



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Finding aid**

**SOMMER\_B02**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Bruce A. Sommer, 1974**

## ACCESS

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Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by completing an [online enquiry form](#) or phone (02) 6261 4212 to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1974

**Extent:** 13 sound tapes (ca. 60 min. each) : analogue, mono + field tape report sheets.

### Production history

These recordings were collected by linguist Dr Bruce Sommer between June and 13 September 1974 during fieldwork at Kowanyama on western Cape York, Queensland. The purpose of the field work was to document the languages and customs of the Koko Bera, Kunjen, Gugu Dhaw and the Gundara peoples of that region. Speakers include include Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland, Dan Ulbandus, Lucy Tommy, Barry Claude and unidentified participants. The collection was deposited with AIAS (now AIATSIS) in October 1974.

## RELATED MATERIAL

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

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## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Dr Bruce Sommer and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
003267A	<a href="#">C74-25</a>	Koko Bera language elicitation with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland
003267B	<a href="#">C74-26</a>	Koko Bera language elicitation with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland and unidentified speakers
003268A	<a href="#">C74-27</a>	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland, <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>
003268B	<a href="#">C74-28</a>	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and Dan Ulbandus, <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>
003269A	<a href="#">C74-29</a>	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and an unidentified male speaker, <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>
003269B	<a href="#">C74-30</a>	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland, <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>
003270A	<a href="#">C74-31</a>	Messages to the collector in Koko Bera and Kunjen by Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland
003271A	<a href="#">R74-21</a>	Kunjen language elicitation with Lucy Tommy
003271B	<a href="#">R74-22</a>	Kunjen and Gugu Dhaw language elicitation with Lucy Tommy
003272A	<a href="#">R74-23</a>	Gugu Dhaw and Gundara language elicitation with Lucy Tommy
003272B	<a href="#">R74-24</a>	Gundara language elicitation with Lucy Tommy
003273A	<a href="#">R74-25</a>	Conversation in, possibly, Koko Bera with Cecil Rutland and Barry Claude, <b>RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY</b>
003273B	<a href="#">R74-26</a>	Discussions on traditional customs with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

003267A/C74-25

Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Vocabulary and grammar, Language – Vocabulary – Animal names, Social organisation – Kinship – Kinship terms, Language – Vocabulary – Plant names, Language – Vocabulary – Body parts and functions, Language - Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences
Language/people:	Koko Bera
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003267A	00:00:00	Koko Bera language elicitation, including terms for animals, plants and kin, with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.	June 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:22:29	Koko Bera language elicitation, including sentences, terms for body parts and adjectives, with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.		
	00:33:18	End of C74-25 and end of SOMMER_B02-003267A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland, unidentified speakers
Personal subject(s):	John Gill, Peter Michael, Barney Possum
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Vocabulary and grammar, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Language – Vocabulary – Animal names, Language – Vocabulary – Plant names, Language – Vocabulary – Environment and natural phenomena, Social organisation – Kinship – Marriage
Language/people:	Koko Bera
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003267B	00:00:00	Koko Bera language elicitation, including sentences and terms for animals, plants and kin, with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.	July 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:14:25	Narratives in Koko Bera, concerning marriage, illness and a bushfire, told by Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.		
	00:21:25	Discussions on kinship and marriage laws with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland. Includes Koko Bera language material.		
	00:36:37	Discussions country, fishing and relationships with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and unidentified speakers.		
	00:56:30	End of C74-26 and end of SOMMER_B02-003267B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland, Dan Ulbandus
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Social organisation – Kinship, Social organisation – Avoidance rules, Language – Vocabulary – Body parts and functions, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences
Language/people:	Koko Bera, Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Good
Notes:	<b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003268A	00:00:00	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland. This includes conversations on restricted matters. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>	June 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:21:50	Koko Bera and Kunjen language, including terms for body parts and sentences, elicitation with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and Dan Ulbandus. Includes comparisons and similarities between the two languages. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>	9 July 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	01:01:40	End of C74-27 and end of SOMMER_B02-003268A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland, Dan Ulbandus
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Vocabulary – Body parts and functions, Language – Vocabulary – Environment and natural phenomena, Language – Vocabulary – Animal names, Language – Vocabulary – Human classification
Language/people:	Koko Bera, Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Good
Notes:	<b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003268B	00:00:00	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation, including terms for body parts and sentences, with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and Dan Ulbandus. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>	9 July 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:31:16	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation, including animal names, sentences and terms for people, with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and Dan Ulbandus. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>		
	01:02:40	End of C74-28 and end of SOMMER_B02-003268B.		

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## 003269A/C74-29

Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland, Dan Ulbandus
Personal subject(s):	Fanny Parrott
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Stories and motifs, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Translated
Language/people:	Koko Bera, Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Good
Notes:	<b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003269A	00:00:00	Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation with Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland and Dan Ulbandus. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>	9 July 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:03:34	Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland listen to and comment on a series of pre-recorded Koko Bera songs and narratives. Includes Koko Bera language elicitation. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>		
	01:00:51	End of 74-29 and end of SOMMER_B02-003269A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland
Personal subject(s):	Raymond George, Toby Kilpatrick
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Stories and motifs, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Translated
Language/people:	Koko Bera, Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	<b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003269B	00:00:00	Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland listen to and comment on a series of pre-recorded Koko Bera songs and narratives. Includes Koko Bera language elicitation. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>	1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:51:45	Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland listen to and comment on a series of pre-recorded Koko Bera songs and narratives. Includes Koko Bera and Kunjen language elicitation. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>		
	00:58:10	End of C74-30 and end of SOMMER_B02-003269B.		

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003270A/C74-31

Performer/speaker(s):	Gracie Rutland, Cecil Rutland
Subject keywords:	Communications, Music – Vocal, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives
Language/people:	Koko Bera, Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003270A	00:00:00	Taped message sent to Bruce Sommer from Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.. It includes songs and narratives in Kunjen and Koko Bera.	1974	Kowanyama, 1974
	00:10:09	End C74-31 and end of SOMMER_B02-003270A.		

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## 003271A/R74-21

Performer/speaker(s):	Lucy Tommy
Personal subject(s):	Jonathan Matthew
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Social organisation – Kinship – Kinship terms, Language – Linguistics – Vocabulary and grammar, Family
Language/people:	Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan, Gugu Yau, Tagalaka
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003271A	00:00:00	Kunjen language elicitation, including emphases on demonstratives and kinship terms, with Lucy Tommy.	5 September 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:26:25	Kunjen language elicitation, including discussion about grammar, with Lucy Tommy.		
	00:52:25	Kunjen language elicitation, including an emphasis on interrogatives and a discussion about other languages, with Lucy Tommy.		
	01:04:12	End of R74-21 and end of SOMMER_B02-003271A.		

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**003271B/R74-22**

Performer/speaker(s):	Lucy Tommy
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Linguistics – Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Kunjen / Ogh-Undyan, Gugu Dhaw / Kok Thaw
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
SOMMER_B02-003271B	00:00:00	Kunjen language elicitation, including emphases on sentences and grammar, with Lucy Tommy.	9 September 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:58:50	Gugu Dhaw language elicitation with Lucy Tommy.		
	01:04:00	End of R74-22 and end of SOMMER_B02-003271B.		

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003272A/R74-23

Performer/speaker(s):	Lucy Tommy
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Linguistics – Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Gugu Dhaw / Kok Thaw, Gundara
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003272A	00:00:00	Gugu Dhaw language elicitation, with emphases on sentences and grammar.	10 September 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:31:34	Gundara [Koko-Nhang] language elicitation, including terms for body parts, kinship and sentences, with Lucy Tommy.		
	01:03:22	End of R74-23 and end of SOMMER_B02-003272A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Lucy Tommy
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Linguistics – Vocabulary and grammar – Pronouns, Language – Vocabulary – Human classification, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation
Language/people:	Gundara
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003272B	00:00:00	Gundara [Koko Nhang] language elicitation, including emphases on pronouns and human classification, with Lucy Tommy.	11 September 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:19:40	Gundara language elicitation, including sentences and a brief conversation, with Lucy Tommy.		

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003273A/R74-25

Performer/speaker(s):	Ceil Rutland, Barry Claude
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation
Language/people:	Various (possibly includes Koko Bera)
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	<b>RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY</b>

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003273A	00:00:00	Conversation in Indigenous language between Cecil Rutland and Barry Claude. <b>RESTRICTED, MEN ONLY</b>	12 September 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	08:32:00	End of R74-25 and end of SOMMER_B02-003273A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Cecil Rutland, Gracie Rutland
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation, Death – Mortuary customs, Religion – After death beliefs – Ghosts and spirits, Ceremonies – Rain making, Reproduction – Childbirth, Reproduction – Menstruation, Social organisation – Kinship – Marriage, Social organisation – Avoidance rules, Language – Classification and evolution
Language/people:	Koko Bera
Places:	Kowanyama (Qld NW Cape York SD54-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SOMMER_B02-003273B	00:00:00	Discussion on funeral practices with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland. Includes some Koko Bera language material.	13 September 1974	Kowanyama, Qld
	00:24:05	Further discussion on funeral practices with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland. <b>RESTRICTED – PERSONAL MATERIAL</b>		
	00:31:00	Discussion on funeral practices, after death beliefs, rain making and mourning with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.. Includes some Koko Bera language material.		
	00:41:20	Discussions on childbirth customs, menstruation, marriage customs and avoidance law with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland. Includes some Koko Bera language material.		
	00:59:15	Language elicitation and discussion on languages with Gracie Rutland and Cecil Rutland.		
	01:02:53	End of R74-26 and end of SOMMER_B02-003273B.		

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