



Finding aid

GILLAN_P01

**Sound recordings collected by
Peter Lawrence Gillan, September 1981**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1980-1981

Extent: 7 sound cassettes (ca. 60 min. each) : analogue, mono.
1 sound cassette (ca. 90 min.) : analogue, mono.

Production history

These recordings were collected by Peter Lawrence Gillan in September 1981 on Masig (Yorke Island) and Waiben (Thursday Island) in the course of conducting research for the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at University of Queensland. The interviewees are Margaret Billy, Father Dave Passi, Wahid Bin Tahir, Ephraim Bani, Dan Murray Mosby, Father Warria, Elda Kebisu Mosby, Ezekiel Billy, Lota Asai and Eileen Samuel. The languages are English and Torres Strait language group, but for Yorke Island interviewees, it is possible they are speaking a dialect of Kala Lagaw Ya language. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 9 May 1990.

RELATED MATERIAL

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Notes and transcripts related to this collection are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 2816](#). 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 provided by Peter Lawrence Gillan and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

Timing points may be slightly out depending on the technologies and procedures in place at the time the recordings were auditioned.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021504 021505	Field Tape 1	Narrative with Margaret Billy in Torres Strait Creole about family history, the diving industries and the Maritime Strike of 1936.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021506 021507	Field Tape 2	Narratives with Father David Passi in Torres Strait Creole about trochus diving; Wahid Bin Tahir in English about his life experiences.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021508 021509	Field Tape 3	Narratives with Wahid Bin Tahir in English about his life experiences; Ephraim Bani on Mabuiag Island; Dan Murray Mosby in English about his business plan.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021510 021511	Field Tape 4	Dan Murray Mosby in English about his business plan; place names and 'the story of Igua' with Father Warria in Torres Strait Creole.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021512 021513	Field Tape 5	Historical narrative about Maino Kebisu, the 1899 cyclone and the making of coral lime with Elda Kebisu Mosby in Torres Strait Creole; and Ezekiel Billy in English about bêche-de-mer fishing.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021514 021515	Field Tape 6	Narrative with Elda Kebisu Mosby in Torres Strait Creole about his life story.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021516 021517	Field Tape 7	Language elicitation in Torres Strait Creole about bêche-de-mer fishing, language names and life story with Lota Asai.

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
021518 021519	Field Tape 8	Family history in Torres Strait Creole with Eileen Samuel.

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

021504 + 021505/Field Tape 1

Performer/speaker(s):	Mrs Margaret Billy
Personal subject(s):	Edward 'Yankee' Mosby, Charlie Mosby, Queenie Mosby, Dan(iel) Mosby, Sam Mosby, Elda Mosby, Francis Sabatino, Tanu Nona, Pizzey, Elda Mosby, Mills brothers, Blakely, O'Leary, Kebisu
Subject keywords:	History - Genealogy and family history, Health - Treatments – Traditional, Occupations – Pearlery, Settlement and contacts - Ethnic groups, immigration and multiculturalism, Religions - Christianity - Catholic Church, Religions - Christianity - Ceremonies - Coming of the Light, Feuds and warfare, Magic and sorcery, Animals - Invertebrates - Crustacea and molluscs – Trochus, Economic sectors – Pearlery, Employment - Conditions - Industrial relations - Industrial disputes.
Language/people:	Torres Strait language group (Qld TSI SC54, SC55)
Places:	Waiben / Thursday Island (Qld TSI SC54-11), Masig / Yorke Island (Qld TSI SC54-08), Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021504	00:00:45	Margaret Billy narrates in Torres Strait Creole how a Japanese pearler and friend tried to cure Margaret's grandmother's asthma by cooking her flying fox, 'sapur', to eat.	9 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:06:15	Margaret Billy narrates in Torres Strait Creole how the family's religious leanings evolved after the dramatic arrival to the Torres Strait of her grandfather in 1870.		
	00:24:56	Margaret narrates in Torres Strait Creole a fishing method.		
	00:30:52	End of GILLAN_P01_021504.		
GILLAN_P01_021505	00:00:16	Margaret Billy narrates in Torres Strait Creole about family and diving.	9 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:17:01	Margaret Billy narrates in Torres Strait Creole the history of the Maritime Strike of 1936.		
	00:28:44	End of Field Tape 1 and end of GILLAN_P01_021505.		

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021506 + 021507/Field Tape 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Father David Passi and Wahid Bin Tahir
Personal subject(s):	Samuel Mosby, Jeff Mosby
Subject keywords:	Occupations – Pearlers, Economic sectors – Pearling, Employment – Conditions, Employment - Conditions - Occupational health and safety, History - Genealogy and family history, Settlement and contacts - Ethnic groups, immigration and multiculturalism, Occupations – Pearlers, Settlement and contacts - Torres Strait Islander settlement in mainland Australia, Housing - Home ownership, Defence - World War II
Language/people:	English and Torres Strait language group
Places:	Waiben / Thursday Island (Qld TSI SC54-11); Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05); Cherbourg / Barambah (SE Qld SG56-10); Aru Islands, Ambon, Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Singapore, Malaysia.
Recording quality:	Poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021506	00:00:28	Father David Passi narrates in Torres Strait Creole about the dangers of diving and the pearling industry.	14 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:31:08	End of GILLAN_P01_021506.		
GILLAN_P01_021507	00:00:23	Father David Passi continues narrative in Torres Strait Creole about the dangers of diving.	14 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:04:30	Wahid Bin Tahir narrates in English his history pre-WWII, where he lived and his hard work.	16 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:07:36	Wahid Bin Tahir describes people's dislocation from Thursday Island to Cherbourg during WWII.		
	00:12:10	Wahid Bin Tahir describes his occupations, houses, financial gains and losses; and moves both within Australia and overseas.		
	00:31:05	End of Field Tape 2 and end of GILLAN_P01_021507.		

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021508 + 021509/Field Tape 3

Performer/speaker(s):	Wahid Bin Tahir, Ephraim Bani and Dan Murray Mosby
Personal subject(s):	Mr Fisher, Johannes
Subject keywords:	History - Genealogy and family history, Occupations – Pearlers, Animals - Invertebrates - Crustacea and molluscs – Trochus, Economic sectors – Pearlring, Occupations, Settlement and contacts - Ethnic groups, immigration and multiculturalism, Housing - Home ownership, Defence - World War II
Language/people:	Torres Strait language group
Places:	Waiben / Thursday Island (Qld TSI SC54-11); Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05); Masig / Yorke Island (Qld TSI SC54-08)
Recording quality:	Poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01-021508	00:00:50	Wahid Bin Tahir continues to describe his occupations, houses, financial gains and losses; and moves both within Australia and overseas.	16 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:24:20	Wahid Bin Tahir describes diving pressures and the bends.		
	00:28:55	End of GILLAN_P01-021508.		
GILLAN_P01-021509	00:00:21	Wahid Bin Tahir continues describing diving and why he was called 'Big Man'.		
	00:05:43	Narrative with Ephraim Bani in Torres Strait Creole about his origins at Mabuiag Island.	17 September 1981	Waiben/Thursday Island, Qld
	00:10:22	Narrative in English with Dan Murray Mosby about his working life.	20 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:31:02	End of Field Tape 3 and end of GILLAN_P01_021509.		

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021510 + 021511/Field Tape 4

Performer/speaker(s):	Dan Murray Mosby and Father Warria
Personal subject(s):	Aunty Margaret, Allan Mosby, Father Warria's brothers: Saul, Arib, Malu(?), and Kyle.
Subject keywords:	History - Genealogy and family history, Occupations – Pearlers, Stories and motifs – Landscape, Language - Vocabulary - Place names, Fishing - Fishing spears, Stories and motifs - Magic and sorcery, Food - Meat – Turtle.
Language/people	English and Torres Strait language group (Qld TSI SC54, SC55)
Places:	Waiben / Thursday Island (Qld TSI SC54-11); Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05); Masig / Yorke Island (Qld TSI SC54-08)
Recording quality:	Very poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021510	00:00:22	Narrative in English with Dan Murray Mosby about his working life.	9 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:29:10	Narrative in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Father Warria about the language names of Masig.	21 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:31:13	End of GILLAN_P01-021510		
GILLAN_P01_021511	00:00:27	Narrative in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Father Warria and a son of Allan Mosby about the language names of Masig and the story of 'Igua'.	21 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:31:10	End of Field Tape 4 and GILLAN_P01_021511		

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021512 + 021513/Field Tape 5

Performer/speaker(s):	Elda Kebisu Mosby and Ezekiel Billy
Personal subject(s):	Kebisu, Maino, Dan Mosby, Yankee Ned, Governor William McGregor, John Douglas, Auo Nai, Barney Mosby,
Subject keywords:	History - Genealogy and family history, History – Cultural, Settlement and contacts, Occupations – Pearlers, Environment - Climate and weather - Storms – Cyclones, Transport - Water - Shipwrecks and accidents, Fishing, Buildings – Construction, Housing - Shelters – Grass, Technology - Composite materials
Language/people:	English, Kala Lagaw Ya language (Y1) (Qld TSI SC54-07) and Torres Strait language group (Qld TSI SC54, SC55)
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05); Masig / Yorke Island (Qld TSI SC54-08), Cape Melville map area (Qld SE Cape York SD55-09)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021512	00:00:27	Narrative in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Elda Kebisu Mosby about 'The story of Maino' who settled Yam Island.	21 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:10:40	Narrative in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Elda Kebisu Mosby about 'how Nai helped Mosbys in cyclone' – Cyclone Mahina of 1899.		
	00:15:35	Narrative in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Ezekiel Billy about bêche-de-mer fishing and preparation.	21 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:31:01	End of GILLAN_P01_021512.		
GILLAN_P01_021513	00:00:35	Narrative in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Elda Kebisu Mosby about making lime from coral and traditional construction methods.	23 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:31:10	End of Field Tape 5 and GILLAN_P01_021513.		

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021514 + 021515/Field Tape 6

Performer/speaker(s):	Elda Kebisu Mosby
Personal subject(s):	Talofa, Frank Mosby, Sam Mosby, Maino, Professor Smart, Dorante, Sabatino, Father McDonald, Mr Sullivan, Len William, John Bolton, Col Jones
Subject keywords:	Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles - Torres Strait Creole, History - Genealogy and family history, Occupations – Teachers, Occupations - Shipping, docks and wharf workers, Transport - Water – Luggers, Settlement and contacts – Japanese, Occupations – Pearlers, Economic sectors – Fishing, Fishing – Vessels, Defence - World War II, Environment - Sea management
Language/people:	English and Torres Strait language group (Qld TSI SC54, SC55)
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05); Masig / Yorke Island (Qld TSI SC54-08), Queensland coastal waters
Recording quality:	Fair to poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021514	00:00:18	Personal history in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Elda Kebisu Mosby.	23 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:30:47	End of GILLAN_P01_021514		
GILLAN_P01_021515	00:00:24	Personal history in Kala Lagaw Ya language with Elda Kebisu Mosby.	24 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:30:49	End of Field Tape 6 and GILLAN_P01_021515.		

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021516 + 021517/Field Tape 7

Performer/speaker(s):	Lota Asai
Personal subject(s):	Barney Mosby, Mr O'Leary, Jack Mosby, Ned Mosby, Asai Massiah, Mr McFarlane, Gugenmeyer [?], Mary-Anne
Subject keywords:	Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles - Torres Strait Creole, Economic sectors – Fishing, Genealogy and family history, Environment - Climate and weather – Storms, Health - Treatments – Traditional, Stories and motifs - Magic and sorcery, Religion - Dreaming - Cultural heroes, Stories and motifs – Landscape, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation
Language/people:	English and Torres Strait language group (Qld TSI SC54, SC55)
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05); Masig / Yorke Island (Qld TSI SC54-08), Puruma (Coconut Island)
Recording quality:	Fair to poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021516	00:00:11	Lota Asai speaks in English and Kala Lagaw Ya language about bêche-de-mer fishing and processes.	23 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:24:30	Lota Asai speaks in English and Kala Lagaw Ya language about of traditional		
	00:30:42	End of GILLAN_P01_021516		
GILLAN_P01_021517	00:00:25	Language elicitation with Lota Asai English and Kala Lagaw Ya language about traditional medicine, plants and food.	23 September 1981	Masig / Yorke Island, Qld
	00:20:41	End of Field Tape 7 and GILLAN_P01_021517.		

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021518 + 021519/Field Tape 8

Performer/speaker(s):	Mrs Eileen Samuel
Personal subject(s):	Yankee Ned (Edward Mosby), Pearson, Jack Walker, Queenie, William, Maria, Gilbert, Lui, Nellie Mills, Lota, Smallwoods, Mr Longford
Subject keywords:	Genealogy and family history, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles - Torres Strait Creole, Geography, Fishing – Vessels, Feuds and warfare, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles - Torres Strait Creole, History - Cultural – Origins,
Language/people:	Torres Strait language group (Qld TSI SC54, SC55)
Places:	Waiben / Thursday Island (Qld TSI SC54-11), Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair to poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GILLAN_P01_021518	00:00:20	Narrative with Eileen Samuel in Torres Strait Creole about family history.	27 September 1981	Waiben / Thursday Island, Qld
	00:45:47	End of GILLAN_P01_021518		
GILLAN_P01_021519	00:00:15	Narrative with Eileen Samuel in Torres Strait Creole about family history.	27 September 1981	Waiben / Thursday Island, Qld
	00:10:26	End of Field Tape 8 and GILLAN_P01_021519.		

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