



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

**Finding aid**

**MATHEWS\_J05**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Janet Mathews, 1965-1966**

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

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.

### Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

### Restrictions on use

This collection is open for copying to relevant Indigenous people, communities and organisations. All other clients may only copy this collection with the written permission of Susan Upton. Permission must be sought from Susan Upton and the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1965-1966

**Extent:** 6 sound tape reels (ca. 60 min. each) : analogue, 3 3/4 ips, mono. ; 5 in.

### Production history

These recordings were collected by AIAS grantee Janet Mathews between 9 November 1965 and 26 July 1966 on the South Coast of New South Wales. They feature brief interviews with Wally Monsally, Percy Mumbulla, Sid Duncan, Frank Cooper, Micky Drew, Reg McLeod, Alice Kearns, Agnes Harrison, Mrs Thomas, Celia Bond, Sister Bernice Smith and Percy Davis. The interviews focus on vocabulary elicitation, interspersed with some oral history and cultural discussions.

The collection was deposited at AIATSIS by Janet Mathews on 16 September 1966.

## RELATED MATERIAL

For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult our [online catalogue](#), Mura®.

## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information contained in documentation provided by Janet Mathews and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff. Relatives of Alice Kearns contacted AIATSIS in January 2011 and confirmed that her language was in fact Southern Ngarigo. Mrs Kearns was also recorded in 1963 and 1964 by Luise Hercus, who called the language Southern Ngarigo. The language appears as Birdawal on Mathews' original field tape report sheet, but this appears to be incorrect.

The recordings are not in strict chronological order and some announcements have clearly been added later.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
000103A	<a href="#">Field tape 14</a>	Conversation in English, song from Thursday Island and some vocabulary elicitation (a South Australian language) with Wally Monsally at Nowra; conversation in English and elicitation of Dhurga vocabulary with Percy Mumbulla
000103B	<a href="#">Field tape 15</a>	Dhurga and Dharawal vocabulary elicitation with Percy Mumbulla, Sid Duncan and Frank Cooper
000104A	<a href="#">Field tape 16</a>	Dhurga and Dharawal vocabulary elicitation with Percy Mumbulla and Frank Cooper; Dhanggatti (or possibly Gumbaynggir) language elicitation and conversation in English with Micky Drew
000104B	<a href="#">Field tape 17</a>	Southern Ngarigo vocabulary elicitation with Alice Kearns; elicitation of 'Wimmera District' vocabulary with Agnes Harrison
000105A	<a href="#">Field tape 18</a>	Dhurga vocabulary elicitation with Mrs Arthur Thomas
000105B	<a href="#">Field tape 19</a>	Bidawal vocabulary elicitation with Celia Bond; discussion about Aboriginal groups from the South Coast of NSW with Sister Bernice Smith; song and Dhurga vocabulary elicitation with Percy Davis

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### 000103A/Field tape 14

Performer/speaker(s):	Wally Monsally, Percy Mumbulla
Personal subject(s):	Wally Monsally
Subject keywords:	Language - Vocabulary, Music - Vocal - Solo – Male, Weapons, Magic and sorcery - Bone pointing
Language/people:	English, unidentified language (possibly Ngarrindjeri), Dhurga
Places:	Nowra (NSW S Coast SI56-09), Cairns (NE Qld SE55-02), Waiben / Thursday Island (Qld TSI SC54-11), Worrijee (Nowra, NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J05-000103A	00:00:00	Wally Monsally, from Cairns, sings a song from Thursday Island. His parents were originally from the Solomon Islands. A small amount of biographical information follows, and some vocabulary picked up in the Tailem Bend area, South Australia (possibly Ngarrindjeri).	9 November 1965	Nowra, NSW
	00:08:05	Percy Mumbulla discusses some weapons he made, in English. Includes discussion about kidney fat removal.	9 November 1965	Worrijee, NSW
	00:32:09	Elicitation of Dhurga vocabulary with Percy Mumbulla.	12 May 1966	Nowra, NSW
	01:02:28	End of field tape 14 and end of MATHEWS_J05-000103A.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

000103B/Field tape 15

Performer/speaker(s):	Percy Mumbulla, Sid Duncan, Frank Cooper
Personal subject(s):	King Merriman
Subject keywords:	Language – Vocabulary, History - Oral history
Language/people:	English, Dhurga, Dharawal / Tharawal / Dariwal, Wiradjuri people
Places:	Worrijee (Nowra, NSW S Coast SI56-09), Nowra (NSW S Coast SI56-09), Broulee (NSW Far S Coast SI56-13), Browns Flat (Nowra, NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	Another man, by the name of Bruce, is announced at 00:57:22, but he is not listed on the field tape report sheet and his surname is difficult to make out on the recording. It doesn't sound like he contributes to the discussion. Janet Mathews comments that Frank Cooper speaks Dharawal, possibly with some Wiradjuri (or Ngunawal or northern Ngarigo?) words learnt from his father, who was from Yass.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J05-000103B	00:00:00	Dhurga vocabulary elicitation with Percy Mumbulla. Includes some discussion of sorcery, clever people and devil devil.	27 May 1966	Worrijee, NSW
	00:31:46	Dharawal vocabulary elicitation with Sid Duncan. Includes an account of the Broulee Island Battle.	23 May 1966	Nowra, NSW
	00:57:22	Vocabulary elicitation with Percy Mumbulla (Dhurga) and Frank Cooper (Dharawal, and possibly another language).	11 July 1966	Browns Flat, NSW
	01:13:34	End of field tape 15 and end of MATHEWS_J05-000103B.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

## 000104A/Field tape 16

Performer/speaker(s):	Percy Mumbulla, Frank Cooper, Micky Drew
Personal subject(s):	Sam Drew, Alfie Drew, Wally Blakeney, Len de Silva
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar, History - Oral history
Language/people:	English, Dhurga, Dharawal / Tharawal / Dariwal, Dhanggatti / Daingatti / Dunghutti
Places:	Browns Flat (Nowra, NSW S Coast SI56-09), Nowra (NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	Janet Mathews comments that Frank Cooper speaks Dharawal, possibly with some Wiradjuri (or Ngunawal or northern Ngarigo?) learnt from his father, who was from Yass. Mickey Drew identifies as <i>Keepara</i> , which could be a reference to the word used for initiations on the mid-North Coast of NSW, also referred to in the recording. He mentions two other people from Burnt Bridge who speak his language: Chris de Silva and Len de Silva. There are various recordings of Len de Silva in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive; he identifies as a Gumbaynggir speaker. Gumbaynggir is closely related to Dhanggatti, which is the main language around Kempsey, where Mr Drew was from originally.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J05-000104A	00:00:00	Vocabulary elicitation with Frank Mumbulla (Dhurga) and Frank Cooper (Dharawal, and possibly another language). Continued from field tape 15.	11 July 1966	Browns Flat, NSW
	00:08:09	Language elicitation with Micky Drew, who is originally from Kempsey. He says he is a <i>Keepara</i> man. The language is probably Dhanggatti.	11 July 1966	Nowra, NSW
	00:34:00	Conversation in English with Micky Drew about initiation and his family. Further language elicitation follows.		
	00:50:23	End of field tape 16 and end of MATHEWS_J05-000104A.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

**000104B/Field tape 17**

Performer/speaker(s):	Reg McLeod, Alice Kearns, Agnes Harrison
Subject keywords:	Language - Vocabulary
Language/people:	English, Bidawal / Bidwell, Ngarigo / Ngarigu, unidentified language
Places:	Wreck Bay SI56-13 (ACT / NSW S Coast SI56-13), Moruya / Bergalia (NSW Far S Coast SI56-13), Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04), Wimmera (NW Vic SJ54-03), Delegate (S NSW SJ55-04)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J05-000104B	00:00:00	Reg McLeod, originally from Delegate, records the Bidawal words for 'monkey' and 'dribble'.	25 July 1966	Wreck Bay, NSW
	00:01:06	Southern Ngarigo vocabulary elicitation with Alice Kearns, originally from Delegate.	27 July 1966	Moruya, NSW
	00:39:04	Vocabulary elicitation with Agnes Harrison. The language is from the Wimmera district but is not named.	27 July 1966	Wallaga Lake, NSW
	00:57:22	End of field tape 17 and end of MATHEWS_J05-000104B.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

000105A/Field tape 18

Performer/speaker(s):	Mrs Arthur Thomas,
Subject keywords:	Language - Vocabulary
Language/people:	English, Dhurga
Places:	Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	Janet Mathews notes that Mrs Thomas spoke mostly Dhurga with some 'Birdawal Ngarigo'. Mrs Thomas says she speaks a little of the 'Delegate language'. There is a loud tape squeal at 54:48 just as the recording ends.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J05-000105A	00:00:00	Dhurga vocabulary elicitation with Mrs Thomas. Some discussion about where her parents came from originally. Ends with a mention of wild women and little hairy men.	28 July 1966	Wallaga Lake, NSW
	00:54:52	End of field tape 18 and end of MATHEWS_J05-000105A.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)



000105B/Field tape 19

Performer/speaker(s):	Celia Bond, Sister Bernice Smith, Percy Davis
Subject keywords:	Language – Vocabulary, History - Oral history, Music - Vocal - Solo – Male, Sites
Language/people:	English, Bidawal / Bidwell, Dhurga
Places:	Bega / Candelo / Tathra (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04), Batemans Bay / Mogo (NSW Far S Coast SI56-13)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	Mrs Bond speaks Bidawal primarily (she describes it as the language spoken by the old people in the Monaro) but she also provides some words in a NSW South Coast language (unidentified).

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J05-000105B	00:00:00	Bidawal vocabulary elicitation with Celia Bond.	28 July 1966	Reedy Swamp, Bega, NSW
	00:20:40	Sister Bernice Smith from the Bega Historical Society discusses what she knows about Aboriginal groups from the Bega area and further north, as far as Gulaga. Includes discussion of contact history (including Broulee battle), important sites and boundaries. In English.	28 July 1966	Bega, NSW
	00:50:54	Percy Davis sings <i>Guragama</i> , a song about a little bird that makes the west wind blow. Some Dhurga vocabulary elicitation follows.	29 July 1966	Batemans Bay, NSW
	01:05:52	End of field tape 19 and end of MATHEWS_J05-000105B		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)