



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

HIATT_L01

**Sound recordings collected by
Les Hiatt, 1978**

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

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1978

Extent: 12 sound cassettes (ca. 30 minutes each) : analogue, mono.

Production history

This collection was recorded during July and August 1978. It was recorded as a diary of the events and the filming of a Larrakun ceremony at Maningrida and Djunawunya in Central Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. This was performed by Maringarr, Burarra and Yannhangu people. The collection was recorded by Les Hiatt who was anthropological advisor for the film *Waiting for Harry*, directed by Kim McKenzie. Other speakers include Nancy, Frank Gurrmanamana, Frank Malkorda, Margaret Clunies Ross and Betty Meehan as well as many unidentified speakers, singers and musicians.

This collection was deposited at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies on 12 September 1978.

RELATED MATERIAL

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The film *Waiting for Harry* is held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive, see [XX0044754792](#). The Papers of Lester R. Hiatt are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 4129](#). 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

With the exception of one cassette all of these recordings have been archived in chronological order. The cassette *Frank G's and Frank M's message to Les* was the first of this collection to be recorded. This finding aid was compiled from information contained in documentation provided by Les Hiatt and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
018617	1/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: cutting the tree for the hollow log coffin; disinterment at Maningrida
018618	2/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: cutting and painting the berper; bunggul
018619	3/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: continuation of 2/78; painting the hollow log
018620	4/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: painting the hollow log coffin; mulanda artefact from Maningrida
018621	5/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: painting the hollow log coffin; visit to Maningrida; celebrations at Djunawunya
018622	6/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: ceremony; painting the hollow log coffin; malamala
018623	7/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: reports on ceremony; bones being ochred
018624	8/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: events of the ceremony
018625	9/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: events of the ceremony
018626	10/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: events of the ceremony
018627	11/78	Larrakun ceremony at Djunawunya: events of the final day of the ceremony
018628	Frank G's and Frank M's message to Les	Frank Gurrmanamana and Frank Malkorda each send a message in Maringarr to Les Hiatt

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

018617/1/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt, Nancy
Subject keywords:	Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Death – Human remains – Removal, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Clapsticks
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02), Maningrida (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018617	00:00:00	A report by Les Hiatt on the selection and felling of a tree to be used as a hollow log coffin.	26 July 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:05:15	Les Hiatt describes the disinterment of bones to be placed in the hollow log.	27 July 1978	Maningrida cemetery, NT
	00:19:48	Les Hiatt describes the handing over of the bones and it's attendant ceremony.		
	00:21:58	Nancy telling the gathering of the necessity of dancing enthusiastically for the ceremony in an unidentified language (possibly Maringarr). Explained by Les Hiatt		
	00:26:55	End of cassette 1/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018617.		

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018618/2/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Finance, Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Dance – Ceremonial, Film – Ethnographic, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Art – Painting, Housing – Shelters – Shade
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018618	00:00:00	Explanation by Les Hiatt about payment for dancers and painters.	3 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:04:08	Les Hiatt describes work being done on the hollow log coffin.		
	00:09:15	Les Hiatt reports dancing at the bunggul ground.		
	00:18:55	Les Hiatt describes work and painting being done on the hollow log coffin.		
	00:20:51	Les Hiatt describes construction of a shade, and the painting of the hollow log coffin.	4 August 1978	
	00:26:49	Les Hiatt reports men dancing and singing	5 August 1978	
	00:31:32	End of cassette 2/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018618.		

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018619/3/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Social identity, Stories and motifs - Mythological beings, Dance – Ceremonial, Art – Painting, Weapons – Spearthrowers – Making, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Art – Sand and ground design, Film – Film making
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018619	00:00:00	Les Hiatt speaks of solidarity among Indigenous people.	4 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:02:10	Les Hiatt speaks of a mythological being associated with Frank Gurmanamana and of the previous night's ceremony.		
	00:05:49	Les Hiatt describes the progress of painting of two statues and making a woomera.	5 August 1978	
	00:11:48	Les Hiatt speaks of the previous night's ceremony and of lighting problems for the film makers.	6 August 1978	
	00:23:25	Les Hiatt describes preparation of bones for the hollow log coffin and the making of a sand sculpture.		
	00:28:05	Les Hiatt describes the progress of the painting of the hollow log coffin.		
	00:30:59	End of 3/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018619.		

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018620/4/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Mythology, Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Art – Painting, Dance – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group, Stories and motifs - Mythological beings
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L0 1-018620	00:00:00	Les Hiatt speaks of a belief concerning the jungle.	6 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:01:22	Les Hiatt describes the progress of the painting on the hollow log coffin.		
	00:04:15	Les Hiatt speaks of a mulanda, a trade gift, and describes dancing and singing.		
	00:13:00	Les Hiatt describes the progress of the painting of the hollow log coffin.	7 August 1978	
	00:19:45	Les Hiatt speaks of the arrival of relatives of the deceased, and discusses a mythological being.		
	00:24:55	Les Hiatt describes the progress of the painting of the hollow log coffin.		
	00:31:04	End of 4/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018620.		

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018621/5/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Art – Painting, Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Stories and motifs – Mythological beings, Film – Film making, Social organisation – Kinship
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02), Maningrida (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018621	00:00:00	Les Hiatt describes the progress of the painting of the hollow log coffin and discusses the images.	7 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:14:55	Les Hiatt speaks of plans for the final day of the ceremony as discussed with Frank Gurrmanamana.	8 August 1978	
	00:18:05	Les Hiatt speaks of the progress of the film making.		
	00:19:39	Les Hiatt speaks of collecting food for the ceremony.		Maningrida, NT
	00:22:20	Les Hiatt mentions some secret photographs which were published in a newspaper.	9 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:25:28	Les Hiatt speaks of a party at Djunawunya and of a young person under Frank Gurrmanamana's guardianship.		
	00:31:13	End of 5/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018621.		

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018622/6/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Film – Film making, Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Art – Painting, Stories and motifs – Mythological beings, Music - Vocal - Solo – Male
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018622	00:00:00	Les Hiatt relates the episodes of the previous night, and explains the film is being made for the benefit of the Aboriginal people.	9 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:04:50	Les Hiatt reports on the progress of the painting of the hollow log coffin and describes the images.		
	00:25:23	Les Hiatt speaks of plans for the ceremony.	10 August 1978	
	00:30:59	End of 6/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018622.		

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018623/7/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Death – Human remains, Art – Painting, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Art – Sand and ground design
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018623	00:00:00	Les Hiatt reports on the ceremony including singing painting and plans for the ochring of bones.	10 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:05:30	Les Hiatt reports on painting activity and on a sand sculpture being made by Harry Mulumbuk; and speaks of Frank Malkorda singing.	12 August 1978	
	00:13:13	Les Hiatt reports on the ochring of bones.		
	00:27:05	Les Hiatt reports that the ochred bones have been taken to be placed on the sand sculpture.		
	00:30:59	End of 7/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018623.		

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018624/8/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Dance – Ceremonial, Film – Film making, Music – Vocal – Group, Art – Painting
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people, Yannhangu people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018624	00:00:00	Les Hiatt announces that the mulanda artefact will be burned on the sand sculpture; and there was more ceremony the previous night.	12 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:05:20	Les Hiatt speaks of problems being faced by the film crew.		
	00:15:07	Les Hiatt speaks of the continuing ceremony and its growing number of participants.	13 August 1978	
	00:28:31	Les Hiatt reports that Yannhangu people have arrived at the ceremony.		
	00:30:24	End of 8/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018624.		

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018625/9/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt, Frank Gurrmanamana
Subject keywords:	Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Music - Vocal - Group – Male, Music - Instruments - Percussion – Clapsticks, Art – Painting, Art - Sand and ground design, Dance – Ceremonial, Hunting – Buffalo
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people, Maringarr / Gidjingali language
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018625	00:00:00	Les Hiatt reports of ceremonial events, singing and painting and young men preparing for dancing.	August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:07:00	Les Hiatt describes the burning of the mulanda and the ceremony attending it.		
	00:10:10	Les Hiatt speaks of the schedule for the remainder of the ceremony.		
	00:12:24	Frank Gurrmanamana speaks in Maringarr; explained later by Les Hiatt.		
	00:18:52	Les Hiatt speaks of a sand sculpture made by Harry Mulumbuk.	16 August 1978	
	00:25:05	Les Hiatt tells of a mission to bring Harry Mulumbuk back to the ceremony.		
	00:28:58	Les Hiatt explains ceremonial events of the day.		
	00:31:02	End of 9/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018625.		

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018626/10/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt
Subject keywords:	Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Death - Human remains, Art – Painting, Art – Sand and ground design, Art – Body art, Law – Indigenous – Leadership, authority and prestige, Dance – Ceremonial, Trade and exchange
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people, Yannhangu people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018626	00:00:00	Les Hiatt describes the progress of the painting of the hollow log coffin and the creation of a second sand sculpture.	10-14 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:12:12	Les Hiatt speaks of preparation, including body painting, for a second mulanda ceremony, and of the imminent bone breaking ceremony.		
	00:22:11	Les Hiatt tells of Frank Malkorda's speech in which he said that he wasn't receiving recognition from his own people.		
	00:24:00	Les Hiatt tells of Johnny Mundrugmundrug completing details of the painting of the hollow log coffin, and of the second sand sculpture.	15 August 1978	
	00:24:35	Les Hiatt speaks of trade and ritual exchanges.		
	00:31:05	End of 10/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018626.		

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018627/11/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Les Hiatt, Margaret (Clunies Ross?)
Subject keywords:	Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects – Coffins – Log coffins, Death - Human remains, Dance – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group, Art – Sand and ground design, Film – Film making, Dance – Analysis, Death – Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Mortuary objects
Language/people:	Burarra people, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018627	00:00:00	Les Hiatt speaks of Harry Mulumbuk eventually arriving for the final ceremony.	15 August 1978	Djunawunya, NT
	00:07:18	Les Hiatt describes the breaking of the bones ceremony and the standing upright of the hollow log coffin.		
	00:14:15	Les Hiatt describes a sand sculpture at the base of the hollow log.	16 August 1978	
	00:17:00	Les Hiatt speaks of the progress of the film.	17 August 1978	
	00:20:27	Margaret (Clunies Ross?) describes the final ceremonies, including the mulanda dance.		
	00:25:17	Les Hiatt tells of a conversation with Harry Mulumbuk about filming of the bones.	3 September 1978	
	00:30:43	End of 11/78 and end of HIATT_L01-018627.		

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018628/Frank G's and Frank M's message to Les

Performer/speaker(s):	Betty Meehan, Frank Gurrmanamana, Frank Malkorda
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives, Communications
Language/people:	Maringarr / Gidjingali language, Maringarr / Gidjingali people
Places:	Gorrong Gorrong (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02), Djunawunya (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HIATT_L01-018628	00:00:00	Betty Meehan introduces Frank Gurrmanamana.	2 July 1978	Gorrong Gorrong, NT
	00:00:49	Frank Gurrmanamana sends a message to Les Hiatt in Maringarr.		
	00:14:28	Betty Meehan introduces Frank Malkorda.		
	00:14:47	Frank Malkorda sends a message to Les Hiatt in Maringarr.		
	00:20:02	Betty Meehan sends a message to Les Hiatt about meeting him at Djunawunya for the ceremony.		
	00:22:02	End of Frank G's and Frank M's message to Les, end of HIATT_L01-018628 and end of HIATT_L01.		

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