



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

BECKETT_J04

**Sound recordings collected by
Jeremy Beckett, 1960-1961**

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 those who have obtained permission from the relevant Indigenous individual and/or community. Refer to audition sheets below for more details.

Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research with the exception of field tapes “Stanner Wonggas” and “Puny.” Field Tapes “Stanner Wonggas” and “Puny” may only be copied by those who have obtained permission from the appropriate Indigenous individual, family and/or community. Permission must be sought from the appropriate Indigenous individual, family and/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: [195_?]; 1960-1961

Extent: 14 sound tape reels (ca. 10 hrs. 10 min.) : analogue, 3 3/4 ips, mono. ; 5 in.

Production history

The majority of these recordings were made by anthropologist Jeremy Beckett in 1960 and 1961. They feature traditional songs and church music from Mer, Erub, Badu, Saibai and Boigu Islands in the Torres Strait, and several songs written and performed by Dougie Young at Wilcannia in north-western New South Wales. The collection also features copies of two recordings made by Professor William Stanner in the 1950s.

RELATED MATERIAL

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

The recordings by Professor Stanner that form part of this collection are incomplete copies of material held by the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive, see [STANNER W01](#) and [STANNER W02](#). 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 Jeremy Beckett, notes prepared by AIATSIS staff, and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

The field tape called “Puny” on this finding aid has been renamed. AIATSIS has been advised against using the original name as it is a ceremonial word that should never be used publicly. Please note that on the associated archive recording (014748), the original name is used.

ITEM LIST

Field recording number	AIATSIS item number	Description
"Dougie Young"	BECKETT_J04-014746	Songs performed by Dougie Young with guitar accompaniment at Wilcannia, including 'Cut a rug', 'Pass him the flagon boys' and 'Frankie and Johnny'
"Stanner Wonggas", side 1	BECKETT_J04-014746	RESTRICTED: Murrinhpatha songs performed by unidentified men with didjeridu and clapstick accompaniment, recorded by Stanner in Wadeye, NT (this is a copy of part of STANNER_W02-012240); unidentified music from the Torres Strait (this part was recorded by Beckett and is not restricted)
"Stanner Wonggas", side 2	BECKETT_J04-014747	RESTRICTED: Further Murrinhpatha songs recorded by Stanner (copy of STANNER_W02-012240)
"Puny"	BECKETT_J04-014748	RESTRICTED: Puny ceremonial singing, probably recorded by Stanner (probably a copy of part of STANNER_W01-008196, 008198 or 008199)
1	BECKETT_J04-014749	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau singing (mostly in Meriam Mir) with drum accompaniment, recorded at Mer
2	BECKETT_J04-014750	Olipanu Panuel, Iopili Panuel and Sagigi West singing in the western Torres Strait language at Badu
3	BECKETT_J04-014751	Patterson Bani, Ben Nona and visitors from the eastern islands singing in English and the western Torres Strait language
4, side 1	BECKETT_J04-014752	Church service in English by Rev. Masepah Banu, Rev. Asai Baruna, Rev. Seriba Sagigi, including a hymn in Meriam Mir, recorded at Mer; short narrative about Saibai by Francis Abai, recorded at Saibai; hymns performed by men and women at Saibai in English, Meriam Mir and the western Torres Strait language
4, side 2	BECKETT_J04-014753	Unidentified men and women singing with ukulele accompaniment, including songs in English, Meriam Mir and the western Torres Strait languages (continued from side 1)
5	BECKETT_J04-014753	Murray Jack Morseo, Patterson Bani and Sagigi West singing at Badu with guitar accompaniment
6	BECKETT_J04-014754	Unidentified men singing traditional dance songs from Mer
7	BECKETT_J04-	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou,

Field recording number	AIATSIS item number	Description
	014754	Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau singing Tagtag (Rotuman) songs and Babaneb (Meriam) songs with drum accompaniment, recorded at Mer
8	BECKETT_J04-014755	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau singing Maru songs with drum accompaniment, recorded at Mer
9	BECKETT_J04-014755	Songs recorded at Christmas, 1960, on Mer; Samoan-style hymns and several dance songs recorded at Saibai
10	BECKETT_J04-014756	Songs recorded at Mer, including polynesian-style song, song in western Torres Strait language, Kiwai Island-style songs, songs from Ngau village; songs performed by the Whaleboat family (including Weser Whaleboat) at Thursday Island, including songs in Meriam Mir, songs from Erub, south sea song, flute and pan pipe music, string figure song and counting game; men and women from Badu singing with drum and ukelele accompaniment, recorded at Thursday Island
11	BECKETT_J04-0014757 and BECKETT_J04-0014758	Stories from Boigu Island; Men and women singing with guitar accompaniment at Boigu, including some New Guinea-style songs

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

Field Tape “Dougie Young” and “Stanner Wonggas” (side 1)

Performer/speaker(s):	Dougie Young, Unidentified males
Subject keywords:	Songs – Dougie Young – Murrinhpatha – Torres Strait
Language/people:	Murrinhpatha language, Warlpiri language
Places:	Wilcannia, N.S.W., 1960-1961 (Dougie Young) Wadeye, N.T. and Torres Strait Islands, Q.L.D., 1960-1961(Stanner Wonggas)
Recording quality:	Fair to good (white noise during “Dougie Young” recording)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014746	00:00:17	Dougie Young performs songs in English	1960-61	Wilcannia, NSW
	00:15:27	End “Dougie Young”		
	00:15:43	Male group perform Murrinhpatha songs	1960-61	Wadeye, NT
	00:33:50	Male and female group perform songs	1960-61	Torres Strait, QLD
	00:42:07	End field tape “Stanner Wonggas” (side 1) and end BECKETT_J04-014746.		

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Field Tape “Stanner Wonggas” (side 2)

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified males
Subject keywords:	Songs – Male initiation
Language/people:	Murrinhpatha language
Places:	Wadeye, N.T.1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014747	00:00:17	Male group perform Murrinhpatha songs	1960-61	Wadeye, NT
	00:34:29	End field tape “Stanner Wonggas” (side 2) and end BECKETT_J04-014747.		

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Field Tape “Puny” (side 1)

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified males
Subject keywords:	Songs – Male initiation
Language/people:	Murrinhpatha language
Places:	Wadeye, N.T.1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014748	00:00:15	Male group perform Murrinhpatha songs	1960-61	Wadeye, NT
	00:44:10	End field tape “Puny” and end BECKETT_J04-014748.		

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Field Tape 1

Performer/speaker(s):	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau
Subject keywords:	Songs – Meriam Mir – Torres Strait
Language/people:	Meriam Mir language
Places:	Murray (Mer) Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014749	00:00:13	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau perform songs in Meriam Mir language	1960-61	Murray Island, QLD
	00:33:18	End field tape 1 and end BECKETT_J04-014749.		

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Field Tape 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Olipanu Panuel, Iopili Panuel, Sagigi West
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait
Language/people:	Kala Lagaw Ya language
Places:	Badu Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair to good (audio sometimes stops and starts)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014750	00:00:13	Males and females (probably including Olipanu Panuel, Iopili Panuel and Sagigi West) perform songs in Kala Lagaw Ya language	1960-61	Badu Island, QLD
	00:33:18	End field tape 2 and end BECKETT_J04-014750.		

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Field Tape 3

Performer/speaker(s):	Patterson Bani, Ben Nona
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait
Language/people:	Kala Lagaw Ya language
Places:	Torres Strait Islands, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair (some distortions during sections of the recording)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014751	00:00:15	Male group (probably including Patterson Bani and Ben Nona) perform songs in Kala Lagaw Ya language	1960-61	Torres Strait Islands, QLD

	00:03:11	Male and female group (probably including Patterson Bani and Ben Nona) perform songs in Kala Lagaw Ya language		
	00:29:09	End field tape 3 and end BECKETT_J04-014751.		

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Field Tape 4 (side 1)	
Performer/speaker(s):	Rev. Masepah Banu, Rev. Asai Baruna, Rev. Seriba Sagigi, Francis Abai
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait – Christianity – Church service
Language/people:	Meriam Mir language, Kalaw Lagaw Ya language
Places:	Murray Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961 Saibai Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair (some distortions during sections of the recording)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014752	00:00:12	Male and female group perform song in Meriam Mir language	1960-61	Murray Island, QLD
	00:04:12	Church service (including bible reading, hymns)		
	00:31:37	Francis Abai talks about Saibai	1960-61	Saibai Island, QLD
	00:35:29	Male and female group perform songs in Meriam Mir, Kalaw Lagaw Ya and English languages		
	00:40:32	End field tape 4 (side 1) and end BECKETT_J04-014752.		

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Field Tape 4 (side 2) and 5 (side 1)

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified, Murray Jack Morseo, Patterson Bani, Sagigi West
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait – Christianity – Church service
Language/people:	Meriam Mir language, kalaww Lagaw Ya language
Places:	Saibai Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961 Badu Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair (some distortions during sections of the recording)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014753	00:00:13	Male and female group perform songs in Meriam Mir, Kalaw Lagaw Ya and English languages	1960-61	Saibai Island, QLD
	00:24:10	Male leads prayer group		
	00:24:58	End field tape 4 (side 2)		
	00:25:07	Murray Jack Morseo, Patterson Bani, and Sagigi West perform songs	1960-61	Badu Island, QLD
	00:57:53	End field tape 5 (side 1) and end BECKETT_J04-014753.		

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Field Tape 6 (side 1) and 7 (side 1)

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified, Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa, Tom Dau
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait – Traditional
Language/people:	Meriam Mir language
Places:	Murray Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014754	00:00:11	Male group perform songs in Meriam Mir language	1960-61	Murray Island, QLD
	00:33:18	End field tape 6 (side 1)		
	00:33:31	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau perform songs in Meriam Mir language		
	01:04:10	End field tape 7 (side 1) and end BECKETT_J04-014754.		

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Field Tape 8 (side 1) and 9 (side 1)

Performer/speaker(s):	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa, Tom Dau
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait – Traditional – Hymns – Dance
Language/people:	Meriam Mir language
Places:	Murray Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961 Saibai Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014755	00:00:15	Marou Mimi, Dau, Dela, Tom Tapau, Kabiri Dou, Sarou Billy, John Barsa and Tom Dau perform songs in Meriam Mir language	1960-61	Murray Island, QLD
	00:32:25	End field tape 8 (side 1)		
	00:32:28	Male and female group perform songs (hymns and dance songs)	1960-61	Saibai Island, QLD
	01:04:51	End field tape 9 (side 1) and end BECKETT_J04-014755.		

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Field Tape 10

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified, Weser Whaleboat
Subject keywords:	Songs – Torres Strait – Games
Language/people:	Kalaw Lagaw Ya language, Meriam Mir language
Places:	Murray Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961 Saibai Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014756	00:00:11	Male and female group perform songs	1960-61	Murray Island, QLD
	00:01:30	Male group perform songs		
	00:34:01	Male recites counting games		
	00:35:52	Male and female group perform songs	1960-61	Thursday Island, QLD
	01:03:40	End field tape 10 and end BECKETT_J04-014756.		

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Field Tape 11 (side 1)

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified
Subject keywords:	Torres Strait – Boigu – Stories – Songs
Language/people:	Kalaw Lagaw Ya language
Places:	Boigu Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014757	00:01:14	Male tells stories about Boigu Island	1960-61	Boigu Island, QLD
	00:21:41	Male and female group perform songs		
	01:01:04	End field tape 11 (side 1) and end BECKETT_J04-014757.		

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Field Tape 11 (side 2)

Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified
Subject keywords:	Torres Strait – Boigu – Songs
Language/people:	Kalaw Lagaw Ya language
Places:	Boigu Island, Torres Strait, 1960-1961
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BECKETT_J04-014758	00:00:11	Male and female group perform songs	1960-61	Boigu Island, QLD

00:15:44 End field tape 11 (side 2) and end BECKETT_J04-014758.

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