



**Finding aid**

**BREWARRINA\_01**

**Sound recordings collected by  
AIATSIS, 1985-1986**

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact [AIATSIS](#) to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

### Restrictions on listening

Some materials in this collection are restricted and may only be listened to by those who have obtained permission from Essie Coffey's family. Refer to audition sheets below for more details.

### Restrictions on use

This collection is open for copying to relevant Indigenous clients. All other clients may only copy this collection with the permission of the interviewees and their families. Permission must be sought from the interviewees and their families for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1985-1986

**Extent:** 5 sound cassettes (4 hr., 15 min.) : analogue, mono.

### Production history

These recordings were commissioned by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in 1985-1986 to complement to the "After 200 Years" photographic project. The interviews were conducted by Sandy Edwards, Penny Taylor and Rose Higgins. Recent events in the area had led to a decline in race relations and there is much opinion and commentary on contemporary Brewarrina in these recordings. Those interviewed include Roy Barker, Ann Barker, Essie Coffey, Greta Coleman, Penny Johnson, Myrtle [Langham?], Feli McHughes, Della Shillingsworth, Essina Shillingsworth, Tombo Winters, George, Timmy and an unidentified child.

## RELATED MATERIAL

**Important:** before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

Related photographs are held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive, see [BREWARRINA.CS](#) and [BREWARRINA.BW](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information contained in documentation provided by the various interviewers, and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
018048	<a href="#">Field tape 23</a>	Oral history in English with Roy Barker
018049	<a href="#">Field tape 24</a>	Oral history in English with Della Shillingsworth, Ann Barker and Greta Coleman
018051	<a href="#">Field tape 25</a>	Oral history and conversation in English with Myrtle [Langham?], Della Shillingsworth and Penny Johnson
018053	<a href="#">Field tape 26</a>	Oral history, conversation and narratives in English with Essie Coffey, Tombo Winters, Feli McHughes, Myrtle and Timmy. <b>RESTRICTED – contains personal material.</b>
018055	<a href="#">Field tape 27</a>	Songs and poetry readings performed in English by Essina Shillingsworth, George, Myrtle and an unidentified child
018056		

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### Field tape 23

Performer/speaker(s): Roy Barker  
Subject keywords: Oral history, Indigenous perspectives  
Language/people: English  
Places: Gongolgon (N NSW SH55-10), Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)  
Recording quality: Fair  
Notes: Recorded by Penny Taylor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BREWARRINA_01-018048	00:00:00	Roy Barker speaks of growing up on an Aboriginal station at Brewarrina.	1985	Gongolgon, NSW
	00:03:40	Roy Barker discusses the lack of interest among young people in maintaining Aboriginal crafts.	1985	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:04:51	End of field tape 23. End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018048.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

## Field tape 24

Performer/speaker(s): Della Shillingsworth, Ann Barker, Greta Coleman  
Subject keywords: Oral history, Indigenous perspectives  
Language/people: English  
Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)  
Recording quality: Fair  
Notes: Recorded by Sandy Edwards

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BREWARRINA _01-018049	00:01:30	Della Shillingsworth speaks of living in Dodge City, Brewarrina.	1985	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:11:57	Ann Barker tells why she became a teacher.		
	00:18:50	Ann Barker speaks of problems in the Brewarrina Indigenous community, and their consequences.		
	00:23:29	Ann Barker speaks of her family's involvement in Indigenous communities.		
	00:31:33	End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018049.		
BREWARRINA _01-018050	00:00:00	Greta Coleman tells her life story, including growing up on a mission and bringing up her children by herself.	1985	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:15:25	Greta Coleman talks of Indigenous health and social problems.		
	00:20:25	Greta Coleman speaks of Jimmy Barker, and of her mother.		
	00:31:32	End of field tape 24. End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018050.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

## Field tape 25

Performer/speaker(s): Myrtle [Langham?], Della Shillingsworth, Penny Johnson  
Subject keywords: Indigenous perspectives, Racial discrimination – Employment, Racial discrimination – Education, Race relations – Violent, Oral history  
Language/people: English  
Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)  
Recording quality: Poor to fair.  
Notes: Recorded by Sandy Edwards; background noise compromises the audibility of much of the conversation in archive recording BREWARRINA\_01-018051

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BREWARRINA_01-018051	00:00:00	Short conversation with Myrtle [Langham?].	1986	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:01:10	Della Shillingsworth talks of the lack of Indigenous input into the new Aboriginal Museum being built in Brewarrina.		
	00:14:30	Della Shillingsworth speaks of racial discrimination in Brewarrina and of violent racial incidents.		
	00:24:31	Penny Johnson speaks of her work in Indigenous communities, and the lack of consultation of Indigenous people concerning the Aboriginal Museum project.		
	00:31:45	End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018051.		
BREWARRINA_01-018052	00:00:00	Penny Johnson speaks on issues concerning Indigenous people, including unemployment, racism in schools, a recent death in custody and government indifference.	1986	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:24:25	Penny Johnson speaks about the strength of Indigenous women who speak out.		
	00:31:36	End of field tape 25. End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018052.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)



**Field tape 26**

Performer/speaker(s): Essie Coffey, Tombo Winters, Feli Mc Hughes, Myrtle, Timmy  
 Subject keywords: Oral history, Indigenous perspectives, Racial discrimination – employment, Substance use – Alcohol, Race relations – Violent, Story telling  
 Language/people: English  
 Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)  
 Recording quality: Fair  
 Notes: Recorded by Rose Higgins and Sandy Edwards

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BREWARRINA_01-018053	00:00:00	Essie Coffey speaks of some recent improvements in Brewarrina	1986	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:08:50	Essie Coffey speaks of the reluctance to use Aboriginal labour for the construction of the Aboriginal Museum, her anger at racial discrimination in the area, and of a recent death in custody.		
	00:29:40	Essie Coffey speaks of the effects of alcohol and the high incidence of unemployment among the Indigenous community. <b>RESTRICTED – contains personal material.</b>		
	00:43:25	Tombo Winters expresses a view that a recent death in custody was not suicide.		
	00:46:37	End of Archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018053		
BREWARRINA_01-018054	00:00:00	Tombo Winters speaks of race relations in Brewarrina, the many offices he holds, recent changes in the area, and a recent riot.	1986	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:13:28	Feli McHughes speaks of recent changes in the area and of the decline in race relations since a recent riot.		
	00:20:50	Feli McHughes speaks of his role in trying to improve conditions for the Indigenous community, and his desire for more cooperation from		



Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		Indigenous people.		
	00:27:25	Timmy tells limericks and jokes, as well as having conversation with Myrtle and the interviewer.		
	00:38:37	End of field tape 26. End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-018054.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

**Field tape 27**

Performer/speaker(s): Essina Shillingsworth, Myrtle, George, unidentified child  
Subject keywords: Music – Country & Western, Music – Vocal – Solo – Female, Music – Vocal – Groups – Mixed voices, Literature, imaginative – Poetry, Music – Vocal – Solo – Child  
Language/people: English  
Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)  
Recording quality: Fair  
Notes: Recorded by Sandy Edwards

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
BREWARRINA_01-018055	00:00:00	Essina Shillingsworth sings, unaccompanied, four country and western songs.	1986	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:08:06	George and an unidentified female sing a country and western song.		
	00:11:04	Myrtle in a conversation about poetry recital.		
	00:14:00	Myrtle recites two poems and talks about poetry.		
	00:30:02	End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-081055.		
BREWARRINA_01-018056	00:00:00	Myrtle recites a poem.	1986	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:04:35	An unidentified child sings children's songs.		
	00:08:31	End of field tape 27. End of archive recording BREWARRINA_01-081056.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)