



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

GORDON_J01

**Sound recordings collected by
John Gordon, 1962 - 1968**

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 men with approval from the appropriate elders within the originating community. Refer to audition sheets for more details.

Restrictions on use

This collection is partly restricted. It contains some materials which may only be copied by those who have obtained permission from appropriate elders within the originating community. Refer to audition sheets below for more details. 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: 1962 - 1968

Extent: 8 sound tape reels (ca. 30 min. each) : analogue, 7 1/2 ips, mono; 5 in. + field tape report sheets.

Production history

The majority of these recordings were collected by John Gordon between 15 May and 1 August, 1968 at Yamba, Lismore, Cabbage Tree Island and Woodenbong, NSW, as part of an AIAS grant to record and transcribe Aboriginal music. The final recordings on Field Tape 9 are copies of interviews with Jim Morgan by Glen Hall and Barbara Gibbons. They were made during May and June 1962 in Lismore, and December 1966 in Bellwood, NSW. The collection, in its entirety, documents songs, stories, oral history and discussions by various people in NSW, including Alexander Cameron, Mrs W F Oakes, Harry Cook, Pastor Frank Roberts Senior, Richard Donnelly, Cecil Taylor, Alex Vesper and Jim Morgan.

RELATED MATERIAL

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 John Gordon and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
001176A	Field Tape 1	Yaygir songs and oral history with Alexander Cameron and Mrs W F Oakes, followed by explanations in English
001176A	Field Tape 2	Bundjalung songs with Harry Cook and discussions about ceremonies, Indigenous law and fishing
001176B	Field Tape 3	Pastor Frank Roberts Senior sings songs in Bundjalung and discusses married life, secret men's initiation ceremonies and childhood horror stories
001176B	Field Tape 4	Childhood stories, discussions about hunting, musical instruments, and a Bundjalung song with Pastor Frank Roberts Senior, and Gamilaraay songs with Richard Donnelly
001177A	Field Tape 5	Bundjalung and Gamilaraay songs with Richard Donnelly and Cecil Taylor, with discussion about the songs and their composers, Jack Barron and Raymond Duncan
001177A	Field Tape 6	Cecil Taylor sings Bundjalung and Galibal songs composed by Raymond Duncan, Old Jack Barron and his grandfather
001177B	Field Tape 7	Cecil Taylor continues the 'Amy Johnson' song in Galibal followed by discussion
001177B	Field Tape 9	2LM Lismore radio broadcast interviews with Jim Morgan, by Glen Hall and Barbara Gibbons, including discussion about the Richmond River region, a Galibal song from early childhood and Raymond Duncan songs in Bundjalung

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

001176A/Field Tape 1

Performer/speaker(s): Alexander Cameron, Mrs WF Oakes
Subject keywords: Music - Vocal – Solo, Oral history, Music - Vocal - Analysis
Language/people: Yaygir / Yaegl language
Places: Yamba (NSW N Coast SH56-07), Lismore (NSW N Coast SH56-03)
Recording quality: Fair to Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001176A	00:00:00	Alexander Cameron sings Yaygir songs, including his own compositions, followed by explanations in English.	15 May 1968	Pippy Beach, Yamba, NSW
	00:10:10	Mrs WF Oakes reminisces about her grandfather Henry Edwards who entertained them with stories and songs. Includes a short song which her grandfather taught her.	16 May 1968	Lismore, NSW
	00:12:03	End of Field Tape 1.		

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001176A/Field Tape 2

Performer/speaker(s): Harry Cook
Subject keywords: Music - Vocal – Solo, Oral history, Law – Indigenous, Fishing
Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang
Places: Cabbage Tree Island (NSW N Coast SH56-03)
Recording quality: Fair to Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001176A	00:12:10	Harry Cook sings several songs in Bundjalung. Topics include: a man who is departing and farewelling his girlfriend; a girl who does not wish to return home because she will miss her sweetheart; and a man who whistles at a girl to get her attention but she ignores him.	16 May 1968	Cabbage Tree Island, NSW
	00:18:08	Harry Cook describes a corroboree in which he took part, and the percussion instruments used. He then describes punishment of men under Indigenous law.	16 May 1968	Cabbage Tree Island, NSW
		Discussion about fishing.	16 May 1968	Cabbage Tree Island, NSW
	00:22:26	Harry Cook talks about fishing. Part of a corroboree song about a man who lives in Whyalla follows.	16 May 1968	Cabbage Tree Island, NSW
	00:26:38	Collector's explanation that Pastor Frank Roberts Senior died a few weeks after the following recording made on 17 May 1968. James Morgan also died before further recordings could be made.	1 August 1968	
	00:27:26	End of Field Tape 2 and GORDON_J01-001176A.		

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001176B/Field Tape 3

Performer/speaker(s): Pastor Frank Roberts Senior
Subject keywords: Kinship & marriage, Ceremonies – Initiation, Music - Vocal – Solo, Devils, monsters, evil spirits, hairy men, bunyips - Stories & motifs
Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang
Places: Lismore (NSW N Coast SH56-03)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001176B	00:00:00	Pastor Frank Roberts Senior discusses married life and initiation ceremonies. He then performs a song composed by his father about people not wanting to leave their homeland.	17 May 1968	Lismore, NSW
	00:06:16	Pastor Frank Roberts Senior describes the corroboree songs during the initiation ceremony at the bora ring. He performs four of the thirteen songs. RESTRICTED – MEN'S CEREMONIAL MATERIAL.	17 May 1968	Lismore, NSW
	00:10:02	Pastor Frank Roberts Senior talks about his grandfather Dick McQuilty and his experiences with the cave dweller spirits whilst prospecting for gold. Includes a song.	17 May 1968	Lismore, NSW
	00:14:25	Childhood story about a bunyip who lived in the local lagoon and ate people and dogs.	17 May 1968	Lismore, NSW
	00:16:07	End of Field Tape 3.		

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001176B/Field Tape 4

Performer/speaker(s): Pastor Frank Roberts, Richard Donnelly
Subject keywords: Devils, monsters, evil spirits, hairy men, bunyips - Stories & motifs, Music - Vocal – Solo, Musical instrument making, Ceremonies
Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang, Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi
Places: Lismore (NSW N Coast SH56-03), Woodenbong (NSW N Coast SH56-02)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001176B	00:16:10	Pastor Frank Roberts Senior continues the story about the bunyip from field tape 3. More childhood stories and memories.	17 May 1968	Lismore, NSW
	00:22:21	Various songs in Gamilaraay performed by Richard Donnelly.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:26:58	Pastor Frank Roberts Senior sings a Bundjalung song about a quail and a flying squirrel, interspersed with English translations. He then discusses non-Indigenous restrictions on hunting, gumleaf and possum skin drums.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:32:06	End of Field Tape 4 and GORDON_J01-001176B.		

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001177A/Field Tape 5

Performer/speaker(s): Richard Donnelly, Cecil Taylor, Alex Vesper, Jim Morgan
Subject keywords: Music - Vocal – Solo, Sport – Boxing, Recreation – Gambling, Musicians -
Composers & songwriters
Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang, Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi
Places: Woodenbong (NSW N Coast SH56-02)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001177A	00:00:00	Richard Donnelly sings a song about a crow, in Bundjalung and a 'Two-Up Gambling' song composed by Jack Barron.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:06:12	Reference to George Slavian (?), an Aboriginal boxer.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:07:57	Richard Donnelly sings a song about two teenage girls who pestered their grandfather to be allowed to visit another camp at night.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:09:59	A Gamilaraay song accompanied by clapsticks.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:11:15	Cecil Taylor sings the 'Square Dance Song', from circa 1910, in Bundjalung. Discussion with Cecil Taylor and Alex Vesper follows.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:14:36	Discussion about Raymond Duncan, an Aboriginal poet from Bonalbo, who composed the song.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:16:12	End of Field Tape 5.		

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001177A/Field Tape 6

Performer/speaker(s): Cecil Taylor, Jim Morgan
Subject keywords: Music - Vocal – Solo, Musicians - Composers & songwriters, Recreation – Gambling, Air transport
Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang, Galibal
Places: Woodenbong (NSW N Coast SH56-02)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001177A	00:16:13	Conversation with Cecil Taylor continued from field tape 6. He goes on to sing two songs in Bundjalung: 'Raymond Duncan Himself' and 'Two-headed Threepence', a song about his uncle Billy Hill.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:26:17	More songs performed by Cecil Taylor, including the 'Tumbler' song, 'Cousin' song (in Galibal and written by Old Jack Barron), and a song about Amy Johnson written by Mr Taylor's grandfather.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:33:12	End of Field Tape 6 and GORDON_J01-001177A.		

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001177B/Field Tape 7

Performer/speaker(s): Cecil Taylor
Subject keywords: Music - Vocal – Solo, Air transport
Language/people: Galibal
Places: Woodenbong (NSW N Coast SH56-02)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001177B	00:00:00	Continuation of the 'Amy Johnson' song from field tape 6, in a mixture of Galibal and Yugambal.	18 May 1968	Woodenbong, NSW
	00:02:30	End of Field Tape 7.		

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001177B/Field Tape 9

Performer/speaker(s): Jim Morgan
Subject keywords: Music - Vocal – Solo, Oral history, Mountains - Stories & motifs, Courtship
Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang, Galibal
Places: Lismore (NSW N Coast SH56-03), Woodenbong (NSW N Coast SH56-02), Bellwood (Nambucca, NSW N Coast SH56-10), Grafton map area (NSW N Coast SH56-06), Casino (NSW N Coast SH56-03)
Recording quality: Fair to Good
Notes: This recording ends abruptly. Please note that the remainder of this recording can be heard on GIBBONS_B02-000434B.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GORDON_J01-001177B	00:02:30	Interview with Jim Morgan by Glen Hall of the Richmond River Historical Society, broadcast by Station 2LM Lismore between May and June 1962.	May – June 1962	Lismore, NSW
	00:20:10	Barbara Gibbons interviews Jim Morgan. Includes narratives in English about Mt Lindsay, Crown Mountain and Edinburgh Castle. Also includes several songs.	Dec 1966	Bellwood, NSW
	00:32:58	Recording ends abruptly. End of field tape 9 and GORDON_J01-001177B. Please note that the remainder of this recording can be heard on GIBBONS_B02-000434B.		

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