



**Finding aid**

**CHESNEY\_E01**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Estrella F. Chesney, 1966**

## 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

This collection is open for listening.

### Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community 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:** 1966

**Extent:** [12] sound tape reels : analogue, 3 3/4 ips, mono

### Production history

These recordings were collected by Estrella F. Chesney (nee Aguas) at Palm Island in February, 1966. They document languages spoken by several Palm Island residents, including Maurice Calton (Waanyi), Archie Miller (Gurdanji), Walker Murphy (Gugu Buyunji), Frank Nyalabugam (Wik Nganychara), Pompey Clumppoint (Djiru), Eileen Diamond (Gugu Buyunji), George Mero (unidentified language), Leslie Hatfield (Gangulu), Percy McEvoy (Wiri), Billy Mossman (Djabugay), Melbourne Marpundin (Wik Mungkan), Noel Blowhard (Wik Elken), Harry Gordonvale (Yidiny) and Norman Nelson (Yidiny). The recordings also contain some oral history material, both in English and Indigenous languages.

## RELATED MATERIAL

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

Vocabularies and grammatical descriptions relating to this collection are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 443](#). A transcript of the 'Waanyi' field tape, prepared by Bronwyn Stokes, is held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 223](#). A transcript of the 'Widi' field tape, prepared by Peter Sutton, is also held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 1781](#).

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**

The original field tapes for this collection are not held by AIATSIS. They were returned to the depositor upon copying to preservation media, in October, 1968. There are thought to have been 12 field tapes, each named according to the language spoken by the interviewees, but this cannot be confirmed.

This finding aid was compiled from information contained in documentation provided by Estrella F. Chesney and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
001296A	<a href="#">Wanji</a>	Waanyi language elicitation and song with Maurice Calton
001296B	<a href="#">Kudandyi</a>	Narratives in Gurdanji told by Archie Miller, followed by elicitation of an unidentified language with Eileen [Diamond?]

<b>Archive number</b>	<b>Field recording number</b>	<b>Description</b>
001297A 001297B	<a href="#">Buyundji</a>	Gugu Buyunji language elicitation and narratives with Walker Murphy

<b>Archive number</b>	<b>Field recording number</b>	<b>Description</b>
001298A 001298B	<a href="#">Ngandyara</a>	Wik Nganychara language elicitation and narratives with Frank Nyalabugam

<b>Archive number</b>	<b>Field recording number</b>	<b>Description</b>
001299A 001299B	<a href="#"><u>Djiru</u></a>	Djiru language elicitation and narratives with Pompey Clumppoint
001300A	<a href="#"><u>Buyundi</u></a>	Gugu Buyunji language elicitation and narrative with Eileen Diamond
001300B	<a href="#"><u>Jalandji</u></a>	Language elicitation with George Mero (unidentified language) and Walker Murphy (Gugu Buyunji), followed by two island-style songs performed by George Mero
001301A	<a href="#"><u>Widi</u></a>	Language elicitation with Leslie Hatfield (Gangulu) and Percy McEvoy (Wiri), followed by two songs performed by Percy McEvoy
001301B	<a href="#"><u>Dyabugai</u></a>	Djabugay vocabulary elicitation with Billy Mossman
001302A	<a href="#"><u>Wik Munkan</u></a>	Wik Mungkan language elicitation with Melbourne Marpundin

<b>Archive number</b>	<b>Field recording number</b>	<b>Description</b>
001302A 001302B	<a href="#"><u>Wik Kalkan</u></a>	Wik Elken language elicitation, narratives and song with Noel Blowhard



<b>Archive number</b>	<b>Field recording number</b>	<b>Description</b>
001302B	<a href="#">Idindyi</a>	Yidiny language elicitation and narratives with Harry Gordonvale and Norman Nelson
001303A		
001303B		

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### 001296A/Field tape "Wanji"

Performer/speaker(s): Maurice Calton  
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male  
Language/people: Waanyi  
Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10), Calton Hills (Qld Far NW SF54-01)  
Recording quality: Fair – good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
CHESNEY_E01-001296A	00:00:00	Elicitation of Waanyi vocabulary and sentences with Maurice Calton. A Djarada song follows.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	01:05:00	End of field tape "Wanji" and CHESNEY_E01-001296A.		

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**001296B/Field tape “Kudandyi”**

Performer/speaker(s): Archie Miller, unidentified female speaker [Eileen Diamond?]  
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Narratives, Oral history, Hunting, gathering & fishing  
Language/people: Gurdanji / Kurdanji / Gudanji, Unclassified languages [Gugu Buyunji?]  
Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Fair

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001296B	00:00:00	Various narratives in Gurdanji, told by Archie Miller who was originally from the Burketown area. Subjects include hunting kangaroos, fishing, hunting wallabies, looking for honey, relations, autobiographical information, hunting goanna and Mr Miller's dogs.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:23:50	Elicitation of vocabulary and sentences in unspecified language. Female speaker is not identified but is possibly Eileen Diamond, a Gugu Buyunji speaker.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:56:00	End of field tape “Kudandyi” and CHESNEY_E01-001296B.		

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**001297A + 001297B/Field tape “Buyundji”**

Performer/speaker(s): Walker Murphy

Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Oral history, Hunting, gathering & fishing, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male

Language/people: Gugu Buyunji

Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10), Wujal Wujal / Bloomfield River (Qld SE Cape York SD55-13)

Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001297A	00:00:00	Gugu Buyunji vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Walker Murphy, who was originally from the Bloomfield area.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	01:04:33	End of CHESNEY_E01-001297A.		
CHESNEY_E01-001297B	00:00:00	Narratives in Gugu Buyunji told by Walker Murphy with explanations in English. Subjects include hunting, fishing, cooking, painting, autobiographical information, living on Palm Island, treatment on Palm Island, Mr Murphy's family. Several Gugu Buyunji songs follow, with tapping accompaniment.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:30:12	End of field tape “Buyundji” and CHESNEY_E01-001297B.		

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**001298A + 001298B/Field tape “Ngandyara”**

Performer/speaker(s): Frank Nyalabugam

Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Oral history

Language/people: Wik Nganychara / Wik Ngencherr

Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10), Holroyd map area (Qld Gulf, NW Cape York SD54-11)

Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001298A	00:00:00	Wik Nganychara vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Frank Nyalabugam. Incomplete narrative about his mother follows (in Wik Nganychara).	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	01:03:46	End of CHESNEY_E01-001298A.		
CHESNEY_E01-001298B	00:00:00	Narratives in Wik Nganychara told by Frank Nyalabugam. Continuation of the narrative about his mother, followed by narratives about his family and childhood. Some explanations in English are provided.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:32:35	End of field tape “Ngandyara” and CHESNEY_E01-001298B.		

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**001299A + 001299B/Field tape “Djiru”**

Performer/speaker(s): Pompey Clumppoint

Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Oral history, Hunting, gathering &amp; fishing

Language/people: Djiru / Dyiru

Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10), Bingil Bay (NE Qld SE55-06)

Recording quality: Good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001299A	00:00:00	Djiru vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Pompey Clumppoint, originally from Bingil Bay.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	01:04:08	End of CHESNEY_E01-001299A.		
CHESNEY_E01-001299B	00:00:00	Narratives in Djiru told by Pompey Clumppoint. Topics include Native Police, beche-de-mer diving, removal of Djiru people to the mission, hunting, fishing, Mr Clumppoint's family and his early working life (working as a child, picking fruit). Includes explanations in English.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:25:16	End of field tape “Djiru” and CHESNEY_E01-001299B.		

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**001300A/Field tape “Buyundi”**

Performer/speaker(s): Eileen Diamond

Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation  
- Narratives

Language/people: Gugu Buyunji

Places: Mossman (NE Qld SE55-01), Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)

Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01 -001300A	00:00:00	Gugu Buyunji vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Eileen Diamond. A short narrative in Gugu Buyunji follows, with English explanations.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:33:52	End of field tape “Buyundi” and CHESNEY_E01-001300A.		

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## 001300B/Field tape "Jalandji"

Performer/speaker(s): George Mero, Walker Murphy  
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male  
Language/people: Kuku Yalanji / Gugu Yalandji, Unclassified languages, Gugu Buyunji  
Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10), Wujal Wujal / Bloomfield River (Qld SE Cape York SD55-13)  
Recording quality: Fair – good  
Notes: A note on file states that the language spoken by Mr Mero is not Gugu Yalanji, but an entirely different language or a mixture of more than one language.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
CHESNEY_E01-001300B	00:00:00	Vocabulary elicitation with George Mero. The language has not been identified.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:12:57	Walker Murphy discusses the differences between his language, Gugu Buyunji, and the language spoken by George Mero. Further vocabulary and sentence elicitation with George Mero follows.		
	00:29:28	Comparative vocabulary elicitation with George Mero and Walker Murphy. Further sentence elicitation with George Mero follows.		
	00:58:30	George Mero sings two island-style songs in an unidentified language.		
	00:59:38	End of field tape "Jalandji" and CHESNEY_E01-001300B.		

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**001301A/Field tape “Widi”**

Performer/speaker(s): Leslie Hatfield, Percy McEvoy  
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Vocabulary – Language & Peoples names, Language elicitation – Sentences, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male  
Language/people: Gangulu / Kanolu, Wiri  
Places: Nebo (E Qld SF55-08), Bowen (E Qld SF55-03), Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001301A	00:00:00	Gangulu vocabulary elicitation with Leslie Hatfield, originally from Nebo.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:02:09	Wiri vocabulary elicitation with Percy McEvoy.		
	00:02:40	Vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Leslie Hatfield and Percy McEvoy.		
	00:32:08	Percy McEvoy discusses the Wiri language and its relationship to other languages from the same area: from Bowen to Nebo. Further sentence elicitation with both Mr McEvoy and Mr Hatfield follows.		
	00:47:22	Percy McEvoy performs two songs.		
	00:48:34	End of field tape “Widi” and CHESNEY_E01-001301A.		

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**001301B/Field tape “Dyabugai”**

Performer/speaker(s): Billy Mossman  
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists  
Language/people: Djabugay / Tjapukai / Djabuganjdi  
Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001301B	00:00:00	Djabugay vocabulary elicitation with Billy Mossman.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:32:24	End of field tape “Dyabugai” and CHESNEY_E01-001301B.		

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**001302A/Field tape “Wik Munkan”**

Performer/speaker(s): Melbourne Marpundin  
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation - Sentences  
Language/people: Wik Mungkan  
Places: Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01 -001302A	00:00:00	Wik Mungkan vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Melbourne Marpundin, sometimes called Melbourne Mick after his father Mick Marpundin.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:32:00	End of field tape “Wik Munkan”.		

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**001302A + 001302B/Field tape “Wik Kalkan”**

Performer/speaker(s): Noel Blowhard

Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Hunting, Oral history, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male

Language/people: Wik Elken

Places: Aurukun (Qld Gulf, NW Cape York SD54-07), Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)

Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001302A	00:32:00	Wik Elken vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Noel Blowhard. A short narrative in Wik Elken about a hunting expedition follows. An explanation of the narrative is given in English.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	01:05:00	End of CHESNEY_E01-001302A.		
CHESNEY_E01-001302B	00:00:00	Wik Elken vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Noel Blowhard, followed by various narratives with English explanations. Subjects include hunting and autobiographical information. Includes a song, first sung by Mr Blowhard's cousin when he went off to war.		
	00:32:19	End of field tape “Wik Kalkan”.		

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**001302B + 001303A + 001303B/Field tape "Idindyi"**

Performer/speaker(s): Harry Gordonvale, Norman Nelson  
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Narratives, Hunting, Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Sentences, Oral history, Genealogy & family history  
Language/people: Yidiny / Yidindji  
Places: Gordonvale (NE Qld SE55-06), Aloomba (NE Qld SE55-06), Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Fair – good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
CHESNEY_E01-001302B	00:32:19	Narratives in Yidiny told by Harry Gordonvale, originally from Gordonvale. Includes explanations in English.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	00:41:50	End of CHESNEY_E01-001302B.		
CHESNEY_E01-001303A	00:00:00	Yidiny vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Harry Gordonvale. Includes some information about Mr Gordonvale's relatives and country, with some details translated into English.	February, 1966	Palm Island, QLD
	01:07:36	End of CHESNEY_E01-001303A.		
CHESNEY_E01-001303B	00:00:00	Yidiny vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Norman Nelson, originally from the Aloomba district.		
	00:33:12	Narratives in Yidiny told by Norman Nelson with explanations in English. Subjects include Nelson's family and early life, food and Palm Island.		
	00:46:00	End of field tape "Idindyi" and CHESNEY_E01-001303B.		

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