ray Munyaal and Charlie Anawujjara and others in a ceremony when "young men" are initiated.

This bird is fairly common in this area and is sometimes seen on the way to Juda Point. These turkeys walk about either alone, or in pairs or in a small group. They have no nest but lay their eggs on the ground, hidden in tall grass.

*Food - insects, snakes, lizards, small birds, frogs, spiders, fruits and berries.*

**Maningrida Mirage**

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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