



Mindil beach, about the time of white settlement

By Mike Fordham

THE CURIOUS SAGA OF THE MINDIL BEACH SKELETONS ROLLS ON.

This time the stage for the final post mortem is the Darwin Coroner's Court.

Since June 77, when Darwin police collected skeletal remains of the first four of 10 bodies, extensive forensic work has been carried out by the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide.

In two reports this institute indicated that death by drowning was the probable cause of death and bodies were those of Indonesian natives.

Tony Jones, a forensic pathologist attached to the NT Police Department concluded his investigations with the opinion that the skeletons were of "Asian origin". Yet it is common knowledge that the Federal Pacific Hotel casino site was a common burial ground for Larrakia, Wagaidj and Tiwi people.

Now the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority has been forced to seek recognition of the site as an aboriginal burial ground by way of a Coroners inquest.

One of the first Darwin residents to show any concern over the proposed casino site in 1977 was Ningle Haritos.

As a small boy he had observed Larrakia burials and Tiwi, Pukamani burial ceremonies at Mindil Beach.

He recalls the Pakamani ceremony vividly in which the chief mourner - the most immediate relative of the deceased - was unable to touch food during the carving of the Pukamani poles and was fed by fellow tribesmen.

Ningle Haritos's explanation for the Mindil Beach skeletons to be covered with corrugated iron during the 20's ceremonies that he witnessed is quite simple. They used to do

that to stop goannas eating the decomposed bodies."

This is also confirmed by Leo Hickey who saw many burial ceremonies himself.

Bobby Secretary, Val McGuinness, Margaret Rivers, Bessie Robinson, Christa Rodeeric and Tiwin elders at Bathurst Island have all given testimonies to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority. Margaret Rivers has named 10 relatives buried at Mindil Beach.

The most famous of the Tiwi who is known to be buried at the Casino site is Turimpi - a powerful man who used to swim and walk to Darwin from Bathurst to Darwin at low tide.

He is reputed to have died by literally having been "frightened to death" at the sight of a motor car in Darwin in 1921.

The Tiwi people have offered to erect a Pukamani pole on the site telling the story of Turimpi as a memorial to all aborigines buried at Mindil Beach.

Forensic tests to date attributing the skeletons to non-aboriginal and possibly Indonesian origin have been based on "lack of attrition" in the teeth.

This simply means that teeth did not have the characteristics shown in a normal North Australian aborigine living a tribal life and living on natural food.

It is considered that the bodies recovered so far are most likely of people who were forced to live in the Karhlin compound if they wished to live in the Darwin area and their diet was extremely poor.

Up until 1939 a curfew was placed on these people. They could not leave the compound after sunset - and on one day a week were permitted to attend the movies.



Turimpi, a Tiwi hero

Tradesman join The Ad guide. Low cost insertions \$8. Phone 81 6802 or c Arcade, 13 Cavenagh

N.A.R.

NAKARA

3 Bedroomed - Carpeted surrounded by quality

Contact our Casuarina

For further info
North Australia
"The Pro"

K. G. YOUNG
PTY LTD

Licensed Real Estate
Ground Floor
City Mutual Building



Mindil beach, about the time of white settlement

By Mike Fordham

THE CURIOUS SAGA OF THE MINDIL BEACH SKELETONS ROLLS ON.

This time the stage for the final post mortem is the Darwin Coroner's Court.

Since June 77, when Darwin police collected skeletal remains of the first four of 10 bodies, extensive forensic work has been carried out by the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide.

In two reports this institute indicated that death by drowning was the probable cause of death and bodies were those of Indonesian natives.

Tony Jones, a forensic pathologist attached to the NT Police Department concluded his investigations with the opinion that the skeletons were of "Asian origin". Yet it is common knowledge that the Federal Pacific Hotel casino site was a common burial ground for Larrakia, Wagaidj and Tiwi people.

Now the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority has been forced to seek recognition of the site as an aboriginal burial ground by way of a Coroner's inquest.

One of the first Darwin residents to show any concern over the proposed casino site in 1977 was Ningle Haritos.

As a small boy he had observed Larrakia burials and Tiwi, Pukamani burial ceremonies at Mindil Beach.

He recalls the Pakamani ceremony vividly in which the chief mourner - the most immediate relative of the deceased - was unable to touch food during the carving of the Pukamani poles and was fed by fellow tribesmen.

Ningle Haritos's explanation for the Mindil Beach skeletons to be covered with corrugated iron during the 20's ceremonies that he witnessed is quite simple. "They used to do

that to stop goannas eating the decomposed bodies."

This is also confirmed by Leo Hickey who saw many burial ceremonies himself.

Bobby Secretary, Val McGuinness, Margaret Rivers, Bessie Robinson, Christa Rodeeric and Tiwin elders at Bathurst Island have all given testimonies to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority. Margaret Rivers has named 10 relatives buried at Mindil Beach.

The most famous of the Tiwi who is known to be buried at the Casino site is Turimpi - a powerful man who used to swim and walk to Darwin from Bathurst to Darwin at low tide.

He is reputed to have died by literally having been "frightened to death" at the sight of a motor car in Darwin in 1921.

The Tiwi people have offered to erect a Pukamani pole on the site telling the story of Turimpi as a memorial to all aborigines buried at Mindil Beach.

Forensic tests to date attributing the skeletons to non-aboriginal and possibly Indonesian origin have been based on "lack of attrition" in the teeth.

This simply means that teeth did not have the characteristics shown in a normal North Australian aborigine living a tribal life and living on natural food.

It is considered that the bodies recovered so far are most likely of people who were forced to live in the Karhlin compound if they wished to live in the Darwin area and their diet was extremely poor.

Up until 1939 a curfew was placed on these people. They could not leave the compound after sunset - and on one day a week were permitted to attend the movies.



Turimpi, a Tiwi hero

Tradesman join The Advertiser guide. Low cost insertion \$8. Phone 81 6802 or call Arcade, 13 Cavenagh

N.A.R.

NAKARA

3 Bedroomed - Carpeted
surrounded by quality housing

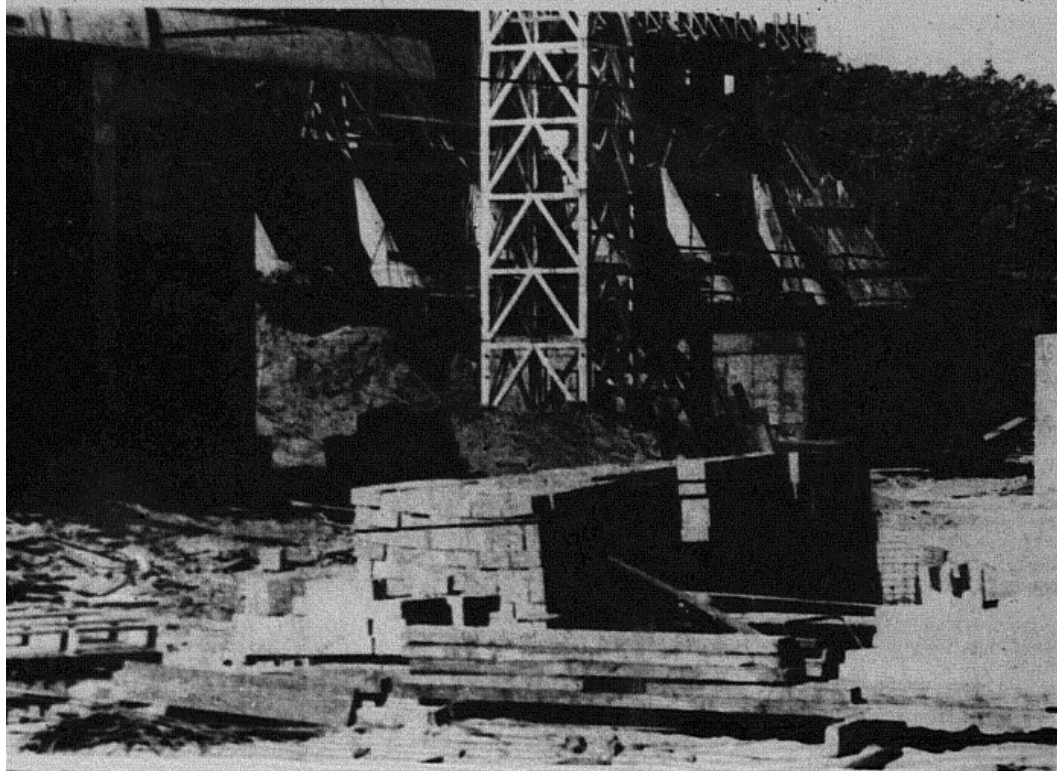
Contact our Casuarina

For further info
North Australia
"The Prof"

K. G. YOUNG
PTY LTD

Licensed Real Estate

Ground Floor
City Mutual Building



Mindil beach: The crane tower at the left marks the spot where Aborigines are buried.

IT'S NOT KNOWN WHETHER FEDERAL PACIFIC HOTELS LTD WILL ALLOW A PUKAMANI BURIAL POLE OUTSIDE THE MINDIL BEACH CASINO AS A MONUMENT TO ABORIGINES BURIED UNDERNEATH.

Tiwi people have offered to carve the pole.

And officials of Federal Pacific Hotels Ltd are now pondering the proposal. But the company's spokesman, Mr John Hadadad, was "in transit" and not available when The Advertiser telephoned his headquarters in Melbourne yesterday.

T. C. WATERS PEPPER & CO.

AN ASSOCIATE OF

L. J. HOOKER LIMITED

REAL ESTATE AGENTS • AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS
PROPERTY MANAGERS AND CONSULTANTS

GROUND FLOOR
THE HOOKER BUILDING
47 MITCHELL STREET DARWIN
P.O. BOX 414 DARWIN N.T. 5794
CABLES: HOOKCO



Auction

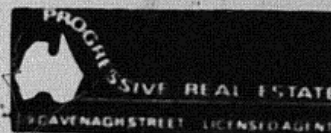
5 Room Flats, Lot 883 Rossiter Street,
To be offered under instruction from the vendor
22nd July 1981

in our rooms 47 Mitchell Street.

Income \$22,360 per annum of brick construction and located
close to school, shops and public transport.

For inspection Ph. 81 8277. A/H Gary Ross 85 4104
Dick Pepper 81 9147

The curious story of Mindil Beach



COCONUT GROVE
RESIDENTIAL LAND
NOW AVAILABLE

PRIME REAL ESTATE

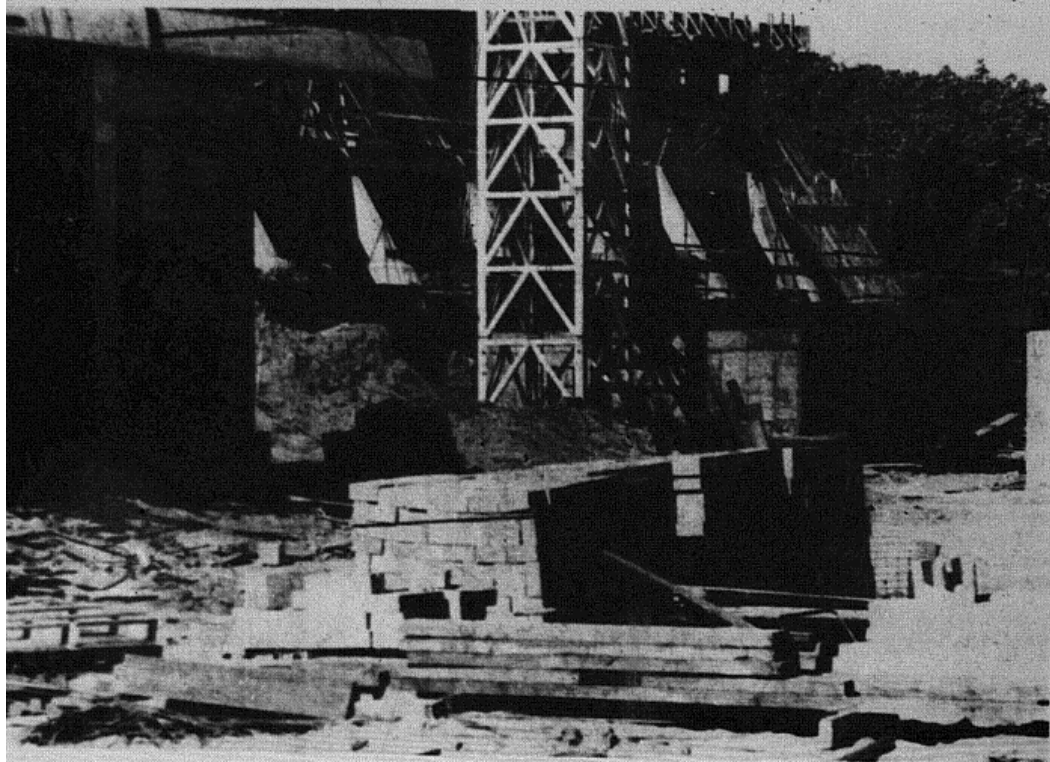
This is your opportunity to
purchase land in one of
Darwin's most sought
after locations.

- Zoning - Residential "1" only
- Easy commuting to town via Dick Ward Drive

Priced from \$26,000 - \$33,000

**HUGH CLIFFORD
WALLY DRAPER
OLGA HAVNEN**

81 4666 B/H 85 2113 A/H



Mindil beach: The crane tower at the left marks the spot where Aborigines are buried.

IT'S NOT KNOWN WHETHER FEDERAL PACIFIC HOTELS LTD WILL ALLOW A PUKAMANI BURIAL POLE OUTSIDE THE MINDIL BEACH CASINO AS A MONUMENT TO ABORIGINES BURIED UNDERNEATH.

Tiwi people have offered to carve the pole.

And officials of Federal Pacific Hotels Ltd are now pondering the proposal. But the company's spokesman, Mr John Hadadad, was "in transit" and not available when The Advertiser telephoned his headquarters in Melbourne yesterday.

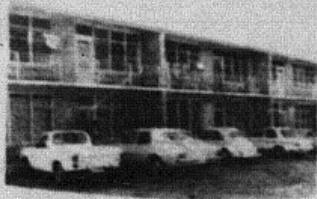
T. C. WATERS PEPPER & CO.

AN ASSOCIATE OF

L. J. HOOKER LIMITED

REAL ESTATE AGENTS • AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS
PROPERTY MANAGERS AND CONSULTANTS

GROUND FLOOR
THE HOOKER BUILDING
47 MITCHELL STREET DARWIN
P.O. BOX 414 DARWIN NT 5704
CARLEN HOOKER



Auction

5 Room Flats, Lot 883 Rossiter Street,
To be offered under instruction from the vendor
22nd July 1981

in our rooms 47 Mitchell Street.

Income \$22,360 per annum of brick construction and located
close to schools, shops and public transport

For inspection Ph. 81 8277. A/H Gary Ross 85 4104
Dick Pepper 81 9147

The curious story of Mindil Beach



COCONUT GROVE
RESIDENTIAL LAND
NOW AVAILABLE

PRIME REAL ESTATE

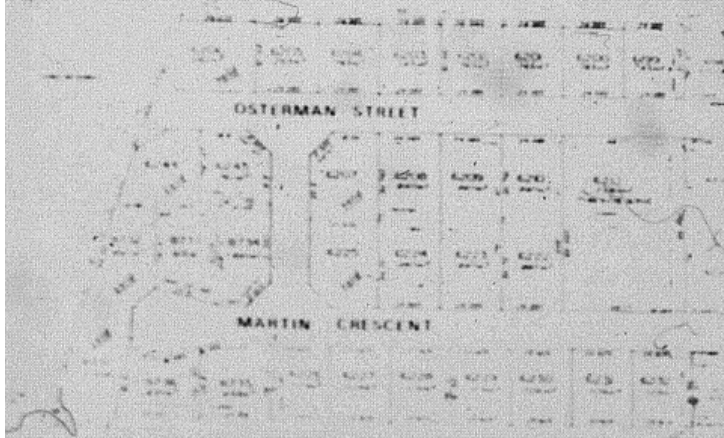
This is your opportunity to
purchase land in one of
Darwin's most sought
after locations.

- Zoning - Residential "1" only
- Easy commuting to town via Dick Ward Drive

Priced from \$26,000 - \$33,000

**HUGH CLIFFORD
WALLY DRAPER
OLGA HAVNEN**

81 4666 B/H 85 2113 A/H





Mindil beach, about the time of white settlement

By Mike Fordham

THE CURIOUS SAGA OF THE MINDIL BEACH SKELETONS ROLLS ON.

This time the stage for the final post mortem is the Darwin Coroner's Court.

Since June 77, when Darwin police collected skeletal remains of the first four of 10 bodies, extensive forensic work has been carried out by the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide.

In two reports this institute indicated that death by drowning was the probable cause of death and bodies were those of Indonesian natives.

Tony Jones, a forensic pathologist attached to the NT Police Department concluded his investigations with the opinion that the skeletons were of "Asian origin". Yet it is common knowledge that the Federal Pacific Hotel casino site was a common burial ground for Larrakia, Wagaidj and Tiwi people.

Now the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority has been forced to seek recognition of the site as an aboriginal burial ground by way of a Coroners inquest.

One of the first Darwin residents to show any concern over the proposed casino site in 1977 was Ningle Haritos.

As a small boy he had observed Larrakia burials and Tiwi, Pukamani burial ceremonies at Mindil Beach.

He recalls the Pukamani ceremony vividly in which the chief mourner - the most immediate relative of the deceased - was unable to touch food during the carving of the Pukamani poles and was fed by fellow tribesmen.

Ningle Haritos's explanation for the Mindil Beach skeletons to be covered with corrugated iron during the 20's ceremonies that he witnessed is quite simple. "They used to do

that to stop goannas eating the decomposed bodies."

This is also confirmed by Leo Hickey who saw many burial ceremonies himself.

Bobby Secretary, Val McGuinness, Margaret Rivers, Bessie Robinson, Christa Rodeeric and Tiwi elders at Bathurst Island have all given testimonies to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority. Margaret Rivers has named 10 relatives buried at Mindil Beach.

The most famous of the Tiwi who is known to be buried at the Casino site is Turimpi - a powerful man who used to swim and walk to Darwin from Bathurst to Darwin at low tide.

He is reputed to have died by literally having been "frightened to death" at the sight of a motor car in Darwin in 1921.

The Tiwi people have offered to erect a Pukamani pole on the site telling the story of Turimpi as a memorial to all aborigines buried at Mindil Beach.

Forensic tests to date attributing the skeletons to non-aboriginal and possibly Indonesian origin have been based on "lack of attrition" in the teeth.

This simply means that teeth did not have the characteristics shown in a normal North Australian aborigine living a tribal life and living on natural food.

It is considered that the bodies recovered so far are most likely of people who were forced to live in the Karlin compound if they wished to live in the Darwin area and their diet was extremely poor.

Up until 1939 a curfew was placed on these people. They could not leave the compound after sunset - and on one day a week were permitted to attend the movies.



Turimpi, a Tiwi hero

Tradesman join The Advertiser guide. Low cost insertion. \$8. Phone 81 6802 or call Arcade, 13 Cavenagh Street

N.A.R.

No
Ltd.
15 C

NAKARA \$

3 Bedroomed - Carpeted - surrounded by quality homes

Contact our Casuarina Office

For further information

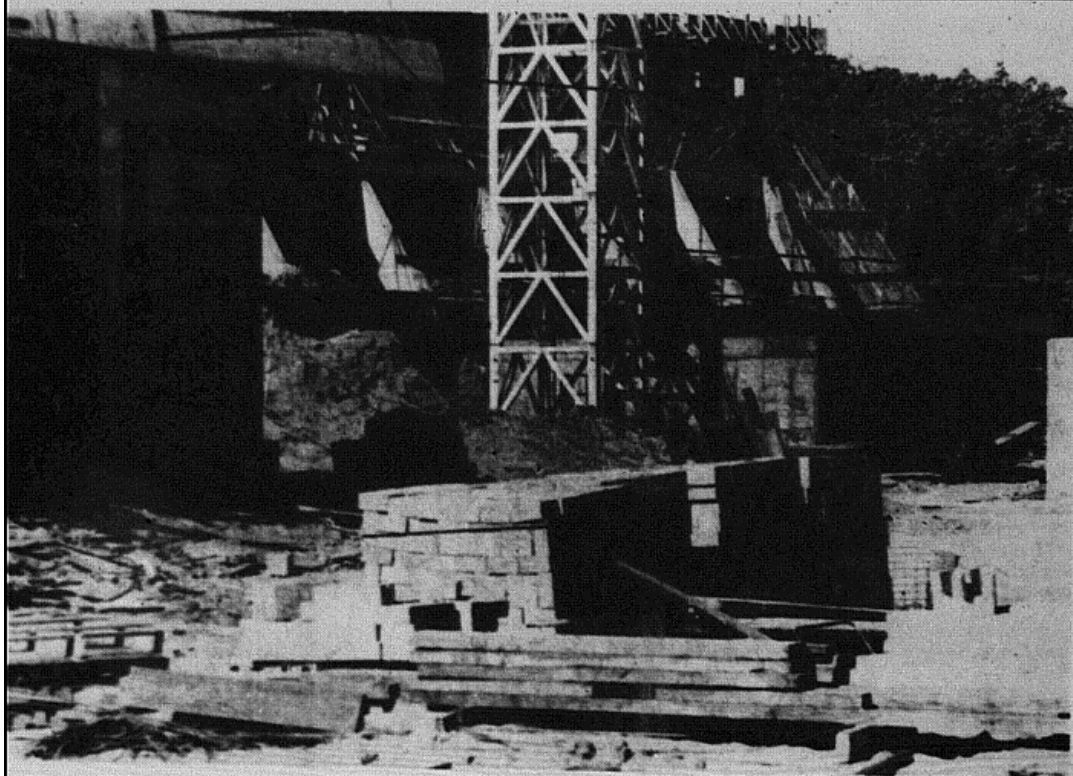
North Australia

The Professional

K. G. YOUNG & CO.
PTY LTD

Licensed Real Estate and Finance

Ground Floor
City Mutual Building



Mindil beach: The crane tower at the left marks the spot where Aborigines are buried.

IT'S NOT KNOWN WHETHER FEDERAL PACIFIC HOTELS LTD WILL ALLOW A PUKAMANI BURIAL POLE OUTSIDE THE MINDIL BEACH CASINO AS A MONUMENT TO ABORIGINES BURIED UNDERNEATH.

Tiwi people have offered to carve the pole.

And officials of Federal Pacific Hotels Ltd are now pondering the proposal. But the company's spokesman, Mr John Hadad, was "in transit" and not available when The Advertiser telephoned his headquarters in Melbourne yesterday.



T. C. WATERS PEPPER & CO.

AN ASSOCIATE OF


L. J. HOOKER LIMITED

REAL ESTATE AGENTS • AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS
PROPERTY MANAGERS AND CONSULTANTS



GROUND FLOOR
THE HOOKER BUILDING
47 MITCHELL STREET DARWIN
P.O. BOX 414 DARWIN NT 5794
CARLEN HOOKER

Auction

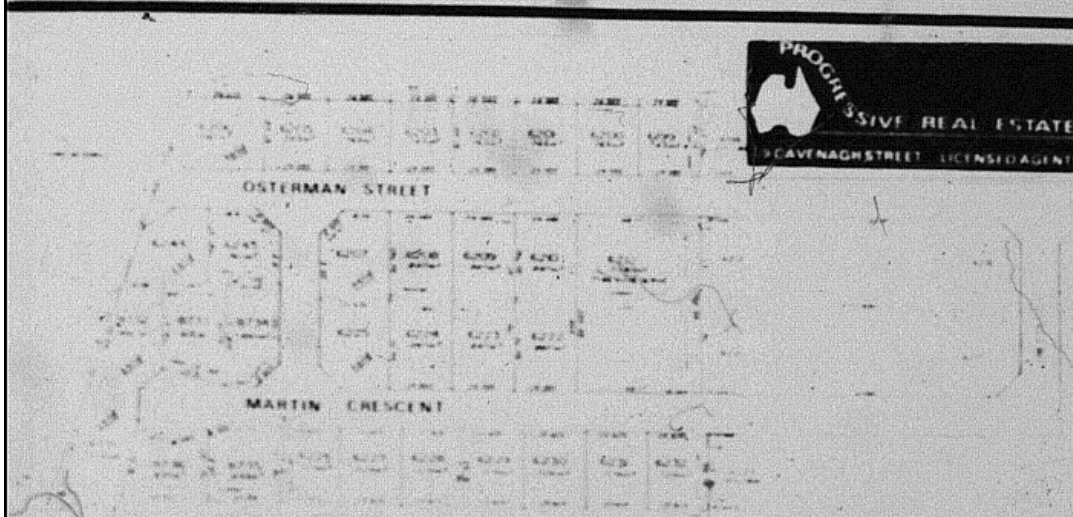
5  3 Bedroom Flats, Lot 883 Rossiter Street,
To be offered under instruction from the vendor
22nd July 1981

in our rooms 47 Mitchell Street.

Income \$22,360 per annum of brick construction and located
close to schools, shops and public transport

For inspection Ph. 81 8277. A/H Gary Ross 85 4104
Dick Pepper 81 9147

The curious story of Mindil Beach



PROGRESSIVE REAL ESTATE
19 CAVERNAGH STREET LICENSED AGENTS

**COCONUT GROVE
RESIDENTIAL LAND
NOW AVAILABLE**

PRIME REAL ESTATE

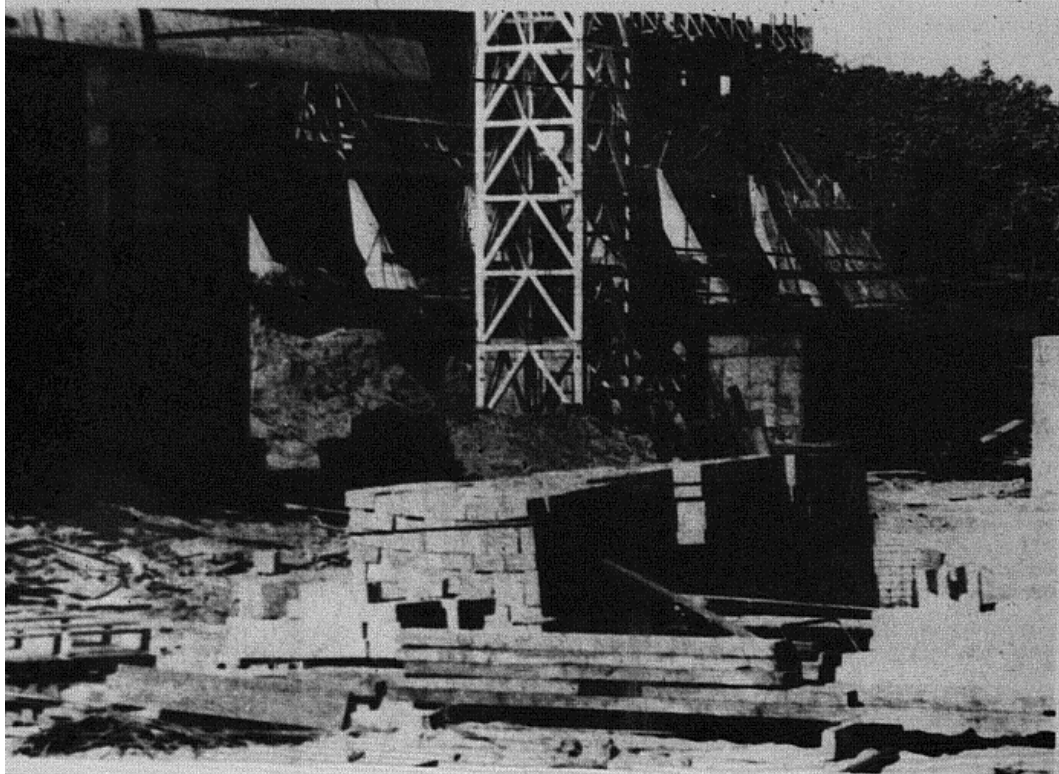
This is your opportunity to
purchase land in one of
Darwin's most sought
after locations

- Zoning - Residential "1" only
- Easy commuting to town via Dick Ward Drive

Priced from \$26,000 - \$33,000

**HUGH CLIFFORD
WALLY DRAPER
OLGA HAVNEN**

81 4666 B/H 85 2113 A/H



Mindil beach: The crane tower at the left marks the spot where Aborigines are buried.

IT'S NOT KNOWN WHETHER FEDERAL PACIFIC HOTELS LTD WILL ALLOW A PUKAMANI BURIAL POLE OUTSIDE THE MINDIL BEACH CASINO AS A MONUMENT TO ABORIGINES BURIED UNDERNEATH.

Tiwi people have offered to carve the pole.

And officials of Federal Pacific Hotels Ltd are now pondering the proposal. But the company's spokesman, Mr John Hadad, was "in transit" and not available when The Advertiser telephoned his headquarters in Melbourne yesterday.

T. C. WATERS PEPPER & CO.

AN ASSOCIATE OF

L. J. HOOKER LIMITED

REAL ESTATE AGENTS • AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS
PROPERTY MANAGERS AND CONSULTANTS



GROUND FLOOR
THE HOOKER BUILDING
47 MITCHELL STREET DARWIN
P.O. BOX 414 DARWIN NT 5794
CARLES HOOKER

Auction

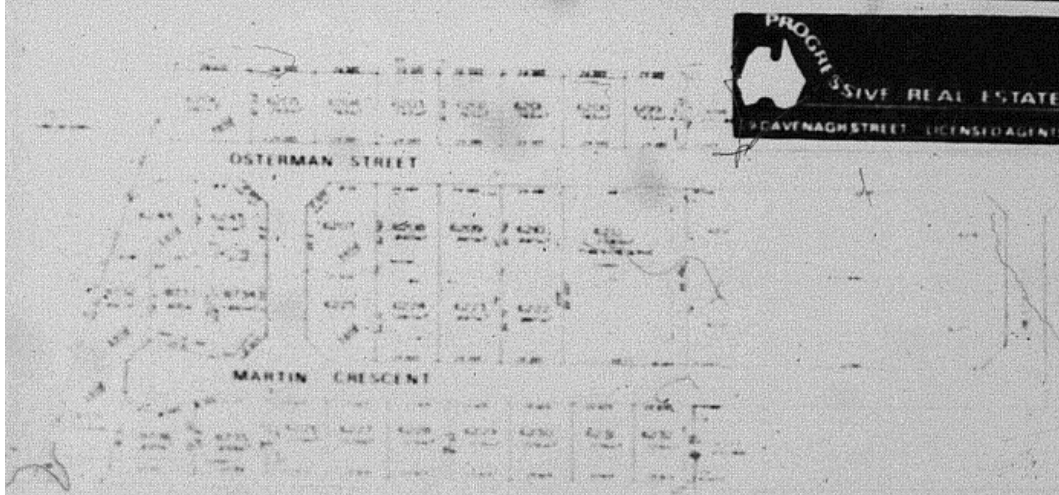
5 2 2 Room Flats, Lot 883 Rossiter Street,
To be offered under instruction from the vendor
22nd July 1981

in our rooms 47 Mitchell Street.

Income \$22,360 per annum of brick construction and located
close to schools, shops and public transport

For inspection Ph. 81 8277. A/H Gary Ross 85 4104
Dick Pepper 81 9147

The curious story of Mindil Beach



**COCONUT GROVE
RESIDENTIAL LAND
NOW AVAILABLE**

PRIME REAL ESTATE

This is your opportunity to
purchase land in one of
Darwin's most sought
after locations.

- Zoning - Residential "1" only
- Easy commuting to town via Dick Ward Drive

Priced from \$26,000 - \$33,000

**HUGH CLIFFORD
WALLY DRAPER
OLGA HAVNEN**

81 4666 B/H 85 2113 A/H