



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

GRAY_S01

**Sound recordings collected by
Sydney Gray, 1980 - 1981**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by [email](#) 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 Sydney Gray 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: 1980 -1981

Extent: 2 audiocassettes (ca. 60 min. each) : analogue, mono.

Production history

These recordings were collected on the 24 January 1980 and the 18 February 1981 by Sydney Gray in Cairns and Kuranda, North Queensland. The oral history interviewees include Mr and Mrs S. Fagan, Maggie Donahue, Mrs Boyle and Jimmy Boyle. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on the 21 June 1981.

RELATED MATERIAL

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Additional documentation/ transcriptions are held in AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive in collection [GRAY_S01](#).

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 Sydney Gray and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
006690	80/1	Oral history with Mr & Mrs S. Fagan
006691	81/1	Oral history with Maggie Donahue, Mrs Boyle and Jimmy Boyle

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

80/1

Performer/speaker(s):	Mr & Mrs S. Fagan
Personal subject(s):	Pastor Rudge; Charlie Snyder; Mr Donahue; Jimmy Archer; Jimmy Riley; Mr Brown
Subject keywords:	Religions – Christianity – Missionaries; Environment – Land management – Clearing, Corroboree, Sites- Sites of significance; Occupation – Pastoral Industry Workers – Drivers/Stockmen; Housing – grass shelters; Territories and Boundaries; Sport – Cricket; Law Enforcement – Police trackers; Law Enforcement – Punishment; Culture – Relationship to place; Race Relations – Racial discrimination; Material Culture – Woven objects; Body – Decoration – Body modification; Bush tucker; Indigenous knowledge – Health and Medicine.
Language/people:	English, Kriol
Places:	Cairns (NE Qld SE55-02), Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GRAY_S01-006690	00:00:26	Steve Fagan discusses the history of Mona Mona Mission	24 th January 1980	Cairns (NE Qld SE55-02)
	00:05:26	Steve Fagan discusses the loss of traditional language use due to Missionaries discouragement.		
	00:08:37	Steve Fagan discusses the geographical areas people came from on the Mission, such as Mareeba, Redlynch, and Kuranda and on the force able removal of aboriginal people to the Mission.		
	00:13:37	Steve Fagan discusses the working conditions and education on the Mission.		
	00:17:49	Steve Fagan discusses the accommodation of children in dormitories at the Mission.		
	00:20:04	Steve Fagan discusses sports/social activities and games on the mission with reference to cricket and Jimmy Riley. Also on inter-tribal relations, corroborees and European guilt.		
	00:24:15	Steve Fagan discusses religion,		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		Wages and food rations on the Mission.		
	00:28:40	Steve Fagan discusses the reasons why people were sent to the Mission.		
	00:31:49	Steve Fagan discusses Aboriginal police trackers		
	00:33:52	Steve Fagan discusses convict use, racism, and violence on the Mission.		
	00:36:34	Steve Fagan discusses punishments meted out to Aboriginal people that were defiant towards Europeans with reference to being sent to Palm and Bramba Island Missions.		
	00:41:20	Steve Fagan discusses Church verses Government law plus Christianity verses traditional culture [syncretism].		
	00:46:41	Steve Fagan discusses traditional bush tucker, cooking methods and traditional medicinal plants and cures with reference to Junda, Dulmba grass, Dilly bags, Buttil porridge, Finger cherry, Dundee/guroo yam, and Quinine grass.		
	01:03:11	End of field tape 80/1 and end of GRAY_S01-006690.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Donahue, Mrs Boyle and Jimmy Boyle {all deceased}, and Sydney Gray
Personal subject(s):	Jacky King, Peter King, Bertie Hobbler, George Tarrell, Minnie Courtney, Nora Mont, Jimmy and Jack Hobbler, Jimmy Jack, May and Bill Sheppard, Jerry Watson, Charlie Newbury, Mrs Green, Nellie Hastie, Edna Lock, Meyinguy Rosie Matheson, Cecil Brims, Frank Mont
Subject keywords:	Law – Indigenous – Leadership, authority and prestige; Corroboree; Sites-Sites of significance; Mythological beings – stories and motifs; Communication; Animal – Mammal – Platypus; Geography – Territories and boundaries; Art – Rock Painting; Missions – History – Mona Mona – Government Policy - Assimilation; Body – concept, image and perception; Social organisation – Kinship; Hunting and gathering.
Language/people:	English, Kriol, Malanbarra / Gulngay people, Djabugay / Tjapukai / Djabuganjdi people
Places:	Cairns (NE Qld SE55-02), Kuranda (NE Qld NE55-02)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
GRAY_S01-006691	00:00:08	Discussion with Maggie Donahue about Jacky King, King of Kuranda.	18 th February 1981	Cairns, Qld
	00:00:46	Discussion with Maggie Donahue about Corroboree grounds around Kuranda and Cairns area.		
	00:05:04	Discussion with Maggie Donahue about the Quinkin Myth.		
	00:07:10	Discussion with Maggie Donahue about Corroboree grounds near Redlynch.		
	00:09:23	Discussion with Maggie Donahue on the Big Black Bird.		
	00:13:16	Discussion and reading by Mrs Boyle of a letter from the University of Waikato, New Zealand with reference to pathways taken to travel through the country.		
	00:14:17	Discussion with Mrs Boyle and Jimmy Boyle with reference to Aboriginal camps and platypus in		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		the creeks.		
	00:15:38	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on the King Jacky, the King of the Gulngai and a fighting ground.		
	00:18:44	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on the boundaries of the Gulngay and Nyagali Territories.		
	00:28:24	Discussion by Mrs Boyle on Cave painting near Surprise Creek and the various groups of people that were taken to Mona Mona Mission.		
	00:32:02	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on inter-marriage between language groups.		
	00:34:19	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on body types and living off the land with reference to hunting and gathering.		
	00:35:42	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on location of Gulngay people, Platypus at Jum Rum creek, and dilly bags.		
	00:39:26	Discussion with Mrs Boyle about the keeping of stories for the Kuranda people (Tjapukai) and rock art site.		
	00:42:55	Discussion by Mrs Boyle on myth in the landscape with reference to [Watu] falls [Whitefield Ranges] being the home of a rainbow snake.		
	00:48:09	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on a camp location and family history.		
	00:50:50	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on Myth of the short Hairy man.		
	00:54:18	Discussion with Mrs Boyle on the genealogical history of Sydney Gray.		
	01:03:44	End of field tape 81/1 and also end of GRAY_S01-006691.		

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