



Finding aid

MATHEWS_J07

**Sound recordings collected by
Janet Mathews, 1970-1971**

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 field tapes 62-69 may only be obtained with permission from Roy Barker and Susan Upton. Relevant Indigenous clients may obtain copies with Roy Barker's permission alone. Field tapes 70-73 may only be obtained with permission from Susan Upton. Permission must be sought from the relevant person or persons listed above 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: 1970-1971

Extent: 12 sound tape reels (ca. 12 hrs.) : analogue, mono ; 5 in.+ filed tape report sheets

Production history

These recordings were collected between 5 November 1970 and 15 January 1971 by Janet Mathews, an AIAS grantee, in Bayview, NSW. Interviewees include Jimmie Barker and Frank Mathews. Jimmie Barker, in English, provides insights into the customs, traditions and material culture of the Muruwari people from north-western New South Wales. Mr Mathews discusses his grandfather R. H. Mathews, a surveyor and ethnologist. Janet Mathews reads from *Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta*, a collection of private papers relating to the life and work of R. H. Mathews, written by his son William Mathews.

RELATED MATERIAL

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Transcripts of field tapes 62-69 are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 100](#). Transcripts of field tapes 63-65 are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 103](#). Transcripts of field tapes 70-71 are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 5442](#). 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 provided by Janet Mathews, and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
001950A	Field tape 62	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001950B	Field tape 63	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001951A	Field tape 64	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001951B	Field tape 65	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001952A	Field tape 66	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001952B	Field tape 67	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001953A	Field tape 68	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001953B	Field tape 69	Explanations of Muruwari customs, traditions and material culture with Jimmie Barker
001954A	Field tape 70	Janet Mathews and Frank Mathews discuss some biographical information about Robert Hamilton Mathews
001954B	Field tape 71	Janet Mathews reads from <i>Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta</i>
001955A	Field tape 72	Janet Mathews reads from <i>Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta</i>
001955B	Field tape 73	Janet Mathews reads from <i>Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta</i>

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

001950A/Field tape 62

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Fishing, Technology – Implements / tools, Stars – Stories & motifs, History – Oral history
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001950A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses some beliefs of the Muruwari, including fire and the spiritual connection to it.	5 November 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:09:42	Jimmie Barker discusses traditional fishing techniques and materials employed in the Brewarrina area.		
	00:32:19	Jimmie Barker discusses Pitangulu, a creator Spirit, and the Southern Cross constellation.		
	00:40:00	Jimmie Barker discusses telepathy, witch doctors and ghosts.		
	01:04:00	End of field tape 62 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001950A.		

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001950B/Field tape 63

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Initiation, Kinship terms, Technology – Fur & skin objects & decorations, Oral history, Hunting, Cooking & eating
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001950B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses some spiritual beliefs of the Muruwari people.	9 November 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:10:40	Jimmie Barker discusses some aspects of initiation.		
	00:16:12	Jimmie Barker explains some Muruwari kinship terms.		
	00:31:40	Jimmie Barker discusses the use of animal body parts in material culture.		
	00:37:15	Jimmie Barker discusses mission stations in the Brewarrina area.		
	00:39:35	Jimmie Barker discusses hunting and cooking methods.		
	01:00:10	Jimmie Barker discusses a spiritual belief of the Muruwari.		
	01:03:45	End of field tape 63 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001950B.		

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001951A/Field tape 64

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Clever people – Sorcery, Child rearing & socialisation, Mortuary customs, Communication – Smoke signals, Ceremonies – Rainmaking, Fishing – Fish weirs, Sites – Mortuary sites & cemeteries, Religion - Totemism
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001951A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker explains the practice of poisoning by clever men	9 November 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:07:10	Jimmie Barker explains some customs concerning childbirth.		
	00:11:00	Jimmie Barker discusses some funerary customs.		
	00:12:52	Jimmie Barker speaks of smoke signalling and the treatment of wounded animals.		
	00:20:40	Jimmie Barker speaks of rainmaking and of Peter Flood.		
	00:25:05	Jimmie Barker explains some burial customs and burial grounds.		
	00:38:20	Jimmie Barker describes old sites around Brewarrina.		
	00:55:50	Jimmie Barker discusses totems.		
	01:04:00	End of field tape 64 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001951A.		

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001951B/Field tape 65

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Cooking & eating, Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Religion – After death beliefs, Vocabulary – Place names, Vocabulary – Language & peoples names, Vocabulary – Animal names

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri

Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)

Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001951B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses Muruwari cooking customs and the use of fire.	22 November 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:02:50	Jimmie Barker discusses elders, kings and some spiritual beliefs of the Muruwari, including stories of spirits and after death beliefs.		
	00:47:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of place names and explains the different names of Muruwari people from different places.		
	00:58:30	Jimmie Barker talks about Muruwari animal names.		
	01:01:32	End of field tape 65 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001951B.		

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001952A/Field tape 66

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Kinship – Sections & subsections, Kinship & marriage, Religion – Totemism, Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Ceremonies – Rain making, Technology – Implements / tools, Indigenous knowledge – Health & medicine

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri

Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)

Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001952A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses the Muruwari kinship system, including explanations of the two moieties, marriage rules and totems.	4 December 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:29:30	Jimmie Barker speaks of Pitangulu, the creator Spirit.		
	00:32:13	Jimmie Barker explains the connection between Muruwari spirituality and hunting.		
	00:34:30	Jimmie Barker discusses a rain making song/prayer.		
	00:39:00	Jimmie Barker discusses the use of animal body parts, fats and oils in the manufacture of implements and tools.		
	00:55:45	Jimmie Barker discusses the use of animal and plant oils in the manufacture of implements and tools, and as medicines.		
	01:01:33	Jimmie Barker discusses the Message Bird.		
	01:04:01	End of field tape 6 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001952A.		

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001952B/Field tape 67

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Dance -Ceremonial, Creation /
Cosmology – Stories & motifs, Death – Mourning, Social behaviour, Cooking
& eating, Fishing, Kinship terms
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001952B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses the Message Bird, the Death Bird and the Ant Dance.	4 December 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:08:45	Jimmie Barker discusses the Seven Sisters and other constellations.		
	00:21:40	Jimmie Barker discusses some Muruwari beliefs and customs concerning illness and death.		
	00:27:45	Jimmie Barker discusses kinship structure and some social customs.		
	36:50	Jimmie Barker discusses some eating customs and cray fishing.		
	00:44:55	Jimmie Barker describes the extraction of water from plants and techniques for making fire.		
	01:00:53	Jimmie Barker reads a list of kinship terms from A. R. Brown's <i>Notes on the social organisation of Australian tribes</i> .		
	01:01:50	End of field tape 67 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001952B.		

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001953A/Field tape 68

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Technology – Bark objects, Technology – Implements / tools, Hunting, Cooking & eating, Plant gathering
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001953A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker describes Muruwari headwear made from bark.	14 December 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:05:30	Jimmie Barker names and describes a hunting and fighting stick and a digging stick.		
	00:12:40	Jimmie Barker discusses hunting goanna, hunting and cooking echidna, and eating possum and carpet snake.		
	00:25:00	Jimmie Barker discusses flour made from seeds of native plants.		
	00:32:20	Jimmie Barker describes mill stones used for grinding flour, and other stones used for sharpening tools and weapons.		
	00:43:15	Jimmie Barker describes other plants and fruits used as food, for recreation and as poison.		
	01:02:45	End of field tape 68 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001953A.		

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001953B/Field tape 69

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Technology – Wooden implements / tools, Kinship & marriage, Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Religion – After death beliefs, Oral history
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001953B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker describes a club, its uses and how it is made.	14 December 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:06:45	Jimmie Barker explains some marriage customs and forms of population control among the Muruwari.		
	00:12:10	Jimmie Barker discusses Spirit dogs, Spirit man and other spirits.		
	00:22:00	Jimmie Barker discusses the Muruwari people's fear of the spirit of a dead person.		
	00:27:40	Jimmie Barker speaks of Muruwari cosmology, including a discussion on the Sky Snake.		
	00:33:50	Jimmie Barker discusses the Spirit of the Bush.		
	00:36:05	Jimmie Barker recalls his education at Brewarrina Mission.		
	00:40:12	End of field tape 69 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001953B.		

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001954A/Field tape 70

Performer/speaker(s): Janet Mathews, Frank Mathews
Subject keywords: Biographies, Obituaries, Genealogy & family history
Language/people: English / Australian
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001954A	00:00:00	Janet Mathews prepares to read from an obituary of Robert Hamilton Mathews, published in <i>The Bulletin</i> , 1918.	8 January, 1971	Bayview, NSW
	00:03:45	Janet Mathews reads from obituary.		
	00:14:40	Janet Mathews and Frank Mathews (R. H. Mathews' grandson) discuss the obituary and R. H. Mathews' life, personality, family and interests.		
	01:02:32	End of field tape 70 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001954A.		

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001954B/Field tape 71

Performer/speaker(s): Janet Mathews
Subject keywords: Biographies, Genealogy & family history
Language/people: English / Australian
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001954B	00:00:00	Janet Mathews reads from <i>Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta</i> , a review of the life and work of R. H. Mathews, written in the papers of William Mathews (R. H. Mathews' son)	11 January 1971	Bayview, NSW
	00:04:02	The story of R. H. Mathews' first meetings with Indigenous people and early education		
	00:18:35	R. H. Mathews' interest in travelling around Australia working as a surveyor.		
	00:42:00	A description R. H. Mathews' method for eliciting cultural information from Indigenous peoples.		
	01:02:35	A list of R.H. Mathews' various interests.		
	01:03:44	End of field tape 71 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001954B.		

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001955A/Field tape 72

Performer/speaker(s): Janet Mathews
Subject keywords: Biographies, Genealogy & family history
Language/people: English / Australian
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001955A	00:00:00	Continuation of field tape 71: Janet Mathews reads from <i>Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta</i> , a review of the life and work of R. H. Mathews, written in the papers of William Mathews (R. H. Mathews' son).	11 January 1970	Bayview, NSW
	00:00:19	R. H. Mathews' exploration of remote areas of Australia.		
	00:08:18	Extracts of R. H. Mathews' letters to his fiancée Mary S. Bartlett, describing his travels as a surveyor.		
	00:30:55	Description of R. H. Mathews' personality.		
	00:54:18	Description of R. H. Mathews' reinvigoration of interest in Indigenous culture while working as a surveyor.		
	01:02:09	End of field tape 72 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001955A.		

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001955B/Field tape 73

Performer/speaker(s): Janet Mathews
Subject keywords: Biographies, Genealogy & family history
Language/people: English / Australian
Places: Bayview (N Sydney NSW S156-05)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J07-001955B	00:00:00	Continuation of field tape 72: Janet Mathews reads from <i>Robert Hamilton Mathews of Parramatta</i> , a review of the life and work of R. H. Mathews, written in the papers of William Mathews (R. H. Mathews' son).	15 January 1971	Bayview, NSW
	00:00:40	Description of the dangers R. H. Mathews faced while travelling in remote areas.		
	00:03:45	Information on R. H. Mathews' wife, Mary.		
	00:06:50	Information on R. H. Mathews' father, William.		
	00:28:45	End of field tape 73 and end of MATHEWS_J07-001955B.		

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