



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

HEAD_L01

**Sound recordings collected by
Lesley Head, 1987 - 1988**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by completing an [online enquiry form](#) or phone (02) 6261 4212 to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1987-1988

Extent: 7 sound cassettes (ca. 60 min. each) : analogue, mono. Field recordings 87/1-4, 87/9-10. 88/1.

Production history

These recordings were collected between June 1987 and June 1988 at Marralam, Northern Territory and Kununurra, Western Australia by University of Wollongong School of Earth and Environmental Sciences scholar Lesley Head and research collaborator Richard Fullager. The purpose of the field trips to Marralam and the Mirima Reserve, in the east Kimberley region of the Western Australia, was to collect cultural information, including language and song material, of the Murrinhpatha, Jaminjung and Miriwoong peoples. Performers include Bidy Simon, Maureen Simon, Wendy Simon, Gypsy Jinjair, Polly Wandanga, Light Balgani, Wendy, Mary, Ruby Thoorbiling and Daisy Djanguin. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 10 August 1992.

RELATED MATERIAL

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

Field tape recording sheets and some transcripts are held in the Archive 024825 - 024839. 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 Lesley Head 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
024826 024827	FT 87/1	Bidy Simon, Maureen Simon and Wendy Simon oral history and cultural conversation in English and Kriol
024828 024829	FT 87/2	Bidy Simon, Mary Simon, Gypsy Jinjair and Maureen Simon oral history and cultural conversation in English, Murrinhpatha and Kriol
024830 024831	FT 87/3	Bidy Simon and Gypsy Jinjair oral history and cultural conversation in English, Murrinhpatha and Kriol
024832 024833	FT 87/4	Gypsy Jinjair, Polly Wandanga, Light Balgani, Wendy and Mary oral history and cultural conversation in English, Murrinhpatha and Kriol. Lesley Head and Richard Fullager field note recordings
024834 024835	FT 87/9	Ruby Thoorbiling and Daisy Djanguin oral history and cultural conversation in English and Miriwoong
024836 024837	FT 87/10	Ruby Thoorbiling and Daisy Djanguin oral history and cultural conversation in English and Miriwoong
024838 024839	FT 88/1	Bidy Simon, Polly Wandanga and Light Balgani oral history and cultural conversation in English, Kriol, Murrinhpatha and Jamadjung

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

024826 + 024827/FT 87/1

Performer/speaker(s):	Biddy Simon, Maureen Simon, Wendy Simon
Subject keywords:	Food - Plants, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Discussion / Conversation, Art - Crafts – Weaving, Social organisation - Kinship - Systems - Sections and subsections, Employment, Outstations / Homelands movement, Hunting – Birds, Gathering – Honey, Hunting - Fire and smoke
Language/people:	Murrinhpatha / Murrinh-patha
Places:	Marralam (East Kimberley, North NT SD52-15)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024826	00:00:00	Biddy Simon (BS) and an unidentified female speaker in general cultural conversation about plants, food, swimming and yams.	3 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:07:55	BS talks about weaving bags from palm trees		
	00:11:34	BS talks about black cockatoos		
	00:12:40	BS talks about skin groups and family relations		
	00:15:28	BS talks about life on the station. Talks about being born and working on the station and payment of wages		
	00:26:04	Recording of unknown male and female speakers – talking over the radio ordering groceries to be delivered to the community		
	00:28:03	BS walking through the bus describing plants, places and duck hunting		
	00:31:45	End of side one of FT 87/1, end of HEAD_L01-024826. Recording continuing on the following archive tape.		
HEAD_L01-024827	00:00:00	Continuation of conversation about duck hunting, bush honey, stone tools and ochre.	3 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:09:08	Wendy Simon and Maureen Simon undertaking oral history and cultural conversation recording in		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		Murrinhpatha, Kriol and English about travelling to different places in Australia.		
	0020:21	Richard Fullager recording his observations of burning off around a waterhole with Bidy Simon and children. Includes recording of field notes on rock shelters	4 June 1987	
	00:31:48	End of side two of FT 87/1, end of HEAD_L01-024827. End of recording.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Biddy Simon, Maureen Simon, unidentified speakers and singers
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Music - Church music - Hymns, Choruses and Carols, Hunting, gathering and fishing, Hunting - Fire and smoke
Language/people:	Murrinhpatha / Murrinh-patha
Places:	Marralam (East Kimberley, North NT SD52-15)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024828	00:00:00	Lesley Head undertakes field recording of Coornamu Swamp/Waterhole. Trip metre measurements.	4 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:01:26	Biddy Simon and Maureen Simon talking about photographs in an album.	5 June 1987 (?)	Marralam, NT
	00:25:46	Recordings of church music and speeches in Murrinhpatha and Kriol.	6 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:31:47	End of side one of FT 87/2 and end of HEAD_L01-024828. End of recording.		
HEAD_L01-024829	00:00:00	Mary Simon, Gypsy Jinjair and Mary Simon undertake oral history and cultural conversation recording. Talks about paperbark trees, burning off, hunting goannas and kangaroos, bush turkeys. Talks about crocodiles.	6 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:17:00	Talks about local fishing places that they aren't allowed to go to any more.		
	00:21:36	Oral history of the Marralam.		
	00:31:50	End of FT 87/2, end of HEAD_L01-024829 and end of recording.		

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024830 + 024831/FT 87/3

Performer/speaker(s):	Biddy Simon, Gypsy Jinjair
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Food - Plants
Language/people:	English, Kriol, Murrinhpatha / Murrinh-patha (?)
Places:	Marralam (East Kimberley, North NT SD52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024830	00:00:00	Biddy Simon undertakes cultural conversation in English, Kriol and Murrinhpatha describing plant foods around Coornamu Swamp.	7 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:31:49	End of side one of FT 87/3 and end of HEAD_L01-024830. Recording continues on side two.		
HEAD_L01-024831	00:00:00	Side two of FT 87/3. Continuing from above: Biddy Simon undertakes cultural conversation in English, Kriol and Murrinhpatha describing plant foods around Coornamu Swamp.	7 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:03:54	Gypsy Jinjair talks in Murrinhpatha about station life. Talks about Port Keats and moving to Marralam with her daughter, Biddy Simon.	8 June 1987 (?)	Marralam, NT
	00:23:52	End of side two of FT 87/3 and end of HEAD_L01-024831. End of recording.		

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024832 + 024833/FT 87/4

Performer/speaker(s):	Gypsy Jinjair, Polly Wandanga, Light Balgani, Lesley Head, Mary, Wendy
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting, gathering and fishing
Language/people:	English, Kriol, Murrinhpatha / Murrinh-patha, Jaminjung / Djaminjung
Places:	Marralam (East Kimberley, North NT SD52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024832	00:00:00	Gypsy Jinjair, Polly Wandanga and Light Balgam talk about stations life and catching turtles in Kriol, Murrinhpatha and Jaminjung.	8 June 1987	Marralam, NT
	00:31:47	End of side one of FT 87/4, end of HEAD_L01-024832 and end of recording.		
HEAD_L01-024833	00:00:00	Side two of FT 87/4.	8 June	Marralam, NT
	00:00:30	Lesley Head recording mixed field notes about the Marralam area. Many gaps in recording.		
	00:12:27	Mary and Wendy talk about speaking unidentified language.		
	00:19:46	Lesley Head recording notes about a visit with a local unidentified man she visited. Talks about burning off.		
	00:24:00	End of side two of FT 87/4 and end of HEAD_L01-024833. End of recording.		

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024834 + 024835/FT 87/9

Performer/speaker(s):	Ruby Thoorbiling, Daisy Djanguin
Personal subject(s):	Biddy Simon, Gypsy Jinjair
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Environment - Land management - Fire
Language/people:	Miriwoong / Miriuwung
Places:	Mirima Reserve near Kununurra (WA East Kimberley SD52-14)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024834	00:00:00	Ruby Thoorbiling undertakes oral history and cultural conversation recording about burning methods and station life.	17 June 1987	Mirima Reserve near Kununurra, WA
	00:31:45	End of side one of FT 87/9 and end of HEAD_L01-024834. Recording continues on side two.		
HEAD_L01-024835	00:00:00	Side two of FT 87/9. Continuing with previous recording.	17 June 1987	Mirima Reserve near Kununurra, WA
	00:00:23	Ruby Thoorbiling and Daisy Djanguin undertake oral history and cultural conversation recording about Marralam, family and station life. Mention Biddy Simon and Gypsy Jinjair.		
	00:23:05	Conversation about local rock art. Talk of people camping in the area. Conversation about sickness killing off a lot of people.		
	00:31:48	End of FT 87/9 and end of HEAD_L01-024835. Recording continues on the following FT.		

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024836 + 024837/FT 87/10

Performer/speaker(s):	Ruby Thoorbiling, Daisy Djanguin
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Environment - Land management – Fire, Social organisation - Kinship – Marriage, Music - Vocal - Group - Children
Language/people:	Miriwoong / Miriuwung
Places:	Mirima Reserve near Kununurra (WA East Kimberley SD52-14)
Recording quality:	Fair to poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024836	00:00:00	Side one of FT 87/10. Ruby Thoorbiling and Daisy Djanguin undertake oral history and cultural conversation recording about Marralam, family and station life.	17 June 1987	Mirima Reserve near Kununurra, WA
	00:14:00	Conversation about kinship and marriages.		
	00:24:50	Children singing and shouting.		
	00:31:46	End of Side one of FT 87/10 and end of HEAD_L01-024837. Recording continues on side two.		
HEAD_L01-024837	00:00:00	Side two of FT 87/10.		
	00:00:22	Continuing from previous archive tape. Ruby Thoorbiling and Daisy Djanguin undertake oral history and cultural conversation recording, including conversation about the naming of Kununurra.	17 June 1987	Mirima Reserve near Kununurra, WA
	00:04:40	Conversation about burning grass.		
	00:31:49	End of FT 87/10 and end of HEAD_L01-024837. End of recording.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Biddy Simon, Polly Wandanga, Light Balgani
Personal subject(s):	Jack Sullivan, William, Bulla, Bruce Shaw, Gerry
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Discussion / Conversation, Ceremonies - Women
Language/people:	Kriol, Murrinhpatha / Murrinh-patha, Jaminjung / Djaminjung
Places:	Marralam (East Kimberley, North NT SD52-15)
Recording quality:	Poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HEAD_L01-024838	00:00:00	Side one of FT 88/1.	6 June, 1988	Marralam, NT
	00:00:18	Light Balgani, Biddy Simon and Polly Wandanga undertake cultural conversation and oral history recording.		
	00:12:54	Discussion of law and narratives.		
	00:14:20	Talking about attitudes towards women and women's business an how it's not practised any more.		
	00:31:47	End of side one of FT 88/1, end of HEAD_L01-024838. Continues on side two.		
HEAD_L01-024839	00:00:00	Side two of FT 88/1. Monotrack.	6 June, 1988	Marralam, NT
	00:00:18	Light Balgani, Biddy Simon and Polly Wandanga undertake cultural conversation and oral history recording. Includes language elicitation.		
	00:18:12	End of FT 88/1, end of HEAD_L01-024839 and end of recording. This is the final recording in the collection.		

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