



Finding aid

BIERNOFF_D01

**Sound recordings collected by
David C. Biernoff, 1971-1972**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1971-1972

Extent: 19 sound cassettes (ca. 60 min. each) : analogue, mono + field tape report sheets.

Production history

These recordings were collected between 10 November 1971 and 7 September 1972 by David C. Biernoff during field work at Numbulwar in Eastern Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory of Australia. The purpose of the field trips was to research circumcision ceremonies, men's song cycles, the dhambul corroboree; Dreaming stories, relationship to country, sites, law, traditions, skin groups and traditional medical practices of the Nunggubuyu, Manggurra, Nargala, Madarrpa, Dhalwangu, Mara and Warndarrang peoples of the region about Numbulwar. Interviewees and performers include Lalbich, Larranggana, Tommy Reuben, Wurramarbi, Galiliwa, Rimili, Nambadj, Mongoana, Peter Yarrowu, Rex, Tommy, Homer, Wiyulwi, Don, Rruyilnga, Djima, Gumuk, Dunggi, Waguti Marawilli, Ken, Bob, Mac Riley, Lindsay Joshua and Alex. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 21 December 1972.

RELATED MATERIAL

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ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by David C. Biernoff and audition sheets

prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
002712A	Field tape I	Narratives in Nunggubuyu with Lalbich and Larranggana
002712B	Field tape II	Narratives in Nunggubuyu with Tommy Reuben and Wurramarbi
002712B 002713A	Field tape III	Nunggubuyu ceremonial songs performed by Lalbich, Galiliwa, Rimili, Nambadj and Mongoana
002713A 002713B 002714A	Field tape IV	Nunggubuyu narratives and ceremonial songs with Peter Yarrowu, Nambadj and Mongoana
002714A 002714B	Field tape V	Manggurra and Nunggubuyu ceremonial songs performed by Rex, Galiliwa, Rimili and Tommy
002715A	Field tape VI	Nunggubuyu ceremonial songs performed by Homer, Galiliwa, Tommy and Nambadj
002715B	Field tape VII	Nunggubuyu ceremonial songs performed by Homer, Galiliwa, Tommy, Nambadj, Rex, Wiyulwi, Don and Rruyilnga
002716A	Field tape VIII	Manggurra ceremonial songs performed by Rex, Wiyulwi, Don and Rruyilnga
002716B	Field tape X	Nargala ceremonial songs performed by Rruyilnga and Djima
002717A	Field tape XI	Nargala ceremonial songs performed by Rruyilnga and Djima
002717B	Field tape XII	Nargala and Dhalwangu ceremonial songs performed by Rruyilnga, Djima, Rex, Wiyulwi, Gumuk and Dunggu
002718A	Field tape XIII	Narratives in Manggurra with Rex and Don
002718B	Field tape 14	Madarrpa song cycle performed by Waguti Marawilli
002719A	Field tape 15	Nunggubuyu narratives with Ken and Bob
002719B	Field tape 16	Mara sites and localities with Mac Riley
002720A	Field tape 17	Discussion of Mara traditions with Lindsay Joshua
002720B	Field tape 18	Discussion of Warndarrang law and traditions with Alex
002721A	Field tape 20	Discussion of Nunggubuyu traditional medical practices with Larranggana
002721B	Field tape 21	Manggurra dhambul (feathered strings) songs performed by Larranggana

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

002712A/Field tape I

Performer/speaker(s):	Lalbich, Larranggana
Personal subject(s):	Donald Thomson
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories and motifs – Dolphins / whales, Stories and motifs – Dugongs, Technology – Stone, Settlement and contacts – Macassans and Indonesians, Feuds and warfare
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002712A	00:00:00	Narratives in Nunggubuyu about a Whale and a Dugong with Lalbich and Larranggana.	10 November 1971	Numbulwar, NT
	00:09:00	Narratives in Nunggubuyu about a stone spear and about Macassans with Lalbich and Larranggana.	21 December 1971	
	00:34:46	Discussions about Dr Thomson and rivalries between groups.		
	01:00:00	End of field tape I and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002712A		

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Field tape II

Performer/speaker(s):	Tommy Reuben, Wurramarbi
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories and motifs – Fish, Stories and motifs - Eagles / hawks / crows
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01 -002712B	00:00:00	Narrative in Nunggubuyu about the Groper and Two Boys with Tommy Reuben.	24 December 1971	Numbulwar, NT
	00:22:58	Narrative in Nunggubuyu about the Crow and the Two Old Women.	30 December 1971	
	00:29:27	End of field tape II.		

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Field tape III

Performer/speaker(s):	Lalbich, Galiliwa, Rimili, Nambadj, Mongoana
Subject keywords:	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002712B	00:32:08	Mandbarrija singing for a Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Lalbich, Galiliwa, Rimili, Nambadj and Mongoana accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	30 December 1971	Numbulwar, NT
	01:01:01	End of BIERNOFF_D01-002712B.		
BIERNOFF_D01-002713A	00:00:00	Mandbarrija singing for a Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Lalbich, Galiliwa, Rimili, Nambadj and Mongoana accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.		
	00:21:32	End of field tape III and of BIERNOFF_D01-002713A.		

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Field tape IV

Performer/speaker(s):	Peter Yarrowu, Nabadj, Mongoana
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories and motifs – Lizards / goannas, Stories and motifs – Devils, monsters, evil spirits, hairy men, bunyips, Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002713A	00:24:27	Narrative in Nunggubuyu about the Gekko and Muladja (Devil) with Peter Yarrowu.	31 December 1971	Numbulwar, NT
	00:29:03	Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Nabadj and Mongoana accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.		
	00:55:58	End of BIERNOFF_D01-002713A.		
BIERNOFF_D01-002713B	00:00:00	Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Nabadj and Mongoana accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.		
	01:03:35	End of BIERNOFF_D01-002713B.		
BIERNOFF_D01-002714A	00:00:00	Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Nabadj and Mongoana accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.		
	00:34:49	End of field tape IV.		

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Field tape V

Performer/speaker(s):	Rex, unidentified performers
Subject keywords:	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music - Vocal - Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Unclassified languages, Manggurra
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	Manggurra is not listed in the AIATSIS Language and Peoples Thesaurus; RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002714A	00:37:04	Manggurra circumcision ceremony performed by Rex and unidentified participants accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	1 January 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	01:04:15	End of BIERNOFF_D01-002714A.		
BIERNOFF_D01-002714B	00:00:00	Manggurra circumcision ceremony performed by Rex and unidentified participants accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.		
	00:39:11	End of field tape V and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002714B.		

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Field tape VI

Performer/speaker(s):	Homer, Galiliwa, Tommy Namadj
Subject keywords:	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music - Vocal - Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002715A	00:00:00	Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Homer, Galiliwa, Tommy and Namadj accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	3 January 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	01:00:43	End of field tape VI and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002715A.		

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Field tape VII

Performer/speaker(s):	Homer, Galiliwa, Tommy, Namadj, Rex, Wiyulwi, Don, Rruyilnga
Subject keywords:	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music - Vocal - Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to Good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002715B	00:00:00	Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Homer, Galiliwa, Tommy and Namadj accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	3 January 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:30:21	Nunggubuyu circumcision ceremony performed by Rex, Wiyulwi, Don and Rruyilnga accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.		
	01:00:37	End of field tape VII and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002715B.		

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Field tape VIII

Performer/speaker(s):	Rex, Wiyulwi, Don, Rruyilnga
Subject keywords:	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Nargala
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002716A	00:00:00	Nargala circumcision ceremony performed by Rex, Wiyulwi, Don and Rruyilnga accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	7 January 1971	Numbulwar, NT
	01:00:08	End of field tape VIII and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002716A.		

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Field tape X

Performer/speaker(s):	Rex, Wiyulwi, Don, Rruyilnga
Personal subject(s):	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Subject keywords:	Nargala
Language/people:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Places:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002716B	00:00:00	Nargala circumcision ceremony performed by Rex, Wiyulwi, Don and Rruyilnga accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	7 January 1971	Numbulwar, NT
	01:00:19	End of field tape X and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002716B.		

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Field tape XI

Performer/speaker(s):	Rruyilnga, Djima, Rex, Wiyulwi, Gumuk, Dunggi
Subject keywords:	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Nargala
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002717A	00:00:00	Nargala circumcision ceremony performed by Rex, Wiyulwi, Djima, Gumuk, Dunggi and Rruyilnga accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	4-5 February 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	01:00:14	End of field tape XI and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002717A.		

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Field tape XII

Performer/speaker(s):	Rruyilnga, Djima, Rex, Wiyulwi, Gumuk, Dunggu
Personal subject(s):	Ceremonies – Initiation, Initiation – Circumcision, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Subject keywords:	Nargala, Dhalwangu
Language/people:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Places:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002717B	00:00:00	Nargala and Dhalwangu circumcision ceremony performed by Rex, Wiyulwi, Djima, Gumuk, Dunggu and Rruyilnga accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	4-5 February 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	01:00:14	End of field tape XII and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002717B.		

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Field tape XIII

Performer/speaker(s):	Rex, Don
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories and motifs – Snakes, Stories and motifs – Stingrays, Literature and stories – Criticism and analysis
Language/people:	Unclassified languages, Manggurra; English
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	Manggurra is not listed in the AIATSIS Language and Peoples Thesaurus; RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002718A	00:00:00	Manggurra dreaming stories (Snake, Stingray) narrated in language and explained in English by Rex and Don.		Numbulwar, NT
	00:30:19	Manggurra dreaming story told in English by Rex and Don.		
	00:57:35	End field tape XIII and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002718A.		

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Field tape 14

Performer/speaker(s):	Waguti Marawilli, unidentified performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Vocal – Clan songs, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Madarrpa
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002718B	00:00:00	Gurrurn gurrurn song cycle about Baigurdji country performed by Waguti Marawilli accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	2 May 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:57:48	End of field tape 14 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002718B.		

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Field tape 15

Performer/speaker(s):	Ken, Bob, Larrangana
Subject keywords:	Culture – Relationship to land, Law – Indigenous
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu people, English language
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002719A	00:00:00	Maps and general talk about Magurri countries of Rose River discussed by Ken and Bob in Nunggubuyu and English.	24 July 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:30:00	Larrangana speaks of countries holding the law.	25 July 1972	
	01:00:09	End of field tape 15 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002179A.		

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Field tape 16

Performer/speaker(s):	Mac Riley
Subject keywords:	Culture – Relationship to place, Sites - Sites of significance, Law – Indigenous
Language/people:	Mara / Marra people, English language
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002719B	00:00:00	Mac Riley discusses Mara sites, localities and law in English.	26 July 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	01:05:00	End of field tape 16 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002719B.		

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Field tape 17

Performer/speaker(s):	Lindsay Joshua
Subject keywords:	Law – Indigenous, Social organisation – Kinship – Systems – Sections and subsections
Language/people:	Mara people, Alawa people, English language
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002720A	00:00:00	Lindsay Joshua discusses Mara and Alawa traditions, sections and subsections and law in English.	31 July 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:44:00	End of field tape 17 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002720A.		

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Field tape 18

Performer/speaker(s):	Alex
Subject keywords:	Indigenous knowledge, Law – Indigenous
Language/people:	Warndarrang / Warndarang people, English language
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002720B	00:00:00	Warndarrang law and traditions discussed in English by Alex.	1 August 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:59:20	End of field tape 18 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002720B.		

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Field tape 20

Performer/speaker(s):	Larranggana
Subject keywords:	Health – Treatments – Traditional
Language/people:	Nunggubuyu
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002721A	00:00:00	Traditional medical practice discussed in Nunggubuyu with Larranggana.	7 September 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:57:28	End field tape 20 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002721A.		

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Field tape 21

Performer/speaker(s):	Larranggana
Subject keywords:	Music – Vocal – Clan songs, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Unclassified languages, Manggurra
Places:	Numbulwar / Rose River (East Arnhem Land SD53-11)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	Manggurra is not listed in the AIATSIS Language and Peoples Thesaurus; RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BIERNOFF_D01-002721B	00:00:00	Manggurra dhambul (feathered strings) songs performed by Larranggana accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks.	7 September 1972	Numbulwar, NT
	00:55:10	End of field tape 21 and end of BIERNOFF_D01-002721B.		

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