



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

**Finding aid**

**DIXON\_R01**

**Sound recordings collected by  
R. M. W. Dixon, 1963-1964**

## 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 this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from R. M. W. Dixon and 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:** 1963-1964

**Extent:** 9 sound tape reels (3 hrs., 38 min.) : analogue, 7 1/2 ips, mono

### Production history

These recordings were collected between October 1963 and August 1964 by R. M. W. Dixon during fieldwork in southern Cape York, Queensland. The field trip was funded by an AIAS grant, and its purpose was to research languages spoken in the rainforest region of Queensland. The collection includes Mbabaram, Gugu Djangun, Wagaman, Mularidji, Mamu, Malanbarra, Girramay, Dyirbal, Yanyuwa and Olgol languages and music. Interviewees and performers include Albert Bennett, Willie Richards, Mitchell Dodd, George Kelly, Paddy Biran, Jack Murray, Willie Kelly, George Watson, Jimmy Murray, Jerry Aden, Jerry Walden and Peter Flying Fox.

## RELATED MATERIAL

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

Summaries of these recordings are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 461](#). 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 R. M. W. Dixon and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

## ITEM LIST

<b>Archive number</b>	<b>Field recording number</b>	<b>Description</b>
000351A	<a href="#">Field tape 45</a>	Mbabaram language elicitation with Albert Bennett
000351B	<a href="#">Field tape 46</a>	Gugu Djangun language elicitation with Willie Richards
000352A	<a href="#">Field tape 47</a>	Wagaman and Mularidji vocabulary elicitation with Mitchell Dodd and George Kelly
000352B	<a href="#">Field tape 48</a>	Wagaman grammatical elicitation with Mitchell Dodd, and Mularidji vocabulary elicitation with George Kelly
000353A	<a href="#">Field tape 49</a>	Wagaman language elicitation with Mitchell Dodd
000353B	<a href="#">Field tape 50</a>	Songs in Mamu, Malanbarra and Girramay performed, and later discussed in English, by Paddy Biran, Jack Murray, Willie Kelly and George Watson
000354A	<a href="#">Field tape 51</a>	Gama style songs in Dyirbal and Girramay performed by Jimmy Murray
000354B	<a href="#">Field tape 52</a>	Wagaman songs performed by Mitchell Dodd with explanations in English; songs from the Burketown area performed by Jerry Aden; Yanyuwa songs performed by Jerry Walden (Jerry Jerry) of Burketown; songs performed in an unidentified language by Peter Flying Fox

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### 000351A/Field tape 45

Performer/speaker(s): Albert Bennett

Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary, Vocabulary & grammar - Interrogatives

Language/people: Mbabaram

Places: South East Cape York (Qld SD54, SD55)

Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DIXON_R01-000351A	00:00:00	Mbabaram sentence and vocabulary elicitation with Albert Bennett.	1963-1964	South East Cape York, Qld
	00:15:37	Mbabaram sentence and vocabulary elicitation, including interrogatives, with Albert Bennett.		
	00:24:34	End of field tape 45. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000351A.		

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**000351B/Field tape 46**

Performer/speaker(s): Willie Richards

Subject keywords: Oral history, Vocabulary – Body parts & functions, Vocabulary – Animal names, Vocabulary – Technology, Vocabulary – Environment & natural phenomena, Vocabulary – food, cooking & fire, Vocabulary – Colours

Language/people: Gugu Djangun / Djungan / Gugu Dyangun

Places: South East Cape York (Qld SD54, SD55)

Recording quality: Fair

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000351B	00:00:00	Willie Richards introduces himself as a speaker of Gugu Djangun, as well as Mularidji and Mbabaram.	1963-1964	South East Cape York Qld
	00:01:15	Vocabulary elicitation of Gugu Djangun with Willie Richards, including body parts, animal names and material culture terms.		
	00:15:56	Vocabulary elicitation of Gugu Djangun with Willie Richards, including natural phenomena, food, adjectives and colours.		
	00:24:35	Mr Richards mentions the “Djangunbari” language.		
	00:25:00	End of field tape 64. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000351B.		

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**000352A/Field tape 47**

Performer/speaker(s): Mitchell Dodd, George Kelly  
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary – Body parts & functions, Vocabulary – Environment & natural phenomena, Vocabulary – Technology, Vocabulary – Animal names, Vocabulary – Plant names, Vocabulary & grammar – Verbs, Vocabulary & grammar – Adjectives, Vocabulary & grammar – Interrogatives  
Language/people: Mularidji / Gugu Muluriji, Wagaman / Wakamin  
Places: South East Cape York (Qld SD54, SD55)  
Recording quality: Good  
Notes: From 00:00 – 14:23, Mr Dodd provides Wagaman words and Mr Kelly (who Dixon describes as having a “slightly lighter voice”) provides the Mularidji words. Comparisons between the two languages are made.

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000352A	00:00:00	Elicitation of Wagaman vocabulary with Mitchell Dodd, and in Mularidji with George Kelly, including names of body parts, technology, animals, plants and natural phenomena.	1963-1964	South East Cape York, Qld
	00:14:23	Wagaman sentence elicitation with Mitchell Dodd, including emphases on verbs, adjectives and interrogatives.		
	00:31:57	End of field tape 47. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000352A.		

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**000352B/Field tape 48**

Performer/speaker(s): Mitchell Dodd, George Kelly  
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary & grammar – Adjectives, Kinship terms, Vocabulary – Environment & natural phenomena, Vocabulary & grammar – Verbs  
Language/people: Wagaman / Wakamin, Mularidji / Gugu Muluriji  
Places: South East Cape York (Qld SD54, SD55)  
Recording quality: Good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000352B	00:00:00	Wagaman sentence elicitation with Mitchell Dodd, including imperatives, declaratives and interrogatives.	1963-1964	South East Cape York, Qld.
	00:06:01	Wagaman sentence elicitation with Mitchell Dodd, with an emphasis on adjectives.		
	00:10:27	Introduction of George Kelly.		
	00:11:15	Mularidji vocabulary elicitation with George Kelly, including words for natural phenomena, kinship terms, human classification, foods and plants, and verbs.		
	00:27:50	Mularidji sentence elicitation with George Kelly.		
	00:30:53	End of field tape 48. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000352B.		

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**000353A/Field tape 49**

Performer/speaker(s): Mitchell Dodd  
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary & grammar – Adjectives,  
Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation  
Language/people: Wagaman / Wakamin  
Places: South East Cape York (Qld SD54, SD55)  
Recording quality: Good

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000353A	00:00:00	Wagaman sentence and vocabulary elicitation with Mitchell Dodd, including emphases on imperative constructions and adjectives.	1963-1964	South East Cape York Qld.
	00:06:06	Sentence elicitation of Wagaman with Mitchell Dodd, including interrogatives.		
	00:22:11	Short discussion about numbers and counting in language with Mitchell Dodd.		
	00:22:50	End of field tape 49. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000353A.		

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**000353B/Field tape 50**

Performer/speaker(s): Paddy Biran, Jack Murray, Willie Kelly, George Watson  
Subject keywords: Music -Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music -Paired boomerangs, Music – Body percussion, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation  
Language/people: Mamu, Malanbarra / Gulngay, Girramay  
Places: South East Cape York (Qld SD54, SD55)  
Recording quality: Good  
Notes: Most of the songs on this recording feature percussive accompaniment, and are explained in English by the singers

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000353B	00:00:00	Dyangala (love) style songs performed in Girramay by Paddy Biran and Jack Murray.	1963-1964	South East Cape York, Qld
	00:04:50	Buran (dance) style song performed in Girramay by Paddy Biran and Jack Murray.		
	00:07:08	Gama (dance) style songs performed in Girramay by Paddy Biran and Jack Murray.		
	00:13:42	Dyangala (love) style songs performed in Girramay by Paddy Biran and Jack Murray.		
	00:15:05	Marga (dance) style songs performed in Mamu by Willie Kelly.		
	00:25:28	Marga (dance) style song performed in Mamu by George Watson.		
	00:27:40	Buran (dance) style song performed in Malanbarra by George Watson.		
	00:28:20	Dyangala (love) style song performed in Girramay by George Watson.		
	00:30:00	End of field tape 50. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000353B.		

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**000354A/Field tape 51**

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmy Murray  
Subject keywords: Music – Ceremonial music, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Paired boomerangs  
Language/people: Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul, Girramay  
Places: Murray River (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Poor

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000354A	00:00:00	Corroboree songs performed in Dyirbal and Girramay, with occasional explanations in English, by Jimmy Murray, accompanied by boomerang clapsticks.	1963-1964	Murray River, Qld.
	00:28:15	End of field tape 51. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000354A.		

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**000354B/Field tape 52**

Performer/speaker(s): Mitchell Dodd, Jerry Aden, Jerry Walden (Jerry Jerry), Peter Flying Fox  
Subject keywords: Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Paired boomerangs, Music – Percussion  
– Improvised, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation  
Language/people: Wagaman / Wakamin, Yanyuwa / Yanuwa  
Places: Murray River (NE Qld SE55-10)  
Recording quality: Poor to fair

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
DIXON_R01-000354B	00:00:00	Songs performed in Wagaman, and explained in English, by Mitchell Dodd, accompanied by boomerang clapsticks.	1963-1964	Murray River, Qld.
	00:08:37	Songs performed in Wagaman, and explained in English, by Jerry Aden, accompanied by boomerang clapsticks.		
	00:10:22	Songs performed in Yanyuwa, and explained in English by Jerry Walden, accompanied by boomerang clapsticks.		
	00:19:16	Songs performed in an unidentified language by Peter Flying Fox, accompanied by a stick beaten on a tin.		
	00:24:35	End of field tape 52. End of archive recording DIXON_R01-000354B.		

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